



Explanation of changes to EM and VM selection policy

Brøndby, April 17.th. 2017

There has recently been made an amendment to the EM and VM selection policy:

<http://www.faegtning.dk/aktive/elite/udtagelsesregler-for-senior-og-junior/>:

”For seniorfægttere gælder i 2017 endvidere, at fægttere, der ikke har opnået det nødvendige antal verdensranglistepoints, efter fælles beslutning mellem sportschef og landstræner kan blive udtaget til individuel og hold senior EM og VM i overensstemmelse med den elitestrategi, der er udarbejdet mellem DFF, DIF og Team Danmark (tilføjet 10.04.17).”

I would like to explain why this was decided to be necessary.

Firstly it is important to note that this amendment is focussed on selection for the Senior EM and VM. There is already a planned review of all selection criteria to consider the need for any alterations for the 2017/18 season, and this recent amendment will not impact on that process.

The reason that it was necessary to update the policy at this middle point of the season regards DFF's funding application going forward to 2021 and beyond. But it is also important to highlight that the objectives of a selection policy at the senior elite level are not exclusively the same as at the youth level, and so it follows that the relevant criteria will not and should not necessarily be the same.

DFF is currently in the process of creating an overarching strategy in collaboration with DIF and Team Danmark which includes funding from both organisations. This strategy includes a track regarding talent and elite development. The elite part of this track has the overall goal of achieving senior results that will position DFF to become a Team Danmark supported federation in 2021, thereby ensuring the continued progress and development of elite fencing in Denmark.

DFF is therefore in the position of having to decide which weapons and athletes to prioritise, using the limited resources available, to give the best chance of achieving those results within the next 4 years. It has been decided

that the Men's Senior Epee and Foil squads will be the focus weapons for this period.

Having prioritised these squads, and by receiving DIF and Team Danmark funding for the stated objective, it is now DFF's responsibility to give them the best possible chance of success. This includes support for planning, training and competitions, and when it comes to selection processes the objective is no longer to incentivise and set goals for these athletes, as is the case with youth selection, but to remove the barriers to their development and make sure that they have access to the championships where they will need to perform. Through prioritising these senior squads there comes an inherent acknowledgement that they have the required level and motivation to potentially achieve top senior results.

Discretionary selection criteria are very common within elite selection policies in so far as they contribute to the longer-term strategy. They also allow a failsafe in the case of unforeseen circumstances. Discretionary selection will not, however, be used to displace a qualified fencer.

As always, if you have any further questions please contact me at

sportschef@faegtning.dk

Laurence Halsted