



Fencing New Zealand

(Fencing New Zealand Incorporated)

Fencing New Zealand Transgender Inclusion and Opportunity policy

Fencing New Zealand (FeNZ) aims to provide equal and fair opportunity for everyone involved in the wider FeNZ community. This includes athletes who identify as men, women, gender diverse, transgender, and all diverse sexualities. Inclusion means to eliminate barriers of inappropriate and unfair practices and attitudes, and to ensure that everyone is provided with the same rights and access to opportunities to participate in fencing in New Zealand and to perform to their full potential whilst being treated fairly and with respect.

This policy applies to all national, regional and club tournaments and competition and training events held within New Zealand.

1 Gender

- 1.1 FeNZ recognises the importance of equal opportunity for athletes of all genders and will not restrict participation in fencing tournaments and training to any one gender.
- 1.2 As a general rule, fencers are required to compete under the same gender that they have affiliated as with FeNZ for that calendar year. The gender answer shown as entered on the affiliation application for each fencer, unless amended during the membership year, will be treated as the fencer's election for the calendar year.

2 Transgender and Gender Diverse athletes

- 2.1 FeNZ supports equal opportunities in fencing for all, including transgender and gender diverse athletes based on the gender with which they identify. FeNZ promotes a zero-tolerance approach to transphobia and stands by the values of Excellence, Encourage, and Respect.
- 2.2 Any transgender athlete who is not taking hormone treatment related to gender transition may participate in FeNZ tournaments in the gender they identify as. However, after identifying their gender at affiliation with FeNZ, or amending their affiliation details during the course of a membership year, they may not compete in different categories at subsequent tournaments within the calendar year.
 - 2.2.1 A transman (female to male) who is not taking testosterone relating to gender transition may participate in male or female events at tournaments. However, they may not compete in both categories at a tournament or in different categories at tournaments across a calendar year; unless they affiliate or amend their affiliation details to compete in a different Weapon Category.
 - 2.2.2 A transwoman (male to female) under the age of 17 who is not undergoing testosterone suppression treatment may participate in male or female events at tournaments. However, they may not compete in both categories at a tournament or in different categories at tournaments across a calendar year; unless they affiliate or amend their affiliation details to compete in a different Weapon Category.

- 2.2.3 A transwoman (male to female) over the age of 17 who is not undergoing testosterone suppression treatment may participate in male events or choose to participate in female events provided their current total testosterone level in serum is below 10 nmol/L and they have affiliated to compete in a Women's weapon category for that calendar year. If their current total testosterone level in serum is above 10 nmol/L then they may compete in a male event or a mixed event. Participation in any national tournament may be subject to FeNZ requesting medical evidence under 2.5 below.
- 2.3 For transgender athletes who are undergoing hormone treatment for gender transition; the following will determine in which category a transgender athlete is eligible to compete.
- 2.3.1 A transman (female to male) who has received medical treatment with testosterone related to gender transition may compete in Men's events at tournaments but is no longer eligible to compete in Women's events.
- 2.3.2 A transwoman (male to female) related to gender transition is eligible to compete in Men's events at tournaments and is not eligible to compete in Women's events unless they show that :
- a. they have completed at least twelve months of testosterone suppression treatment;
 - b. their current total testosterone level in serum is below 10 nmol/L;
 - c. they have affiliated with FeNZ for Women's events for that calendar year.
- 2.4 Mixed events: A transgender fencer will be eligible to compete in mixed events in their affirmed gender, subject to 2.1 and 2.3 above.
- 2.5 Medical Evidence: FeNZ may request medical evidence to ascertain the eligibility of a transgender athlete to compete in an event. This documentation will be treated as private and confidential. The responsibility for obtaining such information, and meeting costs incurred, is with the fencer.
- 2.6 Anti-doping: Drug testing procedures and prohibitions, as outlined in FIE Anti-Doping rules and Drug Free Sport NZ, also apply to athletes who identify as transgender. Any athlete receiving treatment involving a Prohibited Substance or Method, as described on the World Anti-Doping Agency's Prohibited List, should apply for a Therapeutic Use Exemption and present that exemption to the Convenors of both the FeNZ Selectors' Commission and Officiating Commission for each year of treatment plus 4 years.

3 **Sexuality**

- 3.1 FeNZ recognises a zero-tolerance approach to discrimination of a person or persons based on their sexuality and gender identity. We aim to promote acceptance and inclusion regardless of sexuality and encourage all members to instil this ethic across all areas of the sport of fencing.

4 **Participation in International Events**

- 4.1 FeNZ will refer to the International Olympic Committee, New Zealand Olympic Committee, Oceania Fencing Confederation, Commonwealth Fencing Federation and the FIE guidelines when it comes to determining an athlete's eligibility to compete in and selection for male and female competitions in international tournaments.