

England Fencing Regional Structure Proposal

The following are three proposals for the development of England Fencing's regional structures. The proposals have come out of consultation with the regions and are the starting point for the final phase of consultation before the Board of England Fencing will decide on a final plan for regional structures. This final phase of consultation will seek the views from all areas of the fencing community on these proposals to determine their relative strengths and weaknesses. All responses will be fed back to the board to enable them to make an informed decision. The board will consider the merits of each element of each proposal and any other suggestions that are made during the consultation in order to come to a final decision. The following proposals represent the main ideas currently being explored and the final plan may include elements from one or more of the proposals as well as further suggestions contributed through the consultation process.

To provide England Fencing with your thoughts and suggestions with regards these proposals, please complete the survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/fencingregions> . Please email any additional thoughts to Tristan.hale@englandfencing.org.uk and join in the discussion at www.fencingforum.com

Proposal 1

England Fencing (EF) will have 10 Regions

- North West
- North East
- Yorkshire
- West Midlands
- East Midlands
- South West
- Southern
- South East
- Eastern
- London

Eligibility rules:

All members will declare their club and region when joining England Fencing.

Eligibility requirements:

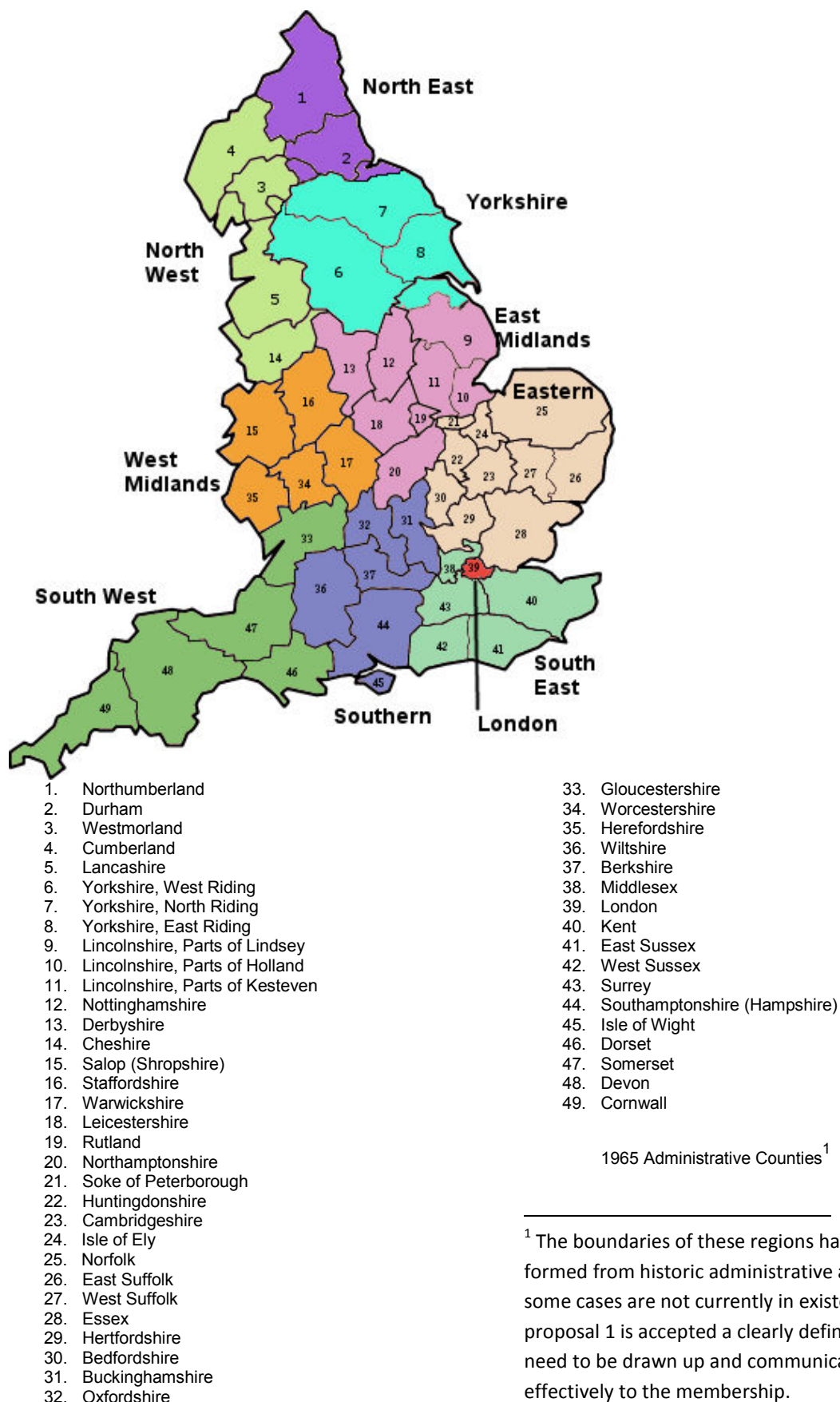
An individual will be eligible to affiliate to a region if they fulfil one or more of the following criteria:

