



ONTARIO FENCING ASSOCIATION (OFA)

REFEREE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

1. The following levels of referee certifications are recognized by the OFA:
 - (a) Regional - granted by the OFA;
 - (b) Provincial - granted by the OFA or another province;
 - (c) National - granted by the CFF;
 - (d) International - granted by the FIE.

2. The OFA is responsible for the development, training, and certification of programs for referees at the Regional and Provincial levels. Regional certifications are granted to those who meet specified requirements to referee at Category 3 to 5 tournaments designated for youth or recreational level fencers (LTAD: Learn to Train). Provincial certifications are granted to those who meet specified requirements to referee 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 participating in the sport of fencing, it is recognized that an integrated system of development is required for each stream. These streams within the purview of the OFA's Referee Development Program are designed to be integrated with the CFF Armband program, and are defined as follows:
 - (a) **Initial development** – initiation of training athletes to understand rules of the sport and how to conduct themselves in competition;
(Target: new fencers to the sport, developing Yellow and Orange armband skills)
 - (b) **Intermediate development** – formal instruction in aspects related to competition, as it pertains to the decisions of and interactions with referees leading to Basic Level (Ba) recognition;
(Target: Orange/Green armband fencers, developing towards Green/Blue skills)
 - (c) **Regional Level Development** - formal training and mentorship for those who are pursuing Regional-level certification, particularly those who are focused primarily on local/regional level competitions;
(Target: Green/Blue armband-level fencers, or younger athletes with less competitive experience)
 - (d) **Provincial Level Development** - formal training and mentorship for those who are pursuing Provincial-level certification, who wish to officiate at competitive opens and the Ontario Provincials;
(Target: Green/Blue armband-level fencers or those with at least this commensurate skill knowledge, who are developing towards Red/Black skills)
 - (e) **National-level development** – training and mentorship for those who are experienced Provincial referees who wish to pursue National level qualification.
(Target: Provincial-Qualified Referees)

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

- I. Streams A and B are typically geared towards junior and novice development within the sport. Learning and developing within stream A is conducted within the Clubs. Stream B is intended for fencers who have started competing at the Provincial level and are starting along path for Ba recognition; it also applies to those who support these competitors, such as parents and junior coaches.
- II. Stream C requires a process of development, training, mentorship, and certification that will prepare those who are interested in becoming referees within Ontario; this includes both Regional and Provincial level certifications.
- III. Stream D aims to increase the development and capacity of existing Ontario referees in order to prepare them for National-level certification. While it should be recognized that not all those who undergo development under this stream would necessarily become nationally certified, increasing capabilities is a worthwhile goal for all officials.

PROGRAMS

5. Stream A development is initiated at the Club-level by club certified coaches for the introduction to athlete’s conduct and rules of fencing; upon request, it may also be delivered by a Learning Facilitator designated by the Referees Commission. The abilities developed through stream A are defined within the CFF Armband program, and further expanded at Annex A.

6. Stream B development requires more in-depth knowledge of the sport and rules, which is delivered in a session by a Learning Facilitator designated by the Referees Commission. Formal instruction is conducted through a workshop to discuss expectations of athletes at competition, key rules and interpretations, and mechanisms for addressing referee decisions. Elements associated with this stream are listed at Annex B. Successful completion of Stream B leads to recognition at the Basic level.

7. Stream C 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, interpretation of actions and referee calls, and practical elements of refereeing. Requirements for Regional and Provincial level certification will be assessed through both theoretical and practical testing. Restrictions for Stream C development is as follows:

Candidate minimum age*	Minimum candidate ranking**	Restriction	
		Regional development	Provincial development
18	Any rank	No restriction	No restriction
16	Top 16	No restriction	No restriction
16	Any rank	No restriction	Ineligible for practical examination
14	Top 16	No restriction	Ineligible for practical examination

*age as of December 31st of the current competitive season

**Canadian domestic ranking in any Cadet, Junior, or Senior weapon category at the time of registration

8. Stream D development requires multiple years of refereeing experience, further in-depth knowledge of how rules and interpretations are applied practically, as well as significant analysis of bouts of higher competitive level athletes. This stream of development requires more planning for individual referee development and training, opportunities for practice on higher competitive bouts, and significant one-on-one mentorship.

