



COMMONWEALTH FENCING FEDERATION
JUNIOR AND CADET CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018
FINAL REPORT

The fifth edition of the Commonwealth Junior and Cadet Fencing Championships (individual and team) were hosted by England Fencing from 23 to 30 July 2018. These Championships were particularly significant in that, for the first time, Cadet team events were part of the 24-event program.

The addition of Cadet team events may also have had a beneficial effect on participation as entries for the Championships exceeded 420, with fencers coming from 19 nations.



The following nations were registered for this event:

Australia
Canada
England

India
Jamaica
Jersey

New Zealand
Pakistan (under CFF)
Republic of South Africa

Ghana
Gibraltar
Guernsey
Isle of Man

Malaysia
Nigeria
Northern Ireland

Scotland
Singapore
Wales

The Championships were held at Sport Central at Northumbria University, in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England.

The CFF gratefully acknowledges the assistance and logistical support provided by the members of the Organising Committee (OC) headed by its Chairman, Mr. Peter Smith and his team, including notably Chris Hyde, Roy Clarke, Beth Davidson, as well as Oliver Smith and Alex Savin.

The Directoire Technique (DT) was headed by CFF Technical Commission Chair Marie-France Dufour, assisted by Peter Jacobs (FIE MH) and Janet Huggins (FIE SEMI Commission member), with Helen Smith, President of the CFF, as ex-officio member. Additionally, Peter Huggins had been delegated by the OC to act as referee coordinator for the event.



At the closing medal ceremony, the CFF was able to recognize and celebrate one young fencer's initiative and enthusiasm. With the DT's permission, he set-up and organized a 'Commonwealth Challenge' team event, in which each of the two teams were made up of young fencers from a variety of countries who had been eliminated in the earlier rounds. This was a display of sportsmanship at its best and it was felt that this initiative embodied the true spirit of the Commonwealth.

On two team event days, demonstrations of wheelchair fencing were scheduled and culminated with a challenge issued to able-bodied fencers to fence a bout with an experienced wheelchair fencer, which the latter readily won.



RESULTS

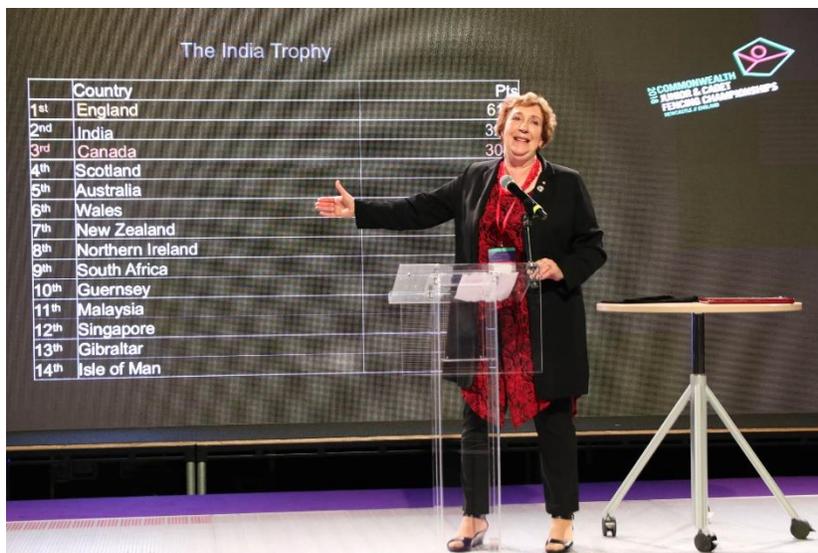
WEAPON	# FENCERS	DELEGATION	MEDALISTS
MF JR	39	ENG ENG SIN CAN	G Harry BIRD S Connor HEAD B Dominic De ALMEIDA B Niklas HOLLAND
WF JR	45	CAN SCO NZL AUS	G Katie DU S Mhairi McLAUGHLIN B Lena JACOB B Tianji LUKINS
ME JR	38	ENG SCO IND AUS	G William EAST S Alex PAPADOPOULOS B Lisham BHUPEN SINGH B Alexander SELLS
WE JR	38	ENG	G Laura SHEFFIELD

