

# American Fencing

VOLUME 21 – NUMBER 2

SUPPLEMENT

## OPERATIONS MANUAL

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
CHAPTER I – GENERAL	3
Authorized Competitions	3
Classification of Fencers	3
Ranking Fencers, Veterans	4
Rating of Competitions	5
Designation of Competitions	5
Schedule of Events	6
Eligibility of Individuals	6
Club Representation	7
Assumption of Risk	7
CHAPTER II – MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL	7
Responsibility for Events	7
Organizing Committee	7
Bout Committee	7
Jury of Appeal	8
Juries	9
Spectators	9
CHAPTER III – ENTRIES	9
Filing and Fees	9
Refunds	9
Denial of Entry	9
Team Events	9
Composite Teams	10
CHAPTER IV – DISCIPLINE	
Vindictive or Intentional Misconduct	10
Jury of Appeal	10
CHAPTER V – SPECIAL RULES for NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT	10
Nature of the Tournament	10
Date and Place of Tournament, Qualifying Competitions and Sectional Championships	10
Organization	11
Financial Assistance	12
Schedule of Tournament	12
Eligibility for the Tournament	12
Automatic Individual Qualifiers	12
Qualifying Competitions	13
Number of Individual Qualifiers	13
Number of Team Qualifiers	14
Alternates	14
Certification of Qualifiers and Alternates	14

NOVEMBER 1969

# AMERICAN FENCING

Number 2  
Supplement

Official Organ of the Amateur Fencers League of America

Advertising Office: P. O. Box 144, Terre Haute, Ind. 47808

Second Class Postage Paid in Terre Haute, Ind. 47808

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)	PAGE
Procedure of Entries	15
Composition of Teams	15
Form of Competition	15
First Round	15
Subsequent Rounds	15
CHAPTER VI — GENERAL	16
Jurisdiction and Affiliations	16
Foundations and Officers	16
International Activity	16
CHAPTER VII — ADMINISTRATION of NATIONAL AFFAIRS	17
The Corporation	17
The Board of Directors	17
Committees of the Board	17
The National Nominating Committee	18
The U. S. Directors Commission	18
Official Publication	19
Promotional, Technical and Instructional Material	19
Trustees of Investment and Development Funds	19
Geographical Organization	19
Professional Certificate of Merit	20
CHAPTER VIII — THE AMATEUR CODE and RULES GOVERNING EXHIBITIONS	20
Constitutional Definition	20
Precedents in the United States	20
International Precedents	20
Amateur Coaching	21
Status of Professionals in Other Sports	22
Administration of Amateur Code	22
Rules Governing Exhibitions	22
BY-LAWS OF THE AMATEUR FENCERS LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INCORPORATED	23
Article I — Organization and Name	23
Article II — Purposes	23
Article III — Fiscal Year	24
Article IV — Membership	24
Article V — Fees, Dues and Arrears	24
Article VI — Officers	25
Article VII — Board of Directors	26
Article VIII — Order of Business — Meetings	27
Article IX — Procedure for Meetings	28
Article X — Committees of the Board of Directors	28
Article XI — Meetings and Elections of the Corporation	28
Article XII — Notices and Mailings of Ballots	29
Article XIII — Divisions and Sections	29
Article XIV — The National Division	30
Article XV — Colors	30
Article XVI — Amendments	30
Article XVII — Taking Effect of Revision	30
Article XVIII — Separate Accounts	30

The Operations Manual was prepared by a committee of the Board of Directors consisting of J. Latzko, Chairman, Stephen Netburn and Dr. Ralph Zimmerman. It was reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee as authorized by the Board of Directors. The Manual thanks all those who helped with the preparation of this work, particularly Miss Amelia O, Miss Anita Cannarilli, Mrs. Ralph Zimmerman, who typed the manuscript and Mrs. Connie who assisted in the indexing, proofreading and final editing. William J. Latzko, Secretary

## CHAPTER I — General

### 1. Authorized Competitions

(a) Except as herein provided, competitive members of the AFLA may participate only in competitions scheduled by or under the auspices of the national Board of Directors or of the divisions and sections of the AFLA. Violations of this rule are punishable by disciplinary penalties according to the gravity of the offense.

(b) Mixed bouts between men and women are not permitted in formal competitions or exhibitions in which touches are counted.

(c) Members of the AFLA are authorized to participate in collegiate and scholastic meets for which they are eligible, and in tournaments organized by the Intercollegiate Fencing Association, National Collegiate Athletic Association, and similar intercollegiate and interscholastic associations provided that such events are conducted under fencing rules that substantially conform to the rules of the AFLA.

(d) Members of the AFLA are authorized to participate in foreign individual competitions when such events are organized by or under the sponsorship of a national federation that is a member of the FIE. Members are also authorized to compete in international collegiate or scholastic competitions which are held without any objection thereto by the federation of the country in which the event is held. Members of the AFLA who wish to participate in foreign or international competitions must hold FIE licenses and should be certified by the AFLA as to eligibility. Active and Members of the AFLA may obtain FIE licenses free of charge by applying to the Secretary of the AFLA. Other members must pay \$1.00. Members of the AFLA may not compete in foreign international competitions as a team representing the U.S. except upon specific approval of the Board of Directors.

(e) Amateurs may compete against professionals in all competitions, as long as the professional competitor is a member of the AFLA, except in those competitions specifically limited to amateurs by the Board. No purse, however, may be awarded to either amateur or professional in such a competition.

### 2. Classification of Fencers

For the purpose of providing reasonable equality of strength in competitions, fencers are classified nationally on the basis of competitive experience and achievement into the following categories: Class A (highest), Class B, Class C, and Unclassified (lowest). The classification of a fencer in each weight shall be changed when he meets the conditions outlined herein below, and once he achieves a higher category he may not compete in a lower one unless there is a revision of these rules and, by definition, applicable to all members, he falls into a new or lower classification. The following rules govern the classification of fencers:

- (a) A fencer is classified as Class A
  - (1) by winning an individual competition rated as Group 1 (see section 4, rating Competitions, below); or
  - (2) by winning any of the first six places in the U.S. national championships; or
  - (3) by being officially selected to represent the U.S. in the Olympic or Pan American Games
  - (4) by being officially selected to represent the U.S. in the World Championships and having achieved the round of 32 or better; or
  - (5) by being officially selected to represent the U.S. in the World Under 20 Championships and having achieved the round of 16 or better; or
  - (6) by being officially selected to represent the U.S. in the World University Games and having achieved the round of 16 or better; or
  - (7) by attaining distinction in another country as a competitive fencer which in the judgment of the Board of Directors is equivalent to that involved in the preceding clauses of this paragraph.

