



England Fencing Under 14 Ranking Scheme

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Approved by: Richard Bernstein
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Revised

Rankings

Overview

The ranking season runs from 1 September and ends on 31 August.

The rankings system is a rolling ranking with competitions staying in the rankings for 12 months or until the competition is repeated.

When the season changes on 1 September fencers with the oldest year of birth drop out of those rankings.

Points are not transferred from one age group to another. In other words U12 points don't count in the U14 rankings.

The England Youth Championships will continue to be the premier England event of the season and has a higher multiplier (300) than any other ranking competition.

International competitions do NOT count for ranking points as they are for development. The exception to this is international events that are hosted in the United Kingdom will be eligible for ranking points at 250 multiplier.

This has been decided as from this season there will be U14 EFC events hosted in the UK, these events should be more challenging than a domestic competition but still preserving the EYC as EF premier event.

Your Year of Birth determines your age category.

All England Fencing members in the correct age category are eligible for selection for the U14 international trips.

1 September to 31 December 2023 Transition period



The transition from calendar year rankings to the internationally recognised 1 September onwards season rankings started on 1 January 2023.

The final transition period is the time from 1 September to 31 December 2023.

Some Series Organisers have had to choose whether to continue with their traditional year of birth requirements for the last 4 months of the year in order to complete their series or change these requirements in line with the new season requirements.

The majority of competitions have changed their entry requirements in line with the change of season and their competitions remain in the rankings for this period.

The organisers of the Elite Epee Junior series have not changed their entry requirements for this period. This means their U14 events are effectively U15 events in the period between 1 September and 31 December are therefore not eligible for England Ranking Points.

Elite Epee U12 events are also not eligible for either the U14 or the U12 rankings in this period.

Leon Paul Junior Series competitions and Cocks Moors Woods events which are labelled U13 in this period are in fact U14 for the purposes of England Fencing and WILL COUNT as such in the rankings as they meet the year of birth entry criteria for U14 events.

U14 events and age criteria

An athlete born on or after 1 January 2010 counts as U14 for the 2023/24 season.

In other words Year of Birth 2010 and later for 2023/24.

The basic rule for cadets (U17) and juniors (U20) is that an eligible 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 although there are no world championships at U14.

Examples

Q: My child was born on 1 January 2010. Can he compete in an U14 event in April 2024?

A: Your child was under 14 at midnight between 31 December 2023 and 1 January 2024. So they are U14 for the whole of the 2023/24 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 also be eligible for selection for the international events to compete as part of the England squad. We feel strongly that all members of England Fencing should be included in our U14 squads regardless of their nationality as they are part of the England Fencing community.

They will still need to be entered in European competitions under their correct nationality but are very welcome to be in the England Fencing squad.

Q. If my child is U12 can they compete in U14 events?

A: For reasons of development, enjoyment and safety we recommend that years 2010 and 2011 compete in the U14 events for the 2023/24 season and that 2012 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.

Eligible Events

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

Events where the earliest permitted year of birth is 2010 and allows year of birth 2010 entries.

Organisers must seek confirmation of inclusion from England Fencing by writing to rankings@englandfencing.org.uk

Results from international competitions are NOT included in the England Fencing U14 rankings as these are for development purposes only. Except the EFC U14 events run in the United Kingdom

Frequently asked questions:

Q: My event is in October 2023 and says it is U13 but the entry years are 2010 and 2011. Does it count and what points might I get please?

A: This sounds like it is an LPJS - though it might be Cocks Moors Woods Epee if it were in November.

The important thing is the year of birth requirements. 2010 is the earliest year and so it is effectively an U14 event for England Ranking purposes. Assuming there are 10 or more fencers, you would get $200 \times 1 \times 20 = 4000$ points for winning.



Q: My event is in November 2023 and says it is an U14 event. The entry years are 2009 and 2010. How many points might I get please?

A: Unfortunately you will not get any points as this is not an eligible event. Although year of birth 2010 is included it is not the earliest year of birth and is actually the equivalent of an U15 event for the 23/24 season.

Q: My event is in December 2023. The entry requirements are 2011 and 2012. It is labelled as an U12 event. Is this an U12 or an U14 ranking event?

A: This event is not eligible as either an U12 or an U14 event. The event does not include 2010 year of birth so it is not an U14 event. It also does not have 2012 as the earliest year of birth so it is not an U12 event.

Q: Why do you say potentially eligible?

A: England Fencing reserved the right to exclude a competition from the rankings. There could be a number of reasons for this including late submission of results. However it is unlikely to happen given we try to work with organisers and help them. One of the other reasons might be an unreasonable clash of dates. This area is likely to become more regulated (with the participation of organisers) in future seasons to try to ensure a reasonable calendar as well as plenty of fencing opportunities for all.

