



CANADIAN FENCING FEDERATION
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NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION BOOKLET

2025/2026

Senior

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1. INTRODUCTION

This Handbook contains the selection policies which the Canadian Fencing Federation (CFF) will use to select the athletes who will represent Canada at the 2026 World Championships, 2026 Pan American Zonal Championships and other Senior international events during the 2025-26 season. This information will allow athletes and their coaches to develop their annual training and competition plans for the season.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the material contained within this Handbook, readers are advised to consult with the CFF High Performance Director (hpd@fencing.ca) if they have questions about any element contained within.

Similarly, the dates of international selection competitions are accurate as of the date of publication of this Handbook, but dates and events can and do change. Please verify competition details before making final travel arrangements. Furthermore, it is the athletes' (and their personal coaches') responsibility to be familiar with the information found in this document.

2. CHANGES TO THIS HANDBOOK

The CFF has taken every possible step to ensure that the material in this Handbook will remain accurate for the entire season, but in instances where changes do occur, specifically to international selection competitions, the High Performance Director (HPD) in consultation with the High Performance Advisory Committee (HPAC) reserves the right to make changes to this Handbook, which in its discretion are necessary to ensure the selection of the best teams for each season's events.

Any changes to this Handbook shall be communicated directly to all High Performance Program members. This clause shall not be used to justify changes after a competition or trials, which formed part of the internal nomination procedure unless it is related to an unforeseen circumstance.

The purpose of this section is also to allow for changes to this Handbook that may become necessary due to a typographical error or a lack of clarity in a definition or wording before it has an impact on athletes. The purpose of such language changes must be to avoid disputes over the meaning of the provisions of this Handbook rather than to allow changes to be made to justify selection of different athletes than

would have otherwise been selected.

All changes must be reasonably justifiable in accordance with fundamental principles of natural justice and procedural fairness.

Senior National Team Selection



3. HIGH PERFORMANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HPAC)

The High Performance Advisory Committee will be consulted on the development and interpretation of the Selection Criteria and Booklet, and any subsequent changes to the Booklet. It will be comprised of the following members:

- The High Performance Director (Chair).
- At least three National coaches (one per weapon).
- One member with experience competing and/or coaching at the international level.
- One member representing the CFF Board of Directors.
- The CFF Executive Director.
- Any other additional member appointed by the High Performance Director on an ad hoc basis, when considered relevant to a specific issue.

4. HIGH PERFORMANCE SELECTION PANEL (HPSP)

The High Performance Selection Panel will make the selections for all World Championships, Olympic Games, World University Games, Pan American Zonal Championships, and Pan American Games, and will be comprised of the following members:

- The High Performance Director (Chair).
- The national coach (or designate) for the appropriate weapon.
- The Executive Director of the CFF.
- The President of the CFF or a representative of the CFF Board of Directors designated by the President of the CFF.
- One HPAC representative excluding the above mentioned members.

5. WITHDRAWAL FROM SELECTION

The HPSP panel reserves the right to refuse or withdraw an athlete from selection in the following cases:

- If the athlete does not respect the yearly training and competition plan designated by the HPP. Exemptions can be requested in advance of a specific event. Exemptions will be granted on a case-by-case basis by the HPD in consultation with the National Coach.
- If the athlete fails to meet specific performance readiness criteria communicated by the National Coach in writing such as mandatory meetings, engagement with IST, respect for others, etc.
- If the athlete has not fulfilled responsibilities as identified in the “HPP Athlete Agreement”.
- If the athlete has outstanding debts with the CFF.
- To conform with a decision made by the appropriate disciplinary body concerning a disciplinary infraction .



6. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

In the event of a perceived conflict of interest (for instance where an athlete under consideration for selection is a family member, personal student, or member of the same club as a panel member) the panel member will be substituted as follows:

- The HPD will be replaced with someone appointed by the CFF Executive Director.
- The National coach will be replaced with someone appointed by the HPD.
- The CFF Executive Director will be replaced by someone appointed by the President.
- The President of the CFF will be replaced with another member of the Board appointed by the Board.

7. HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must be registered in the High Performance Program (HPP) to be eligible to be selected to participate in all international events (FIE Satellite events, World Cups, European Fencing Confederation competitions, Pan American and World Championships). This booklet outlines the policies and procedures for the following:

- Application to the High Performance Program (HPP).
- Selection of HP athletes to the National Teams for:
 - 2026 Senior Pan American Zonal Championships.
 - 2026 Senior World Championships.
- Selection of HP athletes for designated Senior World Cups.
- Selection of HP athletes for non-designated Senior World Cups.
- Selection of HP athletes for non-designated FIE Satellite events.
- Selection of HP athletes for non-designated European Fencing Confederation U23 Circuit events.

8. CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Fencers must be Canadian citizens in possession of a valid Canadian passport and eligible to represent Canada by applicable selection deadlines to compete in any event requiring an FIE License (FIE Satellite World Cups, Senior World Cups, Grand Prix event competitions), or to be selected for any World Championships, World University Games, Pan American Zonal Championships, Pan American Games, or Olympic or Paralympic Games.

Permanent residents with a valid EFC license may register for European Fencing Confederation (EFC)



international events only. Permanent residents will be selected for EFC events after eligible Canadian citizens and according to the current HP rankings

Fencers wishing to change nationality for FIE registration purposes must first contact the High Performance Director in writing indicating the desire to change representation to or from Canada with an explanation of reasons and any supporting documentation. Rules regarding change of country affiliation are governed by the FIE (please see FIE Administrative Rule 1.4 and Article 9.2 of the FIE Statutes found at <https://fie.org/fie/documents/statutes-and-admin-rules>).

9. APPLICATION TO THE HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM (HPP)

To be eligible for the High Performance Program, an athlete must:

- Hold a valid CFF license for the 2025-2026 season obtained from the provincial fencing association at [2025-26 CFF Memberships](#)
- Purchase a FIE license and/or an EFC license for the 2025-2026 season.
- Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident;
- Complete the HPP application at <https://fencing.ca/hpp-application/> and,
- Have no outstanding debts with the CFF.

The CFF may reject an application to the High Performance Program or suspend an athlete's HPP membership if there are adequate grounds to do so. Examples that may justify a rejection or suspension of HPP membership include, but are not limited to, outstanding financial debts owed to the CFF and any behaviour that violates the CFF Code of Conduct and Ethics or the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS). Any HP selection points earned during a suspension will not be awarded, even once the suspension is cleared.

REGULAR REGISTRATION: \$500.00 if paid on or before September 25th, 2025.

LATE REGISTRATION: \$650.00 if paid on or after September 26th, 2025.

NOTE: Only results from competitions that begin following the completion of the HPP application and payment will be included in the HPP Rankings. Results from competitions that have started before an application was completed will not appear in the HPP Rankings (e.g., an athlete who registers and pays the \$650 fee at 10AM EST on January 1st, 2026, may count results from competitions that start after 10AM EST, January 1st, 2026



CFF Expectations of HP Athletes at International Competitions

The CFF values sport professionalism, teamwork, inclusion, dedication, and commitment from all staff, athletes, and volunteers. Based on these values we are clearly defining our expectations for all National team program members.

