

SENIOR RANKING SCHEME

With effect from 1st September 2019

DEFINITIONS

Season	The 12-month period starting on the 1st day of September in each year.
Senior	Open to fencers aged 13 or over on or before the first day of the Competition.
Open	A single gender, individual Competition held in the UK which any Senior member is permitted to enter on payment of the appropriate fee.
Registered	Approved for registration as a Ranking Event by British Fencing.
Rankings Manager	A person nominated by British Fencing to take decisions on ranking issues.
Qualifying FIE Competition	Individual Senior competitions of type "Grand Prix", "World Cup", "Satellite", "World Championship" or "Olympic Games" appearing on the FIE calendar including such events held in the UK.
Commonwealth Championships	The Commonwealth Senior Open Championship.
Competition	A contest between a group of individuals using a single type of weapon (e.g. "Men's Foil", "Women's Sabre") organised in accordance with British Fencing rules.
Event	One or more Competitions typically held in the same venue, under the same organising committee over a period of no more than a few consecutive days (e.g. UK Opens, FIE Competitions) and intended to be repeated on an annual basis.

Revision History

V3.0	08/04/2019	First draft for 2019/20
V3.1	04/06/2019	Updated with ranking coordinator feedback
V3.2	18/07/2019	Updated with BF feedback
V3.3	01/09/2019	Published
V3.4	11/10/2019	Clarified status of DNS / 9999
V3.5	21/01/2020	Added B Nationals

1 Overview

1.1 Purpose of the Ranking System

The British Fencing National Ranking System is a benefit of membership and provided as a service to members.

These rankings are intended to:-

- Provide a quantitative means for members to evaluate their performance over time and by comparison with other fencers.
- Provide data for organisers to assist in ranking UK domestic Events.
- Provide assistance to selectors where ranking is a component in selection.

1.2 Background

With effect from 1st September 1999 there has been a rolling ranking scheme for all fencers eligible to take part in Senior Competitions.

Responsibility for the administration of the Ranking Scheme lies with the Rankings Manager whose decision on any ranking matter shall be final. The Ranking Scheme in each weapon is carried out to the same rules by the identified ranking co-ordinators.

Rankings are calculated by aggregating the points awarded to each fencer in accordance with the rules laid down in this document.

1.3 Application

This version of the Ranking Scheme applies to all Competitions and rankings published from 1st September 2019.

1.4 Contacts

Any queries regarding these rules should be sent in the first instance by email to Peter Smith at peter.smith@englandfencing.org.uk.

2 Rules

2.1 Eligibility

All British Fencing members in good standing and holding an annual Competition licence are entitled to a place on the ranking irrespective of nationality or affiliation with another FIE country (c.f. section 5).

- Inclusion on the BFA ranking list does not guarantee eligibility for selection, even in cases where an automatic selection is determined by ranking. Factors such as nationality, fitness and discipline will normally form an integral part of the selection rules and fencers should refer to the scheme in question to determine their eligibility.

Any member who is subject to suspension for any reason shall not be entitled to a ranking for the period of suspension (c.f. 2.8).

2.2 Qualifying Results

Fencers may score points in any Registered Senior Individual Ranking Open Competition, any Qualifying FIE Competition and the Commonwealth Championships.

All Competitions must be run in accordance with a standard formula broadly in line with FIE Article o.66 as specified in the BFA Competition registration requirements. Competitions which do not conform to this requirement will be subject to a penalty or exclusion (c.f. section 3).

2.3 Calculation of Points

Points are awarded to fencers who reach the last 128 provided that they are placed in the top 75% of those competing.

- The 75th percentile limit shall be rounded down to the next lowest whole number. For example, in a competition with 85 competitors only those ranked 1 to 63 shall be awarded points (75% of 85 is 63.75).
- In case of equality at the 75th percentile limit, both fencers shall be included. For example, given an entry of 10 fencers and equal 7th places, both fencers placed 7th would be awarded points.
- Fencers included on the final ranking as 9999, "DNS" or any equivalent position shall not be counted in the number competing for any purpose.

The points scored in each competition are calculated by taking the grading multiplier and multiplying this by the factor assigned to each final placing (c.f. section 4) and then rounding down to the nearest whole number.

The fencer's overall points total is the sum of their best **SIX** results of which no more than **FOUR** results may be from FIE Competitions or the Commonwealth Championships.

At least **ONE** result must be from an Open Competition or the Senior British Championships unless the fencer holds a current FIE licence for GBR.

2.4 Timing

Calculation of the ranking points will normally be done on a monthly basis in the first week of each month using the actual results of relevant competitions during the period of twelve months ending on the last day of the previous month.

Updated rankings will normally be published by the 10th of each month.

The date of any Competition shall be taken to be the date of the final.

Each Competition shall be counted no more than once in any ranking. The results are included for a period of 12 months or until the date of the same Competition in the following Season, whichever occurs first.

