



YOUTH FENCING COMPETITIONS

A practical guide for parents

[Document details](#)

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TRURO FENCING CLUB (TFC) - PARENTS' GUIDE TO YOUTH FENCING COMPETITIONS

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INTRODUCTION

This is a practical guide for parents who have young sabre fencers who are interested in competing. Do read the book 'From Last to First', by our Head Coach Jon Salfield and fencing mum and author Daniela Norris, for detailed info about the develop of young fencers. This guide has some practical stuff relevant to getting started in youth competition in the UK.

If your young fencer wants to compete, speak to the coaches. They will help plan the fencer's training and competitions. A fencer who is doing competitions should be having individual lessons. Speak to the coaches to organise this with them

- ⇒ Parents need to manage the logistics of booking into competitions and the travel and accommodation arrangements for your fencer. Club admin can advise where coaches are staying if you'd like to stay in the same accommodation and can also help with other tips in the early days of competing.

- ⇒ **Parent Tip** : *if your young fencer gets bitten by the fencing bug and wants to progress onto the Elite Fencing Programme, it helps if you understand well in advance what the different competitions are and when they are so you can book them into your family calendar and plan around these accordingly. It also saves money to book accommodation early. It is a lot of planning and commitment but so well worth it when you see your youngster developing and hopefully getting selected for England and GBR*

NOTE: Youth fencing age groups for competing are determined from January to December. You must be "under" that age on 1st January of that year. They also run in a 2 years per age groups:

- u9, u11, u13, u15 in Leon Paul Junior Series events and England Championships
- u12, u14, u16, u18 in the South West Regional and British Youth Fencing Championships.
- There are also Cadet (u17) and Junior (u20) categories, which are the more serious age groups with international selection for GB, and European and World Championships
- Adults and older cadets and juniors compete in Senior competitions, with older fencers competing at veteran events

NOTE: Things do sometimes change so we will attempt to keep this updated. Any ambiguity or inaccuracies, please let us know so we can get the document updated.

USEFUL LINKS

Finding information is not always easy even before trying to understand it. This table shows different websites that we use. Be open minded and patient and expect to keep learning as you support your fencer through the pathway.

WEBSITE LINK	NAME OF WEBSITE	INFO	OTHER
https://trurofencing.club/	Truro Fencing Club	Club information Who's who Club contact Club training camps	
https://bf.sport80.com/register/membership?id_ad_d_on=2	Sport 80	You will manage your British Fencing membership from this website. You will enter competitions from this website <i>(not all competitions will be on here but BF is working to get more people to use this for their competitions)</i> When you compete internationally, you will also buy an EFC license via this website	Not great to use on a phone with a small screen Refer to user guide for entering competitions.
https://www.britishfencing.com/	British Fencing	General information for all weapons. This has policies and selection information that you will refer to.	Has info on all 3 weapons –look for Sabre info
https://englandfencing.co.uk/	England Fencing	England fencing selection criteria and international events info England rankings Other info	Has info on all 3 weapons –look for Sabre info
http://www.deary.co.uk/bf/cadets.php http://www.deary.co.uk/bf/juniors.php	British Fencing national Cadet and Junior Sabre Rankings	British fencing Cadet and Junior Rankings	Rankings for selection for the European and World Championship teams at U17 & U20 level
https://leonpauljuniorseries.co.uk/	Leon Paul Junior Series	Leon Paul Junior Series events calendar, entry information and rankings. These are U9, U11, U13 and U15 youth events, and are the best steps into competition for youngsters	Truro hosts Leon Paul Junior Series events in February and July For fencers u9 to u15
https://www.leonpaul.com/	Leon Paul Shop	Shop for Leon Paul fencing kit that is made by Leon Paul, a British fencing kit manufacturer and one fo the world's leading fencing companies. (Discounts if you purchase via the club!)	Leon Paul is a long-time partner and supporter of Truro Fencing Club, and we recommend their kit highly
http://leonpaulfencingcentre.com/	Leon Paul Fencing Centre	Leon Paul Centre competition information and where you will enter any of the many competitions held here (note: LPJS events are also on that website)	
https://www.engage-service.com/siteTemplate.php?lang=en&page=accueil.php	Engarde Servic	Live results of competitions. Most competitions in the UK are using this now. It is really useful to track what is going on during the competition and knowing where and when your fencer needs to be at their next fight. It will show the detailed results of the competition. It is used worldwide for lots of events.	Dependent on the organisers using it and having a good wifi or data connection