Athlete Support (Individual and Team):

Any athlete who has been registered by the CFF to represent Canada in any weapon at any FIE or EFC International competition in Cadet, Junior or Senior must:

- Be physically present in the fencing competition area supporting the Canadian Team in that weapon during the Team competition day (regardless of whether the athlete is competing or not). No athlete is permitted to be absent from the Team event (regardless of whether he/she is competing or supporting) without being approved by the National Coach and HPD (in writing) 14 days prior to the event.
- Wear a CFF Team Canada tracksuit jacket for the team event (both for the athletes who are fencing and those supporting).
- For all senior world cup team events, be present at the team dinner the night before the team competition unless instructed otherwise by the Team Coach. This applies to all athletes entered in the individual event.
- Team Event: All fencers selected for a Senior World Cup Team event must be prepared to participate in the team event. The participating fencers will be responsible for paying the FIE team fees. The project coach at the competition will select fencers for the team event. a. If an athlete is unable to adhere to the above rules, they are requested to contact the National Coach and the HPD at least 14 days prior to the event. Each case will be reviewed and will be approved by the National Coach and the HPD on a case-by-case basis.

The following exemptions will be potentially granted by the HPD and National Coach:

- School exam - must have a letter on school letterhead from the instructor.
- Athlete injury during the individual event.
- Any other exceptional reason deemed valid by the National Coach and the HPD.

If an athlete fails to be present for the Team event (unless approved by the coach in charge of the team and HPD in writing), the HP Advisory Committee will impose appropriate consequences after consulting with the National Coach. These consequences may include, without being limited by the Senior National Selection Policies 2025 – 2026 Handbook to removal of HP points earned from that competition, removal of all international HP points gained from previous and current international events, or removal from the HP program.



10. HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM SELECTION RANKINGS

The HPP Selection Rankings are used to identify athletes for international competition selections and for CFF funding opportunities. Athletes will be ranked by their total points in the designated selection competitions in the current season.

Ties in the senior HP rankings will be broken as follows:

- By the best result (as defined by HP points) in the designated international competitions.
- Should a tie still exist, the tie will be broken by the best result by position in the most recent result achieved by each athlete at a designated international (FIE World Cup or Grand Prix) competition

Only athletes who are registered in the High Performance Program will appear in the HPP selection rankings.

11. 2026 SENIOR PAN AMERICAN ZONAL AND WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS SELECTION CRITERIA

The CFF will select 4 athletes per weapon and gender category for each of the Pan-American and World Championships.

To be selected for the 2026 Senior Pan American Zonal or World Championship team, athletes must meet one of the two following criteria:

- Two (2) finishes in the top 25% of the entry field of designated World Cups or Grand Prix events during the 2025-26 season. **OR**
- One (1) top 8 placement at the October 2025 or January 2026 USA Fencing Division I NAC **AND** one (1) finish in the top 25% of the entry field of a designated World Cup or Grand Prix event.

If only four athletes achieve these criteria, these athletes will be selected, irrespective of their HP ranking.

If more than four athletes achieve these criteria, the selection will be based on the total HP points in qualifying events as described in the points grid

If, in any weapon, fewer than 4 athletes achieve these criteria, the High Performance Selection Panel (HPSP) will select additional team members as outlined below:

If only three athletes achieve these criteria, these three athletes will be selected, and the fourth athlete will be selected by the HPSP selection panel.



If only two athletes achieve these criteria, these two athletes will be selected, and two athletes will be selected by the HPSP selection panel.

If only one athlete achieves these criteria, this athlete will be selected, and three athletes will be selected by the HPSP selection panel.

If no athlete achieves these criteria, the athlete with the most HP points accumulated during the season will be selected and the other three athletes will be selected by the selection panel.



Panel Selection Criteria

The HPSP will use the following criteria to determine which athletes will be selected for a tournament:

Criteria	Evidence	Weighting given
Performance potential	Results at designated and non-designated FIE tournaments, NAC's, etc.	20
Past performance	Demonstrable Improving results over past two seasons or significant career achievements (ex: Top 64 placements at World Championships, medals at designated and non-designated events)	20
Training commitment	Evidence of following a 20 hour per week training schedule, as per weekly and monthly training logs submitted to national coach	10
Designated National Team training camp commitment and participation	Attendance at team camps	10
Tournament commitment	Number of designated and non-designated events attended, such as satellite tournaments, NAC's, World Cups, Grand Prix's, Canada Cups and Canadian Nationals	10
Contribution to team results	Points for/against, team spirit, Feedback from national coaches	10
Working relationship with national team program and coaches	Feedback from national coaches	10
Disciplinary issues	Black cards, actions which require formal discipline from head coaches or CFF	Discretionary, up to 100% based on severity of issue
Demonstrates a strong athletic character that matches the values and behaviors of a member of Canada's national team, including, but not limited to, respect for other athletes and staff, professionalism in approach to training.	Feedback from national coaches	Discretionary, up to 100% based on severity of issue



