

CADET NOMINATED INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS 2019-20 SEASON

INFORMATION AND FAQs v1.0

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Author: Clare Halsted

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1. PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

To provide cadets, parents and coaches with information about the cadet international competitions, including the roles and responsibilities of both British Fencing and the individual parent/fencer.

2. USEFUL TERMINOLOGY AND ABBREVIATIONS

BF	British Fencing
ICMG	International Cadet Management Group
ADP	Athlete Development Programme
ADT	Athlete Development Team
SM	Squad Manager
BRC	British Ranking Competition
EFC	European Fencing Federation
FIE	Federation Internationale d'Esgrime
WADA	World Anti- Doping Agency

3. INTERNATIONAL CADET MANAGEMENT SQUAD

Chair	Clare Halsted	0207 485 1498 07860 534378
Epee Coordinator	Marie-Pauline Mackinnon	07855424884
Foil Coordinator	Sophie Troiano	07879 647869
Sabre Coordinator	Pat Aiyenuro	07786 064836
Squad Managers		
Foil	tbc	
Epee	Maggie Maynard	07939 070390
Sabre	Margie Mascolino	07813 726564

4. BRITISH FENCING ADMINISTRATION

- The ICMG and ADT agree the calendar of domestic British Ranking Competitions (BRCs) and nominated international events for the season. [NB This has to wait for the final EFC calendar to come out in April]
- There are squad managers (SM) for each weapon – see above
- Pre-season SMs will collect contact details for the top 20 cadets and add to this list through the season.
- An EFC license is required for EFC cadet circuit events. This is obtained via Sport80.

Selection Process:

See the Cadet Selection Scheme on the website [here](#):

<https://www.britishfencing.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/GBR-Cadet-Selection-Policy-2019-20-Final-v1.0-28.05.19.pdf>

1. As soon as the updated rankings are available after the selection cut-off date, selectors confirm the squad according to the selection scheme, including any reserves. The aim is to do this within 4 days from receiving the new rankings.
 2. The BF GBR Administrator (new post) sets up trip with Sport80 for both individual and team events, reserves, deadlines for acceptance, payments required, etc
 3. When all replies received ADP lead coach will allocate fencers to teams, according to the number of teams to be entered
 4. GBR Administrator will put list on the BF website together with event information, in coordination with the SM and ADP coach.
 5. Failure to accept by the agreed deadline, with payment, will result in the place being offered to any reserves or withdrawn
 6. NB – if you think you should have been selected and have not received a selection email within a few days of the selection date please contact the SM
- SM is responsible for ensuring that all essential information is communicated to selected fencers and will deal with queries in the first instance
 - Allocation of the Cadet Nominated International referees is done by the BF Referee Manager following an advertised application process and review of the Referee Pathway Program
 - GBR Administrator will book the referees' hotel and coordinate their travel arrangements. (Referees booking own flights if possible)
 - BF will enter the fencers (for both individual and teams) once the final list is confirmed

- Late withdrawals –refunds (minus any administrations costs) will only be processed if any reserves that remain are offered and accept the place if there is still time for this to be processed.

5. PARENTS' ADMINISTRATION

- Provide accurate contact details and update on the Sport80 platform as necessary
- On request supply a scanned copy of the fencers British Passport or Citizenship document to the SM to show evidence of eligibility. *NOTE - This does not contravene data protection regulations as no information is stored other than the acknowledgement of the document being seen.*
- Prompt replies to the selection notice, with immediate payment if accepting the place
- Notify the SM immediately of any changes
- Obtain an annual EFC licence for the fencer before the start of the International season
- Arrange personal travel, hotel etc for the fencer
- Provide adequate travel insurance for the fencer ensuring that it covers competing in an amateur competition abroad.
- Provide a medical certificate on request if the fencer has to withdraw at late notice through a medical reason
- Ensure that the fencer is aware of the [Athletes' Code of Conduct](#) and the importance of complying with it
- Check the competition reglements – to be found on the EFC website –competition section – cadet circuit. Make sure you find out times of the competition, weapon check times, location and format eg number of poules, cut etc. If you need help ask the SM.
- Keep aware of the event information on the BF GBR Cadet section of the website.

6. FAQs

1. Competing as a Cadet

1.1 When can I start competing as a Cadet fencer?

The EFC requires a fencer to be 11 on the 1st January (i.e. before January 1st) in order to compete in any EFC Cadet Circuit event in that calendar year. The same rule applies to all UK cadet events.

However, to compete in any FIE events including Cadet World Championships the fencer needs to be 13 to hold an FIE licence and be eligible to compete.