		SCO ENG IND	S Alex STEWART B Alexandra POWELL B Yashkeerat KAUR HAYER
MS JR	32	ENG ENG ENG IND	G James EDWARDS S Zachary HAMILTON B Barnaby HALLIWELL B Karan SINGH
WS Jr	26	ENG IND ENG NIR	G Shreya ANIL S Husanpreet KAUR B Sophia POTTER B Beth TAYLOR
MF CD	41	CAN CAN CAN ENG	Lucas SINGS Niklas HOLLAND Caden LEE Cameron EVANS
WF CD	37	AUS NZL AUS AUS	Tianji LUKINS Lena JACOB Giorgia SALMAS Krystal JESSUP
ME CD	34	IND ENG CAN ENG	Sherjin RAJENDRAN SHANTHIMOL Benjamin ANDREWS Riley XIAN Luke MASON
WE CD	35	ENG ENG SCO WAL	Eleanor TAYLOR Maia HENDERSON-ROE Keira PAPADOPOULOS Abigail WATKINS
MS CD	27	ENG ENG ENG IND	Julian RICHARDS II Samuel BOORNE Luke HAYNES Abhay Krishna SHINDE
WS CD	22	ENG SCO CAN AUS	Ellen ROBBINS-WILKINSON Elsie LLEWELLYN Caroline WHITEHEAD Alexandra HELY
MF JrTm			G ENG S CAN B IND
WF JrTm	7		G CAN S AUS B ENG

ME JrTm	9		G IND S WAL B AUS
WE JrTm	7		G ENG S CAN B SCO
MS JrTm	8		G ENG S IND B SCO
WS JrTm			G IND S ENG B SCO
MF CdTm			G ENG S IND B CAN
WF CdTm			G AUS S ENG B NZL
ME CdTm			G IND S ENG B SCO
WE CdTm			G SCO S ENG B IND
MS CdTm			G ENG S SCO B IND
WS CdTm			G ENG S SCO B IND

Each edition of these Championships has seen an innovation introduced and, this time, the novelty proved to be the first run of Cadet teams. This was a resounding success as almost as many Cadet teams were entered as Junior teams. This is a healthy development and certainly bodes well for the future. The team event is very popular with all fencers and although England clearly dominated, the strong showing of all Indian teams was also quite remarkable.

In all weapons, Cadet entries were nearly equivalent to that of the Juniors. Another striking trend was noted as some of the women's event drew larger number of participants than some of the men's events; of particular note was the strong entry in women's foil in both the Cadet and Junior categories.



The India Trophy was yet again decisively won by England, followed by India and Canada. An unofficial count of results for the cadet events was kept and showed that England would maintain the hold on any eventual Cadet trophy, followed fairly closely by Canada and then Scotland.



Organizing such large events is quite a challenging task and the CFF recognizes the effort and dedication of all who were involved in making these Championships a success.

The CFF wishes to thank the International Fencing Federation (FIE) and the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) for sanctioning and supporting the events in Newcastle. Once again, the CFF and its

collaborators have delivered a world-class international event. It therefore bears repeating that, the continued presentation of such successful fencing events clearly demonstrates the Commonwealth Fencing Federation's relevance as a significant fencing partner of the FIE and as a valuable contributor to the ideals and life of the Commonwealth by the CGF

APPENDIX A

COMMONWEALTH JUNIOR AND CADET FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018

REFEREE ACTIVITY REPORT

Peter Huggins, Director of Referees.

Organising Nation: England Fencing

Venue: Sport Central, University of Northumbria, Newcastle, England

This tournament was held over eight days, Monday, 23rd July to Monday, 30th July inclusive. The Cadet Championships were held on 23rd to 26th July with the Junior Championships being held on 27th through to 30th July.

