



FencingWA Selection Policy

By Steve Johnson

Contents

Introduction	2
Administration of the Policy	2
Makeup of the Tournament and Selection Committee.....	2
Selection Voting	2
Team Availability Requirement.....	3
Number of Teams	3
Principles of Team Selection	3
Preselection of Top Two Fencers.....	3
Remaining Places	4
Exceptions	4
No Individual Event.....	4
Top Two Fencers Unclear.....	4
Other Fencers Unclear	4
Selection by Fiat	5
On-the-Spot Selection Decisions	5
Pre-Determined Authorisation	6
Appeals.....	6
Appeals Committee	6
Examples	7
Example 1 – Normal Selection of A and B Teams	7
Example 2 – Second Pre-Selected Place Unclear.....	8
Example 3 – Tied Results and Rankings	9

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to describe the policy used to determine the selection process used to determine the makeup of teams representing Western Australia at national and international levels. It provides transparency and accountability and allows all stakeholders, particularly fencers wishing to be selected, to know the method and criteria for assessment. In addition, it allows for an appeal body to review any decisions.

The guiding principles behind the policy are, in descending order of importance, as follows:

1. Procedural fairness and transparency.
2. Selection of the team or teams most capable of producing the best results.
3. Enabling teams and encouragement of participation in them.

Administration of the Policy

This policy is intended to be self-administering as far as possible. In the vast majority of cases, any selection decision and the reasons behind it should be self-evident to fencers, coaches, managers and administrators. However, the administration of the policy is the responsibility of the Tournament and Selection Committee (TSC).

In certain cases, the TSC may also nominate a person or persons to administer the policy under circumstances that require immediate decision-making that cannot be reasonably handled by the TSC.

Makeup of the Tournament and Selection Committee

The Tournament and Selection Committee is appointed by the FencingWA Board at its absolute discretion. However, guiding principles for appointments to the TSC are as follows:

1. The TSC Chair should be the Tournament Director, a position also appointed by the Board.
2. A further two to four TSC members should be appointed.
3. The preference is for the TSC to have an odd number of members (including the Tournament Director) to simplify majority voting.
4. The TSC should include members from as many clubs as practicable and should not have a makeup such that it would allow members from a single club to have a voting majority.
5. Preference should be given to members with five or more years' experience of fencing, preferably including team at national level or above.
6. If possible, members should be selected such that all three weapons are represented.

Selection Voting

The Tournament and Selection Committee can communicate and vote using any in-camera mechanism, as determined by the TSC Chair. A quorum is two members in a three-member

committee and three in a four- or five-member committee. Decisions are made based on an absolute majority of that quorum. Where a member of the TSC has a conflict of interest in a selection decision, they may take part in discussions about the decision but must recuse themselves from voting. Where a vote results in no absolute majority, the TSC Chair may cast an additional deciding vote.

The TSC members are expected to publicly respect all TSC decisions and keep voting details confidential, using the principle of collective responsibility.

Team Availability Requirement

In applying for a position in the State Squad, fencers agree to participate in any team for which they are chosen. Therefore, any fencer who wishes to compete for Western Australia in a national or international event must also make themselves available to fence in the equivalent team event, where one exists.

Under *exceptional* circumstances, the TSC may grant an exemption to this rule if a request is submitted at least one calendar month prior to the team event. Flights, accommodation and leave arrangements should not be made on the assumption that such an exemption will be made.

Other fencers not competing in an individual event may also make themselves available for selection in the equivalent team event.

Number of Teams

If there are 3, 4 or 5 available fencers, FencingWA will enter a single team. If there are 7 or more available fencers, FencingWA will enter two teams. In the case of 6 available fencers, the TSC will determine whether to enter one or two teams at its sole discretion.

Principles of Team Selection

The basis of the selection policy is that fencers are to be selected for team events partially on FencingWA rankings, and partially on performance in an equivalent individual event preceding the team event.

The FencingWA rankings to be used for this determination are the most recently published rankings available, prior to the commencement of the entire competition meeting. These rankings are calculated over a rolling one year period.

National and international rankings are not used for FencingWA selection purposes.

Preselection of Top Two Fencers

Under normal circumstances, of those fencers available and eligible to enter the team event, the two with the highest FencingWA ranking in the relevant category are

automatically selected for the A team, with the highest-ranked fencer being named Team Captain.

Remaining Places

The rest of the places in the A team and any other teams (B, C, etc.) are filled based on the results obtained by those fencers in an equivalent individual event preceding the team event within the same tournament. Any other fencers who did not compete in the individual event but who made themselves available for selection are then considered for selection.

