



2022 NSWFA Schools Championships Program

Briefing note for School Fencing Co-ordinators

We're looking forward to the 2022 NSW Schools Championships, kicking off in late March and running through terms 2 & 3.

It will be the 31st year of NSW schools fencing competition.

Some changes are being made to make the program more efficient and a better competitive experience for younger fencers.

- A streamlined timetable
- More balance between weapons
- A better competition for novices
- A Roberta Nutt Shield for girls

1. COVID 19 Rules

The School Championships will be held in accordance with AFF/NSWFA policies on COVID-19 compliance.

- **Double vaccination will be required for 12 and up for everyone (fencers, teachers, coaches, tournament officials, volunteers).**
- **Unfortunately, given limited space, parents will again not be able to enter.**
- **Check-in via the ServiceNSW app is required.**
- **A temperature check will be taken on entry**
- **The usual hygiene measures will apply.**

A Covid Marshal will be on duty to check vaccination status, log-in and venue capacity.

2. Timetable

In streamlining the timetable, we have taken into account pressure on resources - space, time and staff – and coping with COVID-19.

We have found more room for sabre and epee as more schools have taken up these weapons in recent years as well as the traditional foil.

The program offers two days of individual competition and two days of team events in each age-weapon category.

We aim to complete Saturday competitions by midday, reducing the time commitment for students, teachers, parents, coaches and volunteers.

To make the streamlined competition work effectively, and to better manage capacity within COVID-19 rules, there will be a limit on the number of individual fencers (24) and teams (4) from each school in each event.

Where possible, we have separated age groups on the timetable to reduce COVID risk.

3. A better comp for younger fencers

The timetable has been structured to give Mini Novice (Yr 5 & 6) and Novice (Yr 7 & 8) regular format competitions.

4. RN trophy just for girls

The Roberta Nutt Shield for overall points score in all weapons has traditionally been won by boy's schools as there are many more boys fencing than girls.

So this year we'll have a separate Roberta Nutt Shield for the girl's individual events.

The AJ Rae Shield (AJR) for boy's teams and the Roseanne White Shield (RAW) for girl's teams will continue to be awarded.

5. Age groups:

Mini Novice - Years 5 & 6 (Primary)

Novice - Years 7 & 8 (less than 8 months fencing experience)

Intermediate - Years 9 & 10

Senior - Years 11 & 12

Intermediate fencers can 'fence up' in the Senior category as well as their own and can compete in more than one weapon. Coaches may wish to encourage their better fencers to 'fence up' in preparation for the Australian Senior Championships.

Some events may be fenced as mixed events depending on the number of entries and with the permission of schools.

6. Competition timetable

The timetable is attached. If it needs to be changed, we'll let you know.

7. Australian Schools Championships

The NSW School Championships are the qualifying event for the Australian Intermediate and Schools Championships. To represent their school at the Australian championships, fencers must compete in the NSW School Championships.

The qualifiers are the Roberta Nutt Shield for individuals and the AJ Rae – Rosanne White Shield for teams.

The Australian Junior School Championships will be held on 18 June in Canberra and the Australian Senior Championships on 23 July in Sydney.

Junior is the first three years of secondary school (i.e. Yrs 7, 8, 9). Senior is from the 4th year of secondary (i.e. Yrs 10, 11, 12)

Further information will be provided.

8. Referees

As before, schools are expected to provide referees - one ref for every three competing students.

Schools should provide the names of referees by 5pm on the Thursday before a competition, using the attached form.

The Head Referee will attend each school competition with the support of other experienced refs to mentor school referees.

A Referee Clinic will be presented by the NSWFA Head Referee – details to be advised.

9. Entry fees (incl. GST)

- Junior Registered membership of NSWFA - \$45
- Individual competition entry - \$38.50
- Team competition entry - \$100 for Mini Novice - \$120 for Novice/Intermediate/Senior

10. Registration and billing

Registration of school fencers as Junior Registered members of NSWFA will continue to be required. This covers our cost of insurance and other overheads. Some athletes will be Junior Affiliated as they fence in State competitions.

Individual competition entry online has proved problematic and time consuming to administer. So we will be asking all schools to submit their entry lists to us in advance, by 5pm on the Thursday before a Saturday competition using the entry form attached.

Schools will be billed in accordance with these entry lists, checked against actual attendance on the day.

Children from schools that don't have a fencing program will still need to enter competitions directly online.

Entry process:

Step 1 - Register with NSWFA

ALL school fencers must register individually as a Junior Registered member of the NSW Fencing Association before the schools program starts. Apart from the schools program, this allows entry to State competitions such as the popular MiniSeries. All school-age fencers are invited to enter the MiniMe Series held on Sundays.

Can Schools please check that the fencers who will be entered by the school have registered as members of NSWFA and please keep a record of their NSEFA 2022 Membership Number which needs to be noted on the school generated entry forms attached.

Register here: <https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=45869>

Step 2 - Fencers from schools with fencing programs

Fencers who attend schools with fencing programs will be entered for the appropriate events by the School Fencing Co-ordinator via the attached entry form which must be submitted by 5pm on the Thursday before a Saturday competition. The school will be invoiced by NSWFA for the number of entries. There is a strict limit of 24 individual fencers and 4 teams per school per event.

Step 3 - Fencers from schools without fencing programs

Note: Fencers from schools without fencing programs will need to register online for each event by 5pm on the Thursday before a Saturday competition

11. ActiveKids vouchers

The Schools Championships this year won't qualify for the \$100 Active Kids voucher.

12. Equipment Standards

These minimum standards remain unchanged:

- + Mask - 350N
- + Under-plastron - 800N
- + Jacket & breeches - 350N
- + Chest protector - mandatory for girls
- + Gloves - good condition/no holes
- + Weapons - good condition

Note - girls must wear a chest protector; masks must have a double-fix band; track suit pants are not permitted; foil mask bibs are optional.

See: <https://nswfencing.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/NSWFA-Equipment-Standards-2021.pdf>

13. Equipment hire

Equipment can be hired at the venue. All hire equipment is sanitised by NSWFA after each use.

Hire costs:

- + Weapon \$10
- + Mask \$10
- + Lamé \$10
- + Under plastron/jacket/breeches \$10
- + Wire \$5
- + Glove \$5

Contactless payment is preferred.

14. Refreshments

Light meals, snacks and hot & cold drinks will be available from the cafe.

Fencers must not take food and drinks (except water) onto the piste area marked by the red barriers.

Food and drink containers must be put in the bins.

15. Inquiries

If you have any queries, please contact schools@nswfencing.org.au