



PROCESS FOR NATIONAL OFFICIATING ACCREDITATION

ELIGIBILITY

In order to be nominated as a candidate for National Accreditation, a referee must hold State Officiating Accreditation, and must have held this Accreditation for at least 12 months prior to the nomination. Exemption from the 12 month duration may be granted where the candidate can demonstrate that they have successfully completed all of the re-accreditation requirements for State Officiating Accreditation within a shorter time period.

State Officiating Directors may nominate any eligible referees to the National Coaching and Officiating Manager to undergo assessment at any AFC Competition – however, there may be a limit to the total number of candidates assessed at any event or competition.

ASSESSMENT FOR NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

Candidates for assessment will be required to referee during a National competition, as directed by the Referee Delegate for the event, with a minimum allocation of one pool and three direct elimination bouts required to complete the assessment. During the refereeing, the candidate will be observed and evaluated by the National Coaching and Officiating Manager (NCOM) or another appointed assessor on the basis of the performance standards outlined in the AFFs National Officiating Training Program. At the end of the competition, the NCOM or assessor will award the candidate a rating in two major criteria:

- 1) Technical competence
- 2) Manner and conduct

Each rating will be on a 10 point scale (1-3 = Not yet proficient, 4-7 = Proficient and 8-10 = Highly proficient). The candidate must receive a minimum rating of 4 on each criteria to demonstrate competence for their initial assessment, and maintain an average rating of four in each criteria across all competitions to retain National Accreditation status.

The NCOM or assessor will also provide feedback to the candidate as to areas of possible development or improvement.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

In order to be granted National Accreditation, a Referee must be a capitated member of their State Fencing Association and pay an AFF Accreditation Fee of \$25.

PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION

A candidate who is successful in their Assessment will be awarded Provisional National Accreditation for 12 months. At the end of this period, they will be upgraded to full National Accreditation provided they demonstrate ongoing refereeing practice and development by accumulating 36 points from the list of National Accreditation activities. If they do not gain sufficient points then their National Accreditation lapses and they must be assessed as before to regain Provisional status.

MAINTAINING NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

Provided their observed refereeing remains at a sufficient standard (minimum average rating of 4+ across all events), National Accredited referees can maintain their accreditation by accumulating 36 points from the list of National Accreditation activities each year, remaining a capitated member of their State Fencing Association, and paying an annual AFF Accreditation Fee. A referee who does not maintain their accreditation, or whose average rating is below the required threshold, must apply for assessment as a National Referee candidate in order to regain Provisional status.

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION ACTIVITIES

Part A – Refereeing Practice (minimum 20 points)*

The points for Refereeing Practice are weapon-specific, so can only apply to accreditation in the relevant weapon.

- Referee for a pool at National Fencing Competition – 1 point
- Referee for a direct elimination bout at a National Fencing Competition – 0.5 points
- Referee/Assistant for a Final Series (3 bouts) at a National Fencing Competition – 1 point
- Referee for a Team Match at a National Fencing Competition – 1 point if single referee, 0.5 points if two referees

* up to 12 points gained from experience at State Open competitions (verified by State Officiating Director) can be included with a multiplier of 0.5; experience at international competitions (verified by FIE) can be included with a multiplier of 1.5.

Part B – Fencing/General Theory (minimum 8 points)

The points in this section may be weapon-specific, which only apply to accreditation in the relevant weapon, or general, so can be applied to accreditation in all weapons (and the same activity can be applied for accreditation across multiple weapons). The list of approved activities and their point value will be updated by the NCOM, but examples include:

- participate in AFF or State refereeing seminars/workshops
- Intermediate Officiating General Principles Course
- attendance at relevant sport theory workshops/training
- completion of First Aid Course
- completion of training exercises/activities
- participation in Officials mentoring/training program
- other activities approved by NCOM