

## **Ireland Veterans Fencing – Country Report, May 2025**

The veterans fencing community in Ireland continues to **grow steadily** and with great energy. We now have an enthusiastic, active, and highly engaged group of veteran fencers, with over 90 people on our mailing list and even more engaging regularly through our dedicated WhatsApp group and social media channels. The sense of camaraderie, competition, and community has never been stronger.

The Fencing Ireland Veterans Committee, established in 2008 and revitalised in recent years, has worked hard to foster this momentum and give Veteran Fencing more **visibility**. With a passionate group of committee members and an expanding presence **online**, we are creating more opportunities for veteran fencers across Ireland to connect and enjoy the sport of fencing together.

This year, the committee organised the first Veterans Training Day covering all six weapons. The event was a great success, offering high-quality training while also strengthening the social bonds within our community.

Notably, many of the Veteran fencers are fencers whose children are also fencing and many of whom compete in the Irish Youth Series.

This highlights how the **Veterans community plays a vital role** in attracting and retaining young fencers. Fencing has increasingly become a family activity, with multiple generations now fencing and participating together.

A key development has been the introduction of a new national **veterans ranking system**. This will provide a transparent and structured pathway for team selection for major international events such as the Veterans Four Nations and the European Championships. It marks a significant step forward in supporting both fairness and performance development within the Irish veterans fencing scene.

Participation in the European Veterans Fencing (**EVF**) **circuit** has also grown significantly this year. Increased **awareness** through our website and the development of dynamic social media posts has helped promote different EVF events, **encouraging** more Irish fencers to travel and compete. This upward trend is expected to continue into next season, with growing interest and momentum within the community.

Fencing Ireland proudly recorded its highest ever participation numbers in the European Veteran Championships, held in Plovdiv, with twelve veteran fencers representing Ireland across various weapons.

We are already building towards the 2026 European Team Championships in Madrid, with a goal of fielding a minimum of four teams—and potentially five—across the six weapon categories.

Looking ahead, Fencing Ireland is proud to be hosting the inaugural **Veterans Irish Open** in June 2025. We would be delighted to welcome international fencers to what we hope will become a regular and celebrated fixture on the veterans calendar.

All of us involved in veterans fencing in Ireland are deeply **appreciative of the work of the EVF** and the broader veterans' community across Europe.

We look forward to building further connections, sharing experiences, and competing with the same spirit and good humour that defines veterans fencing everywhere.