

# American Fencing



## FENCING COSTUMES AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

American Woman Fencer circa 1904. Cotton  
and felt skirt, and "figure-eight" foil. The uni-  
form is the gift of Clair Lorraine Wilson, 1942,  
the foil lent by Julia Jones Pugliese.

(see page 17)



photo by the Metropolitan Museum of Art

Official Publication of the Amateur Fencers League of America

# AMERICAN FENCING

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JOSE R. deCAPRILES, 1912-1969

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## DEADLINE FOR 1973-74 ISSUES

Issue Date	Closing Date for Copy	Mailing Date
Jan./Feb.	Dec. 15	Jan. 31
March/April	Feb. 10	March 31
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## EDITORIAL

The fencing rules require the martingale for the non-electrical foil and epee. The electric cord is considered a satisfactory substitute for the martingale in electrical weapons.

We submit that the two-pronged connector for the electrical foil is inadequate for this purpose and recommend that it be firmly attached so as not to be pulled out by sudden tension. The rules should include this requirement.

And why don't the rules require the martingale for sabre? Must we have a serious accident first? Last year at the Eastern Intercollegiate fencing championships the eventual champion was disarmed and the flying weapon hit one of the judges (who had been properly stationed at the side and behind the fencer) in the face. By luck it only cut his nose, but if he hadn't been wearing non-shattering glasses, the result could have been loss of an eye or worse.

We strongly urge the requirement of a martingale for sabre.

And while we are thinking "safety", how can we prevent coaches from giving lessons to students when the latter do not wear masks? There are some coaches who do this.

## FENCING MASTER WANTED

A fencing master is required in the Louisville, Kentucky area. For further information contact: **Francis Wolff, 1810 Kline Court, Louisville, Ky., 40205.**

## 1974 MID ATLANTICS

The 1974 Mid Atlantic Sectionals will be held in May 3, 4, 5 in Washington, D.C.



"Whereat with blade, with bloody blameful blade,  
He bravely broach'd his boiling bloody breast"

Act V, Scene I  
—A Midsummer Night's Dream  
culled by Lou Shaff

AMERICAN FENCING

## MOSCOW UNIVERSIADE

by Istvan J. Danosi

This event was not only a special fencing meet, but an assembly of over 40 nations competing in 9 sports. As fencers we must give special thanks and our full appreciation to the United States Collegiate Sports Council (USCSC) for making it possible to participate in the event with a full team and staff. The USCSC did a tremendous job in funding and providing for 300 athletes and officials to the largest Universiade ever.

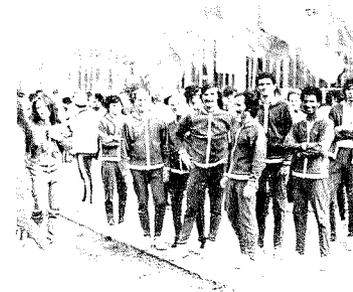
Thirty two nations participated in the fencing events. Many of these nations came with full teams such as the USSR, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, Italy, France, West Germany, East Germany, and Great Britain. Among the fencers were some of the biggest names in recent fencing.

Our team succeeded in proving that the U.S. Collegiate fencing is indeed not far behind the Europeans. This was evidenced by the results and by several individual occurrences, especially in the thrusting weapons. In these weapons we lost many bouts in which we were ahead due not to lack of technique but due to lack of tactical experience.

For example, against the Hungarian epee team we were ahead in five bouts by scores of 3-0, 3-1, etc. only to lose. Our opponents had better perception and were able to change tactics to turn the tide in their favor. Our fencers blindly follow their instinctive good or bad habits which our opponents use to their own advantage. A similar thing happened with the women's team against West Germany. Our ladies lost bouts in which they were ahead 3-0.

In spite of the short-comings our teams did produce a praise-worthy performance by defeating England and France in men's foil, Italy in women's foil and Switzerland in epee. After all the three teams did get on the stage with a sixth place medal hanging on their necks.

In the individual events our insufficiency in tactics was even more conspicuous. We can still talk about one-sidedness in our fencing whether this be the fault of the fencers or of the masters. There were times



Some of the U.S. team members at 1 World University Games in Moscow.

when an opponent deceived the san for three successive touches. There excuse for this lack of either aware ability to mix up the parries.

We placed several fencers in the final (round of 24); Ballinger and I foil, Ruth White in ladies foil, Bozek and Losonczy, Westbrook and Dai sabre. We failed however, to place any semi-final with Ballinger going down barrage, our best bid.

Our sabre result was the most dist because sabre seemed our best hope. The question remains, what must be to realize our hopes through them. They not inferior at all to fencers of other r in their classical fencing, general spo ship, discipline and manners which t praise to them.

In the individual event all three f Losonczy, Westbrook and Danosi ma quarter-final without extreme difficulty they were dominated by the lack of national tournament experience. They further disadvantaged by the sudden changes of sabre fencing. These c stances caused confusion in them. taneous actions were drastically reduce in bouts between top sabre fencers often forgotten. In this tournament fencing returned to the distance. Fencing was characterized by a lig fast retreat out of which was execute cuts, prise de fers and parry-ripostes lightning attacks or counter attacks. ceeded by tremendous foot preparator

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rebirth of sabre fencing left our competitors behind.

A long time passed since we have seen such beautiful sabre fencing. The sabre team final provided an outstanding and pleasant surprise. I'm not wrong in stating that there were no more simultaneous actions than 20 in the entire pool.

The sabre team was unfortunate in that they only managed to fence two teams. Seeded on the basis of the individual competition we were grouped with Cuba and Italy. Against Cuba we fenced to 8-8, losing by one touch. Because of the tight and controversial preceeding match, the team was morally depressed and achieved below ability in losing to Italy 9-4 (Westbrook and Danosi only had two wins each).

There is still no replacement for technique. It must be taught and the fencers must learn to use it. For this we need experienced masters and proper amateur advisers. **We also must teach the competitors to accept advice.** The competitors must remain under the master's control. After reaching a certain level our competitors become susceptible to rejecting and refusing to believe their masters. At this point improvement and success is limited. After watching the little Japanese fencing coach give a lesson, one of our best fencers noted that he never got such a nice lesson in his life. I was amazed to hear this from one whose master is not only one of the best of us but he was assistant to one of the greatest masters in history, Italo Santelli. How can a fencer negate his coach so?

Occasionally some advice would have been useful. I was limited in giving advice however, because I learned quickly that the fencers didn't acknowledge the probable advantages. The reasons: they are not accustomed to advice nor do they believe in superior experience that a master may have.

For good results in such tournaments we need: 1) Training by the proper people. 2) Competitions, as many and as high level as possible especially on the international level. 3) Training camps before such events so the master and fencers can know and thereby gain confidence in each other.

And I have to mention one more circumstance which can often affect the results. Such a tournament has a definite technique of politics. We must have at least one, well respected official to keep in balance the directing of pools.

I extend a special thanks to my colleagues, Masters Kirmss, Pedro and Bleamaster. In handling, directing and in giving lessons to the people they proved that the United States has an excellent coaching staff.



John D. Bailey of Trenton, Michigan, receives his "Certified Fencing Coach" diploma from Maestro Istvan Danosi, Chairman of the NFAA Accreditation Committee. Arnold Mercado of Houston, Texas, also received his diploma as "Fencing Master" in all weapons.