1. REGISTERING WITH BRITISH FENCING

Every fencer competing must be registered as a member with British Fencing. This is an annual fee with an auto renewal on the date that you joined. This will give the fencer their unique BFA (British Fencing Association) number. You will register yourself against your club. NB For insurance purposes it is recommended that ALL fencers become British Fencing members

- a. Log on as new user to Sport 80 website : https://bf.sport80.com/register/membership?id_add_on=2
- b. Register your new fencer and pay membership fee. We suggest you set up as auto renewal.
 - i. You might have questions as you do this so do ask for help if needed
- c. **Take a note of your BFA number as you need it when entering competitions**
- d. You do also enter some competitions through this website.

2. OVERVIEW OF FENCING CALENDAR

There are different types of competitions. These are colour coded below.

The table explains these. In the next few pages is detailed information for each of these.

Parent tip: As well as LPJS, it is good for experience to do the England Youth Championships and England Fencing South West Championships, and if your fencer qualifies, then to do BYC.

KEY :

LPJS	Leon Paul Junior series	Events are Jan to Dec	Ages u9, u11, u13, u15 – the best introduction to competition
CADET u17	GBR Cadet	Domestic events are Sept to Jan You will get GBR u17 cadet rankings and if you qualify will be selected for GBR international comps.	Age u17 but you can compete from age 13 ⇒ Ask the club coach as to when your fencer should start doing these higher level events
Major event	EFSW BYC EYC Youth International Cadet International Junior World Cup	SW region qualifier for British Youth Championship England Fencing International competition European international U20 World international	You must enter to qualify for BYC Entry restricted All fencers can enter Club will organise & invite fencers GB selects teams, club organises GB will select and organise teams
Training camp	Training camps in the holidays	TFC training camps and other recommended training camps	Really worthwhile to do – always great value for money, and intensive, fun training.

MONTH

EVENTS

- January : **LPJS Stratford** **LPJS London** **CADET U17 National circuit**
- February : **EFSW BYC qualifier** **LPJS Cornwall**
- March : **Challenge Wroslavia, Krakow Poland** **LPJS Manchester**
- April : **TFC training camps in holidays**
- May : **BYC (British Youth Fencing)** – high weighted ranking points
(usually first May Bank holiday in Sheffield) by selection in eg EFSW competition February
- June : **EYC (England Youth Fencing)** – open to all fencers – high weighted ranking points
- July: **Truro LPJS International**
- July/Aug : **Truro Club International Training Camp from a Monday to Saturday** : 100+ fencers
- Aug: **European Training Camp fencers travel with club coaches and chaperone**
- Sept/Oct: **Cadet u17 national competitions - 4 weekends** (coaches will suggest when you should start)
- Nov : **LPJS Millfield** **Cadet Internationals (Selection by GB)**
- Dec : **LPJS St Albans** **Cadet Internationals (Selection by GB)**

3. LEON PAUL JUNIOR SERIES (LPJS) – Fencers u9 to u15 (age as on 1st Jan of each year)

Fencers who are u9, u11, u13, u15 compete in LPJS competitions. These are hosted by different clubs around the country. The calendar is generally on the similar dates each year

The top 4 fencers in each event get medals, and all fencers get points for competing. This gives the fencer a LPJS ranking, which is the unofficial GB youth ranking for sabre. These ranking points do also count for England ranking points.

You will need to travel to the competitions, often requiring overnight accommodation.

- ⇒ **Parent Tip** : decide which competitions to enter in advance and do a flexi booking at a Premier Inn. You will get a cheaper price by booking early but can also cancel if for some reason your fencer cannot go.