2.5 Corrections and Clarifications

All correction and clarification requests should be notified within 5 working days of publication to headoffice@britishfencing.com cc'd to rankings@britishfencing.com. The aim is to resolve queries within 10 days of publication after which the rankings will be marked as confirmed and available for use in selection.

2.6 Ranking Method

Fencers will be ranked in descending order of total points scored starting at rank number 1.

Where two or more fencers have the same number of points they will be assigned an equal ranking.

The positions following any equality shall be calculated as if no equal rankings existed. For example, after two fencers placed 10th equal, the following ranking assigned shall be 12th.

2.7 Duties of Competition Organisers

Organisers must ensure that all competitors are in possession of current British Fencing membership which includes entitlement to enter Open Competitions.

N.B. Overseas Fencers are now required to have a valid British Fencing membership. For details of how to obtain a temporary membership number which will entitle the holder to compete, please see the British Fencing website.

Organisers must provide British Fencing with a complete and accurate set of results from first to last place as soon as practically possible and in any event no later than 23:59 on the first Wednesday following the final.

Results submitted after the deadline and up to 30 days from the date of the Competition will be included subject to the penalty specified in Section 3 below.

All results must include valid BFA Membership or temporary licence numbers for all competitors.

Results must be submitted using the online tool published on the British Fencing website.

2.8 Suspended Fencers

Any member whose membership is suspended or cancelled shall not be entitled to appear on any ranking with a calculation date falling within the period of suspension.

All rankings calculated before the start of the period of suspension shall remain unaltered.

All results submitted before the start of the period of suspension shall remain unaltered.

A suspended member shall resume eligibility to appear on rankings with a calculation date after their period of suspension ends.

Any result submitted which includes a suspended member shall be rejected (c.f. section 3).

If a period of suspension is in effect at 00:01 on 1st March or 00:01 on 1st September in each year, a suspended member shall not be included in the recalculation of NIF values.

A member who was excluded from a previous calculation of NIF points shall not be awarded any NIF value until the first scheduled calculation following the end of their period of suspension.

3 Table of Penalties

Rule	Penalty*	Applies to
Failure to provide complete and accurate data by 23:59 on the first Wednesday following the Competition.	£50	Each Competition individually.
Failure to provide complete and accurate data within 30 days.	Exclusion.	Each Competition individually.
Inclusion of unlicensed fencers.	The cost for licensing or upgrading any unlicensed fencer shall be borne by the Event. The penalties for failure to provide complete and accurate data shall also apply where appropriate.	Each Competition individually.
Inclusion of suspended members.	Exclusion.	
Use of a non-standard formula.	Reduction in Grading Multiplier (c.f. 4.1) of 10% to 50% before any rounding or exclusion at the discretion of British Fencing.	Each Competition individually.
Any matter which in the opinion of British Fencing materially reduces the safety of the Competitors.	Exclusion.	The Event.
Any matter which in the opinion of British Fencing affects the Competition in such a way as to make the calculated Grading Multiplier not represent the strength of the Competition.	Reduction in Grading Multiplier (c.f. 4.1) of 10% to 50% before any rounding at the discretion of British Fencing.	Each Competition individually or the Event as determined by British Fencing.

British Fencing reserve the right to reduce or remove ranking points from any Competition for matters not covered by these rules.

* An Event or Competition to which a penalty is applied will not be entitled to automatic renewal of its “Registered” status and will need to reapply for the following Season.

* Following any penalty on safety grounds the Event shall be required to accept a British Fencing appointed observer as a condition of registration for one or more future years at the discretion of British Fencing. All expenses of the observer including travel, accommodation and per-diem shall be borne by the Event.

The above penalties may be applied at any time. Rankings which have already been published may be adjusted accordingly.

4 Grading Multipliers

4.1 Method of Calculation

Event type	Data needed	Multiplier calculation method
Opens	BFA rolling rankings at 1 st September or 1 st March, whichever is the more recent	<p>Method 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BFA members – c.f. 5.4. • Overseas fencers - c.f. 5.2. <p>Method 2 (if greater)</p> <p>0.25 times the number awarded a final place rounded down to the nearest whole number.</p>
Senior British Championships (“A” event)	As Opens	As Opens times 2.0 before any rounding.
Senior British Championships “B” event	Results of the Senior British Championship “A” event	1/20 of points awarded to lowest placed “A” fencer with points, rounded down.
All FIE competitions	FIE entry list for the competition.	<p>The sum of the World Cup points for all fencers entered by the closing date and listed on the official FIE Entry List.</p> <p>For Satellite events, BFA members count the maximum of the World Cup points value above and their individual NIF assigned for Opens (c.f. 5.2). The minimum NIF shall be 2 times the number of competitors awarded a final place.</p>
Commonwealth Championships	N/A	1.5 times the final NIF of the most recent Senior British Championships rounded down to the nearest whole number.

