

Fencing New Zealand: New Club Membership Process Now Open

Fencing New Zealand (FeNZ) is pleased to announce the introduction of a new club membership process under our updated national and regional constitutions.

This update supports the continued development of the New Zealand fencing community while ensuring alignment with modern governance and compliance obligations.

Purpose of the New Process

The recent adoption of FeNZ's national and regional constitutions, aligned with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022, introduces formal club membership within the national and regional structure. The new framework affirms clubs as key members of our national and regional societies, strengthening recognition, collaboration and accountability across all levels of the sport.

This process should help ensure each club:

- Aligns with FeNZ's constitution, regional constitutions, and bylaws.
- Operates with transparent governance arrangements and accurate membership records.
- Maintains good faith engagement with our national and regional bodies to promote fencing across New Zealand.

What Club Membership Means

Becoming a member club reflects a shared commitment to the growth and integrity of fencing in NZ. Membership also provides a range of benefits, including:

- Coverage by FeNZ's national disputes and complaints resolution system.
- Eligibility for equipment grants and development support.
- Promotion on the FeNZ website and through other channels to help reach new members.
- Access to coach and officials' development programmes, and eligibility to host regional events (where applicable).
- Participation in national governance and strategic initiatives.

Membership of your National and Regional Sports Organisations can also support club applications for external funding grants and assistance.

Club Responsibilities

To remain or become a FeNZ Member Club, each club must:

- Be an incorporated entity (such as an incorporated society or a company), or a school or tertiary-based club formally recognised under the Education and Training Act 2020.
- Provide a constitution consistent with the FeNZ and regional constitutions.
- Maintain a current register of members.
- Uphold FeNZ's bylaws, health and safety requirements, and code of conduct.

- Keep club contact and officer details up to date with FeNZ.

How to Apply

FeNZ has developed an online Club Membership Application Form, hosted on the FeNZ website in partnership with Sparty.

Each region will invite clubs to complete the form once its regional constitution is adopted. The online form will collect fundamental club details, governance documents, and declarations of compliance with FeNZ obligations.

Existing clubs are encouraged to complete their application by 31 March 2026, ensuring timely inclusion in FeNZ's membership register. Regions can also accept later applications where clubs are still completing re-registration under the Incorporated Societies Act or forming new clubs during the year.

Support and Coordination

Implementation of the membership process will be managed by FeNZ national and regional leads:

- **National Lead:** FeNZ's Secretary General will oversee administration nationally and advise the Board on approvals.
- **Regional Leads:** Regional Secretaries will liaise with local clubs to ensure accuracy, provide guidance, and oversee regional approvals.

Both national and regional bodies will maintain a shared register of Member Clubs to ensure consistency, transparency, and up-to-date communication across the country.

Next Steps

1. **Check your region's communication:** Regional Secretaries will contact clubs once their new constitution is adopted.
2. **Review your constitution and membership records:** Ensure these align with FeNZ's requirements.
3. **Complete the online form:** Submit applications by 28 February 2026 to allow processing by the 31 March deadline.

For queries, please contact your Regional Secretary or email admin@fencing.org.nz.

FeNZ thanks all clubs and regional bodies for their cooperation as we work together to strengthen governance, transparency, and community development within fencing across New Zealand.

Process Overview for Club Membership

