



England Fencing Under 14 Ranking Scheme and Selection Document for Youth International Development squads.

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Rankings

Overview

The rankings and selections for representing England in International competitions have historically been based on a ranking system which ran from January to December. Events for which the young athletes (Under 14 on 1 January of the following year) have all been in that following year and often quite a few months after they leave the England age group.

With the introduction of the European U14 Circuit, there is an opportunity for England Fencing to align itself with the seasons in the rest of the world. For that reason, the ranking season will now start on 1 September and run until the end of August.

In reality the season will effectively end in June with the England Youth Championships. This will give young fencers time to enjoy their school holidays as well as to train and relax before the new season.

The England Youth Championships will be the premier England event of the season and, coming at the end of the effective season, will be an opportunity to celebrate the fencers, organisers, coaches, referees and volunteers for the whole season.

Eligibility for inclusion in the 2023 rankings

An athlete born on or after 1 January 2009 counts as U14 for the 2022/23 season.

In other words Birth Years 2009 and after for 2022/23.

This is why we could select 2009 birth years for the early 2023 competitions as announced in December 2022.

The basic rule for cadets (U17) and juniors (U20) is that an athlete is under the relevant age on 1 January of the year in which the world championships are held for that age group. The U14 rules mirror the cadet and junior rules.

Examples

Q: My child was born on 1 January 2009. Can he compete in an U14 event in April 2023?

A: Your child was under 14 at midnight between 31 December 2022 and 1 January 2023. So they are U14 for the whole of the 2022/23 season. So the answer is Yes.

Q: So my child might be already 14 on the day of the competition but can still compete?

A: Yes if they were born before 1 January in the relevant year as illustrated in the previous example.

Q: My child does not have a UK passport. Will they be included in the rankings?

A: Yes they will definitely be included in the rankings if they meet the age criteria. They will probably not be eligible for selection for the international events to compete as part of the England squad. That should not, however, stop them competing in England Ranking Events or any other England events. Everybody is welcome.

For reasons of development, enjoyment and safety we recommend that years 2009 and 2010 compete in the U14 events for the 2022/23 season and that 2011 and younger compete in the younger age groups which are designed specifically for them. However this is not a mandatory requirement and is at the discretion of the organisers, the parents and coaches of the younger athletes. Most important is that they enjoy themselves safely.

U12 events and age criteria

U12 events will no longer count towards the U14 rankings.

In the event that there is a huge amount of objection to this change we will think about it. However, it is important to gain experience in the right age group and to have as much fun as possible in as many sports as possible so we really don't encourage it. Children develop at different rates and that fact needs to also be taken into consideration.

We wish to encourage fencers not to 'fence up' into higher age groups even though some competition organisers allow this discretion.

We felt that the best way to do this would be to potentially create a separate U12 ranking.

All under 12 and U11 events would be eligible for inclusion in the England Fencing U12 rankings. There are no current plans to make international selections at that age group but the athletes will gain greater recognition of their achievements.

The ranking scheme would be similar to this U14 ranking scheme.

Please send your feedback regarding this idea to [Peter Howes](#)

Ranking system

1. The ranking list co-ordinators will assign points according to the final position achieved in each eligible competition (England Ranking Event).
2. Points are only awarded to fencers finishing in the L32.
3. The BEST 5 results count for your England Ranking
4. The ranking system is a rolling ranking so points will remain valid for 12 months or until the same competition is repeated.

In the event that competitions start to have more than 40 entries England Fencing will revise these rules to provide points for everyone finishing in the top 80% of the competition. We hope this will soon be necessary.

In this transition period the 2023 rankings will run from 1 January to 31 August.

The rankings start from ZERO as at 1 January 2023.

Rolling rankings for 2023/24 and beyond

The rankings will now become rolling rankings starting from events from 1 January 2023. Competitions will stay in the rankings until they are **either** repeated **or** 12 months elapses. So all the events from 1 January 2023 to 31 August 2023 will still be in the rankings for 2023/24 when they start on 1 September 2023. On or around 1 January 2024 the oldest of the events counting in the rankings will start to either be replaced by the next edition of the same event or drop off the rankings due to being 12 months earlier.

Ranking points calculation

The way points are calculated has been changed.

We hope this will stimulate participation and reward athletes for taking part. It will also avoid athletes turning up only to find that they will gain no points due to others either not entering or withdrawing. A compromise has been made to acknowledge that not all competitions are equally well attended.

