



# FencingWA Competition Rules

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## Pre-Entry Requirements

Prior to entering any FencingWA events (including Under 13 events), all fencers must pay their fee to Affiliate to be part of the FencingWA community and ensure that they are covered by the appropriate insurance.

Those fencers who wish to participate in any national event must also pay their Capitation fee. This is no longer required for FencingWA events.

Both the Affiliation and Capitation fees must be paid using the mechanism specified on the FencingWA web site at <http://www.fencingwa.com/> (currently using Register Now).

## Entry to Competitions

Entry to competitions is to be made by 10 PM on the **Sunday** before the event. The decision as to whether or not to run the competition will be made on the basis of entries received up to this time. Club representatives will be notified that an event has been cancelled and are required to pass that information on to the entrants from their club.

Fees are charged for competition entries. All fees must be paid using the mechanism specified on the FencingWA web site (currently Register Now). Small booking fees may also be applied to cover the costs of the online booking system. For 2016, normal fees for entries received on time (i.e. by 10 PM on the Sunday before event) are \$15. Normal entries for Novice and Under 13 events are free. Late entries for all events may be made up to 10 PM on the Wednesday before the event and are \$30. Super-late entries may be made following the close of late entries up until the start of check-in and are \$60.

There is no obligation to accept late or super-late entries. If such entries are inconvenient to the running of the event in terms of scheduling, allocation of pistes, availability of referees or any other practical reason the Officiating Director and/or the Tournament and Selection Committee may disallow some or all late or super-late entries. If a limited number of late or super-late entries are allowed, those entrants are to be selected on a first-come, first-served basis in order of entry.

Entrants are advised to avoid leaving their entry to the last moment in order to allow for any technical difficulties.

## Competition Format

Competitions are run using a single round of pools, followed by a direct elimination competition format based on the fencers' ranking after the pools. Seeding for the pools should be based on the latest FencingWA rankings available to the DT at the start of the competition. Pool bouts are fenced to 5 hits or 3 minutes. Direct elimination bouts are generally to 15 hits or 3 periods of 3 minutes (2 periods in sabre). However, Under 13 and Veteran events use direct elimination bouts of 10 hits or 2 periods of 3 minutes.

The DT determines the pool sizes based on the number of fencers, the availability of referees and pistes and the time available for running the event. As a guide, pool sizes should be approximately 6 or 7 where possible, e.g.

Competitors	Pools
3 to 8	1
9 to 14	2
15 to 21	3
22 to 28	4

## Alternate Competition Formats

Event organisers may use alternate competition formats as they see fit for any events which are not eligible for FencingWA Championship ranking points.

In ranking events, the DT may specify two rounds of pools in special circumstances. In such cases, the combined results from both rounds of pools are used to determine the rankings for the direct elimination round. The DT also has discretion to specify the use of 3-hit or 2-minute bouts in special circumstances, such as Under 13 competitions with large numbers of fencers and a risk of not completing the competition in time.

Organisers may apply to the FencingWA Board if they wish to run ranking events using competition formats other than the standard pool/DE format described above. One calendar month's notice must be provided prior to the event start date, to allow the Board time to examine the practicality and fairness of the proposed formats.

## Team Events

In team events, each club can enter a maximum of three teams per category. Teams of three or four fencers may be entered. In the event of insufficient entries to run events for both genders in each weapon, mixed-gender events and teams may be allowed at the discretion of the Tournament Coordinator. A team event may run with as few as two entries, even if both entries are from the same club. The following formats are used for team events:

Teams	Format
2	Straight to final
3	Pool unique
4 or more	Direct elimination

In direct elimination events, the teams are seeded based on the total current FencingWA ranking points for the top three members of each team.

