

FENCING CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Time: 8:30pm-9:30pm
Date: Monday, 14th July 2025
Location: online google meets

MINUTES

No.	Item
1	<p>Present (Quorum is at least half, i.e. at least 4):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will Bishop (Chair) - Liam James - Russell Johnson - Robert Clement - Una Johnson - Nathan McKnight - Becks Witteman - Stephen Peterson - Michael Claydon <p>Apologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nicole Martin
2	<p>Minutes of the Last Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moved true and correct – Proposed WB, seconded SP
	<p>Matters Arising – Action List</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fen. Cen Website – Johnathan Couper Smartt now has access to the website and is starting to update it. ● Online Ref Course – Waiting on response from a very busy Michael Nelson. Still hoping to be able to sort something out with him once he is not so busy. ● Gear Allocation – Proposal is on the website and is currently open until the end of the month. Clubs to be reminded that they are able to apply. One response so far.
4	<p>Financial & Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monthly Financial Report – presented by Robert ● Not much has happened since last meeting. Income is starting to come in for central secondary schools comp. Outgoing expenses towards medal and outstanding costs from North Islands. ● RC has been in contact with Jules/FeNZ re the central Affiliation fees Waiting on response for our accounts Vicci has discovered an extra amount of loose cash from previous competition that will also be deposited into our account. ● Accepted by WB, seconded by LJ.
5	<p>FeNZ Matters/Central Matters.</p> <p>FeNZ has decided to reduce their meetings to once every second month. After discussion with board members FeNZ has then decided to go back to</p>

	<p>month meeting but alternate between governance and organisational focus. No meeting has been held since our last Central meeting.</p> <p>The new Selection policy has now been published.</p> <p>There has been some confusion about when the appropriate time for feedback on the policy was opened and closed for the fencing community. Public online forums were held back in April 2025. No drafts were able to be made public at that time under direct instructions from the FeNZ president. Consultation and formal feedback has been done with relevant stakeholders engaged in this process, the official document has been developed over the last 12 months and after the review document has been given to FeNZ in Feb 2024.</p> <p>LJ brought up that there will be a mandatory 2-year review on the policy if it isn't seen to be working. The 2-year review will allow for changes to be made if needed. Already there are points to be looked at in the next review. The current policy is going through a few wording changes around the Olympic selection portion of the policy, but this will be the document coming into action at the beginning of 2026 as voted by the FeNZ board.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Competition Matters</p> <p>South Island Champs – Thanks to Liam and Nathan for refereeing at this. Mid South also still have our piste's.</p> <p>Central Secondary Schools -26/27th July – looks as though we are going to have a large turnout for this competition. Our potential problem will be referee numbers for foil on the Saturday. Epee and sabre are looking to be quite large in numbers for the Sunday.</p> <p>National referee situation. Michael Claydon gave update on this. There is a balancing issue between senior referee mentorship being low compared to junior referees wanting to learn. Central has the most referees wanting to progress themselves to national status over all of the regions. Central need to encourage more of our referees to travel outside the region for national competitions if possible.</p> <p>There is a work in progress from the officiating arm of FeNZ, to look at a model for self-refereeing with fencers who nominate themselves as having National and International refereeing experience with affiliation on Sporty. Looking at adopting the Australian model for self-refereeing by nomination of exclusion rather than nomination of inclusion ie. if a fencer is in the top 16 ish, the fencer would be expected to self-referee, unless they take themselves out of that list of a second payment equal to the registration fee for a single weapon. This is a scenario that is being looked into and maybe adopting here in NZ to help with available referee numbers.</p> <p>Referee Courses.</p> <p>Michael Nelson is the obvious choice. There could be a possibility of getting Irena to do a course again, but we may have to look at some of the senior NZ referees to do workshops in their regions. FIE prefer multi weapon referees when sitting the FIE exams, although single weapon referees are acceptable. Multi weapon referees are more likely to be called up for big competitions over single weapon referees.</p> <p>SP asked how we can encourage more referee development.</p>

	<p>MC replied that it is hoped that more individual fencers will start to want to learn to referee, but most development referees start learning/ getting interested at the Cadet/Junior bracket but are not being taught the basics at club level, leading to a lower competency level starting point. Teaching refereeing needs to be started at club level, and it would be good to have this be supported by the Coaches and Athletes commissions. This will be a long-term goal.</p> <p>WB brought up that Interclub exchanges may be a good idea to help with multi weapon learning both in fencing and Refereeing.</p> <p>MC is developing a refereeing "library" of difficult calls/clips to use as a tool to help with learning.</p> <p>NM asked if WB was confident that Michael Nelson was going to be able to do a course this year. WB is 80% confident that we will be able to get Micheal Nelson to commit to a course for this year. If he is unable to nail this down by the end of July, the fall-back would be MC or another national senior referee to do a course over a weekend sometime this year.</p>
7	<p>Club Matters</p> <p>Hutt Valley wanted to know if there was a budget towards the end of year gathering.</p> <p>RC can put together a budget going off previous year's gatherings.</p>
8	<p>Health & Safety</p> <p>The call for nominations still has not gone out yet.</p> <p>Looking at getting a complaints process person as well.</p>
9	<p>Grants</p> <p>Presented by Nathan.</p> <p>If a grant is required for a refereeing course MC will contact Nathan re costs to carryout a course.</p> <p>Nathan is currently working on the requirements for the videoing/refereeing system. A laptop is the most preferred capture system.</p>
10	<p>Other Business.</p> <p>Nathan has suggested setting up a regional gear checking/fixing seminar. Will is going to approach Daniel Chan when he returns from Germany but potentially looking at September to do this. If unable Nathan and Liam will hold a workshop one weekend.</p>

11	Date of the Next Meeting <i>11th August 2025. 8:30 to 9:30 pm. Meeting invite pending</i>