



Brief for Schools Fencing Co-ordinators and Schools Fencing Coaches

1. Important changes for 2017

There are two important changes to the NSW Schools Program for 2017.

First, a change of venue.

Second, a new team competition.

Change of venue

In early 2017, schools fencing will be conducted in the New South Wales Fencing Centre located at:

Sydney Corporate Park
Building 2
190 Bourke Road
Alexandria 2015

Note: The Roberta Nutt Shield event on 18-19 February and the first Schools Fencing Premiership on 18 February will be held at Marrickville PCYC pending the opening of the NSW Fencing Centre.

New team fencing event

In 2017 a new event – the NSW Schools Fencing Premiership – will be introduced to the schools fencing calendar.

As a pilot program for this year, the NSW Schools Fencing Premiership will be limited to Under 15 Boys Foil.

The Premiership will be in addition to the regular NSW Schools Team Championships. The intent is to give schools fencers more opportunities to fence in teams.

The Premiership will be held on nine Saturdays through the schools fencing season – 18 February, 13 May, 20 May, 27 May, 10 June, 17 June, 24 June, 5 August, 12 August, 19 August.

Each school will be able to enter up to four teams of four fencers. Teams will have to be nominated at the beginning of the schools fencing season via Register Now.

A roster will then be set for a double round-robin – each team will fence every other team twice. There will be two team matches each day.

2. 2017 Schools Fencing Program

The 2017 Schools Fencing Program covers:

- The Roberta Nutt Shield - 18/19 Feb
- The AJ Rae/Roseanne White Shield (National Schools Team Qualifier) – 13 May
- NSW Individual Schools Championships – starting 20 May
- NSW Schools Teams Championships – starting 29 July
- NSW Schools Fencing Premiership (teams) – starting 18 Feb

- U13s School/State Mini Series – starting 10 June
- The ABC Series for novices – starting 17 June

3. The School/State Mini Series

This year, NSWFA will again be presenting U13 School and U13 State competitions under the banner of the *School/State Mini Series*.

The aim of the *Mini Series* is to encourage more U13/U11/U9 school fencers to participate in State competitions. The *School/State Mini Series* will run from early May to late November, providing more competition opportunities for school-age fencers.

The incentive for more schools fencers to move across into State competitions is the opportunity to improve their fencing in a more challenging competition, enter more events, earn more ranking points and have a better chance of being selected to represent NSW.

Participation by school fencers in State competitions will remain voluntary. The State competitions held on Sundays will not be conducted as schools competitions so there will be no additional time demands placed on school teachers and coaches.

The *Mini Series* will culminate in the *Koala Challenge/Friendship Cup* weekend in November.

4. ABC Series

The popular ABC Series will again be run in conjunction with the Schools Championships in Terms 2 and 3. The ABC Series is an opportunity for first-time schools fencers to get a taste of competitive fencing without the pressure to win. Medals are not awarded - instead a participation certificate is sent to schools at the end of the year.

5. Age categories

For 2017:

Under 7 – born on or after 1 Jan 2010

Under 9 - born on or after 1 Jan 2008

Under 11 - born on or after 1 Jan 2006

Under 13 - born on or after 1 Jan 2004

Under 15 - born on or after 1 Jan 2002

Senior - born on or before 31 Dec 2000

6. Competition Starting Times

Schools Co-ordinators and Schools Coaches should check the NSW Calendar for event starting times and ensure their students arrive at least half an hour before the advertised start time, particularly if they have to hire equipment. All fencers need to be on time, correctly equipped, checked off and ready to fence by the posted start time for their event.

As the pools cannot be finalised until entries have closed, all competitors need to be registered members and entered prior to the event to reduce the delay at the start of each competition. There will therefore be no registration available on the day. See Point 8 for the registration deadline.

Any competitor who is not present and ready to fence when their competition starts will be omitted from that competition by the Directoire Technique and will forfeit their registration fee. For each bout, fencers must be on the piste ready to fence when the referee is ready to start the bout.

As we have another ambitious competition timetable for 2017, the pre-registrations and prompt start are necessary for fair and efficient management of competitions.

Fencers (including U15 boy's foil) may fence in their own age category and in a higher age category.

Fencers may compete in multiple weapons so long as the events do not overlap. If fencers start in one weapon, they must continue in that weapon until there is a result – they cannot abandon one weapon event and start another.

Registration

All students competing in NSWFA events are required to register with the Association as either a Junior Registered or Junior Affiliated member. Junior Registered fencers may compete in Schools Championships, U13 State competitions and State novice events. Junior Affiliated fencers may compete in State and National competitions. If students do not Affiliate or Register with the Association they will not be eligible to compete, with no exception given.

The annual fee for Junior Registered membership (under 18) is \$40.

For your students to register they must:

Go to the NSW Fencing website and click on Register/Pay:

<http://www.nswfencing.org.au/home/register/>

The email address given should be that of a parent or guardian.