## Start Times, Check-In and Roll Call

It is the responsibility of fencers to allow time to arrive at the competition venue well before the advertised start time. From ten minutes prior to the advertised start time, fencers may present themselves to the DT or assistant for check-in. Roll call will commence for each

competition five minutes prior to the start time and the names of all pre-registered fencers not already checked in will be called out and they will be checked in if they respond. If any pre-registered fencers are not checked in, there will be a final roll call made at the advertised start time. If fencers are not checked in by the final roll call, they will be removed from the competition. Under special circumstances, a roll call by proxy may be accepted for an entrant at the DT's discretion. If an entrant has guaranteed their attendance after roll call, but at a time agreed with the DT, then they may be permitted to participate in the competition. Under no circumstances will an entrant be allowed into the competition after completion of the last pool bout.

The competition will commence promptly at the start time. It is essential to be on time for competitions and to have warmed up prior to fencing. Fencers should be dressed and ready to fence with all equipment confirmed to be working and legal by the time of the final roll call.

Unless the DT has specifically allowed a 'roll call by proxy', others are not permitted to call out on behalf of a fencer absent from the venue.

## Judging of Touches

Touches in a bout will be judged electrically at all events (including Under 13 foil events from June 2016 onwards).

It is recommended that in épée semi-finals and finals without a grounded piste, the referee should appoint two judges, primarily to determine the validity of possible floor hits. However, such judges must observe all aspects of the bout.

## Fencers' Electric Equipment

Electric foil bouts require the use of masks with electric bibs and mask wires. Electric bibs and conductive masks are not permitted in épée bouts as they confer an unfair advantage to the wearer by causing some hits to not register.

It is the responsibility of each fencer to bring safe, working, legal equipment to the piste. Weapons, wires, electric jackets and masks must be working when the fencer presents at the piste to ensure fairness and avoid disruptions and delays. The rules require fencers to bring two legal, working weapons and body wires to the piste and the referee should impose sanctions on those who fail to do so.

Electrically judged épée and foil competitions will be subject to weight and travel testing on the piste and non-conforming weapons will not be allowed to be used in competition.

Where an electric jacket, mask or glove is discovered to be faulty and no replacement is available, the referee *may* permit the fencer to continue, but is not obliged to do so. If this occurs, the referee may impose special conditions such as appointing judges.

If there is any question of doubt about a decision due to faulty equipment, it is to be determined in favour of the other fencer who would otherwise be unfairly disadvantaged. For example, if a fencer has a dead spot on an electric jacket, the referee may award a hit that has registered off target at foil or not registered at sabre. Judges should be appointed to provide further verification in cases of faulty equipment. In this case, a judge need only observe the fencer with faulty equipment. A judge who feels that a hit *may* have registered with legal equipment should immediately raise a hand. If a referee feels that a stop hit to a non-conductive sabre glove *may* have timed out an attack, the hit should be awarded as if it did. Any abstention by judge and/or referee is to be decided *against* the fencer with the illegal equipment.

If, in the opinion of the referee, equipment that provides a fencer with an unfair advantage is used *knowingly* without informing the referee prior to use, this equipment shall be considered to be fraudulent and penalised according to t.45.3.a.iii (Fourth Group, immediate black card).

## Junior Weapons

From 2014, fencers in the Under 13 category are required to use reduced size weapons in épée and foil. Those Clubs that currently provide reduced size weapons are asked to ensure that spare weapons are available (at no additional cost) for additional participants from other clubs wishing to fence.

Under 13 épée is conducted electrically using only size 2 weapons. In Under 13 foil, size 2 weapons should be used, but size 3 weapons may be used in non-electric events if provided by a Club and where equal-length weapons are made freely available to both fencers.

There is no international standard defining the blade length of reduced size weapons, but in FencingWA competitions the following definitions apply, where the length is measured from the guard to the end of the tip:

Size	Length (épée/foil)	Length (sabre)
0	775	750
2	825	800
3	850	825
5	900	880

In all FencingWA events, competitors may use weapons shorter than the maximum length if they wish.

## Technical and Material Rules

The rules governing the technical (sporting) aspects of FencingWA competition and the material aspects (legality of weapons, etc.) are, unless otherwise specified in this document, those specified by the Australian Fencing Federation. Those rules are, in turn (with minor exceptions), those specified by the Federation Internationale d'Escrime (FIE). For practical reasons, the FIE rules in English (rather than French) are to be considered the definite reference in FencingWA events.

