



QUEENSLAND
FENCING
ASSOCIATION

***BRISBANE SCHOOL FENCING TEAM
FIXTURES 2024 - DRAFT***

Guidelines

Welcome

The Queensland Fencing Association (QFA) invites schools to nominate teams in the Brisbane School Fencing Team Fixtures (BSFTF) for 2024. The QFA aims to make this competition a safe and enjoyable experience for all fencers, their families, school staff members, volunteers and technical officials. At the same time we hope that those involved enjoy the opportunity to develop their fencing skills while representing their schools and mixing with students from other schools in the Brisbane area.

Historically many QFA members had their first experience in this competition. Some of these members have continued on in the sport as participative athletes, coaches or officials. A subset have had the privilege of representing their state and country at national and international fencing events.

The QFA Management Committee holds the overall governance of this competition. The sporting elements of the competition are entrusted to the QFA Tournament Management Committee (TMC). The TMC appoints a Tournament Director (Directoire Technique, or DT) who presides over each day of competition.

Any questions regarding the competition can be directed to the TMC by emailing tmc@qfa.org.au.

Competition Location

The competition will take place at Yeronga State High School Fitness Centre, 154 Villa St, Yeronga QLD 4104. Entry is via Gate 1. This location can be found in navigation systems by searching for Yeronga Park Fitness.

Competition Calendar and Schedule

The competition will be held over 6 Saturdays in Queensland School Term 2. For 2024 these dates will be:

- Round 1 - 20 April
- Round 2 - 27 April
- Round 3 - 4 May
- NO SCHOOLS COMPETITION (AFF Nationals) - 11 May
- Round 4 - 18 May
- Round 5 - 25 May
- Round 6 - 1 June

The competition will take place in the Yeronga High School Fitness Centre which will open at 8:00am each Saturday morning for setup. Competition will run from 9:00am until completed.

Each day of competition will be divided into one hour blocks sufficient to accommodate nominated teams, the TMC reserves the right to schedule short events in 40 minute blocks. Multiple weapons will run concurrently in each competition block. This may generate clashes in a given time slot for fencers wishing to participate in multiple weapons. The TMC will endeavour to avoid this situation, however fencers may need to select their preferred weapon for a given time slot.

Students should arrive at the venue with sufficient time to prepare for competition and present with their team to their nominated piste at the nominated time. Teams not presenting within 5 minutes of their call time will be considered to have forfeited the match. Teams attending after this time may be able to utilise the referee and piste for a friendly with their opposition at the discretion of the DT.

Setup and Pack Down

All schools are expected to assist with the setup and pack down by providing volunteer numbers commensurate with the number of teams nominated.

Supervision and training for the technical elements of setup and pack down will be provided by the QFA.

Nominations

The closing date for nomination is 28 March, 2024.

Each school is permitted to nominate any number of teams for each competition. In addition to this, composite teams are permitted to allow fencers to enter from Schools who would otherwise not have enough members to compete. Composite teams compete in the same events as all other Schools, however, they may not win the official title.

Eligibility

Fencers or schools participating in this event must not have an unpaid debt with the QFA, unless they have agreed upon and entered into a payment plan.

QFA membership affords the member insurance cover for fencing activities. As such, schools are advised to encourage their students to obtain QFA membership prior to engaging in any fencing training.

Fencers participating in this competition must, **at the time of commencement of the competition**, hold one of the following QFA memberships:

- School
- Club
- Junior (under 18 at 1 January)
- Senior (over 18 at 1 January)

Schools may request a report on their nominated fencers eligibility status at any time.

Schools may only nominate students to a team school if the fencer is currently enrolled and attending their school.

Fencers are not required to be a member of a private fencing club.

Team Divisions

The competition will be organised into separate competitions based on the Australian National Schools Categories:

- Open - Years 10-12
- Intermediate - Yrs 7-9

Students may be nominated for a higher age category. No student can participate in an age category below their year level.

Competition Structure

Competitions will be provided as follows, pending sufficient nominations:

- Weapon - Foil, Sabre, Epee
- Category - Open, Intermediate
- Divisions - 1, 2, 3 or as required

Teams will be grouped into divisions at the discretion of the TMC. By default the first team provided by a school is entered into Division 1. Subsequent teams are used to fill lower divisions. **If a school does not think their team is suitable for Division 1 competition**, they should discuss this with the TMC prior to nominations.

