

SOUTH EAST REGION : ENGLAND FENCING

INTRODUCTION

The South East Region, as defined by England Fencing, includes the counties of Kent, Surrey and Sussex. Including the London Boroughs of Bromley, Bexley, Greenwich, Lewisham, Croydon, Kingston upon Thames, Lambeth, Merton, Richmond upon Thames, Southwark, Sutton and Wandsworth (July, 2016).

Although any individual, or club, may choose to affiliate to the region, it is expected that all South East Region Events will take place within that defined area.

According to the constitution, the Region's objectives include, 'ensuring the delivery of such events reasonably expected' by England Fencing as well as British Fencing (4.2, 4.3). These events include, but are not limited to, the, 'Region Championships' and the, 'British Youth Championship [(BYC)] Qualifying Competitions'(4.4). There are currently events in Foil, Epee and Sabre, and there are Senior, Intermediate, Novice and Youth categories.

The South East Region is keen to work with any individuals, or clubs willing to assist with British Fencing's vision to become, "The World's most successful Fencing Community" and its mission to, "Inspire, and enable people to start, stay and succeed in Fencing".

(www.britishfencing.com 'Governance >> Strategy')

Following a detailed review of the competition structure in 2016, the committee has voted to implement a new formal bid process for competitions. Whereas, in the past, regional events have been organised by the three counties within the region (Kent, Sussex and Surrey), clubs, groups of clubs, or counties are now invited to bid for the right to host events.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

- To encourage all South East Events to run well and to aspire to become, 'market leading'.
- To aim to increase participation in South East Region events, creating a solid and sustainable base for developing grass-roots Fencing.
- To reduce the burden on volunteers and encourage the development of a new workforce.

WHY DOES IT WORK FOR YOU?

- The system offers organisers more flexibility and freedom.
- Any profits (after a regional levy, operating costs and -where applicable- BYC entry fees are deducted) go to the organiser.

TOURNAMENT SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS

Provisional dates for competitions will continue to be agreed at the AGM and will be published by the end of May. Regional Tournaments must occur between 1st September – 31st May. BYC qualifiers should take place by the end of February, to allow for entries and payment to be made by the end of March.

Bids for senior events in 2016-17, must be submitted to the events sub-committee by 21st August. Bids for the age group events, must be submitted to the events sub-committee by 30th September.

Bidders may choose to bid for individual and team events independently, or together. Team events are optional. Where events are scheduled for the same weekend, they may be combined (eg Senior Epee and Sabre) but we suggest bidders indicate the event that they would prefer to host, if it is not possible to host both.

All bids will be reviewed by the events subcommittee, who will make recommendations to the full committee. Their decision will be announced two weeks after the deadline. All bids will be seen by the full committee. Where there are conflicts of interest, committee members will abstain from the vote.

British Fencing currently charge (July, 2016) £5.00 for every entry and an additional £21.00 for every qualifier. There is a late entry fee of £50.00 for late entry. These costs must be covered by the event organisers and they must be able to outline how funds will be paid. The 'events sub-committee' will consider the following when determining hosts for Regional Events.

HIGHEST PRIORITY

- Suitable size, quality and safety of venue, meeting current BFA safety guidelines.
- Availability of venue on provisional date.
- Location of event venue.
- Experience organising events and/or willingness to work with events sub-committee.
- Access to functioning electric boxes with correct and current timings.

ORGANISERS IDEALLY HAVE

- Membership of BFA and a community club bank account.
- A functioning committee and/or organizing team.
- For U18 events, a Welfare Officer and access to DBS clearance.
- A nominated first aider and access to ice.
- Easily accessible, free parking.
- A clear understanding of how many fencers they can cater for at any one time, how many entries they need to break even and when they need entries by.
- An entry list system that can be maintained easily and frequently.
- Access to metal pistes for both Foil and Epee.
- Intention to pay/expense well qualified referees.
- A webmaster and access to a web system that can deal with entries and payments.
- A well thought out risk assessment and contingency plan.

ATTRACTIVE BONUSES

- Live event results for online viewing.
- Willingness to engage with social media.
- Ability of organising club(s) or county to provide at least 20% of the previous year's entry.
- Access to catering facilities.
- Intention to host development opportunities for local workforce.
- Willingness to sell fund-raising merchandise on behalf of the region.