PROGRAM ENROLMENT

9. 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, C and D will be maintained and updated by the Referees Commission.

10. Those commencing their training and development at Stream A are not required to enroll with the OFA Referees Commission; however, the skill-sets determined in Annex A must be accomplished. This can be achieved through the CFF Armband program to the Orange-level at participating OFA clubs.

11. Stream B workshops will be facilitated by the Referee Commission, upon request or by advanced scheduling.

12. Candidates for Stream C should be working towards the Blue armband refereeing skill sets through independent practice and be able to demonstrate these skills to evaluators.

13. All those who wish to follow Stream D development must:

- (a) be in possession of a Provincial refereeing license in at least one weapon;
- (b) apply to the program through registration with the Referee Commission;
- (c) be accepted and enrolled into the National-development program; selection for the program is described in Annex D.

PROGRAM COSTS

14. Stream A – no additional cost for participants as this should be covered through the Armband program run by OFA participating clubs. However, if clubs would like for a Learning Facilitator to deliver this stream of the program, a session charge will be determined for the club.

15. OFA clubs who have requested a Stream B workshop shall bear all associated costs of running the workshop in its entirety. Should the OFA Referee Commission organize the clinic, the cost will be determined on a cost-recovery basis.

16. Stream C and D registration fees as follows:

Reviewed and approved by the OFA Officials Committee: 23 June 2021

- (a) R-level - \$125;
- (b) P-level - \$175;
- (c) N-level - \$200;
- (d) Program continuation - \$50;
- (e) Certification upgrades - \$50.

17. Stream D candidates may only register in the weapon(s) for which they hold a Provincial level certification.

18. All questions and concerns should be directed to web@fencingontario.ca

Program document:

Approved: August 8th, 2018

Revised: June 23, 2021

REFEREE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



ANNEX A

REQUIREMENTS FOR STREAM A: INITIAL DEVELOPMENT

NOTE: Delivery of Stream A content is within the scope of individual clubs.

1. Enrolment is not required for this stream. Requirements to complete the requirements for this stream can be conducted through the Armband program to the Orange armband. This can be achieved through the tutelage and guidance of an experienced and certified coach, working in a participating OFA club.
2. The skill sets required for this stream are as follows:
 - a. understanding the principles of corner judging for non-electric bouts;
 - b. executing the duties of a corner judge for non-electric bouts;
 - c. differentiating between attack actions versus counter-attack actions (counter offensive actions);
 - d. determine when a defensive parry action has been executed;
 - e. determine when an Offensive (riposte) action has been executed following a parry;
 - f. knowing and appropriately employing the four basic commands of fencing (on guard/en garde, ready/êtes-vous prêt, fence/allez, and halt);
 - g. demonstrating basic refereeing in practice over four (4) bouts with electrical equipment (in specific weapon).
3. In theory, those who have earned the Orange Armband have demonstrated these skill sets to a certified coach. The refereeing skill sets pertaining to this Stream may also be recognized by an active Provincial level referee designated by the Referee Commission.
4. A specialized session can be delivered by a Learning Facilitator designated by the Referees Commission at the request of the Club or Coach for material outlined in this Stream, with an associated cost. Interested Clubs should contact the OFA Referee Committee.



REFEREE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

ANNEX B

REQUIREMENTS FOR STREAM B: INTERMEDIATE DEVELOPMENT

1. Registration with the OFA Officials Committee is required for Stream B recognition. Sessions will be conducted as follows:
 - a. Scheduled by the OFA who will coordinate all arrangements as required; open to all validated licensed members, registration will be individually facilitated by the OFA; or
 - b. Club/organizers who wish to host a specific session for their members and guests, will be responsible for all costs commensurate with hosting; they will be responsible for registration and provide the list of participants to the Learning Facilitator (LF) for registration, as well as coordinate with the OFA on potential assessed costs of the LF.

2. During a facilitated workshop, a detailed list of participants will be taken by the Learning Facilitator at the time of the workshop and submitted to the Referees Commission in order to maintain accurate records. Participants in Stream B should have a general working knowledge and understanding of the skill sets outlined in the Armband program at the Orange/Green armband level.