### CLEVELAND INVITATIONAL

The Cleveland Invitational will be held in Cleveland, Ohio on January 19 and 20. The schedule of events is Saturday: Epee and Women's Foil, Sunday: Foil and Sabre. Starting times will be 9:00 and 11:00 each day. Advance entry is required and the fee is \$5.00. Please send entries to **Gale Ferich, 11020 Detroit Ave. #316, Cleveland Ohio 44102.**

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## UNIVERSITY GAMES RESULTS

### Foil

- |               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| 1. Stankovich | (USSR)  |
| 2. Tiu        | (Rum)   |
| 3. Simoncelli | (Ita)   |
| 4. Tchij      | (USSR)  |
| 5. Masuoka    | (Japan) |
| 6. Makishita  | (Japan) |

### Women's Foil

- |                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| 1. Bourachkina | (USSR)  |
| 2. Nikonova    | (USSR)  |
| 3. Belova      | (USSR)  |
| 4. Raczova     | (Czech) |
| 5. Gyulai      | (Rum)   |
| 6. Ardeleanu   | (Rum)   |

### Epee

- |              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| 1. Osztrics  | (Hun)   |
| 2. Muskovski | (Hun)   |
| 3. Lukoonski | (USSR)  |
| 4. Paramonov | (USSR)  |
| 5. Petho     | (Hun)   |
| 6. Suchaecil | (Switz) |

### Sabre

- |                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| 1. Naslimov    | (USSR) |
| 2. Gerevich    | (Hun)  |
| 3. Irimicuic   | (Rum)  |
| 4. Krovopushov | (USSR) |
| 5. T. Montano  | (Ita)  |
| 6. Romano      | (Ita)  |

### Foil Team

1. USSR
2. Poland
3. Hungary
4. Japan
5. Rumania
6. U.S.A.

### Women's Foil Team

1. Rumania
2. USSR
3. Poland
4. Hungary
5. West Germany
6. U.S.A.

### Epee Team

1. USSR
2. Hungary
3. Italy
4. Rumania
5. Sweden
6. U.S.A.

### Sabre Team

1. USSR
2. Hungary
3. Poland
4. Italy
5. Rumania
6. Cuba

## MIXED FENCING

The question of whether mixed between male and female fencers is permitted was put to a mail vote of the AFLA Board of Directors. Of members of the Board, only 27 voted on this important policy question. 16 were in favor of mixed fencing and 11 were against, thus passing the motion.

Therefore, as of now, divisions may include certain competitions which permit both male and female entries.

## MAGAZINE MAILINGS

This issue (Nov./Dec.) has been mailed to members whose membership expires August 31. Unless the renewal dues of members reach the National Secretary by December 15 they will not receive the next issue (Jan./Feb.). If you are in doubt about your status contact your division secretary or the national office.

## COMING DATES

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Feb. 16, 17, 18   | <b>Junior Olympics</b><br>Tallahassee, Fla      |
| Feb. 16:          | <b>Nat. Board Meeting</b><br>Tallahassee, Fla   |
| March 22, 23, 24: | <b>Martini-Rossi</b><br>New York                |
| March 28, 29, 30: | <b>NCAA Champs:</b><br>Case Western, C          |
| April 5, 6:       | <b>NIWFA Champs:</b><br>Cornell University      |
| April 12-15:      | <b>World Junior Champs:</b><br>Istanbul, Turkey |
| June 21-29:       | <b>U.S. Nationals:</b><br>New York              |
| July 16-28:       | <b>World Champion:</b><br>Grenoble, France      |

## ANNUAL DIVISION FINANCIAL REPORTS DUE

If you have not yet filed the annual financial report for your division or section, please do so immediately. Forms for this filing are now available from AFLA Treasurer **Peter Tishman, 37 Griswold Place, Glen Rock, New Jersey, 07452.**

Banks are now required to obtain a federal identification number from each depositor. We have received some inquiries from divisions as to the number as well as the name to be used for accounts maintained for the division. The correct format is:

Division or Section Name  
Amateur Fencers League of America, Inc.  
11-6075952

## AFLA RULES BOOK

Orders for the new AFLA Rules Book are now being accepted. See page 31 for details and order form.

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/s/ P. TISHMAN



Photo by Ted Riddle  
Back row left: Marilyn Masiero and Sharon DeBaise, on Right: Denise O'Connor and Pat Flynn. Also in the picture; Hostess Gwendolyn E. Walsh and students from Mary Baldwin College, Mary Jane Ferrell, Anne Henderson, Donna Gaertner and students, Jean Dalton and students, Maureen Sullivan, Madelon Zakaib, Rachel Benton and students John Woo and Steve Hammersmith, Gwen Broce and Robyn Walsh.

## FOURTH PRE-SEASON CLINIC

by Gwendolyn E. Walsh

On Columbus Day weekend Denise O'Connor started a group of thirty-nine Virginia fencers off on a two-day pre-season refresher course for teachers at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Virginia. She was assisted by Marilyn Masiero, Sharon DeBaise and Pat Flynn who helped tone up muscles of teachers and students with basic drills. The Video Instant Replay was used as a teaching tool during the mass drills and the individual lessons. It facilitated learning for the beginning and experienced fencer, and the tapes will form a Library for future reference.

Films of the Women's National semi-finals and finals, a display of fencing literature and film loops were available.

Denise conducted a session on preparing the beginning fencer for the first bout followed by Marilyn discussing the directing of electrical fencing while one teacher discussed Second Intention the others gave individual lessons or practice in directing the bout. Every participating Virginia teacher and student had to work very hard to absorb so much material in such a short time.

Denise said, "The quality of fencing here has improved a great deal since I came here four years ago. It takes a long time to be a champion but with perseverance, proper training and hard work, Virginia will soon be a top division."

## AFLA PATCHES AND PINS AVAILABLE COLORFUL EMBLEMS ON SALE

Shown here are some of the colorful patches and emblems available to AFLA members from the League Secretary. From left to right are: The AFLA shield patch (in red, white and blue); the AFLA classification patch (in blue and gold), with gold, silver, and bronze classification star pins; the AFLA Nationals patch (in red, white, and blue); and the AFLA Decal (in red, white, and blue). The AFLA shield patch is 3½ inches high by 3 inches wide. Orders for the following cataloged items should be sent **PREPAID** to:

Irwin Bernstein, Sec. AFLA  
249 Eton Place  
Westfield, New Jersey 07090



### PRICE LIST

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Class "B" Silver .....	
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## From The President

by Steve Sobel



### AFLA YOUTH PROGRAM BRIDGES THE GENERATION GAP

Less than 20 years ago, there were no Under 19 Nationals, on U.S. Teams entered in Under 20 World Championships, and there were no National Age Group events. Very few high schools had fencing programs, and people usually started fencing for the first time in college. College fencers rarely made the finals of the AFLA Nationals. Those were the good old days; but not for fencing.

The creation of the Under 19 Nationals was probably the beginning of the AFLA Youth Program. It was started by Jose de Capriles, who saw a valuable National purpose in the development of International Youth Teams. From this modest inception, the AFLA National Youth Program, including the AFLA Junior Olympic Annual Championship over the Washington's Birthday Weekend, age group competitions, and a youth classification and ranking system were developed under the leadership of Rev. Lawrence Calhoun, the AFLA National Junior Olympic Committee Chairman, who generously devotes many hours to working with our younger fencers and planning outstanding programs for them. In a very short period of time, great progress has been made.

There are today many outstanding graduates of the AFLA Youth Program. For example, in 1969 Ruth White, who started fencing at age 13 won the Under 19 Sectional, Under 19 National, Senior Sectional

and Senior Nationals, all in the same year. She went on to win 3 NIWFA Titles for NYU. Tom Losconzy won the Under 19 Nationals two years ago, and this year placed fifth in the Under 20 World Championships, after being only one touch away from a barrage for first place. Tom, a college sophomore placed 2nd in the 1973 Nationals, while NCAA Champion Peter Westbrook was 4th. The last Under 20 Team was outstanding. Five out of twelve made the semi-finals, and at least half of the team are still eligible to compete in the same event next year.

By devoting time, effort, and its limited funds, the AFLA has established a Youth Program which has benefited all American Fencing. The general competitive level has increased, not only in college, high school and youth events, but in all AFLA competitions.

The success of the AFLA Youth Program can be measured in broader educational values as well. Youngsters training to win International competitions are rarely in trouble with the law, their schools, or their families. Parents cheering for their children at competition rarely find a communications problem existing.

At one time perhaps it could have been said that youth was wasted on children, but when adults Plan Youth Programs, such as has been done by the AFLA, youth is not wasted at all. It becomes a vital force to achieve the ultimate goals of any organization or society.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF "ON GUARD WISCONSIN"

by Richard J. Gradkowski

The AFLA is now composed of 56 divisions grouped into 8 sections. Any national organization of such wide geographical spread requires a communication network to enable it to function and to build up a sense of identity among its members. One of the most important elements of this communications network can be the local divisional newsletter.

"On Guard Wisconsin" of the Wisconsin division is one of the best examples of such a newsletter that has come to my attention. Started three years ago by Mary Heinecke, Professor of Physical Education at Lawrence University in Appleton, "On Guard Wisconsin" has grown to do a vital job. A cheerful, colorful, well produced publication, it has many points that other AFLA divisions might well emulate.