r is classified as Class B

y finishing second or third in an individual competition rated as Group I (see section 4

y winning an individual competition rated as Group II (see section 4 below); or

y competing as a member of a team that wins the U.S. national team championships; or

y achieving first, second or third place in the Modern Pentathlon Epee event at the  
an American or World Championships; or

y being officially selected to represent the U.S. at the World Championships (excluding the  
r 20 Championships and the World University Games); or

y having attained an A classification in another weapon; or

y attaining distinction in another country as a competitive fencer which in the judgment of  
f Directors is equivalent to that involved in the preceding clauses of this paragraph.

r is classified as C

y being a finalist in an individual competition rated as Group I (see section 4 below); or

y finishing second or third in an individual competition rated as Group II (see section 4

y winning an individual competition rated as Group III (see section 4 below); or

y competing as a member of a team that places second or third in the U.S. national team  
tips; or

y having attained a B classification in another weapon.

purposes of classification, in rated competitions (see section 4 below), any placing attained  
sional will be awarded to the next ranking amateur.

r remains Unclassified as long as he does not qualify for Class A, Class B, or Class C rating  
oregoing rules.

as specifically provided herein, the classification of a fencer in one weapon has no effect  
classification in another weapon and is not affected by his winning or competing in individual  
on events, team events, invitation meets, intercollegiate events, or unofficial club and  
ompetitions.

member of the AFLA is personally responsible for ascertaining his own classification in each  
To avoid questions with respect to individual fencers, each division through its Executive  
e or other designated officer or committee should certify the classification of all fencers  
sion at the beginning of each fencing season. The Secretary of each division should send a  
ist of Class A and Class B fencers in the division to the Secretary of the AFLA and the  
American Fencing at the beginning of each season (September 1).

ver at a competition a question is raised concerning the classification of a fencer, the Bout  
e in charge shall decide the case and such determination shall be conclusive for that  
on. However, for subsequent competitions the decision shall be subject to review by the  
te Executive Committee and by the National Board of Directors.

### *Ranking Fencers, Veterans*

ditional categories exist independently of the above classifications: Ranking Fencers, and

ing Fencers in a particular weapon are those who, based upon their standings in the finals of  
recent National Championship, have been selected by the Board as the strongest national

competitors in that weapon. Such a classification will entitle that fencer to a seeded draw in individ  
competitions during the next succeeding fencing season.

(b) Veterans are all fencers who (1) have attained the age of 50 years, or (2) have attained the age  
40 years and in addition have retired from all competitions except the Veteran's individual events  
team events in which they participate as part of a team made up exclusively of Veterans.

## *4. Rating of Competitions*

(a) In order to qualify as a Group I Competition, a competition must meet all of the followi  
requirements:

i. There must be a minimum of 12 participants in the competition, at least six of whom mu  
have a classification of Class C or higher.\*

ii. The final shall consist of not less than six fencers of whom not less than two must  
classified as Class A and two as Class B (or higher).

(b) In order to qualify as a Group II Competition, a competition must meet all of the followi  
requirements:

i. There shall be a minimum of 12 participants in the competition, at least four of whom mu  
have a classification of Class C or higher.\*

ii. The final shall consist of not less than six fencers of whom not less than two shall be Class  
fencers and two Class C (or higher).

**NOTE:** If all other requirements are met for (a) or (b) above, and the event is by direct eliminatio  
the last 8 (or 6, if to a "final" of 6) shall be considered finalists for purposes of these rules.

(c) Group III Competitions:

i. There shall be not less than ten participants in the competition.

ii. The final shall consist of not less than six fencers.

(d) In addition, every division is authorized to schedule competitions restricted to fencers under  
certain age, or to such unclassified fencers as are novices or relatively inexperienced; provided that  
some unclassified fencers are barred from such events an appropriate description of the basis c  
eligibility of contestants must be announced in the schedule.

## *5. Designation of Competitions*

(a) An Open competition is one in which all competitive members of the AFLA in good standing, an  
of the same sex, are eligible to compete without regard to their classification, rank, age, or division  
membership.

(b) A Closed competition is a sectional, interdivisional, or divisional competition in which eligibility i  
limited on the basis of sectional or divisional membership.

(c) A Restricted competition is one in which the eligibility of competitors is limited on the basis o  
classification, rank, age, academic status, or special invitation.

i. A Class A competition is one open to Class A and Ranking fencers; it may be open to other  
members of the AFLA only to the extent noted in the schedule.

ii. The designation of a competition as Class B, or Class C (or other designation) indicates the  
highest category of fencers permitted to participate therein, but these competitions are also open to  
fencers of lower categories unless the contrary is specifically announced in the schedule.

\*In determining the rating of a Sectional Championship, the divisional qualifying rounds shall be  
considered part of the event to establish the number of participants and those classified as Class C or  
higher.

restricted competitions limited to fencers of a certain age or academic status shall not be based on the basis of classification or rank unless organized and announced as invitation

"Championship" shall be limited to the most important competitions or tournaments in national, interdivisional or divisional schedules.

Divisional Championships include the individual open foil, epee, sabre and women's events, and the corresponding team events. The Board of Directors reserves the right to restrict competitions as national championships, open or restricted.

Sectional Championships include the Midwest, North Atlantic, Pacific Coast, Southeast and Interdivisional championships, individual and team, in all weapons. No restricted event shall be designated as sectional championships without the express approval of the Board of Directors. Sectional Championships must be held at least four weeks prior to the day of the start of the National Championship.

Divisional Championships may be open or closed and shall be limited to one per weapon per year. No restricted competition shall be designated as a divisional championship without the express approval of the Board of Directors.

In all contests, where the number of touches scored is not the sole criterion for victory in a competition, provided adequate notice of the exact character of the event is included in the schedule.

### *Season of Events*

The season officially begins on September 1 and continues through August 31 of the next year.

At the beginning of each season (and not later than October 15) each section and division through its officers or Committees, shall draft and publish a schedule of team and individual events.

The schedule shall indicate the name and address of the person to whom entries are to be sent and the closing date for entries. Unless otherwise announced in the schedule, entry fees will be refunded if notice of the withdrawal of a fencer is received not less than 72 hours before the event is scheduled to start.

Open and epee competitions shall be held with the electrical apparatus unless specifically noted as "non-electric" in the schedule.

The schedule should include the following information:

Title and classification of each event.

Date, hour and place.

Entry fee, method and conditions for entries.

Terms for admission of spectators, if any.

Special regulations or conditions.

### *Eligibility of Individuals*

Competitive members of the AFLA in good standing are eligible to compete in team or individual events scheduled by or under the auspices of the AFLA, except by special invitation of the Board of Directors or sectional officers or Committees for events under their jurisdiction, or as provided by the Board of Directors for the National Championships (see Chapter V, section B, of the Constitution of the Tournament).