One significant difference between FIE and AFF rules is in the case of non-presentation at the piste. FIE rules state that yellow and red cards are issued at one-minute intervals, with elimination (but no black card) after the third call. AFF (and hence FencingWA) rules state that yellow and a series of red cards are issued at one-minute intervals.

At the time of writing, the AFF rules are available at:

<http://www.ausfencing.org/home/attachments/article/823/AFF-Specific-Rules.pdf>

## **Black Cards**

Where a referee has correctly issued a black card to a competitor and this has not been successfully appealed, that competitor is eliminated from the competition. No result is recorded for them and all competitors below them move up one position.

FencingWA competitors who receive a black card will be suspended from the remainder of the tournament and for the following two months of the active season (first FencingWA or AFF event to last FencingWA or AFF event of the calendar year). During this period they will not be allowed to enter FencingWA events or be eligible for selection to fence for Western Australia. Notice of the suspension will be communicated to AFF and all other Australian State and Territory fencing bodies.

Interstate and international competitors currently under suspension will not be allowed to enter FencingWA events. If fencers do compete in FencingWA events while under suspension and this is later discovered, they will be removed from the results and all competitors below them moved up one position. At any point prior to the end of the fencing year when Championships are awarded, ranking points for affected competitors will be adjusted accordingly.

## **Head Referee**

The Head Referee is an individual or committee appointed prior to the commencement of each competition by the FencingWA Officiating Director or Tournament Sub Committee. If a Head Referee has not been formally appointed, the DT should refer any determination concerning the rules to the most qualified and experienced referee or group of referees available at the time. The FencingWA Refereeing Policy covers this in more detail.

## **Directoire Technique (DT)**

The Directoire Technique (DT) is an individual or committee appointed by FencingWA. It should be determined prior to the commencement of each competition by the Tournament Sub Committee or delegated to the organising club. The function of the DT is to manage running of the tournament. Except when maintaining safety, order and discipline during the competition, the DT would not normally be involved in making any determination concerning interpretation of the rules. The FencingWA DT Code of Conduct policy covers the responsibilities and expectations of DTs in more detail.

## Appeals

The referee is the sole arbiter of matters of fact. Where a fencer feels that the referee has made an error in interpreting or correctly administering the rules, then the fencer may appeal to the DT. Any such appeal must be made prior to any continuation of fencing in that bout. The DT should have an up-to-date copy of the rules in English available for assistance in determining such appeals.

Under normal circumstances the DT will refer each appeal to the Head Referee for determination. The Head Referee must hear the appeal directly from the appealing fencer rather than through any third party, and may consult with other referees in coming to a determination. The Head Referee will inform the DT and then directly communicate the result of the appeal to the referee and fencers concerned. This decision is final and must be respected by all parties.

Determining whether a failed appeal is unjustified is the decision of the referee on the piste, but this can be made in consultation with the Head Referee. However, where an appeal has been made on a matter of fact rather than rules, a penalty of the 1st Group would normally be applied as a matter of course.

## Video Refereeing

Use of video refereeing may be used at the DT's discretion for semi-finals and finals only. This shall only occur when:

- i. suitable equipment is available for recording and replaying the actions;
- ii. a second qualified referee is available to act as video consultant;
- iii. a suitable person is available to act as camera operator if that cannot also be reasonably performed by the video consultant; and
- iv. the use of video refereeing will not add unreasonably to the running time of the event.

Whenever video refereeing is used, the video consultant will watch the bout live, then, should the need arise, subsequently on the video screen, interact with the referee.

Only the fencer on the piste has the right to request a video review. In direct elimination bouts, each fencer is allowed two video reviews. In team events, each fencer has one video review per relay. Should the referee change their decision as a result of the review, the appealing fencer retains their video review.