The points for a competition are calculated by multiplying

$$\text{(Age group multiplier)} \times \text{(Number factor)} \times \text{(Additional factor)} \times \text{(Position multiplier)}$$

The **Number factor** replaces the Number of fencers in the competition which was previously used.

There are only 2 possible Number factors:

- 0.5 if the competition has less than 10 participants; and
- 1.0 if the competition has 10 or more participants.

Participants includes all fencers who start the competition regardless of whether they have to abandon or are removed for disciplinary reasons.

The **Age group multipliers** will be 100 for U13 competitions and 200 for U14 competitions

The only **Additional factor** is for the England Youth Championships, for which a multiplier of 1.2 will be applied.

Position Multipliers

The position multipliers used by British Fencing for Senior rankings are designed to spread over 64 places and are not ideal for a system that only gives points for a L32, or for competitions with only 15 or 20 entries. We have used the following multiplier (known as a Points Key) as follows:

Normal points key

Place	Mult.
1	20.00
2	17.00
3=	14.00
5	11.00
6	10.00
7	9.00
8	8.00

Place	Mult.
9	5.00
10	4.80
11	4.60
12	4.40
13	4.20
14	4.00
15	3.80

Place	Mult.
16	3.60
17	2.00
18	1.96
19	1.92
20	1.88
21	1.84
22	1.80

Place	Mult.
23	1.76
24	1.72
25	1.68
26	1.64
27	1.60
28	1.56
29	1.52

Place	Mult.
30	1.48
31	1.44
32	1.40

Repechage points key

Position Multipliers (for competitions with repechage from the last 32)

We have used a different multiplier as follows:

Place	Mult.
1	20.00
2	17.00
3=	14.00
5	11.00
6	10.00
7	9.00
8	8.00

Place	Mult.
9	5.80
10	5.60
11	5.40
12	5.20
13	4.20
14	4.00
15	3.80

Place	Mult.
16	3.60
17	2.50
18	2.46
19	2.42
20	2.38
21	2.34
22	2.30

Place	Mult.
23	2.26
24	2.22
25	1.68
26	1.64
27	1.60
28	1.56
29	1.52

Place	Mult.
30	1.48
31	1.44
32	1.40

Note that there are steps in the position multiplier table at 3rd/5th, 8th/9th and 16th/17th rewarding the fencer who succeeds in winning more Direct Elimination (DE) fights.

Examples

Q: Jane competed in the U13 competition at the weekend. It was shown in the calendar as an England Ranking Competition. She came 5th. There were 10 competitors but 1 had to abandon half way through. How many points will she get please?

A: Thanks for asking. Well done Jane!. This is an U13 competition so the **Age group multiplier** is 100. There were 10 or more competitors at the start so they all count. So the **Number factor** is 1.0. The competition was not the England Youth Championships so there is no **Additional factor**.

Jane came 5th so her **Position Multiplier**, reading off the table, is 11.00.

This gives a calculation of: $100 \times 1 \times 11.00 = 1,100$ points.

Q: Jane's friend came 12th in her U14 competition . How many points does she get? Oh, by the way there was this funny system where her friend lost the first Direct Elimination but was not actually eliminated. She got to fence again and actually got through that one and ended up 12th. I think they called it Repechage or something like that. Glad they did it, or she would have gone home a lot earlier but not as happy. It was not part of the England Youth Championships.

A: Glad you enjoyed the day and that the organisers gave you so much fencing. That's great. The points calculation is basically the same as for Jane, but we need to take the Position multiplier from the Repechage table. So here goes. U14 competition, so the **Age group multiplier** is 200. The Number factor is 1.0 as there are clearly 10 or more competitors. There is no **Additional factor**.

Jane's friend came 12th and it was a competition with Repechage, so we need that table. This gives us a **Position Multiplier** of 5.2. If we had used the wrong table this would have been only 4.4.

So the end calculation is $200 \times 1 \times 5.2 = 1,040$ points.

Requirements for organisers of England Ranking Events

We want to make it easy to compile the rankings and, most importantly, we want to provide the fencers and the referees with as much useful data for their fencing and refereeing biographies as possible.