The official AFLA communication network consists of American Fencing magazine, the minutes of the National Board of Directors, special notices sent out to divisional chairmen and secretaries, and letter correspondence. On the local level, divisions and sections may have newsletters. Unofficial communications may also be circulated (CRAFLAD, La Touche, etc.) and, of course, the direct means of communication, conversation either face to face or by telephone. One can see that each of these media is suited to certain needs and less well suited to others.

One of the most important of these needs is that of local communication. As each division grows beyond the boundaries of easy verbal contact between members, the need for a local newsletter makes itself felt. There is no better medium for the dissemination of local news, schedules and competition results, and other items of purely local interest.

Despite our interest, American Fencing magazine is not well suited to fill these local needs. We have a purely amateur staff, a somewhat limited budget, and are too infrequently printed to handle anything but national news and affairs. We cannot do the

local news job as well as the c themselves.

Also, if the division is to be open a truly democratic polity, it is essential that certain vital information such as a roster of members and their addresses, of committee meetings, and a full tre report be published for all members

Unfortunately, many of our divisions are not well enough organized to fulfill these needs. As a result, notices are not sent out, proper elections are not held, and the finances of the division are in a state of confusion.

The lack of a news letter and the isolation of this vital information makes it difficult to maintain the interest and involvement of all part of the division's members, but it is a good situation for the growth of our sport.

The local newsletter can also act as a medium for channeling creative ideas and talents in the areas of writing, photo drawing, etc. and to be a forum for the exploration of problems and issues.

The attractive "On Guard Wisconsin" exemplifies these features. Recent issues have had discussions of fencing rules, but also graphical sketches of local fencing events, poems, cartoons, and some sage commentary by divisional and sectional officials on various aspects of fencing. The members of this division are fortunate indeed to have such a lucid and timely journal in their service. One can sense the spirit of camaraderie in the name: "On Guard Wisconsin".



### 1974 NATIONALS

As we go to press we are advised that the 1974 National Championships will be held from June 21 to June 29 at the Hotel Commodore in New York. Co-chairmen of the Organizing Committee are Kevin McManus and Dr. Marius Valsamis, with Ralph Berman as Bout Committee Chairman.

## **AFLA JUNIOR OLYMPIC PROGRAM**

by Emily Johnson and Rev. L. Calhoun

In the last few years there have been many changes in the rules affecting the youth programs. Many of the new rules will appear in the new Rules Book. However, this has not yet been published and therefore we felt that it might be of assistance to summarize the present program for the benefit of our fencers.

### **ORGANIZATION**

The national Junior Olympic Committee is headed by the Reverend Lawrence Calhoun, 7655 Dempster Street, Niles, Ill. 60648. This committee works with the divisions and sections and makes recommendations to the National Board of Directors.

A special Youth Fund has been established at the national level. Any donations to this fund will be used only for the benefit of the youth program.

### **DIVISIONAL LEVEL**

Each division should appoint a divisional Junior Olympic Chairman who will work with the national committee.

There are official Junior Olympic Fencer patches available at a small charge for fencers who meet the minimum qualifications set out by the national committee plus any additional qualifications set out by the division.

The minimum qualifications are as follows:

1. Meet the age qualifications and be a member of the AFLA.
2. Work out at least twice a week with at least one lesson a week from an approved coach.
3. Compete in all youth tournaments in the division plus any additional tournaments specified by the division.
4. Conduct himself or herself on and off the strip in a sportsmanlike fashion.
5. Demonstrate a knowledge of the rules of fencing.

Patches are obtained from the national committee by the divisions.

The national committee is considering some changes in the system of ranking junior fencers and the point systems used

with reference to local tournaments. These were set out in American Fencing in the November-December, 1971 and January-February, 1972 issues of American Fencing and will not be repeated here.

Divisions are urged to submit reports of their youth programs to the national chairman. These reports will be used to assist divisions with their programs based on experience gained by other divisions, as a basis for drawing up model programs and to assist in determining which divisions should receive funds from the national body when these funds become available.

Divisions should hold Youth Championships each year. They are age grouped for Under 20, Under 19, Under 16 and, if feasible, Under 14. (This would mean that the fencer must have been under 20, 19, 16 and 14 as of January 1, 1974.) The Under 20 and Under 16 championships qualify for the AFLA National Junior Olympic Championships and the Under 19 to the Sectional Championships.

Many divisions hold one qualifying competition in each weapon and then compute the standing of a fencer in each category. For example, a 15 year old fencer might rank 7th in the Under 20s, 5th in the Under 19s and 1st in the Under 16s based on his performance at the one competition. The division may, of course, schedule each competition separately. The Under 20s and Under 16s should be held in the late fall since the Junior Championships are held over the Washington's Birthday weekend.

### **SECTION CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The number of qualifiers is determined by the section.

### **UNDER 19 CHAMPIONSHIPS**

These are held in conjunction with the senior championships.

Qualification is from the Sectional Under 19 Championships. Each section is entitled to a minimum of 3 qualifiers in addition to automatic qualifiers in each weapon. Excluding automatic qualifiers, if there are 21-25 competitors at the Sectional Under 19 Championships four qualify; 26-30 five qualify and 31 or more six qualify. (These figures,

of course, refer to the number of competitors in a single weapon).

All automatic qualifiers must also qualify as far as age is concerned. Automatic qualifiers include the top three in the previous Under 20 category at the AFLA Junior Championships, the first six from the previous National U-19 Championships, and a member of the USA team to the Under 20 World Youth Championships (first four).

Occasionally a fencer may be permitted to compete because of unusual circumstances by appeal. For information contact the National AFLA Secretary.

### **NATIONAL JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS (Under 20 & Under 16)**

These Championships are held over the Washington's Birthday weekend. Details for qualifying to this year's Championships will be found elsewhere in this issue.

### **UNDER 20 WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The selection of the U-20 USA team which will compete at the Under 20 World Youth Championships is made based primarily on the results of the Under 20 Championships and the previous year's Under 19 Championships. A fencer must compete in both championships in order to qualify. The selection committee may disqualify a fencer for cause. If so, the next fencer in line by points will be chosen. The points for both competitions are as follows: 25, 18, 16, 14, 12, 10 for the finalists and 5 points each for semi-finalists or finishers from 7-12.

The team consists of three fencers with an alternate in each weapon.

### **CONCLUSION**

The future of American fencing lies in the hands of our youngsters. We have to work with them and help them. We have to raise money so that they can take lessons and get to competitions and have equipment available. We have to direct and judge at their competitions. We have to make them want to fence and practice. If we don't, American fencers will rank with those from Baja Noplace.

## **THE PROGRESS OF THE JUNIOR OLYMPIC PROGRAM**

by Rev. Lawrence Calhoun

This current issue has a summary program from its beginning to the present. The program is on sound footing and the Junior Olympic tournament sees at least two more years, things look very bright. The current issue also has some of it in a general form that apply to the program. For a more detailed and complete compilation of all legislation and the ways to be eligible for J. O. regional and International competition: a booklet will be ready in the near future. This booklet should be good for fencers and directors alike. Merely send your name, address and an 8c stamp to me and get the booklet published it will be yours. But, the main goal of the Junior Olympic Committee now is to move ahead in new ways to raise money for the program and to promote publicity. The committee hopes to make progress in this area soon.

There are a lot of beginning fencers in our country. The J. O. was designed to be a pyramid with a large base, so there would be a lot of good fencers at the top. The program has been successful so far, we need more fencers. Try to attract friends into the age group program. The AFLA and enter the events. The more fencers in the program, the more available may be to assist you.

Age group fencing is important in developing the future champions. The more we have, the better the fencers will be. It will be a great relief to have the program of having too many young fencers at a meet, age-grouped or open.

The development of the Olympic Junior Olympic Squads will keep the U-20 fencers abreast of all major competitions. The top 12 fencers, based on their performance as finalists and semi-finalists, at the national level and updated after the Junior Olympic February, will make up this squad later time, Mr. Chaba Pallyagy will out the format and purpose of this s

## OLYMPIC SELECTION SYSTEM COMMITTEE REPORT

At its meeting on September 30, 1973, the United States Olympic Sports Committee for Fencing adopted the selection system to be used during the current quadrennium. It was noted at the meeting that a number of fencers had made significant contributions to the development of this system through their recommendations to the Selection System Subcommittee. Although none of the suggested systems was adopted fully, an effort was made to incorporate many of the basic principles into a system which the Committee could administer effectively and reliably. The Committee expressed its thanks to those fencers who cared enough to make their views known, and especially to those who submitted fully detailed well thought-out systems for the Committee's consideration.