<https://leonpauljuniorseries.co.uk/competitions/calendar>

Calendar Key:

- LPJS Foil Competition = RED
- LPJS Epee Competition = BLUE
- LPJS Sabre Competition = GREEN

To find competitions click through each month and find the green ones for sabre.

Click on the competition to get the details.

Check the time of the event for your fencer and this will help you decide if you need to travel the night before if an early start or if you can drive in the morning.

To enter the competition click the red ENTER button and follow instructions. You will need your BFA number.

IMPORTANT : Plan to arrive at least an hour before the Check-in time as the fencer will need this time for warming up and for a lesson if the coach is there.

- ⇒ You will need to pay a TFC coaching fee where there is a coach at a competition.

LPJS Stratford Sabre

Sunday 19th January 2020

ENTER THIS COMPETITION

PRINT

Venue: King Edward VI School
Chapel Lane
Stratford-upon-Avon
CV37 6BE

Format: Poules with no cut, followed by DE.

Entry Fee: £25.00

Closing Date: Sunday 12th January 2020

Last date for entry: Thursday 16th January 2020

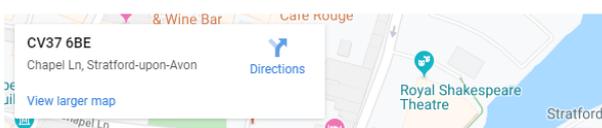
Refreshments: Sandwiches, drinks & snacks available to buy

Prizes: Medals for top 4

Equipment:

Accommodation: Stratford Manor - CV37 0PY
Tel: 0845 0740060
Quote KESB for £80.00 twin room with breakfast

Sunday 19th of January 2020						
Weapon	YOB	Check-In	Entry Limit	Weapon Size	Entries	
Boys U11	2009/10	14:00	35	2	6	
Girls U11	2009/10	11:00	18	2	7	
Boys U13	2007/08	14:00	42	2	9	
Girls U13	2007/08	11:00	18	2	8	
Boys U15	2005/06	10:00	42	5	12	
Girls U15	2005/06	10:00	18	5	2	



On the website, use the bar at the top to navigate around the site.

You will use: CALENDAR and RANKINGS sections to book into competitions and then to check your ranking.

4. BRITISH YOUTH FENCING & BYCs

There is a British Youth Fencing Championships (BYC) each year. It is normally the first weekend of May over 3 days in Sheffield. (in 2020 it is 8-10th May in Birmingham due to the bank holiday change).

The age grouping is: u12, u14, u16, u18

<https://www.britishfencing.com/find-event-3/british-youth-championships-2020/>

You need to qualify through the England Fencing South West Championships (EFSW) to enter this event. If you finish in the Last 8 of the BYC you automatically qualify for the next year's BYC.

4.1 EFSW BYC Qualifier Event

Truro Fencing Club fencers are in the South West region and will need to enter the EFSW qualifying competition. The event is held at Millfield School usually on a Saturday at the beginning of February.

The contact email is : Secretary@swfencing.co.uk and is currently Jane Brown.

You should receive information on the event and how to enter emailed to you via the club.

For 2020 you can register via the SW website:

<http://www.swfencing.co.uk/calendar-event/efsw-age-group-championships-sabre-byc-qualifier/>

This is a good competition for all young fencers from competition entry-level upwards.

Parent tip: Events at Millfield are great as you can drive there and back in a day. There is also good catering.

If you do well you will qualify for the BYC, you will need to pay for the BYC entry at the EFSW competition.

BRING CASH - £36 in 2020

Entries will be done by SW fencing and you should be able to see when you are entered on the Sport80 site.

4.2 British Youth Championships (BYC) Event

For BYCs, all 3 weapons are fenced, and you will not know the exact timing of your category until BF release them a few weeks before. Remember, you're in the sabre category! Don't plan anything over those 3 days until you know when your event is as it could be Saturday, Sunday or Monday (Friday-Sunday in 2020 due to the change in May bank holiday)

This is an official GB Championships, and well worth entering if you qualify. The top 8 fencers in each category receive medals and automatically qualify for the next year.

