



HIGH PERFORMANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Reporting
Period:

April – July 2026

Introduction

I started my work with the Fencing Association of India in April 2026 as High Performance Director.

During the first three months my main objective was to understand the existing system before making any major changes. I met with officials from the Fencing Association of India (FAI), the Sports Authority of India (SAI), coaches, athletes and support staff. I attended national training camps, selection competitions, committee meetings and international competitions. This helped me understand where Indian fencing is today, what has already been achieved and what should be improved.

At the same time I studied the High Performance systems used by some of the leading fencing countries, including Japan, France, Italy, South Korea and Russia. My intention was not to copy another country's system, but to see which ideas could realistically be adapted for India.

I believe that before changing a system it is important to understand it properly. Therefore, much of my work during this period was spent analysing the present situation, discussing ideas with coaches and officials, and preparing practical proposals for the future development of Indian fencing.

DR. GENNADY TYSHLER

FAI HIGH PERFORMANCE DIRECTOR

**18 JULY 2026.
DELHI**

Analysis of the Present Situation

During the first weeks I spent most of my time observing the existing High Performance Programme and speaking to the people involved in Indian fencing.

I reviewed the competition structure, ranking and selection procedures, national training camps, coaching system and athlete development. I also looked at the international results of Indian fencers and compared them with the leading fencing nations.

The purpose of this work was to identify the strengths of the current system as well as the areas that need improvement. Following this analysis, a number of recommendations were prepared for FAI and SAI for both the short-term and long-term development of Indian fencing.

From this work I identified two areas that, in my opinion, require the highest priority.

Competition Structure and High Performance System

The first priority is to establish a clear and well-organised High Performance system.

During my initial review I found that several important parts of the system either did not exist or needed further development. These included the National Competition Calendar, National Ranking System, Selection System and some of the procedures used in managing the High Performance Programme.

During this period work started on preparing a number of important documents, including:

- National Competition Calendar
- National Ranking System
- National Selection System
- Competition Regulations
- Competition formats
- Selection procedures
- High Performance recommendations
- Office structure and responsibilities
- Strategic proposals for the future development of Indian fencing

These documents are only the first step. Their purpose is to create a better structure for Indian fencing, improve transparency and help coaches and athletes understand the system more clearly.

The next step is to implement these documents, review how they work in practice and continue improving them where necessary.

Coach Development

The second major priority is coach education.

India has many dedicated and hardworking coaches. However, there is a need to continue improving coaching standards and to introduce more modern coaching methods throughout the country.

During the National Training Camp in Patiala I started working with the coaches through lectures, practical demonstrations and discussions. The coaches participated actively and showed a genuine interest in learning and sharing ideas.

A draft National Coaches Education Programme was also prepared. The aim is to create a continuous education system through seminars, practical coaching sessions and the sharing of coaching knowledge.

I believe this work should continue after the World Championships and the Asian Games. Developing coaches is one of the best investments in the future of Indian fencing.

National Team Activities

Alongside the planning work I continued supporting the National Team during its preparation and competitions.

During this reporting period I:

- organised and conducted two national selection competitions;
- participated in the National Training Camp in Patiala;
- prepared training programmes for all six weapons;
- worked with national coaches and athletes during training camps;
- participated in meetings of the Selection Committee and High Performance Committee;
- participated in the SAI Talent Cluster Analysis Committee;
- prepared reports and recommendations following the Asian Championships;
- continued discussions with FAI and SAI officials on the future development of the High Performance Programme.

These activities also helped me better understand the strengths of our athletes and the areas that require more attention.

International Activities

During this period I accompanied the Indian National Team to two FIE World Cups and worked with the team during the Senior Asian Championships held in New Delhi.

These competitions gave me the opportunity to compare the level of Indian fencing with other leading countries and identify the areas where further work is required.

Following the Asian Championships I prepared a detailed High Performance report with observations and recommendations for future preparation.

During this period I also attended the meetings of the FIE Committees and Councils in Sofia. As President of the FIE Coaching Council I took part in the preparation of proposals for the 2026 FIE Congress. The meetings also gave me the opportunity to discuss the latest developments in international fencing with colleagues from many countries. Some of these ideas were useful when preparing recommendations for the future development of Indian fencing.

Planning for the Future

While much of my work was connected with the National Team, I also spent considerable time preparing proposals for the future development of Indian fencing.

The main objective was not only to solve today's problems, but to build a system that can continue to develop Indian fencing over the coming Olympic cycles.

The work included:

- studying successful international High Performance systems;
- preparing recommendations for improving the competition structure;
- developing a National Ranking System;
- developing a National Selection System;
- preparing proposals for coach education;
- preparing recommendations for improving the organisation of the High Performance Programme;
- preparing proposals for the future office structure and responsibilities.

I believe that strong systems are more important than individual decisions. A good system creates fairness, consistency and long-term development.

Conclusion

Three months is a short time to change an existing system. My first priority was to understand how Indian fencing works and where improvements could be made. Based on this work, a number of important proposals and draft documents were prepared to strengthen the High Performance Programme.

During this period work started on developing a National Competition Calendar, National Ranking System and National Selection System. Coach education activities were introduced during the National Training Camp, and proposals were prepared for the future development of the High Performance Programme.

At the same time I continued supporting the National Team through training camps, selection competitions and international competitions.

There is still a lot of work to be done. The next step is to put these ideas into practice, continue improving coach education and strengthen the High Performance Programme so that Indian fencing can continue to improve at Asian, World and Olympic level.

I would like to thank the Fencing Association of India, the Sports Authority of India, the coaches, athletes and all members of the High Performance team for their support and cooperation during my first three months in India.

List of documents prepared during the reporting period

- National Competition Calendar
- National Ranking System
- National Selection System
- Competition Regulations
- Competition Formats
- High Performance Recommendations
- Strategic Review of the Fencing Programme

- Proposal for the Future Development of Indian Fencing
- National Coaches Education Programme
- Office Structure and Responsibilities
- National Training Programmes
- High Performance Report – Asian Championships
- Selection Committee Recommendations
- Technical Reports and Meeting Minutes

DR. GENNADY TYSHLER

FAI HIGH PERFORMANCE DIRECTOR

**18 JULY 2026.
DELHI**

**** END OF REPORT****