



# Fencing New Zealand

(Fencing New Zealand Incorporated)

## President's Report 2025

---

Once again as I sit down to write this Report, I am conscious of how much we owe to our small group of volunteers who put so much effort in day after day and week after week.

The membership of FeNZ are indebted to you amazing people for all the work you put in to help run the sport and help our fencers grow. It is truly appreciated!

---

### COMMONWEALTH JUNIOR AND CADET FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The highlight of last year was of course the Commonwealth Junior and Cadet Fencing Championships (CJCFC) held in Christchurch in July at the Nga Puna Wai Netball Centre.

This was the biggest international Fencing event ever held in New Zealand, and thanks to a huge commitment from so many people across the country, particularly from the team in Mid-South led by Lee-Bin Tee, was such an a massive success that we have been asked by several countries to consider hosting more events in future.

Many of the people involved in the running of the event took precious Annual Leave off from their work to enable it to go ahead and I thank you all for this.

Congrats also to the NZ Team and those additional Individuals who, due to changes we were able to negotiate with the Commonwealth Fencing Federation, were additionally able to fence at this once in a lifetime event. Thanks of course to all the volunteers who also took leave from their day jobs to manage and coach the team.

A massive thank you also to the two families and sponsors who contributed a significant amount of money to help make this the stunning success that it was.

---

### TOURNAMENT EQUIPMENT

Thanks to assistance and sponsorship from Leon Paul in the UK and Mainland Fencing here in NZ, FeNZ was able to purchase over \$245,000 worth of equipment at an exceptional discount. This equipment was first used for the CJCFC and has been



# Fencing New Zealand

(Fencing New Zealand Incorporated)

subsequently sold to our Regions and Clubs and should be in place to support training and tournaments for the next 5-10 years throughout the country.

---

## **OCEANIA VETERAN'S – FIELDING**

Thanks to everyone at Fielding Sabre for hosting North Island Champs and Oceania Veterans back in May. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and everybody I spoke to – even the Aussies – were blown away with your hospitality and the running of the tournament.

---

## **SPORT NEW ZEALAND**

As announced last year, after 12 years in the wilderness, and after 4 years of working at rectifying this, Fencing New Zealand has now finally once again been recognised as a Sport NZ recognised National Sporting Organisation for the sport of fencing.

This is HUGE for the future of our sport and should open a lot of doors for our athletes going forward

Thanks to Janis Hill for the constant work in the background raising our profile.

---

## **WELFARE PANEL**

One of the key initiatives of the 2023 Hui was the development of the Disputes, Complaints, Dispute Resolution and Raising Concerns Policy and process.

This process has been running for just under a year now, and is entirely volunteer based. Thank you to the few people who have stepped up to help with this, particularly Graham Conlon and Alice Corrin who gave an inordinate amount of time to the development of this.

As you will be aware, both Alice and Graham have now resigned from their roles, and Liz Stewart has taken over as the Welfare Chair and National Complaints Manager

Liz is doing an outstanding job along with the remaining members of the Committee of working through the backlog of issues to be dealt with. Please do all you can to assist her.

---



# Fencing New Zealand

(Fencing New Zealand Incorporated)

## **INSURANCE**

Wayne Stewart, supported by Stephen Peterson led a review and renewal of our insurances. This has resulted in extending statutory liability insurance to cover affiliated Clubs, adding professional indemnity cover for our registered coaches and extending statutory liability for our officials when they are engaged in fencing activities (team management, coaching, refereeing) outside of New Zealand. We have also added insurance to cover losses that could occur when we have large amount of equipment being transported to a national event.

This means we have in place comprehensive insurance protection that safeguards our people and organisatoin at all levels while engaged in fencing activities.

---

## **REFEREEING**

Thanks to the Chair of the FIE Refereeing Commission Irina Kynsch for once again making the long trip from her home in Austria to come down to New Zealand to assist with developing our Referees.

Congratulations to Michael Claydon and Julius Herzhoff who, having passed their B Grade Epee qualifications in 2023 then, following this course here in at July, later travelled to Malaysia and became FIE B Grade Foil Referees as well.

Also congrats to Anya Kamynina who has been selected to referee at multiple FIE tournaments around the world in the last year, and who was recently been appointed by the Commonwealth Fencing Federation Technical Committee as the Chair of their new Refereeing sub-committee.

---

## **COACHING**

The Coaching Commission were busy as well last year, particularly around running the OFMA / Global Fencing Masters Online Level 2 Epee Coaching Course in the latter half of the year.

Thank you to Martin, Judit, Dave and Robert for all the effort you put into running these, and congrats to everyone who qualified at the end of the course.

