



NSW SCHOOLS' FENCING LEAGUE

Team Premiership Rules

1. Age Categories

- 1.1. For purposes of this NSW Schools' Fencing League – Team Premiership, the age categories are:
 - Under 14
 - Under 16
 - Under 19
- 1.2. School fencers are grouped into age categories based on their age as of 1 January.
 - A fencer who turns 14 or below during a particular calendar year can fence in the Under 14, Under 16, or Under 19 age category for that calendar year.
 - A fencer who turns 15 or 16 during a particular calendar year can fence in the Under 16 or Under 19 age category for that calendar year.
 - A fencer who turns 17, 18, or 19 during a particular calendar year will fence in the Under 19 age category for that calendar year.
- 1.3. Unless otherwise specified in this document (e.g., [Section 4.1](#) below), a fencer can only fence in one age category throughout the school year.

2. Clothing and Equipment

- 2.1. Unless otherwise specified in this [Section 2 \(Clothing and Equipment\)](#), all fencing equipment and clothing used by fencers during NSW Schools' Fencing League – Team Premiership matches must conform to the Material Rules of the then prevailing FIE rules of fencing ("**FIE Rules**").
- 2.2. All bouts for all age categories are to be fenced with electric equipment (this requires a wired weapon, body wire and a lame for foil and sabre).
- 2.3. All weapons need to conform to FIE Rules with the exception that the requirement for an FIE logo- or S2000-stamped blade is not applicable.
- 2.4. Competitors must wear an under-plastron (half jacket), fencing jacket, fencing breeches and long socks. For the Under 14 age category matches in foil or sabre, tracksuit pants are acceptable (pockets must be sewn or zipped shut).
- 2.5. Under-plastrons must be of 800N grade with the maker's FIE certification stamp.
- 2.6. Jackets and breeches must be of a minimum 350N grade with the maker's FIE certification stamp.
- 2.7. A fencer's legs must be completely covered (fencing breeches and long socks or tracksuit pants for U14 foil or U14 sabre). Shorts and tights are not allowed. Notwithstanding the restriction on colour as set forth in [Rule m.25.3.d](#) of the FIE Rules, socks and tracksuit pants, if worn, may only be in black or have significant black portions if the school colours are of such colour or design.

- 2.8. Fencers are recommended to wear their school socks (which show the school colours) on their off leg (i.e., back leg when fencing).
- 2.9. Jackets and breeches must fit properly so no skin is exposed.
- 2.10. Fencers must have a glove for the weapon hand in good condition without any holes caused by wear and tear.
- 2.11. Masks must be of a minimum 350N grade with the maker's FIE certification stamp, have two securing devices to hold the mask firmly in place, have the double fastening (i.e., double security) system, must be well-fitted, and must be in good condition. Lame bibs are not required for foil.
- 2.12. It is recommended that all male fencers wear a groin protector (either of the cricket box or jockstrap type). All female fencers must wear a breastplate.
- 2.13. Fencing shoes or non-marking sports shoes must be worn.
- 2.14. Parents and other spectators are requested to wear soft-soled, non-marking shoes.
- 2.15. Equipment will not undergo a centralised equipment check process. Each school and school coach are responsible for ensuring all equipment conforms to the specifications set forth in this [Section 2 \(Clothing and Equipment\)](#) or the FIE Rules, if not described in this [Section 2 \(Clothing and Equipment\)](#), is safe, and cannot normally injure either the fencer-user or his or her opponent.
- 2.16. Each team should have weapons and wires readily available should equipment fail or become defective during a bout. Coaches will be permitted to control extra equipment and will be allowed no longer than three (3) minutes to locate replacement equipment.

3. Teams, Composition, and Competition Format

- 3.1. On a competition day, each school can have up to three (3) teams, one (1) for each of the age categories described in [Section 1.1](#) above, with each team comprised of up to six (6) fencers.
- 3.2. Host schools shall provide their respective guest schools, no later than the Wednesday prior to the Saturday Team Premiership day, the timetable for the competition day.
- 3.3. All schools competing on a particular Team Premiership day should arrive at the venue thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled start time even if a school is not scheduled to have matches during the first time slot as they will be responsible for providing the referees for such matches as set forth in [Section 5.6](#) below. The host school coordinator will carry out a rollcall to ensure all participating schools are present.
- 3.4. Matches will consist of nine (9) individual 5-hit bouts of two (2) fencing minutes each (the "**Regulation Time**").
- 3.5. Each bout ends when:
 - a. One of the fencers has scored 5 hits. In this case the score registered on the scoresheet is the final score of the bout (V5 – Dn, where n = the number of hits scored by the losing fencer).
 - b. Regulation Time has passed. (There is no warning for the last minute.)
 - i. If when the time limit expires there is a difference of at least one hit between the scores of the two fencers, the fencer who has scored the greater number of hits is declared winner. The score registered on the scoresheet is the actual score achieved in the bout (VN – Dn, where N = the

number of hits scored by the winning fencer and n = the number of hits scored by the losing fencer).