The event schedule was as follows:

23rd July: Cadet Men's Foil, Cadet Women's Epee and Cadet Women's Sabre

24th July: Cadet Women's Foil, Cadet Men's Epee and Cadet Men's Sabre

25th July: Cadet Men's Foil Teams, Cadet Women's Epee Teams and Cadet Women's Sabre

Teams

26th July: Cadet Women's Foil Teams, Cadet Men's Epee Teams and Cadet Men's Sabre Teams

27th July: Junior Men's Foil, Junior Women's Epee and Junior Women's Sabre

28th July: Junior Women's Foil, Junior Men's Epee and Junior Men's Sabre

29th July: Junior Men's Foil Teams, Junior Women's Epee Teams and Junior Women's Sabre

Teams

30th July: Junior Women's Foil Teams, Junior Men's Epee Teams and Junior Men's sabre

Teams.

Twenty referees were invited to officiate at the tournament. Twenty of these were FIE qualified and one, a young BF Domestic referee, was invited for developmental purposes. Two Italian referees were invited to have an input that was outside of the Commonwealth. In addition two recently FIE qualified referees from India attended at their own expenses to gain experience. Of the FIE qualified referees, five were qualified in three weapons, seven in two weapons and nine in one weapon.

These referees were:

David Baker of Australia - FIE Foil B and Epee B

Peter Creese of Australia – FIE Foil B and Epee B

Ernest Chua of Singapore – FIE Foil B and Epee B

Thomas Nguyen of Canada – FIE Foil B, Epee B and Sabre B

Suzanne Vogt of Canada – FIE Foil B, Epee B and Sabre B

Luke Deamer of England – FIE Foil B

Chris Farren of England – FIE Sabre B

Sean Grundy of England – FIE Foil B

Daniel Hazelwood of England – FIE Foil B and Epee B
Patrick Jennings of England – FIE Sabre B
Nick Payne of England – FIE Foil B and Epee B
Duncan Rowlands of England – FIE Epee B
Mike Salter of England – FIE Sabre B
Adrian Speakman of England – FIE Foil B and Epee B
Rashmi Aggarwal of India – FIE Epee B
Rashid Ahmed Chowdhary of India – FIE Sabre B
Deepak Singh Patial of India – FIE Foil B, Epee B and Sabre P
Domenico Pastore of Italy – FIE Foil B and Sabre B
Giuliano Ranza of Italy – FIE Foil B, Epee A and Sabre B
Christopher Lennon of Northern Ireland – FIE Foil B
Nicola Shackleton of New Zealand – FIE Foil B and Epee B, and
Sam McLellan of Scotland – BF Sabre.

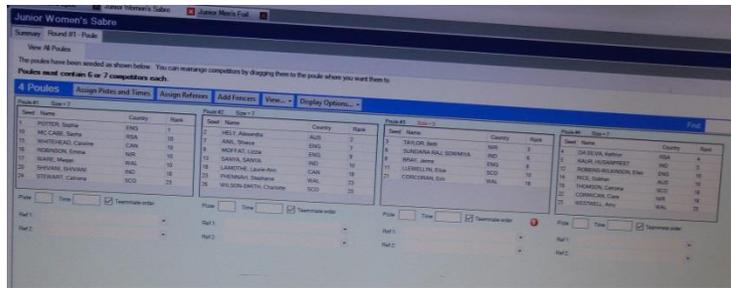
The referees all worked very hard and very professionally and in this respect I have no complaints about their performance, presence and conduct on the piste. In fact, this is the first event that I have attended where I can say that there have been more plaudits than complaints. All, when working, were always appropriately dressed and all, with one exception on one occasion only, appeared on time each day.

Problems:

On the last day of fencing I lost several referees because of travel commitments and this from the middle of the day produced a serious “pinch point”. In fact there was one unscheduled friendly sabre match that I could not cover. Other friendly matches were able to be refereed by the referees.

