



**USA**  
FENCING

**2020-2021**

**Athlete Handbook**

# USA Fencing

## 2020-2021

# Athlete Handbook

### **USA Fencing**

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**Please contact the USA Fencing National Office with any document/link issues:**  
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### **Preface:**

This book is written for fencers, coaches and parents to help them gain an understanding of the competitive and developmental programs of USA Fencing. It contains information that will allow fencers to progress in the sport of fencing to as high a level as they are capable. Lack of familiarity with the information contained herein is not justification for an appeal. When there are modifications to any of the programs described herein, such changes will be posted to the USA Fencing website, About Us/Manuals. The posted Athlete Handbook will be updated and an e-blast (USA Fencing E-Newsletter) will be sent to the membership notifying them of the changes to the Handbook. All National Team

changes must have the explicit approval of the national coach or coaches and the Director of Sports Performance.

Details on the operations of the organization are described in the latest edition of the USA Fencing Operations Manual available on the USA Fencing website under About Us/Manuals. The Operations Manual explains the competitive opportunities for all members and the manner in which competitions should operate within the tenets of the organization and the sport.

The Athlete Handbook and Operations Manual provide fencers, coaches, administrators, and parents the information pertinent to all aspects of USA Fencing programs.

Periodically, USA Fencing and the National Weapon Coaches will communicate by email special notices to the membership and/or fencers on the National Point Standings. Fencers must keep the USA Fencing National Office informed of their current email address as this is the primary communication path to fencers and coaches associated with weapon squad programs, team notifications, and updates to the Handbook. It is just as important that fencers keep the National Office updated with respect to one's current mailing address to ensure receipt of information mailed by USA Fencing and the National Weapons Coaches. USA Fencing will post the latest information on the USA Fencing website. You can contact USA Fencing by email: [information@usafencing.org](mailto:information@usafencing.org)

The current Athlete Handbook is the source book for details on elite athlete programs: National Point Standings, team selection and international competitions. Nothing in this Handbook overrides the rules of fencing unless specifically noted. Changes in selection procedures will only be valid if communicated in writing by direct communication to athletes in the top 24 in Senior, top 16 in Junior, top 12 in Cadet and/or top 8 in Youth 14 rolling point standings and posted on the USA Fencing website as well as modified in the Athlete Handbook.

Fencers who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USA Fencing may contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman, Kacie Wallace, by telephone at (888) ATHLETE, or by email at [ombudsman@usoc.org](mailto:ombudsman@usoc.org).

#### **ABOUT USA FENCING**

USA Fencing, formally known as the United States Fencing Association (USA Fencing), is a nonprofit corporation formed under the laws of the State of Colorado. The Internal Revenue Service has recognized the organization as a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization, and contributions qualify as charitable deductions for the donor to the extent permitted by law. Information about such contributions may be obtained from the National Office.

USA Fencing is the official governing body for amateur fencing in the United States. The *Federation Internationale d'Escrime (FIE)*, the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) and other organizations recognize its exclusive jurisdiction. It is the officially designated National Governing Body (NGB) of fencing by the USOPC.

USA Fencing is the sole representative of U.S. Fencing to the FIE – the governing body for all official international fencing competitions including World Fencing Championships and the fencing competitions at the Olympic Games. Any U.S. fencer wishing to participate in official international competitions must have an FIE license secured by USA Fencing and be entered into each event by USA Fencing.

The governance of the organization is specified in the latest version of the USA Fencing Bylaws and can be found on the USA Fencing website under About Us/Board of Directors.

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Revisions to the 2020-21 Athlete Handbook after the Publish Date

**Major revisions are identified in this handbook in Blue text.**

Chapter/Appendices	Section	Change and/or Update	Date of Change



## Acronyms Used in the Athlete Handbook

ADM	American Development Model
AH	Athlete Handbook
CDT	Cadet (U17/U16)
DE	Direct Elimination
Div I	Division I
Div IA	Division IA
Div II	Division II
Div III	Division III
EFC	European Fencing Confederation
FIE	Federation International d'Esclime
ICL	International Competitive License – Foreign Fencers
IRC	International Regional Circuit – Y10, Y12, Y14, CDT & JR
IWAS	International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation
JOs	Junior Olympic National Championship
JR	Junior (U20/U19)
JSF	Junior Strength Factor
JWC	Junior World Cup
NAC	North American Cup
NRPS	National Rolling Point Standings
RCC	Regional Cadet Circuit
RJC	Regional Junior Circuit
RJCC	Regional Junior & Cadet Circuit
ROC	Regional Open Circuit
RRPS	Regional Ranking Point System
RYC	Regional Youth Circuit
SF	Strength Factor
SJCC	Super Junior and Cadet Circuit
SSF	Senior Strength Factor
SWC	Senior World Cup
SYC	Super Regional Youth Circuit
TM	Team Fencing
USOC	United States Olympic Committee
USOPC	United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee
USCSS	States Center for SafeSport
VET	Veteran
WC	World Cup
PARA	Parafencing
WV	Weight Value
Y10	Youth 10 Age Group
Y12	Youth 12 Age Group
Y14	Youth 14 Age Group

# Chapter 1 - USA Fencing Membership/International Competitive License

## 1.0 How to Become a USA Fencing Member

You must have a current USA Fencing Competitive level membership to participate in USA Fencing sanctioned events. Starting in 2020-21, Non-Competitive members receive an additional benefit of being permitted to compete in one local tournament without having to upgrade to Competitive. To become a USA Fencing member, visit the USA Fencing website, [usafencing.org](http://usafencing.org), where you can use the online registration system [HERE](#). Please note that there will be a \$10 fee for all paper applications. Please be aware that USA Fencing cannot consider you a member in good standing or provide proof of membership until the application and dues have been processed by the USA Fencing National Office ("National Office"). If one registers at a local event, or submits a paper form, it is the individual's responsibility to ensure that the application is received by the National Office.

## 1.1 Age/Citizenship

Competitive, Collegiate Competitive members and International Competitive License holders are encouraged to have their birth date and citizenship or permanent resident status verified by USA Fencing. Please email a photocopy (scanned or picture from camera/phone) of your birth certificate, passport, green card, driver's license and/or other legal document clearly showing date of birth and citizenship. Email documents to Member Services at [information@usafencing.org](mailto:information@usafencing.org). Once your birth date has been verified, you do not need to do this again.

Birth year verification is reflected on your membership card. To print a copy of your card, log in to your USA Fencing member profile at [member.usafencing.org](http://member.usafencing.org) and select "View Membership Card" and then print. You can also purchase a plastic member card through your USA Fencing membership profile.

## 1.2 Division Affiliation

A member can declare a division affiliation based on his or her residence, location of the school that member is attending or location of the primary club that the member will represent in USA Fencing competitions. Each fencing season, a member must declare the division affiliation for that membership year. That division is the one from which the fencer must qualify to the USA Fencing National Championships. The member may request a change in division if he or she moves to a new geographic location (permanent residence or school) or selects a primary club which is located in a different division, and notifies the National Office in writing of the new address and division change request. Members who are living or working for an extended period of time outside of the United States or on active military duty can request "national" division affiliation; supporting documentation must be submitted to [information@usafencing.org](mailto:information@usafencing.org).

Foreign fencers living in the United States shall declare division affiliation designations at event registration for seeding conflict resolution purposes.

## 1.3 International Competitive License

You must have a current USA Fencing International Competitive License to participate in USA Fencing National tournaments. To obtain an International License, visit the USA Fencing website at [usafencing.org](http://usafencing.org), or you can use the online registration system [HERE](#). Please note that there will be a \$10

fee for all paper license applications. Please be aware that USA Fencing cannot consider your International Competitive License valid until the application and dues have been processed by the USA Fencing National Office (“National Office”). If one registers at a local or regional event, or submits a paper form, it is the individual’s responsibility to ensure that the application is received by the National Office.

### 1.3.2 International Fencers at Regional Tournaments

International fencers competing in regional tournaments must purchase the International Competitive License.

## 1.4 Age/Citizenship

Athletes with an International Competitive License must have their birth date, citizenship, representation status and residence address verified by USA Fencing. Please email a photocopy (scanned or picture from camera/phone) of your birth certificate, passport, driver’s license and/or other legal document clearly showing date of birth and citizenship. Email documents to Member Services at [information@usafencing.org](mailto:information@usafencing.org). Once your birth date has been verified, you do not need to do this again.

Birth year verification is reflected on your International Competitive License. To print a copy of your license, log into your USA Fencing profile at [member.usafencing.org](http://member.usafencing.org) and select Print International Competitive License. You can also purchase a plastic member card through your USA Fencing membership profile.

## 1.5 Club Representation and Affiliation

The term “club” as used in this chapter, includes any organized fencing group of individual members with a current USA Fencing Affiliate, High School or Member Club status. A recognized club is one that is in full compliance with all USA Fencing SafeSport policies related to coaches and staff members, has a stable organizational structure and membership, a location for regular fencing activity and a USA Fencing Coach Member providing lessons and training. The division affiliation of a club shall be the primary location where its regular fencing activity is conducted. A club may only be a member of one division.

A distinction is made between club “affiliation” and “representation.” A fencer may be affiliated with more than one club, but can only represent one of them (except as noted below) in USA Fencing competitions at one time. An athlete’s club representation is based on current Member, Affiliate and High School Clubs. Athletes, who represent a non-USA Fencing Affiliate, High School or Member Club will be considered “unattached.” This includes clubs who are not current at the time of the competition, regardless of the club’s history of membership. All clubs must be 100% compliant with Safe Sport policy for an individual to represent the club at a sanctioned competition

All fencers should notify the National Office of all club affiliations at the start of the fencing season and, as such, club affiliation changes during the fencing season. **All fencers will have the ability to update their club affiliation in their membership profile twice per season.** They should also notify competition organizers of such affiliations, even if representing another club (or school) or fencing unattached for reasons given below. Competition organizers should apply the same criteria for separating fencers with the same club affiliations as they do for fencers with same club representation. **Only current USA Fencing clubs will be listed in the membership database.** You cannot affiliate with a non-member club. Only the club listed in the athlete’s membership profile will be considered

valid. Club affiliations are dependent on the date tournament organizers download the entrants for a tournament. Please note this could be up to 2 weeks prior to the start of competition.

A collegiate or high school fencer, who is also a member of another recognized club, may represent his or her school in dual meets and other interscholastic or intercollegiate competitions, and also represent the other club in USA Fencing competitions. If the rules of his or her school conference require it, he or she may represent his or her school or fence unattached at all USA Fencing individual competitions held during the school's fencing season or, in the case of collegiate fencers, during the period in which NCAA rules regarding playing dates have jurisdiction. Such fencers may represent their other club during the other portions of the fencing season. Athletes should inform the National Office of their NCAA or scholastic representation; this information will be used in accordance with [fencing rule o.13](#).

Any request for club change beyond the parameters noted above requires special permission from the USA Fencing Board of Directors or its designee.

The fencer/club representation relationship may be terminated at any time by either party (fencer or club) by written notice provided to the National Office. [BOD, July 2007] USA Fencing reserves the right to cancel a club's membership at any time and thus, remove that club affiliation with individual fencers

## 1.6 USA Fencing Club Information

[Click HERE for Club Information](#)

**Member Club:** Member clubs receive insurance coverage through USA Fencing policy. All members of USA Fencing Member Clubs must be individual members of USA Fencing, and all coaches must be Coach Members of USA Fencing. In addition, all staff members who interact with members on a regular basis are required to carry a +CheckEd add-on to their base USA Fencing membership

**Affiliate Club:** Affiliate clubs are allowed to enter teams to Championship Team Competition (at JOs, Div I National Championships and USA Fencing National Championships), but they do not participate in the USA Fencing insurance program and have no liability coverage through USA Fencing. Even so all coaches must be Coach Members of USA Fencing. In addition, all staff members who interact with members on a regular basis are required to carry a +CheckEd add-on to their base USA Fencing membership.

**High School Club:** High schools that sponsor a varsity or club fencing team can join USA Fencing as High School Clubs. Members of the team are registered as individual High School Club members and can earn USA Fencing recognized ratings at recognized High School tournaments. PLEASE NOTE: While ratings earned at high school events are applied to the individual fencer's USA Fencing profile, High School Club memberships are not valid for sanctioned local, regional and national events. Individual fencers must upgrade to a full Competitive membership if fencing in sanctioned events. All head coaches must be Coach members of USA Fencing.

**Insurance:** [Insurance Information](#)

**Collegiate Club:** Colleges and/or universities that sponsor a fencing club can join USA Fencing as Collegiate Clubs. Members of the team are eligible for the discounted Collegiate Competitive membership registered as individual Collegiate Competitive members and can earn USA Fencing

recognized ratings at sanctioned USA Fencing tournaments. Collegiate Competitive members can fence in USA Fencing sanctioned tournaments as long as they meet the age, classification and citizenship criteria for the particular events.

## Chapter 2 - Domestic Competitions

### 2.0 General Definitions

An event (or competition) is the aggregate of the bouts (in individual competitions) or of the matches (in team competitions) that determine the winner of the event. Competitions are categorized by weapons, by gender, by age, by classification and by individual competition vs. team competition.

A tournament consists of several events held at the same venue in the same period of time.

All USA Fencing sanctioned events must have at least one rated referee. Click [here](#) for a current list of rated referees. All tournament officials must be compliant with the USA Fencing Safe Sport Policy, including maintaining a current background check. In addition, all officials must complete the free, online Safe Sport Training Course and have a completed, and returned with a green light, background check.

For more information on the latest edition and/or any relevant updates of the *USA Fencing Rules for Competition*, refer to the USA Fencing website under About Us/Manuals. Please refer to the Referees' Commission website or email [RCRulesandExams@refereescommission.org](mailto:RCRulesandExams@refereescommission.org) for any questions regarding the rules of competition.

For information on black cards, medical withdrawal, and no shows, see the [Appendices](#).

### 2.1 Classifications

#### 2.1.1 What are Classifications?

Fencers are classified into the following letter classifications: A (highest), B, C, D, E and U (unclassified, lowest) as well as by national ranking, for those who achieved points at national events. These provide an objective scale for the seeding of competitions. Classifications are written A18, B17, C19, etc. with the letter indicating the most recent year in which the classification was earned or re-earned. Classifications provide a measuring standard for fencers as they progress through the sport.

Classifications are available on the [USA Fencing Member List](#) and are searchable by last name, first name, membership number, division or representing country and are updated automatically on the membership listing. Classifications may also be viewed in the member's profile at [member.usafencing.org](http://member.usafencing.org).

#### 2.1.2 How is a Classification Earned?

Classifications are earned in each weapon at USA Fencing rated competitions at local, divisional, regional or national levels. The rating of a competition is based on number of competitors and classification of the fencers and determines the type and number of classifications awarded or revised. Please see the [Appendices](#). **Geographic restrictions do not prohibit events from issuing classifications for the remainder of the 2020-2021 calendar year.**

#### 2.1.3 How are Classification Changes Made Official?

Classification changes from local tournaments must be certified and submitted by the division to [classifications@usafencing.org](mailto:classifications@usafencing.org) using the Fencing Time results file, which includes the event officials

and classification changes. Event officials must have a valid USA Fencing background screen and completed SafeSport training. Classification Change Form available on the USA Fencing website by clicking [here](#).

Complete Event Officials Forms, including valid USA Fencing background screens and SafeSport certifications must be submitted with the Classification Change Report (available [here](#)).

Classification changes from regional tournaments and division qualifiers must be certified by submission of complete results (upload) in the online tournament system by the organizer of the regional tournament or division qualifier at which the classification was earned. The results report is available as an export from Fencing Time v3.02 or later by using the Results Reporting Form (available on the USA Fencing website at [usafencing.org/reporting](http://usafencing.org/reporting)). Division qualifiers must be submitted to the National Office with the classification change report and the referee usage report or with the Fencing Time results file. Classification changes will be processed and posted once results and referee reports are verified and applicable program fees are received by the National Office.

Regional organizers are required to upload classification changes within 72 hours (3 days) from the competition or tournament end date. Failure to report classification changes may affect an individual fencer's seeding and/or the rating of the competition the fencer is participating in. In addition, it will affect an organizer's status in future bidding.

Only classifications appearing on the membership listings available on the USA Fencing website are official. Only these listings should be used when seeding tournaments. Results and classification changes, posted on non-USA Fencing tournament registration sites, must be verified by USA Fencing. If a classification has not been updated on the USA Fencing website, the fencer should first contact the tournament organizer or the appropriate division officer to determine if the change form has been submitted.

Once a report is submitted to the National Office, and any associated fees have been collected, the classification change will be updated within five business days, except in the following situations:

1. Classifications will not be awarded to fencers who compete in competitions in which they are considered age and/or classification ineligible. In addition, such ineligible fencers may not be used to calculate the new classifications earned by others in those events.
2. For events in which any fencers are not current USA Fencing Competitive members, the award of any new classifications, points or qualification for that competition may be delayed or withheld until such memberships are properly paid and processed.
3. Organizers submitting classification changes from RYC, SYC, ROC or RJCC tournaments have not yet submitted the required program support fees and/or results/referee reports to the National Office.

Should an athlete representing the USA earn a classification based on the classification chart, he/she must contact the National Office to update classification.

#### **2.1.4 How long is a classification valid?**

Classifications are valid for four seasons after they are earned. If, after four seasons, the classification has not been renewed, it then reverts to the next lowest letter and the then current year. Such change will be effective at the beginning of the new fencing season – August 1. For example, if you earned a B in 2010 (B10) and did not re-earn your B for four more years, your B became a C14 on August 1, 2014. If you then did not renew your C14 for four more years, it becomes a D18 on August 1, 2018.

**For the 2020-21 season, classifications will not be reverted until August 1, 2021 based on the disruption in the competition schedule due to COVID-19.**

### **2.1.5 How to Determine Classifications for Foreign Fencers**

Classifications for foreign fencers will be determined by placement at an FIE World Championships, Grand Prix or World Cup in the current season and/or previous three seasons in the weapon in which the athlete requests entry, based on the chart below:

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>Senior</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> – 64 <sup>th</sup>	65 <sup>th</sup> – 96 <sup>th</sup>	National Team member
<b>Junior</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> – 32 <sup>nd</sup>	33 <sup>rd</sup> – 64 <sup>th</sup>	National Team member
<b>Cadet</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> at Cadet World Championships	17 <sup>th</sup> – 32 <sup>nd</sup> at Cadet World Championships	National Team member
<b>Veteran 50 – 59</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> at Veteran World Championships	5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> at Veteran World Championships	9 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> at Veteran World Championships
<b>Veteran 60 – 69</b>		1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> at Veteran World Championships	5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> at Veteran World Championships
<b>Veteran 70+</b>			1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> at Veteran World Championships

In all cases, the classification year suffix is the year in which the result was earned. If nothing is known about the fencer, the National Events Department will consult with the National Weapon Coach or Senior Director of Sports Performance regarding which classification should be used.

National Team member is defined as a fencer that has represented another nation in international competition and/or has been entered by another nation into a USA Fencing competition.



## 2.2 Types of Domestic Competitions

### 2.2.1 Local Competitions

A wide variety of competitions can be found at the local level in clubs or sponsored by local organizations. Schedules for these competitions can be found by contacting your division. Division contact information is available on the USA Fencing website ([Division Information](#)) or by emailing [information@usafencing.org](mailto:information@usafencing.org).

### 2.2.2 Division Competitions

Divisions hold many different competitions, including qualifying competitions for the Junior Olympic Fencing Championships (JOs) and the USA Fencing National Championships (Divisions II and III, Y14, Veteran). Schedules for these competitions can be found by contacting the member's division, or by visiting the appropriate website. Division contact information is available on the USA Fencing website ([Division Information](#)) or by emailing [information@usafencing.org](mailto:information@usafencing.org).

### 2.2.3 Regional Competitions

The USA Fencing Region Map is located at <https://www.usafencing.org/regional-info> and in the Appendices. A calendar of regional events can be found on the USA Fencing website ([usafencing.org/regional-calendar](http://usafencing.org/regional-calendar)).

Regional Open Circuit (ROC): The ROCs serve as one of the qualification paths for certain events at the USA National Fencing Championships and July Challenge. There are no national points awarded at ROC competitions; please refer to [Chapter 3](#) for more information on the regional point structure. For a schedule of ROCs, please visit [www.usafencing.org/regional-calendar](http://www.usafencing.org/regional-calendar).

Regional Junior/Cadet Circuit (RJCC): The RJCCs serve as one of the qualification paths for Junior Olympic Fencing Championships and the July Challenge. There are no national points awarded at RJCC competitions; please refer to [Chapter 3](#) for more information on the Regional Point structure. For a schedule of RJCCs, please visit [www.usafencing.org/regional-calendar](http://www.usafencing.org/regional-calendar).

Super Junior/Cadet Circuit (SJCC): There will be 2-3 SJCC tournaments during the 2020-21 season. Junior and cadet age fencers may participate in the Super Junior/Cadet Circuit; however, **only the single best result** is included in the revised National Point Standings published after the last SJCC.

Super Youth Circuit (SYC): There are numerous SYC tournaments throughout the country for Y10, Y12 and Y14 athletes. Youth fencers may participate in one or more Super Youth tournaments; however, **only the single best result** is included in the revised National Point Standings published after each SYC.

International Regional Circuit (IRC): **There are no IRC competitions scheduled during the 2020-2021 season.**

*Information for future seasons:*

*There may be two or more International Regional Circuit tournaments held outside the United States. Athletes that **place in the top 32 of the combined IRC list** for Junior and Cadet, are eligible to compete in these events at the July Challenge. In addition, youth athletes that fencing in an IRC in Y10, Y12 and/or Y14 will meet the prerequisite for fencing in the March Youth NAC.*

National points are awarded to the top 40 percent at an SYC competition according to the point table in the Appendix. These competitions are one of the qualification paths for Y10 and Y12 events at the March NAC and the USA National Fencing Championships. Please refer to [Chapter 3](#) for more information on the Youth Point structure. For a schedule of SYCs, visit [www.usafencing.org/regional-calendar](http://www.usafencing.org/regional-calendar).

Regional Youth Circuit (RYC): The RYC tournaments are held throughout the season for Y10, Y12 and Y14 athletes. These competitions are one of the qualification paths for Y10 and Y12 events at the March NAC and the USA Fencing National Championships. Please refer to [Chapter 3](#) for more information on the Regional Point structure. For a schedule of RYCs, please visit [www.usafencing.org/regional-calendar](http://www.usafencing.org/regional-calendar).

High School Fencing: High school fencing tournaments are held throughout the season for athletes in 9th – 12th grade. The goal of this program is to continue to motivate developing high school athletes to participate in high school tournaments/leagues throughout the competitive season.

There are no national or regional points awarded at *recognized* high school competitions. However, those athletes with a current USA Fencing High School or Competitive membership may earn classifications based on the total number that fence and the current classification of those fencers in the high school *individual* event. The athlete would have to be a current member as of, or during the particular tournament to receive a classification change. Those that do not have a current USA Fencing High School or Competitive membership will not receive classification changes. High school recognized tournaments are not required to meet the C1 tournament requirement to award classifications. These competitions are not a qualification path for the USA Fencing National Championships.

**During the 2020-21 season, local and regional tournaments may be capped due to COVID 19 and the local/state/CDC restrictions around sport gatherings. For more information on capping, click [HERE](#).**

#### **2.2.4 National Tournaments and Championships**

**A schedule of all events and deadlines can be found online at [www.usafencing.org/national-events-calendar](http://www.usafencing.org/national-events-calendar).**

North American Cup (NAC): The North American Cup Tournaments are a series of tournaments organized by USA Fencing (Y10, Y12, Y14, Cadet, Junior, Div I, Div II, Div III, Vet Open, Vet Age, Para, and Cadet/Y14/Junior/Senior Team). For Div I NACs, athletes must meet the criteria for a “C” or better classification at the time of their entry. For Div II NACs, athletes must meet the age and classification criteria (“C” or lower classification) at the time of their entry. For Div III NACs, athletes must meet the age and classification criteria for a (“D” or lower classification) at the time of their entry.

Junior Olympic Fencing Championship (JOs): The Junior Olympic Fencing Championships are traditionally held each year in February. JOs is the National Championships for Cadet, Junior and Junior Team in each of the six weapons. Fencers must be a U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident, meet age criteria and qualify to compete in this tournament. Athletes that have represented another country in the last three years at FIE level competitions (Senior/Junior and those athletes that represented

another country in the Cadet World Championships) are not eligible to compete in a National Championship.

Division I National Championships: The Div I National Championships, traditionally held in conjunction with the April NAC, are championships for fencers on the National Senior Rolling Point Standings for Seniors, Juniors and the top Cadets on their respective Point Standings. Competitors must be U.S. citizens or Permanent Residents. Fencers qualify for these Championships via the National Rolling Point Standings, top placements from the last Div IA and Div II National Championships and via modern pentathlon.

Athletes that have represented another country in the least three years at FIE level competitions (Senior/Junior and those athletes that represented another country in the Cadet World Championships) are not eligible to compete in a National Championship, unless the athlete has been officially approved by the FIE to represent the USA.

Parafencing National Championship: The Parafencing National Championship is traditionally held in conjunction with either the March or April NAC tournaments.

USA Fencing National Championships (Nationals): The USA Fencing National Championships are held in June/July. Fencers must be U.S. citizens or Permanent Residents and qualify to compete in this tournament. Events in these Championships include (in all six weapons): Y10, Y12, Y14, Veteran 40-49, Veteran 50-59, Veteran 60-69, Veteran 70+, Veteran 80, Div IA, Div II and Div III. For classification restricted championship events (Div II/ Div III), the classification of the fencer at the time of qualification determines eligibility to compete.

Athletes that have represented another country in the least three years at FIE level competitions (Senior/Junior and those athletes that represented another country in the Cadet World Championships) are not eligible to compete in a National Championship, unless the athlete has been officially approved by the FIE to represent the USA.

July Challenge: This competition occurs in conjunction with the USA Fencing National Championships and is a restricted competition based upon eligibility criteria listed in paragraphs [2.11.5.3](#) & [2.12.5.8](#). The Div I, Junior, Cadet and Senior Team (composite team) events held at the July Challenge mark the beginning of the domestic cycle for the Div I, Junior and Cadet season (Junior and Cadet aged out NRPS). *Those athletes in the National Division **must meet the event criteria** for the July Challenge.*

## **2.3 Entering Competitions/Tournaments**

### **2.3.1 Local/Divisional Competitions**

Entry procedures for these competitions vary from competition to competition. Contact the organizers of the competitions to determine their procedures. You must register following the organizer's procedures. Registrations for these tournaments are not currently processed through the National Office.

### **2.3.2 Regional Tournaments (RYC, SYC, RJCC, ROC, SJCC, IRC)**

Links to online entry forms for these competitions are available on the USA Fencing website ([usafencing.org/regional-events](http://usafencing.org/regional-events)). Only tournaments posted on the USA Fencing Regional Event Calendar are recognized as regional tournaments. Registrations for these competitions will be processed through the National Office. **There are no IRC competitions scheduled during the 2020-2021 season.**

### **2.3.3 Cancellation, Delay, or Rescheduling of Events due to Extreme Weather or Catastrophe**

In extreme circumstances, regional tournaments may be cancelled, delayed or rescheduled by the majority decision of a group composed of the Tournament Organizer, the USA Fencing Director of Operations, the relevant Regional Manager and/or the Executive Director. USA Fencing has the right to require any Regional Tournament Organizer to cancel, delay or reschedule a regional tournament in the best interest of the membership due to unforeseen extreme weather occurrences or other catastrophic circumstances. Organizers must include in their public tournament information page their refund policy in the case that a catastrophic event causes the cancellation, delay or rescheduling of their tournament.

Regional tournaments which are cancelled due to no fault of the organizer will be rescheduled, if possible, within the season for which the tournament was awarded.