1. Live in the region (See regional residence areas)
2. Be a member of a club affiliated to the region (See note on club affiliation to a region)
3. Previously represented or been affiliated to the region (without representing or affiliating to another region in between).

Members may change their affiliated club or region at renewal provided they are eligible. If a member wishes to change their affiliated region at any other time they should pay an administration fee of £15. The fee will be set annually by EF.

Regional Residence Areas

The 'traditional' 10 fencing regions as defined by their constituent counties below. The Isle of Man remains part of North West Region.



1965 Administrative Counties¹

¹ The boundaries of these regions have been formed from historic administrative areas that in some cases are not currently in existence. If proposal 1 is accepted a clearly defined map will need to be drawn up and communicated effectively to the membership.

Club Affiliation

All clubs must affiliate to England Fencing via their region. The administration of regional affiliation will be carried out by EF head office.

Clubs should affiliate to the region in which their main training venue is located except in the following exceptions:

1. Clubs within the 33 London Boroughs (Pro Active Partnerships) will affiliate to London Region²
2. Clubs may apply to EF to affiliate to a different region than their geographical location in special circumstances.³ Permission to affiliate to an alternative region will be granted on a case by case basis.

² The Sport England regional structure defines the London Region as the five Pro Active London Partnerships that contain the 33 Greater London Boroughs. For fencing to be able to work effectively with external partners such as Sport England it is important that Pro Active London Region is reflected in Fencing's structures. This will allow fencing clubs to benefit from the infrastructure support and special funding that is available in London. The proposed structure and eligibility criteria will also enable those living in London but not London region to still represent London provided they go to a London Club

³ Special circumstance may include clubs that are on the edge of one region but where it is significantly more convenient for members to attend competitions in another.

