

## 2012 Calendar

The 2012 NSWFA fencing calendar contains some changes designed for more efficient use of time and resources.

Key points:

1. The fencing competition season will run from early March to late November, avoiding the hottest months.
2. The NSW Schools Championships will be conducted in terms 2 and 3 with individual events in term 2 and team events in term 3. The Schools Championships will again offer 3 weapons.
3. Schools Championships will be held on Saturday mornings at Marrickville between 8am – 12 noon. Age and weapon categories with large entry numbers – Senior Boys Foil and U15 Boys Foil – will be run over two half-days rather than a full day. Most other schools events will be completed within a half day. Starting times will be strictly enforced. Team fencing schedules will be advised to schools in advance.
4. The popular U11/U13 State Championships will be expanded to a national development competition with entries open to competitors from around Australia and overseas. National medals will be awarded for overall results and also NSW medals for the top-ranked NSW fencers.
5. State U11 and U13 events will continue to be held at Marrickville on Sundays as usual.
6. The Canberra Day weekend in March will be considered part of the NSWFA Calendar with ranking points awarded.
7. Regional competitions are included in the calendar.
8. Four open competitions, including the Canberra Day competitions and State Championships, are scheduled in each weapon. There will be plenty of fencing opportunities for young fencers as most fencers compete in other age categories as well as their own and in national schools and age events.
9. A new format – the “NSW Open Super 8” will showcase the top 8 fencers in each weapon and give them a tough work-out before the national championships.

## Timetable Q&A

Q: Why are school championship events to be held at Marrickville on Saturday mornings?

A: Holding schools competitions over half a day will take up less family time at weekends. Many parents have commented that fencing takes up more time than other school sports and uses time their children could be doing other things, including homework. Volunteers, particularly young referees, will not have to commit to a full day. Space at our traditional venue – Newington – is short and the hiring cost has increased. We will also save the cost of transporting equipment back and forth.

Q: What about the impact on clubs that train on Saturday mornings?

A: Half-day Saturday school competitions will have less of an impact on club training than full Saturday competitions have done up till now. School fencers will not be competing every Saturday and will be able to attend their regular club training sessions when not fencing in schools.

Q: Does NSWFA have the resources to run enough strips to conduct a schools event in half a day?

A: We will have room at Marrickville to run up to 16 strips and will have sufficient scoring boxes and reels. We are to hold a referee course before the schools events next year and we are intending to run a roster for schools referees so they know in advance when they will be needed and can plan their weekends accordingly.

Q: Why reduce the number of Sunday open events?

A: Including the Canberra Day event, there will be four open events, including the State Championships, in each weapon. While this is two fewer than last year, entries in open events have been relatively low and do not always offer a challenging fencing experience. NSWFA wants to encourage senior fencers to enter all State open competitions. There are still plenty of fencing opportunities for young fencers as they can compete in their own age category and fence up to a higher age group, including open competitions, as many do. They can also compete in national schools competitions and in national championship and AFF circuit events.