

# **Japanese Fencing Association**

## **10<sup>th</sup> Annual National Veterans Competition**

Dear Fencer,

This year, we are planning a trip to Japan in early November for the JFA Veterans Competition, the Japanese equivalent to the AFF's Veterans Competition in late November.

### **About the Trip**

For Veterans, this trip represents a great training opportunity. It is just over three weeks before the Australian National Championships in Sydney, and the trip is specifically targeted at Veteran fencers.

Although this is **not** an AFF-sanctioned tour, we encourage all fencers to treat it as if it was; we will effectively be representing Australia while overseas, so having the Australian logo and naming on your fencing gear would be in the spirit of things. If you can afford (and are entitled) to purchase an AFF track suit, that would be even better.

### **Details of the Competition**

The 2009 JFA Veteran Championships are on Tuesday, 3 November, starting at about 9am. (Please note that this is different to the date originally advised by our contact in Japan.)

There are men's and women's events in all three weapons. As an indication of event size, last year's numbers were men's: foil – 27, epee – 28, sabre – 15, women's: foil – 14, epee – 11, sabre – 7. DE bouts are fenced to 10 hits, as they are here at the AFF level. Previous year's documentation mentions handicapping, but details of this are lacking at the moment.

Although there are only planned individual competitions, if we have sufficient fencers going, we may be able to convince the JFA to put on a Japan vs Australia team match or two.

The tournament will be held at Taito Riverside Sports Center, 1-1-10 Imado, Taito-ward (Tokyo), a new-renovated multi-purpose venue. The nearest train station is Asakusa, which is 10 minutes walk from the venue (see [www.city.taito.tokyo.jp/foreign/e\\_guide/adm/public\\_main.html](http://www.city.taito.tokyo.jp/foreign/e_guide/adm/public_main.html)).

Cost per event is ¥4,000 (about \$A50). If you are fluent in Japanese, the JFA web site is here: [www.sportsweb.ne.jp/fje.htm](http://www.sportsweb.ne.jp/fje.htm)

### **Pre-Requisites**

As a matter of protocol, any fencer wanting to compete needs to have a full senior affiliation through their respective State fencing association (i.e. have AFF capitation). It is not necessary to have an FIE licence, but we will need to register with the Japanese Fencing Association, which costs ¥8,000 (about \$A100).

In Japan, the classification for male veterans is 40+ (born in 1968 or earlier), and female veterans is 35+ (born in 1973 or earlier).

There is no nomination requirement, but there will be a form that must be completed and sent off to the JFA by mid-October. Also, as a courtesy, the JFA will require reasonably firm numbers by the first week of September.

### **Equipment Requirements**

FIE-standard equipment is recommended. We will not be travelling with an armourer, and equipment availability at the Japan end of things is highly uncertain, so take your repair kits.

### **Competition Preparation**

We have been invited to train at a couple of clubs in Japan. These are as follows:

- Friday 30 October, 7:00pm to 9:30pm, YMCA Wellness Sports Center (5 mins walk from Toyochi station).
- Saturday 31 October, 6:00pm to 9:00pm, Taito Riverside Sports Center (competition venue)

It may also be worth noting that a few days before these dates (Saturday 24 October – Monday 26 October), the New Zealand National Championships are being held in Auckland (all three weapons).

### **Travel and Accommodation**

We will need to arrange our own travel and accommodation, although Lesley Witkop has offered to assist (globeintl@optusnet.com.au, 02 9692 9000).

Our Japanese contact has suggested the following accommodation options, which are reasonably close to the venue:

- Hotel Sunroute Asakusa ([www.sunroute-asakusa.co.jp/english](http://www.sunroute-asakusa.co.jp/english)) from about \$A135 per night.
- Asakusa Central Hotel ([www.pelican.co.jp/asakusacentralhotel/eng/index.html](http://www.pelican.co.jp/asakusacentralhotel/eng/index.html)) from about \$A120 per night.
- Blue Wave Inn Asakusa ([www.bluewaveinn.jp/asakusa/english.html](http://www.bluewaveinn.jp/asakusa/english.html)) from about \$A140 per night.

The approximate cost (at the time of writing) for a discount economy return airfare to Japan is \$1,100 from Melbourne or Sydney, with a stopover in Queensland (Cairns or Gold Coast). Travel via Auckland would currently add approximately \$300 to air fares.

### **Coaching Assistance**

If we have sufficient interest and general agreement, we may ask everyone to chip in an equal amount to pay the airfare for a coach experienced in all 3 weapons to accompany us.

Regardless, coaches are more than welcome to be part of this trip, if desired.

### **Other Information**

The day of the competition is Culture Day in Japan – a day of celebration of Japanese culture (art, music, etc.). This may affect transport options and times to and from the venue. Also, there is a large parade in the Asakusa District in the afternoon, which may also affect things.

### **A Final Note**

[Massive Disclaimer]. The information presented here is the best information that I have available at the current time, and pulled together from (mostly) reliable sources. I will update everyone I can as soon as possible if anything changes.

### **What Next?**

If you are interested in going to Japan, please email Adam Reynolds at [adam@proficio.com.au](mailto:adam@proficio.com.au), along with any questions you may have, or call me any time on 0413 487 640.