A member of a division shall be in good standing unless his division is not in good standing according to the established rules and practices of the AFLA. Consequently, if a member's division is not in good standing, the Board of Directors may transfer his membership to the National Division and make such

rules respecting eligibility to enter competitions and for the holding of additional competitions as may be appropriate.

(c) A fencer who has entered a competition but has failed to pay the required entry fee, and has either participated in the competition or failed to withdraw therefrom in time, shall be ineligible to enter any subsequent AFLA competitions until restored to good standing by payment of the sum due.

(d) Every entry certifies the entrant's eligibility for the particular event not only with respect to AFLA membership in good standing but also as to compliance with every other requirement.

## *8. Club Representation*

The term "club" as used in these rules includes any organized fencing group or individual members. The group may be affiliated with a club, industrial institution, association or other entity. A recognized club is one which has a reasonably stable organizational structure and membership, a place for regular fencing activity and preferably a professional fencing master for lessons and training.

(a) A fencer may at any time resign from one club and join another, or join or hold membership in two or more clubs. However, within the same fencing season no fencer may represent in competition more than one club without special permission of the Board of Directors.

(b) A college or scholastic fencer who is also a member of another recognized club may represent his school in dual meets and intercollegiate or interscholastic events, and also represent the other club in AFLA events, but in such case he may not represent his school in AFLA events except in AFLA events restricted to students.

(c) A fencer who, while a member of a recognized club, elects to fence unattached, may not be permitted to represent any club during the remainder of the season in individual competition, and may not compete in team events except as a member of composite teams.

## *9. Assumption of Risk*

Every fencer engaging in competition, and every person attending a competition in any capacity whatsoever, does so at his own risk and peril and neither the organization having jurisdiction over the event nor the organization furnishing the place for the event, nor any officer, official, agent or employee of either of the aforementioned organizations, shall be liable in any manner for any damage, injury or loss suffered by any person as a competitor, official, attendant or spectator at a fencing event regardless of whether or not there has been compliance with the rules and regulations prescribed herein, and whether or not any official has waived or failed to enforce strict compliance therewith.

## **Chapter II — Management and Control**

### *1. Responsibility For Events*

The Organizing Committee is responsible for the organization of competition or tournament and shall provide the facilities, equipment and personnel indicated in Chapter V, Section A3 to the maximum extent necessary. It shall also provide or obtain the prizes to be awarded, if any.

(a) National events (including the annual National Championship Tournament) are under the supervision of the President and the Board of Directors. (See Chapter V).

(b) Sectional events are limited to the annual Sectional Championships and are under the supervision of the Sectional Vice-Presidents and Executive Committees pursuant to Sectional by-laws. The Sectional Vice-Presidents, after consultation with the Chairman or Executive Committee of the host division, appoint the Organizing Committee, the Bout Committee and their respective Chairmen subject to the approval of the Sectional Executive Committees.

(c) Divisional events are under the supervision of the Chairman and the Executive Committee or other appropriate committee of the division, pursuant to the divisional by-laws. The Chairman, with the approval of the appropriate divisional committee, appoints the Organizing Committee, the Bout Committee and their respective chairmen.

### *2. Organizing Committee*

The organization of a competition or tournament is the responsibility of an Organizing Committee which shall provide the facilities, equipment and personnel indicated in Chapter V, Section A3.

## Committee

The Committee through its Chairman is responsible for and in complete charge of all affairs within its jurisdiction, including all officials, contestants and spectators.

### Chairman

The Chairman is responsible for review of plans and programs set up by the organizing committee, the conduct of the competition, assignment of officials, seeding of pools, maintenance of records, and the making of awards.

### Procedure in Making

The Bout Committee itself is not a parliamentary body which makes administrative decisions by vote. All of the Committee's authority is vested in the Chairman who may delegate it as he sees fit. The Committee members are assistants who serve in an advisory capacity but cannot overrule the Chairman on administrative matters. Only on questions properly brought to it on appeal, the Bout Committee decide by majority vote. In such cases, the Chairman has only one vote.

### Requirements for Committee Membership

The Bout Committee for AFLA events shall consist of members of the AFLA in good standing.

The minimum requirement for a place on the Bout Committee is a thorough knowledge of the rules of the sport.

Any member of the Bout Committee who is a competitor or team captain may not be in the seeding of pools or direct elimination plan for the event in which he is involved.

### Authority of

The Bout Committee has no power to amend the rules of fencing. In emergency cases it may modify the rules of organization for a particular event with the consent of the fencers concerned. Indirectly affected, but in all such cases a report of the action taken must be submitted to the appropriate governing body.

The decisions of the Bout Committee on matters within its jurisdiction are final. However, if it is found that the Committee has prescribed the rules, or applies the rules incorrectly, a protest by the aggrieved team is allowed. If the protest is overruled by the Bout Committee, the aggrieved person or team may appeal, in writing, to the Jury of Appeal.

### Procedure of Appeal

The Jury of Appeal is responsible for hearing a protest against a decision of the Bout Committee or a protest of appeal of Jury (where permitted under the Fencing Rules) which has been properly filed and heard. Such an appeal to the Jury of Appeal must be in writing. Further, notice of appeal must be given to the Bout Committee.

A member of the Jury of Appeal may not act if he is personally involved or if by reason of his position he is confronted with a potential conflict of interest: no proxy votes are permitted. The decisions of the Jury of Appeal are final. (For appeals from imposition of disciplinary penalties see Rules 1 and 2.)

### Composition of the Jury of Appeal at a national event

The Jury of Appeal at a national event shall be composed of all members of the Board of Directors present at the event, the Chairman or acting Chairman of the Bout Committee, and an officer from every division competing, not otherwise represented. In the latter case, if no officer is present, a member of the division shall be chosen by majority vote of the other members of the Jury of Appeal. The Chairman shall be the senior nationally elected officer present; if no national officer is present, the Chairman shall be elected by the Jury of Appeal from among its members. Each member of the Jury of Appeal, including the Chairman, shall cast one vote. In the event of a tie vote the Chairman shall have an additional vote.

### Composition of the Jury of Appeal at a sectional event

The Jury of Appeal at a sectional competition shall be composed of all members of the Board of Directors and of the sectional Executive Committee present at the event, the Chairman or acting Chairman of the Bout Committee, and an officer from every division competing and not otherwise

represented. In the latter case, if no officer is present a member of the division shall be chosen by majority vote of the other members of the Jury of Appeal. The Chairman shall be the Acting Vice-President for the Section. In his absence the Jury of Appeal shall elect a chairman from among its members. Each member of the Jury of Appeal, including the Chairman, shall cast one vote. In the event of a tie vote, the Chairman shall have an additional vote.