Organizers may NOT cancel, delay or reschedule a regional tournament without the approval of the aforementioned group. Tournament organizers cancelling an ROC, SYC, RJCC, RYC or IRC without approval shall refund all monies paid by registered tournament entrants, including fees associated with non-ROC, non-RJCC, non-RYC or non-SYC events. If such cancellation is made unreasonably and/or on short notice, the tournament organizer may additionally be held responsible for reimbursement of expenses incurred by tournament entrants, and organizers are strongly encouraged to maintain general business liability insurance to provide for such an eventuality. In no event will USA Fencing be held responsible for the refund or reimbursement of any such fees or expenses, and by bidding, tournament organizers agree to hold USA Fencing harmless and to indemnify USA Fencing against any claims made by tournament entrants as a result of the cancellation of a tournament or as a result of the withdrawal of sanction by USA Fencing.

## **2.4 USA Fencing National Tournaments**

For registration accuracy, speed and environmental reasons, USA Fencing uses an online registration system. The online registration system generates a receipt of payment upon processing of a valid payment. Paper entry forms are also available to be emailed, mailed or faxed to the National Office. For faster processing of paper entries, email your form to [nationalevents@usafencing.org](mailto:nationalevents@usafencing.org). There will be a \$20 fee assessed to all paper entry forms. All entries, regardless of method, must be received at the National Office by the published deadline for that tournament. Qualification is required for any Championship tournament.

For National Championships, entries remain **pending** until qualification is determined. Once the event has been confirmed for the athlete, an email will be sent via the database system and it will state that the athlete has been **approved** for that particular event. If the National Office is unclear how the athlete qualified, or if the athlete did not qualify or the path with which they qualified is undetermined, the system will generate an **ineligible** email in an effort to get more information.

**Deadlines for entry are strictly enforced.** Deadlines are published on the USA Fencing website, on the online registration system and on the paper entry forms. Postmarks are not considered; entries must arrive at the National Office by the posted deadline. Online entries must be submitted by 11:59:59 p.m. Pacific Time of the posted deadline date.

Late entries are accepted online only for a specified time frame, with payment of triple the total amount due for regular entries up to the posted late entry deadline date by 11:59:59 p.m. Pacific Time. For a

refund of 50% of the event fee(s), all withdrawals must be received by the National Office by the posted withdrawal deadline. Registration and processing fees are nonrefundable and nontransferable. To withdraw from a tournament, email [withdrawals@usafencing.org](mailto:withdrawals@usafencing.org) with the athlete/team name, member number, and events from which you are withdrawing. No event fee refunds will be given for withdrawals after the posted withdrawal deadline. **Event fee refunds (50% refunded for the event fee(s) only) are processed 4-6 weeks after the tournament.**

A link to the *entrants list* is posted on the specific tournament web page located on the USA Fencing website under Events – [usafencing.org](http://usafencing.org). It is the fencer's responsibility to verify that the events registered for, classification for each weapon and division information is accurate before the seeding deadline for the tournament. Any discrepancies must be reported to the National Office ([information@usafencing.org](mailto:information@usafencing.org)) no later than 48 hours after the seeding for that event is posted on the USA Fencing website. Club affiliation changes may be considered until the end of check-in for that event.

The National Coach and/or the Director of Sports Performance may make modifications to seeding classification and ranking no later than 48 hours after the seeding for that event is posted on the USA Fencing website.

For Championship tournaments, the online system generates separate emails for each event once entry is approved. It is the fencer's responsibility to verify that the Championship events registered for have been officially **approved** by the National Office. Championship eligibility confirmation from clubs, divisions, regional tournament organizers are not considered official until verified by USA Fencing. Event fee refunds (50% of the event fee is eligible for a refund) will be processed by the National Office for any events where an athlete fails to qualify.

Event fee refunds are processed 4-6 weeks after the tournament. There are no event fee refunds after the posted deadline for the tournament.

## 2.5 Eligibility to Compete

Fencers must be current *Competitive* USA Fencing members in good standing or hold a current *International Competitive License* to compete in USA Fencing sanctioned national competitions. Foreign Fencers, competing in sanctioned local or regional tournaments, can purchase an International Competitive License prior to registering for these tournament types. Supporting members are not eligible to fence in any USA Fencing sanctioned competition. Non-Competitive membership categories are eligible to compete in one local USA Fencing sanctioned competition, per season. The High School membership category is specifically for High School competitions and this membership type is not eligible to compete in any USA Fencing *sanctioned* competitions.

Fencers must meet age and/or eligibility requirements found in the chart on the next page. For locally sanctioned classification restricted tournaments, eligibility is determined based on the classification at the time of a fully completed and paid registration. For division qualifiers, eligibility is determined as of the tournament start date.

Eligibility for national classification restricted tournament requiring qualification is determined at the start of the tournament at which the qualification was earned. For example, a D rated fencer may potentially earn a C rating at a division qualifier, but National Championship eligibility will be determined based on the D rating with which the fencer began the qualification tournament.

## 2.5.1 Table A: 2020-2021 Age/Classification Eligibility Rules

For 2020-2021 Local/National Tournaments & Junior Olympic Fencing Championships (Excluding July Challenge, USA Fencing National Championships & Nationals Qualifying Tournaments through Regions and Divisions)

CATEGORY	DIVISION I	DIVISION 1A	DIVISION II	DIVISION III	SENIOR (OPEN) See 2.11.2	PARA FENCING & CLASSIFICATION TOURNAMENT	SENIOR TEAM	VETERAN (40 & Older) / VETERAN TEAM	VETERAN 40-49	VETERAN 50-59	VETERAN 60-69	VETERAN 70 & Older	VETERAN 80 & Older	JUNIOR JR TEAM	CADET CDT TEAM	CADET	YOUTH 14	YOUTH 14 TEAM	YOUTH 12	YOUTH 10
CODE	DV1	DV1 1A	DV2	DV3	SR Open	PARA	STM	VET/VTM	V40	V50	V60	V70	V80	JR/JTM	CDT/CTM	CDT	Y14	14 TEAM	Y12	Y10
BIRTH YEARS	Born 2007 or earlier	Born 2007 or earlier	Born 2007 or earlier	Born 2007 or earlier	Born 2007 or earlier	Born 2007 or earlier	Born 2007 or earlier	Born 1981 or earlier	1972-1981	1962-1971	1952-1961	Born 1951 or earlier	Born 1941 or earlier	2001-2007	2004-2007	2004-2007	2006-2009	2006-2009	2008-2011	2010-2013
CLASS	A, B, OR C	N/A	C, D, E OR U	D, E OR U	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

### July Challenge, USA Fencing National Championships & Associated REGIONAL & DIVISION Qualifying Competitions ONLY

CATEGORY	DIVISION I	DIVISION IA	DIVISION II	DIVISION III	PARA FENCING	VETERAN 40-49	VETERAN 50-59	VETERAN 60-69	VETERAN 70 & Older	VETERAN 80 & Older
CODE	DV1	D1A	DV2	DV3	PARA	V40	V50	V60	V70	V80
BIRTH YEARS	Born 2007 or earlier	Born 2007 or earlier	Born 2007 or earlier	Born 2007 or earlier	Born 2007 or earlier	1972-1981	1962-1971	1952-1961	Born 1951 or earlier	Born 1941 or earlier
CLASS	A, B, OR C	N/A	C, D, E OR U	D, E OR U	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

CATEGORY	JUNIOR	CADET	YOUTH 14	YOUTH 12	YOUTH 10	SENIOR TEAM
CODE	JR	CDT	Y14	Y12	Y10	STM
BIRTH YEARS	2001-2007	2004-2007	2006-2009	2008-2011	2010-2013	Born 2007 or earlier
CLASS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

#### EXCEPTION TO AGE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (All other qualification criteria remains):

- Youth 12 – A fencer born after 2011 can fence in Y12 IF the fencer is on the National Youth 10 Point Standings at the time of the entry deadline for that tournament.
- Youth 14 – A fencer born after 2009 can fence in Y14 IF the fencer is on the National Youth 12 Point Standings at the time of the entry deadline for that tournament.
- Cadet – A fencer born after 2007 can fence in Cadet local and regional competitions, NAC Cadet tournaments and Junior Olympic Cadet Fencing Championship and qualifying tournaments IF the fencer is on the National Youth 14 Point Standings at the time of the entry deadline for that tournament.
- Junior – A fencer born after 2007 can fence in Junior local and regional competitions, NAC Junior and Junior Olympic Fencing Championships and qualifying tournaments IF the fencer is on the National Cadet Point Standings at the time of the entry deadline for that tournament.
- Division I – For national (e.g., NAC) competitions, those born after 2007 must be on the National Junior Point Standings; for the 2021 July Challenge for Division I, those born after 2007 must be on the National Junior Point Standings.
- Division IA, II, III – For all local, regional (including ROC) and national (e.g., NAC) competitions, those born after 2007 must be on the National Junior Point Standings; for the 2021 National Championships and qualifying competitions for Division IA, II, III; those born after 2007 must be on the National Junior Point Standings.
- A fencer who is on the National Junior Rolling Point Standings (NRPS) and is younger than 13 may compete in Senior (Open) competition

## 2.6 General Qualifying Information

The Tournament Committee will evaluate qualification pathways throughout the season. A top percentage of each regional points list-based qualification will be used to compensate for the differences in the number of events in each region. The percentage of each regional list will be determined as the field size for Summer Nationals becomes clearer. The TC will examine expanding division qualification pathways as needed should there be an insufficient number of regional events.

### 2.6.1 Division Qualifiers

**The Tournament Committee will examine expanding division qualification pathways as needed should there be an insufficient number of regional events.**

Division qualifiers are competitions in which a specified number of fencers, based on their results, qualify to the USA Fencing National Championships and the Junior Olympic Championships.

Division qualifiers are restricted to members of the division for the following events: Div II, Div III and Y14 (USA Fencing National Championships) and Cadet and Junior (JOs). Veteran fencers can qualify for USA Fencing National Championships via Division II or Division III division qualifiers. Division qualifying tournaments cannot be mixed gender competitions. **Fencers who have earned national points are the only athletes who will be skipped over.** Athletes who have already qualified via a regional path will not be skipped over at any division qualifier.

Fencers must be U.S. citizens or Permanent Residents. Any fencer who is a U.S. citizen who has also represented another country in the last three years, in any FIE and/or Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM) event, and who has not yet been granted permission to represent the USA by USA Fencing and the FIE, is not eligible for any USA Fencing National Championship competition, individual or team, including division qualifying competitions. A foreign fencer who is in the United States on a visa is NOT eligible to fence in any National Championships, individual or team, or associated division qualifying competitions. Divisions allowing ineligible athletes to compete in qualifying competitions may be fined by USA Fencing – a \$500 fine, which may be invoiced or withheld from the division's membership rebate.

Athletes that have represented another country in the last three years at FIE level competitions (Senior/Junior and those athletes that represented another country at the Cadet World Championships) are not eligible to compete in a National Championship.

For information regarding your division qualifier schedule, check your division's website or contact your division officers. To obtain names, emails and phone numbers for any of the division's officers, contact the National Office by phone (719-866-4511) or email ([information@usafencing.org](mailto:information@usafencing.org)).

Policy on ineligible fencers in division qualifiers:

1. For division qualifying events in which any ineligible fencers are discovered (i.e., age, classification, membership, citizenship or representing country), the division and athlete(s) in question will be notified and instructed of the information needed to resolve the situation. Any missing membership forms, fees or paperwork needed to resolve the issue must be received by the National Office within 10 business days from the time of notification of the problem by the National Office. Late submission may result in the division qualifiers being recalculated based on the eligible fencers in the competitive field.



2. No qualification or classifications will be awarded to fencers who compete in division qualifiers where ineligible athletes (i.e., age, classification, membership, citizenship or representing country) are allowed to compete until the situation is resolved.
3. All entries for the given Championship will remain “registered” until the issues regarding the division qualifier in question are resolved.
4. Petitions or protests will be reviewed after the situation is resolved.

## 2.6.2 Regional Qualifying Paths

**The Tournament Committee will evaluate qualification pathways throughout the season. A top percentage of each regional points list-based qualification will be used to compensate for the differences in the number of events in each region. The percentage of each regional list will be determined as the field size for Summer Nationals becomes clearer. The TC will examine expanding division qualification pathways as needed should there be an insufficient number of regional events.**

In addition to division qualifiers, multiple qualification paths exist on a regional level for qualification to the USA Fencing National Championships, Junior Olympic Fencing Championships and the July Challenge. These include:

- Regional Open Circuit Tournaments (ROC): Division IA, Division II, Veteran for USA Fencing National Championships
- Regional Junior Cadet Circuit (RJCC): Junior and Cadet for Junior Olympic Fencing Championships and the July Challenge, if age eligible
- Super Junior/Cadet Circuit Tournament (SJCC): Junior and Cadet for the Junior Olympics and the July Challenge
- Super Youth Circuit Tournaments (SYC): Youth 10, Youth 12 for March North American Cup and USA Fencing National Championships; Youth 14 for USA Fencing National Championships
- Regional Youth Circuit Tournaments (RYC): Youth 10, Youth 12 for March North American Cup and USA Fencing National Championships; Youth 14 for USA Fencing National Championships

ROC, RJCC, SYC, SJCC and division qualifying tournaments cannot be mixed (mixed gender or mixed age) competitions. RYC qualifying tournaments with less than five entrants in a given gender may mix by gender, but may not mix ages.

Regional Open Circuit (ROC): Open to current USA Fencing members, with a competitive type membership are eligible to fence in open/senior competitions and to foreign fencers with a current ICL (International Competitive License). Foreign fencers are not eligible to compete in USA Fencing National Championship events. Foreign fencers will be required to create a profile in the USA Fencing database prior to competing in any sanctioned tournament.

Regional Junior/Cadet Circuit (RJCC): Open to current USA Fencing members with a competitive type membership are eligible to fence in Cadet and/or Junior competitions and to age-eligible foreign fencers with a current ICL (International Competitive License). Foreign fencers are not eligible to compete in USA Fencing National Championship events. Foreign fencers will be required to create a profile in the USA Fencing database prior to competing in any sanctioned tournament. Foreign fencers may qualify for the July Challenge via the SJCC/RJCC system as it is not a National Championship but will need an International Competitive License to fence in this national tournament. National point holders will not be skipped on the Regional Ranking List when determining the number of qualifiers.



Super Youth Circuit and Regional Youth Circuit (SYC/RYC): Open to current USA Fencing members with a competitive type membership are eligible to fence in youth age competitions and to age-eligible foreign fencers with a current ICL (International Competitive License). Foreign fencers are not eligible to compete in USA Fencing National Championship events. Foreign fencers will be required to create a profile in the USA Fencing database prior to competing in any sanctioned tournament. National point holders will not be skipped on the Regional Ranking List when determining the number of qualifiers.

**2.6.3 Determination of Divisional Qualifiers**

Division qualifiers are determined by the qualifying information for various event types. For more information, see [Table 2.6.3.1](#).

**When determining who has qualified for a Championship, only fencers who qualify through National Points are skipped over to the next eligible fencer.** Fencers that qualify for championships via regional points are not skipped over. Those who qualify through the division should not be skipped. For example, if a fencer competes and qualifies in a Junior division qualifier and is age eligible for Cadet, he/she will not get skipped over if they choose to also fence in the Cadet division qualifier. Those who qualify for Div IA, Div II, or Div III by earning regional ROC points are not considered automatic qualifiers at divisional qualifiers and should not be skipped over.

**There is no retroactive path to qualification.** Therefore, fencers who fail to qualify to enter a national tournament through a RYC, RJCC, ROC, SYC, SJCC or divisional qualifying competition do not qualify simply by virtue of a qualifying fencer at the event qualifying at a later qualifying competition as well.

Qualifying forms and instructions are sent to regional (ROC, RJCC, RYC, SYC & SJCC) tournament organizers and division officers via email; information is also posted on the USA Fencing website under the Championship Tournament page and Regional Resources page ([Tournament Resources](#)). It is the regional tournament organizer’s and/or division officer’s responsibility to adhere to the qualifying information; failure to do so may result in qualifying field adjustments and/or nullification of the results from the qualifying tournament. Complete results from these qualifying tournaments must be submitted in the proper excel format; the qualifying report is available as an export in Fencing Time v3.02 or later.

Complete results must be submitted to the National Office via the USA Fencing registration database no later than **72 hours** after the completion of the tournament. Results and reports will be accepted in any other format. These forms must reflect complete results and are the only acceptable notice from the regional tournaments and divisions regarding their qualifying fencers.

Regional tournament organizers and/or divisions who do not submit results by the deadlines described above may be charged a late fee by USA Fencing for late processing; results will not be able to be uploaded until the late fee is paid in full.

**2.6.3.1 Table: Number of Qualifiers for Junior Olympic Fencing Championships and USA Fencing National Championships from Division Qualifying Competitions (TBD percent rule/round up)**

# Competitors	1	2	3-12	13-16	17-20	21-24	25-28	29-32	33-36	37-40	41-44	45-48
# Qualifiers	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

## 2.6.4 Combined Division II/Division III Divisional Qualifier Example

Below is an example of how to determine qualifiers for Division III when the division holds only one competition to determine qualifiers for both Division II and Division III.

A Division II/III qualifying competition has the following entries:

Number of C fencers = 8

Number of D fencers = 12

Number of E fencers = 11

Number of U fencers = 15

Total number of Fencers = 46

Total number of Division II qualifiers = 12 (based on 46 total C, D, E, and U fencers)

Total number of Division III qualifiers = 10 (based on 38 total D, E, and U fencers)

### How to Determine Qualifiers:

This section will be updated in 2021.

## 2.6.5 Petition Process

**Due to COVID 19, the petitioning process may be adjusted in the future.**

In exceptional cases, subject to approval by the USA Fencing Board of Directors or National Office, a member of USA Fencing in good standing may be permitted to qualify to the Division I Championships, Junior Olympic Fencing Championships, the July Challenge or the USA Fencing National Championships by petition. No petition may contravene the results of a qualifying competition – a fencer who has fenced in the qualifying competition without withdrawing due to a disabling injury or illness cannot then petition to disregard or override those results. Petitions will be denied for fencers who chose to fence in a regional qualifier (RYC, SYC, RJCC, and ROC) over their division qualifier. U.S. citizens and Permanent Residents are eligible to petition.

The following criteria and procedures are applicable to filling a petition:

A petition may be filed by a fencer who qualified (by means of competition or petition) to that same competition in the prior season or whose recent competitive record indicates a strong possibility that the athlete would have qualified had they been able to compete in the qualifying competition but:

- Was unable to compete in the various qualifying competitions this season due to COVID 19 restrictions, injury, illness, military deployment, study abroad, compulsory school requirements  
OR
- Did compete and had to withdraw because of a disabling injury or illness **OR**
- The number of qualifying athletes at a division qualifying tournament changed due to the inclusion of ineligible fencer(s) in the tournament

(Note: Athletes who attend a school or university in the United States, outside of their division, shall not constitute inability to compete.)

All petitions must be made through an online system to USA Fencing National Events; the petition link is available through the specific tournament page on [www.usafencing.org](http://www.usafencing.org). Under no circumstances will petitions be accepted if received after the late fee entry deadline for the Championships.

**Petitions received for the same athlete two seasons in a row will not be considered.**

The petition must be accompanied by:

- A non-refundable petition fee will be charged at the conclusion of the online petition process.
- A written statement that gives specific details of the dates, reason for absence or withdrawal, and other pertinent facts. Written notice from the independent attending physician and/or statement from the Bout Committee must substantiate any medical reasons if the medical reason required withdrawal from the qualifying competition.
- A summary of the fencer's significant recent competitive results. In particular, results in previous National Championships and recent North American Cup (NAC) competitions should be noted. (Example: top 64 international, top 8 in a USA Fencing NAC/Championship, top 16 at a ROC, top 24 at an SYC).
- If the petition is not approved and the athlete is already registered for the Championship, only the event fee will be refunded.
- Responses to the petition will be made via email. Petitions that do not meet these requirements will not be considered.
- Decisions on petitions will be based upon the validity of reasons given for absence or withdrawal and the probability that the fencer would have qualified had they competed in the qualifying competition to its conclusion, based on results achieved in other recent competitions.
- If a fencer is permitted to enter the Junior Olympic Fencing Championships, Division I National Championships, July Challenge or USA Fencing National Championship competition by this petition procedure, the fencers' entry will in no way affect the number of qualifiers from the division involved.

## **2.7 Qualifying Competition Protest Process**

If the qualifying competition was not run in accordance with the USA Fencing rules, a protest may be submitted via email to [nationalevents@usafencing.org](mailto:nationalevents@usafencing.org) specifying the rule infraction(s). This must be done immediately to the Bout Committee at the qualifying competition and within three business days after the qualifying competition to the National Office; otherwise, no action will be taken by USA Fencing. Even if a timely protest is submitted, there is no guarantee that the protest will be upheld.

For more detailed information regarding the protest process, see below from the [USA Fencing Operations Manual](#).

## **2.8 Youth Fencing (Y14, Y12, Y10)**

### **2.8.1 What is a Youth Tournament?**

Youth tournaments for fencers who are 10 and under (Y10), 12 and under (Y12), and 14 and under (Y14), refer to the Age Classification Restriction Rules for current birth years for these categories in [Table 2.5.1](#).

## 2.8.2 Youth Local Tournaments

A wide variety of competitions can be found at the local level in clubs or sponsored by local organizations. Schedules for these competitions can be found by contacting your division. Division contact information is available on the USA Fencing website [HERE](#) or by emailing [information@usafencing.org](mailto:information@usafencing.org).

## 2.8.3 Youth Divisional Tournaments

Each division will host a qualifying tournament for Y14 National Championships only (Y12 and Y10 use regional qualifying paths). Divisions may also hold other Youth tournaments during the season to provide general competition opportunities. Divisional information can be found through the division specific websites ([Division Information](#)).

## 2.9 Youth Regional Tournaments

### 2.9.1 Youth 10 RYC

This event is offered as part of the Regional Youth Circuit (RYC). Regional points are awarded to any competitor competing in his/her home region. Regional points are awarded based on final placement and the size of the competitive field; no national points are awarded. At least two athletes must compete in a given RYC age/weapon event to fulfill eligibility requirements or to earn regional points.

**A. Eligibility (age, classification)**

Subject to the listed exceptions, fencers must meet the birth years in [Table 2.5.1](#). There are no classification requirements.

**B. Seeding and Format**

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

### 2.9.2 Youth 12 RYC

This event is offered as part of the Regional Youth Circuit (RYC). Regional points are awarded to any competitor competing in his/her home region. Regional points are awarded based on final placement and the size of the competitive field; no national points are awarded. At least two athletes must compete (have fenced) in a given RYC age/weapon event to fulfill eligibility requirements or to earn regional points.

**A. Eligibility (age, classification)**

Subject to the listed exceptions, fencers must meet the birth years in [Table 2.5.1](#). There are no classification requirements.

**B. Seeding and Format**

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

### 2.9.3 Youth 14 RYC

This event is offered as part of the Regional Youth Circuit (RYC). Regional points are awarded to any competitor competing in his/her home region. Regional points are awarded based on final placement

and the size of the competitive field; no national points are awarded. At least two athletes must compete (have fenced) in a given RYC age/weapon event of fulfill eligibility requirements or to earn regional points.

**A. Eligibility (age, classification)**

Subject to the listed exceptions, fencers must meet the birth years in [Table 2.5.1](#). There are no classification requirements.

**B. Seeding and Format**

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

#### **2.9.4 Youth 10 SYC**

This event is offered as part of the Super Youth Circuit (SYC). National points are awarded to 40 percent of the competitive field, rounding up, to a maximum of 64; no regional points are awarded. At least two athletes must compete in a given SYC age/weapon event to fulfill eligibility requirements for the March NAC and the USA Fencing National Championships. In all SYC Youth events, three fencers must compete in order for National Points to be awarded.

**A. Eligibility (age, classification)**

Subject to the listed exceptions, fencers must meet the birth years in [Table 2.5.1](#). There are no classification requirements.

**B. Seeding and Format**

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

#### **2.9.5 Youth 12 SYC**

This event is offered as part of the Super Youth Circuit (SYC). National points are awarded to 40 percent of the competitive field, rounding up, to a maximum of 64; no regional points are awarded. At least two athletes must compete in a given SYC age/weapon event to fulfill eligibility requirements for the March NAC. In all SYC Youth events, three fencers must compete in order for National points to be awarded.

**A. Eligibility (age, classification)**

Subject to the listed exceptions, fencers must meet the birth years in [Table 2.5.1](#). There are no classification requirements.

**B. Seeding and Format**

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

#### **2.9.6 Youth 14 SYC**

This event is offered as part of the Super Youth Circuit (SYC). National points are awarded to 40 percent of the competitive field, rounding up, to a maximum of 64; no regional points are awarded. At least two athletes must compete in a given SYC age/weapon event to fulfill eligibility requirements. In all SYC Youth events, three fencers must compete in order for national points to be awarded.

**A. Eligibility (age, classification)**

Subject to the listed exceptions, fencers must meet the birth years in [Table 2.5.1](#). There are no classification requirements.

**B. Seeding and Format**

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

## **2.10 Youth National Tournaments**

**The Tournament Committee will evaluate qualification pathways throughout the season. A top percentage of each regional points list-based qualification will be used to compensate for the differences in the number of events in each region. The percentage of each regional list will be determined as the field size for Summer Nationals becomes clearer. The TC will examine expanding division qualification pathways as needed should there be an insufficient number of regional events.**

The Youth National Tournaments provide a higher-level experience for fencers 10 and under (Y10), 12 and under (Y12) and 14 and under (Y14). National points are awarded for these competitions.

### **2.10.1 Youth 10 North American Cup (NAC)**

**A. Eligibility (age, classification)**

Fencers must meet the birth years in [Table 2.5.1](#). There are no classification requirements.

**B. Qualifying Path**

- Be on the Youth 10 National Point Standings at the regular fee entry deadline.

**C. Seeding and Format**

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

### **2.10.2 Youth 12 North American Cup (NAC)**

**A. Eligibility (age, classification)**

Subject to the listed exceptions, fencers must meet the birth years in [Table 2.5.1](#). There are no classification requirements.

**B. Qualifying Path**

- Be on the Youth 12 National Point Standings at the regular fee entry deadline **OR**
- Be on the Youth 10 National Point Standings at the regular fee entry deadline

**C. Seeding and Format**

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

### 2.10.3 Youth 14 North American Cup (NAC)

A. *Eligibility (age, classification)*

Subject to the listed exceptions, fencers must meet the birth years in [Table 2.5.1](#). There are no classification requirements.

B. *Qualifying Path*

No qualifying path, except the birth year criteria, for North American athletes. Athletes that compete in one International Regional Circuit competition during the current season in the age and weapon category in which the fencer requests entry, are eligible to fence in an Y14 NAC.

C. *Seeding and format*

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

### 2.10.4 Youth 10 National Championships

**The Tournament Committee will evaluate qualification pathways throughout the season. A top percentage of each regional points list-based qualification will be used to compensate for the differences in the number of events in each region. The percentage of each regional list will be determined as the field size for Summer Nationals becomes clearer. The TC will examine expanding division qualification pathways as needed should there be an insufficient number of regional events.**

A. *Eligibility (age, representation, classification)*

Fencers must meet the birth years in [Table 2.5.1](#), and be a U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident. There are no classification requirements.

B. *Qualifying Path*

- Be on the Y10 National Point Standings at the regular fee entry deadline **OR**
- Be on the Y10 Regional Youth Point Standings in your region at the regular fee entry deadline **OR**
- Earn at least **60** Y12 Regional Points during the current season (Total points = an athlete's top three point results) **OR**
- Participate in a SYC or RYC in the current season

C. *Seeding and Format*

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

### 2.10.5 Youth 12 National Championships

**The Tournament Committee will evaluate qualification pathways throughout the season. A top percentage of each regional points list-based qualification will be used to compensate for the differences in the number of events in each region. The percentage of each regional list will be determined as the field size for Summer Nationals becomes clearer. The TC will examine expanding division qualification pathways as needed should there be an insufficient number of regional events.**

A. *Eligibility (age, representation, classification)*

Subject to the listed exceptions, fencers must meet birth years in [Table 2.5.1](#) and be a U.S citizen or Permanent Resident. There are no classification requirements.

