



FENCING  
VICTORIA

## LETTER TO SCHOOLS REGARDING SCHOOLS' LEAGUE 2024

Dear all Schools' Coaches, Teachers, Coordinators, Fencers, and others,

This letter outlines the dates, structure, and events of Fencing Victoria's Schools' League Epee 2024. It will address each of these points in some detail, and will hopefully clear up any confusion.

First, let me apologise for the delay in this information being communicated. There have been significant challenges in scheduling the 2024 events, due to combination of inconvenient public holiday dates, school holiday clashes, and difficulty securing venues. However, please take this letter as final confirmation of the official calendar and details.

### CALENDAR

The Schools' League Epee 2024 will be comprised of the following events:

- 5 May 2024 – Individual Round 1 (Poules only)
- 12 May 2024 – Individual Round 2 (Poules only)
- 19 May 2024 – Individual Round 3 (Poules only)
- 26 May 2024 – Individual Round 4 (Direct Elimination only)
- 2 June 2024 – Teams' Round 1
- 15 & 16 June 2024 – NATIONAL Australian Intermediate Schools' Championships (Melbourne)
- 20 & 21 July 2024 – NATIONAL Australian Senior Schools' Championships (Canberra)
- 21 July 2024 – Teams' Championships
- 4 August 2024 – Individual Championships

There are seven events that make up this year's calendar, as in previous years. The formats for each event will be explained below.

Please note that earlier versions of the calendar had the Schools' League events split over both Saturdays and Sundays. This is no longer the case, as we have been successful in locating alternative venues.

### VENUES

With the exception of 4 August 2024, all Schools' League events will be held at the State Sport Centres - Parkville (previously known as the State Netball Hockey Centre), located at 10 Brens Drive, Parkville VIC 3052. There is ample parking on site, as well as bathrooms, food kiosks, and other amenities. Those who have been previously involved in Schools' League will note that Fencing Victoria previously held events at this location in 2022. There will be banners and signs up at the Centre outlining in which hall the fencing will be held.

The Individual Championships on 4 August 2024 will be held at Scotch College, located at 1 Morrison Street, Hawthorn VIC 3122. As with the other 2024 venue, Fencing Victoria has previously held a series of events at this location.

There will be no events held at the State Fencing Centre in North Melbourne this year, due to the inability for Fencing Victoria to be able to book the downstairs basketball courts.



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## COMPETITION FORMAT

For the 2024 events, Fencing Victoria, in consultation with other stakeholders, has decided to trial a new format for the first four events of the year. The rationale will be explained below.

Please note, the Teams' events on 2 June and 21 July, as well as the Individual Championships on 4 August will run in exactly the same format as previous years.

Some of the feedback that Fencing Victoria has consistently received from schools is frustration around the amount of time that students spend waiting to fence, and then the relatively short period of time actually spent fencing. Further, there is additional concern about some fencers never receiving the opportunity to participate in Direct Elimination bouts due to the cutoff point. As such, this new format will be a trial in 2024. Depending on feedback, Fencing Victoria may amend or retain the format for future years.

### Poules Only Events

The events on 5, 12, and 19 May will all be 'Poules Only'. This means that fencers will be placed into groups of 7 fencers, and will fence every other fencer in that poule to 5 points.

Once the fencer has finished doing so, and has signed off on their results with the referee, they will be finished for the day.

Subject to the approval of the Coach or Teacher in Charge, they will then be free to leave following this.

The decision to use poules of 7 was to ensure that all fencers receive a decent quantity of bouts, even if some fencers in their poule do not attend on the day. It is anticipated that a poule of 7 fencers will take approximately 2 hours to complete.

There will be two flights of poules in the morning, and two flights in the afternoon. These will be structured as follows:

- Morning Flight One – 8:00 AM rollcall for 8:30 AM start
- Morning Flight Two – 10:00 AM rollcall for 10:30 AM start
- Afternoon Flight One – 12:00 PM rollcall for 12:30 PM start
- Afternoon Flight Two – 2:00 PM rollcall for 2:30 PM start

To facilitate this, the list of fencers participating each week will be due by 5 PM on Thursday of the week of the competition.

This is because the poules will be planned in advance. There will be no capacity for late entries on the day. The poules will then be created on Thursday evening, and published that night. As a result, fencers and teachers will be able to see at what time each individual is required to attend the venue. A link will be sent to all schools so that they might inform their students what time they need to be at the venue.

In effect, fencers will need to be at the venue by the rollcall for their flight of poules. If a fencer is in Morning Flight One, they need to attend by 8:00 AM. If they are in Afternoon Flight Two, they need to attend by 2:00 PM.

This should mean that fencers do not sit around for hours waiting to fence.

The combined impact of these changes should mean that fencers spend far less time at the venue, and get an equal amount of fencing. They will also be fencing straight away, rather than waiting, and will be able to leave as soon as their poule is finished.



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## Direct Elimination Only Event

The 26 May event will be comprised only of Direct Elimination bouts. The results from the first three weeks of Poules Only will be combined to create overall rankings in each category. These will be used to seed the fencers for elimination bouts. These bouts will be to 10 points, and once fencers lose, they are eliminated.

The top 64 fencers in each category will form the 'A' Tableau, and will fence off for medals. This follows the traditional format that has been used in previous years.

The remaining fencers, ranked 65 and beyond, will be placed into a 'B' Tableau, and will also fence off for their own set of medals. This ensures that all fencers, regardless of results in the three Poules Only events, will be able to fence at least one Direct Elimination bout.

The only restriction on this event, is that only fencers who fenced in at least one of the Poules Only events are eligible to compete. Anyone that missed all three will not be able to fence in this event.

The list of fencers in the 'A' and 'B' Tableaus will also be published on the Thursday evening of the week of the competition, so fencers will be able to be informed about which event they are in, and therefore, what time to attend.

These two new formats are a trial for 2024, so Fencing Victoria will be collecting feedback from schools. Please inform your fencers as to the change in format.

## DRAFT TIMETABLE

A draft timetable has been drawn up, and has also been provided. This primarily outlines whether events will Morning or Afternoon events.

## NATIONAL EVENTS

There are two National Schools' League events in 2024. The Intermediate (or Junior Secondary) Championships will be held at the State Fencing Centre in North Melbourne. The Senior (or Senior Secondary) Championships will be held in Canberra.

All participants in Fencing Victoria's Schools' League events are eligible to fence in either competition. More information about these events will be provided closer to the time.

## CONCLUSION

Fencing Victoria is excited about the events for 2024, and looks forward to continuing the positive momentum established in previous years.

If you have any questions, we ask that you liaise with Lisa Lagergren at [statedevelopment@fencingvictoria.org](mailto:statedevelopment@fencingvictoria.org)

*On behalf of Fencing Victoria*

**Jasper MacCuspie**  
President  
Fencing Victoria