

VAFA MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Members in all categories will receive a VAFA Membership Card, copies of the Official VAFA newsletter “Around the Bouts” (available in your choice of mailed hard copy or electronic format), regular email newsletters informing you of coming events, and the opportunity to take part in VAFA courses and seminars on topics such as refereeing, and equipment repair, and the opportunity to take part in a range of social events hosted by VAFA (some special events may involve an additional fee). A *Fencer may upgrade to any other category by paying the difference between the fee paid and the fee for the upgraded category.*

SCHOOL FENCER	School Fencers will ONLY be eligible to compete in the State School Championships. They may <i>not</i> enter State or National, age or open championships, or other State competitions.
NOVICE FENCER	To be eligible to fence in a novice event, a fencer must satisfy the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have less than two years registration as a fencer, or they were under 13 years of age on 1 January of the current year • Novice eligibility ceases immediately in the case that a fencer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ finishes in the top 50% of a VAFA Open Competition ◦ competes in any AFF competition <p>Fencers who affiliate in the novice category may not enter State or National, age or open championships, or other State competitions (novices may, however, affiliate in other categories)</p>
AFFILIATED FENCER: (JUNIOR OR SENIOR)	An affiliated fencer may enter all State or National, age (as appropriate) or open championships and all other (as appropriate) competitions. The Affiliated Fencer category is subdivided into <i>Junior</i> and <i>Senior</i> levels. A <i>Junior</i> Affiliated Fencer is defined as being under 20 years of age at midnight on January 1 in the year of affiliation.
COACH, NON-FENCING	This category is for coaches who do not fence in State or National competitions. This category is mandatory for coaches wishing to obtain or maintain Australian Coaching Council accreditation.
VOLUNTEER OFFICIALS	This category is for those persons who wish to join both clubs and the association but do not wish to fence in any competitions.
CLUB FENCER	This category is for individuals who belong to a Club affiliated with the VAFA, but who choose not to fence in any VAFA or AFF Competitions.

VAFA EQUIPMENT & CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS

This is a summary of the **MINIMUM** clothing and equipment requirements set for competitions. It is your personal responsibility to ensure that you, your opponents, and fencers under your responsibility (e.g. when you are refereeing) conform to these requirements. All fencers are encouraged to purchase full FIE equipment [masks, blades, clothing], and to use the highest safety standard equipment both in competition and when training.

AFF OPEN COMPETITIONS	MASK - FIE marked; 1600 Nm bib CLOTHING - FIE marked; [1600 Nm in vital regions, 800 Nm elsewhere] glove, long socks. Breast protectors for women. BLADES - FIE stamped
VAFA OPEN COMPETITIONS	EITHER - fencing jacket AND underplasteron OR - 800 Nm jacket Fencing breeches & long socks; glove, mask. Breast protectors for women
VAFA NOVICE & SCHOOLS COMPETITIONS	As for VAFA Open Competitions except that SAFE tracksuit pants or other stout pants may be substituted for fencing breeches.
VAFA U-13, U-15, U-17, U-20, VETERAN COMPETITIONS	As for VAFA Novice and Schools Competitions
FENCING CLASSES & CLUB TRAINING	This depends on the standard of the fencers – it should match the competition requirements (e.g. senior level fencers are strongly advised to wear FIE standard equipment for training). Fencing classes (formal, controlled, NOT free bouting) require a minimum of fencing jacket, mask, breast protectors, glove and tracksuit pants.