



## **Northern Ireland Fencing Ltd.**

### **Selection Criteria 2017/18**

#### **1. Eligibility**

Any individual wishing to represent Northern Ireland must fulfil the criteria below:

- Be in possession of NI Fencing or BFA membership at the time of selection
- Have the right to represent NI on the basis that:
  - o You were born in NI; OR
  - o You have a parent or grandparent born in NI; OR
  - o You are normally resident in the country and have been for at least 8 months prior to selection

#### **2. Selection Criteria**

The following criteria apply to selection for all competitive levels and competitions. Criteria relevant to age-specific events will be outlined in subsequent sections. In all cases, competition rules may dictate team size.

- Fencers must compete annually in at least one of the following NI competitions; NI Open, Derry Open. Failure to attend these events must be explained in writing to the selectors. The selectors will consider each case on its merits and will take into consideration attendance at other competitive events
- Fencers must display good sporting behaviour at all times. The selectors reserve the right to omit a fencer from selection on the basis of an unsatisfactory disciplinary record.
- Fencers must be in good financial standing (e.g., no unpaid debts or membership fees) with NI Fencing at the time of selection.
- Any fencer declining selection without providing explanation or adequate time to select an alternative fencer will be automatically ineligible for selection for the next representative event
- Fencers must participate in regular training and be able to produce a training plan or coach statement if required.
- Fencers resident in NI should maintain regular attendance at NI Fencing Academy training events. Fencers not normally resident in NI may be asked to evidence equivalent training records at the discretion of the selectors.
- *For all weapons, the order of ranking preference for all competitions are: FIE ranking, BFA rankings, Fencing Ireland ranking.*



## **2.1 Junior Selection Criteria**

- All fencers selected will be required to sign a code of conduct agreement. Any fencers under the age of 18 selected to represent Northern Ireland must be accompanied by a parent or guardian except where the team is accompanied by a Team Manager or other responsible person. A consent form is required from a parent/guardian where this is applicable.

### ***UK School Games (Team & Individual)***

- Team fencers are required to be same fencers selected for the individual event.
- The first fencer selected in each weapon will be the top ranked fencer in the BFA Junior ranking list, provided they are in the top 30% of the point scoring positions. Remaining places (including the first place if no fencers are selected as a result of the above criterion) will be assigned at selectors discretion, with particular consideration given to the following:
  - o FIE points gained from Junior World Cup events.
  - o FIE points gained from European Cadet events.

### ***Junior Commonwealth Fencing Championships (Team & Individual)***

- The top 2 fencers from the appropriate weapon BFA Junior Ranking, provided the fencer is in the top 30% of fencers on those ranking lists or from the Irish Rankings provided the fencer is in the top 5%.
- Remaining places (including the first two places if no fencers are selected as a result of the above criteria) may be assigned at selectors discretion, with particular consideration given to the following:
  - o Lower placed fencers in the GB Junior World Championship Ranking
  - o Lower placed fencers in the GB Cadet World Championship Ranking
  - o Lower placed fencers in the GB Senior Ranking or IRL Senior Ranking  
*Then results at;*
  - o British Championships (age group & senior)

**Note:** *Selectors will not be obliged to select complete weapon teams for this event. None, one, two, three or four fencers may be selected in any weapon. Where an incomplete team is selected, fencers selected in another weapon may, at the selectors discretion, be asked to double up in order to field a team in a particular event.*



## **2.2 Senior Selection Criteria**

- A Junior (Under20) Fencer may be selected for a Senior Event only if the selectors feel that their inclusion may improve the prospects of a medal.
- All fencers selected will be required to sign a Code of Conduct Agreement. Any fencer under 18 years of age selected for the senior team must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

### ***Senior Commonwealth Fencing Championships (CFC)***

- Fencers wishing to be selected for the CFC should have achieved a ranking in the Top 30 of the British Senior Rankings or the Top 2 of the Irish Senior Rankings. A maximum of five fencers can be selected at each weapon.
- Please note that fencers who have achieved F.I.E A-Grade or World Cup Points will be considered before those in the aforementioned ranking lists.
- Fencers who have not achieved this level in the British or Irish Rankings may be selected, **entirely at the selectors discretion**, if:
  - o NIF feels that investment in them is justified by their prospects for future events (e.g., junior fencers).
  - o Where the inclusion of an individual fencer who had not met the criteria would complete a team that could have a realistic chance of a medal.