In the case of a video review, the referee will watch the video together the video consultant and after having analysed the action, the referee will give the final decision. At all weapons and at any time, the referee may consult the monitor before making a decision. The video consultant may also at any time request that the referee video review the action.

If the fencers' scores are equal at the end of the match, for the decisive hit, the referee must consult the monitor before giving the decision.

Once the referee, together with the video consultant, has reviewed the action, however that is initiated, the decision given by the referee is final and no other review of the same action can be requested.

If a video review is requested but such a review cannot be made due to technical issues, any consequences of the action (including hits and penalties) must be annulled. This does not apply to behavioural disciplinary penalties; a black card for mask throwing will not be rescinded just because it was not captured on video.

## **Scoring and Timekeeping**

Each direct elimination bout should have at least a referee and a scorer. The scorer will keep track of the score on the sheet or bout sheet provided. The scorer must not record a point until it is awarded by the referee.

When the scoring box cannot display the score, the scorer should call out the score after each point awarded by the referee.

Where the scoring box cannot keep track of the time remaining, a timekeeper must use a stopwatch to perform this function. In this instance, the timekeeper should call out the time between points only if instructed by the referee or requested by either fencer. The timekeeper should not call out during the fencing action, other than calling "Time!" when time has run out. It is the referee's responsibility to halt the bout and determine whether an action has occurred before or after the expiry of time.

Where there is a discrepancy between the score recorded on the electrical apparatus and the score recorded on paper, the referee must correct the score. The referee is the sole arbiter of the score, but the scorer should check that the score is recorded correctly after each point and alert the referee if there is a discrepancy.

Fencers are encouraged to check that their pool results are being recorded correctly during the progress of the pool and not just at the end. Fencers and referees must take seriously their responsibility to check the score. The referee of the final bout must give the fencers present a reasonable opportunity to check the scores, but is not responsible for chasing up fencers who have wandered off. Fencers are not required to sign their acceptance of the pool sheet, but are responsible for making themselves available to check the scores promptly at the end of the final bout.

The DT will record the result of each bout on the basis of the score sheet. No argument will be entered into if a score sheet has been submitted to the DT, where the fencers present at the final bout have been given the opportunity to check the scores recorded at the end of the pool.

## **Protective Equipment**

Protective equipment must be safe and free of holes and entrapment hazards. CEN Level 2 (FIE) equipment is recommended but not compulsory. The minimum standard is CEN Level 1



(350 N), with mask, plastron, jacket, glove and either breeches/long socks or special 350 N certified fencing track pants. For female fencers of all ages, chest protectors are also required. All protective equipment must be in good safe condition (e.g. no holes).

Please note that from 2016 on, *breeches and long socks (or 350 N track pants)* are required for all events including Under 13 foil and sabre. This requirement will be strictly enforced without exception.

**Do not turn up without full safety equipment expecting to fence.** From 2016 on, this will not be permitted under any circumstances.

From 2014, the use of visor masks is not permitted in any weapon in any ranking competition. The FIE standard of two independent security devices for masks is recommended but not compulsory. However, masks must be maintained such that they are securely held in place.

If a referee believes a fencer to be improperly attired, they should refer the matter to the DT for determination if the issue cannot be resolved on piste in a timely manner. Referees and DTs must ensure entrants are not permitted to fence without a full set of protective equipment.

## Ranking Categories and Age Qualification

The following groups of ranking categories for individual fencers are ranked by FencingWA, with male and female categories in each weapon, i.e. six categories for each of these groups:

Category Group	Age Qualification
Open	None
Novice	None
Under 13	Under 13 at start of year
Under 15	Under 15 at start of year
Cadet	Under 17 at start of year
Junior	Under 20 at start of year
Veteran	Over 40 at end of year

In order to qualify for a maximum age limit, a fencer's age is determined by their age at 31 December of the preceding fencing year. Hence, an Under 13 fencer must be 12 or under on 31 December, but they may turn 13 at any time during the year, including 1 January.