1.2 Some of the BRC cadet nominated competitions are Junior (U20) competitions, can I still enter them?

Yes - as long as you are 13 on the day of the event.

1.3 I am confused by which competitions I need to enter to gain ranking points?

The GBR Cadet calendar is published as soon as possible after the EFC calendar is finalised usually in late Spring.

This season's nominated competitions can be seen [here](#)

The Cadet Ranking Scheme is [here](#)

The Points Calculation document is [here](#)

1.4 Do all fencers require EFC licences for the European Cadet Circuit Competitions?

Yes - these are obtainable via the Sport80 platform, usually from the start of August

1.5 Do I have to be British?

Yes - to be selected for an international cadet squad, as these are part of the qualifying process for the GBR teams at the Cadet European and World Championships.

No - for the BRCs, as anyone can enter these. Non- British Fencers can appear on the cadet rankings with their nationality recorded

1.6 Do I have to compete in the Cadet National Championships?

Yes - if you want to be considered for a squad place for a nominated international.

1.7 What is a training and competition schedule?

Whilst cadets no longer need to send these in as part of the selection process, it is still important to prepare a training and competition schedule with your coach's help. This schedule should help you to be in the best possible condition for the most important competitions of the season with the aim of also balancing your training/school/social/family life.

1.8 What about fencing fitness?

You need to be fit enough to be able to fight to the best of your ability all the way through a long competition. Your footwork and stamina at least need to be up to the standard of the cadets in the best European nations (your opponents!). Your coach will help you to achieve this; videos taken at these competitions serve as useful training aids. You will need to have an appropriate strength and conditioning programme that you can do at home or in a gym as well as at your club.

2. Selection Issues

2.1 How will fencers normally be selected?

Mainly using the cadet ranking list but other factors may be taken into account. See British Cadet Selection Scheme on website.

2.2 Can a fencer appeal against non-selection?

There is no formal appeal process. With up to 15 places available it is unlikely that a suitable cadet will be missed out but fencers are welcome to submit a request in advance to be considered if they feel that they have a good case and may miss selection.

2.3 Can other fencers go to the Nominated EFC competitions?

No – these are selection competitions only

2.4 Can any fencer go to the non- nominated EFC competitions?

Yes - up to the limit of 20 fencers can be entered into these competitions. If more than 4 fencers are entered, then referees will have to be provided or the fine of €500 would need to be paid. All fencers have to agree in advance to cover the referee costs. The 5th fencer to ask to be entered will be responsible for making the referee arrangements. Requests to enter such competitions go to BF Head Office.

2.5 What happens if a fencer has to drop out after having accepted a place?

Unless a reserve can take that place, the competition levy will not be refunded.

2.6 What will happen about the team events at these EFC competitions?

In compliance with the EFC team regulations BF will need to enter the teams in advance

with names. The selectors will decide the composition of the teams, normally using the current ranking order.

Please note – the number of teams a country can enter varies so not all fencers in the squad will necessarily be in a team.

2.7 Can the selected fencers purchase GBR kit?

Yes - there is cadet kit that can be purchased via the British Fencing Shop, (it is not compulsory) <http://www.britishfencingshop.com/>

3. After Selection

3.1 What support will British Fencing provide once I am selected?

The SM will provide details of the competitions as soon as they are published on the EFC website and will help with any queries, so do not hesitate to contact them.

Information will also be available on the BF website.

BF are not able to send a Team Manager (TM) with the cadet squads due to the organisational burden and costs to the individual fencers. Experienced fencers, parents and private coaches are a very useful source of help and information for new squad members.

The ADP may be able to send a coach to some of the internationals.

All personal coaches should be on the BF coaches' register as this ensures compliance with the latest safeguarding requirements (including having an up to date DBS and Safeguarding certificate). In principle, the more personal coaches that go abroad, the better for our clubs and thus the development of our younger fencers.

If you choose to travel with another family this is a private arrangement between both families and BF cannot accept any responsibility for this

3.2 I have received my selection email, what happens next?

You will need to log in to the Sport80 system to either accept or decline your individual place. It will also have a deadline for payment. Please note that if you miss the deadline your place will be offered to a reserve.

It is your responsibility to ensure that all your contact information is up to date both on the Sport80 membership database and when submitted to the SM at the start of the new season.

3.3 What about the team event?

Places for the team competition will depend on how many teams are allowed per nation. You will be asked to confirm availability but this does not mean you are selected. Once all replies are back the teams will be selected, normally using the ranking. This list will go on the website and the fencers will be informed.

The number of teams allowed varies from 2-5.