---



# Fencing New Zealand

(Fencing New Zealand Incorporated)

## OFFICIATING

In 2024 there were, as usual, seven National tournaments run up and down the country. Thanks to the amazing Heather Claydon for all the effort she puts in year after year helping set up and run these events.

For quite a while now Heather has been running the Officiating Commission alone. Anybody with knowledge and experience of organizing events and with a knowledge of the rules and regulations would be welcome to join her in this essential Commission.

---

## NATIONAL TRAINING CAMPS

Thanks to Simone May and all the Coaches and support staff who have run multiple training camps over the last two years. Each one takes a massive amount of organization and I believe our athletes, particularly our young people, have gained a lot from them.

Further news on the National Development Plan will follow soon.

---

## THE COMING YEAR

From a major tournament perspective, we have one international event being hosted in New Zealand this year - the Oceania Senior Championships - to be held in conjunction with the NZ Senior National Championships in Auckland at Labour Weekend.

On the Administrative side there are however also a number of significant initiatives that were started in 2024 that will be completed in 2025:

### **Constitution**

As you'll be aware from the review that is in progress, FeNZ and all our Regions (as well as some of our Clubs) are required to significantly amend/replace their Constitutions to meet the new Incorporated Societies Act requirements. This is a truly massive job that is necessary to maintain our status as a Incorporated Society and is being led by FeNZ Secretary Amanda Hopkins.

### **Commission Review**

Reporting into the Board, the current Management structure is made up of the following:

- Selectors Commission
- Officiating Commission
- Athletes Commission



# Fencing New Zealand

(Fencing New Zealand Incorporated)

- Coaching Commission
- Health and Safety

This structure has been in place for a number of years, and last August Central President Will Bishop started putting together a team to review the structure of FeNZ. This is an important and significant job that we hope to be completed in the near future.

The key decisions are to determine what Commissions we need moving forward; what their Requirements are; what the make-up of each Commission's team is; and how they will operate. Once the structure is determined the real work can begin

## **Selection Policy Review**

The Selection Policy for International Tournaments review began in October last year, with Will leading the team for this also. For our high-performance athletes this is a very significant policy, as it determines how New Zealand is represented internationally.

## **Ranking Systems Review**

The Rankings system has a pretty big impact on our sport. Not only is it a key tool in the selection process for international events, it is also key in establishing the seeding for all our National, and many of our Regional tournaments.

Thanks to Alex Dong and his small team for the work they have done on fixing it last year. They are now working on a complete upgrade / replacement for the system in the coming months.

---

## **CHANGING POSITIONS**

With everyone thoroughly exhausted after Commonwealths and the set-up of the Welfare Panel and the Complaints process, 2024 had its share of changes.

We welcome Jules Congalton into the role of Treasurer, and I would like to thank his predecessor Stephen Peterson for the immense amount of work he has put in over the last two years.

Also we welcome Kate Brill into the role of interim President in Mid-South. Thanks to Lee-Bin Tee who, following the incredible job she did leading the CJCFC has now stood down from this role.



# Fencing New Zealand

(Fencing New Zealand Incorporated)

Similarly Alex Dong has moved into the position of President of Fencing South while Sam Parish has moved on to help run tournaments in the region.

In 2024 we said good bye to Jane Parret who stepped down after two years in the role of National Administrator. Jane made a significant contribution to this new role that has made the workloads on the Secretary and Treasurer manageable and supported the efforts to improve the day-to-day running of Fencing New Zealand.

In October 2024 we then welcomed Rachel Wyatt as our new Fencing New Zealand National Administrator. Rachel has an extensive background in sports administration and has managed a smooth handover from Jane.

Independent Board Member Steve Martin and his wife Nikki have emigrated to the UK and have embarked on new careers there. Thanks to Steve for all the work he has done over the years – particularly building and maintaining the Ranking system for so long.

Thanks also to Independent Board Member Alice Corrin who, along with Stephen Peterson was largely responsible for the set-up of the Safeguarding Policy and the Disputes, Complaints, Dispute Resolution and Raising Policy and processes. These took an immense amount of work, and was a very difficult role to undertake.

Also thanks to Graham Conlon for running the Triage and Complaints process – another volunteer who had to step down due to the pressure and work commitments.

---

## CLOSING

As you can see, we have had a very high turn-over of experienced volunteers, both on the Board and in the Management layer of the sport.

If there is one very clear message that I hope is taken from this Report, it is simply to implore our community to embrace and support the people who step up to take on these voluntary roles. They do them solely to try and help our community grow.

To grow our beautiful sport in this country we need to walk the same path together. We can discuss our differences on that journey, without letting them distract us from reaching our goals.

David Elder  
President Fencing New Zealand