In order to achieve this there are a few simple things that need to be done by the competition organisers in addition to any requirement for competitions set out by British Fencing from time to time:

- register your club and club admin in Ophardt (many clubs are already listed by admins are not allocated)
- put your competition in the events calendar in Ophardt at least 4 weeks before the event (with some leeway for January and February 2023 of course, due to timing of publication of the requirement)
- produce your results in FencingTime, Engarde or Ophardt, or another system which can produce XML files for the results.
- Enter at least the name, sex, club, handedness and date of birth for each fencer (1 January in the correct year will do, but correct birth dates are preferred)
- Enter the referees with their correct names for each poule and each DE round (it doesn't matter if they are qualified or not at this stage)
- provide XML files of the results to the relevant rankings coordinator within 24 hours of the competition end.

Organisers do **not** have to take entries via any particular system as far as England Fencing is concerned. That is a matter of choice. They do have to provide XML files, however, so running the competition manually or in Excel is not an option.

The email addresses to use are:

Epee: epeerankings@englandfencing.org.uk

Foil: foilrankings@englandfencing.org.uk

Sabre: sabrerankings@englandfencing.org.uk

Please send the files through either on the day of the competition or within 24 hours so the rankings can be updated as quickly and smoothly as possible.

In this transition year we expect mistakes will be made and we will all learn in the process. In future years we hope the procedures will become better embedded and less help will be required. Help will still be available of course as England Fencing is there to help not hinder.

England Ranking Events

For the remainder of the 22/23 season and for 23/24 and beyond the following types of events will be potentially eligible for inclusion in the U14 rankings:

Events at U13 and U14 only.

Under 12 events will no longer count towards the Under 14 rankings.

Events currently expected to be in the England U14 Ranking Events Calendar

- 1) All weapons:
 - a) England Youth Championships (U13)
 - b) Leon Paul Junior Series competitions (U13)
 - c) The Youth Series events (U14)
 - d) The Northern Youth Challenge
 - e) Open youth competitions for ages U14 which have successfully applied for inclusion into the ranking scheme (Conditions apply. Submissions to Head of Representative fencing Paul Davis <paul.davis@englandfencing.org.uk>)
- 2) Foil only:
 - a) Newham Swords Junior Challenge Series events U14
- 3) Epee only:
 - a) Elite Epee U12, U14 open competitions;
 - b) Cocks Moors Wood Epee U13
- 4) Sabre only:
 - a) for Sabre: Stratford Sabre U14.
 - b) Paul Davis Fencing Academy Sabre competitions

Results from international competitions are NOT included in the England Fencing U14 rankings as these are for development purposes only.

Help for organisers

Help will of course be provided to all the clubs and organisers in setting up competitions in the calendar and any other aspects related to the rankings and the calendar. Many of the competitions are already there as they were run in 2022 so just need to be rolled over and the correct competition dates input. Then further details such as links to the entry platform, timetable and the like can be added.

If help is required in purchasing licences for the competition software, England Fencing will very possibly help with that – especially for small and new competition organisers.

Selections

Selection dates

Historically England Fencing has selected young athletes to compete in England colours only once per season. To aid in their development we now feel it appropriate to select for at least 2 international competitions if possible and to do so during the season. Selection dates will be announced and added to the England Fencing calendar so they are clear to everyone.

Financing of England squads

For those athletes selected and who accept their places in the England squad, England Fencing will:

- A. pay the competition entry fee;
- B. either organise or pay for referees to meet the quota required by the competition organisers;
- C. provide the athlete with an England Fencing Hoodie;
- D. provide a Team Manager if at all possible to aid and assist the athletes and their chaperones, coaches and parents and to give them all a feel of what it is like to go to a proper international competition and the discipline around that.

We recognise that 22/23 is a transition period with a lot of changes happening and every effort will be made to make sure everyone involved has a clear understanding of the new system.

Selection eligibility

Selection eligibility is NOT the same as eligibility to be ranked.

To be ranked you simply have to be in the correct age category and compete in the ranking tournaments.

To be SELECTED to represent England, you need to meet the eligibility requirements.

- You must hold a UK passport on the selection date.
- You must also be eligible to represent GBR at international level.
- You must be a member of England Fencing which is shown as such in your British Fencing membership.

Qualifying fencers must be members of England Fencing at the time of selection and at the time of the event and must agree (with parental consent) to the code of conduct and conditions (including financial and travel arrangements if appropriate) of the trip.

