



## FENCING ASSOCIATION OF INDIA SELECTION POLICY

## FAI SELECTION POLICY

The Fencing Association of India (FAI) is responsible for the judicious selection of fencers that represent India in international competitions. As such, the best fencers must be chosen based on merit and with the objective to create an optimal pathway for excellence and bring glory to the country.

This Selection Policy provides a broad framework for selection and assures consistency in procedures. This Policy is effective from May 2024.

This Selection Policy shall be applicable for representing India in the Asian Games, World Championships, Grand Prix, World Cups, Satellite Tournaments, Asian Championships, Asian Cadet Cup, and Commonwealth Championships. As for Open Championships, the selection criteria shall be informed on an event-to-event basis. As for the Summer Olympic Games, Youth Olympic Games, and Masters competitions, separate policies would be adopted later.

The Executive Committee of the FAI reserves the right to make changes to this Policy in exceptional circumstances.

### 1. SELECTION AND HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

- 1.1 The FAI shall appoint a seven-member group named the Selection and High-Performance Committee (SHPC) to select the National Team/ Fencers. One of the selectors shall be named Chief/ Chairperson of the SHPC.
- 1.2 The Chief/ Chairperson and members of the SHPC shall be subject to the provisions of this Policy and other general conditions of service, as may be prescribed.
- 1.3 The term of the Committee shall be four years.

- 1.4 The Chief/ Chairperson and members of the SHPC may, by a letter in writing, addressed to the Secretary-General of FAI, resign office and the resignation shall take effect on the day the resignation is accepted by the Secretary-General.
- 1.5 The FAI shall remove any member of SHPC, if he/she:
  - 1.5.1 Acquire financial or other interest as to affect prejudicially his/ her functions;
  - 1.5.2 Abuse their position or violate ethical conduct and his/her continuance in the position is detrimental to public interest;
  - 1.5.3 Is convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for an offence that involves moral turpitude; or
  - 1.5.4 Is physically or mentally incapable.

Provided that a member shall not be removed without giving him/ her a reasonable opportunity of being heard.
- 1.6 The vacancy shall be filled, at the earliest, by the appointment of FAI, and the person so appointed shall hold the position only so long as a member in whose place he/she is appointed would have held the position in case the vacancy had not occurred.
- 1.7 The Chief/ Chairperson and members of the SHPC may receive a consolidated reimbursement of expenses, per selection meeting, as decided by FAI including accommodation and reimbursement of travel bills, as decided by FAI. This does not apply to virtual meetings/ proceedings.

## 2. PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

The performance of fencers in competitions of the FIE, FCA, and standing in the FAI National Championships shall be the main criteria for selection. As for performances at the national level, only participation in FAI owned National Championships will be considered for selection in international competitions. If the National Championships cannot be held owing to a pandemic or natural calamity, then Selection Trials of a long list shall be held for selecting the probable(s).

### 2.1 ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS, WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, AND ASIAN GAMES

#### 2.1.1 Probable(s) –

- a. Depending on funding as stated in 2.1.2 (a) and 2.1.2 (b) – In the senior age-group, the top 8 fencers in each weapon (Foil/ Epee/ Sabre) in the men and women categories in the latest Senior National Championships shall be probable(s). As the above-mentioned competitions are scheduled at the end of the season after the Grand Prix, World Cups, and Satellite Tournaments, there will also be a cumulative assessment of performance in official FIE and FCA international competitions to consider prospective fencers or consider fencers within FIE ranking 200. Probable(s) shall be likely between 10 – 16 fencers and not exceed 16 fencers in number/ per weapon and only 4 fencers plus 2 reserve fencers/ per weapon shall be selected for camp or participation.

(Note: For the Selection Trials in May 2024, FAI EC granted a one-time exception for 16 fencers from the National Championships in each weapon in the men and women categories, as a non-FIE ranking international competition (BRICS Games) was held in the same window.)