### I. TRAINING SQUAD

#### A. Purposes of the Training Squad

1. To provide a pool of a manageable number of fencers, in a ranked order, from which to select those teams which the Committee is called upon to select;
2. To permit establishment of a directed and closely monitored program of training and conditioning for squad fencers;
3. To permit establishment of a competitive program which will increase the bout experience of squad members and also yield results for purposes of adjusting rankings within the squad.

#### B. Establishment and Composition of the Training Squad

1. Training squads shall be named in each weapon. Any overlap of personnel between weapons shall be regarded as coincidental and of no significance for ranking and selection purposes. Subsidies to squad members, if any, shall not be duplicated by reason of squad membership in more than one weapon.
2. The squad in each weapon shall consist initially of the first 24 plac-

ces in the 1973 National Championship, plus members of the 1971 Pan-American Team and the 1972 Olympic Team, if not otherwise qualified. The initial ranking of the squad is based on the order of finish in the 1973 Nationals. However, no points have been credited based on the 1973 Nationals.

3. Following the 1974 Nationals, the squad shall be reconstituted, and thereafter the squad in each weapon shall consist only of the first 24 point holders, based on the adopted point system.

#### C. Recomposition of Training Squads and Ranking of Squad Members

1. The composition of the squad and the ranking of squad members in each weapon shall be adjusted, effective immediately, at the conclusion of each squad tournament for which points are awarded and upon the conclusion of the National Championships. As a practical matter, this means that, except for resignations or removals, the composition of the squad will change only following the National Championships, since only squad members can compete in squad tournaments.
2. Removal from the squad shall only be for cause, which is limited to the following:
  - a. Disciplinary reasons for serious misconduct detrimental to fencing; or
  - b. Inability or unwillingness to participate in a meaningful and productive manner in all significant squad activities.
3. In cases of resignations or removals for cause, substitute appointments shall be made. For each vacancy, the next ranking fencer in the point standings shall be named, to bring the squad up to 24 members.

### II. POINT SYSTEM

- A. Points may be earned in the following competitions:

1. **Training squad tournaments**, previously designated as being for points, open only to squad members. There shall be **two** such tournaments in each competitive season. They shall be at least two months apart from each other and from the National Championship. Both shall be held prior to the National. (Note: The two-month separation cannot be observed during the 1973-1974 season, but will be observed thereafter. The first meet this season will be held in April 1974.)

Points shall be awarded to the first 24 places in descending order as follows:

1st plc - 25 pts      4th plc - 21 pts  
2nd plc - 23 pts      5th plc - 20 pts  
3rd plc - 22 pts      6th plc - 19 pts  
. . . etc. 24th place - 1 point

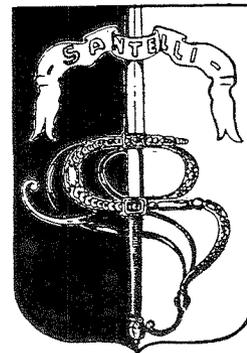
2. **U.S. National Championships**, beginning with the 1974 Nationals.

Points shall be awarded to the first 24 places in descending order as follows:

1st plc - 50 pts      4th plc  
2nd pls - 46 pts      5th plc  
3rd plc - 44 pts      6th plc  
. . . etc. 24th place - 2 poi

3. **Class A International Comp** so designated in advance F.I.E. and so appearing on the national Calendar. Attainment semi-finals or higher will qualify supplemental points, to be added to point totals for ranking purposes following the very next competition at which points are awarded supplemental points shall be as though they had been earned at the meet at which they are credited. Points shall be awarded as follows: Victory - 60 points, 2nd place - 54 points, 3rd place - 52 points, 5th place - 48 points, 6th place - 48 points

- B. Points shall be totalled forward continuously, but with a halving of previous years points from the pending competition and a cu-



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the points from the second previous year's corresponding competition. Thus, the most recent six trial competitions (plus international points, if any) will determine the rankings at any given time, with the three current-year results weighing twice as much as the corresponding results from the previous year.

This means that the 1975 Pan-American Team will be picked on the basis of points earned in the two squad meets in the 1973-74 season, the 1974 Nationals, the two squad meets in the 1974-75 season, and the 1975 Nationals. The 1976 Olympic Team will be picked on the basis of points earned in the two squad meets in the 1974-75 season, the 1975 Nationals, the two squad meets in the 1975-76 season, and the 1976 Nationals. Fencers should take special note of the incentive for achieving good results early and consistently. Squad membership is based on point standings, and only squad members are eligible to compete in the squad tournaments where additional points may be earned. Thus, there is little probability that a fencer can relax until the last minute and then make a team on the basis of a single "hot" day. Serious candidates for the Pan-Am Team and the Olympic Team should begin their training program immediately.

### III. SELECTION OF TEAMS

- A. Selection shall be based strictly on point rankings, with no discretion on the part of the Committee to select fencers for teams on any basis other than their position in the point standings. The Committee shall retain discretion to resolve absolute ties in point standings, based on the following criteria in order of preference:
1. Probable seeding of the tied fencers in the competition for which the team is selected;
  2. Recent international experience and results in significant meets (current and last year only);

3. Physical condition, stamina, speed, etc.

B. A fencer may be passed over in selection or removed from a team after selection for cause. Such cause shall be limited to the following:

1. Disciplinary reasons, for serious misconduct detrimental to fencing; or
2. Inability or unwillingness to participate fully in all significant team activities; or
3. Injury or other incapacity which will significantly detract from the fencer's performance; or
4. Documented failure to maintain a reasonable program of training, conditioning, and/or competition.

### IV. NON-ELIGIBILITY OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

A. Members of the U.S. Olympic Sports Committee for Fencing are barred from seeking, attaining, or accepting competitor positions on teams to be selected under the authority of the Committee.

B. Members of the U.S. Olympic Sports Committee for Fencing are barred from seeking, attaining, or accepting team positions of an instructional, supportive, managerial, or administrative nature which are appointed by the exercise of the Committee's discretion. Members of the Committee may not become candidates for such positions and will not be considered for such positions.

### V. TEAM POSITIONS OF AN INSTRUCTIONAL, SUPPORTIVE, MANAGERIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE NATURE (COACH, ARMORER, CAPTAIN, PHYSICIAN, ETC.)

A. Job descriptions shall be written for each of these positions and shall be made public. Persons who wish to be considered for the respective positions shall so state, by way of a written application addressed to the Secretary of the Committee, which shall include a

statement of pertinent experience and qualifications.

B. Applications will be reviewed, & those applicants meeting reasonable standards shall be appointed to a "squad" for their positions. They will be asked to assist in squad and/or team activities as appropriate on an assignment basis. The Committee will then establish a ranked list of candidates for each position, with appointments to be made from such ranked lists.

### U.S. NATIONAL RANKINGS 1973-74

#### Under-19:

**Foil:** 1. McCahey; 2. Gelnow; 3. Massialas; 4. R. Nonomura; 5. G. Nonomura; 6. Gerard; 7. Bennett; 8. Jennings; 9. Bohl; 10. Marx; 11. Pollack; 12. Labow.

**Epee:** 1. Glass; 2. Jennings; 3. G. Nonomura; 4. McConville; 5. Massialas; 6. Butterick; 7. Shelley; 8. D. Nonomura; 9. White; 10. Cargill; 11. Sirois; 12. Baxter

**Sabre:** 1. Benedek; 2. Graham; 3. Hulswit; 4. Sullivan; 5. Pollack; 6. Keane; 7. Dea; 8. Caux; 9. Gelnow; 10. DeFiglio/Diamond; 12. Squire.

**Women:** 1. Jacobsen; 2. Johnson; 3. Hurley; 4. Baron; 5. Farkas; 6. Sobel; 7. Hong; 8. Konecny; 9. Klutke; 10. Beckman/Burton; 12. Schoop.

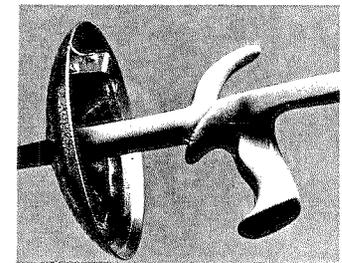
#### Senior:

**Foil:** 1. Ballinger; 2. Lyons; 3. Freeman; 4. Axelrod; 5. Nonna; 6. Campbell; 7. Hambarzumian; 8. Makler; 9. Dale; 10. Littell; 11. Krause; 12. Mannino.