In order to qualify for a minimum age limit, a fencer's age is determined by their age on 31 December of the current fencing year. Hence, a fencer who turns 40 during the year is eligible to enter Veteran events from the beginning of the year, even if they are actually 39 at the time.

## Ranking Point Calculations

The basis for the ranking system is that points are allocated for results attained in each FencingWA competition as follows:

Result	Points
1	10
2	8
3	6
4	5
5-8	4
9-16	2
17-32	1
33-64	0.5
65-128	0.25

In each category, there are a number of events eligible for ranking points, but depending on the category, only a limited number of events of different types may be counted towards a fencer's total. The ranking tables published on the FencingWA web site each indicate the events that may be counted, which differ among the various categories.

For example, in 2014, the Open category ranking table includes nine events: four FencingWA, four AFC and one FSI (Fencing Singapore International). The table also includes the description "Total Points = Best FencingWA result + best AFC/FSI result + next two best results". This indicates that a maximum of four events will be counted as contributing towards each fencer's total rankings points. At least one of these must be a FencingWA event and at least one of them must be an AFC or FSI event. If a fencer competes in only FencingWA events, they will still be awarded a total but it will comprise only the fencer's best three FencingWA results.

The term "best result" used here means best in terms of the highest number of rankings points after any scaling factors have been applied, rather than their place in the competition. Thus, placing 8th in an AFC event (12 points) is considered "best" when compared with placing 1st in a FencingWA event (10 points).

In all categories other than Under 13, ranking points are awarded for results in FencingWA, Australian Fencing Circuit and Fencing Singapore International Open events. In all age-group Championship categories including Under 13, ranking points are also awarded for results in events one age category above.

Some competitions are deemed to be of a higher standard than others, and are awarded a greater number of points using a scaling factor as follows:

Event	Factor
Open events for fencers in Junior/Cadet/Under 15 categories	1.5
AFC/FSI Veteran Event fencers in Veteran categories	1.0
AFC/FSI Event (Other)	3.0
Event One Age Category Above for Cadets and U15s	1.2
FencingWA Finals and AFC Championships	1.5

These scaling factors are multiplied together as appropriate. For example, a Junior fencer who wins an AFC Open Championship will be awarded  $10 \times 3 \times 1.5 = 45$  points in the Open category, and  $10 \times 1.5 \times 3 \times 1.5 = 67.5$  points in the Junior category. An Under 15 fencer who wins an AFC Cadet Championship will be awarded  $10 \times 3 \times 1.5 = 45$  points in the Cadet category, and  $10 \times 3 \times 1.5 \times 1.2 = 54$  points in the Under 15 category.

## Medal and Certificate Awards

Four medals are awarded for each event (gold, silver, two bronze) if there are at least eight fencers. With lesser numbers of fencers, the rule of thumb is that the number of medals awarded does not exceed half of the number of fencers.

Fencers	Medals Awarded
1 or 2	0
3	1
4 or 5	2
6 or 7	3
8 or more	4

The DT has discretion to override this rule of thumb to increase the number of medals awarded in special cases. For example, all four medals may be awarded in Under 13 categories regardless of numbers in order to encourage participation. An outstanding performance by an Under 13 fencer in an Open/Junior event could be rewarded with a silver medal even if there are only three Junior fencers.

It is important to note that under normal circumstances, there is a fence-off for bronze medal if there are 6 or 7 competitors. Because different ranking points are awarded for 3rd and 4th places, the DT should ensure that this bout takes place and is recorded.

Certificates for positions up to 8th place may also be awarded. The DT has discretion to award additional certificates as appropriate (e.g. for the top Under 13 in a Junior competition).

## Individual Champion Calculations

The Champion in each category is declared in November or December on the basis of the total rankings points achieved from eligible competitions throughout the calendar year. The exception to this is the AFC Open and Veteran Championships, which are held in December. The results from this event are not counted during the current calendar year, but are instead carried over into the next year. Thus, the 2013 AFC Championships count towards the 2014 FencingWA rankings and championships, not the 2013 ones.

In the event that two or more fencers are tied for the number of rankings points at the end of the fencing year, the Championship will be shared.

