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REFEREE QUALIFICATIONS INFORMATION

The Refereeing Qualifications for British Fencing are as follows:

1 – Basic Referee

Has an understanding of the role of a referee and has demonstrated the ability to apply the rules to a bout.

2 – Referee

Demonstrated ability to referee during the poules and early DE rounds of Open competitions.

3 – National Referee

Demonstrated ability to referee from the poules to the final of a medium sized Open competition.

4 – Senior National Referee

Demonstrated ability to referee at any level of a national competition.

Existing qualifications are deemed to be at the same level as the new ones so anyone holding a refereeing qualification will have that recognised under the new scheme.

Exam Structure

The exam structure for these levels is detailed below. Each level is held separately for each weapon. A candidate may present themselves for an exam at any level that is appropriate. There is no need to start as a Basic Referee if sufficient experience, ability and knowledge can be demonstrated.

1 – Basic Referee

- 65% pass mark in the written exam
- Observation of refereeing at any level (including non-competitive fencing)
- This level is deliverable as a day-long course covering both theoretical and practical elements

2 – Referee

- 80% pass mark in the written exam (this can have been achieved as part of the Basic Referee examination)
- Discussion of refereeing experience
- Observation at a suitable competition (including age group competitions)

3 – National Referee

- Oral examination of the rules
- Discussion of refereeing experience
- Prolonged observation at all stages of suitable competitions

4 – Senior National Referee

- Oral and practical examinations to the satisfaction of the examiner

The organisation of examinations is the responsibility of the Home Nations. The Refereeing Committee (RefCom) will supply the written exam for Basic Referees and Referees as well as a template for practical observations to any examiner. The RefCom will also coordinate the sharing of suitable course material.

A qualification given on a course organized by one Home Nation is valid across all Home Nations. Similarly, an examiner appointed by one Home Nation is able to examine candidates in any of the Home Nations.

Appointment of Examiners

In all cases, the examiner must hold a refereeing qualification of at least the level and for the weapon they are examining.

1 – Basic Referee Examiner & 2 – Referee Examiner

Examiners at these levels are appointed by the Home Nations. The appointment is valid from the time that the RefCom is informed. The RefCom may raise detailed concerns about the competence of examiners with the appoint Home Nation. If any specific concerns are not resolved within one calendar month of the RefCom raising those concerns then the RefCom may rescind the appointment of the examiner.

3 – National Referee Examiner

Examiners at this level are nominated to the RefCom by the Home Nations. Unless there are unresolved concerns raised by the RefCom then the nominations are automatically confirmed after one calendar month. If any concerns raised by the RefCom are not resolved then the RefCom can refuse the nomination. The RefCom may, at any point, raise concerns with the nominating Home Nation, which, if not addressed within one calendar month, may cause the RefCom to rescind the appointment of the examiner.

4 – Senior National Referee Examiner

Examiners at this level are appointed directly by the RefCom in consultation with the Home Nations.

Any appointment as an examiner is for a term of three years. At that point the appointing body should review the activity and competence of the examiner before proposing renewal of the appointment.