*B. Qualifying Path*

- Be on the Y12 National Point Standings at the regular fee entry deadline **OR**
- Earn at least **70** Y12 Regional Points during the current season (Total points = an athlete's top three point results) **OR**
- Earn at least **150** Y14 Regional Points during the current season (Total points = an athlete's top three point results) **OR**
- Rank in top TBD percent of the Y12 Regional Point Standings list during the current season **OR**
- Place in the top TBD percent of the fencer's division's Y12 National Championship qualifying competition

*C. Seeding and Format*

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

## **2.10.6 Youth 14 National Championships**

**The Tournament Committee will evaluate qualification pathways throughout the season. A top percentage of each regional points list-based qualification will be used to compensate for the differences in the number of events in each region. The percentage of each regional list will be determined as the field size for Summer Nationals becomes clearer. The TC will examine expanding division qualification pathways as needed should there be an insufficient number of regional events.**

*A. Eligibility (age, representation, classification)*

Subject to the listed exceptions, fencers must meet the birth years in [Table 2.5.1](#) and be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident. There are no classification requirements. Athletes that have represented another country in the last three years at FIE level competitions (Senior/Junior and those athletes that represented another country at the Cadet World Championships) are not eligible to compete in a National Championship.

*B. Qualification*

When determining qualifications top 16 on National Rolling Points Standings, ONLY foreign fencers are skipped.

*C. Qualifying Path*

- Be on the Youth 14 National Point Standings at the regular entry fee deadline **OR**
- Earn at least **150** Y14 Regional Points during the current season (Total points = an athlete's top three point results) **OR**
- Rank in top TBD percent of the Y14 Regional Point Standings list during the current season **OR**
- Place in the top TBD percent (round up) of the fencer's division's Y14 National Championship qualifying competition

*D. Seeding and Format*

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).



## 2.11 Cadet/Junior Tournaments

Due to COVID 19, qualification paths may be adjusted in the future.

### 2.11.1 What is a Cadet/Junior Tournament?

Refer to the Age/Classification Restriction Rules for current birth years for these categories [Table 2.5.1](#).

### 2.11.2 Cadet/Junior Local Tournaments

A wide variety of competitions can be found at the local level in clubs or sponsored by local organizations. Schedules for these competitions can be found by contacting your division. Division contact information is available on the USA Fencing website or by emailing [information@usafencing.org](mailto:information@usafencing.org).

### 2.11.3 Cadet/Junior Divisional Tournaments

Each division will host a qualifying tournament for the Junior Olympic National Championships (JOs). Divisions may also hold other Cadet/Junior tournaments during the season to provide general competition opportunities. Divisional information can be found through the division-specific websites – [Division Information](#).

### 2.11.4 Regional Junior/Cadet Circuit (RJCC) Tournaments

#### A. Regional Cadet (RCC)

The Cadet Regional Tournament is offered as part of the Regional Junior Cadet Circuit (RJCC). No national points are awarded; regional points are awarded to any fencer competing in their home region. Regional points are awarded based on final placement and the size of the competitive field.

- *Eligibility (age, classification)*

Subject to the exceptions in [Table 2.5.1](#), fencers must be at least 13 years old on January 1 in the year of the competition. Fencers younger than that must, as of the final entry deadline, be on the Y14 national rolling point standings to be eligible. There are no classification requirements.

- *Seeding and Format*

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

#### B. Regional Junior Circuit (RJC)

The Junior Regional tournament is offered as part of the Regional Junior Cadet Circuit (RJCC). No national points are awarded; regional points are awarded to any competitor competing in their home region. Regional points are awarded based on the size of the competitive field.

- *Eligibility (age, classification)*

Subject to the exceptions in [Table 2.5.1](#), fencers must be at least 13 years old on January 1 in the year of the competition. Fencers younger than that must, as of the final entry deadline, be on the Cadet national rolling point standings to be eligible. There are no classification requirements.

- *Seeding and Format*

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

### **C. Super Junior & Cadet Circuit SJCC**

The Super Junior & Cadet Circuit tournament *will be held* during the 2020-2021 season. National points are awarded to the top 40 percent of the competitors at a .2 weight value of the National Point Tables.

*Eligibility (age, classification)*

Subject to the exceptions in [Table 2.5.1](#), (Junior and Cadet age criteria after the Junior Olympics). Fencers younger than the birth year span in [Table 2.5.1](#). must be on the Cadet NRPS as of the final entry deadline to be eligible. There are no classification requirements.

*Seeding and Format*

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

## **2.11.5 Cadet/Junior National Tournaments**

These national tournaments, along with designated Division I NACs, are part of the selection criteria for the Junior/Cadet World Championship Team. Fencers can earn national points at these competitions.

### **Cadet/Junior North American Cup (NAC)**

- *Eligibility (age, classification)*

Subject to the exceptions in [Table 2.5.1](#), fencers must be at least 13 years old on January 1 in the year of the competition. Fencers younger than that must, as of the final entry deadline, be on the Y14 National Point Standings to be eligible for Cadet events or be on the Cadet point standings to be eligible for Junior events. There are no classification requirements.

- *Seeding and Format*

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

### **Cadet/Junior – Junior Olympic Fencing Championships July 2021**

**The Tournament Committee will evaluate qualification pathways throughout the season. A top percentage of each regional points list-based qualification will be used to compensate for the differences in the number of events in each region. The percentage of each regional list will be determined as the field size for Summer Nationals becomes clearer. The TC will examine expanding division qualification pathways as needed should there be an insufficient number of regional events.**

*Eligibility (age, classification):*

Subject to the exceptions in [Table 2.5.1](#), fencers must be at least 13 years old on January 1 in the year of the competition. Fencers younger than that must, as of the regular fee entry deadline, be on the Y14 National Point Standings to be eligible for Cadet events or on the Cadet point standings to be eligible for Junior events. There are no classification requirements.

Fencers must meet age requirements as above and be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident representing the United States. Athletes that have represented another country in the last three years at FIE level competitions (Senior/Junior and those athletes that represented another country at the Cadet World Championships) are not eligible to compete in a National Championship.

When determining qualifications for the top 8 or top 16 respectively on National Rolling Point Standings, ONLY foreign fencers ARE skipped.

*Qualification*

**CADET**

- Fencers must meet eligibility **AND**
- Be on the Cadet National Rolling Point Standings (NRPS) at the regular fee entry deadline **OR**
- Earn at least **110** regional points on either the Cadet or Junior Regional Point Standing (Total points = an athlete's top two point results) **OR**
- Be in the top TBD percent (round up) of their division's Cadet JO qualifying competition **OR**
- Be in the top TBD percent (round up) of their division's Junior JO qualifying competition. Junior event must occur first **OR**
- Rank in top TBD percent of the Cadet Regional Point Standings list during the current season **OR**
- For EPEE ONLY: the top **3** (on Modern Pentathlon Point Standings) USA Fencing Modern Pentathlon fencers will be eligible to compete in the JO epee events without qualifying by any other means. USA Modern Pentathlon fencers **MUST** be USA Fencing members.

**JUNIOR**

- Fencers must meet age eligibility **AND**
- Be on the Junior national rolling point standings (NRPS) at the regular fee entry deadline **OR**
- Earn at least **110** regional points on the Junior Regional Point Standing (Total points = an athlete's top two point results) **OR**
- Be in the top TBD percent (round up) of their division's Junior JO qualifying competition **OR**
- Rank in top TBD percent of the Junior Regional Point Standings list during the current season **OR**
- For EPEE ONLY: the top **3** (on Modern Pentathlon Point Standings) USA Fencing Modern Pentathlon fencers will be eligible to compete in the JOI epee events without qualifying by any other means. USA Modern Pentathlon fencers **MUST** be USA Fencing members.

### *Seeding and Format:*

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

## **Cadet & Junior July Challenge (this is not a NAC)**

**The Tournament Committee will evaluate qualification pathways throughout the season. A top percentage of each regional points list-based qualification will be used to compensate for the differences in the number of events in each region. The percentage of each regional list will be determined as the field size for Summer Nationals becomes clearer. The TC will examine expanding division qualification pathways as needed should there be an insufficient number of regional events.**

The July Challenge is held in late June early July, in conjunction with the USA Fencing National Championships. This competition constitutes the beginning of the Cadet and Junior point cycle/season which is why their NRPS are updated with the new season's birth year span in April each year. Only those that meet the new season's birth year span are eligible to compete in these events.

- *Eligibility (age, classification)*  
Subject to the exceptions in [Table 2.5.1](#), fencers must be at least 13 years old on January 1 in the year of the competition. Fencers younger than that must, as of the regular fee entry deadline, be on the Y14 point standings to be eligible for Cadet events or on the Cadet point standings to be eligible for Junior events. There are no classification requirements for U.S. athletes.
- *Qualification – when determining qualification using 25 percent or 50 percent on regional points or national points lists, foreign fencers ARE NOT skipped (fencers who age out are skipped or deleted from the points list).*

### **CADET**

- Fencers must meet eligibility **AND**
- Be on Cadet NRPS **OR**
- Be in the top 50 percent of the Y14 national rolling point standings (NRPS) at the regular fee entry deadline **OR**
- Earn at least **65** regional points on their regions Cadet Regional Point Standing **OR**
- Earn at least **65** regional points on their regions Junior Regional Circuit Points **OR**
- Rank in top TBD percent of the Cadet Regional Point Standing list during the current season

### **JUNIOR**

- Fencers must meet age eligibility **AND**
- On Junior NRPS by entry deadline **OR**
- On Cadet NRPS **OR**
- Earn at least **65** regional points on your regions Junior Regional Point Standing **OR**
- Be in the top 25 percent of the Youth 14 national rolling point standings (NRPS) at the regular fee entry deadline **OR**

- Rank in top TBD percent of the Junior Regional Point Standing list during the current season
- Foreign athletes who meet the USA Fencing classification standard of “A”, “B” as defined in the [Section 2.2.4](#)

#### *Seeding and Format*

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

## **2.12 Senior/Open Tournaments**

**Due to COVID 19, qualification paths may be adjusted in the future.**

### **2.12.1 What is a Senior/Open Tournament?**

A senior/open competition is one in which all competitors are eligible to compete without regard to their divisional membership, classification, rank or age (except for minimum ages as specified in this handbook). The same rules apply to all USA Fencing events that do not denote a specific age restriction (Youth, Cadets, Juniors and Veteran events) whether they are a NAC or National Championship or run by a club, division, or region.

To compete in a USA Fencing-sponsored Senior/Open event, all fencers must be a current competitive member of USA Fencing, at least 13 years old on January 1 in the year of the competition unless the fencer is on the National Junior Point Standings at the entry deadline for that competition.

### **2.12.2 Senior/Open Local Tournaments (Div IA)**

A wide variety of competitions can be found at the local level in clubs or sponsored by local organizations. Schedules for these competitions can be found by contacting your division. Division contact information is available on the USA Fencing website or by emailing [information@usafencing.org](mailto:information@usafencing.org).

Competitors must be at least 13 years old on January 1 in the year of the competition or be on the Junior NRPS.

### **2.12.3 Senior Divisional Tournaments**

Each division will host a qualifying tournament for Division II (Div II) and/or Division III (Div III) for the USA Fencing National Championships. Divisions may also hold senior/open tournaments during the season to provide general competition opportunities. Divisional information can be found through the division- specific websites – [Division Websites](#).

### **2.12.4 Senior Regional Tournaments**

#### **Division II (Div II) Regional Open Circuit (ROC)**

Division II tournaments, offered as part of the Regional Open Circuit (ROC), provide competition opportunities for fencers 13 years and older with a classification of C or below. National points are not

awarded for placements in the Division II competitions; regional points are awarded to the top 40 percent of the field.

*Eligibility (age, classification)*

Fencers must be at least 13 years old on January 1 in the year of the competition or on the Junior national rolling point standings (NRPS). Fencers must have a classification of “C”, “D”, “E”, or “U”.

*Seeding and Format*

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

**Division III (Div III) Regional Open Circuit (ROC)**

Division III tournaments, offered as part of the Regional Open Circuit (ROC), provide competition opportunities for fencers 13 years and older with a classification of C or below. National points are not awarded for placements in the Division III competitions; regional points are awarded to the top 40 percent of the field.

*Eligibility (age, classification)*

Fencers must be at least 13 years old on January 1 in the year of the competition or on the Junior national rolling point standings (NRPS). Fencers must have a classification of “D”, “E”, or “U”.

*Seeding and Format*

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

**IA (Div IA) Regional Open Circuit (ROC)**

Division IA tournaments, offered as part of the Regional Open Circuit (ROC), provide competition opportunities for fencers 13 years and older. National points are not awarded for placements in the Division IA competitions; regional points are awarded to the top 40 percent of the field.

*Eligibility (age, classification, qualifying path)*

Fencers must be at least 13 years old on January 1 in the year of the competition or in the Junior national rolling point standings (NRPS)

*Seeding and format*

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

**2.12.5 Senior National Tournaments**

## **Division II (Div II) North American Cup (NAC)**

Division II national tournaments provide competition opportunities for fencers 13 years and older with classification of C or below. No regional or national points are awarded. For awarding classifications, Division II tournaments are always at least a Group B3 competition.

### *Eligibility (age, classification)*

Fencers must be at least 13 years old on January 1 in the year of the competition or on the Junior national rolling points standings (NRPS). Fencers must have a classification of “C”, “D”, “E”, or “U”.

If a fencer meets the classification requirements when his or her application is processed by USA Fencing, and subsequently earns a higher classification, the fencer retains eligibility for that tournament.

### *Seeding and Format*

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

## **Division III (Div III) North American Cup (NAC)**

Division III national tournaments, if held, provide competition opportunities for fencers 13 years and older with classification of D or below. No regional or national points are awarded. For awarding classifications, Division II tournaments are always at least a Group B3 competition.

### *Eligibility (age, classification)*

Fencers must be at least 13 years old on January 1 in the year of the competition or on the Junior national rolling points standings (NRPS). Fencers must have a classification of “D”, “E”, or “U”.

If a fencer meets the classification requirements when his or her application is processed by USA Fencing, and subsequently earns a higher classification, the fencer retains eligibility for that tournament.

### *Seeding and Format*

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

## **(Div I) North American Cup (NAC)**

This event offers elite level competition for fencers 13 years of age or older. National points are awarded towards the Senior, Junior and Cadet National Point Standings, depending on age eligibility. For awarding classifications, Division I tournaments are always at least a Group A4 competition.

### *Eligibility (age, classification)*

Fencers must be at least 13 years old on January 1 in the year of the competition. Fencers must have a classification of “A”, “B”, or “C” at the entry deadline or be on the Junior NRPS.

Foreign fencers who entered a NAC Division I competition must indicate their national ranking or previous results that are comparable to at least a US “C” classification.

### *Seeding and Format*

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

## **Division II (Div II) USA Fencing National Championships**

**The Tournament Committee will evaluate qualification pathways throughout the season. A top percentage of each regional points list-based qualification will be used to compensate for the differences in the number of events in each region. The percentage of each regional list will be determined as the field size for Summer Nationals becomes clearer. The TC will examine expanding division qualification pathways as needed should there be an insufficient number of regional events.**

This event is part of the USA Fencing National Championships, held each summer. No points are awarded.

### *Eligibility (age, classification, qualification path)*

Fencers must be at least 13 years old on January 1 in the year of the competition or on the Junior national rolling point standings (NRPS). Fencers must have a classification in the weapon of "C", "D", "E" or "U" at the time of the qualifying competition AND be a U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident.

### *Qualification*

Fencers must meet eligibility requirements **AND**:

- Place in the top TBD percent of the current season's division qualifying competition **OR**
- Be on the current season's Div IA ROC Regional Point Standings **OR**
- Be on the Div II ROC Regional Point Standings **OR**
- Rank in top TBD percent of the Div II Regional Point Standings list during the current season
- Place in the top 40 percent of any current season Div II or Div III NAC, if held

**UPDATE – If you have qualified for Division II, meet the age and classification standard on the day you register online for the Championship, you are eligible to fence in that event at the National Championship. If you qualified for Division II at your Division Qualifier and at that same time earned a higher classification, you are eligible for the National Championship. In this instance, please email [nationalevents@usafencing.org](mailto:nationalevents@usafencing.org) for registration assistance.**

### *Seeding and Format*

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

## **(Div III) USA Fencing National Championships**

**The Tournament Committee will evaluate qualification pathways throughout the season. A top percentage of each regional points list-based qualification will be used to compensate for the differences in the number of events in each region. The percentage of each regional list will be determined as the field size for Summer Nationals becomes clearer. The TC will examine expanding division qualification pathways as needed should there be an insufficient number of regional events.**



This event is part of the USA Fencing National Championships, held each summer. No points are awarded.

*Eligibility (age, classification, qualification path)*

Fencers must be at least 13 years old on January 1 in the year of the competition or on the Junior national rolling point standings (NRPS). Fencers must have a classification of “D”, “E”, or “U” at the time of the qualifying competition AND be a U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident.

*Qualification*

Fencers must meet eligibility requirements **AND**:

- Place in the top TBD percent (round up) of the total number of “D”, “E”, or “U” fencers competing in the current season division’s Division II Qualifying competition (when Division II and Division III qualifying competition held together) **OR**
- If separate Division III qualifying competition held by division, then top TBD percent of the field will qualify for Division III National Championships **OR**
- Be on the Division IA or Division II Regional Open Circuit point standings, if classification eligible, at the regular fee entry deadline for these Championships **OR**
- Rank in top TBD percent of the Div III Regional Point Standings list during the current season **OR**
- Place in the top 40 percent at Div II or Div III NAC of the current season, if held
- Qualified for Division II, if classification eligible

**UPDATE – If you have qualified for Division II, meet the age and classification standard on the day you register online for the Championship, you are eligible to fence in that event at the National Championship. If you qualified for Division II at your Division Qualifier and at that same time earned a higher classification, you are eligible for the National Championship. In this instance, please email [nationalevents@usafencing.org](mailto:nationalevents@usafencing.org) for registration assistance.**

*Seeding and Format*

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

### **Division IA (Div IA) USA Fencing National Championships**

**The Tournament Committee will evaluate qualification pathways throughout the season. A top percentage of each regional points list-based qualification will be used to compensate for the differences in the number of events in each region. The percentage of each regional list will be determined as the field size for Summer Nationals becomes clearer. The TC will examine expanding division qualification pathways as needed should there be an insufficient number of regional events.**

This event is part of the USA Fencing National Championships, held each summer. No regional or national points are awarded. For awarding classifications, Division IA tournaments are always at least a Group A3 competition.

*Eligibility (age, classification, qualifying path)*

Fencers must at least 13 years old on January 1 in the year of the competition or on the Junior National Rolling Point Standings (NRPS) and be a U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident. There is no classification requirement.

### *Qualification*

Fencers must meet eligibility requirements **AND**

- Be on the current season's Div IA ROC Regional Point Standings **OR**
- Be in the top 8 of the Division II Regional Open Circuit point standings at the regular fee entry deadline **OR**
- Place in the top 40 percent of any current season Div IA NAC, if held

### *Seeding and Format*

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

## **Division I (Div I) National Championships**

The Division I National Championships are held annually in April. This event, along with other designated competitions, is part of the selection criteria for the Senior World Championship or Olympic Team. Athletes that have represented another country in the last 3 years at FIE level competitions (Senior/Junior and those athletes that represented another country at the Cadet World Championships) are not eligible to compete in a National Championship.

### *Eligibility (age, classification, qualification path)*

Fencers must be at least 13 years old on January 1 in the year of the competition (see [Table 2.5.1](#) for exceptions). Fencers must have a classification of "A", "B", or "C" at the entry deadline and be a U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident.

### *Qualification*

Fencers must meet eligibility requirements AND

- Be on the current Senior National Rolling Point Standings (NRPS) at the regular fee entry deadline **OR**
- Be on the current Junior National Rolling Point Standings (NRPS) at the regular fee entry deadline **OR**
- Be on the current Cadet National Rolling Point Standings (NRPS) at the regular fee entry deadline **OR**
- Have placed in the top **8** in the previous season's Division IA National Championships **OR**
- Have placed in the top **4** in the previous season's Division II National Championships **OR**
- For EPEE ONLY: the top **3** (on Modern Pentathlon Point Standings) USA Fencing Modern Pentathlon fencers will be eligible to compete in the Division I epee events without qualifying by any other means. USA Modern Pentathlon fencers **MUST** be USA Fencing members.

### *Seeding and Format*

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

## **Division I July Challenge (this is not an NAC)**

**The Tournament Committee will evaluate qualification pathways throughout the season. A top percentage of each regional points list-based qualification will be used to compensate for the differences in the number of events in each region. The percentage of each regional list will be determined as the field size for Summer Nationals becomes clearer. The TC will examine expanding division qualification pathways as needed should there be an insufficient number of regional events.**

The July Challenge is held in June/July, in conjunction with the USA Fencing National Championships. This event constitutes the beginning of the Senior/Open season.

*Eligibility for Division I (age, classification and qualification path)*

Fencers must be at least 13 years old on January 1 in the year of the competition (see [Table 2.5.1](#) for exceptions). Fencers must have a classification of “A”, “B”, or “C” at the entry deadline and meet the specific event criteria below. This is not a NAC.

*Qualification*

Fencers must meet eligibility requirements **AND**

- Be on the current Senior National Rolling Point Standings (NRPS) at the regular fee entry deadline **OR**
- On Junior NRPS at the regular fee entry deadline and age eligible **OR**
- Top **24** of the Cadet NRPS at the regular fee deadline and age eligible **OR**
- Top **16** from Div IA Regional Points Standings **OR**
- Be in the top **4** of the Division II regional points at the regular fee entry deadline **OR**
- Rank in top TBD percent of the Div IA Regional Point standings list during the current season **OR**
- 2021 NCAA National Championships Individual Competitors (24) **OR**
- Foreign athletes who meet the USA Fencing classification standard of an “A”, “B” as defined in the Section 2.2.4.

*Seeding and Format*

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

Senior Team events at the July Challenge Tournament: The Senior & Veteran Team events at the July Challenge Tournament are not Championship events. All non-championship team events held at the national level will have no club or division affiliation requirements. Any three or four fencers that are age, gender and/or classification eligible for the event may enter a team. They must be competitive USA Fencing members or have an ICL (International Competitive License).

## **2.13 Veteran Tournaments**

### **2.13.1 What is a Veteran Tournament?**

Veteran tournaments provide competition opportunities for fencers 40 years and older. There are five categories of veteran events: Open (ages 40 and above), V40 (ages 40-49), V50 (ages 50-59), V60 (ages 60-69), V70 (ages 70+) and V80 (ages 80+).

## 2.13.2 Veteran Local Tournaments

A wide variety of competitions can be found at the local level in clubs or sponsored by local organizations. Schedules for these competitions can be found by contacting your division. Division contact information is available on the USA Fencing website or by emailing [information@usafencing.org](mailto:information@usafencing.org)

## 2.13.3 Veteran Divisional Tournaments

Each division will host a qualifying tournament for V40 (ages 40-49), V50 (ages 50-59), V60 (ages 60-69) and V70 (ages 70+) and V80 (ages 80+) events for the USA Fencing National Championships. Divisions may also hold other Senior/Open tournaments during the season to provide general competition opportunities. Divisional information can be found through the division-specific websites – [Division Information](#).

## 2.13.4 Veteran Regional Tournaments

### Veteran Regional Open Circuit (ROC)

Veteran Regional tournaments are offered as part of the Regional Open Circuit (ROC). National points are not awarded; regional points are awarded to the top 40 percent of the finishers.

#### *Eligibility (age, classification)*

Fencers must meet the age eligibility requirements to fence in a Veteran Combine or Veteran age-group event. See [Table 2.5.1](#) for details.

#### *Seeding and Format*

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

## 2.13.5 Veteran National Tournaments

At National Tournaments, Vet Open, V40, V50, V60, V70 and V80 events are held. National points are awarded for these competitions.

### Veteran (Vet Open, V40, V50, V60, V70+, V80+) North American Cup (NAC)

#### *Eligibility (age, classification, qualifying path)*

Age eligibility for the separate age categories is governed by the FIE rules for the Veteran World Championships (V50/V60/V70/V80). Veteran Open, V40, V50, V60, V70+ and V80+ fencers must meet the birth years in [Table 2.5.1](#).

#### *Qualifying Path*

There is no qualifying path to compete in the NAC Veterans events. Fencers must meet age requirements as noted above.

#### *Seeding and Format*

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

## Veteran (V40, V50, V60, V70, V80+) USA Fencing National Championships

The Tournament Committee will evaluate qualification pathways throughout the season. A top percentage of each regional points list-based qualification will be used to compensate for the differences in the number of events in each region. The percentage of each regional list will be determined as the field size for Summer Nationals becomes clearer. The TC will examine expanding division qualification pathways as needed should there be an insufficient number of regional events.

V40, V50, V60, V70 and V80+ events are held at the USA Fencing National Championships; there is no Championship event for Vet Open or Vet Team. Veteran National Championships is the last tournament for selection for the World Veteran Championships at which national points are awarded. Athletes must be U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident.

### *Eligibility (age, classification, qualifying path)*

- Age eligibility for the separate age categories (V50, V60, and V70) is governed by the FIE rules for the Veteran World Championships. For each Veteran age group fencers must meet the birth years specified in [Table 2.5.1](#). Athletes that have represented another country in the last 3 years at FIE level competitions (Senior/Junior) are not eligible to compete in a National Championship.

### *Qualification*

- Must meet eligibility requirements above **AND**
- Compete in the current season's division qualifying competition for Division II and/or Division III Championships **OR**
- Compete in any Regional Open Circuit event during the current season **OR**
- Compete in any NAC during the current season **OR**
- Be on the Veteran Age Group national rolling point standings (NRPS) at the regular fee entry deadline **OR**
- Be on the Veteran Combined regional point standings at the regular fee entry deadline **OR**

### *Seeding and Format*

All information regarding seeding can be found in [Table 2.15.1.1](#); all competition format information can be found in [Table 2.16.1](#).

## 2.14 Team Events

At the national level, there *may be* seven categories of team events: Y14 (Y14TM), Cadet (CTM), Junior (JTM), Senior (STM), Division I (DV1TM) and Veteran (VETTM).

*Eligibility:* Senior or Division I team members must be at least 13 years old on January 1 in the year of the competition or on the Junior NRPS. Junior team members must meet the posted birth year criteria for the specific team competition or be on the Cadet national rolling point standings (NRPS) at the regular fee entry deadline. Members of the Veteran team must meet the posted birth year criteria for the specific team competition. Members of the Youth 14 team must meet the posted birth year criteria. Specific age and classification rules for each category are given in [Table 2.5.1](#). Teams must register for the tournament by the posted deadlines. All members must meet the appropriate tournament criteria. There needs to be two teams to hold an event.

Team events at the NACs: All non-championship team events held at the national level will have no club or division affiliation requirements. Any three or four fencers that are age, gender and/or classification eligible for the event may enter a team. They must be competitive USA Fencing members. All registered members of a team must be present on site.

Senior and Veteran Team events at the July Challenge Tournament: The Senior & Veteran Team events at the July Challenge Tournament are no longer a Championship events. All non-championship team events held at the national level will have no club or division affiliation requirements. Any three or four fencers that are age and gender for the event may enter a team. They must be competitive USA Fencing members. All registered members of a team must be present on site.

Div I Team event at April National Championship:

The Div I Team event is a Championship event. All championship team events, held at the national level, will have a club requirement. Any three or four fencers that meet the age and gender for the event may enter a team if they have represented the club during the current season. They must be competitive USA Fencing members and US Citizens or Permanent Residents. All registered members of a team must be present on site.

Junior Olympic Fencing Championships:

The JO Team event is a Championship event. All championship team events, held at the national level, will have a club requirement. Any three or four fencers that meet the age and gender for the event may enter a team if they have represented the club during the current season. They must be competitive USA Fencing members and US Citizens or Permanent Residents. All registered members of a team must be present on site.

A. *Registration:*

Teams are required to register 3-4 team member names and captain name with the team entry – this will streamline the verification of the membership, national rolling point standings (NRPS) and classification prior to the tournament. Those fencers who are NCAA fencers will need to self- monitor club affiliation and NCAA eligibility.

