

The NSW Fencing Association Inc. Referee Structure 2012-2016

Rationale

A reliable contingent of referees is an important aspect to the effective administration of all NSWFA competitions. Given the importance to technical sophistication and the perpetuation of technical knowledge the NSWFA executive will be implementing the following plan with an effective date of 1 August 2012.

It is important to the NSWFA executive that as a community, we function together in propelling the sport out of its amateur depths into the modern world. This plan aims are:

- To have an adequate, constant supply of referees;
- To promote technical sophistication and the upgrade of skill amongst the entire NSWFA community;
- To provide adequate training to upcoming referees and to give fencers a platform to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the fencing rules; and
- To bring to the fore and create a sense of community amongst the fencing community.

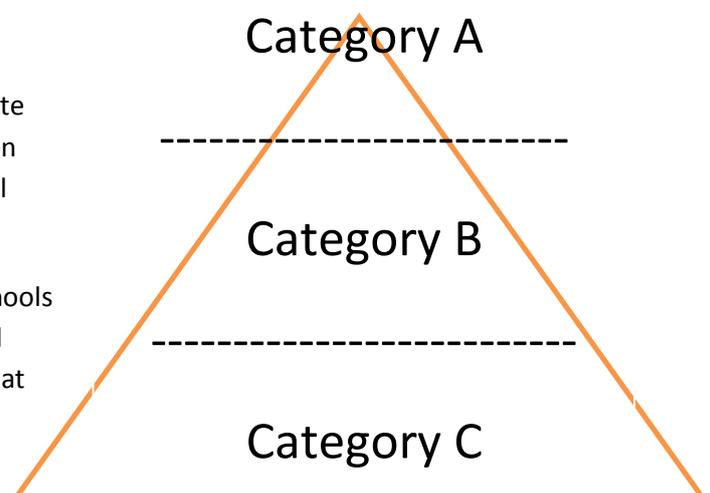
Facts

The NSWFA referee system will be a tiered approach to the provision of referees for all NSWFA competitions. There will be three categories under this system:

Category A: Paid, professional referees.

Category B: The provision of referees by the NSW state squad. This will form a requisite to squad participation and is designed so that fencers can learn the practical application of the rules.

Category C: The requisite provision of referees by schools and clubs on a pro rata basis to their entries. This will ensure that the workload is evenly distributed and that club members are advancing their technical skills. It will also ensure a sense of community is established amongst the fencing community.



Category A – Official State Referees

These umpires are trained, assessed, and rostered by the State Officiating Director in conjunction with the National Officiating Director and they all work accordingly to the AFF presiding structure. Invitations will be taken into consideration by the NSWFA secretary to prospective / potential referees on the recommendation of the State Officiating Director/ National Officiating Director/ a member of a competition DT, the Senior Category A referee or the Head Coach and with consultation to the NSWFA executive. Category A referees will represent NSW at national competitions.

A minimum of 2, Category A referees will be present at all state competitions with the additional requests made to the NSWFA secretary by the DT taken into consideration. Category A referees will be deemed competent in all weapons by either the State or National Officiating Director and will preside over quarter final, semifinal and final bouts.

Category A referees will act as mentors to squad/club and school referees assisting to boost technical competency.

A Senior Category A referee will be nominated for each competition day by the State Officiating Director or the DT or Duty Executive. The Senior Referee will form part of the Senior DT team and will be the first port of call for any technical challenge. On the day of competition, with respect to technical adjudication on the piste the Senior Referees ruling is final. If appropriate a complaint may be made in writing to the NSWFA secretary for review after a ruling is given.

Individual Category A referees will be subject to continual review by the State Officiating Director/ Head Coach and NSWFA executive. Category A referees may be required to attend further training from time to time.

Category A referees will be paid \$60 per competition day and will be required for the duration of the competition day.

Category B –State Squad Referees

It will become a requisite of participation at state squads that squad members referee at NSW School fencing competitions. This category will be trained and rostered by the NSW HC during State Squads during the training session and will be applicable to all fencers over 14.

The State Squad will provide from 2 – 4 referees per state schools competitions and will consider the needs of the DT and competition.

State Squad Referees will be expected to referee poule bouts and direct elimination bouts up to the quarter final round.

Category C –Club and School referees

All NSW clubs and schools entering 3 or more fencers into any competition day (not a single comp) will be required to provide a referee to the DT.

As an illustrative example for our schools – a referee may be a parent, pupil, coach or coordinator. It is expected that they will nominate for a NSW refereeing course (free of charge – please contact secretary@nswfencing.org.au for further information)

Ultimate responsibility for the provision of a referee will rest with the School Coach/ Fencing Coordinator (for schools) or the President (for clubs). It will be for clubs and schools to ensure that this mandate is met.

It is expected that a Category C referee will preside over pole bouts and direct elimination bouts (until and including top 64 bouts) only.

A Category C referee cannot be another Category referee for that competition day.

Enforcement of Category C referees

It is understood that the implementation of new rules may need some time to be absorbed by the community. An enforcement system (assessed per season) will be implemented so that:

First offence

An official warning is issued by the NSWFA Secretary for the first instance this rule is breached to the offending school/ club.

Second Offence

A monetary penalty of \$100 will be issued against the offending clubs/ schools payable to NSWFA.

Third offence

Fencers from a club that has had two prior noted offences will not be permitted to fence on the competition day if a referee is not presented to the DT on behalf of that school or club.

Further notes

Incorporated in this plan are rules for technical adjournment.

For NSWFA State Championship Competitions:

Any request for adjournment by the DT will incur a fee of \$50 payable immediately, on the day of the competition. In the event the DT or Senior Referee upholds the complaint the \$50 will be refunded instantly.

For Schools Competitions:

A fencer is entitled to an explanation of the rules by the referee – but must not argue with their decision. For poule and DE bout presided over by a Category C referee, a fencer may seek technical adjudication from a Category A or B referee (where they are available).

Any bout presided over by a Category B or Category A referee where a complaint is made and adjudication is required by the DT then a fee of \$50 payable immediately, on the day of the competition. In the event the DT or Senior Referee upholds the complaint the \$50 will be refunded instantly.