⇒ **Parent Tip:** *it is a big event and can be daunting for young fencers but better for them to have the experience and get used to what a big competition is like. There is great fencing with the older fencers and really inspiring and enjoyable to watch. There is also lots of merchandise to buy – most young fencers will want a hoodie with the list of entries on which includes their name. It makes them realise it's a big thing they have done, no matter where they finished.*

5. ENGLAND FENCING & ENGLAND YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS (EYC)

There are limited places for England Youth Championships (EYCs) – there's no qualification required, it's just first-come-first-served! It is good for all young fencers to enter as it gives them an idea of a big event and there is the full range of beginner to more experienced fencers.

The competition will appear on Sport80 for you to enter via that website

This link gives you the current ranking basis and also the international competitions your fencer could be selected for to compete for England.

<http://englandfencing.co.uk/england-fencing-selection-information-and-ranking-calculation-for-international-events-2020-2/>

England ranking links :

Info : <http://englandfencing.co.uk/rankings/> eg Top 5 results are counted for rankings

Rankings : <http://francisfencing.org.uk/wroclaw/sabre/> you download an excel spreadsheet

6. CADET u17

The club coaches will let your fencer and you know when it is right for your fencer to enter cadet events. Cadet is the under 17 category and you can enter when you are much younger. It is quite a step up from the Leon Paul events, and the Cadet category is the first serious and official international age group, with a world and a European Championships.

It is always good to have experience of these events when there is no pressure to perform at a young age.

The calendar for Cadet events starts in September. The events are at weekends, and often also have an u20 event on the alternate day. Again, when ready, the young fencers can fence up an age group. Do take note of the events that are included in the u17 Cadet GBR ranking as there is usually an u20 event included in the U17 ranking with extra weighting.

Calendar and selection events

<https://www.britishfencing.com/gbr-fencing/gbr-cadet-calendar-2019-2020/>

Should your fencer do well, they may be selected for the GBR U17 squad and get the chance to compete for GBR at one or more International Competitions.

There is one International Sabre competition in London in October that most fencers who have done other domestic Cadet competitions will be eligible to compete in. There are more places than usual for GB fencers as this is our home international. This is a great step into international competition – do it if you can!

You will need to get an FUE/EFC license to compete in International Cadet comps which can be purchased via Sport 80.

7. JUNIOR (Under 20)

There are also Junior international and domestic events for U20s. The club coaches will let your fencer and you know when it is right for your fencer to enter these events, and can give you more information as you progress through the age groups. As in Cadets, there is a European and World Championships at U20 level for GB selects a team.

Truro has a long and proud history of successful top-level performers at international level in cadet and junior age groups. About half of the GB senior squad is originally from Truro Fencing Club, and our fencers have won numerous medals on the European circuit!

8. FENCING KIT

TFC has fencing kit that the beginner fencers can use.

When your fencer decides they want to have their own kit, then look at the Leon Paul shop website for information. Order through TFC as there is a discount that will get passed on to you.

<https://www.leonpaul.com/>

At big competitions, Leon Paul will also be there with a stall selling kit. Truro Fencing Club also has a very large stock of second-hand kit, which is in good condition and much cheaper than new. Ask the club admin for more information and a stock list.

⇒ **Parent Tip :**

There are different size weapons (eg size 0, size 2 and then Size 5) for different age groups.

There are different “weights” of clothing for different levels. Check this out for the current age group and also for the next age grouping before you buy new kit and then discover it does not meet the regulations!

Right and left-handed fencers need different kit for certain items (jacket, glove, plastron and breeches).

⇒ **Parent Tip:**

For competitions, your fencer must have some spare kit – at least one spare sabre and body-wire/mask-wire.

I only realised this when we had a blade break at a competition and did not have a spare.

Fencing is hot work. It is good to have a hand towel at competitions, and hydrate properly!

It's also a good idea to have a couple of instant ice packs with you in case of knocks or bangs at competitions.

Not every competition venue has food and drink available, so take packed lunch, some snacks, fruit and energy bars with you, as well as liquids for hydration.

CONTACTS

Club admin – Joanne. admin@truofencing.com

Head Coach – Jon Salfield info@truofencing.com

Safeguarding Officer – Sarah Cox safeguarding@truofencing.com

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