3.4 Do I have to stay for the whole of the team day if selected?

Yes! Placings are fought for usually from the L16. Please do not confirm availability for a team unless you are able to stay until the end of the event.

3.5 Why do I have to pay a referee/admin levy?

All EFC competitions have a referee quota per nation; currently it is 5-9 fencers – one

referee, 9-15 two referees. For team events; 1-3 teams one referee, 4-5 two referees. There is a €500 fine per missing referee. The cost of the referees is shared between the whole squad. BF also incur numerous administrative costs when obtaining licences for fencers and referees, processing the entries, dealing with enquiries, finding referees etc.

3.6 What happens if my contact details change?

It is the sole responsibility of parents/ fencers to ensure that the SM and Sport80 have up to date and correct details

3.7 Will my family travel insurance cover me to compete abroad?

Whilst family travel insurance will cover you to fence as a holiday activity most will not cover you for competing abroad, so it is very important to check that you are covered to compete at an AMATEUR youth fencing competition. NB this is not a professional sport. If you are not travelling with the policy holder (usually a parent/guardian) then the "family" travel insurance may not cover independent travel

3.8 What about insurance for other members of the GBR squad?

Everyone travelling should ensure that their insurance covers them for their role at such a competition (athlete, parent, coach, referee, chaperone etc). Most policies do not include sports competitions, even amateur ones, in their normal cover.

3.9 Where should I stay and how will I get to the competition venue?

The competition reglements usually have a list of "official" hotels, which will often have a reduced rate for those attending the competition. The Competition Organiser may provide a "shuttle" service to and from the venue and "official" hotels. This is usually booked in advance and payable locally. The other advantage of staying at an "official" hotel is that the pre-competition weapons check may be held on site the night before the competition. SM's may also be able to provide details of hotels used previously.

3.10 What happens if the competition is cancelled at short notice?

It is very unusual for this to happen, but it has been known due to unforeseen circumstances. BF does not have insurance cover for this eventuality so costs could only be recovered if your personal travel insurance specifically includes this possibility. Also, very unusual but not impossible for BF to de-nominate an EFC event if circumstances made attendance undesirable e.g. for safety reasons.

4. Behaviour and Discipline

4.1 Do fencers still have to agree to the BF Athletes Code of Conduct?

Yes- By accepting a place in any GBR squad the fencer agrees to comply with the Code of Conduct. Anyone representing Great Britain is expected to behave in a way that does not bring British Fencing into disrepute

4.2 What will happen if a fencer misbehaves at one of the nominated competitions?

If someone sends a formal complaint to BF with sufficient evidence the normal disciplinary process will be conducted.

5. Officials

5.1 Can my fencer's coach take them to a nominated EFC competition abroad?

A parent is entitled to allow anyone to take their child abroad. If you choose to allow your child to travel with anyone other than their legal guardian, BF would encourage

you to undertake appropriate precautions and checks to ensure their suitability. You should ensure that the responsible adult is given written authority and suitable instructions for them to make emergency medical decisions.

5.2 If an ADP coach goes to an international they will be responsible for the overall management of the team event.

This will include collecting the entry fees, asking other coaches to help with teams and revising team composition if needed.

Personal coaches cannot appoint themselves as a team coach in advance. However, team members, **if all are in agreement**, can find themselves a coach

5.3 Who will the GBR referees be at the EFC competition?

BF will select the referees for both the EFC and Junior World Cup international competitions following an application process. They are usually from the Referee Pathway Program and will hold a minimum of a level 3 referee qualification in the specific weapon they will be refereeing

6. Travelling abroad

6.1 What is needed when travelling abroad?

- An up to date passport – for some countries it must be valid for at least 6 months. It is sensible to always travel with a photocopy of all your documents including passport in case of loss of the documents
- Adequate and appropriate travel insurance
- Enough money in the correct currency and enough Euros to cover the competition entry fees (individual and team) and any competition shuttle services
- Your EHIC card (European Health Insurance Card) and check the expiry of this as they are only valid for 5 years
- It is also useful to have a pre-loaded credit/debit card for emergencies or kit failure or loss
- Favourite snacks or drinks for the competition day may be worth bringing
- A fencing bag in good condition, baggage handlers are not known for their “gentle” care of bags
- Check the baggage allowances carefully as some budget airlines have very low/small hold and hand allowances

6.2 Can I travel with my fencing equipment on Eurostar or a flight?

There is currently no prohibition against travelling with fencing equipment on Eurostar or airlines. Eurostar require fencing bags to be checked in as “registered baggage” at least 24 hours’ pre-departure. However, it is always advisable to say “SPORTS KIT” rather than swords when asked. On most flights the fencing bag can go as oversize hold luggage (weight allowance dependent on the individual airline), or as the sometimes more expensive “sporting equipment”.