Team Composition, Adjustments and Substitutions

Each team shall consist of three to four fencers. Teams representing a specific school must be nominated by that school with the individual fencers' names within each team. Nominations for school teams will only be accepted on the provided nomination form.

Composite teams may participate in line with the guidelines below.

Team **adjustments** can be made where a fencer is moved into the team **for the remainder of the competition**. Adjustments must be made by applying to the TMC no later than 6pm the day prior to the competition week at which the adjustment takes place (tmc@qfa.org.au). Adjustments are at the discretion of the TMC in line with the guidelines below.

Team substitutions represent a change for one week of competition only. Substitutions can be made by applying to the TMC before 6pm prior to the day of competition in accordance with the following rules, at the discretion of the TMC.

Teams may make adjustments or substitutions in accordance with the following rules:

1. The reason for the adjustment or substitution must be provided to the TMC by 6pm the day before competition, the TMC reserves the right to accept or reject the change entirely at their discretion; The TMC should consider the following in accepting or rejecting any team change:
 - a. Reasons for substitution or adjustment
 - b. The principle that each fencer should not meet the same fencer twice unless specifically scheduled by the TMC
 - c. Sporting fairness
2. Fencers may only move between teams by an adjustments or substitutions as follows:

- a. Within weapon - to a higher division only
 - b. To a different weapon - one division lower, same division or higher division
 - c. Fencers cannot be substituted to a team within the division and weapon in which they are entered
 - d. Fencers cannot be adjusted to a team within the division and weapon in which they are entered unless a school requests to fold two teams into one, this can only occur at the TMC's discretion with the school providing reasons satisfactory to the TMC; All team fees paid in this instance are non-refundable
3. Fencers who substitute into one team for multiple rounds will be, at the discretion of of the TMC, considered to have been adjusted up to that team and hence withdrawn from their original nomination

Schools are advised that fencers should only fence in one team during each session or they will risk forfeiting their matches if there is a scheduling clash.

Teams presenting to the piste with an unapproved team line up will be disqualified from placing.

No changes are to be made to a team unless the above **adjustment** or **team substitutions** processes and rules are followed.

Composite - Teams

Students from schools not represented at the competition or without sufficient fencers in a specific weapon or age group, may enter the competition through a Composite team entry.

The Tournament Management Committee will decide on the team allocation and will inform the composite fencers as to which team they have been placed in after the close of entries for composite fencers.

Coaching

Coaching can only be provided during the event by a QFA member.

Each team may have a student coach to support and represent them during a bout.

Non-students providing coaching services to a team during a bout must be registered with the QFA (Coach, Junior or Senior membership).

Schools are reminded that if coaching services are contracted from individuals at school training or at the competition, the school must ensure that the individual is a QFA member, who holds coaching qualifications or is undertaking

coach training. Utilising coaches who are not QFA members may jeopardise insurance policies held by the respective school and the QFA.

Access to coach training has been limited in recent years. As the QFA and AFF re-establish their training pathways, in future years the QFA will move to require all members providing coaching services to schools to hold appropriate coaching qualifications.

Competition - Overall Format

The competition format will be determined once full team nominations are finalised and teams allocated to appropriate divisions. The TMC will determine the appropriate format for each category, weapon and division, this could include:

- A poule unique format where each team fences each other team at least one time on different weeks to determine the final rankings
- A poule and finals format where each team fences each other team at least one time to determine rankings for a final competition round, which in turn determines the final rankings

Competition - Weekly Schedule and Draw

Once teams are allocated to the appropriate divisions by the TMC, a weekly competition schedule will be provided to the schools. Notwithstanding extraordinary events, this schedule will be used for each of the 6 weeks of competition.

The draw for each week will be provided to the schools and composite teams no later than 9pm on the Wednesday before each round of competition. Any issues or requests arising from this schedule should be sent to the TMC by email (tmc@qfa.org.au) as early as possible in order the questions to be answered and resolved. Issues around scheduling should not be brought up on the day of the competition.

Competition - Bout Structure

Unless the TMC notifies otherwise, matches will consist of 9 bouts to 5 hits each, with a 3 minute time limit for each bout. The winning team shall be the team who wins the majority of bouts in a match. If a team wishes to utilise a reserve fencer in line with the team nomination, adjustment and/or substitution, the reserve may be substituted into competition with at least one bout's notice provided by the team captain or coach to the referee. The reserve fencer can be substituted back out with the fencer they replaced taking their position. Substitutions cannot be made between three fencers.