- b. Depending on funding as noted in 2.1.2 (a) and 2.1.2 (b) – In the junior age-group, the top 8 fencers in each weapon (Foil/ Epee/ Sabre) in the men and women categories in the latest Junior National Championships shall be probable(s). There will also be a cumulative assessment of performance in official FIE and FCA international competitions to consider prospective fencers or consider fencers within FIE ranking 200. Probable(s) shall be likely between 10 – 16 fencers and not exceed 16 fencers in number/ per weapon and only 4 fencers plus 2 reserve fencers/ per weapon shall be selected for camp or participation.
- c. Depending on funding as noted in 2.1.2 (a) and 2.1.2 (b) – In the cadet age-group, the top 8 fencers in each weapon (Foil/ Epee/ Sabre) in the boys and girls categories in the latest Cadet National Championships shall be probable(s). There will also be a cumulative assessment of performance in official FIE and FCA international competitions to consider prospective fencers. Probable(s) shall be likely between 10 – 16 fencers and not exceed 16 fencers in number/ per weapon and only 4 fencers plus 2 reserve fencers/ per weapon shall be selected for camp or participation.
- d. If the FCA conducts a U-23 Asian Championship/ competition, the top six (6) fencers who fit the age-group from among the winners and participants in each weapon (Foil/ Epee/ Sabre) in the men and women categories in the latest Senior National Championships shall be selected as probable(s).

#### 2.1.2 Selection of Team/ Fencer –

- a. When there is funding from the Government for training camps and participation in advance notice, there will be Selection Trials and a SHPC Observer/ representatives shall be present.
- b. When there is no funding from the Government for training camps or/ and participation in competitions, the final selection

of the National team (four or fewer fencers) could be based on review of their standing. If the top four (4) fencers cannot confirm their entries, then the next four (or fewer) fencers in ranking shall have the opportunity. Likewise, it will follow in order till the number of available slots is finalised.

- c. A four-member team and two reserves selected as per this Selection Policy who participate in one of the competitions listed in 2.1, continue to be in their best form together for another upcoming competition in 2.1, and no other fencer has exceeded the selected fencers in international ranking during the period, then the selected top-six fencers shall be eligible to prepare for/ participate in the next competition, without another Selection Trials.

## 2.2 GRAND PRIX, WORLD CUP, AND SATELLITE TOURNAMENTS

### 2.2.1 Probable(s) –

- a. In the senior age-group, the top eight (8) fencers in the select event (Foil/ Epee/ Sabre: Men/ Women) in the latest Senior National Championships shall be eligible to participate in the FIE Grand Prix, FIE World Cup competitions, and FIE Satellite Tournaments. Four (4) slots in the FIE Grand Prix and FIE World Cup competitions shall be open to senior fencers with high cumulative FIE ranking who were not in the top 8 and the approval shall be on a case-to-case basis. For progressive advancement of junior fencers, the medallists in the select event (Foil/ Epee/ Sabre: Men/ Women) in the latest Junior National Championships in the order of ranking, may be granted the opportunity to participate in a minimum of one FIE Senior World Cup a year. This shall not be mandatory. Junior fencers ranking within the top sixteen (16) to twenty (20) in the select event (Foil/ Epee/ Sabre: Men/ Women) in the latest Junior National Championships are eligible to participate in Satellite Tournaments. Junior fencers with FIE ranking who are not in the

top sixteen/ twenty may participate in the Satellite Tournaments and the approval shall be on a case-to-case basis. Cadet fencers within the top twenty (20) to twenty-four (24) in the select event (Foil/ Epee/ Sabre: Boys/ Girls) in the latest Cadet National Championships are eligible to participate in Satellite Tournaments.

- b. If India is hosting a FIE Grand Prix, the top eight (8) fencers in the select event (Foil/ Epee/ Sabre: Men/ Women) in the latest Senior National Championships shall be eligible to participate in it. In addition, the top eight (8) fencers in the select event (Foil/ Epee/ Sabre: Men/ Women) in the latest Junior National Championships shall be eligible for participation. Four (4) slots shall be open to fencers with high cumulative FIE ranking who were not in the top 8. Fencers ranking 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in the latest Senior/ Junior National Championships or two fencers in the lower order may be considered as reserve(s) and included in the training camps if there is funding from the Government for preparations.
- c. If India is hosting a Senior FIE World Cup individual competition, the top eight (8) fencers in the select event (Foil/ Epee/ Sabre: Men/ Women) in the latest Senior National Championships shall be eligible to participate in it. In addition, the top twelve (12) fencers in the select event (Foil/ Epee/ Sabre: Men/ Women) in the latest Junior National Championships shall be eligible for participation. Ten (10) slots shall be open to fencers with high cumulative FIE ranking who did not rank in the top 8/ 12. Junior fencers ranking 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> or two fencers in the lower order in the latest Junior National Championships may be considered as reserve(s) and included in the training camps if there is funding from the Government for preparations.
- d. If India is hosting a Satellite Tournament, the top eight (8) fencers in the select event (Foil/ Epee/ Sabre: Men/ Women) in the latest