**Epee:** 1. Bozek; 2. Cantillon; 3. Netburn; 4. Pesthy; 5. Makler; 6. Fitzgerald; 7. Micahnik; 8. Lyons; 9. Masin; 10. Johnston; 11. St. Clair; 12. Jennings.

**Sabre:** 1. Apostol; 2. Losonczy; 3. Lekach; 4. Westbrook; 5. Orban; 6. Gall; 7. Reilly; 8. Dow; 9. Danosi; 10. Balla; 11. Bartos; 12. Fuertes.

**Women:** 1. Adamovich; 2. King; 3. White; 4. Armstrong; 5. Devan; 6. Mitchell; 7. Magay; 8. Orley; 9. Smith; 10. Latham; 11. O'Donnell; 12. Carter.



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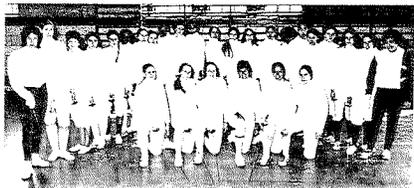


photo by LEHMAN COLLEGE

The varsity, coaches, and just one of the fencing classes at LEHMAN COLLEGE, (Bronx, N.Y.): kneeling in front; the varsity l. to r. — Brady Leigh (capt.); Janet Speckmann; Laura Johanson; Alice Saberski (Head Coach); Helen Yip; Denise Abrante.

Standing at the far left: Jo Mancinelli Shaff, (Instructor), standing at the far right: Jacqueline Taylor, (Instructor).

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### PROPOSED CHANGES IN DUES SCHEDULE

by William Goering

The Treasurer's report showed that the National Office had incurred operating deficits during the last two fiscal years. The deficits have been made up by drawing on reserves, but these have now reached a level where they must be replenished if the National Office is to avoid reducing its services to our membership. The Treasurer presented a balance budget for 1973-74, but it is of necessity only a maintenance budget, with minimal provision for vital youth programs, international teams, and other development activities.

Everyone is actually aware that their cost-of-living is steadily increasing. The Board had no alternative but to consider an increase in the dues structure. The AFLA, unlike some other sports organizations, has no income from sales of equipment; nor does it derive any benefit from tournament entry fees, as do our Divisions and Sections. Therefore, the Board voted to present the following dues structure for approval of the membership at the Annual Membership Meeting in June 1974, to take effect for the 1974-75 fiscal year.

Class of Membership	1 year	3 year
Active (23 years of age or older)	\$15.00	\$37.50
Collegiate (under 23)	\$ 8.00	\$20.00
Student (under 18 years non-voting)	\$ 4.00	\$10.00
Associate (non-competing)	\$ 5.00	\$12.50
Life (one payment)		\$150.00

Two changes are incorporated in the new structure. The first is the change in age groupings; the age of the Student to Collegiate transition was lowered to 18 to conform with the new League voting rules; the Collegiate to Active transition was lowered by two years since most college students graduate by age of 23. The increase in Student dues was felt just in that during the last general dues increase (1967) this class was not increased, but services to this class (such as the Junior Olympic Program and the Under-20 Program) have increased

markedly. The Associate dues increase to \$5.00 was felt to be in order because the League is actually incurring a deficit on this class at the current rate.

The Board proposal includes the provision that the entire increase will be retained by the National Office to replenish reserves, and to maintain and increase services. This decision is based on the fact that Divisions have other sources of revenue, and Sectional financial needs are minimal.

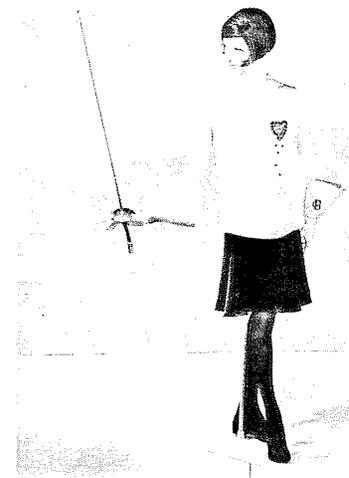
The impact of the dues increase on any one member was relieved by the following portion of the proposal:

1. The initiation fee will no longer be imposed.
2. Divisions may continue, as some do, to forget the Division portion of the National dues to reduce total cost to its members.
3. All members may take advantage of the current dues structure by obtaining 3 year memberships in this season. One-year memberships already paid may be extended to three by paying the difference before February 1, 1974. This has the effect of delaying a dues increase for current members until the 1976-77 season.

No one likes dues increases, but fair-minded members will recognize that the new dues structure is both necessary and modest, and the Board of Directors solicits your support for it.

(Ed. Note: The proposed Associate membership outline would not affect the new special categories of which friends of fencing may wish to avail themselves: Supporting \$12.00, Contributing \$25.00, and Class A \$50.00, the difference between these dues and the regular associate membership qualifying as a tax deductible donation.)

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The exhibition fencing uniform worn in 1920's by Claire Booth Luce. Note the derailed initials on the glove. The outfit is of Mrs. Henry P. Luce, 1946, and the foil Julia Jones Pugliese.

### FENCING COSTUMES SHOWN AT METROPOLITAN MUSEUM

by Jeffrey R. Tishman

The Costume Institute of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City installed in its halls "THE SPORTING" an exhibition of women's sporting of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Naturally, fencing uniforms were an important part of the display.

Julia Jones-Pugliese, the coach of Lehman College, aided Mr. Cavalo of the Metropolitan by providing appropriate weapons show; a figure-eight foil and a beak foil. One of the uniforms on display is a spectacular black velvet and satin combination - a gift to the museum from Mr. Boothe Luce, the playwright, politician, diplomat - who used it for her fencing exhibitions of the 1920's.

The exhibition included over four hundred items for various sports, ranging from voluminous skating costume (1866) to scanty two-piece Rudi Gernreich (1972). The earliest item was a ladies' habit from 1826.

## Technical Talks

by Joe Byrnes



The epee gets some equal time at last. Basic principles of the epee system are a bit simpler than for the foil. Think of your front doorbell button, and you've got the essence. Unlike the foil system, no continuous flow of current, with its inevitable problems, is involved. A simple "make" switch is located at the end of the blade, and when you push it against your opponent hard enough, it closes a circuit and produces the signal—unless he has hit you first. "Simple" is what I said that switch is. If you called it "crude," few engineers would give you an argument. Nevertheless, it is the system we have, and have had for close to forty years, and are likely to have for some time to come, despite the efforts of people like the mini-epee promoters mentioned in my last, who are also pushing the idea of a foil-style "break" switch for regular epee. See my last column for some of the problems with that sort of system.

Epee fencers have enough frustration as it is, much of it coming from their points. Attempts at improving the present system, or replacing it, have been made of course. The FIE rules still have a paragraph permitting the use of the "Tollbom point" (named after its Swedish inventor), which was going to revolutionize the epee world five or six years ago. I am told that there may even be a half a dozen or so of them still in use somewhere. Then there was the Carminari point—one that you could adjust for travel from the outside with a little screw. I haven't heard much of it lately, although the description of a brand-new Hungarian epee point in the FIE literature looks like a resurrection of the principle. Keep trying, fellows.

The trouble with the present system arises from the way the contact is made when the point is pushed home. The two

wires glued into the blade wind up at the bottom housing, brazed or soldered separately to two tiny brass contacts that are firmly held in a little plastic insulating mount. Inside the point, the epee has two springs, unlike the foil's one. Of the two, one is large and quite strong—the pressure spring, which pushes back those 750 gram weights. It is just slightly smaller in diameter than the inside of the housing and stays outside the mount for the contacts (if it touches them, you ground out). The other spring, the contact spring, is much smaller and is screwed onto a tiny threaded stud at the rear of the point core. This is the little rascal that causes most of the grief. It must be wide enough to bridge across the brass contacts. If it's too short, you get no touches. Too long, and you have an "over travel" and your epee flunks the shim test.

Every epee is supposed to have this adjustment properly made at the time it is first assembled. It would be nice if it never varied thereafter, but the battering an epee takes in use can loosen stronger things than these little springs. If it loosens on its stud it can slip back, and you're over-long on the travel. With the new rules in effect these days, that can cost you. Conversely, if the spring was loose on the stud to begin with—and it shouldn't have been—it could collapse on itself and suddenly be too short.

