



**Newfoundland and Labrador
Fencing Association**



2027 Canada Winter Games Selection Criteria

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0. Introduction

The Newfoundland and Labrador Fencing Association (NLFA) is the provincial sport organization responsible for the sport of Fencing in Newfoundland and Labrador. As such it is responsible for the selection and training of fencers competing in the Canada Games.

This document outlines the selection process and criteria that will be used for athlete selection up to the date of the Canada Winter Games in 2027.

These criteria are intended to fit with the NLFA's long term athlete development plan and to benefit all athletes concerned whether they are selected or not.

1. Objectives

The objective of this Selection Criteria document is to clearly outline the standards, evaluation process, and expectations used to identify and select athletes to represent Team NL at the 2027 Canada Winter Games.

The NLFA is responsible for selecting and preparing athletes to represent Newfoundland and Labrador as Team NL. Selection decisions will prioritize competitive readiness, team composition, long-term athlete development, and the overall success of Team NL at the Canada Winter Games.

2. Team size and structure

The *initial training group* will consist of any number of athletes of appropriate age. Any number of applicants may apply, so long as they fit into the following eligibility requirements.

Eligibility for the initial training group:

- Athletes must have been born in or after 2010.

- Athletes must be members of the NLFA.
- Athletes must have indicated an interest in being a member of the final training group.

The *final training group* will consist of at least 8 and possibly more athletes as follows:

- One athlete assigned to each of the following roles:¹
 - Primary F Epee, PFE
 - Primary F Foil, PFF
 - Primary F Sabre, PFS
 - Primary M Epee, PME
 - Primary M Foil, PMF
 - Primary M Sabre. PMS]
- One athlete assigned to each of the roles
 - Backup F Epee, BFE
 - Backup F Foil, BFF
 - Backup F Sabre, BFS
 - Backup M Epee, BME
 - Backup M Foil, BMF
 - Backup M Sabre. BMS
- No athlete will be assigned more than one role primary roles or more than 2 roles in total.
- At least one F fencer and at least one M fencer will be assigned only (one or two) backup roles.

Eligibility for the final training group:

- Athletes must have been born in or after 2010.
- Athletes must be members of the NLFA and commit to renewing membership for 2026-2027.
- Athletes must be on track to be eligible to compete in the role that they are assigned. (See the Fencing Technical Package.)

¹ In this document, we use the letters M and F to refer to the men's and women's categories of events respectively. Eligibility for these categories is set by the Canadian Fencing Federation.

The *competition group* will consist of 6 athletes who will travel to the venue to compete. One athlete will be assigned to each of the following roles:

- PFE,
- PFF,
- PFS
- PME,
- PMF,
- PMS.

Eligibility for the competition group:

- Athletes must have been born in or after 2010.
- Athletes must be members of the NLFA for 2026-2027.
- Athletes must be on track to be eligible to compete in the role that they are assigned. (See the Fencing Technical Package.)

3. Team Staff

The team staff at the venue will consist of the Coach and the Team Manager. In addition, there will be the coaching team and the management team.

4. Selection Criteria

Because of the relatively small number of competitive-level fencers of the required age, the NLFA has assembled a group of athletes that are capable and interested in undertaking high performance training.

We also suggest that all potential athletes refer to Section 5.0 of the Team NL Policies and Procedures Manual. [TeamNL - Documents](#)

Our selection criteria will be on the basis of the following criteria:

- a.** The athlete must meet or be on track to meet all eligibility requirements outlined above.
- b.** That the athlete shows consistent commitment to high performance training as evidenced by their participation in training activities and meeting deadlines.
- c.** Performance during practice competitions over the course of the initial and final group training sessions.
- d.** Improvement over the course of training group practices up to the selection time.
- e.** Attendance at (or intention to attend) 2 CFF sanctioned events outside of the province as part of the training program.
- f.** How the selection of the athlete fits into the team composition.

Selection to the final training group and assignment of roles within this group.

Rubric: Criterium (a) is pass/fail. Of those who pass the criterium, points will be assigned as follows.

- Demonstrated commitment will be graded as high (10 points), medium (5 points), or low (0 points).
- Performance during practice competitions over the course of the initial and final group training sessions will be graded on a per event basis. 15 points will be divided between the top 2 fencers in each event proportional to their win loss record during internal competitions. For example if fencer X has a 50% win record and fencer Y has a win record of 60%, then the 15 points would be divided in proportions of 50/110 and 60/110 and so 6.8181 and 8.1818 points.
- Improvement over the course of training group practices up to the selection time. This will be assessed subjectively by the selection committee on a per event basis and will result in the following points: Good progress (6 points), fair progress (4 points), no progress (0 points).
- Attendance at (or intention to attend) 2 CFF sanctioned events outside of the province as part of the training program. Points will be awarded as follows. Both: 5 points. One: 3 points, Neither: 0 points.

Primary roles: If different fencers come out with the highest points total for each of the 6 individual events (FE, FF, FS, ME, MF, MS), then they will be selected to those primary roles. Otherwise if one athlete is at the top for multiple individual event roles, the selection committee will choose one primary role for that athlete and redo the rankings for the remaining roles without that fencer in the mix. The basis for this choice of role will be based on which event, in the selection committee's opinion, the athlete is likely to get a higher placing in.