Proposal 2

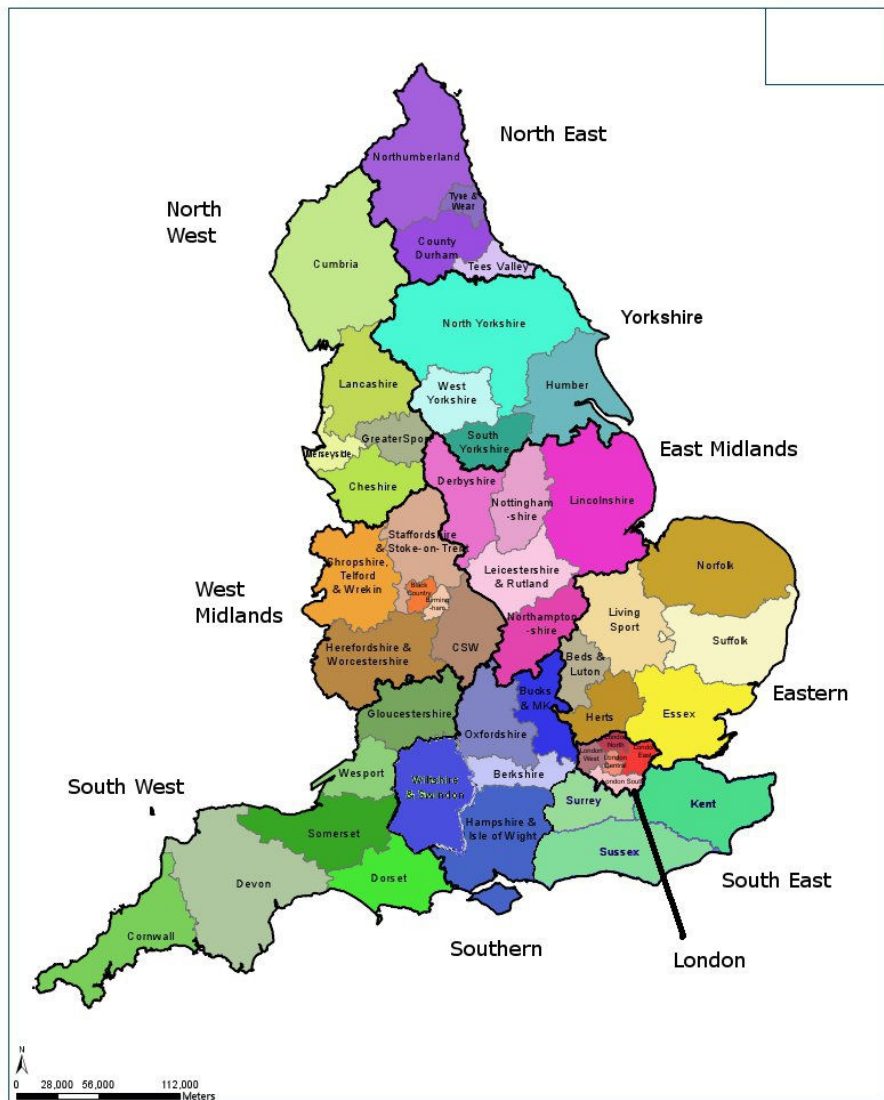
England Fencing (EF) will have 10 Regions made up of County Sport Partnership areas:

- North West
 - Cumbria
 - Lancashire
 - Merseyside
 - Greater Sport (Greater Manchester area)
 - Cheshire
 - Isle of Man (not a CSP)
- North East
 - Northumberland
 - Tyne & Wear
 - County Durham
 - Tees Valley
- Yorkshire
 - North Yorkshire
 - West Yorkshire
 - Humber
 - South Yorkshire
- West Midlands
 - Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin
 - Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent
 - Black Country
 - Birmingham
 - Herefordshire & Worcestershire
 - Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire
- East Midlands
 - Derbyshire
 - Nottinghamshire
 - Lincolnshire
 - Leicestershire & Rutland
 - Northamptonshire
- South West
 - Cornwall
 - Devon
 - Somerset
 - Dorset
 - Wesport (Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire, and North Somerset)
 - Gloucestershire
- Southern
 - Bucks & Milton Keynes
 - Oxfordshire
 - Berkshire
 - Wiltshire & Swindon
 - Hampshire & Isle of Wight

- South East
 - Surrey
 - Kent
 - Sussex

- Eastern
 - Norfolk
 - Suffolk
 - Living Sport (Cambridgeshire & Peterborough)
 - Bedfordshire & Luton
 - Hertfordshire
 - Essex

- London
 - London North
 - London West
 - London Central
 - London East
 - London south



⁴ The Pro Active Partnerships are the name for the five County Sport Partnerships in London

Eligibility rules:

- All members of England Fencing will be eligible to affiliate to a region of their choice on joining England Fencing.
- Members may change their affiliated club or region at renewal provided they are eligible. If a member wishes to change their affiliated region at any other time they should pay an administration fee of £15. The fee will be set annually by EF.

