



## ONTARIO FENCING ASSOCIATION (OFA) ARMOURER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

1. The following levels of armourer certifications are recognized by the OFA:
  - (a) Weapons Technician – granted by the OFA;
  - (b) Club Technician – granted by the OFA;
  - (c) Regional - granted by the OFA;
  - (d) Provincial - granted by the OFA or another province;
  - (e) National - granted by the CFF;
  - (f) International - granted by the FIE.
  
2. The OFA supports individual development and is responsible for the training and certification of programs for armourers at the Regional and Provincial levels. Regional certifications are granted to those who meet specified requirements to work under the supervision of the Head Armourer at Category 1 to 5 tournaments. Provincial certifications are granted to those who meet specified requirements to be designated as Head Armourer at Category 1 and 2 tournaments designated for the Open circuit, up to and including the Provincial Championships (LTAD: Train to Train).
  
3. In order to ensure the best training and development for all those seeking to develop their armoury skills, it is recognized that an integrated system of development is required for each stream. These streams are defined as follows:
  - (a) **Individual development** – initiation of training individuals to understand rules and technical requirements of the sport and how to conduct themselves in basic equipment management and repair at the club level, including weapons and scoring equipment;  
(Target: new fencers to the sport, parents of fencers that wish to be involved)
  - (b) **Regional Level Development** - formal training and mentorship for those who are pursuing Regional-level certification, particularly those who are focused on local/regional level competitions;  
(Target: those who have mastered repairs across weapons and other equipment and wish to learn about the role of an armourer during tournaments)
  - (c) **Provincial Level Development** – formal training and mentorship for those who are pursuing Provincial-level certification, who wish to officiate at competitive open tournaments and at the Ontario Provincial Championships;  
(Target: regional qualified armourers)
  - (d) **National-level development** – training and mentorship for those who are experienced Provincial level armourers who wish to pursue National level certification.  
(Target: Provincial-Qualified armourers)

4. Three distinct training streams have been developed to cater to the needs of candidates wishing to achieve the different levels of armourer certification.

- (a) Stream A is geared towards junior and novice development within the sport. Learning and developing within stream A is conducted within the Clubs and online. It also applies to those who support these competitors, such as parents and junior coaches.
- (b) Stream B requires a process of development, training, mentorship, and certification that will prepare those who are interested in becoming armourers within Ontario; this includes both Regional and Provincial level certifications.
- (c) Stream C aims to increase the development and capacity of existing Ontario armourers in order to prepare them for National-level certification. While it should be recognized that not all those who undergo development under this stream will become nationally certified, increasing capabilities is a worthwhile goal for all officials.

## PROGRAMS

5. Stream A development is initiated at the club-level and online for the introduction to an individual's conduct, rules, and technical requirements of fencing; upon request, it may also be delivered by a Learning Facilitator designated by the Armoury Commission.

6. Stream B development requires thorough knowledge and application of the rules of fencing, demonstrated through testing and practical sessions. Formal training is conducted through a workshop to discuss rules and their interpretation, and practical elements of working for and planning/managing the armoury at competitions. Requirements for Regional and Provincial level certification will be assessed through both theoretical and practical testing. Restrictions for Stream development is as follows:

Stream	Candidate minimum age*	Restriction	
		Regional development	Provincial development
C	18	No restriction	No restriction
B	18	No restriction	No restriction
	16	No restriction	Ineligible for practical examination
A	No restriction	N/A	N/A

\*age as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current competitive season

7. Stream C development requires multiple years of armoury experience and further in-depth knowledge of how rules and interpretations are applied practically. This stream of development includes

tournament planning and administration for larger competitions, in addition to individual armourer development and training, opportunities for practice on higher level competitions, and significant one-on-one mentorship.

## **PROGRAM ENROLMENT**

8. All participants working towards certification must be members of the OFA and have a valid CFF license in the year of developmental training. A list of candidates enrolled in Streams B and C will be maintained and updated by the Officials Committee.

9. Those commencing their training and development at Stream A are not required to enroll with the OFA Armoury Commission; however, individuals must demonstrate full competency in the skill-sets outlined in Annex A before progressing to Stream B. This can be achieved through participation in the OFA Armoury Weapons Tech and Club Tech online modules.

10. Stream B workshops will be facilitated by the Armoury Commission during scheduled mentorship events throughout each season. Candidates should be working towards mastery of their armoury skill sets through independent practice and be able to demonstrate these skills to evaluators.

11. All those who wish to follow Stream C development must:

- (a) be certified with a Provincial armoury license;
- (b) apply to the program through registration with the Armoury Commission;
- (c) be accepted and enrolled into the National-development program; selection for the program is described in Annex C.

## **PROGRAM COSTS**

12. Stream A – \$25 for participants. If clubs would like for a Learning Facilitator to deliver this stream of the program, a session charge will be determined for the club on a cost-recovery basis.

13. Stream B and C registration fees as follows:

- (a) Stream B1, R-level - \$125;
- (b) Stream B2, P-level - \$175;
- (c) Stream C, N-preparation - \$200;
- (d) Program continuation - \$50;
- (e) Certification upgrades - \$50

14. All questions and concerns should be directed to [info@fencingontario.ca](mailto:info@fencingontario.ca)



## ANNEX A

### REQUIREMENTS FOR STREAM A: WEAPON AND CLUB TECHNICIANS

NOTE: Delivery of Stream A content is within the scope of individual clubs and through the OFA's online modules.