How to cure a contact spring that tends to move? Assuming that it's the right length, when adjusting the rascal, screw it tight to the threaded stud and fix it there with a drop of epoxy. When I say a drop, I mean more like a droplet—about what you can pick up with the point of a pin. The last thing you want an excess of in a point is glue. When the spring is firmly in place (and the glue dried) it can be properly shaped (i.e., ground flat at the back). That is necessary to ensure proper switching action across those little brass contacts.

Back on the foil front, I've heard a strange rumor that the twist-lock (bayonet catch) type of foil plug and socket, i.e., the Leon Paul type, was scheduled to be discontinued. Since that would be a shame—it's a good model, I think—I made some enquiries, and

am happy to report that it's just another rumor, with nothing to it. Paul's tells me that they are retooling for more efficient production, and that's that. Life would be dull without rumors, though.

## QUICKIE QUIZ

May a fencer defend himself by parrying with the pommel of his weapon? (See Art. 30, page 24 of the 1970 Rules Book.)

## MIDDLE ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE 1973 STANDINGS

TEAM	FOIL	EPEE	SABRE	TOTAL
John Hopkins	17	15	14	46
Temple	18	16	11	45
Stevens	12	7	19	38
Drew	15	9	13	37
Muhlenberg	6	11	17	34
Lafayette	9	13	8	30
Haverford	7	13	2	22



photo by Dick Geri Glass, PLAYBOY Magazine's "Playn the month" for September hails from All California. She is shown here in her fencer at the nearby campus of California State Un.

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## 1973 NATIONALS: BOUT COMMITTEE REPORT

by Carla-Mae Richards

For an "off year" Nationals the turnout for this year's tournament was extraordinary. The number of fencers who registered for the senior events was higher for each senior weapon than last year but the percentage of withdrawals in the two weeks prior to the opening day was significantly higher than last year (10%). See Table 1. One thing that does seem to be apparent from these figures is that competitive fencing in the United States is growing by leaps and bounds.

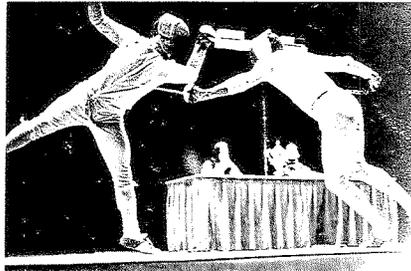


photo by Hoornstra  
Cantillon Versus Fitzgerald in the Epee Finals of the 1973 Nationals.

At last year's Nationals a strong recommendation was given to institute the use of individual score sheets in conjunction with the pool score sheets to decrease the number of errors in bout scores. This idea was implemented at this year's Nationals in all individual events in all rounds. See Figure 2. Not only were scores more accurately recorded but we discover that it was easier to train inexperienced scorers to keep score with these individual score sheets than to train them directly in using a pool sheet. Since the individual score sheets contained fencer's names and were kept in bout order the scorer did not have to decipher the pool sheet to determine who should now fence and who was "on deck". And the bout committee was able to double check the pool score sheets via the individual scores detecting errors in transferring information as well as tracking down errors in individual scores. Another valuable result of this scoring system was the manner in which the scores were recorded on the regular pool sheet. By only noting the total touches received in a victory and a "D" for a loss it speeded the process of computing indicator values, hits scored divided by hits received. The preparatory work is greater but increased accuracy and ease of scoring well

offset the work involved between rounds.

This year the format of the events was the same as last year with a six-man final in each senior event and all but one Under-19 event (sabre). The seeding for succeeding rounds was based upon the indicator values of performance of just the last round. The one change that helped the efficiency of the tournament was the new rule whereby ties for promotion were decided on indicators and not by barrages. The only time we had a barrage was when there was a tie on indicator touch value which happened only a few times in the entire competition. With this new rule we were able to decrease the amount of time for a senior event by an hour or so with less time taken between rounds.

The semi-finals and finals of each senior event was held the following afternoon-evening after the start of the event in the Music Hall adjacent to the Community Center. By separating the physical locations of the semi-finals we had no interference from the fencing in progress in another event so that each event could continue uninterrupted.

EVENT	# Registered		# Withdrawals		# No-Shows		# Competing	
	'72	'73	'72	'73	'72	'73	'72	'73
FOIL	129	130	—	13	14	4	125	113
SABRE	75	81	2	7	7	1	66	73
EPEE	126	131	2	14	2	5	122	111
WOMEN	118	128	—	12	8	5	110	111

Fig. 1: Number of Fencers for Senior Events In 1972 and 1973

### INDIVIDUAL BOUT SCORE CARD

EVENT	ROUND	POOL #	STRIP #									
SENIOR MF	1	3	3									
BOUT ORDER	BOUT ORDER #	BOUT PAIR #										
3rd Bout	3rd Bout	5 vs 1										
ID#	NAME & CLUB	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	# Hits
566	WRIGHT	1		1	1	1	1					5
221	FALLESON		1									1

Score hits in sequence — 1st hit in Box 1, 2nd hit in box 2, 3rd hit in box 3 against fencer hit. Normally only one hit shown in a box (except double hits in

FIGURE 2: INDIVIDUAL BOUT SCORE SHEET

This is a very good method and strongly recommended for future Nationals. As long as the size of the Nationals remains as it is now the preliminary rounds of one senior event will overlap with the semi-finals and finals of another senior event. Thus, a physical separation of the two events is critical especially since the semi-finals and finals attract a large audience.

The number of competitors gives only one measure of the strength of the National senior events. I have again taken a look at the proportion of classified and non-classified fencers participating in these events. This analysis gives an in-depth view of the actual fencing calibre. Fig. 3 shows the percentage of classified fencers competing in each senior event for this year and last year's Nationals.

Remember that "U" refers to a fencer who has not yet obtained a National classified tion. Fig. 3 clearly reflects that this year the Nationals were significantly weaker than last year in all events except the women's.

EVENT	% C + U		% A + B	
	'72	'73	'72	'73
FOIL	59	68	41	32
SABRE	58	67	42	33
EPEE	51	62	49	38
WOMEN	64	60	36	40

FIG. 3: Percentage of High & Low Classified Fencers in '72 & '73.

This undoubtedly reflects the character of an off year or post Olympic year National. Fig. 4 shows the proportion of classified fencers eliminated by the 2nd and 3rd preliminary rounds.

EVENT	% Eliminated by 2nd Round		% Eliminated by 3rd Round	
	U	C	U	C
FOIL	95	71	100	84
SABRE	93	80	100	95
EPEE	91	73	98	85
WOMEN	97	79	100	83

FIG. 4: Percentage of Each Group of Classified Fencers Eliminated by 2nd & 3rd Rounds.

But we must also recognize through these figures that it is imperative for change the system of qualifying to the Nationals. And we do indeed now have recognized AFLA committee to evaluate and propose the best way to make these changes. The strongest recommendation thus far is that fencers qualify for the senior events at the Nationals through the eight (8) series instead of the 55 or more divisional qualifying events. Not only will this method make the Nationals at a more manageable size but it will also reflect a truer calibre of National Championships in our country. It will take time to work out an equitable qualifying system but it should come within a few years for the betterment of our

## A TIP OF THE SOMBRERO

By Mike Snell

You really want to know what it's like to host a Nationals? A simple, basic sensation, really. The people are gone, the noise has subsided, the last light has been turned off. But, a month later the ground is still quaking under your feet! Churchill was right when he said something to the effect that never before have so few owed so much to so many. This is certainly true in our case.

In the beginning, everything went fine, and true to form. Our band was hired away by Disneyworld. Our barbecue expert was burned out of business over the Memorial Day weekend, the patches finally turned up ten days after the final day, and the weapons stickers never did show up. Later, things got bad.

When you pass out the plaudits, where do you begin? Yea, where? Do you begin with the unsuspecting Marines, Carla Mae dragged from the comfort of their motel to hustle copper strips? Or with Mac Magruder for keeping the DI Coffee Shop open 'til midnight, or with Mark Gross, honcho at the Sheraton for not interfering with the fluid, open-end, poolside "conferences" that ran until 5 A.M. presided over by Pete Tishman, or do you begin at the beginning — With Carla Mae Richards? YES!! Por Dios! Where would we have been without her, broken foot and all! I really think she broke her foot on purpose — to take her mind off her troubles! Until you've taken a ride in the hot seat, don't knock it. Carla rode the whirlwind, and tamed it. And her magnificent performance will not be forgotten.