- For FIE competitions, entries and results will be as obtained from the FIE website.
- For CFF competitions, results will be obtained from the CFF.

4.2 Final Position Multiplication Factors

Place	Multiplier	Place	Multiplier	Place	Multiplier	Place	Multiplier
1	20.00	33	4.05	65	1.29	97	0.83
2	17.22	34	4.02	66	1.27	98	0.82
3	14.76	35	3.99	67	1.25	99	0.81
3	14.76	36	3.95	68	1.24	100	0.80
5	12.18	37	3.92	69	1.22	101	0.79
6	11.98	38	3.89	70	1.20	102	0.78
7	11.80	39	3.86	71	1.19	103	0.77
8	11.65	40	3.83	72	1.17	104	0.76
9	9.52	41	3.81	73	1.16	105	0.74
10	9.40	42	3.78	74	1.14	106	0.73
11	9.29	43	3.75	75	1.12	107	0.72
12	9.19	44	3.73	76	1.11	108	0.71
13	9.10	45	3.70	77	1.10	109	0.70
14	9.02	46	3.68	78	1.08	110	0.69
15	8.94	47	3.65	79	1.07	111	0.68
16	8.87	48	3.63	80	1.05	112	0.67
17	6.80	49	3.61	81	1.04	113	0.66
18	6.74	50	3.58	82	1.02	114	0.65
19	6.68	51	3.56	83	1.01	115	0.64
20	6.62	52	3.54	84	1.00	116	0.63
21	6.56	53	3.52	85	0.98	117	0.62
22	6.51	54	3.50	86	0.97	118	0.61
23	6.46	55	3.48	87	0.96	119	0.60
24	6.41	56	3.45	88	0.94	120	0.59
25	6.37	57	3.43	89	0.93	121	0.58
26	6.32	58	3.42	90	0.92	122	0.58
27	6.28	59	3.40	91	0.91	123	0.57
28	6.24	60	3.38	92	0.89	124	0.56
29	6.20	61	3.36	93	0.88	125	0.55
30	6.16	62	3.34	94	0.87	126	0.54
31	6.12	63	3.32	95	0.86	127	0.53
32	6.09	64	3.30	96	0.85	128	0.52

5 Fencers

5.1 Universal Membership Requirement

Any fencer of any nationality who attends a UK club for longer than the insurance threshold (currently 12 hours of active participation) must have BFA membership. Any fencer who is resident in the UK and wishes to enter a UK competition must have BFA membership.

In order to enter UK Open Competitions, the grade of membership must include a Competition Licence.

- Under the 2017 scheme, this means that only “Compete” membership types are acceptable but members and organisers are advised to check the BFA web site for changes.
- “UK Resident” for the purpose of the ranking scheme means all situations where the individual in question has not recently travelled from another country with the intent of returning shortly after the Competition. If you are in any doubt then you are most likely a UK Resident for ranking purposes but please contact British Fencing HQ for clarification. For the avoidance of doubt, you cannot claim to be Overseas if you live, work, train or study in the UK.

5.2 Overseas Fencers

Fencers **who are not UK residents and do not attend or represent a UK club** must obtain a temporary membership and competition licence from British Fencing. The licence must be valid for all days of the Competition.

Holders of temporary licenses are not entitled to a place on the ranking.

In the event that a temporary licence holder becomes a full member, only those points earned after the full membership start date shall count towards ranking and no previously published rankings will be amended.

5.3 Calculation of NIF for Overseas Fencers

Overseas Fencers participating in Opens will be assigned a notional NIF value based on their world ranking (if any) and otherwise (or if higher) on the NIF of BFA members finishing below them in the final ranking.

Minimum NIF for Overseas fencers with world ranking points:

World Ranking	NIF assigned
1-20	20
21-40	10
41-100	6
101-200	3
201 to last place with points	1

For all other Overseas Fencers:

Total NIF of fencers finishing lower	NIF assigned
40+	10
24-39	6
16-23	3
6-15	1
0-5	0

Only NIFs allocated to BFA members on the most recent ranking shall be included for the purposes of calculating a notional NIF.

The notional NIF calculated shall be valid only for the single Competition and shall not influence future calculations.

5.4 Calculation of NIF for BFA Members

NIF values shall be assigned to members based on their weapon and position in the ranking list twice a year, on 1st September and 1st March. The NIF assigned shall be used to calculate the grading multiplier for competitions until the next biannual assignment.

The ranking range used for each weapon is set to reflect the number of members on the ranking list and strength of the weapon.

NIF	ME	MF	MS	WE	WF	WS
10	1-10	1-10	1-5	1-5	1-5	1-5
6	11-35	11-35	6-15	6-15	6-15	6-10
3	36-70	36-70	16-30	16-30	16-30	11-20
1	71-175	71-175	31-75	31-75	31-75	21-50