Senior National Championships, the top sixteen (16) to twenty (20) fencers in the select event (Foil/ Epee/ Sabre: Men/ Women) in the latest Junior National Championships, and the top twenty (20) to twenty-four (24) fencers in the select event (Foil/ Epee/ Sabre: Boys/ Girls) in the latest Cadet National Championships shall be eligible to participate in it. Junior fencers with FIE ranking who are not in the top sixteen/ twenty may participate in the Satellite Tournaments and the approval shall be on a case-to-case basis.

- e. In the junior age-group, the top eight (8) fencers in the select event (Foil/ Epee/ Sabre: Men/ Women) in the latest Junior National Championships shall be eligible to participate in the FIE Junior World Cup competitions. Four (4) slots shall be open to junior fencers with high cumulative FIE ranking who are not in the top 8. For progressive advancement of cadet fencers, the top eight (8) fencers in the select event (Foil/ Epee/ Sabre: Boys/ Girls) in the latest Cadet National Championships may be allowed the opportunity to participate in a minimum of one FIE Junior World Cup a year. This shall not be mandatory.
- f. If India is hosting a FIE Junior World Cup individual competition, the top twelve (12) fencers in the select event (Foil/ Epee/ Sabre: Men/ Women) in the latest Junior National Championships shall be eligible to participate in it. Six (6) slots shall be open to junior fencers with high cumulative FIE ranking who are not in the top 12. In addition, the top (12) fencers in the select event (Foil/ Epee/ Sabre: Boys/ Girls) in the latest Cadet National Championships shall be eligible for participation. Fencers ranking 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> or two fencers in the lower order in the latest Junior National Championships may be considered as reserve(s) and included in the training camps if there is funding from the Government for preparations.

## 2.2.2 Selection of Team/ Fencer –

- a. The selection of the fencers in 2.2 competitions shall be based on review of their standing. If the fencers cannot confirm their entries, then the next four (or fewer) fencers in ranking shall have the opportunity. Likewise, it will follow in order till the number of available slots is finalised. The FAI shall decide on the final number of entries.
- b. As for the FIE World Cup team competitions, the fencers selected for the individual competitions shall not automatically be selected for the team competitions. The top four fencers with good credentials and team strategy within the eligible fencers shall be selected/ nominated for entry in the team competitions.
- c. When there are entries of more than four fencers in one weapon (Foil/ Epee/ Sabre) in a category (Men/ Women) in the FIE Satellite Tournament or FIE Junior World Cup, the expenses of a referee shall be met by the fencers, as per the FIE rules. If there are entries of more than nine fencers in one weapon (Foil/ Epee/ Sabre) in a category (Men/ Women) in the FIE Satellite Tournament or FIE Junior World Cup, the expenses of two referees shall be met by the fencers, as per the FIE rules. Likewise, fencers shall pay for proportionate number of referees.

## 2.3 COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Commonwealth Fencing Championships are not a ranking competition of the FIE.

### 2.3.1 Probable(s) –

The top four (4) or five (5) fencers in each weapon (Foil/ Epee/ Sabre) in the men/boys and women/ girls categories in the latest Senior, Junior, and Cadet National Championships are eligible to participate in the Commonwealth Senior, Junior, and Cadet

Championships. However, depending on the availability of fencers and exposure needed for improving performance, other fencers may be considered. If the top four (4) or five (5) fencers are unavailable or do not send their entries, then the next fencers in order of ranking shall be given the opportunity.

#### 2.3.2 Selection of Team/ Fencer –

The selection of the National Team/ Fencers shall be based on review.

### 2.4 ASIAN CADET CIRCUIT/ CUP

#### 2.4.1 Probable(s) –

The top twelve (12) to twenty (20) fencers in each weapon (Foil/ Epee/ Sabre) in the boys and girls categories in the latest Cadet National Championships are eligible to participate in the Asian Cadet Circuit/ Cup, depending on the limit for participation. If the top twelve (12) to twenty (20) fencers are unavailable or do not send entries, then the next fencers in order of ranking shall be given the opportunity. Likewise, it will follow in order till the number of available slots is finalised.