If you wish to be considered for selection for England, please ensure your personal information is up to date with British Fencing Sport 80 membership platform. Please do this to avoid missing out on selection. These details will be used for all correspondence. If the email address is wrong you won't get your selection letter!

Please note that your British Fencing number is also your England Fencing number as England Fencing uses the same membership platform.

England Fencing (EF) reserves the right to withhold selection from fencers with an unsatisfactory disciplinary record, or with an outstanding debt to EF or its agents.

In the unfortunate event that England Fencing is unable to contact a selected fencer within a reasonable time-scale, the offer of selection may be withdrawn and offered to the next available fencer from the rankings.

England Fencing will also publish selections on the website and on its Facebook page so the chances of you not noticing will be minimised. After all you will have worked hard to get selected so we don't want you to miss out on the opportunity.

Selection timing

Selections for the first international events of 2023 (still in the 22/23 season) were made in December 2022 for athletes born on or after 1 January 2009 and before 1 January 2011. These selections are based on the ranking scheme in place for 2022, with the ranking season ending on 12 December 2022.

Selection for international events will be made directly off the England Fencing U14 rankings with no discretion and subject to good disciplinary record.

Fencers considered for selection will be limited to the top 20 of the England Fencing weapon ranking lists (<http://englandfencing.co.uk/rankings/>)

Only **8** fencers for each weapon and gender will be selected for U14 international events from the relevant England Under 14 Rankings.

Only **2** reserves will be nominated in addition to the 8 initially selected in case some do not take up their place.

If not all 8 places are filled other fencers may or may not be nominated to fill the available spaces in the squad.

Once selected and the place in the squad has been accepted the athlete will have the same rights and obligation as every other member of the squad.

There may not be sufficient competitions available in this first U14 European Circuit season for England Fencing to make any further selections for 2022/23.

However the rankings will roll over for 2023/24 and there is a good possibility that England Fencing will be able to select for more than one trip per weapon in coming seasons. This would, we hope, allow more young athletes to gain wonderful international trip experience and make new friends.

Appeals

Any appeal against the accuracy of the rankings used for selection must be made to the rankings coordinator within 7 days of the published selection window opening. If this does not resolve the

issue a further appeal may be made within 10 days of the publication of the relevant rankings to the [Director of Representative Fencing](#) whose decision shall be final.

Links

Link to England Fencing ranking lists: <http://englandfencing.co.uk/rankings/>

Questions specific to the ranking lists should be directed to the ranking co-ordinators:

Foil – foilrankings@englandfencing.org.uk

Epee – Rodney Francis (rodneyfrancis@hhl.me.uk) AND to eeperankings@englandfencing.org.uk

Sabre – sabrerankings@englandfencing.org.uk

For questions about the overall purpose and management of international trips, please contact [Paul Davis, Head of Representative Fencing](#)

Further changes planned for 2023/24

For the season 2023/24 further changes are planned, including:

- requirement to have qualified referees or trainee referees with a qualified mentor throughout, This will encourage the training of referees. Funding may well be available for the mentor to attend as well as organisational help with this.
- feedback questionnaire to allow for continuous improvements

It was felt that this would be too much to ask at short notice for the start of 2023 but that it would be useful to flag these up in advance so organisers could prepare.

Rankings links

Individual U14 rankings

The individual rankings will be available at:

[England Rankings ALL WEAPONS](#)

Individual weapons rankings in Excel:

[England Rankings 2022 EPEE](#)

[England Rankings 2022 FOIL](#)

Please note that, as we transition to using Ophardt fully and clubs and coordinators match the fencers to the clubs, the foil and epee rankings will not necessarily show the clubs for the fencers.

You will see from the sabre rankings that this does get done – compare with previous season to see the difference using the date box at the top left as shown in the picture below.



Why is there a Union Jack and not the England Flag? This is because England comes under GBR for FIE purposes. It is neither a slight on England nor an appropriation of the Union Jack.

On the public rankings page you will see it in more context and with the England Fencing logo as shown below.



Club U14 rankings

We will be producing club rankings at U14 based on the results achieved by club members in the relevant season. For the year 2022, this was possible for sabre and you can see the results here:

[England U14 rankings sabre clubs 2022- combined](#)

[England U14 rankings sabre clubs 2022- boys](#)

[England U14 rankings sabre clubs – girls](#)