In order to be eligible to win any State Championship, a fencer must compete in at least one of the eligible State-level events specific to that category. For example, in order to win a Cadet Foil Championship, a fencer must compete in at least one State Cadet Foil event during the year. If an ineligible fencer finishes the fencing year in a Championship-winning position, the Championship will instead be awarded to the next-ranked eligible fencer.

The ranking position of Championship-ineligible fencers is still used for team selection, and such fencers are still counted when calculating minimum participation levels for Championships.

## **Champion Club Calculations**

The three Champion Clubs are awarded in each weapon on the basis of the rankings for the top ten Open fencers of both genders. If a club has a fencer ranked 1 at the end of the fencing year, then that is worth 10 points. The fencer ranked 2 is worth 8 points, and so on, as per the standard FencingWA ranking point distribution table. As both genders are involved, there are a total of twenty opportunities for a club to score points by having fencers in the top ten. The total for all of the top-ten rankings for a given weapon are totalled for each club, and the club with the highest total using this meta-ranking scheme is the Champion Club for that weapon.

In the event that two or more clubs are tied for the number of points at the end of the fencing year, the Championship will be shared.

## **Veteran Master-at-Arms Champion Calculations**

The Veteran Master-at-Arms Championship is intended to highlight the top all-round Veteran fencer. It is to be awarded on the basis of the sum of FencingWA Veteran ranking points for each fencer's best two weapons. This is not a gender-specific Championship; it is quite possible for a female Veteran's points, including those obtained in female-only events, to outnumber the men to produce a female "Master". It is not necessary to compete in multiple weapons to be eligible for this award, although it is likely to be helpful.

## **Veteran Champion Club Calculations**

The Veteran Champion Club award is intended to highlight the top Veteran club. It is to be awarded on the basis of the rankings for the top five Veteran fencers of both genders for all three weapons. If a club has a fencer ranked 1 at the end of the fencing year, then that is worth 10 points. The fencer ranked 2 is worth 8 points, and so on, as per the standard FencingWA ranking point distribution table. As both genders and all weapons are involved, there are a total of thirty opportunities for a club to score points by having fencers in the top five. The total for all of the top-five rankings for all weapons are totalled for each club, and the club with the highest total using this meta-ranking scheme is the Veteran Champion Club.

## Minimum Participation Levels

For an event to be held, there must be a minimum of four fencers entered in each category by the Wednesday late entry deadline. If this minimum is met but there are subsequent withdrawals or non-attendance, the event can be held providing a minimum of three fencers are available to compete at the start time.

For a Championship to be awarded, there must also be a minimum of three fencers in that category who have participated in at least one eligible event during the fencing year.

## Mixed Championships

Where there are fewer than three entrants of one gender in a category throughout the fencing year, those entrants will be combined with the other gender in that category to form a mixed-gender ranking table.

If, during the year, sufficient entrants of both genders take part, then the ranking table will be split into individual genders and both Champions will be declared.

At the end of the fencing year, the top-ranked fencer in the mixed ranking table is declared Champion, and a gender-appropriate trophy is awarded. The other gender's trophy is only awarded under one of the following circumstances:

- a. there are a minimum of six entrants in the mixed-gender ranking table and both genders are represented by the top two fencers in that table; or
- b. there are a minimum of eight entrants in the mixed-gender ranking table, a minimum of two entrants of each gender and both genders are represented by two of the top three fencers in that table.

## Novice Events

Novice events are open to fencers of any age who have participated in the sport for the first time during the current or previous calendar year. Established fencers trying out a new weapon are not considered novices. Champions from the previous year in any category, including any novice category, are no longer considered novices.

## Veteran Events

In FencingWA Veteran events, an age handicap system applies. For each decade of age difference, an older fencer is awarded one point at the start of each pool bout, and two points at the start of each direct elimination bout. The age difference is determined by the first numeral in the fencer's age. Hence, fencers aged 49 and 60 respectively are deemed to have two decades of age difference, as do two fencers aged 40 and 69. The fencer's age for handicap reasons is determined by their age on their birthday during the same calendar year as the event, i.e. if a fencer turns 70 during the year they are considered a 70s fencer throughout that fencing year.