- ii. If, at the end of Regulation Time, the scores are equal, the fencers fence for a deciding hit, with a maximum time limit of one (1) minute. Before the fencing recommences, the Referee draws lots to decide who will be the winner if scores are still equal (at $n-n$) at the end of the extra minute.
- iii. In this case the score registered on the scoresheet is always the actual score achieved in the bout:
 - VN – Dn if a deciding hit is scored within the time limit for the bout.
 - V4 – D4 or V3 – D3 or V2 – D2 or V1 – D1 or V0 – D0 if the winner is designated by drawing lots.

- 3.6. Each member of the team fences each member of the opposing team.
- 3.7. Which team gets which side (left or right) of the scoresheet is determined either by agreement of the coaches or by coin toss.
- 3.8. The team fencing order will be nominated by the coach, team captain or team designee on the score sheet before the match begins. The team fencing order shall be submitted, in writing and without knowledge of the opposing team's fencing order, to the referee.
- 3.9. The team fencing order may not be changed until after the third bout of a match has commenced.
- 3.10. The team that has won the majority of the nine (9) bouts (i.e., five (5) or more bouts) wins the team match. Note that all nine (9) bouts are fenced, even if team victory is determined before the end of the match. Bout results for all team members need to be obtained as medals are also awarded for individual performance as well as team results.
- 3.11. There will be a maximum rest period of ten (10) minutes between team matches. Matches can begin before the ten (10) minute rest period is over if both teams are ready and agree to proceed.

4. Substitutions

- 4.1. Notwithstanding the limitation set forth in [Section 1.3](#) above, if, for an unforeseen and unavoidable event, (i) a school is not able to form a team solely of fencers in that team's age category, or (ii) a member of a team of three (3) fencers sustains an injury and cannot continue fencing, then the coach or designee may substitute a fencer from a lower age category with the permission and consent of the day's Directoire Technique [or the opposing school coach or authorised school representative].
- 4.2. It is the responsibility of the coach or designee to substitute within the rules.
- 4.3. A substitute is a fencer who does not fence in the first three bouts of a match.
- 4.4. In the course of a match, the coach or a team designee must notify the referee before replacing a fencer with a substitute. The request for a substitution may be made only in between bouts.
- 4.5. The announcement that a fencer is to be substituted, which should be made by the referee to the opposing team coach or team designee, must be made before the beginning of the previous bout in which the substitute is to fence.
- 4.6. When a substitute has been entered into the line-up, and that bout has been called, that fencer must be on the strip and ready to fence within two minutes or the fencer will receive a warning for delay of bout.

- 4.7. A substitute for a particular bout may not be replaced once that bout is called.
- 4.8. An exception to substitutions rules can be made in case of injury as allowed by FIE Rules.
- 4.9. A fencer who has been replaced may return to the line-up, but only in the numbered position originally occupied.
- 4.10. The scorer must accept instructions only from the presiding referee when writing a substitute onto the scoresheet.
- 4.11. A substitution made without informing the referee as stipulated above in accordance with the rules herein results in that bout being forfeited by the team that attempted the illegal substitution.

