



## **National Team Selection Policy & Awarding of National Colours**

Updated February 2018

1. In order to be selected to represent South Africa, fencers must comply with SASCOG and the FIE's rules for national selection, which will take precedence over the contents of this policy document.
2. Teams are compiled by the National Team Managers and Coaches Commission and submitted to the National Council for ratification.
3. Fencers will be notified of their selection by the National Team Managers and Coaches Commission and / or their provincial chairman.
4. Selection to national teams for FIE, Commonwealth Fencing Federation and other international competitions.
  - 4.1. Selection to the national team for FIE and Commonwealth Fencing Federation competitions is based on the national rankings maintained by FIE-approved online ranking software that is accessible to all fencers.
    - 4.1.1. Regardless of their ranking, no fencer may receive national colours for the first time without a minimum of two years' fencing experience.
      - 4.1.1.1. The period of experience to be confirmed by the coach and/or administrator of the fencer's club as well as the chairperson of the fencer's district fencing body.
    - 4.1.2. No fencer may receive national colours for the first time without competing in three national ranking competitions in the year preceding their selection.
    - 4.1.3. In the case of exceptional ability and performance, a fencer may be awarded national colours for the first time within two years of their starting to fence and/or with less than three national ranking competitions in the year preceding their selection, provided
      - 4.1.3.1. A written motivation provided by their coach accompanies the application for the early awarding of national colours and the application receives a majority vote by the FFSA National Council.

- 4.2. The selections are based on the best four results from a rolling roster of national ranking and internationally approved competitions immediately prior to the selection date.
- 4.2.1. From 1 January 2019, selection will be based on the best three results from a rolling roster of national ranking and internationally approved competitions immediately prior to the published selection cut-off date.
- 4.3. Selections for specific international competitions are to be decided and announced after a national ranking competition specified by the National Council during the finalization of the annual fencing calendar. The competition will be roughly two months before the commencement of the international competition for which the fencer is selected.
- 4.4. Fencers are selected from the number one position in their age / gender / weapon category in a descending order to the number of entrants per country allowed in that specific international competition.
- 4.4.1. If a fencer in a selectable position is not eligible through nationality, lack of required experience or non-availability to represent South Africa in the competition the next highest ranked eligible fencer is selected.
- 4.5. A reserve is to be selected for each age / gender / weapon category in case one of the selected fencers is unable to compete in the competition and/or the reserve fencer is required as a reserve in a team event.
- 4.5.1. The reserve fencer will either be the highest ranked, eligible fencer, not meeting the requirements of 4.4 or a fencer lower down the ranking lists nominated by the National Team Managers and Coaches Commissions and who receives the majority vote of the National Council.
- 4.5.2. In the case of Commonwealth Championships there will be two reserve fencers being the highest ranked, eligible fencers not meeting the requirements of 4.4 or a fencer lower down the ranking lists nominated by the National Team Managers and Coaches Commission and receives the majority vote of the National Council. Reserve fencers will be select in the following order:
- 4.5.2.1. Nominated fencer, if applicable.
- 4.5.2.2. Highest ranked fencer
5. Selection to national teams for competition falling under the management of SASOC, including, but not exclusive to, the Olympic Games and African Games.

- 5.1.If there is no additional selection requirement then the selection policy per section 4 herein 4 is to be used.
- 5.2.If selection requires a diversity or other specific quota, the selection policy is as follows:
  - 5.2.1.The team is selected as per 4.4 and should that team meet the SASCOC selection criteria then the team stands.
  - 5.2.2.If the team selected as per 4.4 does not meet the SASCOC selection criteria then the following applies:
    - 5.2.2.1.Working through individual age / gender / weapon categories the lowest ranked selected fencer is replaced by the highest ranked fencer meeting the SASCOC selection criteria until such time as the SASCOC selection criteria is met.
    - 5.2.2.2. Reserve fencers are selected as according to 4.5 taking into account the SASCOC requirements and the process outlined in 5.2.2.1
    - 5.2.2.3.If the SASCOC selection policy can not be reasonably met, including but not exclusive to the ability of eligible fencers, the FFSA National Executive Committee can apply exemption to rule from SASCOC.
6. Before a fencer can compete in the World Championship or be nominated for a national team selected and managed by SASCOC, they need to compete in the same age and weapon category in at least one of an African Championship, or world championship, or a FIE A-Grade competition and achieve acceptable results which are defined as:
  - 6.1.1.From 1 January 2017, having finished in the top 75% of an individual event
  - 6.1.2.From 1 January 2020, having finished in the top 70% of an individual event
  - 6.1.3.From 1 January 2022, having finished in the top 65% of an individual event
  - 6.1.4.From 1 January 2024, having finished in the top 60% of an individual event
  - 6.1.5.From 1 January 2026, having finished in the top 55% of an individual event
  - 6.1.6.From 1 January 2028, having finished in the top 50% of an individual event
- 6.2.The fencer does not need to compete in the African Championship, or world championship or FIE A-Grade competition in the same year as the world championship or a national team selected and managed by SASCOC
- 6.3.All fencers who have previously medalled in any African Championship, Commonwealth Fencing Championship or reached the last 64 in any FIE A-Grade

