



FENCING
I R E L A N D

Recognition of foreign coaching qualifications

Issued: February 2022

Updated: December 2025

Only fencing coaches with qualifications recognised by Fencing Ireland should operate as fencing coaches in Ireland. The primary method for a coach to attain this recognition is by completing a Fencing Ireland and Sport Ireland Coaching accredited coaching award. Information regarding the Fencing Ireland coaching award system can be found on our website: www.fencingireland.net/coach.

In the case of a fencing coach wishing to coach in Ireland possessing coaching qualifications administered by a foreign body, there are two methods through which Fencing Ireland can recognise those qualifications:

1. Fencing Ireland can issue a simple, standard format letter acknowledging the foreign qualification. This does not formally add the coach to the Fencing Ireland & Sport Ireland Coaching qualified coaches register. A copy of the standard format letter can be seen in Appendix 1 to this policy document.
2. The coach can seek to be formally entered onto the Fencing Ireland & Sport Ireland Coaching register of coaches at the relevant level on the Fencing Ireland coaching qualification system. This will be achieved wholly or in part through recognition of prior learning achieved in the completion of the coach's foreign qualification.

Option 2 is the more involved but is Fencing Ireland's preferred solution to the recognition of foreign coaching qualifications. Option 1 is acceptable either in the situation of a coach intending to coach in Ireland only for a limited time, or as a short term solution while a coach engages with the process involved in completing option 2.

To apply for recognition of a foreign coaching qualification, a coach must:

1. Be a registered member of Fencing Ireland (coaches can register at fencing.ophardt.online - a 'Supporter' membership is usually the best option for coaches not competing as fencers in fencing events),

2. Be Garda vetted by Fencing Ireland **OR**, in the case of a coach in Ireland for a short, limited period of time, provide evidence of similar vetting from their home country (e.g. ,
3. Submit proof of the qualification(s) held, this will include:

<u>Option 1</u> Letter acknowledging qualification	<u>Option 2</u> Formal recognition on the coaching register
Identification document - driving licence, passport, or national ID card	Identification document - driving licence, passport, or national ID card
Copy of the certificate for coaching award(s) held OR if you have no such certificate, a letter from the awarding body/bodies setting out the coaching awards held	Copy of the certificate for coaching award(s) held OR if you have no such certificate, a letter from the awarding body/bodies setting out the coaching awards held
Copy of certificate for first aid qualification if the coach is planning to operate in a venue without first aid cover.	Copy of certificate for first aid qualification if the coach is planning to operate in a venue without first aid cover.
	Copies of the syllabi for all coaching awards held - these will be compared to Fencing Ireland's coaching award syllabi to see what qualification is most suitable and what, if any, extra modules must be completed to meet the requirements of the relevant Fencing Ireland award. OR if this information is not available, Fencing Ireland may accept another form of evidence setting out the details of the qualifications. These may include statements from other coaches, employers, training providers etc. Acceptable documents will be discussed on a case by case basis.

If necessary, further documentation or clarification may be requested to aid in mapping the learning outcomes of the applicant's previously acquired coaching qualifications against the relevant Fencing Ireland qualification.

Applying for recognition of a foreign coaching qualification

Application for recognition of prior coaching learning should be made by emailing cnouvianflynn@fencingireland.net. This is also where a potential applicant can send any questions they may have regarding the process.

Process

Applications will be assessed by a Fencing Ireland Coach Developer.

Each application will be assessed on a case by case basis but past recognition of awards held by other coaches issued by the same foreign coaching body will be used as a guide when available.

The process will involve mapping the learning outcomes of the applicant's coaching qualification against the relevant Fencing Ireland award to determine whether (and to what extent) the applicant's prior learning meets the intended learning outcomes of the Fencing Ireland qualification.

Once this is completed, decisions will be communicated to the applicant. If the application cannot be processed, Fencing Ireland will provide clear information to the applicant outlining why that is the case.

Where an applicant wishes to pursue Option 2 and where it is possible to process the application, broadly there will be three possible outcomes of the process:

1. The applicant is awarded a Fencing Ireland award pending observation of a coaching session - even in situations where the foreign syllabus(es) fully provide for every element in the syllabus of the Fencing Ireland award sought in person contact between the applicant and a Fencing Ireland Coach Developer will be required. This contact will normally involve observation of the coach in the course of a session.
2. The applicant is offered a place on a Fencing Ireland coaching course with exemptions (e.g. exempt from certain modules/aspects of the course)
3. The applicant is offered a place on a Fencing Ireland coaching course without exemptions

Right of appeal

Applicants dissatisfied with the outcome of their application may appeal the decision. Appeals will be assessed by a committee appointed by the board of Fencing Ireland for that purpose. The initial assessor will provide the reasoning for their decision but will not be part of the appeal committee.

Notes

- Further documentation may be requested if needed.
- Professionally translated copies of these documents may be requested if required.
- No matter the level of qualification awarded by a foreign body, Fencing Ireland cannot award a coach with an award at a higher level than the Fencing Ireland coaching awards currently active and approved .

Appendix - standard form letter of recognition of foreign coaching awards



Fencing Ireland
Sport Ireland Campus,
Snugborough Road,
Blanchardstown,
Dublin 15.

[DATE]

To whom it may concern,

Fencing Ireland recognises that **[NAME]** is a qualified fencing coach and holds **[COACHING QUALIFICATION]** issued by **[NAME OF AWARDING BODY]**.

Yours,

Colm Flynn
Development Officer
Fencing Ireland

www.fencingireland.net