5. Rules of Fencing and Referees

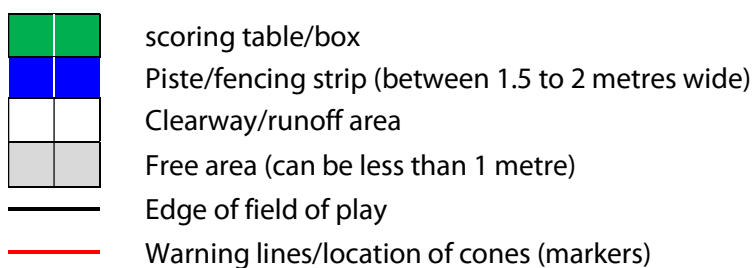
- 5.1. Unless otherwise specified in this document, the FIE Rules will apply.
- 5.2. Rule t.124 (Unwillingness to fight (Non-combativity)) of the FIE Rules does not apply.
- 5.3. Lateral Boundaries. Rule t.35 (Lateral boundaries) of the FIE Rules does not apply when cones or other markers are used to define boundaries. In this case, the referee should call halt when he or she determines that the fencers have reached the boundary and will require them to move to the centre of the piste. There will be no penalty of loss of distance.
- 5.4. Rear Boundaries. Rule t.34 (Rear limits) of the FIE Rules applies. The referee shall determine if a fencer has crossed the rear limit of the piste completely (i.e., with both feet). The referee is the sole judge of all matters relating to the boundaries of the piste.
- 5.5. For the Fencing Exchanges, both home and guest schools shall provide competent referees to officiate the matches. It is preferred that such referees not be part of the team competing in such matches (i.e., Under 16 fencers refereeing Under 19 or Under 14 matches or Under 19 fencers refereeing Under 16 or Under 14 matches).
- 5.6. For the Team Premiership days, the school that is not competing at the matches scheduled on the time slot shall be responsible for providing enough competent referees to officiate such matches. It is preferred that such referees not be part of the team competing in such matches (i.e., Under 16 fencers refereeing Under 19 or Under 14 matches or Under 19 fencers refereeing Under 16 or Under 14 matches).
- 5.7. Schools are encouraged to invite their Old Boys or Old Girls to referee.
- 5.8. Coaches are responsible for ensuring that all fencers are knowledgeable of the FIE Rules, especially those that relate to safety and sportsmanship. Coaches are responsible for ensuring that their appointed referees are competent and know the FIE Rules to a reasonable standard to enable them to officiate the matches effectively.

6. Field of Play

- 6.1. The field of play will be set up in accordance with the specifications for the "Standard piste" in the FIE Rules.
- 6.2. Cones may be used to mark out space accordingly so that fields of play across the venues are consistent and safe. The ends of the piste (i.e., the rear limits) are to be clearly marked by a line (e.g., tape or paint).

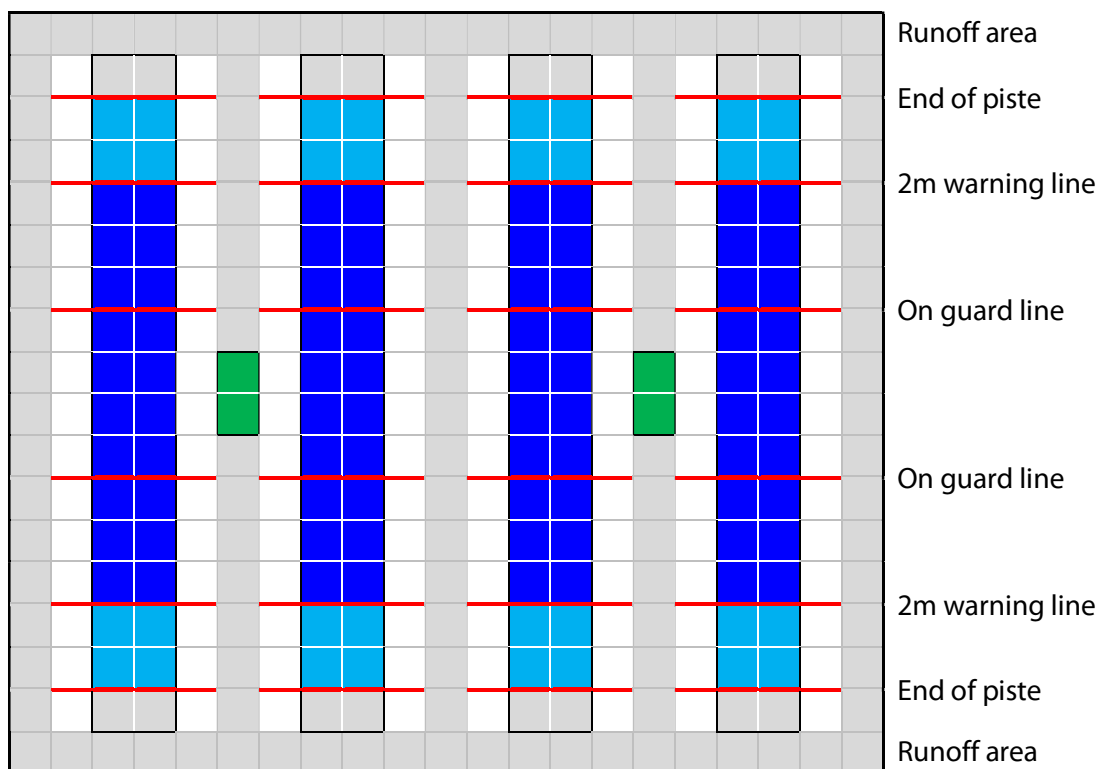
- 6.3. Safety is paramount hence those setting up the pistes should ensure that there is ample space between pistes and ample distance between the piste and referees. It is also recommended that cones be used to mark the limits not to be crossed by non-competitors (i.e., fencers not on the piste, coaches, parents and other spectators). It is recommended that non-competitors and referees be at least 2m away from the pistes.
- 6.4. Host schools must have at least three (3) pistes available on the day of competition
- 6.5. Each school must have the fields of play tested and ready for use at least thirty (30) minutes from the beginning of each competition day.
- 6.6. Suggested layouts are shown in the following diagrams:

Legend

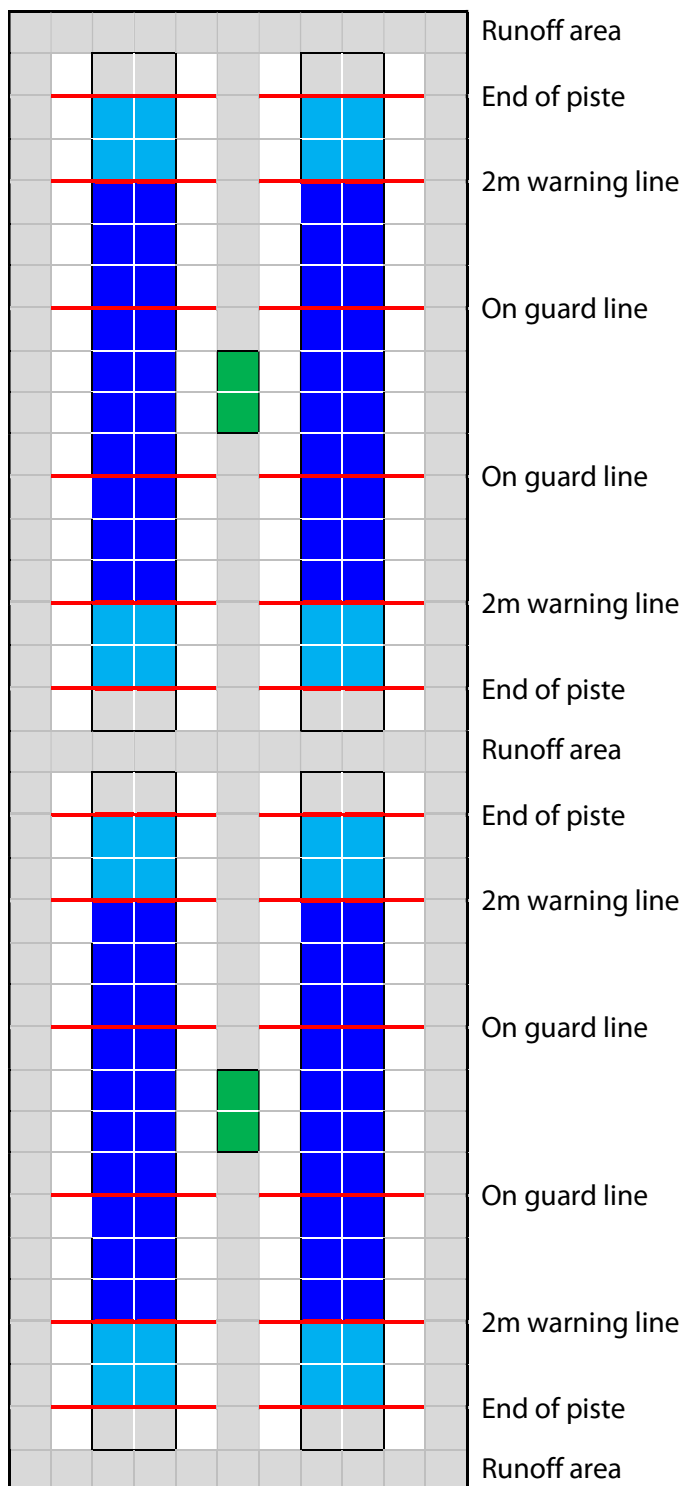


Key - each square = 1 square metre

Option 1 – Side-by-side



Option 2 - Tandem



7. Results and Ranking

- 7.1. The matches will be recorded using the scoresheet as set forth in [Annex A \(Schools League Match Scoresheet \(Template\)\)](#).
- 7.2. Completed scoresheets should be submitted to the home team coach or coach designee after each match.

- 7.3. The home team coach or coach designee will scan all the completed scoresheets into a consolidated file and send such consolidated file to the School Fencing League committee no later than the close of first school day after the competition day.
- 7.4. Fencers will be ranked according to their number of victories. In case of a tie, tied fencers will then be ranked by indicator, then by hits scored.
- 7.5. Results and rankings-to-date will be distributed to coaches and coach designees no later than the first school Friday after the competition day.