- Team events will follow posted entry deadline.
- Seeding information will be based on the same deadlines used for individual events.
- Preliminary team seeding and table will be posted on the USA Fencing website. Any discrepancies should be emailed to [nationalevents@usafencing.org](mailto:nationalevents@usafencing.org).

B. The Team Captain will check in the team during the one hour check in on the day of the event. *Teams may periodically be given an opportunity to check in the night before the team event. Please check the tournament **Athlete Packet** for this information at [usafencing.org](http://usafencing.org)*

1. ALL Team Captains or their representatives must check-in with the Team Events Bout Committee during the designated time to verify their team. Captains or representatives will need to remain present in the venue for fencer order determination. Once the roster has been verified at check-in, no other changes will be allowed.
2. ALL Team Captains should verify the information used for seeding as posted. If discrepancies are not reported to the Bout Committee by the close of check-in, the information stands as presented.

3. Table will be constituted and Team Captains or Representatives will then determine fencer order.
4. Depending on the size of the event, a coin flip or equivalent may be used or the higher seeded team will automatically be designated as the “winner of the coin flip” and assigned the 1-2-3 side. The bout committee may also conduct a coin flip or equivalent with or without the captains present. (Match order: 3-6, 1-5, 2-4, 1-6, 3-4, 2-5, 1-4, 2-6, 3-5).
5. If a team has an alternate, all members of the team must present at the strip when called, for every match.
6. Direct elimination from beginning of competition. Relay format, 9 bouts to a maximum score of 45 – increments of 5 touches or maximum time of 3 minutes for each bout. Fence off for 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### *E. Seeding Teams*

Seeding for team NAC Competitions is in accordance with the rules established for the all USA Fencing National Team Championship tournaments.

For the Senior and Division I team event, seeding is based on the participating Fencers’ Senior national rolling points as of 10 days prior to the start of the tournament and classifications earned by the appropriate posted tournament deadline.

For the Junior team event, seeding is based on the participating fencers’ Junior national rolling points as of 10 days prior to the start of the tournament and classifications earned by the appropriate posted tournament deadline.

For the Veteran team event, seeding is based on the participating fencers’ Veteran Open national rolling points as of 10 days prior to the start of the tournament and classifications earned by the appropriate posted tournament deadline.

For the Youth 14 team event, seeding is based on the participating fencers’ Youth 14 national rolling points as of 10 days prior to the start of the tournament and classifications earned by the appropriate posted tournament deadline.

Teams with the same seed value are randomized by computer for seeding rank.

Teams: To seed teams for competitions, a seed value is calculated for each team based on the national rolling points standing (NRPS): Senior point standings for the Senior teams, Junior point standings for the Junior teams, Veteran open point standings for the Veteran teams, Youth 14 point standings for the Youth 14 teams, and/or the classification of each member of the team. The National Rolling Point standings and the classification of each member of the team are those as of 10 days prior to the start of the tournament.

National Rolling Point Standings (NRPS): The first set of team points for each member of the team is based on the fencer’s national rolling point standings (NRPS). A fencer who is first on the national rolling point standings (NRPS) receives 132 points, second received 131 points and so on, down to 32<sup>nd</sup> (32<sup>nd</sup> = 101 points). Fencers who are ranked 33<sup>rd</sup> or lower on the national rolling point standings (NRPS) are allocated 50 points. Fencers who are not on the national rolling point standings (NRPS) are not given any points. (See [appendices 1 - 2](#) for complete point tables.)

Classification: Each member of the team receives points based on their classification and the year classification was last earned.

- As are given a value between 670 and 630
- Bs are given a value between 570 and 530
- Cs are given a value between 470 and 430
- Ds are given a value between 370 and 330
- Es are given a value between 270 and 230
- Us are given a value of 100 points

For example, for a competition on September 1, 2019, within each classification the year is reflected in 10 point increments, with an A19 worth 670 points, an A18 worth 660 points, A17 given 650 points and A16 worth 640 points. The same process is used for the other letter classifications (B, C, D, and E). Those fencers who have yet to earn a classification (U) are given 100 points.

The individual seed value is calculated by adding the calculated NRPS and classification points for each team member. The three highest total point values are then added. This sum becomes the team's total points. Teams are then ranked by highest team total points (number 1 seed) to lowest team total points (last seeded team).

Example:

Fencer	NRPS	Team Points	Classification	Team Points	Total Points
A	18 <sup>th</sup>	115	A19	670	785
B		0	C17	460	460
C		0	U	100	100
D	53 <sup>rd</sup>	50	B19	570	620
Team Seeding Points: (sum of best three)					1865

## 2.15 Competition Seeding

### 2.15.1 Seeding Principles

Seeding is the method of ordering the fencers at the beginning of the competition by their relative strength, strongest to weakest.

In USA Fencing competitions, fencers from the same division and/or club or school are separated if possible based on FIE rules for separating fencers of the same nationality. If foreign fencers are in attendance, the separation for nationality shall take precedence over separation for division and/or club/school representation/affiliation.

The National Rolling Point Standings (NRPS) and classifications as of ten days prior to the tournament will be used for seeding a domestic point tournament.

Details on each event's format can be found in [Table 2.16.1.1](#).

Within any random group, the seeding order is re-randomized whenever changes are made to an entry list, so the relative positions of fencers within such groups may change.



**2.15.1.1 Table: Seeding Principles for Specific Categories of Tournaments**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>DIVISION/REGIONAL</b>	<b>NATIONAL</b>
Open Competitions, Division I, IA NACs, ROCs  Div I July Challenge (National only)	Classification/Year	DVIA: Nat'l Senior Rolling Points the classification/year.  DV2 & DV3: Classification/Year only	National Senior Rolling Point Standings, followed by classification (A, B, C, D, E, U) and within each classification by year in which classification last earned. Same class and year are randomized.
Div I and IA National Championships	N/A	N/A	National Senior Rolling Point Standings, followed by classification (A, B, C, D, E, U) and within each classification by year in which classification last earned. Same class and year are randomized.
Division II, III	Classification/Year	Classification/Year	Classification/Year
Veteran Open (40 & Older)	Classification/Year	Classification/Year	Classification/Year
Veteran Age	Classification/Year	Classification/Year	Top 8 in National Age Group, standings, then ranking with classification, then classification/year.
Junior NAC			National Senior Rolling Point Standings, followed by classification (A, B, C, D, E, U) and within each classification by year in which classification last earned. Same class and year are randomized.
Junior	Classification/Year	National Junior Rolling Points, then classification/year	National Junior Rolling Points, then classification/year.
Cadet	Classification/year	National Cadet Rolling Points, then classification/year	National Cadet Rolling Points, then classification/year
Youth 14	Classification/year	National Youth 14 Rolling Points, then classification/year	National Youth 14 Rolling Points, then classification/year

Youth 12	Classification/year	National Youth 12 Rolling Points, then classification/year	National Youth 12 Rolling Points, then classification/year
Youth 10	Classification/year	National Youth 10 Rolling Points, then classification/year	National Youth 10 Rolling Points, then classification/year
Division I Team	Seeding is based on Senior National Points and participating fencers' classification/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR classification and year only	Seeding is based on Senior National Points and participating fencers' classification/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR classification and year only	Seeding is based on Senior National Points and participating fencers' classification/year as of the posted entry deadlines.
Senior Team	Seeding is based on Senior National Points and participating fencers' classification/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR classification and year only	Seeding is based on Senior National Points and participating fencers' classification/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR classification and year only	Seeding is based on Senior National Points and participating fencers' classification/year as of the posted entry deadlines
Junior Team	Seeding is based on Junior National Points and participating fencers' classification/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR classification and year only	Seeding is based on Junior National Points and participating fencers' classification/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR classification and year only	Seeding is based on Junior National Points and participating fencers' classification/year as of the posted entry deadlines
Cadet Team	Seeding is based on Cadet National Points and participating fencers' classification/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR classification and year only	Seeding is based on Cadet National Points and participating fencers' classification/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR classification and year only	Seeding is based on Cadet National Points and participating fencers' classification/year as of the posted entry deadlines.

Y14 Team	Seeding is based on Y14 National Points and participating fencers' classification/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR classification and year only	Seeding is based on Y14 National Points and participating fencers' classification/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR classification and year only	Seeding is based on Y14 National Points and participating fencers' classification/year as of the posted entry deadlines.
Veteran Team	Seeding is based on Veteran Open National Points and participating fencers' classification/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR classification and year only	Seeding is based on Veteran Open National Points and participating fencers' classification/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR classification and year only	Seeding is based on Veteran Open National Points and participating fencers' classification/year as of the posted entry deadline.

- Within the same classification values, the order is random.
- Ties in the National Rolling Point Standings (NRPS) are seeding randomly.
- **Direct Elimination Seeding:** Fencers are seeded by their results in the pool round wherein the results of fencers in all the pools are ordered by best results to poorest results: highest ratio of victories vs. bouts fenced, touches scored vs. touches received.

### **Veteran Seeding**

1. Ranked fencers who are deemed protected fencers are those who are entitled to a seeded draw ahead of all other domestic fencers. They shall not be moved from their pool even if there should there be a club or division conflict. Seeding shall only be given to fencers in the following sequence:
  - A. The top 8 in the National Veteran Age Category Rolling Point Standings. If these fencers are not in attendance, lower ranked fencers shall not “move up” in seeding followed by:
  - B. Each classification e.g., A, B, C, etc.
  - C. Followed by year within that classification
  - D. Followed by ranking in the Age Category Rolling Point Standings
  - E. In reviewing pools and any conflicts generated, the fencers in these categories shall not be moved from the pools in which the draw places them. The only exceptions would be in the case of: 1) ties in rankings; 2) conflict in a pool: e.g., two or more fencers from the same division and/or same club or school, or 3. a review of pool composition requires that such conflicts within the rules governing conflict resolution be minimized.

### Seeding Conflict Resolutions:

1. In the first round of pools, conflicts of fencers within a pool from the same division or club who are on the National Rolling Point Standings in their weapon and category (special rules apply for Div I NAC) will be resolved, if possible, by movement of lowest ranked fencer in the pool with a conflict or conflicts; priority of movement will be non-ranked fencers (those with lowest classification in that pool) before ranked fencers
  - a. Foreign fencers can be intermingled with ranked fencers if the foreign fencer's international result history justifies relative strength of the foreign fencer with the U.S. fencers.

2. In resolving conflicts within pools, priority is given to club conflict vs. division conflicts so that when resolving conflicts fencers may be in pool with fencers from the same division.
3. Lower ranked fencer is moved, when necessary, to resolve conflicts of club or division.

The National Rolling Point Standings (NRPS) and classifications as of ten days prior to the tournament will be used for seeding a domestic point tournament.

Details on each event's format can be found in [Table 2.16.1.1.](#)

Within any random group, the seeding order is re-randomized whenever changes are made to an entry list, so the relative positions of fencers within such groups may change.

## 2.16 National Competition Formats -

### 2.16.1 Table: National Competition Formats

#### Reminder:

#### Maximum DE Field Size of 256

Beginning at the 2020 October North American Cup, a maximum of 256 fencers will be promoted out of pools for all events. With a promotion rate of 75% currently being utilized for Division I events, rarely do tables of 512 occur. This change would only affect Div I field sizes greater than 341 fencers. At events with an 80% promotion rate (junior, cadet, Div IA, Div II, III, Y12 and Y14), this change would only affect fields with more than 320 fencers.

<b>Division I National Championships</b>	One round of pools; 6 or 7 person pool, 80 percent promoted to simple direct elimination.
<b>Division I NAC Epee Format</b>	One-day event with two rounds of pools. Top 34 fencers will receive a bye into the second round of pools. Byes will be awarded based on the USA Fencing National Rolling Points Standings, as of the regular seeding deadline (10 days before the start of the tournament).
<b>Division I NAC and July Challenge (see the tournament Athlete Packet for more information regarding DV1 Epee formats)</b>	One round of pools; 6 or 7-person pool, 75 percent promoted to single elimination. The national coaches, sports performance and tournament committee may elect to use specialized formats for Division I national tournaments to be published in each tournament's athlete packet.
<b>Division IA, II, III National Championships, Division IA NAC</b>	One round of pools, 6 and 6 or 6 and 7 persons per pool, 80 percent promoted to simple direct elimination.
<b>Div IA, Div II, Veteran Regional Open Circuit (ROC)</b>	One round of pools (of sizes in accordance with the Operations Manual maximized to 6 and 7 fencers as possible), with 100 percent promoted to a direct elimination table.
<b>Division II, III, IA NAC</b>	One round of pools; 5 and 6 or 6 and 7 persons per pool, 100 percent promoted to simple direct elimination.

<b>Division II, III, IA Championship</b>	One round of pools; 5 and 6 or 6 and 7 persons per pool, 80 percent promoted to simple direct elimination.
<b>Junior Olympic Fencing Championships</b>	One round of pools; of 6 or 7 persons per pool, 80 percent promoted to simple direct elimination
<b>Junior &amp; Cadet NAC and July Challenge</b>	One round of pools of 6 or 7 persons per pool, 80 percent promoted to simple direct elimination.
<b>Y14 SYC &amp; NAC</b>	One round of pools; 5 and 6 or 6 and 7 persons per pool, 100% promoted to simple direct elimination.
<b>Y14 National Championship</b>	One round of pools; 5 and 6 or 6 and 7 persons per pool, 80% promoted to simple direct elimination.
<b>Y12 NAC, Regional and Super Youth Circuit</b>	One round of pools; 5 and 6 or 6 and 7 persons per pool, 100% promoted to direct simple elimination in which bouts are 15 touch bouts.
<b>Y12 National Championship</b>	One round of pools; 5 and 6 or 6 and 7 persons per pool, 80% promoted to simple direct elimination.
<b>Y10 NAC, National Championships, Regional &amp; Super Youth Circuit</b>	One round of pools; 5 and 6 or 6 and 7 persons per pool, 100% promoted to simple direct elimination in which bouts are 10 touch bouts with two 3 minute periods.
<b>Veteran Age National Championships</b>	One round of pools; 5 and 6 or 6 and 7 persons per pool, 100% promoted to simple direct elimination in which bouts are 10 touch bouts with two 3 minute periods. There is a one-minute rest between periods.
<b>Veteran Open NAC &amp; Veteran Age NAC</b>	One round of pools; 5 and 6 or 6 and 7 persons per pool, 100% promoted to single direct elimination in which bouts are 10 touch bouts with two 3 minute periods. There is a one minute rest between periods.
<b>Parafencing NAC &amp; National Championships</b>	Two rounds of pools; 100%promoted to simple direct elimination.
<b>Team Competitions NAC &amp; Championships</b>	Direct elimination from beginning of competition. Relay format, 9 bouts to a maximum score of 45 – increments of 5 touches or maximum time of 3 minutes for each bout. Fence-off for 3rd.

## 2.17 Equipment Requirements for Domestic Tournaments

### 2.17.1 Requirements for Domestic Tournaments

***For information regarding COVID 19 related tournament requirements, please go to [usafencing.org](http://usafencing.org) and click on the tournament event page and then the "Athlete Packet".***

## **Uniforms, Plastrons, Chest Protectors, Masks and Blades:**

### **Uniforms (jackets and pants):**

Standard fencing uniforms are acceptable (FIE label not required). Fencers must wear the required clothing – regulation fencing jacket and pants, underarm protector (plastron), knee socks, and a fencing glove that covers half the forearm. In epee and foil, a full jacket is required (i.e., a jacket with croissard/groin strap). In foil and sabre; the lame must have croissard/groin strap. In Sabre, 800NW gloves are required at all levels of competition (local, divisional, regional, and national). It is not permissible to fence in warm-up pants. Fencing uniforms must not have any rips, tears, holes, etc. USA Fencing allows uniforms of a single color other than black and designs on the rear (unarmed) arm. As the purpose of uniform color or design is for audience interest, such designs should be in good taste.

### **Names on uniforms:**

Required only at national level tournaments: NACs, July Challenge, JOs, Division I Championships, USA Fencing National Championships and Parafencing National Championships [BOD, Sept. 2010]. In all three weapons, each fencer's last name must be printed legibly, by hand or machine, in navy blue capital letters between 8 and 10 cm high, such that the name is legible from a distance of 15 feet, either on the back of the uniform or lame between the shoulders; or on the front side of the thigh of the "rear" leg; or (3) on a piece of fabric of lame material that is firmly sewn to the uniform in such a way that it will detach during fencing or catch an opponent's point. Fabric attached to the uniform must be the same color as the part of the uniform to which it is attached. Conductive materials must be attached in such a way as to not alter the conductivity of the metallic vest or jacket. NAMES PRINTED ON TAPE ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE. (Rule Book: t.45.5 and m.25.3h).

### **Plastrons (underarm protectors):**

Standard fencing plastron; required with every uniform (FIE label not required)

### **Chest Protectors:**

Women must wear chest or breast protectors. Chest protection is allowed for men, but must be worn under the jacket (Rule Book: m.24.4.c). In foil, this breast /chest protector must be worn below the protective plastron and have the following characteristics: The entire outside of the chest protector (the side facing the opponent) must be covered with a soft material such as E.V.A. (Ethylene-vinyl acetate) of four mm thickness and density of 22kg/m<sup>3</sup>. (The material can be attached to the current plastic models or incorporated into the manufacture of new chest protectors). The material must have the SEMI technical mark at the center of the upper edge. We are aware that manufacturers may not offer older style "hubcap" protectors that conform to the rules. Therefore, fencers who use this style of protector are allowed to retrofit their existing protectors to bring them into compliance with the rules-that is, by attaching the required soft material to the protector. These retrofitted protectors are NOT required to have the manufacturer/FIE mark, but retrofitted protectors must be inspected at equipment check to ensure that they comply with the rules. Once inspected, the technician will apply the competition's inspection mark.

**Mask bibs** must be fixed to the exterior of the grille starting from the reinforcement band onwards and extending as protection for the neck. Must withstand 12K punch test; elastic strap at back of mask is required. Masks that do not pass the 12K punch test will be impounded and given a visible mark to signify that the mask is “not approved for use” at any level of competition (local, regional, divisional, or national) [per FIE rule m.257.d].

In foil competitions, the conductive bib is required at all levels (local, divisional, regional and national). Details can be found in the [USA Fencing Rulebook: m.27](#).

Sabre and foil masks with electric bib are not allowed for use in epee at any level (local, divisional, regional, or national) ([Rule Book: m.30, USA Fencing clarification](#)). The metal on the bib/mask can ground out the opponent’s tip.

**Blades** See table below;

for Y10 competitions, maximum blade length of 32.5”, all other competitions, standard blade length of 70-90cm (~27.5” – 35.4”) for foil/epee and 70-88cm (~27.5” – 34.6”) for Sabre. (FIE Material Rules, Jan. 2011, M.8, M.16, M.23). For all weapons, any attachment to a weapon’s handle (i.e., wrist strap, orthopedic grip) must fix the hand in one position such that the top of the thumb is no more than 2cm from the inner surface of the guard

### Maximum Lengths, Blade Sizes 0-3

Blade Size Number	0	2	3
Blade Length: MM			
Foil	775	825	850
Epee	775	825	850
Sabre	765	820	850

Note: At USA Fencing sanctioned tournaments, for safety and insurance purposes, fencers and coaches must wear mask and glove while participating in drills, lessons, warm-ups, camps or clinics. Failure to comply may result in removal from the venue ([Rule Book: t.15.2](#)).

Note: At USA Fencing local, divisional, and regional competitions, there are no restrictions on colors or decorations on uniforms, providing that the uniforms still comply with all other requirements.

USA Fencing Note: Masks may feature colored designs, on condition that they are approved by the Referees’ Commission at least 30 days before being used for the first time in an official USA Fencing competition OR at the discretion of the head referee at the event.

Fencers must submit pictures to [masks@fencingofficials.org](mailto:masks@fencingofficials.org) that clearly show the entirety of the design. Accepted designs will be posted on the Referees' Commission (formerly Fencing Officials Commission) website.

In epee and foil, a full jacket is required (i.e., a jacket with croissard/groin strap). In foil and sabre; the lame must have croissard/groin strap. Any attachment to a weapon's handler (i.e., wrist strap, orthopedic grip) must fix the hand in one position such that the top of the thumb is no more than 2 cm. from the inner surface of the guard. It is not permissible to fence in warm-up pants. Fencing uniforms must not have any rips, tears, holes, etc. USA Fencing allows uniforms of a single color other than black and designs on the rear (unarmed) arm. As the purpose of uniform color or design is for audience interest, such designs should be in good taste.

**For information on the regulations for Sabre 800NW gloves, reference the [Rule Book](#).** Fencers must wear the required clothing – regulation fencing jacket and pants, underarm protector (plastron), knee socks, and a fencing glove that covers half the forearm. Women must wear breast protectors. Chest protection is allowed for men, but must be worn under the jacket ([Rule Book](#): m.24.4.c). In epee and foil, a full jacket is required (i.e., a jacket with croissard/groin strap). In foil and sabre; the lame must have croissard/groin strap. Any attachment to a weapon's handler (i.e., wrist strap, orthopedic grip) must fix the hand in one position such that the top of the thumb is no more than 2 cm. from the inner surface of the guard. It is not permissible to fence in warm-up pants.

USA Fencing Note: Masks may feature colored designs, on condition that they are approved by the Referees' Commission (formerly Fencing Officials Commission) at least 30 days before being used for the first time in an official USA Fencing competition OR at the discretion of the head referee at the event. Fencers must submit pictures to [masks@fencingofficials.org](mailto:masks@fencingofficials.org) that clearly show the entirety of the design. Accepted designs will be posted on the Referees' Commission (formerly Fencing Officials Commission) website.

In all three weapons, each fencer's last name must be printed legibly, by hand or machine, in navy blue capital letters between 8 and 10 cm high, such that the name is **legible** from a distance of 15 feet, either on the back of the uniform or lame between the shoulders; (2) on the front side of the thigh of the "rear" leg; or (3) on a piece of fabric of lame material that is firmly sewn to the uniform in such a way that it will detach during fencing or catch an opponent's point. Fabric attached to the uniform must be the same color as the part of the uniform to which it is attached. Conductive materials must be attached in such a way as to not alter the conductivity of the metallic vest or jacket. NAMES PRINTED ON TAPE ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE. ([Rule Book](#): t.45.5 and m.25.3h).

#### **Other Tournament Information:**

Bout in the pool round are 5-touch bouts with a 3-minute fencing time limit. A "pool round" is defined as that portion of a competition in which a group of fencers are divided into equal or near equal sub-groups of 5,6,7 or more fencers. The fencers in each sub-group or pool fence all the other fencers in their pool in 5-touch, 3-minute bouts. The results of all the fencers in the pool round are ordered from highest or best results to lowest to determine the group of fencers promoted to the next round and seeding of the fencers for the next round.



Direct Elimination (DE): Competitions are said to be by direct eliminations when a competitor is eliminated from the direct elimination tableau after his or her first loss.

Bout format: is as contained in the [Rule Book](#). Veterans and Youth 10 DEs, are 10-touch bouts with two periods; the one-minute rest occurs when one fencer's score reaches 5 touches or when three minutes have elapsed, whichever occurs first.

**For information on competition, types, reference [Table 2.15.1](#).**

## Chapter 3 - Awarding Points

Due to COVID 19, qualification paths may be adjusted in the future.

### 3.1 Point Standings

USA Fencing maintains the following point standings:

1. Regional Point Standings (Youth, Cadet, Junior)
2. Regional Open Circuit Standings (Div IA, Div II, Veteran)
3. National Rolling Point Standings (NRPS) (Youth, Cadet, Junior, Senior, Veteran)
4. National Team Point Standings (Cadet, Junior, Senior, Veteran)
5. Parafencing National Point Standings

Point standings for all groups are posted on the USA Fencing website – [Point Standings](#). Points are normally updated within five business days after each national point tournament and/or international competition.

The tables used to determine points per place for each category of regional, national and international point competitions can be found in [Appendices](#).

#### 3.1.1 **“Age Out” Policy Will Not Be In Effect During The 2020-2021 Season**

*For domestic events, Junior and Cadet fencers will “age out” at the end of the Junior Olympic Fencing Championships (see [Table 2.5.1](#)). For the July Challenge, the Cadet and Junior National Rolling Point Standings (NRPS) contain those fencers who meet the age requirements for the next World Cadet and World Junior Championships, respectively. After the National Championships in July (on or before August 1), the Youth and Veteran 40-49 point standings are updated to include only those who meet the age criteria for the new season. After the Veterans World Championships in the fall, the remaining Veteran Age Point Standings are updated to reflect those who are eligible in each age category for the next Veteran World Championships.*

#### 3.1.2 Replacement Schedule

Points on each of the above standings (except Regional Youth and Team Point Standings – for Team Point Standings, see [Team Point Standings](#)) remain until replaced by the equivalent event in the following season. If there is no equivalent event, points will remain for 12 months, or until a fencer ages out of a given category (Youth, Cadet, Junior). The replacement schedule is included with each competitive category in Chapter 3 and Chapters 5-10 for the designated calendar.

For example, points earned at the first Div I NAC of the season will be replaced by points earned at the first Div I NAC of the following season.

#### **Special COVID 19 Information:**

*Y10, Y12, Y14 Regional Points 2019-2020 Season*

Points expire on July 31 at the conclusion of the 2019-20 season.

*Y10, Y12, Y14 National Points 2019-2020 Season*

Athletes who age out of their category will be removed from points lists at the conclusion of the 2019-20 season. Points earned by those still age eligible for their respective category at the 2019 March NAC, 2019 March SJCC and 2019 National Championships will remain on the national points lists until another national event is completed.

In consultation with the Veterans Committee, the following determinations were made regarding the Veteran National Point Standings:

The next North American Cup that includes veteran events will be seeded with points from the following events: 2019 April and December North American Cups, 2019 National Championships and 2019 Veteran World Championships. In the event that the 2020 Veteran Worlds are canceled, this event will be removed from seeding and the National Point Standings.

Due to the cancellation of the 2020 National Veteran Championships, points earned at the 2019 December NAC will be used to create the Veteran Team Point Standings. The top four athletes on the Veteran Team Point Standings will be selected to represent the United States at the 2020 Veteran World Championships. All remaining athletes will be alternates to the Veteran World Championship Team.

### **3.1.3 Regional Point Standings (Youth, Cadet, Junior)**

Regional Point Standings for Youth, Cadet and Junior reflect an athlete's results at RYC and/or RJCC tournaments within their home region (based on division affiliation). These point standings are posted online and are updated within five business days after the tournament organizer has properly submitted results, event officials form, membership forms and paid the program service fee. For more information on this point system, please visit – [Regional Points List](#). These point standings are not used for seeding, only National Point Standings are used for seeding at regional tournaments. Click [here](#) to see the Regional Recognition program information.

Regional tournament organizers will use the applicable national point standings for seeding as of 5:00 PM MT the Wednesday prior to the tournament.

### **3.1.4 Regional Open Circuit Point Standings (Div IA, Div II, Veteran)**

ROC events award regional points maintained on one points list that combines all regional results. An athlete that meets the event criteria can fence at any ROC and may earn points at any ROC. These point standings are posted online and are updated within five business days after the tournament organizer has properly submitted results, event officials form, membership forms and paid the program service fee. For more information on this point system please click [here](#). Click [here](#) to see the Regional Recognition program information.

Regional tournament organizers will use the applicable point standings as of 5:00 PM MT the Wednesday prior to the tournament.

### **3.1.5 National Rolling Point Standings (NRPS) (Youth, Cadet, Junior, Senior, Veteran)**

National Rolling Points are earned at North American Cups, National Championships, July Challenge, SYCs (Youth only) and SJCCs (Junior and Cadet only), and designated international events as listed in the selection criteria for each weapon.