During the early stages of the event there was some grumbling, orchestrated by some of the British based referees, about meal scheduling and also fee payments. These complaints were resolved by the event organising team.

By far the biggest area of concern to myself were the problems experienced with the Fencing Time Software as this generated problem after problem and there was seldom a print out that did not need manual input to prevent a basic corruption. For example, in the Junior Women’s sabre event the programme, with a competition of twenty-six fencers produced not two pools of seven and two pools of six but three pools of seven and a pool of five (see below). This was not the only time that this problem occurred.



What is more the original seeding for this event was not random but alphabetical. (see below)

Last	First	Country	Rank	Born	Member #
Potter	Sophia	ENG	1		FIE #24022000000
Hely	Alexandra	AUS	2		FIE #16122001000
Taylor	Beth	NIR	3		FIE #17112000002
Da Silva	Kathryn	RSA	4		FIE #18062001000
KAUR	HUSANPREET	IND	5		FIE #28051999005
SUNDARA RAJ	SOWMIYA	IND	6		FIE #31071998005
Anil	Shreya	ENG	7		FIE #14011998001
Bray	Jenna	ENG	8		FIE #01041999001
Moffat	Lizzie	ENG	9		FIE #22012000001
Llewellyn	Elsie	SCO	10		FIE #02072002002
Mc Cabe	Sacha	RSA	10		FIE #13012002003
Rice	Siobhan	AUS	10		FIE #11092000008
Robbins-Wilkinson	Ellen	ENG	10		FIE #19062002001
Robinson	Emma	NIR	10		FIE #11042000009
SANYA	SANYA	IND	10		FIE #13062001004
Ware	Megan	WAL	10		FIE #08042000003
Whitehead	Caroline	CAN	10		FIE #14102001002
Corcoran	Erin	WAL	18		FIE #18022002003
Cormican	Ciara	NIR	18		FIE #08012001002
Lamothe	Laurie-Ann	CAN	18		FIE #14052002003
SHIVANI	SHIVANI	IND	18		FIE #06021999002
Thomson	Catriona	SCO	18		FIE #19032001006
Phennah	Stephanie	WAL	23		FIE #08022001002
Stewart	Catriona	SCO	23		FIE #10022001001
Westwell	Amy	WAL	25	26/05/2004	FIE #26052004000
Wilson-Smith	Charlotte	SCO	25		FIE #05082003003

Again, this was not the only time that this was seen to occur.

The bigger problem for me though when allocating referees was that it seldom produced a clash free round and the allocations regularly needed manual adjustment. As an example, in the last eight of a team event the programme allocated both Canadian referees to the match that contained the Canadian team.

In closing, I wish to thank all the referees for their input and effort throughout the tournament and, in particular I wish to thank Alex Savin for all his hard work on the computer and assistance with the referee allocations. I also wish to thank Marie-France Dufour, as head of the DT, for all of her advice and support.

Peter Huggins
 Director of Referees
 1st August 2018

APPENDIX B

WEAPON CHECK REPORT – Simon Axon, Master Armourer

The Weapon Control team consisted of myself, Robert Kirby, Heather Finlayson, Colin Garner, Steve Jackson, Simon Corcoran and Paul Thomson. Simon and Paul are Journeyman Armourers with the BFA Guild of Armourers, the rest of us are Master Armourers. The Master Armourers were part of the Weapon Control team for the London 2012 Olympics, UK A Grades and other international fencing and Modern Pentathlon events, and the two Journeymen have previously been part of Weapon Control at the UK School Games. We were assisted from time to time by volunteers from the local events team.

Weapon Control (WC) was carried out at the sports centre at Northumbria University from Saturday 21 July throughout the event, with the main days for equipment submission being 22-23 July and 26-27 July. Initially, seven or eight additional volunteers had been requested in order to be able to staff two complete lines of equipment control. Two control lines were only possible on the afternoon of Sunday 22nd during which we had six volunteers. For the rest of the time control was limited to one set of equipment at a time.

