



# Fencing New Zealand

(Fencing New Zealand Incorporated)

## COVID-19 VACCINATION POLICY

### PURPOSE:

This policy's objective is to identify the requirements of Covid infection prevention and control, and the development of safe practices and procedures based on the identified level of risk management.

It is designed to support any advice or directions from NZ government health authorities.

Therefore, no part of this policy either stated or implied, is designed to compromise any public health advice or directions that may be issued from time to time, and which may require additional controls to be implemented.

Every fencer or person attending a competition or event, is obligated to seek and know the relevant rules of the alert level framework and this policy.

This is a summary and does not replace the full alert level framework policy which is available here: <https://covid19.govt.nz/traffic-lights/covid-19-protection-framework/>

The policy is also designed to be consistent with Fencing New Zealand's health and safety framework.

### RISK ASSESSMENT

As an organisation engaged predominantly in running Fencing tournaments, FeNZ's exposure to the general public, particularly at weekends is greater than normal office workers, with fencers, officials, spectators, and occasional members of the public generally present. This exposure is increased with National events that traditionally attract more competitors than Regional events.

A Risk Assessment of Fencing New Zealand's Exposure Risk, based on the NZ Worksafe template, is contained in [COVID Risk Assessment - FeNZ - Dec 2021 v 0 2](#) (Attachment 1)

This assessment clearly shows that tournaments have a **HIGH** risk of Covid transmission.

### COVID-19 VACCINATION CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENT

**Due to the above approved Risk Assessment, the Board of Fencing New Zealand have agreed that all Tournaments and Events conducted by FeNZ or any of FeNZ's regional bodies – Fencing North; Fencing Central; Fencing Mid-South; or Fencing South are "Vaccine Required Events", as stipulated in the COVID-19 Framework requirements.**



# Fencing New Zealand

(Fencing New Zealand Incorporated)

## ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION

To help ensure that the organisation meets its health and safety obligations to minimise the risks to fencers and volunteers, particularly those in relation to the risk of exposure to vaccine preventable diseases, in order to attend Events and Tournaments it is mandatory that all fencers and volunteers or personnel seek to undertake the appropriate immunisation program .

According to health authorities, immunisation is one of the safest ways to protect people against harmful infections before they come into contact with them by using the body's natural defences to build resistance to specific infections.

FeNZ encourages everyone in our community to seek their own medical advice as to the risks involved with immunisation.

## VACCINE REQUIRED EVENT

**Fencing NZ Events and Tournaments are Vaccine Certificate Required events.**

**No Jab, No Stab.**

All organisers, officials, referees, and fencers 12 years of age and over intending to enter the tournament venue are required to register prior to the event.

As "Vaccine Certificate Required Events" all attendees (12 years of age and older) attending a Fencing NZ event or competition, including spectators, are required to be Double (or triple) vaccinated – evidenced by a MOH Vaccine Pass, unless proof of exemption from the MOH is provided in advance along with an approved negative test in a timeframe as recommended by the MOH on competition day.

Please contact the organizers beforehand as unannounced exemptions will not be accepted on the day.

Fencing New Zealand will also retain records of the vaccination program, sufficient to identify who has been vaccinated, but in compliance with FeNZ's requirements for the confidentiality of medical and health records.



# Fencing New Zealand

(Fencing New Zealand Incorporated)

## STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES AT TOURNAMENTS AND EVENTS

To contend with such circumstance occurring while the host region of any event is in Orange or Red, FeNZ will implement a COVID-19 safety plan. This includes and requires the following

- Fencers, coaches, officials, and spectators who are sick or have any COVID-19 symptoms to withdraw from the competition and stay away from the venue.
- Anyone who has been a recent Close Contact of a person with Covid must also NOT attend any Event or Tournament
- The DT or organiser has the right to refuse entry to a competitor, coach, official or spectator who is showing signs of being unwell. This will be determined by the designated first aider who will administer a temperature check. If the result comes back over 38C+ they shall be removed from the competition.
- All attendees are encouraged to maintain social distancing according to the government guidelines
- Fencers' equipment & fencing clothing must be clean and recently washed.
- There is to be no sharing of fencing equipment or water bottles.
- All attendees must sign in with the government COVID Tracer App when you enter the venue.
- If there is an alert level change in the host region, guidelines will be issued to all registered fencers with updates regarding venue, spectators or any additional protocol that will be put into place.
- Hand sanitiser will be widely available and its use encouraged.

### In competitions,

- The change to rule t.122 will apply. Fencers will not shake hands of their opponent or the referee on the piste but will salute instead.
- There is to be no hugging or kissing at the conclusion of bouts.
- Spare weapons/ body wires need to be kept either in a piste bag or neatly at the end of the piste. They need to be removed by the fencer at the end of each bout.
- QR codes will be posted around the venue that will link fencers to the live competition results. Results will not be posted in one location within the venue, as we wish to minimise large congregation of fencers/ coaches and spectators.