National Rolling Point Standings are used in the following situations:

- To seed USA Fencing national, regional and divisional competitions (see [Table 2.15.1.1](#))

- As a qualifying path to the various National Championship tournaments
- As a measure of the progress of the fencer in his or her peer group
- To select athletes for international competition prior to the activation of the current season's National Team Point Standings (Cadet, Junior, Senior, Veteran, Youth & Para)

### 3.1.6 Youth Point Standings (SYC and National Tournaments)

For the Y10 and Y12 age categories, points may be earned by competing at North American Cup (NAC) events for one's own age category and the next older category. Y14 athletes may earn points in Y14, Cadet, Junior, and Div I national events for which they are eligible to compete.

National points earned at SYC events are awarded at a 0.8 scale of the Youth NAC/Championship Points Table. The point table for SYC competitions can be found in [Points Tables](#).

The point standings after the USA Fencing National Championships are the final standings for the three Youth age categories for that season. On August 1, only those fencers who meet the age criteria for the new season for each age category in each weapon will appear on the point lists.

For the Youth Point Standings, the point total is the sum of the best four results earned at the combination of eligible competitions at the National Tournaments and the **one SYC per eligible category in which the fencer has earned the most points (see Formula for Youth Points below)**.

The Youth Point Standings will be computed on a rolling point basis. See [Section 3.1.2](#) for replacement schedule.

Formula for Youth Point Standings BEST FOUR RESULTS = TOTAL POINTS:

Youth 10: Sum of the four highest results in SYC Y10, SYC Y12, NAC Y10, NAC Y12, National Championship Y10, National Championship Y12 (up to 2 national results may be used per age category, only one SYC result per age category).

Youth 12: Sum of the four highest results in SYC Y12, SYC Y14, NAC Y12, NAC Y14, National Championship Y12, National Championship Y14 (up to 2 national results may be used per age category, only one SYC result per age category)

Youth 14: Sum of the four highest results from SYC Y14, NAC Y14, National Championship Y14, any national Cadet, Junior, Div I events (only one SYC result)

### 3.1.7 Junior & Cadet Point Standings (SJCC and National Tournaments)

For the Cadet and Junior age categories, points may be earned by competing at North American Cup (NAC) and National Championship events. Cadet athletes may earn points in Cadet, Junior, and Div I national events for which they are eligible to compete. Junior athletes may earn points in Junior and Div 1 national events for which they are eligible to compete.

National points earned at SJCC events are awarded at a 0.2 scale of the Cadet/Junior NAC Points Table. The point table for Junior and Cadet competitions can be found in [Points Tables](#).

The Junior and Cadet Point Standings will be computed on a rolling point basis. See [Section 3.1.2](#) for replacement schedule.

For the Junior and Cadet Rolling Point Standings, the point total is the sum of the best four results earned at the combination of eligible competitions at the National Tournaments and the **one SJCC per eligible**

**category in which the fencer has earned the most points** (see information on the formula for Junior and Cadet points by clicking the link below).

[See Chapters 5 – 12 for specific weapon information.](#)

### 3.1.8 National Team Point Standings (Cadet, Junior, Senior, Veteran)

National Team Points are earned at North American Cups, National Championships, July Challenge and international events as listed in the selection criteria for each weapon.

National Team Point standings are used in the following situations:

To select fencers for specific international teams (see [Chapters 5-10](#) for weapon specific criteria and [Chapter 11](#) for Veteran and [Chapter 12](#) for Parafencing)

To select athletes for designated international competitions according to the following schedule:

- Cadet Team Points – generated after the second designated Cadet international event
- Junior Team Points – generated after the second designated Junior World Cup
- Senior Team Points – generated after the fourth designated Senior international competitions (World Cup or Grand Prix)
- Veteran Team Points – generated after the second Veteran NAC

### 3.1.9 Veteran Point Standings

There are five groups of Veteran Rolling Point Standings based on results at National Veteran competitions and three groups of Veteran Team Point Standings. The Veteran NAC is open to any competitive fencer who will turn at least 40 years old during the year of the competition. There are five age categories: 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70 & older, and 80 & older – where age eligibility is determined by the fencer’s year of birth.

CATEGORY	BORN	WORLD CHAMP/TEAM PTS
COMBINED	1981 OR EARLIER	NO
40-49	1972-1981	NO
50-59	1962-1971	YES
60-69	1952-1961	YES
70+	1951 OR EARLIER	YES
80+	1941 OR EARLIER	NO

Veteran Rolling Point Standings are the best two of the three domestic Veteran competitions, plus points earned at the last Veterans World Championships. For veterans who have aged into the next age group, (e.g., 40-49 to 50-59, 50-59 to 60-69, etc.), they also will carry the best two results from the previous three domestic Veteran competitions, plus points earned at the last Veterans World Championships, regardless of in which age group those points were earned. These points are used for seeding only and not for Veteran Team Point Standings. In the event of a tie in points with an older veteran fencer in the same age group, the older fencer will be seeded higher. [BOD, July 1, 2013] **Further, the original, i.e. older, fencer in the**

**Top 8 in National Age Group standings as defined in Table 2.15.1.1 will have his/her position protected for the first NAC point event**

Veteran Team Point Standings are calculated as the best two of the three domestic Veteran Age competitions in the current season. Team Point Standings are calculated for the selection of Veteran 50-59, Veteran 60-69 and Veteran 70+ World Teams. These are the categories established by the FIE for the Veterans World Championships. There is no Veteran 40-49 event at the Veteran World Championships.

**3.1.10 Parafencing National Point Standings**

Parafencing National points are earned at the North American Cups, Parafencing National Championships and international events as listed in the selection criteria for each weapon. Refer to [Chapter 12](#).

**3.2 Earning Domestic Points – Overview**

**3.2.1 USA Fencing Domestic Point Tournaments**

Tournaments at which Regional Points can be earned:

	Div IA	Div II	Junior	Cadet	Y14	Y12	Y10	Veteran
Div IA ROC	X							
Div II ROC		X						
RJC			X					
RCC				X				
Y14 RYC					X			
Y12 RYC						X		
Y10 RYC							X	
Veteran ROC								X

- Best 3 results from ROCs held in any region count toward regional point totals on a seasonal point basis
- Best 2 results from RJCCs within the athlete’s region count toward regional point totals on a rolling point basis
- Best 3 results from RYCs within the athlete’s region count toward regional point totals on a seasonal point basis

Tournaments at which National Points can be earned:

	Senior	Junior	Cadet	Y14	Y12	Y10	Veteran
Div I NAC/National Championship/July Challenge	X	X	X	X			
Junior NAC/JOs/July Challenge/SJCC		X	X	X			
Cadet NAC/JOs/July Challenge/SJCC			X	X			
Y14 NAC/National Championships/SYC				X	X		
Y12 NAC/National Championships/SYC					X	X	
Y10 NAC/National Championships/SYC						X	
Veteran NAC/National Championships							X

- Points are only earned in categories for which one is age eligible

- The single best SYC result in each age category counts toward national point totals
- The single best SJCC result in each age category counts toward national rolling point totals

### **3.3 Earning Domestic Points – Regional**

#### **3.3.1 Regional Youth Circuit (RYC)**

Fencers only earn points at RYCs within their home region (region is assigned based on division affiliation). The best 3 results count towards the point total. These points may qualify Y12 and Y14 fencers to the USA Fencing National Championships. RYC points are not used in any National Point Standings, for seeding or team selection purposes.

Using the formula below, RYC tournaments will award points to all participants:  $(\# \text{ entries} - \text{place} + 1) / \# \text{ entries} \times 100 \text{ points}$

When there is a mixed gender Youth competition, points are not separated out by gender.

The winner of each RYC, regardless of size of field, will earn 100 points. The size of the participant field is based on all athletes in the event, regardless of region. RYC Regional Points are only earned by fencers competing in their own region. At least 2 fencers must compete in a given RYC event for Regional Points to be awarded.

#### **3.3.2 Regional Junior/Cadet Circuit (RJCC)**

Fencers only earn points at RJCCs within their home region (region is assigned based on division affiliation). The best 2 results count towards the point total. These points may qualify Cadet and Junior fencers to the USA Fencing Junior Olympics and July Challenge. Points earned at Regional Junior/Cadet tournaments are not considered in determination of National Point Standings, for seeding or team selection purposes; they are only reflected in Regional Point Standings.

Using the formula below, RJCC tournaments will award points to all participants:  $((\# \text{ entries} - \text{place} + 1) / \# \text{ entries}) \times 100 \text{ points}$

The winner of each RJCC, regardless of size of field, will earn 100 points. The size of the participant field is based on all athletes in the event, regardless of the region. Regional RJCC points are only earned in the fencers own region.

#### **3.3.3 RJCCs must have at least 2 competitors and cannot be fenced with mixed gender.**

#### **3.3.4 Regional Open Circuit (ROC)**

In each ROC category (Division IA, Division II and Veterans), competitions will award points to the top 40 percent of the competitive field (rounded up to the next higher integer) to a maximum of 64<sup>th</sup> place, using the point tables for regional competitions found in the Appendix.

The best 3 results, in each respective category, count towards the point total. These points will qualify Div IA, Div II and Veteran ROC fencers to the USA Fencing National Championships in Div IA, Div II, Div III and Veteran. For qualification path details, refer to [Chapter 2](#). ROCs must have at least 2 competitors and **cannot be fenced as mixed gender.**

### 3.4 Earning Domestic Points – National

#### Structure of Point Standings

Point standings for Cadet, Junior, and Senior fencers are based on a combination of two groups: Group I and Group II. In general, Group I reflects domestic point tournaments while, in most cases, Group II reflects international competitions. Please see [Chapters 5 – 10](#) for selection criteria.

Point standings for Y10, Y12, and Y14 are based on one group reflecting results at domestic national point tournaments (NAC, Championship, SYC, and SJCC).

The point tables are found in [Appendices](#). In the Veteran national point competitions, points are awarded to a maximum place of 64<sup>th</sup>.

For Youth, Cadet, Junior, and Senior National point competitions (NACs, JOs, July Challenge and National Championships), points will be awarded to the direct elimination table in which the top 32 (to a maximum of 40 percent) of the competitive field falls (rounded to the next lower integer) to a maximum of 64<sup>th</sup> place. If the top 32 cut-off falls within a pool round, the points will be awarded starting with the direct elimination round. See the chart below:

Field Size:	Points Awarded to Table of
2-4	Gold Medalist
5-7	2
8-12	4
13-22	8
23-42	16
43-159	32
160 +	64

In case of a tie, the points are averaged for each place involved (e.g., 3 tied for 25<sup>th</sup> receive the average of points for 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup> place). If a fencer is excluded from a competition, that place is left vacant and no one receives the points for that place.

If a fencer who previously represented another nation in EFC and/or FIE international competition is approved, in accordance with the relevant statutes, to represent the United States, and at the time of approval has USA Fencing national points, his or her cadet, junior, senior and veteran national points standings will be adjusted based on the principles listed below.

The following principles apply to individuals who previously competed for another nation in EFC and FIE competitions, including all cadet, junior, senior and veteran events and currently have national points:

- Consistent with each weapon's selection criteria, points earned at a domestic event (while representing either another nation or the USA), will count in both national rolling and team point standings.
- Consistent with each weapon's selection criteria, points earned at international events (EFC cadet events, World Cup, Grand Prix, World Championships, etc.) while representing another nation will count only in the national rolling point standings; and points earned at international events (EFC cadet



events, World Cup, Grand Prix, World Championships, etc.) while representing the United States will count in both the rolling and national team points standings.

### 3.4.1 Strength Factor for USA Fencing Division I North American Cup events

The strength factor (SF) is a multiplier used to gauge the strength of an event and to determine the number of USA Fencing points earned for placement in the competition. The strength factor takes into consideration the size (N) of the field and the number of ranked fencers in the competition. The strength factor is applied to the Point Table in [Appendices](#).

The strength factor will be used for all Division I North American Cups and the July Challenge with a minimum strength factor of .8 and a maximum Strength Factor of 1.1.

The Division I National Championships will have a minimum Strength Factor of 1.0 and a maximum of 1.1.

#### FORMULA FOR STRENGTH FACTOR (SF)

$$SF = [N/10 + 6(SrFIE32) + 5(Sr4) + 4(Sr8) + 3 (Sr16) + 2(Sr32) + 1(Sr64)]/100$$

N=Number of competitors

SrFIE32=Number of athletes ranked in the top 32 of the FIE World Rankings

Sr4=Number of athletes ranked 1-4 in the National Rolling Point Standings

Sr8=Number of athletes ranked 5-8 in the National Rolling Point Standings

Sr16=Number of athletes ranked 9-16 in the National Rolling Point Standings

Sr32=Number of athletes ranked 17-32 in the National Rolling Point Standings

Sr64=Number of athletes ranked 33-64 in the National Rolling Point Standings. The following principles will be used when calculating the strength factor:

- The size of the field (N) used will be those fencers who complete a pool round
- The FIE and USA Fencing standings are those at the start of the competition
- The strength factor is calculated to the thousandths digit (for example, .906)
- If there is a tie in the point standings all tied fencers will be counted in the calculation of the strength factor. (For example, if two fencers are tied for 8<sup>th</sup> in the point standings, both fencers will count in the number of athletes ranked 5-8.)
- Foreign Fencers – Prior to seeding each event, foreign fencers will be added to the rolling point standings (if applicable.)
- Points earned at a NAC by a foreign fencer will roll off as the event is replaced. Once a foreign fencer has no domestic points, he or she will be removed from the rolling points list (as to not affect the strength factor).
- Fencers ranked in the FIE Top 32 and USA Fencing top 64 will be recognized in both calculations.

### 3.4.2 SYC Points

The Super Youth Circuit (SYC) competitions will award national points at .8 of the NAC/Championship points table to precisely the top 40 percent of the competitive field (rounded up to the next higher integer) to a maximum of 64<sup>th</sup> place.

For example:

Field = 100 fencers therefore 40 fencers earn national points

Field = 103 fencers therefore 42 fencers earn national points (40 percent = 4.2)

Field = 200 fencers therefore 64 fencers earn national points (40 percent = 80 but awarding points is capped at 64<sup>th</sup> place)

In all SYC Youth events, 3 fencers must compete in order for points to be awarded. Refer to the [Points Table](#) for greater detail on youth points.

### 3.4.3 SJCC Points

The Super Junior and Cadet Circuit (SJCC) competitions will award national points at 0.2 of the NAC/Championship points table to the top 40 percent of the competitive field (rounded up to the next higher integer) to a maximum of 64<sup>th</sup> place.

For Example:

Field = 100 fencers therefore 40 fencers earn national points

Field = 103 fencers therefore 42 fencers earn national points (40 percent = 41.2)

Field = 200 fencers therefore 64 fencers earn national points (40 percent = 80 but awarding of points is capped at 64<sup>th</sup> place)

In all SJCC events, 3 fencers must compete in order for points to be awarded. Refer to the Points Table for greater detail on Junior and Cadet points.

## 3.5 Earning Points – International

The point tables for international points can be found in the [Appendices](#).

Specific FIE Junior World Cup (JWC) individual competitions and European Fencing Confederation (EFC) Cadet competitions are selected by the Sports Performance Department and the National Coaches and specified as *designated* international competitions. The designated international competitions are normally considered in Group II calculations. See the weapon-specific selection criteria for further details.

Points will be awarded for results at events described in [Chapters 5 – 10](#).

- Points will be awarded to the direct elimination table in which the top 40 percent of the competitive field falls (rounded down to the next lower integer). If 40 percent cut-off falls within a pool round, the points will be awarded starting with the direct elimination round.
- If the strength factor of the Senior World Cup competition equals 2.0 or greater and the starting competitive field is 82 or greater, points will be awarded for placements between 33 and 64 (see the [Appendix](#) for point table).

### 3.5.1 Strength Factor for USA Fencing International Points

The Strength Factor (SF) is a multiplier used to gauge the strength of a designated Senior or Junior international event and to determine the number of USA Fencing points earned for placement in the

competition. The Junior and Senior Strength Factor (SF) takes into consideration the size (N) of the field and the number of FIE ranked fencers in the competition. If a competitor is on both the Junior and Senior FIE ranking list, the better of the two values is used in the calculation of the Junior (JSF) or Senior (SSF) Strength Factor. The SSF is applied to the Point Table in the [Appendices](#). The JSF is applied to the Point Table in the [Appendices](#). The FIE standings used are those at the start of the competition. The maximum value allowed for the JSF and SSF is 2.0 even if the formula generates a higher value. If the weapon's team selection criteria assign a weight value, that value will override the value generated by the SF formula.

#### FORMULA FOR SENIOR STRENGTH FACTOR (SSF)

$$SSF = [N/10 + 7 (Sr8) + 6 (Sr16) + 5 (Sr32) + 4 (Sr64) + 3 (Jr16) + 2 (Sr100)] / 100$$

Where SSF	=	Senior Strength Factor
N	=	Number of Competitors excluding DNF
Sr8	=	No. of fencers 1-8 in the FIE Senior World Cup standings
Sr16	=	No. of fencers 9-16 in the FIE Senior World Cup standings
Sr32	=	No. of fencers 17-32 in the FIE Senior World Cup standings
Sr64	=	No. of fencers 33-64 in the FIE Senior World Cup standings
Sr100	=	No. of fencers 65-100 in the FIE Senior World Cup standings
Jr16	=	No. of fencers 1-16 in the FIE Junior World Cup standings

#### FORMULA FOR JUNIORS STRENGTH FACTOR (JSF)

$$JSF = [N/3 + 10(Jr8) + 8(Jr16) + 6(Jr32) + 12(Sr16)] / 100$$

Where JSF	=	Junior Strength Factor
N	=	Number of Competitors excluding DNF
Jr8	=	No. of fencers 1-8 in the FIE Junior World Cup standings
Jr16	=	No. of fencers 9-16 in the FIE Junior World Cup standings
Jr32	=	No. of fencers 17-32 in the FIE Junior World Cup standings
Sr16	=	No. of fencers 1-16 in the FIE Senior World Cup standings

There is no Strength Factor for designated Cadet international competitions. A Weight Value may be assigned based on the assessment of its expected competitive strength.

For further details regarding the point values of events for team selection, please visit <http://www.usafencing.org/selection-criteria> to view the 2020-21 selection criteria.

## **Chapter 4 - International Competition**

This chapter will be updated when further information concerning domestic and international competitions is known..

## **Chapter 5 - Men's Epee**

This chapter will be updated when further information concerning domestic and international competitions is known.

## **Chapter 6 - Men's Foil**

This chapter will be updated when further information concerning domestic and international competitions is known.

## **Chapter 7 - Men's Saber**

This chapter will be updated when further information concerning domestic and international competitions is known.

## **Chapter 8 - Women's Epee**

This chapter will be updated when further information concerning domestic and international competitions is known..

## **Chapter 9 - Women's Foil**

This chapter will be updated when further information concerning domestic and international competitions is known.

## **Chapter 10 - Women's Saber**

This chapter will be updated when further information concerning domestic and international competitions is known.

## **Chapter 11 - Veteran World Championships**

### **11.1 Tournament Description**

Individual competitions are held for six weapons. For World Championships, each country can enter four fencers in each of the six weapons in each of the three age categories (50-59 years, 60-69 years and 70+ years).

An FIE license for the season in which a fencer qualifies for Veteran World Championships is required to compete. (i.e., for the 2020 Veteran World Championships, a 2020-2021 FIE License is required). At this time, individual athletes participating in the Veterans World Championships are responsible for funding their trip and expenses.

### **11.2 Eligibility**

Must be a U.S. citizen at the time of selection, which is immediately following the conclusion of the athlete's respective qualification event at USA Fencing National Championship. Age eligibility for the separate age categories is governed by the FIE rules for the Veteran World Championships. Veteran Age group fencers must meet the birth years below.

Birth Year Eligibility dates for FIE Veterans World Championships:

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>50+</b>	1958-1967	1959-1968	1961-1970
<b>60+</b>	1948-1957	1949-1958	1951-1960
<b>70+</b>	1947 and before	1948 and before	1950 and before

### **11.3 Selection Criteria**

**This chapter will be updated when further information concerning domestic and international competitions is known.**

### **11.4 Ties for Selection**

**This chapter will be updated when further information concerning domestic and international competitions is known.**

### **11.5 Team Event Selection**

**This chapter will be updated when further information concerning domestic and international competitions is known.**

## Chapter 12 - Parafencing

### 12.1 Parafencing Competitions

USA Fencing organizes two NAC para tournaments each season, held in conjunction with the October and January NACs; the National Parafencing Championships are held annually in April. World Championships are held in alternating odd years.

### 12.2 Athlete Eligibility and Classification

Men and women with permanent disabilities that include, but are not limited to, amputation, spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, stroke and cerebral palsy are eligible to compete. There are three categories of competition, based upon disability classification. The three categories are: A, B and C with each category indicating the degree of disability from least “A” to most severe “C”. An official classifier for IWAS (International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation) determines the specific category for each parafencer.

Participation in USA Fencing and IWAS Wheelchair Fencing tournaments are open to any fencer who is eligible to be classified by IWAS and is at least 13 years old on January 1 in the year of the competition (see [Table 2.5.1](#)). There is no maximum age limit.

### 12.3 Rules

USA Parafencing operates under IWAS Rules: [usafencing.org/rules](http://usafencing.org/rules)

For further information contact the USFA National office at [international@usafencing.org](mailto:international@usafencing.org).

### 12.4 Competition

#### 12.5 12.4.1 Events

Men's	A	B	C	Women's	A	B
Epee	X	X	X	Epee	X	X
Foil	X	X	X	Foil	X	X
Saber	X			Saber	X	X
Epee Team	Combined team - all classifications			Epee Team	Combined team - all classifications	
Foil Team	Combined team - all classifications			Foil Team	Combined team - all classifications	
Saber Team	Combined team - all classifications			Saber Team	Combined team - all classifications	

When competing in IWAS tournaments (ex: World Cup, Grand Prix, and World Championships) and the Paralympic Games, athletes will compete in categories according to their gender and classification. Events offered at IWAS tournaments are listed in the tables above. Note that not all events will be offered at all IWAS tournaments and that even if offered, some may not be considered official events if the athlete pool (number of entrants or number of countries represented) does not meet IWAS requirements.

In domestic competitions, athletes will compete in categories according to their gender, but classifications will be combined.

## 12.5 Seeding and Formats

Please refer to [Table 2.15](#) for seeding and [2.16](#) for format information.

## 12.6 Parafencing Point Standings

Parafencing National points are earned at the North American Cups, Wheelchair National Championships, World Cups, World Championships and Zonal Championships. U.S. athletes will receive points using the following formulas:

**Domestic Points** -  $(\# \text{entries} - \text{place} + 1) / \# \text{entries} \times 100$  points

The winner of each NAC, regardless of size of field, will earn 100 points.

**International Points** – For International events with >10 athletes, the following formula will be used:

$(\# \text{entries} - \text{place} + 1) / \# \text{entries} \times 200$  points

**The winner of an event with >10 athletes will earn 200 points**

For International events with 11-20 athletes, the following formula will be used:  $(\# \text{entries} - \text{place} + 1) / \# \text{entries} \times 250$  points

**The winner of an event with 11-20 athletes will earn 250 points**

For International events with <20 athletes, the following formula will be used:  $(\# \text{entries} - \text{place} + 1) / \# \text{entries} \times 300$  points

**The winner of an event with <20 athletes will earn 300 points**

The resulting standings of the wheelchair fencers in each category (A, B, C) are used for selecting athletes for international competitions, when entries are limited.

## 12.7 2020-2021 Parafencing Selection Criteria

IWAS World Cup entries are not limited in number and any interested, classification-eligible athlete may attend. Registrations must be processed by the USA Fencing National Office.

The IWAS competition calendar and updates are available on the following website:

[iwasf.com/iwasf/index.cfm/sports/iwas-wheelchair-fencing/competitions1/](http://iwasf.com/iwasf/index.cfm/sports/iwas-wheelchair-fencing/competitions1/)

If IWAS hosts an entry-limited event, the following criteria will be used:

Selection Date: TBD after the calendar is approved by IWAS. A date will be set for selection approximately 30-90 days before the event.

Selection: Selections will be based on the Para National Points only within the athlete's parafencing category (A, B, or C).

IWAS and LOC will determine the number of fencers per weapon, gender and category for international events.

For additional information, contact the USA Fencing National office at [international@usafencing.org](mailto:international@usafencing.org).

## Chapter 13 - Disciplinary Procedures and Dispute Resolution

### 13.1 General Disciplinary Procedures

#### 13.1.1 Scope of General Disciplinary Procedures

Chapter 13 concerns procedures for the resolution of grievances and the discipline of USA Fencing members, and National Team Disciplinary Procedures. The procedure in this Chapter will be used to file the following types of grievances:

- a. **Administrative Grievance.** USA Fencing or any member of USA Fencing may file a complaint pertaining to any matter within the jurisdiction of USA Fencing, including but not limited to any alleged violation of or grievance concerning: (i) any USA Fencing rule or regulation, (ii) any USA Fencing program or service, (iii) any provision of USA Fencing's Bylaws, or (iv) any provision of the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act.
- b. **Disciplinary Proceeding.** USA Fencing or any member of USA Fencing may file a complaint against any member of USA Fencing, or former member of USA Fencing if the action occurred while the person or club was a member, regarding any alleged violation of USA Fencing's Codes of Conduct, USA Fencing's SafeSport Policy, or any other rule or regulation relating to conduct.
- c. **Right to Participate.** Any athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator or official may file a complaint pertaining to any alleged denial, or alleged threat to deny, of that individual's opportunity to participate in a USA Fencing competition or protected competition. Any such athlete, official or coach may file a protest or complaint pertaining to any such denial of that individual's opportunity to participate in a USA Fencing National Team program.

Provided, however:

- If the proposed discipline involves, or may involve the USA Fencing member being removed from a USA Fencing or USOPC team, or being precluded from an opportunity to compete at any event, then, except as otherwise provided herein the National Team Disciplinary Procedures (13.2.3) adopted by USA Fencing shall be utilized;
- Any protest or complaint by a USA Fencing National Team Coach who has a separate contract with USA Fencing shall be governed by and handled as provided in that contract;
- If a member of USA Fencing is on a team representing USA Fencing or the USOPC, such member may be subject to immediate discipline, including, but not limited to being removed from a team, banned from participating at a competition, or sent home, as set forth in the Expedited Discipline Procedures set forth in Chapter 13.1.8 or in other procedures adopted by the USOPC; and
- A final decision of a referee or tournament official or other authority during a competition regarding a matter governed by the USA Fencing Rules of Competition and within the jurisdiction of the referee, official or authority under such Rules, shall not be reviewable through, or the subject of, these complaint procedures. Allegations of fraud, corruption, collusion or other comparable misconduct of a USA Fencing referee in violation of the Referee Code of Conduct shall fall under the initial jurisdiction of the Referee Commission. Other complaints or grievances are subject to these complaint procedures without regard to whether the respondent is a referee or tournament official.



## **13.2 Manner of Filing**

The complainant shall file the written complaint with the USA Fencing Ethics Committee or the USA Fencing National Office. When filing a report for SafeSport violations, individuals should use the “USA FENCING SAFESPORT ABUSE/MISCONDUCT REPORTING FORM” located [here](#). SafeSport complaints can be made anonymously and are not subject to the signature requirement. The complaint, shall set forth in clear and concise language:

- a. The name and addresses of the parties;
- b. Alleged violations, grievance, denial or threat to deny,
- c. The facts which support the allegations,
- d. The legal basis which supports the relief requested
- e. The relief requested,
- f. And, the competition that is subject of the complaint, if applicable.
- g. Except in the case of SafeSport complaints, the complainant will sign the complaint, attesting to its good faith and validity.

A complaint that is filed that is not in accordance with 13.2, will render the filing ineffective and the complaint will be considered not to have been filed.