### (c) Composition of the Jury of Appeal at a divisional event

The Jury of Appeal at a divisional competition which shall be composed of all members of the Board of Directors and of the divisional Executive Committee present at the event, the Chairman or acting Chairman of the Bout Committee, and the club or team captain of every club or team competing and not otherwise represented. In the latter case, if a captain is not present, a member of the club shall be chosen by majority vote of the other members of the Jury of Appeal. The Chairman shall be the Chairman of the division. In his absence the Jury of Appeal shall elect a chairman from among its members. Each member of the Jury of Appeal, including the Chairman, shall cast one vote. In the event of any tie vote the Chairman shall have an additional vote.

## 5. Juries

All members of the Jury shall be members of the League in good standing. A jury may contain one or more professional members of the AFLA if permitted by the Bout Committee for that event.

## 6. Spectators (See Rules Book)

"Spectators" include any and all persons attending a competition who are not at the moment engaged in active participation therein either as contestants, or any other official capacity recognized by the rules.

Spectators are required, in the interest of safety and good order, to sit or stand at a distance of not less than ten feet from the limits of the strip and to obey any directives of the President of the Jury or the Bout Committee.

### Competitors Check List

1. Associate members of the AFLA and other members not in good standing are not eligible to compete.

2. It is the responsibility of the fencer to insure that his entry for a competition is filed in accordance with the Organizing Committee's regulations for that event.

3. Unless otherwise specified, all AFLA competitions are governed by the AFLA Rules and it is the responsibility of the fencer to familiarize himself with them.

4. It is the responsibility of the fencer to provide himself with the necessary equipment to compete in accordance with the Rules of the AFLA.

5. Unless otherwise provided, a fencer who violates any of the above directions is subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

## Chapter III – Entries

### 1. Filing and Fees

Unless otherwise specified in the schedule of events, team and individual entries shall be forwarded in writing to the chairman of the appropriate Bout Committee at least one week in advance of the scheduled date for the event. The entry must be accompanied by the appropriate entry fee. Entries for the National Championships are subject to special regulations (Chapter V). National Championship entries must be submitted at least three weeks prior to the opening of the event.

### 2. Refunds

Unless otherwise specified in the schedule of events, entry fees received in accordance with paragraph (1) above will be refunded if the Bout Committee receives notice of the withdrawal not less than 72 hours before the scheduled date for the event. (See special rules for National Championship.)

### 3. Denial of Entry

The Bout Committee shall reject any entry from a member who is not in good standing because of arrears in dues or entry fees, because of disciplinary penalties, or because of other reasons.

## Events

There shall be no limitation on the number of team entries from one club unless a specific limit is imposed by the appropriate governing body.

Members of two or more teams representing the same club may not be interchanged during the event (see exception for National Championships, Chapter V, Section C-2a).

Members of individual fencers on the team need not be formally filed at the time the team entry should be given to the Bout Committee before the plan of competition is worked out.

Each entry shall be permitted to compete with a lesser number of members than required for the event (which shall be three unless otherwise announced in the schedule).

Each individual member of a team shall, by participating in the competition, personally certify his ability to compete.

## Composite Teams

A composite team is one whose members do not represent the same club (they may all be members of the same club). Such teams are permitted unless notice to the contrary is included in the schedule of the event. However, a fencer may be part of a composite team in an event in which his club is formally entered with the approval of the appropriate Division. Composite teams may compete in the National Championship qualifying round.

Composite teams must furnish a guarantee for the safe custody of any trophy which may be won.

The Bout Committee shall refuse the entry of any composite team when, in its judgment, the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) have not been complied with in every respect.

A fencer who is a member of a club may fence on a composite team without prejudice to his right to fence for his club during the same season. (See Chapter 1, Section 8).

## Chapter IV — Discipline

The rules set forth in the International Code of Discipline (Part VI) shall govern the imposition of penalties in the U.S., with such modifications as may be necessary to conform to the organization of the AFLA and to any provisions contained in this chapter.

### *Vindictive or Intentional Misconduct*

In the U.S., a fencer who commits a vindictive act, or who during in-fighting intentionally injures his opponent, shall immediately be penalized one touch; and upon repetition of the offense during the competition shall be irrevocably excluded from the event without prejudice to disciplinary action. The determination of whether a 'vindictive act' has been committed or if 'al misconduct' has occurred lies within the discretion of the President of the Jury.

### *Jury of Appeal (See Chapter II, Section 4)*

The appeal procedure. If a protest against a decision of the Bout Committee or the President of the Jury (as permitted under the Fencing Rules) has been properly filed and has been overruled, an appeal may be taken to the Jury of Appeal for that competition. Notice of the appeal must be given to the Bout Committee. No other body may recognize a competition appeal prior to its registry with the Jury of Appeal. (See also Rules 615 (e), 617, 659).

Penalties. (See Rules 509, 618). In the case the penalty of exclusion or disqualification is imposed on a competition upon an individual or team, the Jury of Appeal shall determine whether the penalty is for violation of a technical rule or for a serious breach of good order or a flagrant violation of the code of good sportsmanship. If the first, the penalty should not deprive an individual of any placement or prizes earned before the offense. If one of the latter, the penalty may be suspension or expulsion from the competition. In all cases, the record of the offense and the reasons therefor must be filed with the Secretary for presentation to the Board of Directors. In addition, the Jury of Appeals may recommend to the appropriate Committee or the Board of Directors the imposition of more severe penalties, i.e., suspension or expulsion from the AFLA.

## Chapter V — Special Rules for the National Championship Tournament

Article

### *Article I — Rules of the Tournament*

The national schedule of events and shall be held in two parts: First, a preliminary open qualifying competition (consisting of one or more rounds) which shall be held in each division for its AFLA members in good standing; Second, a subsequent championship competition limited to duly qualified contestants. The championship competitions shall constitute the National Championship Tournament and shall include open individual and team events in men's foil, epee, sabre, and women's foil and individual Under-19 events in men's foil, epee, sabre, and women's foil.

### *2. Date and Place of Tournament, Qualifying Competitions and Sectional Championships*

The date and place of the Tournament shall be determined at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors in September of the preceding year.

Bids for the Tournament shall be submitted to the Board of Directors by interested divisions at least nine months in advance of the Annual Meeting of the Board held in September of the year preceding the event. Bids should include a full description of the facilities and personnel available and a plan for financing the necessary expenses of the Tournament. In the absence of divisional bids the Championships are automatically assigned to the Metropolitan Division.

The divisional qualifying rounds are to be held at least six weeks prior to the opening date of the National Championships. Sectional championships are to be held at least four weeks prior to the opening date of the National Championships.

