



## **2017 NSW Schools Fencing Season**

### **Information for parents**

#### **1. About Fencing**

Fencing is an Olympic sport conducted in three weapons – foil, sabre and epee.

Fencing is an excellent sport for girls and boys. Fencing requires physical fitness and agility, quick thinking, stamina and a desire to win. A high value is placed on good behaviour and sportsmanship. Courtesy and respect must be shown to opponents and to referees.

Beyond schools fencing, the pathway to success is via Club, State, National and International competitions. Many school fencers are members of the State Squad. NSW school fencers have gone on to become State and National Champions and to compete in international events at the highest levels - World Championships and the Olympic Games.

All schools fencers are encouraged to join a Club to train and to compete in State competitions which are held on Sundays

#### **2. Venue**

The venue for all NSW schools fencing competitions is:

New South Wales Fencing Centre

Sydney Corporate Park

190 Bourke Road

Alexandria NSW 2015

Pay and Display parking is available for \$7 per day and there is free street parking. On weekends, the first 2 hours are free.

Mascot Station on the Airport Link line is an 8 minute walk and Green Square station is 20 mins.

Sydney Buses route 305 runs along Bourke Road and routes 309/310 run along Botany Road within walking distance.

#### **3. Calendar**

The timetable for schools events is on the Schools page of the website: [nswfencing.org.au/schools](http://nswfencing.org.au/schools)

The NSW Schools Championships and ABC Series are held on Saturdays in Terms 2 and 3.

Other events on the schools calendar are the Roberta Nutt competition, the AJ Rae/Roseanne White competitions and the new U15 Schools Team Premiership.

For Saturday schools fencers who also wish to compete in State events on Sundays, there is a combined School/State Mini Series for which State ranking points are awarded. This series runs from

May to November, culminating in the *Koala Challenge/Friendship Cup* event in November which attracts young fencers from around Australia, NZ and Asia.

#### **4. Registration**

All schools fencers must be either Junior Registered or Junior Affiliated members of the NSW Fencing Association. Junior Registered members may compete in schools, U13 State and novice events; Junior Affiliated members may compete in State, National and even International competitions.

All school-age fencers are entitled to compete in NSW Schools Fencing events, regardless of whether fencing is a nominated sport at their school.

In 2017, the fee for Junior Affiliated membership is \$125 and for Junior Registered is \$40.

This registration covers insurance, administration and operational costs.

Registration is made online at: [www.nswfencing.org.au](http://www.nswfencing.org.au) under Quick Links on the home page with payment by credit card. Please ensure you keep a record of the member log-in details.

#### **5. Entry to competitions**

Schools fencers enter for individual events via [www.nswfencing.org.au](http://www.nswfencing.org.au)

The cost of entry to each event is \$35 paid online via credit card.

For team events, the school may register entries directly with NSW Fencing.

Entries for schools competitions must be made by the Friday of the week preceding the week of the competition – that is, 7 days before the day of the competition.

Note: A 4% credit card service fee applies to membership and competition entry payments.

#### **6. Age categories**

Schools fencing is conducted in the following age categories with the category determined by the age of the child on 1 January.

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

Fencers may 'fence up' in a higher age category.

'Fencing up' should be done on the advice of the child's coach.

## **7. Equipment**

Your child must be properly attired and equipped for fencing. Mandatory equipment requirements are:

1. An under-plastron (vest) rated at 800 Newtons. This is a measure of resistance and is the highest standard. Under-plastrons must carry a maker's stamp certifying it is made of 800N material.
2. A mask of at least 350N in good condition.
3. A fencing jacket and breeches of at least 350N.
4. A fencing glove in good condition.
5. For foil and sabre, a lame jacket (a conductive jacket so hits can register on the scoreboard).
6. A weapon (foil, sabre, epee) in good condition. A spare weapon is required in case of weapon failure.
7. A body wire that connects the weapon to the scoring apparatus. A spare body wire is required.
8. Fencing shoes or trainers.
9. A breastplate is mandatory for girls. For boys, a groin protector is strongly recommended.

Please note that track suit pants are accepted for Under 13 fencers in foil and sabre provided the pockets are sewn or zipped shut. Shorts and tights are not acceptable. Jackets and breeches/pants must fit well so that no bare skin is shown.

Your child's school may provide fencing equipment - please check with the teacher in charge of fencing or your school coach.

A limited amount of hire equipment (weapons, body wires and foil lames) is available at the venue at a small cost on a first come, first served basis. Parents are encouraged to purchase fencing equipment.

Equipment can be provided by the Equipment Suppliers listed on the NSWFA website.

## **8. Insurance**

All participants in NSW Schools Fencing events are covered for personal injury. Coaches, officials and volunteers are covered by public liability and professional indemnity insurance.

## **9. Child Protection**

All fencing coaches working with children under 18 must be compliant with the New South Wales Government's Working With Children requirements.

NSWFA has appointed Child Protection Officers – see <http://www.nswfencing.org.au/docs/NSWFACChildProtectionPolicy.pdf>

NSWFA does not communicate directly via email with children under 18. On registration, the email address given should be that of a parent or guardian.

## **10. Parental conduct**

You can show support and encouragement for your child but you must not, by word or action, intrude on the bout while it is underway. You must not in any way criticise or attempt to intimidate the referee. As a spectator, you are bound by the Rules of Fencing and the NSWFA Code of Conduct.

You can take photographs or make video recordings but only in a way that does not intrude on the bout or distract the fencers or the referee.

If you are concerned for the safety or well-being of your child during a bout, you can raise your concern with the Supervising Referee or the Directoire Technique.

Please take a minute to read Play By the Rules at [www.playbytherules.net.au](http://www.playbytherules.net.au)

## **11. Contact Us**

If you have any queries about schools fencing, please check first with your School Fencing Co-ordinator or your School Coach. They should be able to answer any questions you may have. If you still need to contact us, please send your query to: [schools@nswfencing.org.au](mailto:schools@nswfencing.org.au). If your query is about competition entry please email [entries@nswfencing.org.au](mailto:entries@nswfencing.org.au)

Thank you for your support for your child's chosen sport.

New South Wales Fencing Association – 2017