At least one fencer always starts each bout with a score of zero, e.g. when a 50s fencer meets a 60s fencer in a pool bout, the initial score is 0-1, not 1-2. Regardless of the age of the fencers, the maximum handicap is four points for pool bouts and eight points in direct elimination, i.e. it is not possible to win a bout without scoring any hits!

In sabre events, the one minute break is triggered when one of the fencers has scored half of the number of non-handicap hits they need to win. Thus, if a 60s fencer starts with 4 hits against a 40s fencer, the break is triggered when the 60s fencer reaches 7 hits or the 40s fencer reaches 5 hits, whichever is sooner.

Veteran ranking points are awarded in the same way as other categories, with one exception. AFC events are not scaled by a factor of 3. This is to encourage participation by older fencers by providing a relative bias towards the age-handicapped FencingWA Veteran events.

## **Gender Identity**

Athletes are allowed to enter events as the gender with which they identify.

## **Mixed Events**

Events may be mixed in terms of gender and/or age category. In 2014, there are no mixed age category events scheduled, but there have been in previous years (e.g. Under 15/Cadet, Junior/Open) and this may be restored in future years.

In mixed events, two sets of medals are awarded. For example, In an Open/Junior event, a Junior who comes third but who is the best of the Junior fencers will be awarded an Open bronze and Junior gold medal.

Depending on the number of fencers, the events may be split during the competition or run as a single event with the results split at the end of the competition. It may be necessary for fence-off bouts to be fought to determine the medal results after the events are split.

## **Rankings from Mixed Gender Events**

The DT has discretion to split or combine the genders in events as appropriate, and may take into account the wishes of the fencers in doing so. However, under normal circumstances the following arrangements apply.

If six or more fencers of each gender compete in an event, or there are exactly equal numbers of fencers of each gender in a field of eight or ten, then the events will be held separately.

If there are three or fewer fencers of both genders (i.e. six or fewer fencers total), the event shall be fenced as a mixed event in its entirety, one set of medals will be awarded for the mixed results, and the results will be applied as-is to the ranking table of each gender.

If five or fewer fencers of one gender are competing, a mixed event will be run in its entirety, including direct eliminations, and the mixed results will be applied as-is to the ranking table of the majority gender. If the minority gender has fewer than three entrants, then the mixed results will also be applied as-is to the ranking table of the minority gender.

In the case where there are three to five entrants of the minority gender, the results of the mixed competition will then be examined to determine the results of the minority gender and determine if any fence-off bouts need to be fought.

If a fencer leaves the venue or withdraws from the event for any reason prior to the completion of all categories in which they are entered, and are required to fence in order to determine their placing in a given category, then they will given the placing at the bottom of that category. If necessary, the fencers above them will fence off for the remaining placings.

### Example 1

6 fencers, 3 male, 3 female. Ranking after completion of mixed event (including fence-off for bronze):

Mixed Result	Competitor	Ranking Points
1	M1	10
2	F1	8
3	M3	6
4	F2	5
5	F3	4
6	M3	4

The top three fencers are awarded medals for their positions in the mixed result. Ranking points are awarded to both the males and females based on the raw results in the table. The male results go into the male ranking table and the female results go into the female table, except in the case of a mixed championship, in which case all the results go into the mixed ranking table.

### Example 2

8 fencers, 6 male, 2 female. Ranking after completion of mixed event:

Mixed Result	Competitor	Ranking Points
1	M1	10
2	M2	8
3=	M3	6
3=	Anne	6
5	M4	4
6	M5	4
7	M6	4
8	Betty	4

Ranking points are awarded to both the males and females based on the raw results in the table. The male results go into the male ranking table and the female results go into the female table, except in the case of a mixed championship, in which case all the results go into the mixed ranking table.

