

**Helen Smith (AUS)**

Helen Smith is a former Australian foil fencer, born on July 31, 1953 in Tawonga, Australia.

She completed a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) followed by a diploma in Education at the University of Melbourne. In her professional career she was a secondary school teacher, then later managed the development of curriculum materials and online platforms for Australian and international education systems.

She began her competitive sporting career at 14 years old and ended at 31. She took part in the Olympic Games in 1976, 1980, 1984 and in many other international and national competitions. From 1970 to 1991, she was the nine-time Australian champion, Oceania champion and won gold at the 1974 and 1978 Commonwealth Championships in women’s team and individual foil events, respectively.

She supplemented her sporting career by officiating as a referee at many national and international competitions for over 20 years.

She was also the coach of many young Australians, mainly at the Williamstown Fencing Club (today known as Dragons FC) which she founded in 1976. In 1992, Helen Smith was the first Australian woman to become a fencing master in all three weapons.

She then pursued a career in sports administration, in particular within the Australian Fencing Federation. She was President of the Victorian Amateur Fencing Association for 11 years; a member of the Executive Committee of the Australian Fencing Federation before becoming its President from 2000 to 2008; Chair of the Refereeing Commission from 1996 to 2009 and Chair of the Coaching and High-Performance Program Commission from 2000 to 2009. She was a national selector for 20 years and Australian Team Manager from 1991 to 2000.

She was a member of the Victorian Olympic Council from 2001 to 2009. During this period, she was a highly active member of the Education Commission.

At an international level, she was Vice-President of the Commonwealth Fencing Federation and a member of its Technical Commission from 1994 to 2002, before being elected President of the Federation in 2002. She continues in that position today.

She was elected President of the Oceania Fencing Confederation in 2002, a role which she still carries out today. She is also a non-voting member of the Executive Committee of the Asian Fencing Confederation.

Helen Smith has had a considerable career within the International Fencing Federation (FIE). She was a member of the Rules Commission from 2000 to 2008, and a member of the FIE Special Commission for the World Championships and Olympic Games from 2000 to 2008. She was the FIE delegate to the 4th World Conference on Women and Sport organised by the International Olympic Committee, then became a founding member of the FIE Women and Fencing Council in the same year. She has been the Executive Committee liaison person to the Women and Fencing Council since 2012 and was the founding Chair of the Fencing Confederation of Asia’s Women and Fencing Council.

She has been a member of the FIE Executive Committee since 2002 and a Member of Honour of the FIE since 2008.

In 2015, Helen became a Member (AM) in the general Division of the Order of Australia for significant service to fencing as an Olympic athlete, coach and mentor, and through a range of leadership and administrative roles.