



2017/18 National Games Squads Selection Policy for Major Games

Version Control Record

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Objectives

The objective of this notice is to notify all fencers on the pre-required criteria for selection to the major games of FIE Season 2017/18. Namely Senior Asian Fencing Championships AFC, Senior World Championships WFC, Junior and Cadet Asian Fencing Championships AJCC and Junior and Cadet World Championships WJCC.

Dates for 2017/18 Season

Event	Date	Games Squad Selection
Senior Asian C'ships AFC 2018 (Thailand)	TBA	End-Feb
Senior World C'ships WFC 2018	TBA	End-Feb
Junior and Cadet Asian C'ships AJCC 2018 (UAE)	TBA	16 th Jan
Junior and Cadet World C'ships WJCC 2018 (Italy)	TBA	16 th Jan

General Schedule of Events

- 1 to 3 months before the event start date the nominated athletes will be notifiedⁱ
- They will have one week to respond if not the next in line will be contacted
- If a fencer rejects a nomination the next in line will be selected down to the agreed hard limit*, they in turn may have 1 week. (It varies depending of time left to registration deadline imposed by the organizer).
* The hard limit for selection is the top 8 Ranked fencers.ⁱⁱ
- 2 to 3 weeks after nomination the final squad name list is announced

General Nomination Process for Major Games

- The selection will be the top 4 plus 2¹ reserve Singaporean fencers per weapon group as per the Singapore Fencing rolling ranking system, as detailed in the FS National Ranking System Policy document.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Each athlete will have to sign and accept the National Games Squads athlete agreement to accept the position in the Games squad, including stating which of the Major Games' nomination he/she is accepting.

¹ top 3 plus 2 in the case of cadet fencers for the WJCC

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- All withdrawals must be done in writing within one week of announcement to the High Performance Manager.
- Once withdrawal is accepted, no further appeals or changes can be made for the athlete to be reinstated into the nominated team.
- In the case of ranking point ties;
 - In the unlikely case, there exists a draw between two fencers the FIE tie break system will be applied.²
 - If a tie still exists we will apply subjective criteria, to include but not limited to;
 - Future potential of the athlete³
 - Current potential of the athlete⁴
 - Injuries during the qualification period
 - Past results at the current level
 - Training hours/attendance
 - Athlete's Conduct

Commitment of Nominated Athletes

- All fencers in the training squad may have to go through physical testing protocols conducted by the National Youth Sports Institute (NYSI) and/or Singapore Sports Institute (SSI). Testing will be scheduled between SSI and the High Performance Manager in consultation with the National Coaches.⁵
- All athletes selected for individual events must also be committed to fence in the team event.
- All selected athletes will have to continue to train in the same way as they did to qualify but with two important amendments.^{iv}
 - They must attend any mandatory training camps or competitions in preparation for the major games, specified in the invitation to the National Games Squad.

² This can be found in the "FIE RULES FOR COMPETITIONS" page 39 rule O83-1-d. It states, "In the event of equal points, the ranking is based on who has gained the most first places, then second places, etc."

³ This is effectively a selection based on athlete development. The athlete may not achieve a high level result at these games but the experience will allow them to develop in to a high performance athlete in future years.

⁴ That is to say what is the athletes' potential to produce a high level result at these games with no consideration given to a long term multiple year development plan.

⁵ This is not part of selection but is instead intended to identify any areas of physical performance that can be addressed to improve performance.

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- Their training must be visible to the High Performance Committee. So each athlete must submit their weekly training hours/report at the end of every 2 weeks.^v
- This means there are 3 possible training scenarios;
 - Continue training 12 hours per week per overseas or without engaging with FS (weekly reports and any mandatory training camps and/or competitions are the only extra commitment)^{vi}
 - Continue training 12 hours per week at the NTC. Weekly reports, any mandatory camps and competitions are required.
 - Continue training 6 hours at NTC and 6 hours per week at club/school. Weekly reports, any mandatory camps and competitions are required.
- All rationale for athletes not able to fulfill the obligations be communicated to the High Performance Manager at least one week before the training session. Only excuses on medical grounds, emergencies and matters relating to education will be considered as valid variation to the training regime.

Enlistees/Pre-enlistees for National Service

- Only the top SIX (6) ranked Senior and/or Junior Singaporean fencers, per weapon group without backfill (as per the Singapore Fencing rolling ranking system, as detailed in the FS National Ranking System Policy document.^{vii}), will be granted auto qualification to subsequent years' National Training Squad (NTS) during their 2 years' National Service (NS) period. But provided that they have accepted the National Games Squad (NGS) placement during the year of their enlistment.
- This is to allow and encourage these fencers, during their two years of NS, to continue their training with the NTS, although they may not be able to attend sufficient number of local ranking competitions during their NS commitment.
- The above clauses will apply to the current 2016/2017 NGS qualified Senior and Junior fencers.

