

MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIPS SELECTION

INTRODUCTION

Major Championships are end of season events selected for by British Fencing in accordance with that season's selection policy. In general, selection to majors is based off reaching a "Qualification Standard", which refers to mean percentile finishes at Nominated International events only.

The exact policy and qualification thresholds vary slightly across age categories and are detailed below. There may also be season to season changes, with the finalised policies published by British Fencing ahead of the season start.

The Major Championships are as follows: U14 Festival, U17 Euros, U17 Worlds, U20 Euros, U20 Worlds, U23 Euros, Senior Euros, Senior Worlds.

Non-annual championships (Olympics/Zonal Qualifier, European Games, World Combat Games, World University Games, Commonwealth Fencing Championships etc) follow different policies outside the scope of this document.

This document is updated for the 2025-26 Season

GENERAL POLICIES

An important facet of the selection process for Majors is that it is the **performance at Nominated International events which is most relevant for selection**. The British Ranking plays a significant role but is secondary to meeting the defined qualification standard.

Qualification Standards are based off the percentile finishes at Nominated International Events, with three qualification levels. **Nominated Events are considered from the 12-month period up to the selection deadline of the Major being selected for**. This means that results from the previous season may count, and the results considered may change between selection for Euros and Worlds.

The first is a podium (top 4) finish at a Nominated International, regardless of field size (this also almost always meets the second standard).

The second is a top 8% finish (ie, placing 8th or better in a field of 100 fencers) at a single Nominated Event.

And the third is an average % finish across the athlete's best 3 Nominated Internationals; the required mean ranges between 35 and 40% depending on the age category. These are not weighted by event size -only the average of the three percentile finishes is relevant. **Of particular note, only events at the relevant category count towards the third standard** -IE a U17 fencer could not mix two U17 EFC results and one U20 WC result in order to meet the threshold, and would require a third U17 event.

However, **any fencer who achieves qualification standard at an age category higher than their own has met standard at any category below the one they have met standard for which they are eligible to compete.** Ie if a U17 meets Senior standard, they have also met U23, U20 and U17 standards.

Selections are initially made from the pool of fencers who have met qualification standards, with **the three highest ranked fencers who have met qualification standards automatically selected, and the fourth slot filled by a discretionary selection out of the pool of qualified fencers (this drops to 2 automatic and 1 discretionary for U17 Worlds).** If there are less fencers making the standard than there are selection places, then BF will make discretionary selections based on a range of factors, or leave the places unfilled. Reserves may also be selected, depending on the event.

The full list of discretionary factors can be found on the selection policy documents, but by far the most important factors are performance trajectory at international events, age, and fit within the team for team events. **All selected fencers, regardless of qualification route, are expected to be in good standing with BF and have completed their IADP forms.**

U17 (CADETS)

The three event standard for U17 selection is 35%. BF typically nominate 5-6 U17 EFC events per season.

The Majors are the U17 European Championships (Individual and Team) and the U17 World Championships (Individual)

Because there is no U17 Team at the World Championships, only 3 fencers are able to be entered, and only the top two places are automatic.

U20 (JUNIORS)

The three event standard for U20 selection is 38%. BF nominate 1 Senior Satellite WC, and between 4-5 U20 FIE/U23 EFC events per season.

The Majors are the U20 European Championships (Individual and Team) and the U20 World Championships (Individual and Team).

U23

The three event standard for U23 selection is 38%. BF nominate 1 Senior Satellite WC and 3 EFC U23 events. Any nominated Senior event may also count as a U23 result.

The Major is the U23 European Championships (Individual and Team)

SENIORS

The three event standard for Senior selection is 40%. BF nominate 1 Senior Satellite WC and all FIE World Cups and Grand Prixes.

The Majors are the European Championships and the World Championships. Entry of a team is guaranteed for teams in the top 10 of the FIE rankings, regardless of the number of fencers meeting qualification standards.

U14

The three event standard for U14 selection is 35%. BF nominate 3-4 U14 EFCs. **However, this is subject to review, and due to the number of events, very few fencers meet standard.**

Selection of the top 2 final year and top 2 penultimate year U14s who have met standard will be made for the U14 EFC Festival, with places generally expected to be filled based on ranking.