



**Irish
Amateur
Fencing
Federation**

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IAFF LETTER TO SQUAD FENCERS

At the panel training last year, and at the 5 Nations debrief, Philip Lee, Team captain, reiterated the need for fencers to take their training seriously and pull together a rough plan for the competitions they wished to compete in.

The benefits are that quality in Ireland improves which makes us more competitive. Higher quality and a professional outlook also helps retain people into the sport at all levels, whether they be children or students in their first year, or experienced fencers.

Following this the IAFF stated that some funding could be made available to support and encourage fencers to follow a development plan. I am pleased to say that fencers have begun to respond, with several fencers contacting the selectors with formal or informal schedules for the coming year.

At last night's meeting the committee signed-off in principle an allocation of funds to support this.

I will be working on a formula and budget over the next month which will, in due course, be published. We are not talking huge money but what we give should be transparent and open to everyone. The formula will be driven by achievement (such as attaining FIE points, or a certain ranking in the UK or Europe).

What I need from the fencers is for you to pass to the selectors, copying myself, your draft plans for the season. This will help me pull together an equitable formula.

The funding is there to help facilitate development - you shouldn't be choosing one competition over another just because one will give you more money, hence it will be as flexible as possible.

(This is aimed at Fencers who hope to get into the 5N or the RAF/Scot squad, but all fencers should think about objectives for the new season)

Marcos Simpson
IAFF Treasurer