Results in an equivalent individual event are not considered equal by virtue of being eliminated at the same stage of the competition and ending in the same bracket (5-8, 17-32, etc.). For example, a fencer who finishes 17 is *not* considered equal to one who finishes 31.

Exceptions

No Individual Event

If there is no equivalent individual event, or if the team event precedes the individual event, then FencingWA rankings alone are used to determine selection.

Top Two Fencers Unclear

If it is not possible to determine the ranking of the top two fencers for pre-selection due to a FencingWA rankings tie, then individual event results will be used to help determine the top two fencers.

For example, if there are three available fencers tied for top ranking, the top-performing two fencers in the individual event will gain the top two A team places, including the Team Captain position. This applies *even if their individual event results are lower than several other fencers*; they have gained the privilege of a selection advantage by virtue of their ranking.

Any fencer in this position who fails to win one of the top two places then competes with the other available fencers for team placement, purely on the basis of their individual event results.

Other Fencers Unclear

For fencers other than the top two, if individual event results include a tied position that would determine a team placement, FencingWA rankings in the appropriate category are used to determine selection among the tied fencers. This also applies if the fencers are tied by virtue of not taking part in the individual event.

In such a case, if FencingWA rankings are not available in the appropriate category, the tie is to be broken using rankings from the closest more senior category. Category seniority is determined in this ascending order: Novice, Under 13, Under 15, Cadet, Junior, Veteran and

Open. If there is still a tie, rankings from yet more senior categories are considered in turn. If there is still a tie, rankings can be examined in other categories in *descending* order, but are only considered if the fencers are eligible to fence in those categories.

If the fencers are still tied, previous FencingWA results from events during the previous 12 months *in which all of the tied fencers competed* are considered. First, the most recent FencingWA event in the same category is considered. The fencer with the best result in that event is chosen. If the fencers were tied or not all present in that event, progressively less recent events in the same category are considered in turn.

If previous FencingWA results in the same category do not break the tie, results from the next most senior category are used and so on, as per the rankings above.

If the fencers are still tied, then the selection must be made by fiat, see below.

Selection by Fiat

There are some circumstances under which it is not possible to make a selection based on objective predetermined criteria. In such cases, selection must be made by fiat (executive decision). Reasons for this include, but are not limited to:

1. Inability to separate equally ranked fencers
2. Injury or illness
3. Suspension or discipline
4. Modification of the event format (e.g. organisers changing from gendered to mixed events)
5. Voluntary withdrawal or demotion (with approval from a decision-maker)
6. Extraordinary tactical circumstances, e.g. availability of a fencer of outstanding potential

Under circumstances that allow reasonable time to make and publish a selection decision, the TSC will be the sole arbiter and may apply its absolute discretion. It must publish its decision publicly but may confine justification of its reasoning to a short report to the FencingWA Board within one calendar month.

On-the-Spot Selection Decisions

In cases where it is not practicable to have the TSC make a timely decision, this may need to be made by other parties available at the time. For example, any selected fencer who suffers an illness or injury on the day of the event may be replaced by a lower ranked fencer before the list is submitted. There is no guarantee that the unfit fencer will be maintained as a reserve for the A team. There are a variety of parties who could make such a decision.

The priority for such decision-makers is:

1. Any person explicitly pre-authorised by the TSC or Board
2. FencingWA-appointed Team Coach

3. FencingWA-appointed Assistant Coach
4. Team Captain
5. TSC Chair
6. Any other TSC member
7. FencingWA President
8. FencingWA-appointed Team Manager
9. FencingWA-appointed Assistant Manager
10. Other FencingWA Board Member
11. Majority vote of eligible team fencers

In the event that such a decision is disputed by the fencer concerned and the dispute needs to be determined immediately, the decision can only be countermanded by a higher-priority party. If no such party is available, the decision must stand.

Wherever any extra-policy decision is made, the decision-maker shall submit a short report to the FencingWA Board within one calendar month. This will also be made available to the TSC.

Pre-Determined Authorisation

The TSC or FencingWA Board may on occasion determine that for a given event, a specific Team Coach or Team Manager be given the power to make selections by fiat in variance from this selection policy for tactical or other reasons. Where this power is granted and used, the responsible party shall submit a short report to the FencingWA Board within one calendar month, documenting any extra-policy selection decisions and the reasons for them. This will also be made available to the TSC.

Appeals

If a fencer is not selected for a team, they may lodge an appeal within 14 days of publication of the team list.

In the event of this happening, the FencingWA Board shall appoint an Appeals Committee to review the selection, and reject or uphold the appeal.

