



FENCING
VICTORIA

BLACK CARD POLICY 2025

PURPOSE

To outline the procedure by which black cards are awarded at Fencing Victoria competitions. This policy does not amend the criteria on which a Black Card can be awarded. The rules as outlined by the FIE and AFF otherwise apply.

This is also to ensure that the awarding of a black card occurs by the most senior authority present at the competition, to ensure that individual referees are not subject to reprisal, or fear of reprisal, from those to whom black cards are awarded.

PROCEDURE ON THE DAY OF THE INCIDENT

- If a referee observes conduct by a fencer, coach, parent, or spectator that they believe is worthy of a Black Card being awarded, their interpretation is taken to be the correct one. The subsequent procedure is to ensure that the official awarding of a black card is signed off by an appropriate authority.
- Once the conduct is observed, the referee is required to stop the bout immediately. They must then inform the wrongdoing party that they are engaging in the Black Card Procedure.
- The referee must then attend the office at the State Fencing Centre, or the DT desk if the competition is being held off-site. They will then outline to the Head DT and Head Referee on the day the basis for their view that a black card is appropriate. The Head DT and Head Referee on the day will then confer with any relevant witnesses to determine any relevant facts.
- Once this has occurred, the Head DT or Head Referee on the day must contact the Head DT of Fencing Victoria to explain the situation. If the Head DT of Fencing Victoria is unavailable, an alternative authority is the General Manager, or a Director of Fencing Victoria.
- Once this communication has taken place, the black card will be formally signed off by the Head DT of Fencing Victoria or alternate authority. The Head DT or Head Referee on the day will then physically award the card to the infringing party.

PROCEDURE AFTER BLACK CARD AWARDED

- After the black card is awarded, the recipient is required to leave the venue immediately. They are disqualified from any competition in which they are taking part, and from any further events on the same day. No refund of entry fee will be provided in these circumstances.
- In the following days, the Head DT of Fencing Victoria will consult with relevant parties to determine the appropriate length of administrative suspension to be awarded to the recipient. Please note that the standard period of suspension is 2 months. This may be shortened or extended depending on whether there are exceptional circumstances.
- Recipients will be offered the opportunity to discuss the incident further with representatives of Fencing Victoria, but once awarded, the black card will not be overturned.
- A summary of the incident and the length of the suspension will be communicated in writing to the infringing party within a reasonable period of time after the awarding of the black card.