Online payment can be made either directly by credit card or via a PayPal account.

An acknowledgment of payment will be emailed to the nominated email address and the student's name will appear in the register of members of the Association.

If you have any queries, please contact me at schools@nswfencing.org.au or email admin@nswfencing.org.au

7. Individual Competition Entry

Competition entry should be done online on the NSW Fencing webpage after a fencer has affiliated or registered with the Association.

Individual competition entry is \$35 per student paid online via credit card or PayPal.

Entries should be made by the Friday of the week before the competition, that is 7 days before the day of the competition.

Entries will NOT be accepted on the day of the competition.

Some schools find it more practicable to make a group entry which is invoiced to the school - in this case, notification of the entry, listing the names of the students entered for each event, must be received at entries@nswfencing.org.au no later than one week before the competition (by close of business on the Friday for a competition on Saturday of the following week).

8. Team Competition Entry

The entry fee per team for the NSW Schools Teams Championships is \$60 per team and schools will be invoiced for team entries.

9. Schools Fencing Rules

The FIE Rules will generally apply, except where:

- The passivity rule will be applied only for Senior(15+) schools fencers
- The stepping off the piste rule will be applied leniently where piste edges are not clearly marked.

Under the FIE Rules passivity is defined as a period of one minute without a hit or fencers maintaining excessive distance (more than a step forward lunge). If this happens, the Referee will advance the bout to the next

session. In the last session, the bout would be advanced to the final minute. Fencers should be aware, particularly in team matches, that passivity may be used as a tactic.

10. Equipment Standards

In accordance with the NSWFA Equipment and Safety Policy all participants in NSWFA competitions (including schools events) must wear an under-plastron rated at 800 Newtons (a scientific measure of resistance to penetration). The under-plastron is the ultimate layer of protection against penetration by a blade.

As well as an 800 Newton under-plastron, school fencers must also wear a minimum of 350N rated mask in good condition, 350N rated jacket and 350N rated breeches. Track suit pants with closed pockets are acceptable for Under 13 fencers in foil and sabre. Tights and shorts are NOT acceptable.

A breast protector is mandatory for girls. It is strongly recommended that boys wear a groin protector.

All masks must have two fasteners. For most masks, these are the tang at the rear of the mask and an elastic strap. Leon Paul X-change masks require an extra strap.

Gloves must not have any holes.

For an explanation of the NSWFA equipment requirements, please go to: [nswfa equipment and safety.pdf](#)

In this document, see Table 1 for a summary of the equipment requirements.

11. Weapon sizes

- a. Foil Competitions
 - i. U13 and above competitions are fenced with foils from size 0 to 5 (5 is full size)
 - ii. U11, U9, U7 competitions are fenced with foils from size 0 to 3
- b. Epee Competitions
 - i. U13 and above competitions are fenced with epees from size 0 to 5 (5 is full size)
 - ii. U11, U9, U7 competitions are fenced with epees from size 0 to 3
- c. Sabre Competitions
 - i. All age groups are fenced with sabres 0 to 5 (5 is full size)

Fencers (and parents) should consult their school or individual coach about the appropriate weapon size.

12. Equipment hire

There is a limited amount of NSWFA equipment available for hire to schools fencers. It is strongly encouraged that where possible schools and parents purchase equipment for schools fencers.

Equipment that can be hired from NSWFA at Marrickville:

- A limited number of 800N under-plastrons
- A limited number of foil lame conductive jackets
- Foil weapons (sizes 3 & 5)
- Epee weapons (size 3)
- Foil and epee body wires

Please note that for safety and hygiene reasons, NSWFA no longer hires masks, jackets and breeches.

If a schools fencers needs to hire equipment, please let us know via entries@nswfencing.org.au one week prior to the event, nominating size: Small/Medium/Large. Equipment is allocated on a 'first come first served' basis and there is no guarantee that equipment will be available in an appropriate size.

Equipment hire can be invoiced to schools by prior arrangement or paid in cash on the day of the competition.

Lames	\$10
Foils/epees	\$10
Body wires	\$5

Schools fencers should confirm their equipment hire needs at the registration desk where they will be given a coupon to present at the equipment hire desk. All hire equipment must be handed back and checked off.

13. Communication

Information on schools competitions is available on the dedicated Schools Fencing page:

<http://www.nswfencing.org.au/home/comp/school-fencers/>

NSWFA will communicate directly only with Schools Co-ordinators. In accordance with good practice, NSWFA does not communicate directly with young people under the age of 18. For children under 18, the nominated email address should be that of a parent or guardian.

14. Results

The results of NSWFA Schools events will be posted on the [Results and Rankings](#) page. Competition results for U15 and Seniors are sent to the media and may appear in the Sydney Morning Herald/Daily Telegraph.

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