



PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

This document sets out the England Selection Policy for individual, teams, and squad selection for representing England at the Cadet and Junior Commonwealth Games 2024 (Friday 12 July 2024 to Friday 19th July 2024). It covers selection for Cadets (U17), Juniors (U20).

There will be a selection panel for squad selections, the panel will be made up of two overall selectors and two weapon specialists per weapon. All panel members will have equal voting rights if a vote is required. All members will be provided with the information, the weapon specialist will be there to add context if required for their weapon. The panel will be made up of 7 members. If in the case of a 3 to 3 vote by the panel the casting vote will lie with Richard Bernstein director in charge of Commonwealth Fencing for England Fencing (EF)

Head Selectors: Richard Bernstein.

Foil: Ben Peggs & Yvonne Chart.

Sabre: Mike Swiffin & Maria Chart.

Epee: Richard Lloyd-Jones & Lindsay Bottoms.

Selection adviser Jonathan Katz.

Any changes to this panel will be announced on the EF website. Any attempt to influence decisions will be handled by the EF Board of Directors with consequences for the fencer in question or the individual attempting to apply influence.

Timeline for selection, and submission of discretionary evidence will be detailed below. EF will lay out cost at a future date.

Timeline of Events and costs:

TIMING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISIONS.

The selection panel will meet on the 17th of January. Between the 17th and the 20th of January the Board will look into any disciplinary behaviour and ratify the selection order.

The Team selection will be announced for Cadet U17 & Juniors U20 on the 20th of January 2024. The first round of athletes will have 7 days to accept their selection. Reserve selection letters will be sent after the deadline for the first wave of selections. If spaces are declined prior to the deadline the second wave may come out sooner. This process will continue until all spaces are filled or the eligible fencers on respective weapon list are exhausted.

COSTS.

This trip will be expensive, be prepared to consider a £1500 to £3000 cost. The majority of this will be on travel.

At the time of selection EF will endeavour to provide accurate/up to date costings of the trip and the breakdown of what will be paid for by EF and by the athlete/support network. We will also endeavour to

provide a payment schedule at the point of selection. Richard Bernstein will be available after the selection date to selected athletes and families to discuss the selection.

GENERAL CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

1. Athletes must be eligible to represent England.
2. Athletes must hold a **current BF Compete Membership AND be affiliated to England Fencing** at the time of selection and/or the key selection dates. An athlete who does not have a current membership will not be considered for selection.
3. Four athletes will be selected to participate in the individual competition for each weapon. The top three ranked England-affiliated athletes in the appropriate British Fencing Rankings will be automatically selected. The fourth athlete will be selected by the England Fencing Selection Panel where discretionary factors will be considered.
4. The four athletes selected will compete in the team event
5. Athletes have read and agreed to abide by all **England Fencing Policies and Codes of Conduct**.
6. Athletes have read and agreed to abide by the **BF Athlete Commitment**, created by their fellow athletes.
7. Athletes will only be considered for selection if they have a **satisfactory disciplinary record** where any ban or measures that were sanctioned at the time, have been completed. "Disciplinary record" means the record of A. the status, outcome and resulting sanction of any disciplinary cases and complaints relating to breaches of BF Codes of Conduct and/or BF Policy within the last 18 months.
B. any current disciplinary sanction imposed by BF, Home Country Associations, FIE and/or any other relevant authority.
8. Athletes are expected to maintain a **satisfactory level of training and fitness** and be able to evidence this if necessary (for example on production of a training diary)
9. Athletes must be compliant with the **BF Anti-Doping Policy**. Failure to comply will normally result in non-selection or de-selection.

Which athletes will be considered for the 4th or any unaccepted spots on the EF Squad.

It will be the selection panels job to rank the 'eligible fencers' and discretionary applications in order.

What requisites eligibility. A minimum of one result in the past season for Cadets June 1st to the date of selection 17th of January 2023. The past 12 months from the date of selection for Juniors.

This window applies to uninjured athletes. There is unlikely to be a any major deviation from the list ranking list except placing the discretionary applicants in an appropriate spot.

One of the results must fall within these parameters:

BF (British Fencing), BRC (British Ranking Competition), EFC (European Fencing Confederation), FIE (Fédération Internationale d'Escrime)

For Cadets:

Top 50% finish at BF nominated EFC U17 Event or European/World Championships.

Top 40% finish at British Cadet Nationals.

Top 35% finish at A BRC cadet event.

Top 30% finish at B BRC cadet event.

For Juniors:

Top 50% finish at BF nominated FIE World Cups or European/World Championships.

Top 40% finish at British Junior or Senior Nationals.

