

Dear Regional Chair,

British Fencing (BF) recently undertook a review of the domestic Level 3 refereeing exams. Following this review, a pilot of the new examination system at the Cadet and Junior National Championships held in Nottingham in September 2018.

This pilot highlighted a significant gap in the current knowledge of some Level 2 referees which needs to be addressed before these referees could successfully pass the new Level 3 assessment.

BF would like to help address this knowledge gap and support your existing work to upskill Level 2 referees. Upskilling Level 2 referees we believe will improve the competition experience for all participants from Regional to British Championships level.

BF will be holding an **invitation-only referee development event on June 22-23<sup>rd</sup> 2019** at The David Ross Sports Village, Nottingham for nominated Level 2 referees (a total of 20 referees across the Home Nations and Regions) that are looking to progress through the new Level 3 referee assessment process within the next 2 seasons.

The development event will consist of a seminar on the Friday evening before The GB Cup 2019, followed by a day of feedback and support as the participants referee the competition on the Saturday.

Places are available as follows:

- **Regional nominations:** For every region that is sending referees to the GB Cup a free place for up to 2 referees.
- **Home Nation nominations:** Each Home Nation can nominate an additional referee they feel would benefit from the seminar, if spaces are not used by the Regions. This is in addition to the regions referee quota for attending the GB Cup.

All referees nominated/invited should be **over 18** on the evening of the GB Cup, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.

**Please note that all referees are expected to referee at the GB Cup on the Saturday as that will form part of the development opportunity.**

The Home Nations/Regions are expected to cover all the costs (including travel, accommodation) of the individual referees attending the referee seminar. BF & EF will be subsidising the costs of running the seminar itself and there will be a nominal fee of £10 per participant which BF/EF expect to be paid by the participant, but Home Nations/Regions can choose to cover this if they wish.

## TITLE OF DOCUMENT

The seminar will be run by our current senior active FIE referees and the course will cover a general overview of current refereeing standards including phrasing and interpretations, updated rules, correct use of hand signals and penalty awarding. Our FIE referees will also be available to mentor and observe during the GB Cup to provide feedback on areas of improvement and share their experiences of FIE refereeing.

We look forward to receiving your nominations. We hope that this seminar will provide a fantastic opportunity to support domestic referee development and also improve the experience for those competing in the GB Cup.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Nickie Bailey, [Nickie.bailey@britishfencing.com](mailto:Nickie.bailey@britishfencing.com)

Please complete and return the attached form by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 with the details of the referee nominated/ invited to attend the seminar. In the unlikely event that less than 20 referees are nominated by the regions, the Home Countries can identify additional candidates through other routes to ensure that we maximise the training opportunity presented.