And then there was the Technical Committee, sired by Art Turney, with an attack of bursitis, backed by Eleanor Turney who tied up the loose ends, patched the cracks, held Art together, and became an expert technician. When not fighting off the girls, Chuck Spencer had his hands full of other things!

Ben Vigil, the guy who has kept ten Tucson Internationas wired together did a brilliant job trouble-shooting on the strips. From open-up 'til shut-down, Ben was there. Then there were those who crutch-hit for Carla. AFLA people

work! Steve Sobel, Irwin Bernstein, Jean Williams, Emily Johnson, Jan Romary, Jean Collins, Dorothy Ichiyasu, and who else? The brain-transplanters who make things work. No tip-of-the-hat to these people. It's strictly HATS OFF! I'd like to slip in, just about here, a word of thanks to "Mike's Underground" . . . a few specialists who made the tournament possible and who sustained me through eighteen months of ping-pong. They know who they are and how much it means to have them on your side. As a last item, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my wife, Amy. Most likely you saw her at the hospitality desk. At least, that's the last place I saw her! She said she was going to take a vacation, and she has. But do you really take all your clothing and close your bank account when you take a vacation? Its been about six weeks, now, and I'm sure she will be back any day — I think. I hope. Boy, do I hope!



### NATIONALS PATCHES

Patches for the 1973 National Championships are available. The patches are three inches in diameter and are green and black on yellow as pictured above. Patches may be obtained by writing to Box 12771, Tucson, Arizona, 85732, enclosing one dollar for each patch ordered. Same day return will be made for those who enclose a stamped, self addressed envelope.

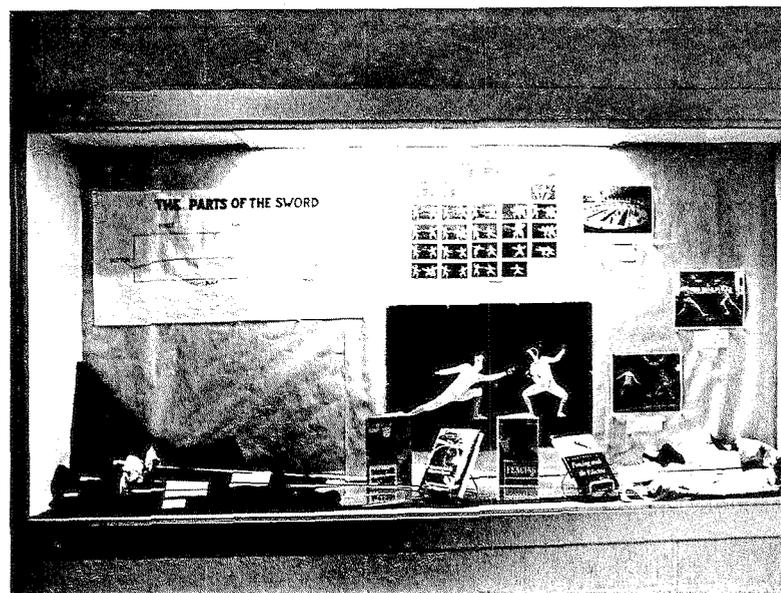


photo by

The exhibit of fencing books and materials at the Johnson Free Library of Hackensack, New

## LIBRARY SPARKS INTEREST IN FENCING

by Jeffrey R. Tishman

"THE NOBLE ART OF FENCING" was the choice of the Johnson Free Library of Hackensack, N.J. for their August lobby exhibit. Three large, well-lit, cabinets were provided by the Library's Director, Julius Ostromecki, and superb backgrounds were the contribution of the library's artist, David Dion.

Masks, weapons, and uniforms for the exhibit were loaned by The George Santelli Fencing Equipment Company and The Castello Fencing Equipment Company. Senior Librarian James French, a local fencer, made excellent use of AFLA promotional material; including posters, brochures, and AMERICAN FENCING MAGAZINE. Space was also devoted to photos of some important fencing figures that live or work nearby, such as five-time U.S. Olympic Coach George Santelli and AFLA President Steve Sobel. The outstanding feature, however, was the wide choice of books on our sport and its history that were on display from the library's col-

lection. These included not only fencing instruction texts, but novels with swordship as the central theme — "The Musketeers", "The Count of Monte C" and "Scaramouche".

Hackensack is a major center of activity in New Jersey, the largest A vision. The local high school has a team; a large YMCA conducts an excellent fencing program; and nearby Fairleigh Dickinson University is a major power in the collegiate fencing circles. Excellent collections such as this one offer an avenue for the promotion of our sport that should be explored by EVERY AFLA division, large or small.



## Letters to the Editor

The Editor

American Fencing

Dear Ralph:

I wish to protest vehemently the (I think) irresponsible action taken by the Board in permitting men to fence women in competition.

Whatever else the male sex may be in comparison to the female fencer, no one can deny that the physical strength of the male is far greater. When a man is competing in an important competition he does not want to be hamstrung by having to "pull punches", and it is grossly unfair to impose this handicap upon him in combat. And whether he is **capable** or not of so doing is supremely irrelevant: the point is that he should not, in fairness, be put in a position where he has to. If women want fair treatment, so do men; those who preach equality should first understand the meaning of the word.

My second objection is more subtle: the Board has thoughtlessly repudiated the centuries-old concept of chivalry, which is one of the most honored traditions of our art. Fencing is a combat sport if nothing else, and I will never strike, much less injure, a woman in combat! For those unable to comprehend this feeling, let me explain: it is called **gallantry**, it is closely bound to **honor**, and it is one of the things fencing (and the human spirit) is all about.

I should say at this point that, to me, the whole male chauvinism brouhaha is totally meaningless. I don't **care** whether men can beat women, or vice-versa; I have several lady friends who can bowl rings around me, but I haven't gone off the deep end yet. I am stuck, however, by the arrogance with which our very vocal women's lib contingent seeks to impress its views upon the entire AFLA. They alone have decided that an inbred concept, basic to all life since its inception, is "wrong". WOW! Do we all genuflect, or will a simple bow in their direction be sufficient? A few of them may be hung

up to the point where they're trying to prove their masculinity, but why should the rest of us have to be afflicted with it? Ralph, we are letting the lunatics run the asylum!

Richard F. Oles  
Maryland Division

The Editor

American Fencing

Dear Sir:

How, sir, did the sport of fencing, the art of swordsmanship, one of the most dramatic and colorful activities in all human history, come to the point where it was given a score of zero in spectator interest by American television broadcasters at the 1972 Olympiad?

I wonder what might come of it if some good fencers got together and thought about some variations in the rules, this time designed to help make fencing interesting, exciting, and challenging to spectators, including prospective fencers, as well as to participants.

For example:

1. Why a long narrow strip? Why not a circle or a square? (Electric scoring devices don't really have to have wires.)
2. Why must the bout be stopped after every off-target hit? Or even after every valid hit?
3. Why not a "new" weapon, perhaps an electric sabre, permitting valid hits on any part of the target, by edge or point? Or why not give more credit for some portions of the target than for others.

I believe our sport is reaching only a tiny fraction of the people to whom it could be of great benefit, and that one of the primary causes may be that our precise rulebook has reached the point where its contents, what competitive fencing is all about, can be understood by almost none.

Why not think about a new, American, free form of fencing?

Just for the excitement and the fun of it.

Sincerely,  
Daniel S. Appleton  
Laguna Beach, Calif.

## SALLE de TURKEY

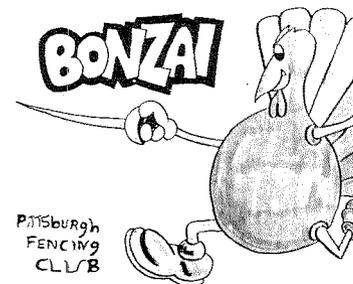
by Robert Coupland

SALLE DE TURKEY??? Here comes de net! What started as a Pittsburgh Fencing Club challenge of "Hey Turkey, do you want to fence?" evolved into a non-fencing organization devoted to good sportsmanship on and off the strip, integrity and friendliness. Here's how it happened:

Joe Moss, the man behind the "turkey" challenge, was due to fence in Morgantown, West Virginia, so a sign was made graphically representing a turkey with a sabre ready to do battle with the caption "Moss the Turkey". Although Joe Moss did not make the tournament, the bird was born.