### *3. Organization*

(a) **The Organizing Committee** is responsible for providing all physical facilities, necessary equipment, supplies and personnel. The Chairman and additional members are appointed by the President of the AFLA after consultation with the Chairman and Executive Committee of the host division subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

i. The scene of the Tournament should be spacious, well-lighted and well-ventilated, with dressing rooms and showers for men and women. It should be within reasonable proximity to housing and eating facilities. Enclosed space with lock and key should be available for use by technicians and for storage. Adequate space for the Bout Committee should be close to and in sight of the fencing area. A closed room must be available for the Bout Committee deliberations. A public address system must be available.

ii. A minimum of ten regulation strips must be available for the Tournament. For electrical weapons there must also be a metallic covering for each strip, with masking tape or other means for fastening it to the floor; a minimum of 15 combination foil-epee, or 15 each of separate foil and epee indicators and batteries (or equivalent power source); not less than 40 reels and connecting cables so as to permit a double set of reels operating on each strip with spares; and interconnecting switches for each strip to switch the proper connecting cables to the indicators. Extension lights for each foil strip are required. Each strip must have a stop watch or stop clock as well as weights and travel gauges. There should be a public scoreboard for at least the final round.

iii. A Technician and Assisting Technicians (6 to 8) shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Organizing Committee. The Organizing Committee shall provide the equipment and space required for inspection and repair of weapons and machines. It should also provide for the sale of weapons and body cords to contestants whose personal armament breaks down during the competitions and cannot be repaired without undue delay.

iv. The Organizing Committee shall arrange for the attendance of an adequate number of trained personnel (directors, judges, time keepers, scorers, etc.) to insure the proper and continuous conduct of the Tournament. It is also responsible for publicity, arrangements for Gala Night and publication of the program.

(b) The Organizing Committee shall nominate and obtain the services of a full-time Press Officer whose sole function shall be activities related to publicity and press releases, and who shall prepare a summary of the events for American Fencing.

(c) **The Bout Committee**, subject only to the Jury of Appeal, has the ultimate authority for conducting the National Championships. It is in charge of all personnel, competitors, officials and other persons present, including the audience. The Chairman and other members of the Bout Committee are appointed by the President of the AFLA after consulting with the chairman and Executive Committee of the host division subject to approval of the Board. The Bout Committee shall be responsible for the assignment of directors and judges. In this they must follow the approved list of officials published by the Directors Commission. The Bout Committee must assign the highest ranked directors before they assign lower ranked directors. (The rankings are "C", highest, 3, 2, 1A, 1 lowest.) Once assigned, directors may be reassigned or relieved at the discretion of the Bout Committee.

i. The elected National Officers of the League are appointed as follows:

The Jury of Appeal at the National championships shall be composed of all members of the directors present at the event, the Chairman or acting Chairman of the Bout Committee, and in every division competing and not otherwise represented. In the latter case, if no officer member of the division shall be chosen by majority vote of the other members of the Jury the Chairman shall be the senior nationally elected officer present; if no national officer is chairman shall be elected by the Jury of Appeal from among its members. Each member chairman shall cast one vote. In the event of a tie vote the chairman shall also cast the

### Travel Assistance

In order to assure the strongest possible representation from all sections of the country at the event, the Board of Directors requires the host division to provide travel allowances under the following policies:

An allowance is made to any competitor residing in the Section where the Tournament is

National Champions are entitled to the cost of round trip transportation by air on airlines. They may not receive additional allowances under (c) and (d) below.

Outstanding competitors in the previous year's Tournament (medalists and the next three) will receive partial allowances not to exceed 1/3 of round trip fare by air.

Each Sectional and Metropolitan Champion shall receive an allowance not to exceed 1/3 of air fare and the contribution may be matched by the Sectional treasury.

No individual may receive more than two of the allowances contemplated in (c) and (d) more than the cost of round trip by air.

Unused allowances detailed above may not be transferred to others.

### Rule of Tournament

The exact schedule of events shall be prepared by the Organizing Committee in consultation with the Chairman of the Bout Committee and, when approved by the Board of Directors, shall be the official organ of the AFLA, American Fencing.

### Eligibility For The Tournament

#### General

Only members in good standing at the time the entries for the Nationals are closed are eligible to compete in the National Championship Competition.

Entry to the National Championship Competition is limited to qualified U.S. Citizens and residents only.

### Automatic Individual Qualifiers

The following members of the AFLA who are U.S. Citizens or permanent residents and in good standing are eligible to participate in the individual events of the Tournament without taking part in qualifying competitions and without reducing the number of other qualifiers from the national division to which they belong:

Medalists and the next 5 ranking finalists in each weapon of the immediately preceding National Championship are eligible to participate in the event in which they were ranked.

Former national champions in each weapon.

Members of the U.S. Olympic or Pan American Team, whichever team was selected most recently, provided, however, that such selection did not occur more than four years prior to the tournament, are eligible to participate in the weapon(s) in which they were selected for the

Current Sectional and Metropolitan champions in each weapon are eligible to participate in the event in which they won their championships.

Not more than six members of the U.S. Modern Pentathlon Squad in epee certified for the year by the U.S. Modern Pentathlon Olympic Committee. The normal rules regarding club membership during the season are waived as to Pentathletes for the purpose of exercising this membership during the tournament.

(b) A fencer competing in an official FIE Championship with the approval of the Board of Directors may be granted automatic qualification, at the discretion of the Board, if the qualifying competition for his division (including the National Division) was held at the time he was so engaged.

(c) The privilege of automatic qualification for individual events in the Tournament may also be extended, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, to non-resident members of the AFLA who are U.S. citizens.

(d) The medalists of the National Under 19 Championships in the prior year are automatically qualified for the National Under 19 Championships provided they meet the requirements of age and residence or citizenship.

### 3. Qualifying Competitions

(a) The divisional qualifying competitions shall be held at least six weeks prior to the date of the opening of the Tournament and shall be open to all amateur members of the AFLA in good standing, who meet the requirements hereinafter set forth.

(b) i. Unless otherwise provided by the division, only members of the division may compete in that division's qualifying competition. No amateur member of the division who is in good standing at the time a proper entry shall be denied entry because of nationality or membership in a foreign fencing federation. In exceptional cases, subject to specific approval by the Board of Directors, a member of the AFLA in good standing may be permitted to qualify directly if he fulfills all of the following conditions: (1) that he earned qualification from his division the previous season, (2) that he was physically unable to compete in his current qualifying competition. No individual who has for the same season unsuccessfully attempted to qualify in a divisional qualifying competition shall be permitted to qualify by any other method.

ii. In the event that the winner of a recognized inter-collegiate conference is unable to qualify from his AFLA division by virtue of a conflict between his collegiate schedule and his divisional qualifying round, he shall be eligible for automatic qualification as provided in the rule notwithstanding his failure to qualify in the preceding year.

(c) Entries for the qualifying competition shall be timely sent to the Chairman of the Divisional Bout Committee or other person according to the divisional schedule.

