

# OFC COMPETITION GUIDELINES

## AWARDING OF MEDALS

### For Oceania Championships held as stand-alone events:

- Medals for Oceania Championships will be provided by the OFC and paid for by the host nation.
- All competitors must be citizens (hold a passport/proof of nationality) of the OFC member or associate member country they represent. In the case of French Polynesia and New Caledonia, a competitor may hold a French passport. They must be affiliated members of the country they represent.
- For individual competitions, the Oceania Championships will award a gold, silver and two bronze medals for equal third.
- For team events, the Oceania Championships will have gold, silver and bronze medals for third (one team only – fence-off for third place required). In exceptional circumstances and where a country or countries do not have at least 3 fencers to form a national team, the DT may allow combined teams made up of fencers from more than one OFC nationality to compete in a team event and to be awarded medals.
- For Veteran Championships, there will be one set of medals for the overall competition. In addition, a gold medal will be provided for the winner of each age category (40+, 50+, 60+ and 70+), provided there are at least two competitors in the relevant category.

### For Oceania Championships held in conjunction with other National events

- Medals for Oceania Championships will be provided by the OFC and paid for by the host nation.
- All medallists must be citizens (hold a passport/proof of nationality) of the OFC member or associate member country they represent. In the case of French Polynesia and New Caledonia, a competitor may hold a French passport. They must be affiliated members of the country they represent.
- For individual competitions, the Oceania Championships will award a gold, silver and two bronze medals for equal third. When medallist(s) from the National competition do not come from OFC countries, then the highest ranked eligible fencer(s) will be promoted based on the Overall Ranking of the competition.
- For team events, the Oceania Championships will have gold, silver and bronze medals for third (one team only – fence-off for third place required). In exceptional circumstances and where a country or countries do not have at least 3 fencers to form a national team, the DT may allow combined teams made up of fencers from more than one OFC nationality to compete in a team event and to be awarded medals.
- Oceania fencers or teams may be required to fence off to determine gold or silver medals because of ineligible fencers or teams who win medals in the main competition, as determined by the DT.

- Where the highest ranked Oceania fencers are eliminated in the same round, then the two Oceania fencers with the highest rank going into the Tableau will fence a final for the Oceania Championship.

## EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

The personal equipment requirements for Oceania Championships should conform to the regulations specified in the FIE rules. Any variation to these requirements must be approved in consultation with the OFC.

## ENTRY FEES FOR OCEANIA COMPETITIONS

As per the FIE Administrative Rules 6.2, the entry fees for all Oceania Championships will be determined by the Oceania Fencing Confederation as outlined below. The entry fees for the competition are paid to the host country who cover all costs for the competition. The host country is responsible for the cost of Oceania Fencing Confederation Medals to be presented at the event (which are organised through the OFC).

**Entries for OFC individual and team events must be made by the member or associate member federation directly to the organising country.**

For Oceania Championships held as stand-alone events:

The host country must submit the proposed entry fees for the competition to the OFC Regional Sport Director for approval at least three months prior to the start of the Championships. The proposal can include entry fees for both individual and team events. The fees should not exceed the amount specified for entries to the World Championships as specified in the FIE Administrative Rules 6.2 (i.e. equivalent of 55 Euros for individual events and 140 Euros for Team events).

For Oceania Championships held in conjunction with other National events

One entry fee is charged for both the Oceania and equivalent National event. The entry fee should be equivalent to that charged for the National event, and must be submitted to the OFC Regional Sport Director for approval at least three months prior to the start of the Championships. Where separate Oceania Championship events are held in addition to the same type of event (individual or team) at a National competition in which fencers from Oceania are eligible to compete, no entry fee is to be charged for the Oceania event.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR OFC CHAMPIONSHIPS

The scheduling for OFC Championships should be organised according to the following timeline:

- Dates for the competition at least 12 months prior to the start of the Championships
- Schedule of events by day at least 3 months prior to the start of the Championships
- Draft timetable with rough start times at least 6 weeks prior to the start of the Championships
- Registrations/entries open at least 6 weeks prior to the start of the Championships
- Closing date for regular entries at least 2 weeks prior to the start of the Championships
- Final timetable including start times at least 1 week prior to the start of the Championships

# ORGANISATIONAL RULES FOR OFC CHAMPIONSHIPS

Where possible, Oceania Championships should be organised according to the FIE Organisational Rules. However, due to the nature of the competitions, there are some exceptions to these rules as noted below. In addition, where the Oceania Championships are held in conjunction with other National events, variations to the Rules may be permitted in accordance with the circumstances or practices of the host nation. These variations should be communicated to the OFC Regional Sport Director at least three months prior to the competition for distribution to member countries.