Backup roles: The selection committee will also assign backup roles. This will be done by redoing the selection process above with one fencer removed. E.g. to select the backup for MS, we would remove the fencer assigned to the PMS role and redo all selections. Some adjustments may need to be made so that no athlete has more than 2 roles.

The result of this process should be a set of 8 to 12 athletes in the final training group with each of the 12 roles assigned to one athlete; and with each athlete being assigned at least one role, at most 2 roles, and at most 1 primary role.

Unless there are extraordinary circumstances such as an injury or a fencer not sustaining their level of commitment to training and competition, the competition group will consist of the 6 fencers assigned primary roles on entry to the final training group. Athletes not in the training group, not in the competitive group will continue to train and be trained up to the time of the games.

In case of an injury that will likely prevent an athlete in the final training group from competing in the competition or in the case of an athlete withdrawing, the selection committee may reassign roles or bring new athletes into the final training group at any time.

5. Selection Committee

The selection committee will be appointed by the NLFA Board of Directors and will consist of 5 members of the association including the Team Coach and Manager. Parents and other close relatives of any candidate athlete will not be members of the selection committee.

6. Timeline of Key Events

- By 2026 March 30 this document is approved by SportNL.
- By March 30 this document is approved by the NLFA executive and posted on the NLFA website.
- By March 31. All members of the initial training group and their parents/guardians will be made aware of this document and that it has been approved.
- April 1 to June 30. The initial training group will train. During this training period, members of the selection committee will observe the applicants.
- July 1 to July 31. The selection committee will select the final training group and assign each member of the final group a role. The selection committee will write an individual assessment for each member of the initial training group explaining the rationale for their selection or non-selection to the final training team. These will be shared privately with the athlete. The final result of selection process will be announced by publication to the NLFA website.
- Any appeals must be lodged with the NLFA executive within 48 hours of the announcement.
- September and October 2026, the selection committee will continue to monitor the final training group.
- By Sept. 30. The competition group will be finalized by the selection committee and announced. Any athlete in the final training group whose role has changed or will be informed of the change and the rationale for the change in writing.
- Any appeals must be lodged within 7 days and resolved within 30.

7. Code of Conduct

The NLFA is committed to maintaining the highest level of performance and behavior. The athletes that make up the 2027 Canada Games Fencing Team are required to adhere to the rules and regulations set out in the Team NL Code of Conduct, (section 9.0) [Team NL Policy Manual - Final Approved Version.pdf - Google Drive](#) and also the NLFA code of conduct.

8 Special Exemption Selection Criteria

Special circumstances where an athlete is unable to commit to the previously outlined selection process include:

- The athlete is injured and unable to participate in the selection process.
 - The injured athlete will be required to submit a note signed by a medical professional confirming the cited injury.
 - This note will be reviewed by the NLFA Board of Directors.
- The athlete is living and/or training out of province but still meets the eligibility criteria for participation in the Canada Games as outlined in the Fencing Technical Package and our stated Selection Criteria.
- An athlete moves into the province from another during the selection process but misses the initial intake into the program.
- An athlete must inform the NLFA in writing of their conflict with the final selection date no less than seven days before the final selection is made.

9. Injury Exemption Criteria

If an athlete is injured prior to an event the following criteria applies:

- Exemption Request
 - The athlete (or their coach) must submit an exemption request immediately upon confirmation of the injury.
- Medical Documentation
 - A medical note from a licensed healthcare professional must be provided.
- Submission Timeline:
 - The exemption request and medical documentation must be submitted prior to the event, or within 48 hours if the injury occurs immediately before the event.
- Committee Review:
 - The Coaches/Manager will review the documentation and may:
 - Accept the exemption, maintaining the athlete's standing within the program; and/or

- Propose an alternative preparation plan (e.g., modified training, physical therapy, or technical assignments) to support the athlete's continued development during recovery.
- Return-to-Training Clearance Note from a medical professional
 - A medical clearance note will be required before the athlete resumes full training or competition activities.

10. Appeals Process

Any athlete who has not been selected and wishes to appeal the selection decision can do by filing an appeal in writing to the NLFA at nlfencing@gmail.com.

The deadline to submit an appeal is 48 hours after the announcement of the teams. Appeals received after this deadline will not be considered.

The Appeals Committee will consist of the NLFA Board of Directors and follow the steps outlined in the NFLA Appeals Policy.

The NLFA reserves the right to not fill all available place on a team if it is felt that not all athletes are suitable for competition. A selected athlete may also be replaced on the team after the selection deadline in the case of illness, injury, or inability to compete at Canada Winter Games. An athlete will be required to present a medical note in the case of an illness or injury preventing participation.

Any athlete found to have broken the NLFA's code of conduct may be removed from the team if that is the decision rendered via the NLFA's discipline and complaints process.

11. Contact Information

PSO: Newfoundland and Labrador Fencing Association nlfencing@gmail.com

Head Coach: Theodore Norvell theo@mun.ca

Team Manager: Kirsti Mikoda intrepidkem@hotmail.com