Club Affiliation

All clubs must affiliate to England Fencing via their region. The administration of regional affiliation will be carried out by EF head office.

Clubs will affiliate to the region in which their main training venue is located.

Proposal 3

England Fencing (EF) will have 9 Regions matching those of Sport England and defined by their constituent County Sport Partnership Areas:

- North West
 - Cumbria
 - Lancashire
 - Merseyside
 - Greater Sport (Greater Manchester area)
 - Cheshire
 - Isle of Man (not a CSP)

- North East
 - Northumberland
 - Tyne & Wear
 - County Durham
 - Tees Valley

- Yorkshire
 - North Yorkshire
 - West Yorkshire
 - Humber
 - South Yorkshire

- West Midlands
 - Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin
 - Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent
 - Black Country
 - Birmingham
 - Herefordshire & Worcestershire
 - Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire

- East Midlands
 - Derbyshire
 - Nottinghamshire
 - Lincolnshire
 - Leicestershire & Rutland
 - Northamptonshire

- South West
 - Cornwall
 - Devon
 - Somerset
 - Dorset
 - Wesport (Bristol, Bath & north east Somerset, south Gloucestershire, and north Somerset)
 - Gloucestershire
 - Wiltshire & Swindon

- South East
 - Bucks & Milton Keynes
 - Oxfordshire

- Berkshire
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight
- Surrey
- Kent
- Sussex

- Eastern
 - Norfolk
 - Suffolk
 - Living Sport (Cambridgeshire & Peterborough)
 - Bedfordshire & Luton
 - Hertfordshire
 - Essex

- London (5 Pro Active Partnerships⁵)
 - London North
 - London West
 - London Central
 - London East
 - London south

⁵ The Pro Active Partnerships are the name for the five County Sport Partnerships in London



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Eligibility rules:

All members will declare their club and region when joining England Fencing.

Eligibility requirements:

An individual will be eligible to affiliate to a region if they fulfil one or more of the following criteria:

1. Live in the region
2. Be a member of a club affiliated to the region (See note on club affiliation to a region below)
3. Previously represented or been affiliated to the region (without representing or affiliating to another region in between).

Members may change their affiliated club or region at renewal provided they are eligible. If a member wishes to change their affiliated region at any other time they should pay an administration fee of £15. The fee will be set annually by EF.

Club Affiliation

All clubs must affiliate to England Fencing via their region. The administration of regional affiliation will be carried out by EF head office.

Clubs should affiliate to the region in which their main training venue is located based on the following map following County Sport Partnership boundaries:

Note: Clubs may apply to EF to affiliate to a different region than their geographical location in special circumstances⁶. Permission to affiliate to an alternative region will be granted on a case by case basis.

⁶ Special circumstance may include clubs that are on the edge of one region but where it is significantly more convenient for members to attend competitions in another.

Additional items common to all Proposals

Recognition of Regional Committees

All regions will be recognised by England Fencing as suitable and appropriate organisations to represent the interests of fencing in their locality.

- Regions will be recognised as such from the date that the regional structure is adopted by England Fencing.
- Regions will continue to be recognised provided they meet minimum operating standards (MOS) which must be submitted to EF within a year of adoption of the new regional structure.
 - The MOS will be agreed with the regions and will include certain core articles in their constitutions.
 - EF will assist regions in meeting the MOS by providing templates where applicable.
- Regions must be separately constituted and have their own bank account independent of any other organisation.⁷
- All regional committee members and other volunteers working on behalf of the region will continue to be insured as set out in the British Fencing (BF) insurance policy. Regions must provide details of all volunteers acting on their behalf to EF.

County Structures

EF recognises the important part county fencing unions play in the development of fencing in some areas of the country. Where a county fencing union exists, EF will recognise them as suitable organisations to represent fencing provided they are properly constituted and with the agreement of their region.