12. CFF SELECTION APPEALS POLICY

In the event of a dispute over selection, athletes can find the *CFF Appeals policy* at:
<http://fencing.ca/wp-content/uploads/Appeals-Policy.pdf>

13. SELECTION DATES

2026 SENIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

- **Date:** July 1-30, 2026
- **Location:** Hong Kong
- **Selection Date:** May 26, 2026 (following the last designated World Cup of the season)
- **Number of athletes:** 4

2026 SENIOR PAN AMERICAN ZONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- **Date:** June 1 – June 30, 2026 (TBD)
- **Location:** TBD
- **Selection Date:** TBD
- **Number of athletes:** 4



14. NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION DESIGNATED COMPETITIONS

The designated competitions for each weapon are shown below.

For each weapon the following results will apply to the final rankings:

- Best 1 of 2 Canada Cup results
- Best 1 of 2 NAC results
- Best 6 of 8 World Cup or Grand Prix Results
- (Athletes who do not attend any NAC's may count 7 of 8 World Cup or Grand Prix results)

DESIGNATED COMPETITIONS												
	CC#1	CC #2	NAC #1	NAC #2	WC #1	WC#2	WC#3	WC#4	WC#5	GP#1	GP#2	GP#3
SENIOR MEN'S EPEE												
dates	25-Sep	25-Nov	3-6 Oct	14-17 Nov Fort Worth	6-8 Nov	4-7 Dec	5-7 Feb	26-29-Mar Marrakech	26-May	23-25 Jan	13-15 Mar	8-10 May
locations	Kingston	Vancouver	Salt Lake City	Worth	Fujairah	Vancouver	Heidenheim	H	Berne	Doha	Budapest	Bogota
SENIOR WOMEN'S EPEE												
dates	25-Sep	25-Nov	3-6 Oct	14-17 Nov Fort Worth	6-8 Nov	4-7 Dec	6-8 Feb	26-29-Mar Marrakech	22-24 May	23-25- Jan	13-15 Mar	8-10 May
locations	Kingston	Vancouver	Salt Lake City	Worth	Fujairah	Vancouver	Wuxi	h	St. Maur	Doha	Budapest	Bogota
SENIOR MEN'S FOIL												
dates	25-Sep	25-Nov	3-6 Oct	14-17 Nov Fort Worth	7-9 Nov	5-7 Dec	9-11 Jan	5-8 Mar	30Apr- 3 May	5-7 Feb	20-22 Mar	15-17 May Shanghai
locations	Kingston	Vancouver	Salt Lake City	Worth	Tunis	Tokyo	Paris	Cairo	TBD	Turin	Lima	i
SENIOR WOMEN'S FOIL												
dates	25-Sep	25-Nov	3-6 Oct	14-17 Nov Fort Worth	7-9 Nov	5-7 Dec	9-11 Jan	5-8 Mar	30Apr-3 May	5-7 Feb	20-22 Mar	15-17 May Shanghai
locations	Kingston	Vancouver	Salt Lake City	Worth	Belgrade	Busan	Hong Kong	Cairo	TBD	Turin	Lima	i
SENIOR MEN'S SABRE												
dates	25-Sep	25-Nov	3-6 Oct	14-17 Nov Fort Worth	6-9 Nov	22-25 Jan Salt Lake City	6-8 Mar	27-29 Mar	22-24 May	4-6 Dec	9-11 Jan	1-3 May
locations	Kingston	Vancouver	Salt Lake City	Worth	Oran	City	Padua	Budapest	Cairo	Orleans	Tunis	Seoul
SENIOR WOMENS SABRE												
dates	25-Sep	25-Nov	3-6 Oct	14-17 Nov	6-9 Nov	22-25 Jan	6-8 Mar	22-24 May		4-6 Dec	9-11 Jan	1-3 May
locations	Kingston	Vancouver	Salt Lake City	Fort Worth	Oran	Salt Lake City	Athens	Lima		Orleans	Tunis	Seoul