Top 35% finish at Nominated Senior events and U23 British Championships.

Top 30% finish at A or B Junior BRC events.

Athletes who evidence three results within the parameters inside the respective periods will be ranked above those with one or two eligible results. The selection panel will then consider the number of results that are eligible and the difficulty to acquire them will be considered. Looking at the makeup of domestic and international results will be a strong factor as well as the result curve. Are the results trending up or down over the period in question.

The same factors will be considered for athletes with two or one results within the parameters. International results and medals will be considered highly, then domestic medals will be taken into consideration.

GENERAL GROUNDS FOR DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

1. Discretionary factors may be considered in certain circumstances notwithstanding Point 3 of the general criteria for selection listed on the section above. All other general selection factors are expected to be met. If you wish to be considered for discretionary selection above, please inform England Fencing by email to richard.bernstein@englandfencing.org.uk no later than 14th January 2024 for Juniors & Cadets. Late applications for discretionary consideration will not be considered under any circumstance.
2. When applying for discretionary consideration, please make sure to list any information that you consider to be relevant. In particular include reasoning as to why you would have reached the automatic qualification standard (top 3) or were unable to reach the required level of results to be considered. This may include, for example, injury at the start of the season preventing you from competing or competing outside of the UK if you live or have lived outside the UK during 2022/2024 seasons, or other relevant factors.
3. Competition-based evidence over the previous two seasons will be considered. Please provide as much detail as possible for example, finishing position and total entry number to calculate your percentile finish.
4. Evidence of a season plan, training diary or IADP will be helpful to the panel. We understand that this event in particular would have not been in plans created during the off season or the start of season. But showing why/how it could have an impact on your future development will be a strong factor.
5. Please note that the selection panel will **not** contact you to discuss the details of any mitigating circumstances and will rely solely on any information included in your application for discretionary selection and you're ranking in the BF rankings on the selection date.
6. There is no right to appeal decisions made by the Selection Panel on discretionary applications.
7. Evidence of a top percentile finish at a non-nominated event in the respective category for the athletes age or higher age range categories.

RESERVES

1. Any reserves identified may be prioritised in number order by the Selection Panels. There will be no right to appeal this order. The Selection Panel may change the order of reserves if it believes this best serves the Weapon Strategy. If the requirement to use a reserve athlete does arise, there will be no subsequent right of appeal for any unused reserves.
2. The number of reserve places offered will be at the discretion of the Selection Panel. Any reserves will be selected using the same criteria listed above.

PRE SELECTION

1. It is the responsibility of the athletes (and the parent/guardian for a minor) to keep athlete details complete and up to date on the BF Membership Platform (<https://bf.sport80.com/>). Specifically they must ensure the accuracy of their email address and contact details in the British Fencing membership platform as these will be used in the event that an athlete (or their parent/guardian) needs to be contacted in relation to a selection issue. Any issue that results from a failure to keep these details up to date will not be grounds for an appeal against non-selection.
2. It is the athlete's responsibility (and the parent/guardian for a minor) to check rankings. Applications for the correction of errors in the calculation of ranking points should be sent to rankings@britishfencing.com and BF Head Office headoffice@britishfencing.com within 48 hours of the ranking points being published. Please refer to the published GBR Ranking Scheme for full details.

ACCEPTING SELECTION

1. In accepting selection an athlete (and the parent/guardian for a minor) is agreeing to be bound by the Terms and Conditions of selection and all relevant EF Codes of Conduct, policies and procedures as published on the EF website.
2. Athletes are expected to ensure that they have all the appropriate level of equipment and clothing to compete.
3. England Fencing will not be responsible for following up with athletes who have not confirmed their places and paid by the published closing date. Athletes who have not accepted **and** paid within the 'entry window' will be deemed to have forfeited their place.
4. Athletes who are not intending to accept their place are encouraged to decline their selection as soon as possible and, in any case, no later than 7 calendar days of the invitation. This allows England Fencing to plan to invite any reserve athletes and reduces the potential for increased cost that might be associated with any delay to the selection process.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The England Fencing board has decided to take only 4 fencers per category to New Zealand for the 2024 Cadet and Junior Championships. Multiple factors were considered in the decision process. Ultimately it came down to how could the most effective squad unity and atmosphere be built and nurtured.

This is the third Cadet and Junior championships since the implementation of the new rules came into force. This rule allows for 5 individual athletes, but only four team athletes. This is the first time for EF that a games will be held since the new rules came in to force outside of England. Previous team managers were consulted on their views before the decision was made. After review and discussion, the EF board will be selecting four athletes, and nominating non-travelling reserves. This decision can be reevaluated at the discretion of the board in the future.