EF also recognises the importance of working with County Sports Partnerships (CSPs) and the support they can provide fencing. To enable better working with CSPs, regions will appoint a CSP Representative for each CSP area to be the point of contact for CSPs and the fencing community at a county level. Regions may appoint the same person to be the representative for multiple CSP areas and should consider their local circumstances.

The County Representative will be appointed by the region and approved by England Fencing. The County Representative may hold another position within the Region or a County Union if one exists.

Communication

- EF will arrange two meetings per year for regional chairs, one to be held at the same venue and on the same date as the EF AGM. The agenda to be set by the regional chairs and the Executive director for Regions, Counties and Club Liaison.
- Regions should allow clubs from neighbouring regions to opt into receiving communication from the region.⁸

⁷ This enables regions to apply for local grants and the Sport England Small Grants Fund etc.

⁸ This is particularly relevant to Southern and South East Regions which together largely correspond to the Sport England South East Region providing multiple opportunities for joint working.

Website

EF/BF will provide a central online club database. The database will be searchable using a postcode search, by affiliated region and by CSP area. All regions will have a dedicated page they will be able to edit and link to their external website if required.

Regional Action Plans

EF will support regions to develop Regional Action Plans. The plans will set out the priorities for the region and will be used by EF in its planning and allocation of resources. Action Plans will also assist regions in gaining support from external organisations such as CSPs and regional development agencies.

What are County Sports Partnerships?

There are 49 county sports partnerships covering England. They are local networks of:

- Local authorities
- National governing bodies
- Clubs
- Schools and School Sport Partnerships
- Primary care trusts

And other local agencies committed to working together to increase participation in sport and physical activity.

In London the County Sports Partnerships are known as the Pro Active Partnerships of which there are five to make Pro Active London. Where CSPs are referred to this also includes the Pro Active Partnerships.

What do CSP's do?

CSPs are contracted by **Sport England** to provide a set of core services to underpin the local delivery of **National Governing Body (NGB) Plans** and support the achievement of NGB and Sport England targets, including the aim to get 1million more people participating in sport by 2012. These services include:

- Strategic Leadership and Partnership Development
- Connecting NGBs to the local area and local partners
- Club, coach and volunteer development
- Children and young people
- Attracting external investment
- Development of facilities
- Networking, knowledge management and communication

"Sport England sees CSPs as a important national network and will contract them to provide a consistent service to NGBs" Jennie Price, Chief Executive, Sport England.

CSPs have also recently been contracted by the **Department of Health** to support the achievement of the other half of the Governments' ambition to get a total of 2 million more people active by 2012. This includes other recreational activity such as walking, cycling and dance and will involve CSP's ensuring a joined up approach to sport and physical activity at the local level, connecting sport with Primary Care Trusts (PCT's) and other health agencies, and helping demonstrate the value of investing in physical activity to health outcomes.

CSP's also lead key elements of the Governments '**PE & Sport Strategy for Young People**' on behalf of the **Department for Children, Families and Schools (DCFS)** and the **Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS)**. This includes leading the implementation of the '**Sport Unlimited**' Programme and supporting the 'Step into sport' initiative for **Sport England**, and providing support for the **Youth Sport Trust** and School Sport Partnerships mostly in the area of workforce training, education and networking.

"CSP's play an important role in the development and delivery of community sport, and are

critical partners for SSP's as they work together to deliver 5 hours of PE and sport for young people" Steve Grainger MBE, Chief Executive, Youth Sport Trust

County Sports Partnerships also play an important role in coach development and the implementation of the National Coaching Framework through community sports coach schemes, professional development and wider workforce development programmes.

"CSP's have an important role in supporting Governing Bodies in the development of a world leading coaching system at community level in England" Pat Duffy, Chief Executive, Sports Coach UK.

CSP's also remain committed to raising standards in Safeguarding in sport, to improving access and equity in sport, and highlighting the contribution sport can make to a range of wider social outcomes.

County Sports Partnerships are separated along local authority county boundaries that are clearly defined.