

Refereeing Examinations

INTRODUCTION

This is intended as a handbook for those who act as Refereeing Examiners for the Irish Fencing Federation. All examiners are appointed by the Referees' Sub-Committee.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide guidelines in an endeavour to ensure a uniformity and consistency in the examination process as well as uniform examination standards.

This edition is dated November, 2012. Further editions will be produced as and when necessary. Any queries should be addressed to the Referees' Committee c/o the IFF or direct to the Chairman or Secretary. Your comments on its content will be welcome.

GENERAL EXAMINATION PROCEDURE - Domestic Referees

Examiners are those specifically approved by the Referees' Sub Committee.

There is no fee for sitting the examination though course organisers may charge an attendance fee for any course that is being run.

Candidates are required to take the examinations in the appropriate order i.e. a candidate for the level 4 examination must already be qualified at grades 3, 2 and 1.

The examinations should be taken:

Level 4 - at a Major open event (Irish Open, Northern Ireland Open) , Senior National Championships or European Cadet Circuit event, when the examiner/s should observe the refereeing of several Direct Elimination bouts which include at least one last eight bout. The candidate should also be subject to an oral examination where the examiner should thoroughly test the depth of the candidate's knowledge of the rules of the weapon concerned.

Level 3 -at an Open event (Irish Open, Northern Ireland Open, East of Ireland, South of Ireland, West of Ireland, Derry Open, North West Open, Federation Foil, Dublin Epee, Vinnie Sabre) or Senior National Championships when the examiner should observe the refereeing of several Direct Elimination bouts. 2-hour pre-examination seminar can be held night before event at which candidate will also sit a written examination the pass mark for which is 90%

Level 2 -at a competition or at a specific course when the examiner should observe the refereeing of several bouts. If the examination is taken at a course the bouts refereed should be those in which electric recording apparatus is used. There is no written examination.

Level 1 after a refereeing course of at least 6 hours' duration. A written examination has to be taken, and there is also a practical refereeing test and a brief oral. The examination consists of 30 questions – 20 generic and 10 weapon specific. The pass mark is at least 70 per cent. Feedback will be provided to candidates. Successful candidates will be given a logbook which should be completed going forward by competition organiser at each competition when candidate has refereed. Two examiners will facilitate this course.

International Referees Level 4 who have been registered as 'candidates' take a FIE examination after having been recommended by the Referees' Sub-Committee

Candidates should be current members of the IFF. The minimum age for qualifying at Level 3 and above is sixteen though examinations at the other grades may be taken at a younger age. No referee aged under eighteen may be allowed to referee unsupervised by a competent adult.

Recognition of refereeing qualifications from other bodies will be dealt with on a case by case basis by the Refereeing Sub-Committee.

The Referees' Sub-Committee will be able to provide a list of events at which the Level 4 examinations may be taken. This information will appear on the IFF website.

Examiners should have with them a current copy of the FIE of the Rules for Competitions (British Fencing edition in English)

Do not let other competitors know that you are examining and never interfere during a bout.

On the successful completion of an examination, a pass certificate (copy attached) should be completed in the appropriate way. The top part of the form should be sent to the secretary of the Referees' Sub-Committee with the lower portion being retained by the candidate. Successful candidates will be advised in writing by the secretary of the Referees Sub-Committee.

The examiner should keep their own written record of the examination together with, in the event that the examinee has failed the examination, details of the reason for the failure.

International Referees

F.I.E. Examination Procedure: These examinations can only be taken by Level 4 referees at specified 'A' Grade events by candidates who have been approved by the Referees' Sub-Committee. Any candidate must contact the Referees' Sub-Committee who will advise on the preparation of a CV and will provide, if they are still in use, a copy of the F.I.E. Written (Rules) Multiple Choice Examination Questions for the candidate to study. The candidate should be prepared to achieve a very high score in the multiple choice examination which can be taken in English, French or Spanish.