



Selection Policy for Veterans

April 2026

● Introduction

Veteran Fencing in Ireland is increasing in popularity and as a result there is a need to outline transparent selection procedures for events where National Governing Bodies have restrictions on the number of fencers who might attend international competitions.

Clarity in selection should provide ample time for competitors to organise logistics and hopefully permit Ireland to select the best possible candidates to events.

This policy is in three parts. It starts with a description of the Ranking System for Irish Veterans. It then outlines a joint policy in conjunction with Northern Ireland to cover team selection for the annual Four Nations Veteran Team event between Ireland, Wales, Scotland and England. Finally, it covers all other veteran fencing competitions where attendees represent the Republic of Ireland.

Ranking System for Irish Veterans

a) Principles

- All fencers who enter a tournament will receive ranking points as per levels of competition in Fencing Ireland.
- All tournaments on the island that run following Fencing Ireland standards will attract points. The results of these will be submitted to Fencing Ireland by competition organisers.
- All events from EVF Circuit are included.
- Fencers with results not captured (e.g., US competitions) must give details of the competitions and results when seeking selection.
- A fencer seeking selection for a competition other than the Four Nations Veteran Team must compete in at least one of the following competitions in the previous 12 months: the Irish Veterans Open, the Irish Open, or the Irish National Championship.
- A fencer's best 3 results go towards the total ranking for the year.
- The ranking is calculated on a rolling basis.
- The Veteran Rankings will be available on-line.

b) Levels of Competition and Ranking Points

Events	Ranking Points							
Tier A+ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Irish Veterans Open ● FIE Satellites 	Tier A+ Weighting 300%			Initial Ranking Points 15				
	Tier A+ (300%)	129+	65-128	33-64	17-32	10-16	5-9	2-4
	Winner	327	267	216	168	123	84	51
	Second place	267	216	168	123	84	51	27
	Semi Final	216	168	123	84	51	27	15
	Quarter Final	168	123	84	51	27	15	
	Last 16	123	84	51	27	15		
	Last 32	84	51	27	15			
	Last 64	51	27	15				
	Last 128	27	15					
Last 129+	15							
Tier A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Irish National Championships ● Irish Open ● Northern Ireland Open ● South of Ireland Open ● West of Ireland Open ● East of Ireland Open ● + All events from EVF Circuit (https://www.veteransfencing.eu/calendar/) ● + All national vets events from USA COLM CHECK 	Tier A Weighting 200%			Initial Ranking Points 10				
	Tier A (200%)	129+	65-128	33-64	17-32	10-16	5-9	2-4
	Winner	230	187	152	119	87	59	36
	Second place	187	152	119	87	59	36	19
	Semi final	152	119	87	59	36	19	10
	Quarter final	119	87	59	36	19	10	
	Last 16	87	59	36	19	10		
	Last 32	59	36	19	10			
	Last 64	36	19	10				
	Last 128	19	10					
Last 129+	10							

<p>https://www.usafencing.org/national-events-calendar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malmo International Open (veteran event's) 																																																																																	
<p>Tier B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Galway Open North West Open Derry Open Belfast Open Vinnie Duffy Sabre Dublin Épée Winter Blade Belfield Sabre 	<p>Tier B Weighting 100% Initial Ranking Points 5</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Tier B (100%)</th> <th>129+</th> <th>65-128</th> <th>33-64</th> <th>17-32</th> <th>10-16</th> <th>5-9</th> <th>2-4</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Winner</td> <td>109</td> <td>89</td> <td>72</td> <td>56</td> <td>41</td> <td>28</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Second place</td> <td>89</td> <td>72</td> <td>56</td> <td>41</td> <td>28</td> <td>17</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Semi final</td> <td>72</td> <td>56</td> <td>41</td> <td>28</td> <td>17</td> <td>9</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quarter final</td> <td>56</td> <td>41</td> <td>28</td> <td>17</td> <td>9</td> <td>5</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Last 16</td> <td>41</td> <td>28</td> <td>17</td> <td>9</td> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Last 32</td> <td>28</td> <td>17</td> <td>9</td> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Last 64</td> <td>17</td> <td>9</td> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Last 128</td> <td>9</td> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Last 129+</td> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Tier B (100%)	129+	65-128	33-64	17-32	10-16	5-9	2-4	Winner	109	89	72	56	41	28	17	Second place	89	72	56	41	28	17	9	Semi final	72	56	41	28	17	9	5	Quarter final	56	41	28	17	9	5		Last 16	41	28	17	9	5			Last 32	28	17	9	5				Last 64	17	9	5					Last 128	9	5						Last 129+	5						
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● Four Nations Annual Veterans Team Event

a) Introduction

This event is hosted in rotation between the competing nations. It is a 6-weapon team event with 3 team members plus a sub for each weapon.