### **13.2.1 Disciplinary Panels**

#### ***Definitions***

The following terms shall have the following meanings for this Chapter:

- “Fencer” shall mean those who are currently actively engaged in amateur competition in fencing on a local, national or international level or who have represented the United States in fencing in international competitions within the previous ten (10) years.
- “Disinterested” shall mean a person who will not be personally affected by the outcome of a panel hearing and none of whose relatives, significant others, students, coaches, or club mates will be directly affected by the outcome of a panel hearing. If all persons complaining and responding to a complaint or protest agree, the “Disinterested” requirement may be waived.
- “Executive Director” shall mean the Executive Director or Chief Executive Officer, as the case may be, of USA Fencing or his or her designee.
- “Panel” shall mean a panel consisting of not less than three (3) Disinterested USA Fencing members (one or more of whom may, but need not be members of the Board of Directors). At least 20 percent of the membership of the Panel shall be USOPC Athletes as defined in this chapter, provided, however, no USOPC Athlete shall be contending for a team in the same event as the person subject to potential discipline. The Panel and its Chair shall be selected by the Executive Director, provided, however, that if the Executive Director is not Disinterested, they shall be selected by the President of USA Fencing or by the President’s Disinterested designee.
- “Panel Report” shall mean the written report prepared by the Panel consisting of its findings of fact and recommendation(s), which may include concurring or dissenting reports.
- “USOPC” shall mean the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee.

- “USOPC Athlete” shall mean a fencer who has competed in fencing at the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Pan American Games, Parapan American Games, or World Championships within the previous ten (10) years or has finished in the top half of the USA Fencing’s Division 1 points list in the previous twenty four months.

**Procedures**

- A. At the request of the President, Treasurer, General Counsel or Board of Directors of USA Fencing, a Panel shall be appointed under these Procedures to resolve grievances or disciplinary issues
- B. If the person selecting the Panel deems it appropriate, or at the request of the Chair of the Panel, USA Fencing shall designate a person to present evidence and argument to the Panel on its behalf, including but not limited to the type(s) of sanctions that USA Fencing believes are appropriate for the alleged infraction.
- C. The Executive Director shall inform the parties in writing of the charges which have been referred to the Panel, the names of the members of the Panel, and the name of the person, if any, who will present evidence to the Panel, and the possible discipline or sanctions that could be requested or imposed.
- D. If any party shall object to any member of the Panel on cognizable grounds such as lack of Disinterest, bias or incapacity, then that party shall inform the person that named the Panel, who shall have the discretion to replace the Panel member, subject to further objection to the named replacement on cognizable grounds.
- E. The Panel shall conduct a Hearing at a time and place determined by the Chair of the Panel. The Chair of the Panel shall inform the parties of the date, time and place of the Hearing, and the manner in which the Hearing shall take place. The Hearing may be held in person, by teleconference, or as may otherwise be directed by the Chair of the Panel.
- F. The Hearing may be adjourned from time to time as deemed necessary by the Chair of the Panel in order to obtain additional information, obtain testimony from witnesses or receive written submissions from any party. At or prior to the Hearing, if available, all parties shall receive copies of any written information provided to the Panel members concerning the Hearing or any charges or allegations.
- G. The Panel is not bound by the rules of evidence. Witnesses, may testify in person, by telephone or video, or by written declarations or affidavit. Witnesses testifying by affidavit or declaration shall be subject to cross-examination as provided herein.
- H. Parties shall have the rights at any hearing:
  - a. To appear personally and be represented by counsel or other representative of his or her choosing.
  - b. To cross-examine all witnesses and present additional relevant, competent and non-cumulative evidence deemed admissible by the Chair.
  - c. To testify on his/her own behalf, or remain silent.
  - d. To address the Panel or otherwise make a statement of position personally or through his/her counsel or representative.

- I. As soon as practicable, but no later than two weeks after the close of the Hearing, the Panel shall prepare the Panel Report and submit it to the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall send a copy of the Panel Report to the accused and each member of the Board of Directors or its designee within one week of receiving it.
- J. APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Any sanction recommended by the Panel shall be final and effective unless appealed from as provided herein, except that any proposed sanction that provides in whole or part for a full or partial suspension of membership, denial of renewal of membership, or permanent expulsion of the member, shall not be effective unless such sanction, or a modified sanction that would restrict membership, is approved by a 2/3 vote of the Board as provided in the Bylaws. A modified sanction that does not restrict membership shall require only a majority vote. In considering whether to approve, disapprove or modify any recommended sanction, the Board may hear argument from the accused party, and may also hear from the Panel Chair, but will not hear evidence that was not presented to and considered by the Panel. The Board of Directors may stay the imposition of any sanction until the Board can vote to approve, disapprove, or modify it. The Board's decision to approve, disapprove or modify a recommended sanction shall become final and effective when transmitted via email to the sanctioned party. [*modified* eff. \_\_\_\_\_ 2020].
- K. Absent extraordinary circumstances, the failure to comply with any time limitations set forth herein shall not be grounds to overturn or prohibit the imposition of sanctions.
- L. OTHER RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED – Persons potentially subjected to discipline shall have the rights set forth herein and set forth in the Bylaws of USA Fencing, the Constitution and Bylaws of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee, and the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act.
- M. EXPENSES OF THE ACCUSED – Except as otherwise provided by the Board, all expenses of the accused in connection with any proceeding hereunder, including counsel, travel and any transcription costs, shall be their own responsibility. The hearing shall be transcribed only at the request of the accused and then at his or her expense. Audio or video recordings of the hearing shall not be permitted. Except in connection with any appeal or except as required by any legal process or court order, the record of the hearing shall be kept confidential by the parties and the Panel.
- N. APPEALS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS – In cases where the Board of Directors has not previously voted to approve or modify a sanction recommended by a disciplinary panel, the accused may appeal any such sanction to the Board. Any such appeal must be commenced by notice emailed to the CEO and General Counsel of USA Fencing no later than 10 business days after receipt of the Panel's report and recommendations, and such notice shall prevent the sanction from taking effect until the Board shall rule on it. Any such appeal shall be conducted on the record of the Panel hearing as set forth in the Panel's report, and not by a hearing de novo. The accused party shall have the right to present argument to the Board, but not new evidence, in connection with the appeal. The Board may also, in its discretion, elect to hear from the Panel Chair. The Board may affirm, reject or modify the sanction recommended by the Panel, by a majority or 2/3 vote, depending on the nature of the sanction. Unless it elects to impose a more stringent sanction than that recommended by the Panel, the Board shall not be required to provide a written opinion or otherwise explain its decision. The Board's decision to approve, disapprove or modify a recommended sanction shall become final and effective when transmitted via email to the appellants. [*modified* eff. \_\_\_\_\_ 2020].
- O. APPEALS TO ARBITRATION - Any party to a disciplinary proceeding may appeal to the American Arbitration Association (AAA) from a sanction that has become final and effective as provided herein, except that a sanctioned party shall have no right of appeal to arbitration

from a disciplinary sanction that was not approved by USA Fencing's Board of Directors as provided herein. To initiate such an appeal, the appealing party shall, before the expiration of 10 business days from its receipt of notice from USA Fencing that the sanction has become final, file a claim with the AAA and provide notice thereof via email to the CEO and General Counsel of USA FENCING. The arbitrator(s) appointed by the AAA shall have the authority to decide the matter in accordance with the Commercial Rules of the AAA, as provided for by the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, as amended from time to time (36 U.S.C. §§ 220501 et seq.). The arbitration shall be governed by the laws of the State of Colorado and the United States, conducted in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Any such appeal shall be conducted on the record of the Panel hearing as set forth in the Panel's report, and not by a hearing de novo. The arbitrator(s) will have no authority or jurisdiction to award consequential, punitive or exemplary damages, and any demand for such damages shall be a nullity. The person commencing the arbitration shall be responsible for any filing fees of the American Arbitration Association, but the fees may be apportioned by the arbitrator(s) pursuant to the Commercial Rules of the AAA. To the extent arbitration hearings or proceedings are conducted, all such arbitration hearings or proceedings shall be conducted in Colorado Springs, Colorado. However, for good cause shown by clear and convincing evidence, a party may petition the arbitrator(s) to conduct the hearing or proceedings in a different location. [modified eff. \_\_\_\_\_ 2020]

### **13.3 Removal from Team, Loss of Points and/or Funding**

#### **13.3.1 General Principles**

A fencer may be passed over in selection, removed from a team after selection, denied funds, have points removed that are improperly earned or lose eligibility for international selection for cause. Such cause shall be limited to:

- Doping based on a confirmed positive of a "B" sample in accordance with U.S. AntiDoping Agency protocol; OR
- Disciplinary reason, for serious misconduct detrimental to fencing; OR
- Inability or unwillingness to participate fully in all significant team activities; OR
- Injury or other incapacity which will significantly detract from the fencer's performance; OR
- Failure to maintain a reasonable program of training, conditioning and/or competition; OR
- Ineligibility by reason of U.S. citizenship status at the start of the Olympic/Paralympic team selection cycle, (i.e., points will not be awarded to non-citizens at competitions which count for selection of the Olympic/Paralympic Team until fencer is a U.S. citizen.). The USOPC will consider a waiver to those fencers who can demonstrate that they could become citizens before the final selection competition of USA Fencing.

#### **13.3.2 Expedited Grievance Steps**

##### ***Scope***

These procedures are intended to be used once a team has staged (e.g., gathered at any point in outside the U.S. for purposes of traveling or participating at a competition), when a fencer or cadre member including coaches, administrators or other staff:

- contests being removed from a team;
- contests an improper denial of a place on a team selected using criteria specified by USA Fencing;
- contests an improper preclusion by USA Fencing of his/her opportunity to compete at any competition;
- is or may be subjected to discipline by USA Fencing, whether the action on which any proposed discipline is based occurred before or after the team has staged.

To the extent any such measure is taken against a fencer or cadre member by USOPC, then the procedures of USOPC and not these Expedited Grievance Steps, shall apply.

#### *Reimbursement of Fencer's Expenses*

All expenses, including counsel, shall be the responsibility of the fencer or cadre member.

#### *Appeals*

A fencer or cadre member may request that the USA Fencing committee responsible for team selections overrule any decision made by the Team Panel. A fencer or cadre member may request that the Board of Directors of USA Fencing, or its designee, overrule any decision made by the Team Panel or by the USA Fencing committee responsible for team selections. Such rights to appeal are subject to there being time available for the body to accept or act on any request. In the absence of any action by such an appellate body, the decision of the Team Panel or the lower body that has acted shall be the decision of USA Fencing.

#### *Procedures*

- The Team Leader shall inform the fencer and any Other Affected Athletes of:
  - The issues or allegations which have been referred to the Team Panel.
  - The date, time and place of Hearing, and the manner in which the Hearing shall take place. The Hearing may be held in person, by teleconference, or as may otherwise be directed by the Team Leader.
- The Panel shall conduct a Hearing at a time and place determined by the Team Leader. The Hearing may be adjourned from time to time as deemed necessary by the Team Leader in order to obtain additional information, obtain testimony from witnesses or receive written submissions from any party. At or prior to the Hearing, if available, the fencer or any Other Affected Athlete shall have the right to receive copies of any written information provided to the Panel members concerning the Hearing or any charges or allegations.
- The Panel is not bound by the rules of evidence. Witnesses may testify in person, by telephonic instrument, or if there is no objection, by written declarations or affidavits.
- The fencer and any Other Affected Athlete shall have the rights:
  - To appear personally and be represented by counsel at the Hearing.
  - To cross-examine all witnesses and present any additional relevant evidence.
  - To testify on his/her own behalf, or remain silent.
  - To address the Panel or otherwise make a statement of position personally or through his/her counsel or representative.
- As soon as practicable after the close of the Hearing, the Team Panel shall prepare the Team Panel Report and submit it to the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall send a copy of the Team Panel Report to the fencer, any Other Affected Athlete, and each member of the USA Fencing committee responsible for team selections within one week after receiving it.
- The recommendation(s) of the Panel shall be effective and implemented unless stayed by

the USA Fencing committee responsible for team selections or the Board of Directors or its designee.

- Absent extraordinary circumstances, the failure to comply with any of the time limitations set forth herein shall not be grounds to overturn the decision in question, or, to prohibit the imposition of sanctions.
- Nothing herein shall preclude any fencer or Other Affected Athlete, during the procedures set forth above or at its conclusion, from seeking to enforce or protect his/her rights under any provision of the Bylaws of USA Fencing, or the Constitution or Bylaws of the USOPC, including the right to seek the intervention of the USOPC CEO or to submit any dispute to arbitration.

### **13.2.3 National Team Disciplinary Procedures**

In the event of any alleged breach of the USA Fencing Code of Conduct, a disciplinary panel will be convened on site immediately and will consist of the following individuals, if present and not disqualified by a conflict of interest:

- Chief of Mission
- Team Captain
- Team Leader/Manager
- A team coach whose fencer(s) are not involved
- A fencer over 18 years of age

The hearing to investigate charges, recommend discipline if appropriate, and where necessary to impose disciplinary measures shall be conducted at a time and place and in a manner determined by the highest-ranking member of cadre present (ranked highest to lowest from the preceding list top-down). The hearing shall provide the accused due process rights as follows: The right to be present; the right to be represented; the right to confront and question witnesses; the right to call witnesses and the right to address the panel. Promptly following the conclusion of any such hearing, the Disciplinary Panel shall report to the Director of Sports Performance, National Weapon Head Coach, and representative from the AAC the nature of the charges, the conclusion of the investigation and any discipline imposed or recommended.

Activity:

- Loss of specified privileges at the competition
- Involuntary withdrawal or bar of the offending individual from that day's activities
- Involuntary withdrawal or bar from the entire competition
- Offending individual sent home
- Other sanctions as deemed appropriate, including assessment of any damages caused by the misconduct
- Recommendation of post-competition sanctions as deemed appropriate

If discipline cannot be adjudicated at the competition, the Director of Sports Performance, National Weapon Head Coach, and representative from the AAC may require a report from the Disciplinary Panel and is empowered to mete out sanctions or refer the matter to the Board of Directors of USA Fencing, or its designee, for further investigation and potential discipline. The consequential costs of any disciplinary action imposed by the Panel or by the Director of Sports Performance, National Weapon Head Coach, and representative from the AAC and any reasonable expenses incurred by USA Fencing or its members in connection with the disciplinary proceeding shall be the responsibility of the party being disciplined.

Appeal from the decision of a Disciplinary Panel may be made by the individual or individuals involved to the Director of Sports Performance, National Weapon Head Coach, and representative from the AAC within 15 days of receipt of notice of the panel decision. The decision may be delivered orally at the time of the Hearing. The decision of the Disciplinary Panel may be appealed to the Director of Sports Performance, National Weapon Head Coach, and representative from the AAC, the

Board of Directors of USA Fencing, or its designee, at the election of the appealing party. The body to which the appeal is addressed shall appoint a panel to hear the appeal and render a final decision as expeditiously as reasonably possible. These rules and regulations have been promulgated for the protection of all fencers, coaches, officials and others under the authority of USA Fencing.

### **13.2.3 (a) National Team Dispute Resolution**

This dispute resolution procedure is intended to manage conflicts and to foster strong relationships between international fencers, coaches and USA Fencing staff.

### **13.2.3 (b) Scope of National Team Dispute Resolution**

This dispute resolution procedure applies to a complaint by an Aggrieved Party against a National Coach, as those terms are defined below.

To be eligible to use this procedure, a complaint must pertain to a National Coach's role as an international coach on behalf of USA Fencing, in contrast to a dispute about the National Coach's role as a private fencing coach, fencing club administrator, or USA Fencing member.

Examples of matters that might come within the scope of the dispute resolution procedure, include, but are not limited to, actual, apparent, or potential conflicts of interest by the National Coach, allocation of coaching resources during international competitions, selection for international tournaments, selection of dates and locations of training camps, other requirements imposed by a National Coach, allocation of USA Fencing funds by a National Coach, delegation of responsibilities by the National Coach to a third party, and the National Coach's conduct.

This dispute resolution procedure is not intended to displace informal conversations and other informal resolutions.

### *Definitions*

The following terms shall have the following meanings:

- "Aggrieved Party" shall mean a fencer who is a current representative of USA Fencing international fencing competition or has a material chance of representing USA Fencing in international fencing competition in the near future, when pursuing his or her own interests; the parent or guardian of a minor fencer, acting as the minor fencer's representative, where the minor fencer is a current representative of USA Fencing in international fencing competition or has as material chance of representing USA Fencing in international fencing competition in the near future, when pursuing the minor fencer's interests; or the personal coach, if such coach is a USA Fencing member, of a fencer who is a current representative of USA Fencing in international fencing competition, or has a material chance of representing USA Fencing in international fencing competition in the near future, when pursuing the fencer's interests or the coach's own interest.
- "Athlete Council" shall mean, the USA Fencing Athlete Council.
- "Executive Director" shall mean the Executive Director of USA Fencing.
- "Director of Sports Performance" shall mean the Director of Sports Performance of USA Fencing.
- "National Coach" shall mean, a coach employed or contracted by USA Fencing to represent USA Fencing in international fencing competition or such a coach's designee, including, but not limited to, a Team Manager, when such designee is officially recognized by USA Fencing in the designee's role and has maintained, or is expected to maintain, that role for more than two (2) months.

### *Procedures*

- A. The Aggrieved Party is encouraged to discuss the matter directly with the National Coach.
- B. The Aggrieved Party may discuss the matter informally with the Director of Sports Performance before or after discussing the matter with the National Coach.

- C. At any time during the dispute resolution process, the Aggrieved Party may invite an Athlete Council member to facilitate the Aggrieved Party's interactions under the dispute resolution process. The Athlete Council member may decline the Aggrieved Party's request for any or no reason or may refer the invitation to another Athlete Council member. The Aggrieved Party shall have the right to have any Athlete Council member so invited: *Be present at any telephonic or in-person meetings under the dispute resolution process between the Aggrieved Party and the National Coach or the Director of Sports Performance and be heard by the National Coach or Director of Sports Performance in a reasonable manner.*
- D. The Aggrieved Party has the right to submit a written complaint concerning the matter to the Director of Sports Performance. The submission of a written complaint concerning the matter to the Director of Sports Performance by an Aggrieved Party concerning a National Coach's role as an international coach on behalf of USA Fencing initiates this dispute resolution procedure.
- E. The Director of Sports Performance shall make a determination whether the complaint has sufficient merit to proceed and is otherwise not deficient. To this end, the Director of Sports Performance may conduct reasonable inquiries.
- F. If the Director of Sports Performance determines the complaint lacks sufficient merit to proceed or is otherwise deficient, he or she shall inform the Aggrieved Party of such determination in writing within two (2) weeks of the receipt of the complaint.

If the Director of Sports Performance determines that the complaint has sufficient merit to proceed and is otherwise not deficient, he or she shall investigate the matter as appropriate and give a written opinion (in addition to any other communications that the Director of Sports Performance may have with the Aggrieved Party) on the matter to the Aggrieved party within two (2) weeks of the receipt of the complaint, unless the matter has been stayed consistent with Chapter 13.2.3 (G). The Director of Sports Performance's goals in issuing the written opinion shall include, but not be limited to, advancing a fair resolution of the conflict and keeping the aggrieved party appropriately informed.

Even though the complaint has sufficient merit to proceed and is otherwise not deficient, the Director of Sports Performance nonetheless may, at any time during the dispute resolution process, conclude in matters of sufficient seriousness that the matter should be considered, and perhaps exclusively, under other disciplinary procedures, such as Chapter 13.2.3 (A). If so, the Director of Sports Performance may request that those disciplinary procedures be initiated consistent with those procedures.

- G. During the investigation, the Director of Sports Performance may (and generally will) discuss the matter with the National Coach and may share the complaint with the National Coach. The National Coach shall respond to any Director of Sports Performance's inquiries within five (5) days of such inquiries and otherwise discuss the matter with the Director of Sports Performance. If the Director of Sports Performance requests that the National Coach's response be in writing, the National Coach shall do so within five (5) days of such request. The Director of Sports Performance may share the National Coach's response(s), written or otherwise, with the Aggrieved Party. The National Coach's obligations shall not supersede, or otherwise be implemented in a manner inconsistent with the National Coach's due process rights.
- H. The Director of Sports Performance may request that the Aggrieved Party and the National Coach enter into mediation or arbitration. This may include mediation and arbitration provided by USA Fencing or by an individual or individuals designated by the Director of Sports Performance. In the event that the Aggrieved Party and the National Coach agree to mediation or arbitration, the dispute resolution procedure shall be stayed until the mediator(s)



or arbitrator(s) concludes such mediation or arbitration or until the Director of Sports Performance terminates such mediation or arbitration.

- I.* If the Director of Sports Performance's position is unfilled or if the Director of Sports Performance does not respond within the two (2) week limit, the Aggrieved Party may contact in writing the Executive Director about the unfulfilled position or the failure of the Director of Sports Performance to act and submit the written complaint to the Executive Director for his or her action. In such an event, the dispute resolution process shall be followed, with the Executive Director fulfilling those obligations of the Director of Sports Performance and within the two (2) week limit beginning the date the Executive Director receives such written complaint.
  
- J.* The initiation or resolution of this dispute resolution process shall not prejudice the Aggrieved Party from the ability to seek appropriate relief or other appropriate procedures.

## Chapter 14 - Codes of Conduct & USA Fencing Policies

### 14.1 Fencer Code of Conduct Agreement

Introduction: Membership on an USA Fencing National Team, competing around the world in international and at national events, is an honor. It is a distinction few achieve and an accomplishment universally recognized as a distinctive achievement in the sport. It is in that context that we ask you to make the pledge set forth below to USA Fencing and to the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee in promoting sustained competitive excellence in the sport.

Athlete Pledge: I pledge to uphold the spirit of the Athlete Code of Conduct (ACC), which offers a general guide to my conduct as a member of the National Team, or as a member of any named team to any USA Fencing designated event, training camp or competition. I hereby acknowledge that I have been informed that USA Fencing has adopted Grievance Procedures, which are contained in the USA Fencing Athlete Handbook, that provide me with the right to a hearing if my opportunity to compete is denied for any reason or if I am charged with any violation of the ACC.

By signing the ACC, I (1) accept nomination and, if accepted, selection to the National Team and/or to any named team to any USA Fencing designated event, training camp or competition, (2) agree to abide by this ACC and the Grievance Procedures noted above, which will be used by USA Fencing to resolve any alleged violations of the ACC, (3) agree to submit to any dispute that arises in relation to my nomination or selection to the National Team, or to any named team, to any USA Fencing designated event, training camp or competition, to USA Fencing pursuant to the Grievance Procedures apply as soon as I sign the USA Fencing Athlete Agreement.

I have familiarized myself with the ACC and understand that acceptance of its provisions as written is a condition of my selection to the National Team, or to any named team, to any USA Fencing designated event, training camp or competition. This ACC must be signed in an unaltered form in all applicable places in order for an individual to become a member of the National Team or the team to any designated event, training camp or competition. The duration of any activity (event, training camp or competition) is defined as the period beginning when a participant comes under the supervision of a Team Leader, Team Captain, National Coach or other person vested with the authority of USA Fencing until the participant is no longer under such immediate supervision.

AS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL TEAM OR A MEMBER OF A USA FENCING TEAM TO A DESIGNATED TEAM EVENT, TRAINING CAMP OR COMPETITION, I HEREBY PROMISE AND AGREE THAT I:

- Will act in a sportsmanlike manner consistent with the spirit of fair play and responsible conduct;
- Will maintain a level of fitness and competitive readiness that will permit my performances to be at the maximum of my abilities;
- Will submit to a physical examination by USA Fencing medical personnel if my ability to compete is compromised due to physical injury and I understand that such injury may be cause for my not being selected to the National Team, or the Team designated event, being removed from the National Team, or the Team to any designated event, or not being allowed to participate if I remain on the Team;
- Will not commit a doping violation as defined by, as applicable, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Paralympic Committee (IPC), World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), the Federation International d'Esclime (FIE), International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS) or the

United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC);

- Will refrain from conduct detracting from my ability or that of my teammates to attain peak performance;
- I will seek to attend team functions, meetings, practices, competitions, and media events, in a timely manner and refrain from actions and activities that would be a disruption, either to myself or my teammates;
- Will respect the property of others whether personal or public;
- Will respect members of my team, other teams, spectators and officials and will notify persons invested with supervision of the team at events, training camps or competitions of any circumstances that would prevent any member from being able to compete or participate at an optimal level;
- Will engage in no form of discriminatory behavior or verbal, physical or sexual harassment or abuse (see USA Fencing policy on sexual misconduct and harassment). I understand that it is a USA Fencing rule that any sexual conduct or advance or any other inappropriate sexually oriented behavior directed toward an athlete by another athlete or person in a position of authority is prohibited;
- Will follow USA Fencing rules established by the Team Leader, Team Captain, or any other person vested with the authority of USA Fencing, including by way of example, rules regarding required attendance at camps and events and curfew at events while a member of a USA Fencing team;
- Will abide by the FIE rules regarding eligibility for World Cup and World Championship competition, with USOPC rules regarding eligibility for Olympic competition, and rules concerning allowable trademark identification on clothing and equipment worn or used at all of these events;
- Am aware that USA Fencing sponsors, suppliers, and licensees provide critical support for the Team and that, when requested, I will wear USA Fencing sponsored apparel and use USA Fencing sponsored equipment at official USA Fencing and FIE events;
- Will not use or authorize the use of my name, person, picture, voice, or any of my sports performances for the purpose of trade during designated events without the prior written consent of USA Fencing;
- Will attempt to participate in media and sponsor-related activities if compatible with my training and competitive schedule at designated events when requested by the National Coach or the Team Leader, or his or her designee;
- Will act in a way that will bring respect and honor to myself, my teammates, my family, USA Fencing and the United States of America;
- Will respect the laws, customs and traditions of the countries in which I may be traveling and competing while representing USA Fencing; and
- Will remember that at all times I am an ambassador for my sport, my country and the Olympic/Paralympic Movement.

AFFIRMATION: I have read and accept this Code of Conduct, including the USA Fencing Grievance Procedure contained in the USA Fencing Athlete Handbook. I agree to the rules, guidelines, jurisdiction and procedures stated in these documents as a condition of being selected to and remaining a member of the National Team or any named team to any USA Fencing designated event, training camp or competition.

Signature of Fencer and Date:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name (Printed):

\_\_\_\_\_

Address:

City, State, Zip Code and Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Parent/Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 14.2 Non-Fencer Code of Conduct

The following rules of conduct will be applied to all USA Fencing personnel who are members of the cadre at any international or domestic World Cup, World Championship, Regional Championship, Pan American Games, Parapan American Games, World University Games, Youth Olympics, Olympic Games or Paralympic Games competition. Any failure to adhere to this code of conduct may result in disciplinary action.

The following shall be considered violations of the US Fencing Code of Conduct for Non-Fencing personnel:

- Violation of the Amateur Sports Act, which requires that USA Fencing must provide an equal opportunity to amateur fencers, coaches, trainers, administrators and officials to participate in amateur athlete competition without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex or national origin.
- Any inappropriate sexual contact or advance or any other inappropriate sexual oriented behavior or action directed towards a fencer by a cadre member, including violation of any sexual misconduct or harassment policy of USA Fencing that may be in effect.
- The sale or distribution of illegal drugs or the illegal sale or distribution of any substance on the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) recognized list of banned substances.
- The illegal possession or use of illegal drugs in the presence of a fencer by a cadre member.
- Engaging in any activity that contravenes the stricter laws of the United States of America (USA) or the host country in which the activity is taking place.
- Providing alcohol to a fencer by a cadre member when the fencer is under the legal age and therefore prohibited from purchasing or consuming alcohol.
- The act or the appearance of intoxication from the use of alcohol or illegal drugs in the presence of a fencer or cadre member.
- Any non-consensual physical contact with or abuse (including verbal abuse) of any person by a cadre member.
- Any intentional act of dishonesty in connection with any USA Fencing related activity.
- Any non-consensual physical contact, obscene language or gesture or other threatening language or conduct directed toward any official, which is related to any decision made by such official in conjunction with a USA Fencing related event.
- Violation of any team rule of conduct as established by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC), USA Fencing, the Federation International d'Esclime (FIE), International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS), or person in authority leading an international team, including but not limited to the department, curfew, practice, team meeting attendance, and prompt attendance at competitions.
- Any other act, conduct or omission not provided in this code which is detrimental to the image or reputation of USA Fencing, the USA or sport of fencing, or which violates a rule established by the USOPC, FIE, IWAS, International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Paralympic Committee (IPC) or other governing body.

