

SENIOR RANKING SCHEME

With effect from 1st September 2015



BRITISH FENCING

DEFINITIONS

Season	The 12-month period starting on the 1st day of September in each year.
Senior	Open to fencers aged 13 or over before 1st January in the calendar year of the competition.
Open	A single gender, individual Competition held in the UK or Ireland (ROI) 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.
FIE Competition	Any individual Senior competition appearing on the FIE calendar including such events held in the UK.
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

V1.0 06/09/2015 First published version

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 Ranking Scheme applies to all Competitions from 1st September 2015 and rankings published from 1st October 2015.

The revised NIF allocation in section 5.4 will additionally apply to the start of season rankings published on 1st September 2015.

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 are entitled to a place on the ranking irrespective of nationality or prior 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.

2.2 Qualifying Results

Fencers may score points in any Senior Individual Registered Open Competition or in any official FIE Individual Competition.

All Competitions must be run in accordance with a standard formula broadly in line with FIE Article o.11 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.

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.

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.

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

Each Competition shall be counted only 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 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.

2.6 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 or that they fall within the definition of “Overseas Fencers” (c.f. 5.2).

Organisers must provide British Fencing with a complete set of results from first to last place as soon as practically possible and in any event no later than 5 days after the final.

Results submitted after 5 days and up to 30 days will be included subject to the penalty specified in Section 3 below.

All results must include valid BFA Membership numbers for all competitors except Overseas Fencers (c.f. 5.2).

Results must be in an approved format and submitted by the method published on the British Fencing website. Results not submitted as above will be subject to the penalties specified in section 3 below.

Guidance on how to make common event software produce the correct output can be found at <http://www.fencingresults.net>

3 Table of Penalties

Rule	Penalty*	Applies to
Failure to provide complete and accurate data within 5 days.	Reduction in Grading Multiplier (c.f. 4.1) by 10% before any rounding.	Each Competition individually.
Failure to provide complete and accurate data within 30 days.	Exclusion.	Each Competition individually.
Inclusion of unlicensed fencers including incorrectly classified Overseas Fencers.	Reduction in Grading Multiplier (c.f. 4.1) by 20% before any rounding.	Each Competition individually.
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.

The above penalties may be applied at any time. Rankings which have already been published will 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 1st 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 present rounded down to the nearest whole number.</p>
Senior British Championships	As Opens	As Opens times 1.2 before any rounding.
Satellites	World ranking at the start of the Season BFA rolling rankings at 1st September or 1st March, whichever is the more recent	<p>Method 1</p> <p>For all fencers with World Ranking points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 to 20 count 30 • 21 to 40 count 15 • 41 to 100 count 5 • 100 to 200 count 3 • 200 to last fencer with points count 1 <p>BFA members count the maximum of the World Ranking value above and their individual NIF assigned for Opens (c.f. 5.2).</p> <p>Method 2 (if greater)</p> <p>0.75 times the number present rounded down to the nearest whole number.</p>
World Cup (A-Grades)	World ranking after the most recent World Championships or Olympic Games	<p>Sum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 to 20 count 60 • 21 to 40 count 30 • 41 to 100 count 10

➤ For FIE competitions, results will be as obtained from the FIE website.

4.2 Final Position Multiplication Factors

The multiplication factor for each position (p) will be calculated by the formula:

$$f(p) = T - (\log_{10}(p) * G) - (\text{ceil}(\log_2(p)) * S)$$

using the constants: T (top score) = 20, G (gradient) = 2.6, S (step) = 2

The results of this formula to 128th place are shown in the following table.

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

- Under the 2015 scheme, this means that Social and U13 membership grades are not acceptable but members and organisers are advised to check the BFA web site for changes.

5.2 Overseas Fencers

Fencers **who do not attend a UK club** may be considered Overseas and are allowed to enter Opens as guests at the sole discretion of the Competition Organiser.

Competition Organisers are not required to check FIE or National Federation licences for Overseas Fencers but must take all reasonable steps to ensure that only genuine Overseas Fencers are permitted to take advantage of this concession.

- **For the avoidance of doubt, a fencer who has any affiliation with a UK Club cannot also claim to be “Overseas”. Results which are submitted with this anomaly will be queried and may be subject to penalties (c.f. section 3).**

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 on the NIF of BFA members finishing below them in the final ranking.

For Overseas fencers with world ranking points:

World Ranking	NIF assigned
1-20	20
21-40	12
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
24+	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	11-30	6-15	6-15	6-15	6-10
3	36-70	31-60	16-30	16-30	16-30	11-20
1	71-175	61-150	31-75	31-75	31-75	21-50