

Statutes of the Commonwealth Fencing Federation

(Formerly known as the Rules of the Commonwealth Fencing Federation. Updated and amended July 1977 and adopted on the proposal of Penny Spink and seconded by Mike Westgate at the Meeting of the CFF Congress in Kuala Lumpur on Friday 21 August 1998.

Provisions regarding the FIE Licence were adopted on the proposal of Helen Smith and seconded by John Ramsay at the Meeting of the CFF Congress in Belfast on Tuesday 19 September 2006.

Provisions regarding eligibility were adopted by email vote of the Members on the proposal of Helen Smith and seconded by John Ramsay on 31 August 2008.

Statutes 4 – 15 were renumbered 5 – 16 respectively)

1 The name of the Federation shall be the **Commonwealth Fencing Federation**. (“CFF”)

2 The object of the Federation is to encourage the development of fencing within the Commonwealth. In particular, it aims:

- to support and assist in the organisation of fencing events at the Commonwealth Games, and to use its influence to promote the inclusion of fencing in the official programme of events at all celebrations of the Commonwealth Games.
- to arrange for the holding of other championships and events for Commonwealth fencers from time to time.
- to serve as a forum for consultation between Commonwealth countries on matters of common interest affecting fencing, and as an instrument for the exchange of information and news.

3 The CFF rules for eligibility to compete in CFF championships shall be as laid down in the Commonwealth Games Federation (“CGF”) Constitution regarding eligibility to compete in the Commonwealth Games (Article 24 in the November 2007 Edition) except that in Article 24(5) the Executive Board referred to shall, for the time being, refer to the Executive of the CFF.

- 1) This shall be implemented fully as of January 1st 2009
- 2) Any appeals under CGF Article 24(5) shall only be considered if lodged with the CFF Executive six calendar months prior to the start of Championships concerned.
- 3) Under the provisions of Article 24(5), an individual fencer (if U18 the fencer’s legal guardian), supported in writing by the Nation concerned, may apply to the CFF Executive to represent a Nation where neither the fencer nor his/her parents were born, on any of the following grounds:
 - he/she represented the Nation on his/her last occasion that he/she participated in a Commonwealth Fencing Federation Championships;

- he/she can show that they have a strong commitment to representing the Nation at national and international level and he/she has been ordinarily a resident of the Nation for a continuous period of two years immediately prior to the date of the Opening Ceremony of the Championships at which he/she hopes to participate in. For a junior fencer (under the age of 20 at midnight on 1 January of the year in question) who has moved with his/her parents to take up permanent residence in a Nation, the 'two year' rule may be waived;
- he/she has a long-standing connection with the Nation through family, education, work or sport and at some time has resided in the Nation for a continuous period of at least 5 years.

If the application refers to competing in a Commonwealth Games event, then any dispensation granted by the CFF Executive is subject to any dispensation requirements laid down by the Commonwealth Games Federation.

4 All competitors at CFF events are to be in possession of a current F.I.E. licence.

(Competitors from Commonwealth Countries who are not affiliated with the F.I.E. or are not associate members of countries affiliated with the F.I.E. must also hold a valid F.I.E. licence. These will be permitted to compete under the banner of the F.I.E. but may wear their country's letter code and logo on their fencing uniform.)

5 A national governing body of fencing in a Commonwealth country shall be eligible for membership of the Federation. Application for membership must be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary and must be accompanied by a copy of rules or constitution of that governing body. Council may decide at its discretion whether to accept or reject any application.

6 Each member body should nominate one representative in writing prior to a meeting of Council or Congress. A country representative may be allowed to carry a proxy for another member country, but no representative member is permitted to hold more than one proxy vote.

7 The officers of the Federation shall be:

- a President;
- two Vice Presidents;
- an Honorary Secretary;
- an Honorary Treasurer

Except for the posts of President and Vice President, any two of these offices may be held by one person. The two Vice Presidents must come from different countries.

The President and Vice Presidents shall be elected by Council. The Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer shall be appointed by the President as soon as possible after his or her election.

The President, Vice Presidents, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, will serve until the conclusion of the next meeting of Congress (normally the fourth calendar year after election).

8 Congress may elect any person who has given valuable service to fencing within the Commonwealth to be Honorary Vice President for such term as the Council shall decide. An Honorary Vice President shall not be an officer nor a member of Council, but he or she shall be entitled to receive notice of meetings of Council and to attend without vote.

9 The affairs of the Federation shall be managed by a Council which will consist of the officers and the representative members (note that Statute 10 governs procedures in the period between Council meetings).

Every member of Council shall have one vote (and a proxy vote if appropriate), and decisions will be made by the majority of votes cast. The chairman also holds a casting vote.

The quorum of Council shall be four members present.

At Council meetings, the President shall take the chair. In his or her absence, the members present shall elect one or other of the Vice Presidents to take the chair. If no Vice President is present, the other members shall elect one of their number to take the chair.

Every fourth year (and normally co-incident with the Commonwealth Championships or Commonwealth Games) the meeting of Council will be called Congress. The decisions of all Council meetings shall have equal validity, but elections will be made at Congress. Congress will also fix the rate of annual subscription for the period up to the next meeting of Congress.

10 A meeting of Council may be called by the President at any time. The President is required to call a meeting of Council if petitioned to do so by three or more Member Bodies. The President shall fix a date and place of a Council meeting as he or she considers practicable in the best interests of the Federation.

Twenty eight days notice shall be given of a Council Meeting unless the president considers that there are specific reasons that make this period impracticable.

The Notice of Council meeting will specify the general nature of the business to be transacted. Subject to these Statutes, the procedure at and conduct of the meeting shall be in the power of the chairman.

11 The President, or, if he or she is unable to act, the Vice Presidents, may take any actions or decisions in consultation with the Honorary Secretary which they feel requires to be taken during the period of one meeting of Council and another. This includes filling a casual vacancy among the officers. A person who is appointed to fill a casual vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the term of office of the person whose vacancy is being filled.

12 Any notice to be given by the Federation to a Member Body or to the appointed Representative Member shall be sent to the Secretary, Honorary Secretary or head office of the Member Body.

13 The annual subscription of a Member Body will be fixed in accordance with Statute 9 and will be payable on the first day of January in advance.

14 These Statutes may not be altered except by resolution of the Council passed by a majority of not less than two thirds of those present voting.

15 In the event of the Commonwealth Fencing Championships taking place in the official programme of the Commonwealth Games, the Rules of the Commonwealth Games will take precedence over these Statutes.

16 In the event of the Commonwealth Fencing Federation being wound up, all the remaining funds will be disbursed among the Member Bodies with a requirement that they be used exclusively for the benefit of fencers and fencing in their countries.

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INTERIM

Interim provisions of the Statutes of the CFF to be read in conjunction with Article 3.

Interim Provisions

- 1) Notwithstanding Article 3, Point 2) of the amended CFF Statutes above, for the Commonwealth Junior Fencing Championships in February 2009, the only requirement shall be that the CFF Executive has sufficient time to consider any appeal.
- 2) Fencers who become ineligible to represent the country they have previously represented, by virtue of the CGF Articles, shall be entitled, without sanction, to EITHER represent the country they are eligible to represent under CGF Article 24(2) OR continue to represent the country they have previously represented, but only at CFF championships. Fencers affected by this must either declare to the CFF Executive and the countries involved their wish to be eligible for the country they are eligible to represent OR apply to the CFF Executive for special exemption, before 1 July 2009.