b) Qualifying Criteria

All fencers who meet the following criteria can be considered for selection:

- Eligible to hold an Irish Passport on the date of the event.
- Have their 39th birthday either in the year the event is held or in a previous year.
- Be a current member of Fencing Ireland with a competition licence or a current member of Northern Ireland Fencing with a British Licence.
- Has not represented any nation other than Ireland or Northern Ireland internationally during the preceding cycle unless both nations agree.

Where there are more fencers who wish to compete than places, selection will be based on their Irish Veterans ranking at the time of selection.

Fencing Ireland and Northern Ireland Fencing will communicate to members the date and venue, requesting fencers make themselves available for selection. Fencers are advised to check their ranking is correct.

Prior to the competition the selectors will select the team to represent the Island of Ireland using the ranking system to select fencers where there are more fencers available than places. This will be done as soon as possible so competitors can arrange transportation.

● **Veteran Competitions requiring Nomination from an NGB**

Examples of these competitions include the European Veteran Championship and the World Veteran Championship.

a) Qualifying Criteria

Fencers must meet all the following criteria to represent the Republic of Ireland.

- Must be eligible to hold or, if required by the event organisers, hold a valid Irish Passport.
- Be a current member of Fencing Ireland with a competition licence.
- Advise the selectors that they are available at least 8 weeks prior to the event date.

b) Allocation of Limited Places

Where there are more qualified fencers than available places, fencers will be prioritised based on their Irish Veteran Ranking at the time of selection.

c) Selection Process

Fencing Ireland will communicate to members the date and venue, requesting fencers make themselves available for selection. Fencers are advised to check their ranking is correct.

Prior to the competition the selectors will select the team to represent the Republic of Ireland using the ranking system to select fencers where there are more fencers available than places. This will be done as soon as possible so competitors can arrange transportation.

Where fencers have previously represented other countries there may be additional requirements and they should seek guidance from the selection subcommittee for veterans using veterans@fencingireland.net.

● Appendices

a) Selection Procedure

The role of the Fencing Ireland Veterans Subcommittee is to:

- Continually assess the qualifying criteria and recommend any adjustments to the board.
- Maintain a Ranking page for Veterans at fencingireland.net with the current rankings.
- Maintain a What's App group of Veteran Fencers for communication purposes. (If you are a Veteran Fencer who wishes to be added to this list, please email veterans@fencingireland.net).
- Where the number of fencers who wish to attend an event exceeds the places available then a selection subcommittee for veterans will be set up by the board of Fencing Ireland to oversee the selection process. This group will recommend the best qualifying fencers - using their ranking criteria - in a timely manner for the Board of Fencing Ireland to approve.
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b) Allocation of Limited places at Veteran FIE/EFC events

The veterans subcommittee will accept requests from fencers at least 8 weeks prior to the event.

Successful candidates will be confirmed as quickly as possible after the 8-week cutoff date.

In exceptional circumstances, the selection subcommittee for veterans may recommend selection of a fencer who has not qualified during the season, where the selection subcommittee for veterans has reason to believe he/she would have qualified if not for illness/injury, alternative circuit commitments, or another reason outside the fencer's control. In all such cases, the selection subcommittee for veterans will present its full rationale to the Board, including results on which the decision was based, prior to making the recommendation to the fencer.

If there are still positions free, then these may be filled if additional fencers become available on a first-come-first-served basis and at the discretion of the selection subcommittee for veterans.

For FIE events where there is a referee requirement, it *may* be possible to send additional fencers. In such cases, all applicants will be placed in priority order based on the scheme above, with automatic places offered to the top four. Athletes in subsequent positions will have the option to attend subject to ensuring the necessary refereeing fee is covered.