FIXTURE LIST FOR 2016-2017 SEASON

The committee reserve the right to change provisional dates. (Correct as of 25.07.16)

05/11/16 - Senior & Intermediate Men's and Women's Individual and Team Sabre

06/11/17 – Senior & Intermediate Men's and Women's Individual and Team Epee

13/11/16 – Senior & Intermediate Men's and Women's Individual and Team Foil

22/01/17 – U12/U14/U16/U18 Boy's and Girl's Epee (BYC Qualifier)

28-29/01/17 - U12/U14/U16/U18 Boy's and Girl's Sabre and Foil (BYC Qualifiers)

THE REGION WILL:

- Include details of approved regional competitions on the regional website.
- Offer organisers space on the website to advertise their event.
- Offer organisers a regional email address and/or forward event information on their behalf.
- Include results and photos on the regional website and calendar.
- Allow organisers access to the regional facebook and twitter feeds for their event.
- As part of a promotional package, winners of the Senior Regional Events will receive automatic selection for Senior Winton.
- Provide banners for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.
- Nominate a committee member to attend the event. They will be there to observe, help and troubleshoot.
- Provide advice, assistance and facilitate hire of equipment and/or personnel where necessary.
- Give preference to new bids where a competition has been run by the same organiser for 3 years or more and/or increase the regional levy for that event.

ENTRY COSTS AND THE REGIONAL LEVY

For the 2016-2017 season, the events sub-committee recommends that the regional levy for each participant at regional events be set at £5.00 per person. This is to be paid to the region regardless of other costs.

The sub-committee also recommends that entry fees for senior events should be £25.00 and for BYC qualifier events, £35.00. The £35.00 entry fee should be charged to all fencers and all automatic qualifiers from the previous year. Team entry fees are recommended to be £30.00 with fight off for 3rd place.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- A copy of the event organisers risk assessment will be sent to the Secretary in advance.
- Event results are to be sent to the Secretary for publication on the South East Region Website within 24 hours of the event.
- Event organisers agree to send the levies from entries to the South East Region Treasurer within 28 days. Payments should be via cheque or BACS.
- Event organisers are to ensure that, following their qualifier, BYC entries from the region are submitted on time and with full payment. British Fencing use Sport80 for this.
- The organisers accept that in licensing the event from the South East Region committee, that the South East Region committee accepts no liability for any loss, damage to equipment, buildings or and individuals, however caused.

COMPETITION AND VENUE STANDARDS

The fencing venue is the most important element in hosting a successful tournament. It must allow for the event organisers to set up before competitors arrive. It should be clean, well maintained, safe and possess the following characteristics:

1. A minimum ceiling height of 15 Feet
2. Provide an adequate amount of space for the referee on the side of each piste. Scoring boxes back to back are the ideal arrangement.
3. Pistes to be clearly marked.
4. Competition area should be well lit with even lighting throughout.
5. Area on or near the Fencing area for armoury, registration desk, officials lounge, where appropriate. Area on or near the Fencing floor for vendor booths is optional.
6. A qualified first aider is required on the site during all hours of competition and must be easily accessible in the hall of the competition. Access to ice is mandatory.
7. Ample number of toilets and changing areas.
8. Ideally the D.T area is located with clear line of sight to all pistes and should be equipped with sufficient tables or workspace, chairs, electricity, internet access and public address system.
9. The public address system, if necessary, should be audible at least within the Fencing area and referees lounge with a microphone located within the D.T area.
10. An area must be designated and easily accessible to fencers for posting poules, DE tables and results.
11. Adequate space for fencing bag storage away from the competition area is recommended.
12. Adequate parking and easy access to transportation would be ideal.
13. Venue food/drink concessions are open throughout the competition. Food should ideally include "athlete friendly" foods.
14. Organisers selling food should visit the website of the [food standards agency](#) ensuring they are aware of any certifications, legal issues/requirements necessary.
15. Access to water.
16. Meeting space to gather and feed officials is recommended.
17. For single age group events, or when scheduling allows with multi age group events, it is desirable that a finals piste is separated from the preliminary pistes to provide special attention for the athletes.
18. Organisers have full discretion over the prizes and or medals to be presented but these should be at least engraved with South East Region event and/or include a regional insert. They should also be age appropriate i.e. No alcohol prizes for under 18s. The year and name of the event should be included.

RULES OF THE COMPETITION

Seeding:

All South East Region Events are to be seeded using available ranking information during the month of the competition with priority given to Senior, Junior, Cadet rankings in that order, excepting events which are also BYC qualifiers, which must be seeded according to the BYC Finals current rules.

The competition format for individual events should be:-.

1 or 2 rounds of poules followed by Direct Elimination without recharge

There is no fight off for 3rd place, both losing semi-final fencers will receive bronze medals.

Poule matches are fenced to 5 hits or 3 minutes, or 2 minutes for U12s and under.

Direct Elimination fights are to 15 hits. 3 periods of 3 minutes with passivity rules applied, or 10 hits, 3 periods of 2 minutes for U12s and under.

Foil: All competitions must use conductive mask bibs.

Size of Blades:

Foil:

U14 Size 3 – older age groups size 5

Epee events:

U14 Size 2 - older age groups size 5

Sabre events:

U14 Size 2 – Older age groups size 5

All fencing matches are to use full size pistes in line with BFA rules. All fencers should wear kit in line with current safety guidelines, as published and updated by BFA.

<http://www.britishfencing.com/governance/guidelines/>

Competition organisers should take note of current policies (such as photography) these can be found here:

<http://www.britishfencing.com/governance/generalpolicies/>