



Veterans Selection Policy

Last Updated: September 2024

● 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.

Selection clarity should provide ample time for competitors to organise logistics and hopefully permit Ireland to provide the best possible candidates to events.

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

1. Irish Veterans Ranking System

a) Principals

- 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. Results of other competitions should be submitted to Fencing Ireland by the fencer. The Veteran Rankings will be a separate web page on the Fencing Ireland Website.
- All events from EVF Circuit are included, and National Level Veteran events in the USA
- A fencer's best 6 results go towards the total ranking for the year
- The ranking is calculated on a rolling basis.
- The season starts in September each year.

b) Levels of Competition and Ranking Points

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(c) Online Veterans Ranking Information

The Fencing Ireland Website will include a veterans ranking page. Results from the Veterans Irish Open will be updated automatically but fencers who compete in other listed competitions must provide their results using an online form...

Enter Results [Here](#)

● Four Nations Annual Veterans Team Event

c) Introduction

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

d) 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 end of the previous season.

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 previous season ranking is correct.

Prior to the competition the veterans 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 a 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.

- Current possession of a valid Irish Passport.
- 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 Points from the previous season.

c) Selection Process

At least 10 weeks prior to the event Fencing Ireland will communicate to members the date and venue of the competition.

Fencers should check the final ranking position from the previous season is correct and advise any missing competition results. This should be done in a timely manner at the end of the season.

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

Fencers are asked to make themselves available by filling in an online form on the Fencing Ireland website.

Click [here](#).

Prior to the event the veterans selection committee will select the best fencers from those available taking into account their final ranking in the previous season. This will be done as early as possible to facilitate transportation arrangements.

● 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 Vets Ranking page at fencingireland.net with the current rankings (fencers need to submit results on a form where competitions are not organised within Ireland). A link to this must be on the rankings page.
- 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 email veterans@fencingireland.net).
- Where the number of fencers who wish to attend an event exceeds the places available then a veterans selection subcommittee 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 prioritisation criteria - in a timely manner for the Board of Fencing Ireland to approve.

b) Allocation of Limited places at Veteran FIE/EFC events if required

The veterans subcommittee will accept requests from fencers who fill out an online form at least 8 weeks prior to the event.

Successful candidates will be confirmed as quickly as possible after the 8 week cut off date.

In exceptional circumstances, the veterans selection subcommittee may recommend selection of a fencer who has not qualified during the season, where the veterans selection subcommittee 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 veterans selection subcommittee 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 veterans selection subcommittee.

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.