(d) All qualifying competitions shall conform strictly to the rules governing AFLA events and shall be held by the round-robin pool method with not less than three contestants qualifying from each pool to the subsequent round. Ties for qualification to succeeding rounds of the qualifying competition and to the championship competition shall be fenced off.

(e) Subject to the limitations in the preceding paragraph, each division at its discretion may designate its divisional open championships as its qualifying competition.

(f) In the event that the number of entries for a qualifying competition is less than the number of authorized qualifiers (see Sections 3 and 4 following), the qualifying competition need not be held and all entries shall be automatically qualified for the Tournament.

(g) Only members of the armed forces of the U.S. not regularly assigned to duty within the territory of an established division, and not members of the U.S. Modern Pentathlon Squad, may qualify for individual events as representatives of the "Armed Forces at Large." In the event that the number of such entries is more than three, the National Bout Committee for the National Tournament shall schedule a preliminary competition to determine the qualifiers for the Tournament.

(h) An aggrieved fencer may appeal from the local bout committee and/or the Jury of Appeal for qualifying competition any decisions involving a possible violation of the rules to the Board of Directors by forwarding said appeal to the National Secretary, 33-62nd Street, West New York, New Jersey 07093, within three days after the qualifying round.

(i) The qualifying competitions for the Under 19 Championships are open to all who have not reached their 19th birthday as of Jan. 1 of the year in which the final rounds of the Championship are held.

i. Each Section is required to set up divisional qualifying criteria in the manner of the regular Sectional Championship.

ii. East Section shall conduct an Under 19 qualifying tournament to determine three qualifiers in each weapon and 3 alternates. For purposes of the Under 19 Tournament, the Metropolitan division is considered a Section.

### 4. Number of Individual Qualifiers

no will be eligible to compete in the Tournament from each division shall be determined by the number of eligible contestants competing for qualification. Not included in the number of contestants are those who, though fencing in the qualifying competition, (1) qualify or (2) are not members of the division.

The minimum number of qualifiers from a division shall be three if eight or fewer eligible compete in the qualifying competition.

Additional qualifiers shall be permitted if nine or more eligible contestants compete in the competition, as follows: 9-12 inclusive, one additional qualifier; 13-15 inclusive, two qualifiers; 16-18 inclusive, three additional qualifiers; 19-21 inclusive, four additional qualifiers; 22-24 inclusive, five additional qualifiers; 25-36 inclusive, six additional qualifiers; and one additional qualifier for each 10 eligible competitors in excess of 36.

Notwithstanding the limitations set forth above, the host division shall be allowed to qualify for ten for each individual event, in addition to automatic qualifiers.

Each Section shall qualify 3 members in each weapon to the Under 19 Championships. The host division is considered a section for the purpose of qualification to the National Under 19 Championships.

### *Qualification of Team Qualifiers*

Each division may qualify a maximum of three teams for each team event in the tournament. The U.S. Modern Pentathlon squad and the three branches of the armed forces (Army, Navy) may each enter one team in each event. The normal rules regarding club status during the season are waived as to Pentathletes and service personnel for purposes of eligibility in the Tournament.

Teams shall represent a recognized U.S. club and no club may qualify more than one team. The rules of the qualifying competition may permit a club to enter two or more teams.

Composite teams are forbidden in the Tournament.

Only Teams located within the territorial limits of the division shall qualify from that division.

Composite teams may enter the qualifying rounds but must compete hors concours.

### *Alternates*

In addition to the regular qualifiers provided in the preceding rules, each division may have a number of alternates who shall, in a specified order, become eligible for the Tournament in the event of the failure to enter of a regularly qualified individual or team. The number of such alternates shall be equal to the number of non-automatic qualifiers from the division. It is permissible for a division, if they determine at the time of the qualifying competition, that a person definitely will not compete in the National Championships, to bypass this person's name and take the next qualified person. If the list has been properly submitted, no substitutions may be made.

No individual may be an alternate unless he has actually participated in the qualifying competition.

### *Submission of Qualifiers and Alternates*

Immediately upon the completion of the qualifying competition in each weapon the host division shall transmit to the Secretary of the League the following information:

1. Certified list of the number of individual fencers taking part in the qualifying competition.

2. Certified list of the qualifiers from that division (including automatic qualifiers who are not from that division), in order to their estimated competitive strength.

3. Certified list of alternates in each weapon, in order of placement.

4. Certified list of the teams authorized to represent the division, and any alternates.

This information must reach the Secretary of the League at least four weeks prior to the opening of the Tournament, and does not constitute the required entry for the tournament. Failure to provide such certified lists may lead to the disqualification of competitors from the division.

(c) The Sectional (and Metropolitan) secretaries must submit the list of Sectional (Metropolitan) Champions, finalists and Under 19 qualifiers to the National Secretary, 33-62nd Street, West New York, New Jersey 07093, four weeks prior to the opening date of the National Championship.

(d) The Secretary of the League shall check the certified lists against the list of AFLA members in good standing and shall forward the lists, with his endorsement, or corrections, to the Chairman of the National Bout Committee for his guidance.

## **C. Entries**

### *1. Procedure for Entries*

(a) Every individual or team qualifier, including every automatic qualifier and every alternate, who wishes to participate in the championship competitions of the Tournament must file an official entry with the Chairman of the National Bout Committee (or the person designated in the schedule for the Tournament), at least three weeks in advance of the date set for the opening of the Tournament.

(b) Every entry must be accompanied by the required entry fee and a stamped self-addressed envelope. All fees are determined by the Board of Directors and shall be announced in the schedule for the Tournament.

(c) Within one week after the closing date for entries the Chairman of the Bout Committee shall check the entries received against the certified list of qualifiers and alternates which has the endorsement of the Secretary of the AFLA. He shall determine the number eligible to qualify from each division, the number of valid entries actually on hand from the division, and shall return the entries and fees to those alternates who are in excess of the permissible number for the division. No entry fees will be refunded for withdrawals thereafter and no substitutions shall be permitted.

(d) The Chairman of the Bout Committee shall inform every entrant of his acceptance for the Tournament and shall forward a complete list of accepted entries, and the collected fees, to the Chairman of the Organizing Committee not less than 10 days prior to the Tournament.

### *2. Composition of Teams*

(a) A duly qualified and entered team need not limit its composition to those members of the club who actually competed on that team in the qualifying competition and the general rule providing that members of two or more teams representing the same club may not be interchanged during a competition (applicable in the qualifying competition) shall not apply.

(b) No fencer shall be permitted to represent a club in the team championship competition unless he is a bona fide member and represented that club at least once during that regular season in a competition held by the division where the club is located.

## **D. Form of Competition**

### *1. First Round*

(a) The first round of the championship competitions, team and individual, shall be held by the pool method, but byes may be given without limitation of number at the discretion of the Bout Committee according to formula of general application.