competition will be allowed to compete in world championships, dependent on their national rankings and possession of a valid international licence.

6.3.1. This exemption is valid until 31 December 2020.

6.4. For team events, fencers, not having met the criteria outlined in 7, can be selected provided their nomination by the National Team Managers and Coaches Commission received the majority support of the National Council.

6.5. Selection to the African Championships and Commonwealth Fencing Championships will be based on national rankings and possession of an international licence

7. From time to time, fencers are invited to attend a non-competition event such as a training camp. In these cases a more subjective selection policy needs to be applied. The procedure is as follows:

7.1. The FFSA Secretary-General will forward notification of the event to the provincial fencing associations who may nominate any fencer that they feel meets the criteria for selection.

7.1.1. Criteria for nomination can include, but is not limited to:

7.1.1.1. Eligibility according to age, gender and weapon requirements of the event.

7.1.1.2. National ranking of the fencer.

7.1.1.3. Performance of the fencer in recent international competitions.

7.1.1.4. General conduct of the fencer.

7.1.1.5. Contribution of the fencer to the advancement of fencing in South Africa.

7.2. The nomination will then be sent to the National Team Managers and Coaches Commission for a recommendation.

7.2.1. The recommendation must be accompanied by a written rationale.

7.3. The list of nominees and recommendation by National Team Managers and Coaches Commission is then sent to the National Council for a final selection vote.

7.4. In addition to the criteria listed in 8.1.1, the National Council must also take into account:

7.4.1. The recommendation of the National Team Managers and Coaches Commission

7.4.2.

7.5.The decision of the National Council is final.

7.5.1.The FFSA Secretary-General or relevant team manager will then notify the successful candidate of their selection.

7.5.2.The FFSA Secretary-General or relevant team manager will inform the other candidates that their nomination was not successful.

8. Selection of foreign-based South African fencers.

8.1.Foreign-based South African fencers are eligible for selection under 4 and 5 provided they:

8.1.1.Hold a valid FFSA fencing licence.

8.1.2.Have advised the FFSA team management and the FFSA Secretary-General in writing before the start of the international fencing calendar that they are available for selection.

8.2.Foreign-based South African fencers may substitute three of their four best results as identified in 4.2 with international results.

8.3.The international results need to come from competitions approved by the FFSA National Council as acceptable for inclusion. FFSA will publish the criteria that it uses for assessment of international competitions on the FFSA website.

8.3.1.Excluded from the list of competitions will be any competition requiring a national team selection, such as a zonal championship, world championship or Commonwealth championship.

8.4. Fencers need to submit details of an international competition they intend competing in at least two months before the commencement date of the competition. Details to be communicated to the FFSA team management and the FFSA Secretary-General.

8.5. Results in approved international competitions will be awarded points determined by FFSA.

8.5.1.The maximum number of points awarded to a fencer for a result in a foreign-based tournament may not exceed the maximum number of points earned in a South Africa national ranking competition.

8.5.2.The awarded points for international competitions will be published on the FFSA website for reference.

- 8.6. All results submitted by a foreign-based fencer need to be independently verifiable by FFSA.
- 8.7. Fencers need to submit their results within two weeks of the completion of the competition to the FFSA team managers and FFSA Secretary-General. Results not submitted by the fencer will not be considered.
- 8.7.1. Results submitted after the published selection date for a national team will not be considered for that team selection.
- 8.8. Selection of fencers will be according to the criteria set out in 4 and 5.
- 8.9. Where a foreign-based fencer and a South African-based fencer tie on points for the final position in a team, preference will be given to the South African-based fencer.
- 8.10. South African-based fencer are entitled to compete in an appropriate international competition and substituting their result and allocated points for a domestic national ranking competition result and points.
- 8.10.1. The South African fencer must comply with the competition selection criteria outlined in 9.3, notification periods outlined in 9.4, and submission of results as outlined in 9.7.
- 8.11. No foreign-based fencer will be eligible for non-competition events as dealt with in 8

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