In addition, the requirement for Call Room (CR) and Field of Play (FOP) control during team matches further reduced the available team below what would normally be suitable for an event of this size. During the bronze medal team matches, six staff were required for the FOP. Without volunteers this was not have been possible while still fully providing WC and CR services.

COMPETITION AREA

Due to the arrangements with Allstar, WC staff were not involved in the set-up, management or break-down of the competition area and its equipment. Because of this, we were not consulted on the proposed layout of the competition area. During the initial setup of the competition area, several aspects of the layout were questioned and some of them changed on grounds of safety.

During the event, it was requested that WC staff aid in the maintenance of the competition area and equipment, however due to the arrangements which were already in place, the WC work schedule and the number of staff available, I decided we were not able to assist with this.

WEAPON CONTROL AREA

The WC area was located in one of the upper halls of the sports centre, in an area shared with the competitor warm-up and practice area. The size, location and lighting were suitable for the purpose of the equipment check. A risk assessment was completed for the WC work area. The working conditions in the WC area did not change significantly during the week.

Due to the various official marking systems in use and the fact that competitors' personal equipment is stored for testing and return, the weapon control area should normally be a secure location, able to be locked when staff are not in attendance. This was not the case in the sports hall, with the result that on at least one occasion competitors retrieved their own equipment after hours. This is inadvisable because competitors cannot obtain a full explanation of any faults in their equipment. Also, it gives the opportunity for a competitor not to realise

that some items of equipment have been rejected. They may then appear on piste with uncontrolled equipment and receive a penalty.

WC was opened the day before the posted WC days in order to mitigate the relatively low staff numbers available. In addition, the schedule was later altered, expanding the time available for equipment check for the junior event to encompass the three days leading up to the first junior individual event (rather than just one), again in order to spread the work required. In fencing events of this level it is common practice to have competitor lists available throughout WC periods, in order to confirm that all competitors have been through the control process, and to chase up teams or individuals who have not submitted equipment. These were not provided, nor were team lists available until the day of competition and therefore the requirement for checking of teams' matching country colours was not feasible.

CALL ROOM AND FIELD OF PLAY

The Call Room was an annexe of the Referees' room. It was also used for storing spare piste equipment and the station for Allstar's heat transfer name printing process. The lighting was suitable for the purpose, however there was little space available when processing four teams of four or five competitors each, let alone the last-8 teams or last-32 individuals which had originally been proposed. In addition, there was a constant, unidentifiable high-pitched noise throughout the event. This was uncomfortable for many people present, particularly the fencers.

During team matches from the semi-finals onwards, a member of WC staff is required to be with each team in order to check equipment between bouts. This replaces the requirement for referees to perform tests prior to foil and epee matches, and also has the potential to identify emergent problems with equipment that could cause delays in the match. Due to the numbers of staff available it was agreed that WC staff would operate the call room from the last eight for the individual rounds, and in team matches from the semi-finals onwards, with the FOP also being monitored from that stage.

Several faults were identified in the call room, mainly of which would easily have occurred during the course of the initial rounds of fencing. One foil was discovered with an insulation fault that would normally have caused a fail during WC. The foil was returned to WC, the fault was fixed and the foil re-checked and returned to the fencer in time for the match.

WEAPON CONTROL RESULTS

A total of 330 batches of equipment passed through WC during the event, not including single item resubmissions. Failed equipment was notified to the competitor or coach and resubmissions were given priority.

Weapon control results

Twelve control sheets went missing or were not used in the course of the event. On the sheets remaining, a total of 4445 items were examined of which 9% failed the tests applied.