3. The minimum skill sets for Stream B are as follows:
 - a. full understand and practice achieved within Stream A;
 - b. knowledge of the dimensions in the field of play, as well as the consequences for exiting the field of play;
 - c. demonstrating the understanding and recording of statistics collected within a pool sheet during competition, to include:
 - i. the scoring of victories;
 - ii. the scoring of defeats;
 - iii. the victory indicator;
 - iv. the points indicator; and
 - v. the fencer ranking within a pool.
 - d. correctly performing weapon and equipment checks;
 - e. refereeing in practice over a pool of at least five (5) fencers with electrical equipment (in specific weapon); and
 - f. attend tournaments to learn and gain experience.

4. This Stream aims to educate fencers who have started competition for an increased understanding; it may also be of interest to coaches, parents and supporters of athletes who frequently accompany them to competition.

5. Note that although there is no formal testing within this stream, it is recommended that participants have a working base knowledge of the conventions of fencing and how competitions are organized. Upon completion of this stream, participants are recognized as Ba level officials.



REFEREE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

ANNEX C

REQUIREMENTS FOR STREAM C: REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL LEVEL DEVELOPMENT

1. Enrolment for this stream is required, for those who have already attained the specified skill sets of paragraph 3 of Annex B as a minimum. Given the specific development criteria and appropriateness of officiating in certain categories, this stream has age limitations as outlined below.
2. Potential Stream C candidates will be identified and names forwarded to Organizers of Category 1-3 tournaments for developmental purposes. Coordination with the Referees Commission will occur in order to ensure appropriate level mentorship and experience.

Stream Ci - Regional Level Certification

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

Candidate minimum age*	Minimum candidate ranking**	Restriction
18	Any rank	No restriction
16	Top 16	No restriction
16	Any rank	No restriction
14	Top 16	No restriction

*age as of December 31st of the current competitive season

**Canadian domestic ranking in any Cadet, Junior, or Senior weapon category at the time of registration
Note that a candidate meeting the above program entry requirements, but below the age of 16, can only be examined and certified to the Regional level.

4. The requirements in this stream are as follows:
 - a. participation at an OFA sanctioned or approved Referee Development Workshop;
 - b. work as a referee at competitions commensurate for certification level sought, under the supervision of a mentor designated by the Referees 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. Specifics on qualification standards and certification to the Regional level are presented during the Referee Development Workshop.

Stream Cii - Provincial Level Certification

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

Candidate minimum age*	Minimum candidate ranking**	Restriction
18	Any rank	No restriction
16	Top 16	No restriction
16	Any rank	Ineligible for practical examination
14	Top 16	Ineligible for practical examination

*age as of December 31st of the current competitive season

**Canadian domestic ranking in any Cadet, Junior, or Senior weapon category at the time of registration

8. The requirements in this stream are as follows:

- a. participation at an OFA sanctioned or approved Referee Development Workshop;
- b. work as a referee at competitions commensurate for certification level sought, under the supervision of a mentor designated by the Referees 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 prior to achieving the P-level standards.

11. Specifics on qualification standards and certification to the Provincial level are presented during the Referee Development Workshop. Typically candidates require 5-7 practical sessions at designated tournaments prior to examination. Selection for developmental tournaments will prioritize those candidates enrolled in Streams C and D.



REFEREE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

ANNEX D

REQUIREMENTS FOR STREAM D: NATIONAL-LEVEL DEVELOPMENT

1. As this program requires much more mentorship and individual supervision, enrolment for this stream is made by application and acceptance. Applicants must also have an understanding of Black armband skills.
2. Potential Stream D candidates will be identified and names forwarded to Organizers of category 1-2 competitions for developmental purposes.
3. Within the OFA Referee Stream D 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 Referees, as much as possible, for the standards expected of the National license. It should also be noted that candidates may incur additional expenses 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 Referee Development Program;
 - c. have Provincial certification in the weapon desired for National-level training; and
 - d. demonstrated strong skill sets outlined for the Provincial level, as determined by designated OFA referee mentors.
5. The requirements in this stream are as follows:
 - a. attend an advanced-level Tutorial conducted by a program senior referee mentor;
 - b. achieving at least 90% on the Practice Test; the first five questions of the Practice Test must be answered correctly;
 - c. work in designated category 1-2 competitions under the supervision of a senior mentor, and demonstrate capability to referee at a high level.
6. 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.
7. Specifics on the program and skill sets needed for nomination and certification to the National level are presented during the Tutorial.