



Sydney Boys High School Fencing

Squad Selection Policy

Sydney Boys High School offers training in all three weapons: Foil, Sabre, and Epee.

To remain competitive in inter-school team activities, students are required to try-out for Squad selection in order to represent SBHS in a team or as an individual at fencing competitions and fixtures that are officially endorsed by the Sydney Boys High School Fencing Program.

Squad format explained:

Advanced experienced fencers will be grouped into squads of up to 8 fencers per weapon and age category (U14, U16, U19) as determined by rank, with final team selection for inter-school fencing representation comprising of the top 4 fencers from that squad as judged by the coaching team. The remaining fencers act as reserves – with the possibility of created a 'B Team' if there is sufficient capacity with competition numbers. Squad members who do not make the final team can still fulfil the requirements for full award scheme points by assisting with refereeing, score tallying and other squad duties during Saturday matches.

All squad members are eligible to represent SBHS in individual competitions that are endorsed by the SBHS Fencing Program.

Squad allocations:

Squads will be created for the following weapons and age groupings pending the availability of inter-school fencing opportunities:

Foil:

- U19 Foil
- U16 Foil
- U14 Foil

Sabre:

- U19 Sabre
- U16 Sabre
- U14 Sabre

Epee:

- U19 Epee
- U16 Epee
- U14 Epee

Team composition:

Each team will consist of four members selected from squads. The team captain will be determined by a vote of the members. If a consensus is not reached, the coach or MIC will select the team captain.

Other notes:

Additional teams in each age category and weapon may be created pending student numbers, equipment resources, and availability of competition opportunities.

Please keep in mind that fencing is a niche but growing sport and the supply of competitive opportunities can be limited for the less popular weapons of Sabre and Epee.

The MIC will endeavour to create and provide opportunities for our fencers to have inter-school fencing experiences pending the co-operation from other schools with fencing programs.

The SBHS Fencing Program's primary focus is to provide quality training in the sport for all of our fencers and views inter-school competitions/fixtures as a complementary part of training for students with higher fencing ability. As such, inter-school fencing opportunities are encouraged but cannot be guaranteed for all SBHS fencers.

Selection Criteria:

All students who wish to try-out for squad selection must first meet the following criteria:

- Not miss more than 2 training sessions (excluding approved absences due to exams or illness/injury)
- Attend at least 90% of the Saturday exchanges/training activities/individual competitions (excluding approved absences due to conflicting competition schedules or illness/injury)
- Demonstrate ability to referee competently in their chosen weapon
- Demonstrate commitment, good sportsmanship and High Spirit

Nominations:

The MIC will ask for personal nominations for squad selection at the beginning of the season. The MIC will vet all nominations to remove ineligible fencers and a shortlist will be created for try-outs.

Students are eligible to participate in a higher age category squad but not in a lower age category squad. Students cannot fence up more than 1 age group. I.e., An U14 fencer cannot join U19 Squads, but may try out for U14 and U16 Squads.

Students may nominate themselves for more than one weapon if they are eligible for that age criteria and weapon (pending coach approval if trying out for a weapon that is not the student's primary choice in training and if there are no conflicting competition or training scheduling).

Merit based selection:

Coaches will conduct internal pools/competitions and training activities to assess students' abilities and determine their ranking in the SBHS Fencing Program.

Students who are ranked in the top eight of the nominated list of fencers trying out for a squad will be offered a position on the squad.

If selected, students may only participate in one squad per weapon per season.

In the rare case where a student may be eligible to represent in two or three squads across the three weapons and there is a clash with event scheduling with their primary weapon, students must fence in their primary weapon and forfeit their position in the other squad(s).

Reserves and substitutions:

If a team member is unable to participate in a competition/fixture/exchange, the student must inform the MIC at the earliest opportunity to organise a replacement fencer.

The next available highest-ranking fencer in the squad will replace the team member.

School recognition and support for official inter-school individual and team activities:

For inter-school fencing competitions/activities that are officially endorsed and supported by the school, the school will provide financial and coaching support by paying the relevant entry fees and have staff on site to supervise and coach our students.

Award Scheme Points and School recognition:

All squad fencers must participate in at least 90% of all competitions/fixtures/exchanges that are endorsed by SBHS to be eligible for relevant award scheme points and school recognition. Failure to participate will result in the student being dismissed from the squad.

First grade gifts:

Students who have been selected in the First Grade Teams will receive a gift (uniform and/or equipment) from the school to recognise their achievement in the sport. The MIC will organise the gifts and First Grade Teams will be presented to the school during the Winter Sport Assembly for the season.

Note: Students who have been selected for a second year do not receive a second gift.

Extra notes:

The selection policy outlined in this document will be in effect for the 2024 season onwards and will be reviewed upon the conclusion of each season.

Due to changes in the NSWFA program and the continuation of the NSW Schools' Fencing League, some issues/conflicts may arise that may affect some students more than others. A degree of leniency is expected as the school program adapts to the challenges of navigating this period of transition. All issues should be brought to the attention of the MIC and will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Please contact the MIC if there are any issues or questions relating to this document.