

## The Selection Zone

The Selection Zone is the list of eligible fencers who will be considered by the selectors. In general, it will be around twice the number of fencers required for selection to allow for availability but this will vary depending on the particular event.

## Pre-Selection

If you are in the selection zone, England Fencing will try to contact you to find out if you will be available for the event in question. Please answer this enquiry promptly and honestly as possible, since late withdrawal always creates a lot of work and may cost another fencer a place, for example if they have made alternative travel arrangements in the meantime.

This is also the time when you are able to make a representation to the selectors to advise them of any personal circumstances which may have affected your previous ranking or performance and might lead you to be overlooked. Examples of this might be that you were injured for part of the season or had to miss certain vital events for school or family reasons.

The more information you can provide the selectors, the better able they will be to make a fair and balanced decision. If you make a representation to the selectors, you should always include details of your current training regime and your plans for training in the run up to the event.

If you believe that you should be in the selection zone and have not been contacted, please get in touch with the Team Manager or the Director of Representative Fencing as soon as possible.

## When to Appeal

If you have been not selected and you think that you should have been, you may consider an appeal.

The time limit for submitting your appeal will be announced with the selection dates and you must provide all your evidence by this closing date.

In general, it is not the purpose of the appeals procedure to scrutinise the skill or judgement of the selectors but rather to ensure that they have made a reasonable decision based on the best available information. You should remember that discretionary places are awarded based on a number of factors including the selectors' judgement on how well you will complement the other members of the team so the fact that you are next on the ranking list is not, in itself, sufficient to warrant an appeal.

The grounds on which you can appeal are :-

1. **The selectors have not followed the published selection rules.**

This is extremely rare since the rules are normally very simple, however if you do have a valid appeal on this basis then it will be automatically upheld.

## 2. **The decision of the selectors was manifestly perverse or unfair.**

This is again extremely rare. If your appeal is successful on this basis, alternative selectors will be appointed and asked to re-examine the entire selection.

## 3. **The selectors have failed to take account of information which they could reasonably have been expected to know and as a result may have come to an invalid conclusion.**

This is the most common cause for appeal and the most likely to succeed. The new procedure for gathering information in advance of selection is intended to make this much less likely to happen but if you feel that the selectors have failed to take into account some vital fact then you may appeal and ask for it to be considered.

In order for an appeal on these grounds to be upheld you will need to demonstrate :-

- a) That the selectors have not considered certain information;
- b) That it was reasonable and practical for them to consider the information; and
- c) That had they considered the information it could have affected the selection decision.

## **The Appeal Process**

On receipt of your appeal, a panel of 3 England Fencing directors will be assembled. This panel will consider the information you provide together with input from the selectors and, where appropriate, other affected fencers.

All appeals are conducted on the basis of written submissions. You will not be asked to appear in person before the panel nor will the panel normally contact you to ask for additional details. For this reason, it is vital that you provide all relevant details with your appeal.

The panel will make its decision and communicate this in writing (normally by email) to you. The aim is to deal with all appeals within 7 days of receipt however this is not always possible due to difficulties in obtaining information, particularly when interested parties are abroad.

In the event that the appeal is going to take longer than anticipated, you will be kept informed of the appeal progress and the expected decision date.

## **The Decision**

### ***Appeal Not Upheld***

If your appeal is not upheld, you will be informed of the reasons in writing and the matter is then closed. There is no further right of appeal.

### ***Appeal Upheld***

If your appeal is upheld the selectors will be asked to review the selection decision in the light of

the additional information. In the case of a manifestly unfair or perverse decision (case 2, above) a new panel of selectors will be appointed and the entire selection reviewed.

A revised selection decision will be issued by the selectors together with a written report setting out the reasons for the selection and making specific reference to the appeal grounds.

This decision and the report will be sent to you in writing. You should note that even if your appeal is upheld there is no guarantee that the selectors will reverse their initial decision.

The decision of the appeals panel and where appropriate the selectors is final. There is no further right of appeal.