U10 and U12 events

U10 events do not count towards U12 rankings and U12 events do not count towards the U14 rankings.

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 fencing in the age group above the one designed for you. 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 create separate U10 and U12 rankings. These were created for the transition 1 January to 31 August 2023 period.

The ranking schemes are similar to this U14 ranking scheme and the rules on event eligibility are also similar.



Ranking system

1. Ranking points are assigned according to the final position achieved in each eligible competition (England Ranking Event).
2. Points are only awarded to fencers finishing in the last 32.
3. The BEST 5 results count for your England Ranking. Other results are shown in a separate colour and in brackets.
4. The ranking system is a rolling ranking so points will remain valid for 12 months or until the same competition is repeated.

Rolling rankings for 2023/24 and beyond

The rankings became rolling rankings starting with events from 1 January 2023. Competitions will stay in the rankings until they are **either** repeated **or** 12 months elapses.

The rankings started from zero on 1 January 2023, so competitions before that date do not count in the rankings.

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.

After 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 old.

Ranking points calculation

The way ranking points are awarded is designed to 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

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

The **Number factor** replaces the Number of fencers in the competition which was previously used in 2022. This has been in place since 1 January 2023.

There are only 2 possible Number factors:



- 0.5 if the competition has fewer 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.

Age group multipliers

U13 competitions = **100**

U14 competitions = **200**

Domestic EFC international events

U14 competitions = **250**

England Youth Championships

All competitions = **300**

The multiplier for all the England Youth Championships competitions is fixed at **300**.

This replaces the “Additional Factor” in the 2023 rankings document as this makes the formula simpler to understand and was an unnecessary complication.

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 used the multipliers (known as a Points Key) as follows:

Normal points key

Place	Mult.	Place	Mult.	Place	Mult.	Place	Mult.	Place	Mult.
1	20.00	9	5.00	16	3.60	23	1.76	30	1.48
2	17.00	10	4.80	17	2.00	24	1.72	31	1.44
3=	14.00	11	4.60	18	1.96	25	1.68	32	1.40
5	11.00	12	4.40	19	1.92	26	1.64		
6	10.00	13	4.20	20	1.88	27	1.60		
7	9.00	14	4.00	21	1.84	28	1.56		
8	8.00	15	3.80	22	1.80	29	1.52		

Generally speaking 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.



Repechage points key

Sometimes a competition organiser might give you the opportunity to not be eliminated immediately in the last 32 table. You get a second chance and can work your way back into the Last 8. This is called repechage (a French word) and basically means you get to try again. To reflect the extra stages of the competition the points table needs to be slightly different.

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

The difference between the two Points Keys is in the points for places 9-24.

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? It was not part of the England Youth Championships.

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.

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

This gives a calculation of: **100 x 1 x 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.

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 x 1 x 5.2 = 1,040** points.

Event Organisers - Requirements

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:

You need to

- register your club and club admin in Ophardt (many clubs are already listed but admins are not allocated) Please go to the Admins tab on the England Fencing website for instructions.
- 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 (Please enter the correct date of birth and not just the year)
- 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 72 hours** of the competition end (increased from 24 hours).

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.

Uploading the required details into your competition software can be done by organisers more or less automatically if using Sport80 so please don't try to do it manually as this causes errors. Instructions are available in the Sport80 help files.



Sending results to England Fencing

Please send within 72 hours.

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, *at the latest*, within 72 hours so the rankings can be updated as quickly and smoothly as possible.

In these early years 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.

Please refer to the England Fencing website for links to online manuals for commonly used competition software.

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 or 2023 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.



Questions

Questions specific to the ranking lists are best directed to the ranking co-ordinators:

Foil – foilrankings@englandfencing.org.uk

Epee – epeerankings@englandfencing.org.uk

Sabre – sabrerankings@englandfencing.org.uk

General - rankings@englandfencing.org.uk

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

Further requirements planned for 2024/25 season or from 1 April 2024

For the latter part of 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 will be available for the mentor to attend as well as organisational help with this.
- feedback questionnaire to allow for continuous improvements
- Coordinated calendar to avoid too many events clashing on the same day.
- To be included in the rankings, the rankings coordinator must be satisfied that the competition does not clash with an existing competition to the detriment of any competition involved.

These are being flagged in advance so organisers can prepare and also give feedback.



Rankings links

Individual U14 rankings

The individual rankings will be available from the rankings page of the England Fencing website.

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 Rankings

Club rankings can be found either at the bottom of the rankings page on Ophardt under Combined Rankings or by clicking on the link on the England Website page.