Notes: NAC events may be replaced with other competitions if USA Fencing registration requirements (i.e. limitations on the number of athletes allowed to register) change significantly



15. REGISTRATION AND SELECTION POLICIES FOR FIE AND EFC INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Only the CFF can register fencers for designated or Non-Designated Senior World Cup, Grand Prix, and Satellite events, through the FIE website.

Minor athletes participating in any of the above events must be accompanied by an adult (parent, personal coach or another guardian as outlined in a letter sent to the CFF).

Entry Procedures: HPP athletes can only make entry requests for FIE events online through the membership system. The link will be posted at www.fencing.ca under the High Performance tab.¹ For all EFC competitions, athletes must make entry requests by email to internationalentries@fencing.ca.

Athletes should not make any travel arrangements until they have received an email confirming that they have been registered.

Only athletes listed on the High Performance rankings for that weapon are eligible for selection. For any designated or non designated international event, athletes on the HP Program rankings have priority over all other athletes for selection.

Registration deadline: HPP athletes must make registration requests a minimum of 30 days before the first day of competition of any designated or non designated FIE competition OR according to the deadline communicated by the National Team Coach.

Withdrawals from an FIE Competition: Withdrawals must be received by the CFF by e-mail at hpc@fencing.ca at least 14 days prior to the first day of the competition. Voice mail is not acceptable. **Fencers withdrawing after the deadline or who do not show up at the competition will be fined the equivalent of 500 Euros in Canadian dollars and will be suspended from any future international event registration until the fine is paid.**

Exceptions to this fine will be considered if the fencer is withdrawing due to a “force majeure” situation such as an injury or illness, which prevents the fencer from competing. Evidence of the «force majeure» circumstances (ex: medical documentation from a doctor) must accompany the withdrawal notice, which must be sent by e-mail with the withdrawal request before the scheduled competition.

Registration limits:

The CFF will select a maximum of 12 fencers per weapon for each designated Senior World Cup and Grand Prix event², a maximum of four (4) fencers for each non-designated World Cup or Satellite event. While Non-Designated competitions do not count for CFF HPP ranking points, athletes are encouraged to

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²Except for such events that are held in Canada, as detailed below.



enter non-designated World Cups and FIE Satellite events for experience and to improve their FIE rankings.

DESIGNATED SENIOR WORLD CUPS AND GRAND PRIX EVENTS (FIE)

Selection Policies: All selections for designated Senior World Cups and Grand Prix events will be made using the following criteria:

- The top 8 athletes (with a minimum of 1 FIE point) on the FIE Senior rankings for that weapon will be selected.
- The top 2 fencers on the HP Junior rankings not otherwise qualified will be selected.
- Two (2) fencers on the HP rankings will be selected at the discretion of a committee of the High Performance Director, the Executive Director, and the National Coach.

Team Event: Fencers for the team event will be selected by the National coach. All fencers selected for a designated Senior World Cup must be prepared to participate in the team event and abide by the terms of the **“CFF Expectations of Athletes at International Competitions”**.