### ***Senior 5-Nations***

- Fencers wishing to be selected for the Senior 5 Nations should have achieved a ranking in the Top 50 of the British Senior Rankings or Top 3 of the Irish Senior Rankings (this only applies to a small number of fencers selected for certain teams).
- Please note that fencers who have achieved F.I.E A Grade or World Cup Points will be considered before those in the aforementioned ranking lists.
- The first two selected will be from the FIE Senior ranking lists, provided they have achieved ranking points.
- The Remaining places (including the first two places if no fencers are selected as a result of the above criteria) and any subsequent replacements will be chosen by the Selectors, and ratified by the Board.
- Four fencers will be selected for each weapon.



### ***Senior Winton Cup***

- The Winton Cup is an event where selectors can provide a competitive experience for fencers who may have not met the selection criteria for any of the other international selected events.
- Selection will be entirely at the Selectors discretion. The Selectors will aim to select one experienced fencer to act as team captain and then select fencers that they feel would benefit from the experience.
- Fencers who wish to be considered for the Northern Ireland Winton Cup Team must express their interest to NIF in the September of any given season. Selectors will take into consideration;
  - o GB and or Fencing Ireland ranking.
  - o Attendance at NIF c events.
  - o Attendance at the NIF training event.

### **3. Appeals**

- A fencer may appeal a selection decision by email to NI Fencing within 14 days of the announcement of selections.
- All appeals will be assessed by the Board of Directors of NI Fencing (as independent from the selectors committee). Their decision is final.
- There is no right of appeal over the selection of officials.

## **NI Fencing**

### **Selectors Committee 2017**

#### ***Chair of Selectors Committee***

Sandra Martin & Mike Westgate

#### ***Selectors***

David Downey (Sabre)

David Burnside (Epee)

Peter Brown (Foil)



## **Northern Ireland Fencing Ltd.**

### **Selection Policies & Procedures 2017/18**

#### **1. Notification of Selection**

- Fencers will be notified of selection *2 calendar months or as soon as possible* before all competitions. Selectors will be given a date by which all selection decisions must be made.
- NI Fencing will endeavour to give as much advance notice of selection as possible, although this is dependent on the specific competition and its position in the fencing calendar.
- The Chairman of the Selectors Committee will notify the NI Fencing board of Directors of all selection decisions prior to notifying fencers.
- All fencers will be notified of their selection by email, and must respond by email accepting their offer of selection within 10 days of being contacted.
- The email address used to contact all selected fencers will be the one given by the fencer to British Fencing. It is the responsibility of the fencer to ensure that the email contact details are up to date.

#### **2. Appointment of Selectors & Selection of Team Captain**

- Selectors will be appointed by the board of directors of NI Fencing following a public application process
- Selectors will be appointed for a duration of 3 years
- All selection decisions will be recorded and approved along with a rationale for selection. This information will be kept by the Chairman of Selectors and is required in the event of an appeal.
- Team captains will be appointed at the discretion of the selectors, and should factor in the fencers' competitive experience, knowledge of the rules, and attitude to the sport.

#### **3. Selection Strategy**

- NI Fencing Ltd aims to have a clearly defined, transparent, and easily understood selection strategy. This strategy aims to identify fencers that are achieving highly, or striving to achieve their best results. In practice, this will most likely involve fencers who are actively planning their competitive activity around the BFA and/or Fencing Ireland circuit. Junior & Cadet fencers are advised to concentrate on the events appropriate to their age group.



- In reality, no selection strategy can ever hope to account for every conceivable eventuality (examples are included below). However, as both BFA and Fencing Ireland have clearly defined competition circuits and centrally maintained rankings, it is logical to base selection for Northern Ireland on these circuits. For events such as the UK School Games, British Youth Championships, and Junior Commonwealth Fencing Championships, additional age-appropriate rankings and performance will be used as primary selection criteria. For team events, teams of three or four fencers may be selected, depending on the strength of the fencers eligible and available for selection.

*Sample eventualities leading to complicated selection decisions:*

- Fencer A has entered 3/6 events in a season is ranked 50<sup>th</sup>. Fencer B has entered 6/6 and is ranked 47<sup>th</sup>. Which is the better fencer?
- Injury early in a season, such that a typically high-performing fencer has a reduced ranking.