The turkey sign created such interest that it was adopted as a Pittsburgh Fencing Club mascot featuring "Banzai Bird" as a rallying point for our fencers. The excitement and interest of our fencing turkey began to grow until we began to appoint honorary turkeys to our cause.

As our team and of course, our turkey traveled to many tournaments in the Mid-



Atlantic region we've met many who we feel exemplify the spirit of and therefore asked these people to honorary turkeys because of their dous nature. At this point our group keys became so large that an or group was in order with the creed sportsmanship, integrity, and frier Salle De Turkey is graphically repr by a patch soon to come out, to carry Salle De Turkey's and fencing sage to wherever the wearer goes.

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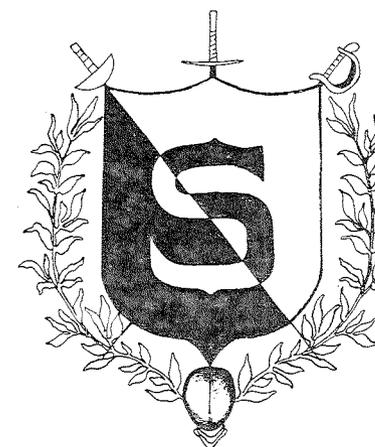
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## U.S. JUNIOR OLYMPICS ENTRY FORM

**Date:** February 16, 17, 18, 1974 (Washington's Birthday)

**Place:** Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, Tulley Gym

**Lodgings:** Travel Lodge (800-255-3050)  
Holiday Inn (800-238-5400)

**Schedule: Sat. Feb. 16:**

9:00 a.m. U-16 Foil  
10:30 a.m. U-16 Women  
12.00 p.m. U-16 Epee  
1:00 p.m. Nat. Board Meeting

**Sunday Feb. 17:**

9:00 a.m. U-20 Foil  
10:30 a.m. U-20 Women  
1:00 p.m. U-16 Sabre

**Monday Feb. 18:**

9:00 a.m. U-20 Epee  
10:00 a.m. U-20 Sabre

**Weapons Check:** Weapons check is 45 minutes before each starting time.

**Qualification:** Each division is entitled to a minimum of two qualifiers per weapon, excluding automatic qualifiers. If there are 12 to 20 fencers in the qualifying tournament, 3 qualify; if 21 to 30, 4 qualify; if 30 or more, 5 qualify. The finalists of the 1973 U-19 Nationals and the U-20 championships automatically qualify if they still meet the age requirements. Each division is entitled to 3 qualifiers in the U-16 event, excluding automatic qualifiers. Finalists in the 1973 U-16 event qualify automatically if they still meet the age requirements.

A competitor may enter all events for which he is qualified. In case two or more events are run concurrently, the fencer must bear the burden of fencing bouts in each weapon in rapid order when called.

**Entry Fee:** \$5.00 per each weapon entered.  
**Registration Fee:** \$2.00 for all.

Fees must accompany entry forms. Checks or money order only (no cash please). Make checks payable to **Central Florida Division, AFLA, Inc.**

### ENTRY FORM

(All entries must be postmarked no later than Feb. 1, 1974.)

Name ..... Date of Birth .....

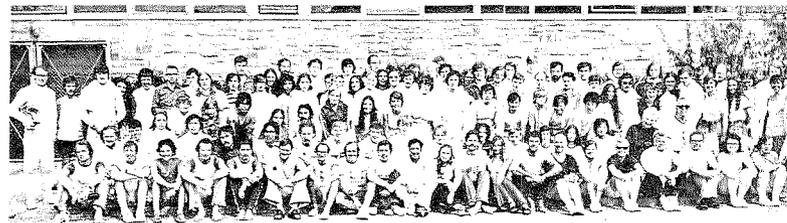
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Event	Jr. Olympic Classification	AFLA Classification	How Qualified*	Fee
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U-16 Women				
U-16 Epee				
U-16 Sabre				
U-20 Foil				
U-20 Women				
U-20 Epee				
U-20 Sabre				

Registration Fee \$2.00  
Total .....

Send Entry and Fees to: **Jan R. Delaney, FSU Box U-7002, Tallahassee, Florida, 32306**  
\* 1973 Nationals (N); 1973 Jr. Olympics (J); division qualifying (D); alternate (A). Alternate entries will be returned if all qualifiers submit entries.



## 1973 INTERNATIONAL FENCING CLINIC

by Raoul Sudre

The International Fencing Clinic was again held, as in the past two years, on the Cornell University campus in Ithaca, New York. The Clinic was attended by 112 students and 24 coaches, ranging in age from 12 to 66. Practically every state in the Union, as well as Mexico, Canada, Great Britain and France, were represented by the students and coaches attending.

The staff was composed of 18 Fencing Masters. Of the 18, only 6 of the Masters were completely fluent in English; however, communication between Masters and students was never a hinderance to a smooth exchange of ideas, questions and answers.

The homogeneity in teaching techniques was probably one of the most important factors in the amazing improvement and development of each student at the Camp. As one of the coaches remarked, "This is great. You can ask the same question of five different people and get the same answer!"

What characterized most the ambience of the Camp could be identified by two words, friendliness and eagerness: friendliness in the rapport between Masters and students, between the students themselves, as well as among the Masters, and eagerness in the desire to learn and to work hard. The mood was positive throughout.

To say that this Camp was a success would be a wild understatement, but in terms of the development of American Fencing, it is only a first step. Next year, the International Fencing Camp will travel to various areas of the country, thus making it possible for more fencers to take advantage of it. Tentative preliminary plans were

made to hold the Clinics on the Coast, at the University of California; Jolla, the Midwest at Wayland Acacia Wisconsin, in Canada at Kingston, in Florida at Florida State, Tallahassee, finally, in the East, probably again in Florida. The same staff will be instructing at different sites, following a similar pattern which next year will benefit from the experience gained this year and through the various suggestions and constructive comments made by this year's participants.

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Jan. 19	Marseille, France	Licciardi Foil
Feb. 2	Paris, France	Martini Foil
Feb. 9	London, G.B.	Corble Sabre
Feb. 9	Milan, Italy	Spreafico Epee
Feb. 16	Paris, France	Monal Epee
Feb. 23	Brussels, Belgium	Martini Sabre
March 2	London, G.B.	Martini Epee
March 2	Paris, France	Duval Foil
March 9	Paris, France	Rommel Foil
March 9	Hamburg, BRD	Hamburg Sabre
March 10	Huy, Belgium	Vierset Epee
March 15	Torino, Italy	Martini Women's
March 22	New York, USA	N.Y. Martini
March 31	Budapest, Hungary	Foil, Sabre
March 30	Berne, Switzerland	Grand Prix Epee
April 5, 6	Warszawa, Poland	Wlody Sabre
April 6	Chalons, France	Gaudini Sabre
April 12	Istanbul, Turkey	World Junior Championships
April 18	Minsk, USSR	Women's Foil
April 19	Heidenheim, BRD	Epee
April 26	Budapest, Hungary	Sabre
May 4	London, G.B.	de Beaumont Women's
May 11	Padova, Italy	Luxardo Sabre
May 11	London, G.B.	Miller Hallet Epee
May 18	London, G.B.	Coronation Foil
May 25	Como, Italy	d'Argento Foil
June 1	Bologna, Italy	Giovannini Foil
June 8	Warszawa, Poland	Trybuna Foil
July 16	Grenoble, France	World Championships

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## FENCING BOOK COLLECTION

by Jeffrey R. Tishman

Joseph Waffa, a seventy-year-old fencing coach now residing in Florida, announced recently that he is placing his collection of fencing books up for sale. The price, however, may not send all of us running for our checkbooks: It's \$1,500.00!

The 152 volume set was amassed by Mr. Waffa over his four decades. The collection includes books in six different languages and covers virtually all aspects of fencing and duelling. The oldest book in English included in the set is **The History and Examination of Duels** by Dr. John Cockburn, published in 1720.

For the past five years, Mr. Waffa has continued his teaching career with the University of Miami Fencing Association; and this coming season he'll add a class in fencing to the University of Miami Drama Department.

Anyone interested in purchasing the collection should contact Mr. Waffa directly: Joseph Waffa, 541 Anastasia Ave., Apt. #3, Coral Gables, Florida 33134.

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