

# **BVF Competition, Ranking & Selection Proposal**

## **FAQ**

### *"What is the main aim of the changes?"*

The aim is to maximise team GBR's medal tally at the European and World Championships, while also providing more opportunities to the whole of our membership to participate in fencing.

### *"How will the proposed competition format achieve this aim?"*

Having a consistent competition format for all veteran events will allow a meaningful ranking list to be generated from the results of these competitions.

Having all fencers compete in mixed age category pools ensures that fencers face a variety of opponents over the course of a season, while the handicap system ensures that bouts between fencers of different age categories are still competitive. This also maintains the original social aim of the association of all veterans fencing together.

Separating the age categories for the direct elimination ensures that fencers are compared with their peers for the awarding of ranking points, ensuring that the ranking list is an accurate reflection of a given category's fencers' respective performances against each other. This also replicates the DE format of the European and World Championships.

### *"Why use a ranking list for selection instead of the current system?"*

Using a ranking list compiled from results across a season of several competitions allows the selection of fencers who have demonstrated a consistent, high level of performance over a number of competitions rather than a fencer who is generally not a 'high performer' but who simply had an unlikely 'good day'.

### *"Why include international events in the ranking scheme?"*

The primary aim of the proposed changes is to maximise team GBR's medal tally at major international events. Therefore it is reasonable to acknowledge fencers' performances at these events in the ranking scheme.

Including the domestic events of other FIE federations will acknowledge the achievement of fencers who seek to gain experience against opponents from other nations (who GBR fencers will need to defeat to gain European and World Championships medals). This will also reduce the cost of competing for BVF members who live outside the UK or for whom it is cheaper to travel to events in Northern Europe than it is to travel to events in the UK.

### *"Why follow the FIE ranking scheme awarding the same ranking points irrespective of the perceived difficulty of the competition?"*

Using the FIE points system is simple and straightforward, rewarding success and grades all competitions equally. This will encourage fencers to attend events, as there will be no 'weak' competitions that fencers may consider to not be worth entering.

If a competition has few entries then other fencers will see an opportunity to score ranking points and enter the competition, resulting in it no longer being a small competition.

This will promote all competitions and improve the economic viability of hosting a competition.

*“Why apply a multiplier to the points from some competitions?”*

The multiplier for the veteran national championships, which is the same as that applied by BF to the senior national championships, is to encourage a large participation in what should be the premier domestic event of the season.

The multipliers for the European and World championships, which are the same as those applied by the FIE to the equivalent senior championships, are to recognise the achievements of fencers in the events at which success is the main aim of this proposal.

*“What does this mean for the Nationals and the Age Groups?”*

The National Championships will no longer result in a single champion for each weapon and gender. Instead, there will be a National Champion at each age group for each weapon and gender. This will replicate the situation at the European and World Championships.

The Age Group Championships will cease to exist. Instead, there will be a 'Milton Keynes Veterans Open' competition at this point in the calendar that is part of the circuit of ranking competitions.

*“How many competitions will there be on the circuit, and where will they be?”*

Currently there are three existing competitions that will form part of the circuit; the National Championships in Gloucester in late February / early March, the West Midlands Veterans Open in Dudley in April and the Milton Keynes Veterans Open in early June.

Initial discussions have been held with the aim of establishing competitions in Durham and Manchester. It is also hoped that a regular event could be established in the London area.

Anyone interested in hosting a regular veterans' event is encouraged to approach the BVF Development Officer to discuss this. Such events do not have to be for all six weapons; two or four weapon events are acceptable, provided that over the course of a season there are roughly the same number of competitions for all weapons.

The aim is to establish a circuit of veteran events spread across the country with an event held every four to six weeks and for every UK resident member to have at least one or two competitions held within reasonable 'travel on the day' distance of their home. This will increase the opportunities for all members to participate in competitions if they wish, and ensure that fencers seeking representative selection are training and fencing regularly to enhance team GBR's success at the European and World Championships.