The TMC reserves the right to structure Open Division 1 matches (any or all weapons) in line with the standard International format for teams matches. These matches are fought to a maximum of 45 hits accumulated across 9 bouts.

Teams presenting with only two fencers may compete. The missing fencer will be determined to have lost each bout 5-0.

Teams presenting with only one fencer will immediately forfeit the match 9-0. The remaining fencers from each team may utilise their block of piste time for a friendly match at the discretion of the DT.

Competition - Weekly and Overall Outcomes

Weekly team results will be available on fencingtimelive.com. This platform does not have the capacity to tabulate results by individual fencers.

At the end of the poules competition, teams in each division will be ranked in accordance with the following hierarchy:

1. Match indicator (the percentage of matches won)
2. Victory indicator (the percentage of bouts won)
3. Hits indicator (hits scored less hits received)
4. Absolute number of hits

If teams are still not able to be separated, the DT may schedule a playoff match (barrage) or declare a tie.

Equipment

Bouts will be fenced using electronic scoring equipment. Fencers are required to have working electric weapons, body wires and lames. Fencers who present to the piste with non-functioning gear will be sanctioned according to the standard penalties for equipment. Note that foil masks with conductive bibs are not required for school competitions in Queensland.

Fencers will be required to wear:

- Full fencing whites (minimum standard is 350N) covering the full torso with no gaps between jacket and breeches
- Long socks
- A safe fencing mask
- Fencing glove
- Breast plate (females only)

The use of plastrons is strongly encouraged.

Long hair must be worn under the mask, jacket or lame. In foil and sabre, the hair cannot cover the valid target area.

Officials and Referees

As outlined above, the competition will be organised by the Tournament Management Committee (TMC). Communication regarding the competition, results and schedule are welcome and will be addressed promptly. To contact the TMC email tmc@qfa.org.au.

A suitably qualified Tournament Director (Directoire Technique, or DT) will be appointed by the TMC to coordinate the fencing activities on the day of competition. In addition to the tasks outlined above, the Tournament Director's duties include:

- confirming attendance of teams at the venue
- distributing score sheets to the appropriate pistes
- co-ordinating the duties of other officials as required
- acting as an arbiter in disputes
- ensuring the smooth running of the competition
- collated competition results

The QFA will endeavour to appoint suitably qualified referees to preside over matches. The QFA understands that at times some members of the QFA referee pool are contracted to coach for various schools. When a school contracted individual is requested by the TMC to referee, the schools are asked to release that individual from any contracted coaching role to enable them to referee. If this generates significant issues with the conduct of the school's participation in the event, the school should negotiate the position with the DT or TMC. While it is anticipated that these issues can be resolved amicably, ultimately, the QFA reserves the right to exclude a coach from competition if they do not cooperate with a request to referee.

Officials will be responsible for assisting with running the competition, including referees. Schools are requested to release contracted officials for all duties include, but not limited to:

- assisting in setting up the venue and equipment
- presiding fencing matches as required
- ensuring the smooth running of the fencing matches
- performing other duties as directed by the DT
- ensuring the rules and guidelines of the competition are followed
- ensuring the scoresheet for each match is correct and legible

Costs

The entry fee for the competition will be \$185.00 per team. Teams should be nominated on the appropriate form, including names of team members, by the closing date for nominations. If a late nomination is accepted, a late fee of \$220 will be charged per team entered after the closing date.

Where teams are withdrawn after the closing date for nominations, the school will still be required to pay the entry fee for that team.

Composite team entry is \$50 per fencer, which can either be paid by their schools or individually through the Registrations portal at qfa.org.au. Composite team members cannot attend a school that enters school representative teams.

Any outstanding fees, including QFA membership fees, at the end of the competition are the responsibility of the school.

Unless a payment plan has been negotiated and entered into, **no school or individual can take part in the competition if they have outstanding monies owed to the QFA at the commencement of the competition.**

Blue Cards

QFA enforces a **No Card, No Start Policy** for all fencing activities that occur in the state. All persons who provide services in any form, volunteer or paid, must supply QFA with a valid Blue Card, Blue Card Exemption Card, or a copy of the Positive Blue Card notice. The details of these will be held on the QFA Blue Card Register.