



Under 9 and Under 11 Event Guidelines

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Control: FencingWA Board	

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1. Guideline Statement

U9 & U11 Events

At this time, Under 9 & Under 11 events are not considered Championship events, and therefore each event is considered a once-off.

2. Under 9 & Under 11 Competition Information

FencingWA, at their sole discretion, may determine whether there are sufficient potential competitors to justify U9 & U11 events on a weapon-by-weapon basis.

U9 & U11 events will be seeded by random distribution via the Fencing Time software. The first random distribution will be used, and re-distributions will not occur under any circumstance.

3. Entry Requirements

Each club with fencers attending should have a coach or manager present. In circumstances where a coach is not able to attend, a coach from another club or an experienced fencer may take this role.

A fencer's age for the competition will be calculated as of the 31 December of the previous year (that is, if the fencer turns 9 or 11 during a given year, they are still eligible for the remainder of that year).

Event entry is completed via Register Now.

4. U9 & U11 Clothing and Equipment Requirements – All Weapons:

- Fencing jacket and plastron, at least 350N
- Fencing Breeches
- Long socks
- Sport shoes
- Fencing glove
- Fencing mask, 350N or more, appropriate to the weapon
- Lamé for foil and sabre
- Body wire appropriate to the weapon
- Mask wire for foil and sabre
- Chest protector – mandatory for female fencers, strongly recommended for male fencers

5. Weapons

Under 9:

- **Epee**
 - Athletes competing in the Under 9 division must use a size 0.
- **Foil**
 - Athletes competing in the Under 9 division must use a size 2.
- **Sabre**
 - Athletes competing in the Under 9 division must use a size 2.

Under 11:

- **Epee**
 - Athletes competing in the Under 11 division must use either a size 0 or size 2.
 - In deciding what is most appropriate for the U11 fencer, coaches and fencers/parents should consider what blade size best suits each individual.
 - Consideration should be given to the weapon type and the physical and fencing development of the fencer.
 - There are to be no changes to a weapon sizing during bouts.
- **Foil**
 - Athletes competing in the Under 11 division must use a size 2.
- **Sabre**
 - Athletes competing in the Under 11 division must use a size 2.

6. U9 & U11 Equipment Checks

Referees should check all clothing and masks for safety. Unsafe equipment will not be allowed.

- Epees and foils will not be tested with weights or gauges.
- Referees should check grub screws at the commencement of each bout and ensure each weapon is working.
- There are no penalties to be applied for weapons missing grub screws or where a weapon presented is not working.

If weapons or body wires fails during the bout, the fencer may take a reasonable amount of time to find a replacement item or make appropriate adjustments. No penalty (no second weapon on the strip, for example) should be applied in this case.

7. U9 Bouts

Poule Bouts

It will be fenced to 5 points or 2 minutes. Where the score is equal at the end of the bout, fencers will fence for a deciding point up to 1 additional

minute. Priority will be decided randomly prior to the commencement of the minute.

De bouts:

The non-combativity rules are not applied in U9 competitions.

- **Epee and Foil**

- DE bouts will be fenced to 10 points or 2 periods of 2 minutes each, with a 1-minute break in between.
- Where the score is equal at the end of the bout, fencers will fence for a deciding point up to 1 additional minute.
- Priority will be decided randomly prior to the commencement of the minute.

- **Sabre**

- DE bouts will be fenced to 10 points. When the first fencer in a bout reaches 5 points, a 1-minute break will occur.

8. U11 Bouts

Poule Bouts:

Will be fenced to 5 points or 2 minutes. Where the score is equal at the end of the bout, fencers will fence for a deciding point up to 1 additional minute. Priority will be decided randomly prior to the commencement of the minute.

DE bouts:

The non-combativity rules are not applied in U11 competitions.

- **Epee and Foil**

- DE bouts will be fenced to 10 points or 2 periods of 2 minutes each, with a 1-minute break in between. Where the score is equal at the end of the bout, fencers will fence for a deciding point up to 1 additional minute. Priority will be decided randomly prior to the commencement of the minute.

- **Sabre**

- DE bouts will be fenced to 10 points. When the first fencer in a bout reaches 5 points, a 1-minute break will occur.

9. U9 & U11 Event Requirements

Coaches or other accompanying adults (managers, parents) can access the fencers between poule bouts and during the interval of a DE.

The fencer or coach may also request access during the bout; the referee should consider the request in the best interests of both fencers.

A fencer, coach, manager, or parent may decide at any time to withdraw a fencer from the competition at no penalty. A fencer who withdraws may not re-enter the competition.

A fencer who is injured can have access to a reasonable amount of injury time, but the referee should use their discretion as to whether the fencer is capable of continuing.

Referees should take particular care to prevent disorderly fencing, as this may intimidate younger fencers. Disorderly or overly aggressive fencing should be penalised as directed by the penalty chart. In circumstances where a fencer continues to fence aggressively or in a disorderly way to the detriment of other fencers, the referee may direct the coach or other adult to step in and, in extreme circumstances, may require that the fencer be withdrawn, with or without penalty.

Referees should take care to explain penalties and decisions to the fencers fully to assist their development as fencers.

10. Document Control

These guidelines will be reviewed annually or earlier if required by the organisation. The review will ensure it reflects the sport, communities, and rule requirements.

11. Version History

Date	Version number	Executive Summary of changes
March 2022	1.0	New event guidelines for U11 and U13
March 2022	2.0	Updated guidelines for U11 and U13
June 2022	3.0	Additional information added to U11 weapon sizes
February 2023	4.0	U9 & U11 guidelines updated to include U9. Wording updated throughout.