6.3 What happens if my bag is delayed or lost by the airline?

This does happen and can be very stressful prior to a competition. If possible always travel with as much kit as you can in your hand luggage, especially mask, lamé, shoes, glove and if possible clothing. Label your fencing bag with your name and mobile number to ease the return of it to you.

7. At the international event

7.1 Are the kit regulations different?

Equipment will need to meet FIE (CEN2) standards;

800 Newton Jacket and breeches

800 Newton plastron

1600 newton mask (and conductive foil bib) – **all masks need to comply with the new FIE double security fixings standard**

FIE homologated blades

You will need your surname and GBR on the back of your lame or jacket depending on your weapon, this marking **MUST** comply with the FIE regulations. It can be added to an existing Lame. It is not compulsory to have the GBR logo on your jacket or breeches for cadet competitions, unless selected for the Cadet European or World Championships.

7.2 What is a “weapon check” and when does it happen?

Weapon check usually takes place the night before as well as the morning of the competition. It can be at the venue or occasionally the official hotel. The competition armourers test kit to ensure it complies with the EFC regulations and then stamp it with a competition specific stamp. If it fails then unless the piece of kit can be repaired and subsequently pass a second check, it cannot be used during the competition and will be marked accordingly.

Kit tested usually includes mask, lamé, glove, body and bib wires and weapons.

It is **essential to check your weapons prior to travelling** and again upon arrival before submitting them, this includes weight testing. Fencers must know how to check weapons and rectify simple faults. **Is it worth a penalty when you go on the piste and the tip is light?** Not all competitions will have a trade stand to replace non-working kit.

7.3 Once I get to the competition venue, what do I need to do?

- Check in and pay the entry fee, usually in cash and euros. It is always worthwhile having a copy of the BF entries with you in case of any error
- Check your details are correct on the check-in form and confirm where and how announcements will be made
- Familiarise yourself with the venue; often fencing halls are spread out across a number of areas. It may be noisier and busier than you are used to, and announcements will rarely be in English. Take your time to adjust to this change
- Once the check-in has closed, it is important to listen out for your call to fence and for the piste number, or watch the information screens if the venue has these
- You will usually need to be at the piste 10 minutes before the scheduled start time
- You must take at least two body (and bib) wires and two weapons to the piste
- Always weight check your weapon (foil and epee) after each fight

7.4 What should I do once I am knocked out of the competition?

- Warm down properly, including some stretching, drink enough to rehydrate yourself
- Take the opportunity to watch and learn from the best fencers of the day, e.g
- follow the progress of the fencer who won against you
- Take some video clips if possible of fencers you admire
- Make honest notes on your performance and next steps
- Support the rest of the squad
- Make sure that you have a good meal

8. The team event

- Pay the team entry fee - if one adult can take responsibility for this it is very helpful
- Each team will need to sort out the order for each match; it is expected that if there are 4 members of a team they will all compete
- Any personal coaches present will normally be able to advise but it is also useful experience for the fencers to manage this themselves
- Remember the usual team etiquette including all team members thanking the referee at the end of the match
- A record of the score during each match should be kept. Often the referee will provide spare match sheets

9. Medical and Anti-doping

9.1 What is drug testing?

This is to check for any prohibited substance on the WADA list. It can be held during any competition and requires a urine sample (at higher levels a blood sample may be requested). More information about anti-doping can be found [here](#). All GBR fencers are obliged to comply with the BF, FIE and WADA anti-doping regulations.

9.2 I have to take regular medication for a health condition, how do I know if my medication is allowed?

Check on this website <http://www.globaldro.co.uk/> it is always advisable to have a doctor's letter explaining the need for the medication when travelling abroad. If your medication is on the list but it is essential **and you are tested** you will need to apply for a retro-active **Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE)** by sending the completed TUE form to UK Anti-Doping. Cadets do not need to apply in advance but please notify the BF anti-doping Officer if you are taking anything on the prohibited list.

9.3 I have a nut allergy, what precautions should I take?

BF asks all fencers to be considerate of anyone with a nut allergy. If you have to carry an EpiPen or similar anaphylactic medication, it is worth giving a spare set to a responsible adult (your personal coach or family member) in case you mislay your own one. It is also worthwhile having your medical details and treatment plan in writing and translated (using pharmacological names rather than brand names) into the language of the country you are competing in.