The top three male fencers are awarded medals for their positions in the mixed result. Anne is awarded a bronze medal for the mixed result, but not a gold for the female event. As there were less than three fencers, the female event is considered to have not occurred.

### Example 3

12 fencers, 8 male, 4 female. Ranking after completion of mixed event:

Mixed Result	Competitor	Ranking Points
1	M1	10
2	M2	8
3=	Anne	-
3=	M3	6
5	Betty	-
6	M4	4
7	M5	4
8	Carol	-
9	Diana	-
10	M6	2
11	M7	2
12	M8	2

Ranking points and medals are awarded to the males based on the raw results in the table; the females are not removed from the table such that the male results shuffle up. Each male fencer stays within the ranking category (e.g. 5 to 8) they achieved in the mixed competition. However, the females are placed into their own table:

Mixed Result	Female Interim Ranking	Competitor
3=	1	Anne
5	2=	Betty
8	2=	Carol
9	4	Diana

Because Anne advanced to a higher round of mixed direct eliminations than any other female, she is determined to be the winner. Betty and Carol are both within the 5 to 8 category and are considered equal at this point. They then fence off for second place. Carol beats Betty, giving the following final result in the female competition:

Female Result	Competitor	Ranking Points
1	Anne	10
2	Carol	8
3	Betty	6
4	Diana	5



Anne receives a bronze medal for the mixed event and a gold medal for the female event.  
 Carol receives a silver medal for the female event.

#### Example 4

12 fencers, 7 male, 5 female. Ranking after completion of mixed event:

Mixed Result	Competitor	Ranking Points
1	M1	10
2	M2	8
3=	M3	6
3=	M4	6
5	Anne	-
6	Betty	-
7	M5	4
8	Carol	-
9	Diana	-
10	M6	2
11	Elise	-
12	M7	2

Ranking points are awarded to the males based on the raw results in the table and the females are placed into their own table:

Mixed Result	Female Interim Ranking	Competitor
5	1=	Anne
6	1=	Betty
8	1=	Carol
9	4	Diana
11	5	Elise

Diana and Elise have their rankings determined already and take no further part. Anne, Betty and Carol are all within the 5 to 8 category and are considered equal at this point. These three then fence off in direct elimination to determine first, second and third places. As Anne is ranked highest in the mixed result, she advances to the final automatically. Betty and Carol fence a semi-final. Carol beats Betty in the semi-final and advances to the final, where she also beats Anne. This gives the following final result in the female competition:

Female Result	Competitor	Ranking Points
1	Carol	10
2	Anne	8
3	Betty	6
4	Diana	5
5	Elise	4

None of the females won medals in the mixed event. Carol and Anne are awarded gold and silver medals respectively in the female event.

## Example 5

12 fencers, 7 male, 5 female. Ranking after completion of mixed event:

Mixed Result	Competitor	Ranking Points
1	M1	10
2	M2	8
3=	M3	6
3=	Anne	-
5	Betty	-
6	Carol	-
7	Diana	-
8	M4	4
9	M5	2
10	M6	2
11	Elise	-
12	M7	2

Ranking points are awarded to the males based on the raw results in the table and the females are placed into their own table:

Mixed Result	Female Interim Ranking	Competitor
3=	1	Anne
5	2=	Betty
6	2=	Carol
7	2=	Diana
11	5	Elise

Anne and Elise have their rankings determined already and take no further part. Betty, Carol and Diana should fence off to determine 2nd, 3rd and 4th positions. Normally, Carol and Diana would fence each other, with the winner to fence Betty for 2nd place. However, Betty withdraws from the event due an injury sustained during a DE during the mixed event.

Betty therefore drops to 4th place in the female table. Carol and Diana fence off for 2nd place and Diana wins. This gives the following final result in the female competition:

Female Result	Competitor	Ranking Points
1	Anne	10
2	Diana	8
3	Carol	6
4	Betty	5
5	Elise	4

Anne is awarded a bronze medal in the mixed event. Anne and Diana are awarded gold and silver medals respectively in the female event.