Selection Committee Composition

- Selection committee members are:
 - (Chairman, Exco VP for High Performance)
 - (Exco High Performance Committee)
 - (Exco High Performance Committee)
 - (Exco High Performance Committee)
 - (High Performance Manager)
 - Respective Weapon Coaches



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- At the start of the meeting, all committee members will declare their conflict of interest, these are to be minuted.
- Committee members each has one vote. In the case of a tie-breaker, the chairman has one additional tie-breaker vote.
- Any member of the Selection Committee with a vested interest in any of the fencers would be prohibited from voting or participating in, or otherwise influencing, the selection process.
- A member of Sports SG and/or SSI and/or NYSI will be invited to sit in as an observer.

Expulsion

- The HPM will discuss with the High Performance Committee and review all cases of expulsion. If further action is required any discussion on expulsion will be by the above Selection Committee.
- An appeal can be launched within a week of Expulsion using the process mentioned below.
- Athletes who qualify into the National Game Squad must adhere to the athlete's code of conduct. Failure to adhere to the code of conduct might be grounds for expulsion.
- If it is clear from the weekly training reports and/or FS audit that an athlete is not training and/or following their training plan.
- The following actions will constitute an immediate expulsion from the National Game's nominated squad and/or the final Games squad:
 - Exhibition of violence towards coaches, parents, other athletes and/or other stakeholders.
 - Exhibition of vulgarities towards coaches, parents, other athletes and/or other stakeholders.
 - Any actions which is deemed to be disrespectful to and harms the national pride of Singapore.

Appeal

Appeal Process

- 1.1. Once a National Games Squads has been announced, athletes are allowed to put forth an appeal in writing to the General Manager at fsgm@fencingsingapore.org.sg within one week of announcement. An appeal will only be considered based on the following conditions:
 - There is an error in the calculation of ranking points.



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- There is an error in the results of the selected ranking competition.
 - There is an error as to recording of results of the selected ranking competitions.
 - There is new information and/or results to further justify performance.
- 1.2. The appeals tribunal will be ready to operate once selection decisions have been released.
 - 1.3. The appeals will not be a re-selection process but rather a process to inquire whether the decision reached by the selectors was properly made and according to the selection process & criteria laid out in this policy.
 - 1.4. If the selection process is found by the appeals tribunal to be incorrect, it will be referred back to the selectors for a re-selection.
 - 1.5. A bond of **SGD 500** must be lodged at the time of filing an appeal. Should the appeal be found to be unmeritorious or frivolous, the bond will be forfeited.
 - 1.6. Where athlete A's appeal poses a risk to athlete B of being excluded from the final selection, athlete B will be given an opportunity to be heard at the appeal.
 - 1.7. Legal representation will be warranted in cases where legal issues are involved and the athlete's best chance of articulating the appeal depends on it.

Appeals Tribunal

2. The appeals tribunal will consist of 3 individuals who are members of FS and including at least one FS Exco members (the Exco member must not have been a member of the selection committee).

How to File an Appeal

- 3.1 Appeals must be lodged strictly within 1 week (Mon-Fri only) of announcement of selection decisions. Any appeals received later than this deadline will not be entertained.



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- 3.2 Appeals can be prepared partially or wholly by lawyers and must be lodged through written submissions to Fencing Singapore in the attached form and sent to:
- (i) By mail
The Appeals Tribunal
Fencing Singapore
3 Stadium Drive
NSA Office
Singapore 397630
 - (ii) Or by email
The Appeals Tribunal through the General Manager
Attention: General Manager, Chong Yi Mei
Email: fsgm@fencingsingapore.org.sg
- 3.3 Payment of **SGD 500** per appeal must be made within 12 hours of submission of the appeal, via cheque payment to “Fencing Singapore”. Failure to receive payment within the stipulated time-line will result in the appeal being null and void.

Note to Parents

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all parents for their immense support of your children. Whilst we maintain our stance of open communication with parents, the entire team will be focusing intently on preparations for representing Singapore. Should you have any queries or would like to check on the progress of your child, please contact the High Performance Manager directly at hpm@singaporefencing.org.sg. Any direct communication with the coaches or selection committee might pose unnecessary stress and distractions to the preparation efforts. We seek your understanding on this matter.

ⁱ Ideally a 1 to 3-month timeline is necessary for training camp(s) and tournament(s) as a team as well as giving good time for logistic arrangements.

ⁱⁱ A hard limit is placed on selecting the next in line to ensure we do not send fencers that are not of sufficient standard



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iii The 12-month robust rolling ranking system is used as it gives a good indication of form within the last year as well as awarding points based on the difficulty of competitions attended. The fencers with the highest rankings will also be the ones who perform the best at overseas competitions.

iv Training must continue as normal even after selection has been confirmed

v Training of the National Games Squads must be visible to the High Performance Committee as well as Sports SG, NYSI and SSI for administrative purposes. Please refer to the FS Attendance And Training Policy document, found in the NGS Fencer Agreement package for details and forms for submission.

vi Non-overseas based fencer who have selected to train outside the FS structure for the selection period should train and compete with their National Games Squads team mates before a major games.

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