o.10-o.28 – The host country should communicate to the OFC Regional Sport Director the members of the Directoire Technique at least two weeks prior to the Championship. In addition, the President of the OFC and/or the OFC Regional Sport Director should be included on the Directoire Technique where circumstances permit. Suitable personnel for each of the main areas of responsibility (referees, technical experts, medical, etc.) should be identified for each day of the competition. Although not preferred, where required for the smooth running of the competition, members of the Directoire Technique may act in other capacities at the competition.

o. 29 – The FIE rules regarding age of participants generally apply at OFC competitions. However, exceptions may be made to the minimum age requirements for Cadet and Junior competitions only (o.29.1) by request to the OFC in consultation with the host nation.

o.29.6 – For OFC Veteran competitions, the age categories are based on minimum ages rather than age categories (participants count as part of their own age category and all “lower” categories). The age categories for OFC Veteran Championships are:

- Age Group 40+ - must be at least 40 years old in the year of competition
- Age Group 50+ - must be at least 50 years old in the year of competition
- Age Group 60+ - must be at least 60 years old in the year of competition
- Age Group 70+ - must be at least 70 years old in the year of competition.

o.29-o.64 – These rules do not apply to the Oceania Championships. However, the following guidelines apply to OFC competitions:

- There is no limit on the number of individual entries from each nation who can participate in the Oceania Championships. For team events, each country can nominate one team, although additional teams (including teams made up of members of different countries) may be permitted at the determination of the Tournament Organisers.
- Referees for Oceania Championships will be organised by the host nation from suitably qualified FIE or national level referees. Where necessary, the OFC will provide cover the cost of travel for additional, non-host nation referee or referees to officiate at the event. In this case, the host nation will be required to provide accommodation & a per diem for the additional referee or referees.
- There is no requirement for the host nation to invite specific international officials.

o.67-o.68 – The procedure for seeding for the placement into poules will be at the determination of the Directoire Technique. The number of competitors in each pool can be determined by the Directoire Technique in accordance with the requirements of the competition .

o.72 – For Oceania Championships, it is not required to eliminate any competitors after the round of poules (i.e. all competitors progress to the direct elimination phase).

o.74 – The change to the classification of fencers who withdraw during the course of a pool will apply from the 2019 OFC Senior Championships (not applicable for the 2019 OFC Junior Championships).

o.75 – The composition of pools for OFC Veteran Championships is at the discretion of the Directoire Technique.

o.77 – The organisers are not required to publish the scheduled times for each bout during Direct Elimination.

o.80 – Where required for the smooth running of the competition, the Directoire Technique may alter the order of bouts from that published in the bout plan.

o.83-o.96 – These rules do not apply to OFC Championships.

o.98 – Where the team event is preceded by an individual event at the same Championships, the placement of teams into the direct elimination table will be based on the results of the team members in the individual event. Where there are only three teams in an event, the teams may fence a pool unique instead of elimination at the discretion of the Directoire Technique.

o.98.3 – It is not required for teams to fence for places on the table, except for the match to determine third and fourth place.

o.103 – For OFC Veteran Championships, teams consist of 3 fencers (with an optional reserve) of any age category. Matches are then fenced by relay to 45 hits as per standard team competitions. The teams will fence in an elimination competition. Where there are only three teams in an event, the teams may fence a pool unique instead of elimination at the discretion of the Directoire Technique.

o.105 – The direct elimination bouts can be fenced on any number of pistes at the determination of the Directoire Technique. Video refereeing is not required for Oceania Championships, but can be used, for some or all pistes, if available.

## TECHNICAL RULES FOR OFC CHAMPIONSHIPS

Where possible, Oceania Championships should be organised according to the FIE Technical Rules. However, due to the nature of the competitions, there are some exceptions to these rules as noted below. In addition, where the Oceania Championships are held in conjunction with other National events, variations to the Rules may be permitted in accordance with the circumstances or practices of the host nation. These variations should be communicated to the OFC Regional Sport Director at least three months prior to the competition for distribution to member countries. Where the FIE has recently approved or introduced new rules, the application of these rules will be made on a case by case basis for each OFC Championship.

Note - The changes to the technical rules introduced at the FIE Congress in December 2018 will apply to OFC Championships from 2019 onwards (in particular note the changes to non-combativity in t.124). The changes which apply specifically from the start of the 2019-2020 FIE season do not as names and national uniforms are not required for OFC competitions. A current version of the FIE rules is available on the FIE website ([www.fie.org](http://www.fie.org))

t.47.1 – Referees at Oceania Championships can be FIE accredited or suitably qualified national-level referees.

t.50 – Due to the limited number of member countries, it is not required to ensure that referees do not come from the same country as competitors.

t.60-62 – Video refereeing is not required for OFC Competitions, but can be used for some or all of the specified matches if available. Where it is used, the rules specified in t.42.3 are applicable.

t.74-75 – Name and National uniform and logo are recommended for OFC competitions, but not required.

t.124 – The new rules regarding unwillingness to fight (non-combativity) will apply in all OFC Championships from 2019.