NON-DESIGNATED SENIOR WORLD CUPS, SATELLITE EVENTS (FIE), and EFC U-23 (UNDER 23) COMPETITIONS

Selection Policies: All selections for non-designated Senior World Cups, satellite and EFC U-23 events will be made as per the CFF non designated international competition policy

SENIOR WORLD CUPS AND GRAND PRIX EVENTS HELD IN CANADA

In the case of Senior World Cups or FIE Grand Prix events when Canada, as host country, is permitted to enter up to 30 athletes. The selection process will be as follows:

- Top 12 Canadians in the FIE Senior Ranking as of registration date (minimum 1 FIE point)
- Top 8 Junior in Canadian HPP Ranking as of registration date (must have junior HPP points)
- Top 2 Cadet in Canadian HPP Ranking as of registration date (must have cadet HPP points)
- If a junior aged fencer is ranked in the top 12 of the senior FIE rankings on the selection date, the next fencer on the junior HPP rankings will be selected. If a cadet aged fencer is ranked in the top 12 of the senior FIE rankings, or in the top 8 of the junior HPP rankings, the next fencer in the cadet HPP ranking will be selected.
- The final 8 fencers will be selected by the HPSP committee based on recommendations by the National Coach.

Please note all selected athletes must be current CFF HP Program members and have a valid FIE license to be eligible to compete any World Cup, regardless of its location.

(Note that additional athletes may be selected by the national coach in order to fill Poule numbers on the day of the competition)





NORTH AMERICAN CUPS (USA FENCING)

Division 1 North American Cups (Div I NAC) are organized by USA Fencing (USFA) and are designated as international selection competitions for the CFF HPP Selection Rankings.

Selection: Fencers must purchase a foreign fencer membership with USFA and comply with USFA rules. Foreign fencer licenses are available through this link: [USA Fencing Memberships](#)

The USFA imposes a minimum standard for Division 1 NAC's, requiring fencers to have an "A", "B" or "C" letter rating to register for a Division I NAC.

In addition, For the 2025-26 season, the USFA will impose registration caps on entries for Division I, Junior, and Cadet NAC's. USFA's explanation of this process is available here: [USA Fencing Registration Process](#)

The CFF publishes a list of letter ratings earned in Canada annually and shares this information with the USFA so that they may update their letter rating database.

Fencers are responsible for their own registration and travel arrangements to North American Cup competitions. Before booking flights or hotels for NAC events, please confirm all dates, locations, and registration deadlines on the USFA website here: [USA Fencing](#)

16. SELECTION PROVISION FOLLOWING DOCUMENTED INJURY / ILLNESS

The National Coach, in collaboration with the HP Director, may select for the National Team or for a competition, an athlete who has been injured or ill during a part of the season, regardless of ranking, if within seven (7) days of the injury or illness, and before an absence in competition, the athlete submitted to the CFF a report of injury accompanied by a recovery plan. The athlete must have been a member of the National Team (as defined by being selected for the Pan American and World Championships) in their category in both of the previous two seasons.

<http://fencing.ca/wp-content/uploads/Injury-Form-March-2016.pdf>

17. SAFE SPORT

All athletes, parents of athletes under the age of 18, coaches and other staff or team members traveling to an event or taking part in the team's activities, are required to complete the Coaching Association of Canada [Safe Sport training](#) module, or the applicable program from [Respect in Sport](#), complete the NEW [Canadian Safe Sport Program \(CSSP\) education module and consent](#) form, and to familiarize themselves with the



information on the [Safe Sport](#) page of the CFF website, including the CFF's [Safe Sport Policy Manual](#).

18. ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (AAP)

For more information about the CFF/Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program (AAP), please consult the documentation on the CFF website under the High Performance Program tab.



APPENDIX A: SENIOR HIGH PERFORMANCE POINT TABLE

Place	Designated FIE events	D1 NACs	Senior Canadian Nationals and Canada Cups
1st	32000	4000	500
2nd	26000	3000	400
3rd	20000	2000	300
5-8	14000	1000	150
9-16	8000	500	75
17-32	4000	250	
33-64	2000	100	
65-96	1000		