1. Enrolment is not required for this stream. This can be achieved through the tutelage and guidance of an experienced and certified armorer, working in a participating OFA club and by completing the virtual modules.
2. The skill sets required for this stream are as follows:
  - (a) How to diagnose and repair individual weapons
  - (b) How to diagnose and repair individual body and head cords
  - (c) How to diagnose and repair club reels
  - (d) How to diagnose and repair floor cords
  - (e) How to organize and maintain a club's armoury and inventory
  - (f) How to assist others with repairs
  - (g) Assessing equipment for safety
  - (h) How to teach basic repairs and delegate tasks as necessary
3. Those who have completed the weapon and club tech modules must have demonstrated these skill sets to a certified armorer. The armoury skill sets pertaining to this Stream may also be recognized by an active Provincial level armorer designated by the Armoury Commission.
4. A specialized session may be delivered by a Learning Facilitator designated by the Armoury Commission at the request of the Club or Coach for delivery of material outlined in this Stream, with an associated cost (determined on a cost recovery basis). Interested Clubs should contact the OFA Armoury Committee.



## ANNEX B

### REQUIREMENTS FOR STREAM B: REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL LEVEL DEVELOPMENT

1. Enrolment is required for participation in this stream, and is only available to those who have already attained the specified skill sets of paragraph 2 of Annex A as a minimum. This stream has age requirements as outlined below.

2. The names of registered Stream B candidates will be forwarded to Organizers of Category 1-3 tournaments for developmental purposes. Coordination with the Armoury Commission will occur in order to ensure appropriate level mentorship and experience is made available.

#### **Stream B<sub>1</sub> - Regional Level Certification**

3. The requirements for enrolment into this stream of the Armourer Development Program are as follows:

<b>Candidate minimum age*</b>	<b>Restriction</b>
16	No restriction

\*age as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current competitive season

4. The requirements in this stream are as follows:

- (a) participation at an OFA sanctioned or approved Armourer Development Workshop;
- (b) work as an armourer at competitions commensurate to the certification level sought, under the supervision of a mentor designated by the Armoury Commission.

5. The requirements for completing this stream and obtaining a Regional Certification are as follows:

- (a) achieving at least 80% on the theoretical test;
- (b) demonstrate an acceptable level of proficiency during a formal practical examination for Regional certification at a category 3 or higher tournament.

6. Specific qualification standards and proficiency requirements for certification to the Regional level are presented during the Armourer Development Workshop.

## Stream B<sub>2</sub> - Provincial Level Certification

7. The requirements for enrolment into this stream of the Armourer Development Program are as follows:

<b>Candidate minimum age*</b>	<b>Restriction</b>
18	No restriction
16	Ineligible for practical examination

\*age as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current competitive season

8. The requirements in this stream are as follows:
- (a) participation at an OFA sanctioned or approved Armourer Development Workshop;
  - (b) work as an armourer at competitions commensurate to the certification level sought, under the supervision of a mentor designated by the Armoury Commission.
9. The requirements for completing this stream and obtaining a Provincial Certification are as follows:
- (a) achieving at least 80% on the theoretical test;
  - (b) demonstrate an acceptable level of proficiency during a formal practical examination for certification at a category 2 or higher tournament.
10. Note that while enrolled towards Provincial-level certification, a candidate may be examined and awarded a Regional certification if they do not achieve the P-level standards.
11. Specific qualification standards and proficiency requirements for certification to the Provincial level are presented during the Armourer Development Workshop. Typically candidates require 3-5 practical sessions at designated tournaments prior to examination. Selection for developmental tournaments will prioritize those candidates enrolled in Streams B and C.



## ANNEX C

### REQUIREMENTS FOR STREAM C: NATIONAL-LEVEL DEVELOPMENT

1. As this program requires much more mentorship and individual supervision, enrollment for this stream is made by application and acceptance.
2. The names of registered Stream C candidates will be forwarded to Organizers of category 1-2 competitions for developmental purposes.
3. Within the OFA Armourer Stream C Development Program, registrants must understand that the National-level certification can only be granted by the Canadian Fencing Federation (CFF). However, this program is designed to prepare OFA Provincial Armourers, as much as practical, for the standards expected of the National license. It should also be noted that candidates may incur additional expenses (e.g., tools, material, travel and accommodation, etc.) in order to gain sufficient experience to meet the expected standards.
4. The requirements for entry into this stream are as follows:
  - (a) be at least 18 years of age;
  - (b) application to the program, and upon confirmation of acceptance, enrolment into the OFA Armourer Development Program; and
  - (c) demonstrated strong skill sets outlined for the Provincial level, as determined by designated OFA armourer mentors.
5. While the goal of this stream is to provide candidates with the best possible experience and skills to challenge the N-level examination, completion of this stream may not necessarily result in obtaining a National Certification.
6. Specifics on the program and skill sets needed for nomination and certification to the National level are presented during an introductory tutorial session.