#### 2.4.2 Selection of Team/ Fencer –

The selection of the National Team/ Fencers shall be based on review.

### 3. AUXILIARY NORMS

Other factors that may be taken into consideration in the selection process but are not limited to:

- 3.1 Fencer is disciplined, hardworking, and committed to the high-performance training programme. In the absence of funding from the

Government for preparations, the fencer is still committed to following a well-documented training plan with regular reporting to the office.

- 3.2 Fencer maintains appropriate standards of fitness.
- 3.3 Fencer has demonstrable improvement in performance in recent competitions.
- 3.4 Fencer is supportive of his/ her teammates. His/ her inclusion will have a positive impact on the team.
- 3.5 Fencer has a satisfactory disciplinary record. If any ban or sanctions, it is completed by the time of selection.

Various factors mentioned above will be considered, with appropriate weightage in making the final decision.

### 4. PROCESS AND PROCEEDINGS

- 4.1 When the meeting is in person, an audio/ video recording may also be made, which shall only be used to support any appeal process.
- 4.2 All decisions and outcomes must be recorded before the meeting is concluded, which shall also include any areas of conflict of opinion.
- 4.3 When there is no Government grant for preparatory training camps and there is no physical meeting of the Committee/ SHPC, FAI staff may proceed with the review and take the approval of the Chief.
- 4.4 If there is a meeting, the quorum of the Selection and High-Performance Committee or a smaller sub-committee of representatives is 3.
- 4.5 The selectors must be unbiased and decide rationally, following the criteria and objectives of the selection process. During the

considerations of selection, the selectors shall not combine their function with any other activity, such as a member of the State/ Union Territory Association, personal coach, etc. If a selector is related to the fencer or is a personal coach to the fencer or has any other role in connection with the sport during the considerations of selection, the selector shall declare the conflict of interest. The conflicted Committee/ SHPC member may present the merits of the fencer but shall not vote in making the final decision.

- 4.6 Beyond appeal proceedings, the discussions of the Committee/ SHPC must remain confidential and not be disclosed to anyone else at any point in time.
- 4.7 The final list of the National team/ fencers must be announced as much in advance as possible to facilitate the timely process of visas, Govt. approvals, etc.
- 4.8 Fencers have the obligation to admit at the time of announcing the selection or at any stage during the selection process if they suffer from any ailments/ injuries. In case of doubt, the FAI/ Committee/ SHPC can request the fencer to undergo a medical assessment at their own cost.
- 4.9 If unavoidable risk to the health of a fencer is foreseen in competing, the fencer may be excluded from selection or participation. Such a decision shall be supported by medical assessment.
- 4.10 Generally, the FAI shall not change a team/ fencer once finalised for a competition, unless warranted by unavoidable circumstances with due justification, and, if any, the changes shall be informed to all concerned.
- 4.11 Reserve(s) may not be identified for all competitions. Fencers selected as reserve(s) are expected to maintain an appropriate level of preparation for the competition.

## **5. POST-SELECTION**

- 5.1 If any fencer desires to appeal the decision, he/she shall submit an appeal in writing within 24-hours of the announcement/ intimation. The decision that is contested shall be suspended, pending the outcome of the appeal. FAI Secretary-General and SHPC representatives shall process the appeal and resolve it, within a working day or at the earliest. FAI shall communicate the decision to all parties concerned. The decisions such made shall be final and binding to the parties hereto.
- 5.2 Fencers may request feedback for non-selection. Such a request shall not be considered as initiating an appeal but only to support athlete development.
- 5.3 Fencers who wish to decline their place shall inform the FAI of the same, no later than two (2) calendar days after the announcement/ intimation of the selection.
- 5.4 In accepting the selection, the fencer (parent/ guardian in the case of a minor) is bound by the Terms and Conditions of the selection, FIE Rules, FAI Guidelines and Policies, World Anti-doping Code, Rules and Regulations of the organisers, and other directions applicable for the competition.
- 5.5 The selected fencer shall follow up with the FAI office for documentation and other processes regarding participation in competitions.

## **6. TEAM OFFICIALS/ COACHES**

- 6.1 The FAI shall decide on the final list of accompanying coaches, officials, etc.
- 6.2 Qualification, skill, experience, and discipline shall be the criteria for appointing coaches and support staff accompanying the fencers.