All members of any traveling party, including personal coaches are expected to adhere to and reinforce the rules and regulations listed above.

AFFIRMATION: I have read and accept this Code of Conduct, including the USA Fencing Grievance Procedure contained in the USA Fencing Athlete Handbook. I agree to the rules, guidelines, jurisdiction and procedures stated in this document as a condition of being authorized to participate as a member of the cadre or to coach any USA Fencing athletes at any international or domestic World Cup, World Championship, Regional Championship, Pan American Games, Parapan American Games, World University Games, Youth Olympics, Olympic Games, or Paralympic Games competition, camp or other fencing activity.

---

Signature

Date

## 14.3 Other Codes of Conduct

### 14.3.1 Member Code of Conduct

As a member of USA Fencing, I am committed to fair competition and respect for other members, including athletes, coaches, referees, volunteers, tournament officials, spectators and fans. I understand that sportsmanship is a key tenant of competition and will exhibit the qualities of sportsmanship at all times.

I will:

- Act in a sportsmanlike manner consistent with the spirit of fair play and responsible conduct;
- Abide by all applicable USA Fencing rules and regulations, including USA Fencing's SafeSport Policy, Athlete Handbook and Rulebook.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all opponents, coaches, referees, officials, administrators, parents, fencers and spectators regardless of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation.
- Never physically contact a referee in an aggressive or confrontational manner.
- Support clean competition, including an environment free of doping, and will follow all applicable rules related to anti-doping as established by the United States Anti-Doping Agency, the World Anti-Doping Agency and the Federation International d'Esgrime.
- Respect my competitors and other members of the fencing community in person or via electronic or phone communication or social media. Accordingly, I will not bully, harass or otherwise be disrespectful or disparaging to others.
- Remember that at all times I am an ambassador for the sport of fencing, whether in or out of competition.

Failure to comply with the USA Fencing Member Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action. I have read the USA Fencing Coach Code of Conduct. I understand its requirements and agree to abide by the letter and spirit of the Code.

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Signature

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Date

### 14.3.2 Coach Code of Conduct

As a coach in the sport of fencing, it is my duty to serve as a role model for the athletes I work with as well as all members of the fencing community. I accept the responsibility that comes with being in a position of authority and will do my best to help create a positive atmosphere for all involved in the sport.

I will:

- Abide by all applicable USA Fencing rules and regulations, including USA Fencing's SafeSport Policy, Athlete Handbook and Rulebook.
- Conduct myself in a dignified, professional manner relating to emotions, language, attitude and actions.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all opponents, other coaches, referees, officials, administrators, parents, fencers and spectators regardless of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation.
- Not have any unwarranted physical contact with athletes.

- Address conflicts in a respectful manner and refrain from using profane, abusive, or derogatory language.
- Support clean competition, including an environment free of doping, and encourage fair play at all time.
- Understand my influence as a coach to be an educator and role model, imparting fencing knowledge as well as proper personal, academic, and social behaviors including sportsmanship.
- Be open to the latest coaching practices that take into account the principles of growth and development of fencers including maintaining knowledge of current rules and standards in fencing.
- Ensure that the emotional and physical well-being of my students and all participants in the sport with whom I engage is the highest priority and placed ahead of a personal desire to win or my personal gain.  
Failure to comply with the USA Fencing Coach Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action. I have read the USA Fencing Coach Code of Conduct. I understand its requirements and agree to abide by the letter and spirit of the Code.

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Signature

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Date

### **14.3.3 USA Fencing Spectator Code of Conduct**

As a spectator and supporter of the sport of fencing, I understand that it is my role to help create a positive and supportive environment for everyone involved in a tournament – both on and off the strip. I will:

- Display good sportsmanship by respecting athletes, coaches, referees, officials and other spectators.
- Act appropriately and remain orderly so I do not disturb the smooth running of the competition. I will remember to enjoy the competition – regardless of the outcome – and will not taunt or disturb other spectators.
- Abide by all applicable USA Fencing rules and regulations, including USA Fencing’s SafeSport Policy, Athlete Handbook and Rulebook.
- Support the referees and coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity. I understand that continually vocalizing criticism so that it detrimentally affects the good order of the competition is a violation of fencing rules.
- Never physically contact a referee in an aggressive or confrontational manner.
- Be a role model by positively supporting athletes and not shouting instructions or criticism to the athletes, coaches or officials.
- Help provide a safe and fun environment for all participants.

- Encourage all competitors in a positive manner, remembering that the use of profanity and objectionable gestures are offensive and are prohibited.
- Be supportive after the competition – win or lose. I will recognize good efforts and sportsmanship.

I acknowledge that failure to comply with the USA Fencing Spectator Code of Conduct may result in removal from the venue or other disciplinary action. I understand its requirements and agree to abide by the letter and spirit of the Code.

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Signature

Date

#### **14.3.4 USA Fencing Code of Conduct for Parties in Disciplinary Proceedings**

USA Fencing has been made aware that you are involved in an Ethics, SafeSport or other disciplinary complaint that has been submitted either to the US Center for Safe Sport (“Center”) or to a USA Fencing Disciplinary Panel (“Panel”) and that is currently under investigation. While the case is pending, and after it is resolved, the complaining and defending parties named in the complaint should adhere to the following standards of conduct. These do not assume the truth or falsity, validity or invalidity, of any fact, claim or defense alleged or asserted by any party. They are *minimum* standards for preventing disruption in our sport.

1. All parties shall at all times behave in a civil and respectful manner toward each other and toward all others involved in the proceeding.
2. Except as permitted by the relevant disciplinary authority (e.g., to prepare for or conduct the hearing of a claim or defense), no party shall communicate directly with an adverse party by any means concerning the subject matter of the proceeding. Nor shall any party cause another person to do so.
3. No party shall retaliate against or harass or intimidate another party, or cause another person to do so, for making or raising any allegation, claim or defense in the proceeding.
4. No party shall retaliate against or harass or intimidate any witness, or otherwise attempt to improperly influence another person’s testimony or cooperation in the proceeding.
5. During the pendency of the proceeding and any appeal therefrom, each party shall minimize communications and physical interactions with each adverse party, and limit them as much as reasonably possible to those necessary and appropriate to the parties’ respective activities involving or relating to the sport of fencing.
6. Adversity in a disciplinary proceeding creates a conflict of interest between opposing parties, pursuant to which, absent a mutual waiver by all parties or a contrary ruling from the Panel, a party must be disqualified from any position or activity in which he or she would have oversight or authority over his or her adversary. Such a conflict does not extend to students, teammates or club-mates of the adversary, absent sufficient evidence to the contrary.
7. The parties, may, in a writing signed by all of them, (i) waive such a conflict, in which event there shall be no disqualifications, or (ii) agree to the nature, scope and duration of disqualification.

8. Any of the parties to such a waiver or agreement may revoke it in writing, in which event it shall be of no further force or effect.
9. If there is no such waiver or agreement, or if it is revoked, then the Panel shall hear and determine any disputes concerning the nature, scope and duration of disqualification arising from a conflict described in this Paragraph 6, both as a preliminary matter and as part of its final report and recommendations. If the proceeding is before the Center, then a hearing officer appointed by the Executive Director shall hear and determine any such dispute as a preliminary matter, pending the Center's final determination and any appeal therefrom.
10. If any of these standards of conduct are violated, then the violating party may be sanctioned by USA Fencing. If a party believes, based upon good cause, that the standards are insufficient to protect against harassment, abuse, intimidation, retaliation or emotional or physical distress, then the party may request other appropriate restrictions from the relevant Panel, from the Center if the proceeding is before it.

## 14.4 IOC Stockholm Consensus

### Statement of the Stockholm Consensus on Sex Reassignment in Sports

On 28 October 2003, an ad-hoc committee convened by the IOC Medical Commission met in Stockholm to discuss and issue recommendations on the participation of individuals who have undergone sex reassignment (male to female and converse) in sport.

This group was composed of:

Prof. Arne Ljungqvist (SWE)  
Prof. Odile Cohen-Haguenaer (FRA)  
Prof. Myron Genel (USA)  
Prof. Joe Leigh Simpson (USA)  
Prof. Martin Ritzen (SWE)  
Prof. Marc Fellous (FRA)  
Dr. Patrick Schamasch (FRA)

The group confirms the previous recommendation that any "individuals undergoing sex reassignment of male to female before puberty should be regarded as girls and women (female)." This applies as well for female to male reassignment, who should be regarded as boys and men (male).

The group recommended that individuals undergoing sex reassignment from male to female after puberty (and the converse) be eligible for participation in female or male competitions, respectively, under the following conditions:

- Surgical anatomical changes have been completed, including external genitalia changes and gonadectomy
- Legal recognition of their assigned sex has been conferred by the appropriate official authorities
- Hormonal therapy appropriate for the assigned sex has been administered in a verifiable manner and for a sufficient length of time to minimize gender-related advantages in sport competitions.

In the opinion of the group, eligibility should begin no sooner than two years after gonadectomy.

It is understood that a confidential case-by-case evaluation will occur.

In the event that the gender of a competing athlete is questioned, the medical delegate (or equivalent) of the relevant sporting body shall have the authority to take all appropriate measures for the determination of the gender of a competitor.

Sch 12.11.03



Updated information from the IOC as of November 2015:

### **1. Transgender guidelines**

- A. Since the 2003 Stockholm Consensus on Sex Reassignment in Sports, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of autonomy of gender identity in society, as reflected in the laws of many jurisdictions worldwide.
- B. There are also, however, jurisdictions where autonomy of gender identity is not recognised in law at all.
- C. It is necessary to ensure insofar as possible that trans athletes are not excluded from the opportunity to participate in sporting competition.
- D. The overriding sporting objective is and remains the guarantee of fair competition. Restrictions on participation are appropriate to the extent that they are necessary and proportionate to the achievement of that objective.
- E. To require surgical anatomical changes as a pre-condition to participation is not necessary to preserve fair competition and may be inconsistent with developing legislation and notions of human rights.
- F. Nothing in these guidelines is intended to undermine in any way the requirement to comply with the World Anti-Doping Code and the WADA International Standards.
- G. These guidelines are a living document and will be subject to review in light of any scientific or medical developments.

In this spirit, the IOC Consensus Meeting agreed the following guidelines to be taken into account by sports organisations when determining eligibility to compete in male and female competition:

1. Those who transition from female to male are eligible to compete in the male category without restriction.
2. Those who transition from male to female are eligible to compete in the female category under the following conditions:
  - 2.1. The athlete has declared that her gender identity is female. The declaration cannot be changed, for sporting purposes, for a minimum of four years.
  - 2.2. The athlete must demonstrate that her total testosterone level in serum has been below 10 nmol/L for at least 12 months prior to her first competition (with the requirement for any longer period to be based on a confidential case-by-case evaluation, considering whether or not 12 months is a sufficient length of time to minimize any advantage in women's competition).
  - 2.3. The athlete's total testosterone level in serum must remain below 10 nmol/L throughout the period of desired eligibility to compete in the female category.
  - 2.4. Compliance with these conditions may be monitored by testing. In the event of non-compliance, the athlete's eligibility for female competition will be suspended for 12 months.

### **2. Hyperandrogenism in female athletes**

In response to the interim award dated 24 July 2015 in Chand v AFI and IAAF CAS 2014/A/3759, the IOC Consensus Meeting recommended:

- Rules should be in place for the protection of women in sport and the promotion of the principles of fair competition.
- The IAAF, with support from other International Federations, National Olympic Committees and other sports organisations, is encouraged to revert to CAS with arguments and evidence to support the reinstatement of its hyperandrogenism rules.

To avoid discrimination, if not eligible for female competition the athlete should be eligible to compete in male competition.

## Chapter 15 - USA Fencing Safe Sport Policy

The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement is committed to creating and maintaining a sport community where all persons who participate in sport programs and activities can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of misconduct. As a member National Governing Body of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (“USOPC”), and pursuant to federal law, USA Fencing is required to adhere to the rules and regulations of the USOPC and of the U.S. Center for Safe Sport (the “Center”), which has promulgated its “SafeSport Code for the US Olympic and Paralympic Movement” (the “Code”). Pursuant to USA Fencing’s Bylaws as amended effective July 31, 2017, the Code superseded and replaced the USA Fencing SafeSport Policy, which has been amended and restated as set forth herein (the “Policy”).

The six primary types of misconduct remain as follows:

- Sexual Misconduct, including Child Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Misconduct
- Physical Misconduct
- Bullying
- Harassment
- Hazing

The Center now has the *exclusive* authority to investigate and resolve reports of (a) Sexual Misconduct, and (b) prohibited conduct that is reasonably related to the underlying allegation of Sexual Misconduct. Exclusive authority means (a) the Center will investigate such reports and manage any related hearing or arbitration; and (b) USA Fencing will not conduct its own investigation or disciplinary proceeding with respect to such reports, except as otherwise provided.

On written request of USA Fencing, the Center may, in its discretion, accept authority over one or more reports of *any* kind of conduct prohibited under the *Code*, in which event the Center’s jurisdiction over such alleged violations shall be exclusive.

USA Fencing retains jurisdiction over alleged misconduct that is not within the Center’s exclusive jurisdiction.

Reports of Sexual Misconduct may be made directly to the Center. They may also be made to USA Fencing, which will forward them to the Center for investigation and appropriate action, and will also report them to law enforcement as necessary or appropriate. Other kinds of alleged or suspected misconduct should be reported to USA Fencing as provided herein.

Individuals within the jurisdiction of USA Fencing are responsible for knowing the information, policies and procedures outlined in this Policy and the *Code*, both of which may be amended from time to time. Once posted online, changes are effective immediately unless otherwise noted.

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Application**

This Policy and the Code apply to all Covered Individuals, as defined below, all of whom submit to the jurisdiction, policies and procedures of the Center, and of USA Fencing, as the case may be.

#### **B. Online, email, cellular or other electronic media or digital conduct**

This Policy may be applied to behavior conducted online or distributed electronically using email, text messages or any other electronic medium. This includes without limitation blogs, web postings, chats and social networking sites.

#### **C. Age and competitive level irrelevant**

Except as specifically noted, this Policy applies without respect to age or competitive level.

#### **D. Other remedies**

**1.** This Policy does not replace:

- a. the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act;
- b. the employment practices of any relevant organization; or
- c. applicable federal or state law.

This Policy does not extend or restrict a person's right to file charges or claims with any other agency, law enforcement, court or arbitral body. Individuals are encouraged to ensure their rights have not expired through these other avenues.

**II. DEFINITIONS** (*refer to the USA Fencing SafeSport Policy for all definitions and additional details*)

**Misconduct**

Conduct which results in harm, the potential for harm or the imminent threat of harm. Age is irrelevant to misconduct. There are six primary types of misconduct in sport: emotional, physical and sexual misconduct, bullying, harassment and hazing.

**Child, children, minor and youth**

Anyone under the age of 18. Here "child", "children", "minor" and "youth" are used interchangeably.

**Covered Individual**

Any individual who: (a) currently is, or was at the time of a possible violation of this Policy, within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USA Fencing or who is seeking to be within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USA Fencing (e.g., through application for membership), (b) is an Athlete or Nonathlete Participant that USA Fencing or the USOPC formally authorizes, approves or appoints to a position of authority over Athletes or to have frequent contact with Athletes or (c) USA Fencing identifies as being within the Center's jurisdiction. Without limiting the generality of this definition, "Covered Individuals" include, at a minimum:

- (1) USA Fencing employees;
- (2) USA Fencing members
- (3) Athletes USA Fencing designates for the USADA required testing pool (RTP);
- (4) Volunteers;
- (5) Contractors;
- (6) Medical staff/trainers;
- (7) Additional individuals USA Fencing identifies as being within its or the Center's jurisdiction.

Nothing contained in this policy is intended to supersede, replace, or otherwise abrogate the USA Fencing Bylaws, Athlete Handbook or Operations Manual, or the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act.

**III. SAFE SPORT POLICY**

**PROHIBITED CONDUCT**

Constituents shall refrain from all forms of misconduct, which include:

- Sexual misconduct and abuse
- Emotional misconduct
- Physical misconduct
- Bullying
- Harassment
- Hazing

## REQUIRED PREVENTION POLICIES

The U.S. Olympic Committee and national governing bodies (collectively, “Covered Organizations”), including USA Fencing, are required to follow the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies that have been developed by the Center. USA Fencing is responsible for implementing and monitoring compliance with these policies.

- A. One-on-One Interactions, including meetings and individual training sessions: Covered Organizations are required to establish reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one interactions, as set forth in federal law.
- B. Medical Treatment
- C. Locker rooms and changing areas
- D. Social media and electronic communications
- E. Local travel
- F. Team travel.

These policies shall apply to:

- 1) Adult (age 18 or older) USA Fencing members at any facility that is either partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USA Fencing or any of its divisions or member clubs;
  - 2) Adult USA Fencing members who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors;
  - 3) Adults authorized by USA Fencing or any of its divisions or member clubs to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor; and
  - 4) Adult staff and board members of USA Fencing.
- (“Applicable Adults”)

The Safe Sport Policy Manual, in full, is located on the USA Fencing Website ([www.usafencing.org/safe-sport](http://www.usafencing.org/safe-sport)). Please reference that document for the most recent language and all related documents (Safe Sport Abuse Report Form).

## Appendices

### Domestic Point Table

PLACE	NATIONAL COMPETITION						PLACE
	Y10	Y12	Y14	Cadet DE	Junior DE	Division I	
1	100	150	200	400	600	<b>1000</b>	1
2	92	138	184	368	552	<b>920</b>	2
3	85	127.5	170	340	510	<b>850</b>	3
3	85	127.5	170	340	510	<b>850</b>	3
5	70	105	140	280	420	<b>700</b>	5
6	69.5	104.25	139	278	417	<b>695</b>	6
7	69	103.5	138	276	414	<b>690</b>	7
8	68.5	102.75	137	274	411	<b>685</b>	8
9	53.5	80.25	107	214	321	<b>535</b>	9
10	53	79.5	106	212	318	<b>530</b>	10
11	52.5	78.75	105	210	315	<b>525</b>	11
12	52	78	104	208	312	<b>520</b>	12
13	51.5	77.25	103	206	309	<b>515</b>	13
14	51	76.5	102	204	306	<b>510</b>	14
15	50.5	75.75	101	202	303	<b>505</b>	15
16	50	75	100	200	300	<b>500</b>	16
17	35	52.5	70	140	210	<b>350</b>	17
18	34.5	51.75	69	138	207	<b>345</b>	18
19	34	51	68	136	204	<b>340</b>	19
20	33.5	50.25	67	134	201	<b>335</b>	20
21	33	49.5	66	132	198	<b>330</b>	21
22	32.5	48.75	65	130	195	<b>325</b>	22
23	32	48	64	128	192	<b>320</b>	23
24	31.5	47.25	63	126	189	<b>315</b>	24
25	31	46.5	62	124	186	<b>310</b>	25
26	30.5	45.75	61	122	183	<b>305</b>	26
27	30	45	60	120	180	<b>300</b>	27
28	29.5	44.25	59	118	177	<b>295</b>	28
29	29	43.5	58	116	174	<b>290</b>	29
30	28.5	42.75	57	114	171	<b>285</b>	30
31	28	42	56	112	168	<b>280</b>	31
32	27.5	41.25	55	110	165	<b>275</b>	32

Domestic Point Table for Placements of 33-64 when field = 160 or more fencers

<b>NATIONAL COMPETITION</b>							
<b>(Continued)</b>							
<b>PLACE</b>	<b>Y10</b>	<b>Y12</b>	<b>Y14</b>	<b>Cadet</b>	<b>Junior</b>	<b>Division I</b>	<b>PLACE</b>
<b>33</b>	12.5	18.75	25	50	70	<b>100</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>34</b>	12.25	18.375	24.5	49	69	<b>99</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>35</b>	12	18	24	48	68	<b>98</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>36</b>	11.75	17.625	23.5	47	67	<b>97</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>37</b>	11.5	17.25	23	46	66	<b>96</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>38</b>	11.25	16.875	22.5	45	65	<b>95</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>39</b>	11	16.5	22	44	64	<b>94</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>40</b>	10.75	16.125	21.5	43	63	<b>93</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>41</b>	10.5	15.75	21	42	62	<b>92</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>42</b>	10.25	15.375	20.5	41	61	<b>91</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>43</b>	10	15	20	40	60	<b>90</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>44</b>	9.75	14.625	19.5	39	59	<b>89</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>45</b>	9.5	14.25	19	38	58	<b>88</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>46</b>	9.25	13.875	18.5	37	57	<b>87</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>47</b>	9	13.5	18	36	56	<b>86</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>48</b>	8.75	13.125	17.5	35	55	<b>85</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>49</b>	8.5	12.75	17	34	54	<b>84</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>50</b>	8.25	12.375	16.5	33	53	<b>83</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>51</b>	8	12	16	32	52	<b>82</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>52</b>	7.75	11.625	15.5	31	51	<b>81</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>53</b>	7.5	11.25	15	30	50	<b>80</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>54</b>	7.25	10.875	14.5	29	49	<b>79</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>55</b>	7	10.5	14	28	48	<b>78</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>56</b>	6.75	10.125	13.5	27	47	<b>77</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>57</b>	6.5	9.75	13	26	46	<b>76</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>58</b>	6.25	9.375	12.5	25	45	<b>75</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>59</b>	6	9	12	24	44	<b>74</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>60</b>	5.75	8.625	11.5	23	43	<b>73</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>61</b>	5.5	8.25	11	22	42	<b>72</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>62</b>	5.25	7.875	10.5	21	41	<b>71</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>63</b>	5	7.5	10	20	40	<b>70</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>64</b>	4.75	7.125	9.5	19	39	<b>69</b>	<b>64</b>

**Veteran Point Table**

PLACE	VETERAN COMBINED	PLACE	VETERAN COMBINED
1	600	33	100
2	552	34	99
3	510	35	98
3	510	36	97
5	420	37	96
6	417	38	95
7	414	39	94
8	411	40	93
9	321	41	92
10	318	42	91
11	315	43	90
12	312	44	89
13	309	45	88
14	306	46	87
15	303	47	86
16	300	48	85
17	210	49	84
18	207	50	83
19	204	51	82
20	201	52	81
21	198	53	80
22	195	54	79
23	192	55	78
24	189	56	77
25	786	57	76
26	183	58	75
27	180	59	74
28	177	60	73
29	174	61	72
30	171	62	71
31	168	63	70
32	165	64	69

PLACE	VETERAN AGE GROUP	PLACE	VETERAN AGE GROUP
1	400	33	70
2	368	34	69
3	340	35	68
3	340	36	67
5	280	37	66
6	278	38	65
7	276	39	64
8	274	40	63
9	214	41	62
10	212	42	61
11	210	43	60
12	208	44	59
13	206	45	58
14	204	46	57
15	202	47	56
16	200	48	55
17	140	49	54
18	138	50	53
19	136	51	52
20	134	52	51
21	132	53	50
22	130	54	49
23	128	55	48
24	126	56	47
25	124	57	46
26	122	58	45
27	120	59	44
28	118	60	43
29	116	61	42
30	114	62	41
31	112	63	40
32	110	64	39

**WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS BONUS POINTS FOR ROLILNG STANDINGS ONLY**

1	1000	5	700
2	920	6	695
3	850	7	690
3	850	8	685

**International Point Tables – Senior, Junior, Cadet**

Refer to **Chapter 3, Chapters 5-10** for application.

PLACE	SENIOR WORLD CUP, GRAND PRIX, WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS & OLYMPIC GAMES	
	SR SF = 1.0	SR SF = 2.0
1	1200	2400
2	1104	2208
3	1020	2040
3	1020	2040
5	840	1680
6	834	1668
7	828	1656
8	822	1644
9	642	1284
10	636	1272
11	630	1260
12	624	1248
13	618	1236
14	612	1224
15	606	1212
16	600	1200
17	420	840
18	414	828
19	408	816
20	402	804
21	396	792
22	390	780
23	384	768
24	378	756
25	350	700
26	346	692
27	342	684
28	338	676
29	334	668
30	330	660
31	326	652
32	322	644

PLACE	SENIOR WORLD CUP, GRAND PRIX, WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS & OLYMPIC GAMES	
	SR SF = 1.0	SR SF = 2.0
33	142	284
34	141.5	283
35	141	282
36	140.5	281
37	140	280
38	139.5	279
39	139.	278
40	138.5	277
41	138	276
42	137.5	275
43	137	274
44	136.5	273
45	136	272
46	135.5	271
47	135	270
48	134.5	269
49	134	268
50	133.5	267
51	133	266
52	132.5	265
53	132	264
54	131.5	263
55	131	262
56	130.5	261
57	130	260
58	129.5	259
59	129	258
60	128.5	257
61	128	256
62	127.5	255
63	127	254
64	126.5	253

Determine points by multiplying actual strength factor (maximum value 2.0)



PLACE	CADET INTERNATIONAL EVENT	CADET WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
	WV/SF = 1.0	WV/SF = 1.0
1	700	800
2	644	736
3	595	680
3	595	680
5	490	560
6	487	556
7	483	552
8	480	548
9	375	428
10	371	424
11	368	420
12	364	416
13	361	412
14	357	408
15	354	404
16	350	400
17	245	280
18	242	276
19	238	272
20	235	268
21	231	264
22	228	260
23	224	256
24	221	252
25	217	248
26	214	244
27	210	240
28	207	236
29	203	232
30	200	228
31	196	224
32	193	220

PLACE	JUNIOR WORLD CUP & WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP	
	WV/SF = 1.0	WV.SF* = 2.0
1	600	1200
2	552	1104
3	510	1020
3	510	1020
5	420	840
6	417	834
7	414	828
8	411	822
9	321	642
10	318	636
11	315	630
12	312	624
13	309	618
14	306	612
15	303	606
16	300	600
17	210	420
18	207	414
19	204	408
20	201	402
21	198	396
22	195	390
23	192	384
24	189	378
25	186	372
26	183	366
27	180	360
28	177	354
29	174	348
30	171	342
31	168	336
32	165	330

\*Junior – Determine points by multiplying actual strength factor (maximum value 2.0)

## Regional Point Table (SYC and ROC)

PLACE	SUPER YOUTH			SJCC		PLACE	ROC				PLACE
	Youth 10	Youth 12	Youth 14	Cadet	Junior		Div IA	Div II	Div III	VET	
1	80	120	160	80	120	1	1000	500	500	1000	1
2	73.6	110.4	147.2	73.6	110.4	2	920	460	460	920	2
3	68	102	136	68	102	3	850	425	425	850	3
3	68	102	136	68	102	3	850	425	425	850	3
5	56	84	112	56	84	5	700	350	350	700	5
6	55.6	83.4	111.2	55.6	83.4	6	695	347.5	347.5	695	6
7	55.2	82.8	110.4	55.2	82.8	7	690	345	345	690	7
8	54.8	82.2	109.6	54.8	82.2	8	685	342.5	342.5	685	8
9	42.8	64.2	85.6	42.8	64.2	9	535	267.5	267.5	535	9
10	42.4	63.6	84.8	42.4	63.6	10	530	265	265	530	10
11	42	63	84	42	63	11	525	262.5	262.5	525	11
12	41.6	62.4	83.2	41.6	62.4	12	520	260	260	520	12
13	41.2	61.8	82.4	41.2	61.8	13	515	257.5	257.5	515	13
14	40.8	61.2	81.6	40.8	61.2	14	510	255	255	510	14
15	40.4	60.6	80.8	40.4	60.6	15	505	252.5	252.5	505	15
16	40	60	80	40	60	16	500	250	250	500	16
17	28	42	56	28	42	17	350	175	175	350	17
18	27.6	41.4	55.2	27.6	41.4	18	345	172.5	172.5	345	18
19	27.2	40.8	54.4	27.2	40.8	19	340	170	170	340	19
20	26.8	40.2	53.6	26.8	40.2	20	335	167.5	167.5	335	20
21	26.4	39.6	52.8	26.4	39.6	21	330	165	165	330	21
22	26	39	52	26	39	22	325	162.5	162.5	325	22
23	25.6	38.4	51.2	25.6	38.4	23	320	160	160	320	23
24	25.2	37.8	50.4	25.2	37.8	24	315	157.5	157.5	315	24
25	24.8	37.2	49.6	24.8	37.2	25	310	155	155	310	25
26	24.4	36.6	48.8	24.4	36.6	26	305	152.5	152.5	305	26
27	24	36	48	24	36	27	300	150	150	300	27
28	23.6	35.4	47.2	23.6	35.4	28	295	147.5	147.5	295	28
29	23.2	34.8	46.4	23.2	34.8	29	290	145	145	290	29
30	22.8	34.2	45.6	22.8	34.2	30	285	142.5	142.5	285	30
31	22.4	33.6	44.8	22.4	33.6	31	280	140	140	280	31
32	22	33	44	22	33	32	275	137.5	137.5	275	32