# Fencing New Zealand

(Fencing New Zealand Incorporated)



## PROCEDURES AT TOURNAMENTS AND EVENTS UNDER RED

Details of the Government Policies under RED can be found at: <https://covid19.govt.nz/traffic-lights/life-at-red/>

- The number of people allowed to attend an event is **restricted to 100 people**.  
NB – This is a NZ Government non-negotiable requirement.
  - Access will therefore be granted in priority order of:
    - Required Officials (Organiser / DT/ Floor Controller /Referees etc)
    - Fencers
    - Coaches
    - Spectators
    - Members of the Public
  - Tournament timetables must be scheduled or amended to ensure that whenever possible there are no more than 100 people required in the facility at any one time.
  - In the unlikely event that there are more fencers and officials than 100 in any specific event, competitors' entries will be prioritised based on their National Ranking
  - In general terms, the above means that Spectators may not be permitted inside the venue when the tournament has a large number of competitors.
- All attendees are required to wear face masks when indoors and not fencing



# Fencing New Zealand

(Fencing New Zealand Incorporated)

## APPENDIX 1

### COVID-19 PROTECTION FRAMEWORK WORKPLACE VACCINATION REQUIREMENT RISK ASSESSMENT

#### **Background**

Under the Covid-19 Protection Framework, every business or organisation in New Zealand is required to conduct a Covid-19 Risk Assessment to determine whether they must use My Vaccine Pass in their business or at events.

If so, they are required to: display notification at their premises or at Events, advising that they are a Vaccine Required Business; check that any entrants or visitors have a My Vaccine Pass, and ensure all employees or volunteers are vaccinated.

Fencing New Zealand has no fulltime employees, but numerous volunteers who operate both nationally and regionally in multiple environments – generally home offices, at meetings, or in sports halls.

Any International team tours (e.g. Commonwealth Fencing Championships) will be assessed on an event by event basis and be required to have a separate Covid-19 Plan.

FeNZ also has a number of affiliated Clubs around the country but has no power to direct these clubs in their operations. Each Club must therefore conduct its own Risk Assessment and is responsible for its own Covid-19 Plan. Clubs may use to use this document as a template for their own Risk Assessment.



# Fencing New Zealand

(Fencing New Zealand Incorporated)

## FeNZ Operations, Events and Tournaments Assessment:

1. Consider these risk factors

Q. How many people does the employee carrying out that work come into contact with? (very few = lower risk; many = higher risk)

<i>Operations</i>	<i>National Events / Tournaments</i>	<i>Regional Events / Tournaments</i>
<i>Very few – meetings are generally conducted online</i>	50 - 150	20 - 150
<b>LOW</b>	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>

Q. How easy will it be to identify the people who the employee comes into contact with? (easy to identify, such as co-workers = lower risk; difficult to identify, such as unknown members of public = higher risk)

<i>Operations</i>	<i>National Events / Tournaments</i>	<i>Regional Events / Tournaments</i>
<i>Very few – meetings are generally conducted online</i>	<i>All Competitors, Spectators and Officials will be required to log in, however at tournaments there will also be members of the public present</i>	<i>All Competitors, Spectators and Officials will be required to log in, however at tournaments there will also be members of the public present. Numbers will vary on a regional basis.</i>
<b>LOW</b>	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>

Q. How close is the employee carrying out the tasks in proximity to other people? (2 metres or more in an outdoor space = lower risk; close physical contact in an indoor environment = higher risk)

<i>Operations</i>	<i>National Events / Tournaments</i>	<i>Regional Events / Tournaments</i>
<i>Very rarely in general – a maximum of 15 when meeting</i>	<i>At tournaments – mingling with all competitors, officials and spectators</i>	<i>At tournaments – mingling with all competitors, officials and spectators.</i>
<b>LOW</b>	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>



# Fencing New Zealand

(Fencing New Zealand Incorporated)

- Q. How long does the work require the employee to be in that proximity to other people? (brief contact = lower risk; lengthy contact = higher risk)

<i>Operations</i>	<i>National Events / Tournaments</i>	<i>Regional Events / Tournaments</i>
<i>Brief Contact</i>	<i>Approx 8 – 10 hours at events across 2-3 days</i>	<i>Approx 8 – 10 hours at events across 1-2 days, varying by region</i>
<b>LOW</b>	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>

- Q. Does the work involve regular interaction with people considered at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, such as people with underlying health conditions? (little to none = lower risk; whole time = higher risk)

<i>Operations</i>	<i>National Events / Tournaments</i>	<i>Regional Events / Tournaments</i>
<i>None</i>	<i>Little to None</i>	<i>None.</i>
<b>LOW</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>LOW</b>

- NB – assumes no tournaments for under 12 fencers

- Q. What is the risk of COVID-19 infection and transmission in the work environment when compared to the risk outside work? (equal to outside work = lower risk; higher than outside work = higher risk)

<i>Operations</i>	<i>National Events / Tournaments</i>	<i>Regional Events / Tournaments</i>
<i>Equal to outside</i>	<i>Higher than outside</i>	<i>Higher than outside</i>
<b>LOW</b>	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>HIGH</b>



# Fencing New Zealand

(Fencing New Zealand Incorporated)

- Q. Will the work continue to involve regular interaction with unknown people if the region is at a higher alert level? (no = lower risk; yes = higher risk).

<i>Operations</i>	<i>National Events / Tournaments</i>	<i>Regional Events / Tournaments</i>
<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<b>LOW</b>	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>HIGH</b>

Consider other controls. Identify any further infectious disease controls you and your employees could put in place to reduce the risk.

*Contact Tracing Scanning at entry to the building,  
Regular cleaning and wiping down of equipment, etc  
Regular cleaning of the environment*

Overall, the risk factor for general operations is considered **extremely low** as meetings are generally conducted online.

The overall Risk factor for National Tournaments and Events is considered **HIGH** as:

- National Events generally have more than 100 Competitors, spectators, and officials
- They are indoor events
- While competitors and officials are easy to register, spectators are often uncontrolled, particularly in a multi sport venue.

Mitigations:

- The majority of New Zealanders are Double Vaccinated
- there is no contact with medical personnel or Boarder personnel,
- there is no direct contact with people at higher risk of illness,

Date: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2021