Appeals Committee

The Appeals Committee shall be appointed by the FencingWA Board to determine the Appeal. It shall be made up of at least 3 members:

1. Chair
2. Fencer or past Fencer
3. Third person

The Chairperson shall be a member of the FencingWA Board; the remaining members may, or may not, be members of the FencingWA Board.

The Fencer or past Fencer should wherever possible have the best combination of the following attributes:

1. More than 10 years' experience in fencing
2. Not be a coach of, or have an emotional tie to, the Appellant
3. Not be a fencer in contention for teams likely to be selected.

The Appeal Committee shall observe the rules of natural justice, giving all parties the opportunity to be heard [including the parents of an Appellant under 16 years of age].

Examples

Example 1 – Normal Selection of A and B Teams

Prior to a Cadet Women's Epee team event, nine competitors are available for selection and the event allows for A and B teams. The FencingWA rankings for Cadet Women's Epee are as follows:

Ranking	Competitor	Available
1	Anne	Yes
2	Betty	No
3	Carol	Yes
4	Diana	Yes
5	Elise	No
6	Felicity	Yes
7	Gertrude	Yes
8	Helen	No
9	Ivy	Yes
10	Janet	Yes
11	Karen	Yes
12	Lucy	Yes

Prior to the event, Anne and Carol are pre-selected in the A team, with Anne as Team Captain. The other available fencers are then competing for places in the A and B team. In the individual event, the available fencers achieved the following results:

Result	Competitor
31	Anne
7	Carol
5	Diana
9	Felicity
19	Gertrude
3	Ivy
6	Janet
17	Karen
16	Lucy

The A team is therefore Anne (Captain), Carol, Ivy and Diana. The B team is Janet (Captain), Felicity, Lucy and Karen. Gertrude is not selected.

Example 2 – Second Pre-Selected Place Unclear

Prior to a Junior Women’s Epee team event, five competitors are available for selection. The FencingWA rankings for Junior Women’s Epee are as follows:

Ranking	Competitor	Available
1	Anne	Yes
2	Betty	No
3	Carol	Yes
3	Diana	Yes
5	Elise	No
6	Felicity	Yes
7	Gertrude	Yes

Prior to the event, Anne is pre-selected as Team Captain. Carol and Diana are tied for the second pre-selected position and neither is immediately pre-selected. In the individual event, the available fencers achieved the following results:

Result	Competitor
1	Anne
9	Carol
11	Diana
5	Felicity
14	Gertrude

First, the second pre-selected position must be determined between Carol and Diana. As Carol’s result was higher, she secures this position. Diana then competes with Felicity and Gertrude for the remaining two places. The team is therefore Anne (Captain), Carol, Felicity and Diana. Gertrude is not selected.

Note that if Diana had a result of 16 rather than 11, she would not have been selected, despite being one of the fencers eligible for the top two places.

Example 3 – Tied Results and Rankings

Prior to a Junior Women’s Epee team event, five competitors are available for selection. The FencingWA rankings for Junior Women’s Epee are as follows:

Ranking	Competitor	Available
1	Anne	Yes
2	Betty	No
3	Carol	Yes
4	Diana	Yes
5	Elise	No
6	Felicity	Yes
6	Gertrude	Yes

Prior to the event, Anne and Carol are pre-selected in the A team, with Anne as Team Captain. The other available fencers are then competing for places in the A and B team. In the individual event, the available fencers achieved the following results:

Result	Competitor
11	Anne
9	Carol
1	Diana
3	Felicity
3	Gertrude

Diana has won the third place in the team. Felicity and Gertrude are equally placed in the individual event and so it is unclear who has won the fourth position. FencingWA rankings must be examined.

As this is a Junior event, we first examine that category. As seen above, they are tied for 6th position. We then examine the closest more senior category: Open. Neither fencer has competed in this category, so we need to examine rankings in less senior categories in turn.

In the Cadet category, Felicity and Gertrude are tied in 3rd position. In the Under 15 category, Felicity is 1st but Gertrude is not eligible because she is too old at 16. Therefore, we can’t use rankings to break the tie and must examine FencingWA results.

First, we check the Junior results. Felicity and Gertrude competed in various events but not at the same time, so there is no direct comparison available. We then examine the closest more senior category, Open, but neither fencer has competed in this category.

In the Cadet category, in the most recent event with both fencers present, they were equal 3rd. In the next most recent event, Felicity was 2nd and Gertrude was 3rd. The tie is broken.

The team is therefore Anne (Captain), Carol, Diana and Felicity. Gertrude is not selected.