## Regional Point Table for Placements of 33-64

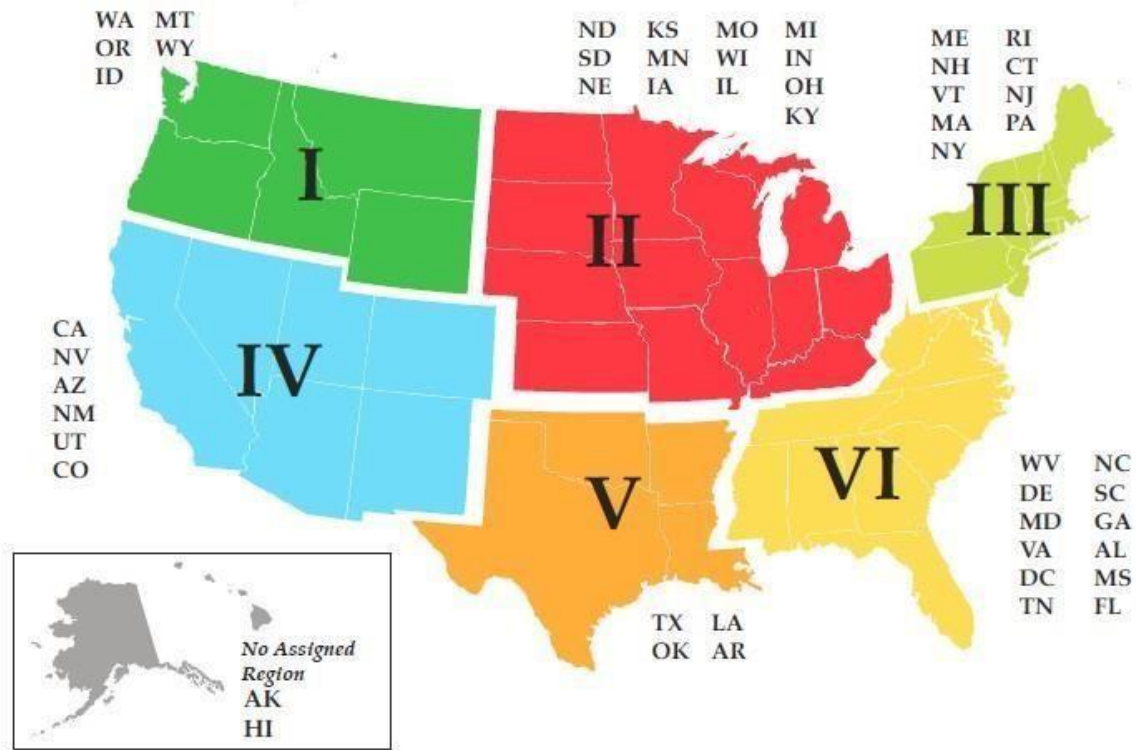
SYC			SJCC		ROC						
PLACE	Youth 10	Youth 12	Youth 14	Cadet	Junior	PLACE	Div IA	Div II	Div III	VET	PLACE
33	10	15	20	10	14	33	270	135	135	270	33
34	9.8	14.70	19.6	9.8	13.8	34	265	132.5	132.5	265	34
35	9.6	14.4	19.2	9.6	13.6	35	260	130	130	260	35
36	9.4	14.10	18.8	9.4	13.4	36	255	127.5	127.5	255	36
37	9.2	13.8	18.4	9.2	13.2	37	250	125	125	250	37
38	9	13.50	18	9	13	38	245	122.5	122.5	245	38
39	8.8	13.2	17.6	8.8	12.8	39	240	120	120	240	39
40	8.6	12.90	17.2	8.6	12.6	40	235	117.5	117.5	235	40
41	8.4	12.6	16.8	8.4	12.4	41	230	115	115	230	41
42	8.2	12.30	16.4	8.2	12.2	42	225	112.5	112.5	225	42
43	8	12	16	8	12	43	220	110	110	220	43
44	7.8	11.70	15.6	7.8	11.8	44	215	107.5	107.5	215	44
45	7.6	11.4	15.2	7.6	11.6	45	210	105	105	210	45
46	7.4	11.10	14.8	7.4	11.4	46	205	102.5	102.5	205	46
47	7.2	10.8	14.4	7.2	11.2	47	200	100	100	200	47
48	7	11.60	15.6	7	11	48	195	97.5	97.5	195	48
49	6.8	10.2	13.6	6.8	10.8	49	190	95	95	190	49
50	6.6	9.90	13.2	6.6	10.6	50	185	92.5	92.5	185	50
51	6.4	9.6	12.8	6.4	10.4	51	180	90	90	180	51
52	6.2	9.30	12.4	6.2	10.2	52	175	87.5	87.5	175	52
53	6	9	12	6	10	53	170	85	85	170	53

54	5.8	8.70	11.6	5.8	9.8	54	165	82.5	165	54
55	5.6	8.4	11.2	5.6	9.6	55	160	80	160	55
56	5.4	8.10	10.8	5.4	9.4	56	155	77.5	155	56
57	5.2	7.8	10.4	5.2	9.2	57	150	75	150	57
58	5	7.50	10	5	9	58	145	72.5	145	58
59	4.8	7.2	9.6	4.8	8.8	59	140	70	140	59
60	4.6	6.90	9.2	4.6	8.6	60	135	67.5	135	60
61	4.4	6.6	8.8	4.4	8.4	61	130	65	130	61
62	4.2	6.30	8.4	4.2	8.2	62	125	62.5	125	62
63	4	6	8	4	8	63	120	60	120	63
64	3.8	5.70	7.6	3.8	7.8	64	115	57.5	115	64

Per USA Fencing, SYC National Points needs to be calculated at a 0.8 scale of the Youth NAC/Championship Table.  
Per USA Fencing, SJCC National Points needs to be calculated at a 0.2 scale of the Cadet and Junior NAC Table

## Regional Map

# REGION MAP



Regional boundaries will be reassessed each quadrennial in order to respond to the growth and shifts of the fencing membership throughout the country.

<b>EVENT RATING</b>	<b>MINIMUM NBR COMPETITORS</b>	<b>RATED FENCERS REQUIRED</b>	<b>RATED FENCERS MUST FINISH</b>	<b>CLASSIFICATIONS AWARDED</b>
<b>GROUP E1</b>	6	NONE	N/A	1 → E
<b>GROUP D1</b> Changed per BOD 7/09	15	4 E's (or higher)	2 E's (or higher) In top 8	1 → D 2-4 → E
<b>GROUP C1</b>	15	2 C's & 2 D's & 2 E's (or higher)	2 C's & 2 D's (or higher) In top 8	1 → C 2-4 → D 5-8 → E
<b>GROUP C2</b>	25	4 D's & 4 E's (or higher)	4 D's (or higher) In top 8	1 → C 2-4 → D 5-8 → E
<b>GROUP C3</b>	64	24 D's & 12 E's (or higher)	4 D's in top 8 & 4 E's (or higher) In top 12	1-4 → C 5-8 → D 9-16 → E
<b>GROUP B1</b>	15	2 B's & 2 C's & 2 D's (or higher)	2 B's & 2 C's (or higher) In top 8	1 → B 2-4 → C 5-6 → D 7-8 → E
<b>GROUP B2</b>	25	2 B's & 2 C's & 2 D's (or higher)	2 B's & 2 C's (or higher) In top 8	1 → B 2-4 → C 5-8 → D 9-12 → E
<b>GROUP B3</b>	64	24 C's & 12 D's (or higher)	4 C's In top 8 & 4 D's (or higher) In top 12	1-4 → B 5-8 → C 9-16 → D 17-32 → E
<b>GROUP A1</b> Changed per BOD 7/07	15	2 A's & 2 B's & 2 C's (or higher)	2 A's & 2 B's (or higher) In top 8	1 → A 2 → B 3-4 → C 5-6 → D 7-8 → E
<b>GROUP A2</b>	25	2 A's & 2 B's & 2 C's (or higher)	2 A's & 2 B's (or higher) In top 8	1 → A 2-4 → B 5-8 → C 9-10 → D 11-12 → E
<b>GROUP A3</b>	64	24 B's & 12 C's (or higher)	4 B's in top 8 & 4 C's (or higher) In top 12	1-4 → A 5-8 → B 9-16 → C 17-24 → D 25-32 → E
<b>GROUP A4</b>	64	12 A's & 12 B's & 12 C's (or higher)	4 A's In top 8 & 4 B's (or higher) In top 12	1-8 → A 9-16 → B 17-24 → C 25-32 → D 33-48 → E

Local tournaments must use at least one rated referee in order to issue classifications.  
Division I NAC and National Championships are always Group A4 events.  
Division IA NAC & National Championships are always at least Group A3 events.

Division II NAC and National Championships are always at least Group B3 events. Division III NAC and National Championships are always at least Group C3 events. Changes in classifications are allowed at USA Fencing sanctioned individual events that are restricted to Veterans and to Junior fencers. Division and Regional Youth Competitions must meet or exceed criteria for C1 to award changes in classification (BOD, July 02, July 03). USA Fencing does permit classification changes at mixed events without regard to gender of fencers. Recognized high school events may issue classification changes based on this chart and are not required to meet the C1 tournament rating. Per the Board of Directors, March 2012, classifications are no longer awarded in team championship events.

## **Black Card, Medical Withdrawal, or No-Show (updated black card information on page 149)**

### *Black Card*

If fencer receives a black card at any point during a tournament, the fencer appears in results as “Place fencer excluded” or “EXC-fencer name”; black carded fencer(s) classifications should be used for competitive field total to determine classification, but the blacked carded fencer(s) cannot earn classification or qualification based on their excluded place.

### *Medical Withdrawal*

If the fencer needs to medically withdraw due to injury or illness it must be certified by a certified medical professional or athletic trainer, if available, otherwise by the Bout Committee.

If medical withdrawal occurs during pool round (fencer does not complete pool), then fencer has no results to report and cannot be used towards competitive field total to determine classification or qualification to championships.

If medical withdrawal occurs after completion of the pool or during DE period – fencer keeps place in table to determine results AND may be used towards competitive field total to determine classification AND/OR qualification to championships. Medical withdrawal should be indicated in results submitted to National Office.

### *No-Show*

If the fencer fails to appear on the strip, it is treated as an elimination.

### [USA Fencing Rule t.105](#)

1. A competitor who, while fencing, commits certain violent or vindictive actions against his opponent, or who does not fence to his utmost ability, or who profits from a fraudulent agreement with his opponent, may be excluded from the competition.
2. A competitor who is excluded from a competition may not continue to take part in that competition, even if he is already qualified for promotion to the next round. He loses the right to his individual classification and the place that he occupied remains unfilled; but the points obtained by the fencer up to the moment of his expulsion remain valid for the classification of the team in the team event, providing that he actually takes part in that team event.

## **Scoresheet Protests**

In the event a scoresheet is protested to the bout committee during the course of a pool, or during the regular review period prior to the direct elimination round, the following policy will be followed:

- If both fencers agree, the scoresheet will be changed
- If both fencers do not agree:
  - The referee of the bout will be paged. If both fencers of the bout are not present, the absent fencer will be paged up to two times.
  - The bout by bout listing at the bottom of the scoresheet, if filled out, will be consulted. If the score recorded in the bout by bout listing confirms the score change requested, it will be changed.
  - If the bout by bout listing is not complete, the referee and bout committee representative will confer with the fencers.

If agreement cannot be reached, the recorded score stands. Referees may not change a scoresheet without both fencers present during a pool or any time prior to turning in the scoresheet to the bout committee. Fencer or spectator submitted video or photos are not valid score documents and will not be used by the bout committee. The standard review period will not be extended during the deliberation of the scoresheet correction. If consensus cannot be achieved prior to the end of the standard review period, the score recorded stands and no further protests will be considered.

## Approved Local Tournament Formats

As recommended by the tournament task force and approved by the BOD (June 12, 2013):

### Tournament formats approved for awarding classifications:

1. Pool(s) to Pool(s) to Pool(s)
2. Pool(s) to standard DE
3. Pool(s) to DE with Repêchage
4. Pool(s) to DE with all places fenced
5. Round Robin (one large pool of at least 12 fencers)
6. NCAA Championship Format – Round Robin with super DE (top 4/8)
7. “Sharks and Minnows”
8. Super Pools/Canadian Elite (Pools to DE to Pool(s) to DE)

### Tournament formats with provisional approval: 1. Pool(s) to DE with loser’s bracket to earn third (Wrestle backs).

Note: This format was approved in a Board of Directors meeting with rationale that would have put it in the provisional category if it existed at the time. We recommend it be listed as Provisional and go through further evaluation before being listed as a standard format.

### Tournament formats specifically excluded from awarding classifications:

1. One touch tournaments
2. Tournaments that go straight to DE
3. Local and Regional tournaments that exempt a given number of fencers at the start.

### Rules for all US Fencing tournaments that award classifications:

1. All pool bouts must be 5 touches and 3 minutes ([Rule o.17](#)).
2. All direct elimination bouts must be 15 touches and three-3 minute periods, or 10 touches and two 3-minute periods for Veterans and Youth 10, with one-minute rests between periods. In sabre direct elimination bouts, except Veterans and Youth 10, the one-minute rest occurs when one fencer’s score reaches 8 or 3 minutes have expired in the first period, whichever occurs first. For Veteran and Youth 10 events, the one-minute rest occurs when one fencer’s score reaches 5 touches ([Rule o.23-24](#)).



3. There must be at least 50 percent promotion of fencers between rounds, except when using NCAA Championship format.

#### **Tournament formats for all US Fencing National Qualifiers:**

Division qualifiers, Regional Youth Circuit (RYC), Regional Open Circuit (ROC) and Super Youth Circuit (SYC) are included in this category.

1. One round of pool(s) to Straight DE.
2. Two rounds of pools to Straight DE.

#### **Rules for all US Fencing tournaments that are National Qualifiers:**

1. All pool bouts must be to a maximum of 5 touches and 3 minutes.
2. All direct elimination bouts must be 15 touches and three 3-minute periods, or 10 touches and two 3-minute periods for Veterans and Youth 10, with one-minute rests between periods. In sabre direct elimination bouts, except Veterans and Youth 10, the one-minute rest occurs when one fencer's score reaches 8 or 3 minutes have expired in the first period, whichever occurs first. For Veteran and Youth 10 events, the one-minute rest occurs when one fencer's score reaches 5 touches ([Rule 0 23-24](#)).
3. There must be at least 50 percent promotion of fencers between rounds.
4. DEs with repêchage and DEs fenced to all places are not allowed for National Qualifiers.
5. There will not be a fence-off for third place unless it is necessary to determine a single qualifying slot.
6. If there is an absolute tie for the final qualifying slot, there must be a fence-off (15-touch bout, or DE format mandated by age-level of event(s) to determine the final qualifying slot.

#### **Notification:**

1. Local sanctioned tournaments must be advertised for a minimum of fourteen days in order to have classification changes processed by the National Office. Club or division websites, social media, and public online tournament registration platforms are all valid methods of advertising. If the tournament is size restricted, as defined in the Competition Types below, it must be published 30 days in advance for classification changes to be processed by the National Office.
2. Format must be announced when published.
3. Format must be announced at the start of the tournament.
4. Must meet divisional rules for sanctioning.

#### **Consequences for failure to follow the above rules:**

1. Division can remove sanction and void any classifications potentially earned.
2. ROC and SYC organizers who fail to follow the rules should be reviewed by the National Office and possibly be eliminated from consideration for holding an event the following year.
3. Divisions who chronically fail to follow the rules for qualifiers should be reviewed by the Tournament Committee and the National Office, who may require an observer be assigned for future such events, all expenses to be covered by the division.

#### **Approval of tournament formats not listed above:**

Tournament Committee subcommittee may be empaneled to hear proposed new tournament formats in two steps:

1. Provisional approval to judge effectiveness.
2. As appropriate, addition to above approved tournament list.

#### **Sharks and Minnows Tournament Format**

This tournament format is two rounds of pools, followed by a direct elimination tableau. The first round of pools is seeded per normal USA Fencing tournament standards.

Example (Fencers A-Q, seeded in order)

Pool 1: A, F, G, L, M, R

Pool 2: B, E, H, K, N, Q

Pool 3: C, D, I, J, O, P

The second round of pools contains two types, the “shark” and “minnow” pools. The shark pool is the top-seeded fencers to come out of the first round.

Example (Fencers A-Q, seeded in order)

“Sharks”

Pool 1: A, B, C, D, E, F

“Minnows”

Pool 2: G, J, K, N, O, R

Pool 3: H, I, L, M, P, Q

The DE tableau may or may not have a cut. The participants of the “shark” pool are guaranteed the top seeds, which will be based on their second round pool performance. The remaining spots are based on the results of the minnow pools. The resulting DE tableau is fenced as normal until a single winner remains. Example (Top 16 promoted):

A (1) v. P (16)

B (2) v. N (15)

C (3) v. M (14)

G (7) v. J (10)

H (8) v. I (9) Q, R not promoted

## Competition Types

**Closed:** A Closed competition is a regional, interdivisional, or divisional competition in which eligibility is limited on the basis of regional or divisional membership.

**Age-Restricted:** Any USA Fencing age-restricted competition can be rated for classification change consideration except those competitions that are restricted to Cadet or Youth age categories, which must additionally meet the criteria for a Group C1 or higher for the competition to be ranked for classification changes. [BOD, July 2003]

**Restricted:** Competitions may be restricted to fencers under or over a certain age; to unclassified fencers or novice; or to other categories of fencers provided that an appropriate description of the basis of eligibility of contestants is announced in the schedule.

A local sanctioned tournament may cap their competitive field size at no less than 64 people. Should a local tournament institute a field size cap, it must be published at least 30 days in advance and any procedure used to let fencers in once the cap has been reached, such as a waitlist, must be documented and published at least 30 days in advance. Division qualifiers, RYCs, RJCCs, ROCs, SJCCs and SYCs may not cap entries.

Restricted competitions may not be rated unless the restriction is based solely upon fencers' classifications, USA Fencing age categories or division/region membership, or meet the size restrictions defined in the information above.

**Mixed (Co-ed):** A mixed (or co-ed/mixed gender) competition is a competition in which members of both sexes may compete. Mixed competitions are not permitted in competitions used to determine qualifiers to the National Championship competitions. Regional Youth Circuit (RYC) competitions may be mixed if there are 5 or fewer competitors of one gender in a specific Youth category (Youth 14, Youth 12, or Youth 10). Classifications can be earned at mixed competitions, disregarding the gender of the athlete and simply comparing the classifications of all fencers relative to the rules for earning a new classification. If the competition is a Youth or Cadet competition, classifications can only be earned if the competition meets the criteria for C1 or better.

**High School Fencing:** High School fencing tournaments are held throughout the season for athletes in 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The goal of this program is to continue to motivate developing High School athletes to participate in High School tournaments/leagues throughout the competitive season.

There are no national or regional points awarded at *Recognized* High School competitions. However, those athletes with a current USA Fencing High School or Competitive membership may earn classifications based on the total number that fence in the High School *individual* event. The athlete would have to be a current member as of and during the particular tournament to receive a classification change. Those that don't have a current USA Fencing High School or Competitive membership will not receive classification changes. High School Recognized tournaments are not required to meet the C1 tournament requirement to award classifications. These competitions are not a qualification path for the USA Fencing National Championships.

Pool sizes for smaller competitive fields

The following pool sizes should be used for regional and national competitions. When more than one option is listed below, it is at the discretion of the bout committee. The size of fields is followed by the pool sizes to be used.

- 9: one pool double stripped
- 10: two fives; or tripled strip one pool of 10
- 11: six and five
- 12: six and six
- 15: seven and eight; or three fives
- 16: two eights on at least three total strips; or five, five and six
- 17: two sixes and five
- 22: two sixes and two fives
- 29: four sixes and a five; or 3 sevens, and 1 eight double stripped

### **Pan American Youth & Veteran Championship Selection Criteria**

If the Pan American Youth & Veteran Championship is held during the 2020-21 season, the following selection criteria will apply:

POSTED: TBD

SELECTION DATE: TBD – Should the selection date be later than the USA Fencing National Championships, points earned at National Championships for the National Rolling Points Standings will count toward team selection.

SELECTION: Should the Organizing Committee restrict the number of fencers able to compete in the event, the team members of the Pan American Youth & Veteran Championships will be selected based on the criteria below. The number of fencers selected to compete will, at maximum, match the Organizing Committee's limit, or exhaust the number of fencers registered, whichever number is the lowest. Athletes will be selected in the following order and will be eligible to compete in the individual competition.

1. All athletes on the National Rolling Point Standings (using the NRPS for which the athlete is age eligible)
2. All other athletes (using order to finalize entries as indicated in Athlete Handbook)

Note: This tournament does not always conform to the same age categories as USA Fencing. When the tournament information is announced, USA Fencing will indicate which age categories are eligible to compete and which NRPS will used to select team members for each event. If an age category at the Pan American Youth &

Veteran Championships spans two of the age categories used by USA Fencing, those ranked on the NRPS of the older age category will be selected before those in the younger age category(ies).

In order to provide a safe environment for all USA Fencing members, including athletes, coaches, parents, referees and spectators, the USA Fencing Board of Directors approved updated black card policies to take effect on Oct. 18, 2019.

### **Updated Black Card Policy:**

Per the Black Card Retention and Review Policy, black cards issued at tournaments at all levels will be tracked and monitored by the National Office and Ethics Committee. This includes local, regional and national tournaments.

All tournament organizers are to send any black card reports at the conclusion of the tournament to the USA Fencing National Office. This may be done either during the results upload through the USA Fencing database or via email at [blackcard@usafencing.org](mailto:blackcard@usafencing.org).

All black cards must be reported and will be tracked, including black cards that were issued at the strip and later rescinded. Black cards given and rescinded will be recorded and must: 1) include the reason for the initial black card, 2) include rationale for the removal for the card clearly provided and 3) be stored in the black card database to be reviewed by the National Office and Ethics Committee.

All black cards will be categorized and tracked as Level 0 (Administrative and P Black Cards), Level 1 (Standard Black Card) or Level 2 (Severe Offenses).

In certain situations, as detailed below, a Black Card Review Group may be convened. The Black Card Review Group is comprised of two members each from the Tournament Committee, Athlete Council, Referee Commission and Ethics Committee to review both given and rescinded Black Cards annually and convene as needed in the cases of Level 2 and multiple Level 1 black cards received inside of the probation period.

The complete policy is as follows:

All black cards issued by tournament officials shall be tracked and draw additional action as follows, effective October 18, 2019:

#### **Level 0, Administrative Black Cards**

Administrative Black Cards are those given for failure to appear on the strip, for mid bout withdrawal, and when no disrespect, unsportsmanlike conduct or other aggravating elements are involved. Administrative black cards, while recorded, do not result in a follow-up email from the USA Fencing National Office or Ethics Committee and do not put the individual in a probationary period.

#### **Level 1, Standard Black Card**

Standard Black Cards are those issued given for disrespect of referees, staff or other official personnel, unsportsmanlike conduct, throwing of equipment, disruptive behavior, issues of safety and other incidents that are neither administrative nor so extreme or severe as to warrant a Level 2 Black Card. Standard black cards shall be recorded and stored in the USA Fencing National Office database and result in a follow-up email from the USA Fencing National Office (with copies to the Ethics Committee and Black Card Review Group), advising the individual that: 1) the black card has been recorded, 2) the individual has been placed on probation for the

remainder of the current season plus 12 months, 3) the black card will be reviewed by National Office Staff and Ethics Committee, and 4) an additional Level 1 Black Card received during the probationary period will trigger a review by the Black Card Review Group, which can determine that the repeated violation warrants a Level 2 Black Card sanction of the individual.

### **Level 2, Severe Offenses**

Level 2 Black Cards are those issued for extreme or severe offenses including but not limited to repeated Level 1 offenses, deliberate physical violence, verbal and verifiable threats, and verifiable cheating.

Level 2 Black Cards may trigger sanctions that could include, but not be limited to, temporary suspension of competition or full membership privileges for a period of up to two months. Such sanctions will be determined in the first instance by the Black Card Review Group. The Black Card Review Group shall make its initial determination upon written submissions required from the issuing referee and Head Referee, and from any written response thereto that the carded individual may timely submit. Following the initial determination, the individual, parent or guardian shall have the right to request a hearing, as set forth below. In the event a hearing is requested, any suspension of membership or competition privileges initially imposed shall be stayed pending the outcome of the hearing. As used herein, "individual" shall include his or her parent or guardian of record, in cases where the individual is a minor.

Promptly following a determination of the Black Card Review Group that upholds a Level 2 Black Card, the USA Fencing National Office shall transmit a follow-up email to the carded individual (with copies to the Ethics Committee and Black Card Review Group), advising the individual as follows:

- 1) The black card has been recorded.
- 2) If applicable, a sanction has been issued and recorded. The sanction(s) shall be described in detail.
- 3) The offending individual has been placed on probation for the rest of the current season plus an additional 12 months.
- 4) Any additional black cards received during the probationary period will trigger (i) the offending individual's removal from the entirety of the tournament in which the subsequent black card was received and (ii) review by the Black Card Review Group for possible additional sanctions.
- 5) The individual may, within 5 business days of receiving the follow-up email, demand, via email to the National Office, Ethics Committee and Black Card Review Group, a hearing before the Black Card Review Group, or before members thereof who meet the requirements for a disciplinary panel as set forth in the Athlete Handbook, to challenge the Group's initial determination. If the individual does not demand a hearing, then he or she shall be deemed to have accepted the initial determination. Any hearing demanded by the individual shall be conducted as provided in the Athlete Handbook. Following such hearing, the Black Card Review Group, or its selected members, whoever conducted the hearing, shall issue a final determination, which may adhere to its initial determination or impose measures either more or less stringent. Any suspension of membership or competition privileges shall be subject to Board review as set forth in the Bylaws. The individual shall have rights of appeal according to the procedures set forth in the Athlete Handbook.

Additional Tracking of Rescinded Black Cards

Black cards given and rescinded will be recorded. The referee issuing the rescinded black card, and the Head Referee for the relevant event must each, separately, submit a written report that sets forth in detail: 1) the reason for the initial Black Card, 2) the rationale for rescission of the black card and 3) any disagreement with such rescission. All such reports shall be stored in the Black Card database and available to be reviewed by the Referees' Commission, National Office and Ethics Committee.

#### Black Card Review Group

The Black Card Review Group shall be comprised of two members each from the Tournament Committee, Athlete Council, Referees' Commission and Ethics Committee. It shall review both given and rescinded Black Cards annually, and it shall convene promptly to review and conduct required proceedings with respect to all Level 2 black cards. The Black Card Review Group shall create, update, and maintain internal guidelines for how various black cards should be handled for how hearings will be conducted. The Black Card Review Group shall react timely when reviewing cases.

#### Reference Links

USA Fencing Rule Book – [Rule Book](#) Video Referencing (t.42)

Safe Sport – [Safe Sport](#)

Anti-doping – [www.usada.org/](http://www.usada.org/)

FIE Rule Books – [FIE Rule Book](#)

RC Site – [Referees' Commission Website](#)

Regional Calendar– <http://www.usafencing.org/regional-events>

National Calendar– <https://www.usafencing.org/national-events-calendar>

International Calendar – <https://www.usafencing.org/international-calendar>