Item Number Failures % Failures

Weapons 961 82 8.5%

Masks / bibs 357 55 15.4%

Bodywires / mask wires 1453 98 6.7%
Clothing 1674 164 9.8%
TOTALS 4445 399 9.0%

Control failures during testing

During WC the failures found in the weapons were largely the ones that would normally be expected. For foil and épée, the highest fail count was for high resistance or, in the case of épée, an open circuit, likely caused by an incorrectly adjusted travel spring. Weight and gauge was not checked for foil and épée, although the sabre blade gauge was used as this is a safety requirement. Three sabres were rejected for having blades too thin. Unlike in recent years, only two épée blades were too long, and none were too stiff.

78% of bodywire failures and 58% of mask wire failures were either for broken wires or high resistance. Although the number of wires failed in general seemed high, as a percentage of all those submitted it was better than the average.

Mask and bib failures were largely down to dead patches on the lamé, although there were several Leon Paul contour fit masks presented without a secondary security back-strap. Once the straps were presented the masks were passed for use. As mandated by CFF, the new regulations requiring a secondary security device on masks other than contour fit was not in force.

By far the most failures, and the most concerning from the point of view of safety, were for clothing. Jackets (67% of fails) and breeches (42% of fails) were rejected with trapping hazards on the country patches or stripes. This risk would be entirely removed by the use of heattransfer or painted country colours, although for the UK home nations this is not a feasible option as these competitors often represent GBR as well as their home nation, so need to cover existing colours.

Gloves have a whole category to themselves. Although the percentage rejected was just over the average, at 10%, all of the gloves which failed were for safety reasons, having either holes or a trapping hazard caused by reinforcement patches which had worked loose.

Bearing in mind the recent change to sabre gloves requiring CEN2 800N construction, it would seem that the time where thin leather or fabric gloves was appropriate should come to an end. Fencers seem not to realise the danger presented by a hole the size of a foil or épée point in that part of their target which is closest to their opponent.

Control failures during competition

There were no unexpected failures reported during the competition.

There were a few instances of apparent bodywire failure during the team matches, following call room inspection. This was despite the checks in the call room being altered to account for this after the cadet matches. The problem was identified as a mismatch between the weapon socket and the bodywire plug wire being used. It is difficult to mitigate this, as one would need to test every wire with every weapon, something which is difficult in the limited time available in the call room. New PBT sabres were the worst for this, with some of the problem being rectified by scoring and cleaning the inside of the larger of the two 2-pin sockets. Another fix is to "fatten" the pins where they rattle in the socket.

There was one Canadian foilist whose breeches bore a control mark, and yet had no country colours. In addition, it turned out that the breeches were for a right-hander and were being worn by a left-handed fencer, however this is not something that is normally checked for and was only noticed by WC staff once on the field of play.

RECOMMENDATIONS

When considering the duties of the WC team for this event, the main issue was the low number of staff available, especially for the days when team matches needed to be monitored, while still providing a full call room and weapon control service.

During the second half of the event, there were very few volunteers available, and practically none at all for CR and FOP on the team days. The result was that WC had to be closed and moved to the CR, from where the seven WC staff had to provide all CR and FOP services. From the start of the team match CR checks at 10am, there were no breaks available for the staff on duty until late in the afternoon as four were required for FOP and the remaining three were checking team equipment. Several staff had to supervise back-to-back matches all morning. To avoid this, a minimum number of WC staff should be adhered to, minimising the reliance on the availability of volunteers, especially on an event as long as this, held during peak holiday season.

The request to provide FOP maintenance cover was inappropriate, as in my opinion this is the remit of the team contracted to provide and set up the FOP. The FOP itself was also not set up to the standard my experienced team are used to. The main issues were the proximity of the pistes to their equipment and also to other pistes, and in the case of the blue and green show pistes, a curtain running less than half a metre from the edge of the piste. More consideration should be given to layout of the competition area and perhaps in future, include consultation with those who are familiar with the requirements of world-class events.

The WC area should be a secure location, able to be locked when no-one is present. This secures the event-specific control systems and competitors' equipment (both controlled and uncontrolled) from tampering and theft, thereby reducing the likelihood that uncontrolled equipment will be presented in the competition area.

Simon Axon

31st July 2018

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