(b) The seeded draw in the first round of the championship competitions shall be governed first by the list of National Ranking Fencers and fencers of International Rating and next according to the judgment of the Bout Committee aided by the statements of estimated strength contained in the certifications filed by divisional secretaries. However, members of the same division shall insofar as possible be separated, in the same manner as required for members of the same club.

### *2. Subsequent Rounds*

(a) Unless otherwise specifically announced in the schedule, at least three fencers shall qualify from each elimination round in individual events, and the final round-robin shall consist of at least six fencers. Ties for qualifications shall be fenced off in all rounds of the Tournament.

(b) In the event that a "super-final" of only two fencers is scheduled, the championship shall be decided either on the basis of a ten-touch bout in men's events and an eight-touch bout for women with a two-touch advantage (up to a maximum of 12 and 10 respectively) required for victory, or on the basis of individual matches for two out of three bouts (5 touches in men's events, 4 touches for women).

(c) If the schedule announces that the final of an individual championship is to be held by direct elimination, it shall state whether the top sixteen or top eight competitors will participate in the direct elimination and the type of bouts or matches to be fenced.



condary and College Relations Committee — which working through local groups of high college coaches and AFLA divisional leaders, formulates comprehensive fencing programs for all age fencers. Special competitions, increased publicity, instruction in judging and techniques, demonstration programs and other events are planned and carried out.

and Raising Committees — which organizes solicitation campaigns to support League

Law Committee — which, under the supervision of the League Counsel who serves as its handles all legal matters affecting the League. It also advises on the interpretation of the code.

Reinstatement Committee which reviews and investigates all applications for reinstatement status and makes recommendations to the Board. No applications are processed unless two approved since the last act of professionalism.

Certificate of Merit Committee which reviews properly submitted material pertaining to this and recommends issuance to the Board when appropriate.

### National Nominating Committee

National Nominating Committee is elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting of the League. It must consist of 5 voting members who come from at least 4 different sections of the League.

Function of the committee is to select candidates for national office and present a slate of names to the membership of the AFLA before February 1st. The committee is so composed that it is expected that there will be no sound out sentiment in their respective Sections and submit names which meet with approval.

National officer is elected for a one-year term and there are no restrictions as to the terms in the By-Laws. The recent practice has been for the President to serve for four years. The President is normally elected each year, and the new Vice President must come from the division as the one dropped but preferably from another division. Rotation of this replacement that each Vice President normally serves a 5 year term.

Process for contested elections is available primarily as a safety valve in the event that the Committee fails to perform its function properly. Since contested elections are costly and generate animosities, the importance of the deliberations of the Nominating Committee is emphasized.

### FIE Directors Commission

The Commission is composed of all AFLA members who hold a valid FIE officials license, the Executive Presidents (including the Chairman of the Metropolitan Division), and an appointee of the League. This group internally elects an Executive Committee of 5 members every four years, terminating with the term of the International (FIE) Commission de l'Arbitrage. The current 5 members empowered to act for the commission as a whole, are Laszlo Pongo (Chairman), William Stetson (Secretary), Daniel Bukantz, Ralph Goldstein, and George Worth.

Classes of officials are recognized by this commission: 1, 1A, 2, 3, and C (FIE license). Classes 1 and 1A are awarded at the divisional level, and indicate that the holder is qualified to officiate at the preliminary and final levels, respectively, of divisional competitions. Class 2 rating is awarded by the Sectional Executive Committee after recommendation by the division and an official by higher rated officials. The Class 2 official is qualified to officiate through the finals of all championships, as well as any lower-ranked competition. The highest domestic rating, awarded only by the Commission itself, after examination by at least three ranking officials is the one Commission members. The Class 3 official is qualified to direct at any level of officiating in the U.S., including the finals of the National Championships.

The FIE Directors Commission published periodically a list of Class 2, 3 and C officials, and is responsible for maintaining the quality of this list. In any Group 1 competition it is mandatory that only those officials be used, except they may be relieved by the Bout Committee as needed to avoid overwork. The Commission is the sole authority for requests to the FIE for approval as an International Director.

Officials have served with distinction as presidents of jury in the finals of Olympic and World Championships: M. A. de Capriles (1936, 1952, 1958), J. R. de Capriles (1952, 1956), Dr. Tracy Jaeckel (1958, 1960, 1964, 1967), Ralph M. Goldstein (1958, 1960), Allan S. Kwartler (1960), and George Worth (1960, 1963). An all-U.S. jury served throughout the 1956 sabre final, consisting of Tracy Jaeckel, Dr. Bukantz, R. Richard Dyer, Mr. Kwartler and Mr. Worth. The following U.S. officials served on the Bout Committee in charge of Olympic Championships: Tracy Jaeckel, M. A. de Capriles, J. R. de Capriles, and Curtis C. Ettinger.

## F. Official Publication

In order to promote better communication among fencers throughout the United States, the AFLA in 1949 designated the magazine *American Fencing* as the official publication of the AFLA. *American Fencing* was founded by Jose R. de Capriles and William L. Osborn who served as Editor and Publisher respectively and without remuneration. The magazine is distributed to all members of the AFLA six times a year as part of their membership, and is often used to make official announcements to the League members. Subscriptions also circulate throughout the fencing world.

Persons having articles they wish printed in the magazine should send them to the Publisher, W. L. Osborn, P. O. Box 144, Terre Haute, Indiana 47808. Only signed articles will be accepted.

## G. Promotional, Technical and Instructional Material Available

The following list of material is presently available (April 1969) to any interested fencer and additional material will be added to the list from time to time. Apply to:

The Secretary  
Amateur Fencers League of America, Inc.  
33 - 62nd Street  
West New York, New Jersey 07093

- |   |   |                                     |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Questions and Answers about the AFLA | 6. How to Understand and Enjoy the Sport of Fencing | 11. Junior Olympic Fencing Brochure |
| 2. AFLA Membership Application          | 7. Fencing Bibliography                             | 12. Junior Olympic Publicity Poster |
| 3. How to Build AFLA Membership         | 8. Fencing Films and Visual Aids                    | 13. AFLA Pin                        |
| 4. How to Organize a Fencing Program    | 9. Direction and Judging — Questions and answers    | 14. AFLA Patch                      |
| 5. How to Organize a Fencing Workshop   | 10. AFLA Fund-Raising Brochure                      | 15. Rules Book                      |
|   |   | 16. Score Sheets                    |
|   |   | 17. AFLA Decals                     |

## H. Trustees of Investment & Development Funds

The president of the AFLA and two other individuals who may not be officers of the League serve as managers of two investment accounts looking towards the long term development of the AFLA activities. One fund is earmarked for domestic development programs and the other is dedicated to improving our international efforts. While the investment income of each account is available for current activities, the principle and any additions thereto can not be expended until the account reaches \$100,000 or has been in existence for at least fifteen (15) years.

## I. Geographical Organization

At first, membership in the AFLA was heavily concentrated in Metropolitan New York, although divisions were created to administer the local affairs of fencing groups in other parts of the country. The first divisions were established on March 20, 1892 in Nebraska and New England. In 1968 there were 52 active and 11 inactive divisions as well as a National group composed of members who do not belong to an active division. This National group included all of Metropolitan New York until 1956 when the Metropolitan Division was formed.

The active divisions in 1968 were: Arizona, Northern California, Southern California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Central Florida, Florida Gateway, Florida Gold Coast, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Central Illinois, Indianapolis, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, St. Louis, (Mo.), Nevada, New England, New Jersey, New Mexico, Hudson-Berkshire (N.Y.-Mass.), Long Island (N.Y.), Metropolitan (N.Y.), Westchester (N.Y.), Western New York, West Point (N.Y.), North Carolina, North Dakota, Columbus (O.), Miami Valley (O.), Northern Ohio, Southwest Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Harrisburg (Pa.), Philadelphia (Pa.), Western Pennsylvania, Border (Tex.), Gulf Coast (Tex.), North Texas, South Texas, Virginia, Washington D.C., Western Washington (State), West Virginia, Wisconsin. The inactive divisions were: Birmingham (Ala.), Alaska, Sacramento (Calif.), San Diego (Calif.), Inland Empire (Idaho-Wash.), New Orleans (La.), Mid New York, Nebraska, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah.

Non-administrative regional units, called Sections, are created for the purpose of conducting annual regional championships among divisions within a section. The first sectional championship was organized in the Pacific Coast in 1925 and has been held annually ever since. The Midwest held its first championship in 1934, the Southwest in 1950, the North Atlantic in 1955, and the Southeast in 1966. The names of the sections indicate the general boundaries of their territory, with the North Atlantic including those divisions from Maine to Washington, D.C. and west to the Ohio border (excluding the

Division), the Southeast including the states from Virginia to Alabama, the Midwest the entire area commonly known by that name, the Southwest covering the territory south of the Colorado River, and the Pacific Coast including California, Oregon, and Washington.

### *Professional Certificate of Merit*

A Professional Certificate of Merit is an honorary award voted by the Board of Directors of teachers of fencing who have rendered distinguished service to the AFLA by developing and promoting the qualities of technical skill and love of fencing, as well as the spirit of sportsmanship. This award does not purport to certify the professional competence of fencing but the AFLA believes that outstanding instructors are deserving of recognition by the governing body for fencing in the United States.

A Professional Certificate of Merit is never voluntarily offered by the Board of Directors and is only solicited by a teacher of fencing. A proposal for the award must be made by two or more members of the Board, or by the Executive Committee of a division, in the form of a letter to the Board, and approved by the fencing history of the professional to be honored and the names and addresses of at least two of his recognized pupils in AFLA competition. The submitted material is reviewed by the Certificate of Merit Committee which reports to the Board of Directors its recommendations.

## Article VIII – The Amateur Code and Rules Governing Exhibitions

### *Amateur Definition*

The bylaws of the AFLA (Article IV Section 2) contain the following definition:

"An amateur fencer is one who participates in fencing solely for the love of the sport, who has not derived direct or indirect financial benefits from any competition or exhibitions in fencing, and who has never been a professional fencer, coach, or trainer in any branch of fencing."

The bylaws also give the Board of Directors the exclusive power to enact, interpret and apply the Amateur Code. The Board is guided in its interpretations and decisions by its own precedents and the AAU and the FIE.

### *Precedents in the United States*

Under the precedents of the AFLA there is no objection to the receipt of compensation by an instructor for writing, editing or publishing news reports, articles, magazines, or books on fencing; for the repair, or manufacture; the guiding principle in these cases being that the instructor is capitalizing upon his skill as an author, designer, speaker, electrical technician, rather than his skill or reputation as a fencer. Compensation received as an official at collegiate fencing is not substantially in excess of actual out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection therewith and must conform to a basic plan of general application that has been approved by the Board of Directors. The policies of the AFLA with respect to fencing exhibitions are stated in a separate chapter.

Under the precedents of the AAU, the following acts are forbidden:

Participation in any competition not held under the rules and sanction of the AFLA.

Obtaining any financial benefits, directly or indirectly, from participation in any competition or exhibition in any sport. This includes the sale of personal prizes, receipt of excessive expenses, and any other financial benefits.

Participation in a competition or exhibition against or with persons ineligible to compete as fencers without having first obtained permission to do so from the Board of Directors or from an authorized representative of the Board.

Participation in any sport under an assumed name, unless duly approved in advance by the governing body; or commission of fraud or of grossly unsportsmanlike conduct in connection with participation in any athletic sport.

### *National Precedents*

The statutes report the following precedents:

An amateur may participate in mixed competitions (with or against professionals) provided the competitions are authorized by their national federation; he may not compete in an event with a professional group (1931 Congress).

(2) An amateur has the right to receive in cash, as a maximum, the reimbursement of his actual expenses in participating in a competition. But such reimbursement cannot be contingent upon the final standing of such a fencer in the competition (1949 Congress). Reimbursable expenses may include: (a) transportation costs; (b) the cost of lodging and meals; (c) pocket money in a moderate amount (1956 Congress).

(3) An amateur does not have the right: (a) to bet upon the competitions in which he takes part; (b) to sell or pledge prizes won in competition; (c) to participate in competitions under an assumed name without the authorization of his national federation; (d) to participate in competitions for money; (e) to lend his name to any kind of commercial advertisement; (f) to accept cash prizes in competition; (g) to accept reimbursement for participation expenses in international tournaments for a period longer than 30 days per year, travel time excluded; (h) to accept reimbursement of the expenses of persons accompanying him to a competition; (i) to accept, under any form whatsoever, any indemnification for loss of earnings or loss of employment time. However, this prohibition does not include vacations under the normal conditions of his profession, or vacations granted under similar conditions on the occasion of the Olympic Games (and provided they do not constitute in a round-about fashion a reimbursement, direct or indirect, of lost salary), or the payment in hardship and exceptional cases, after due inquiry in each instance and in the form of a disbursement made directly to the employer, of an indemnity to the wife or mother of an athlete who is the sole support of his family (IOC, 35th Session, 1938); (j) to accept any remuneration to shift his affiliation from one club to another or to remain a member of a club; (k) to accept any remuneration for the use of articles or equipment marketed by a particular dealer; (l) to be or to have been paid as a fencing master or teacher or provost teaching fencing (1958 Congress); (m) to be or to have been paid for training other persons for sports competition (1959 Congress).

(4) For each Olympic Games only those fencers who conform to the latest definition approved by the IOC will be considered as eligible amateurs (1958 Congress).

### *D. Amateur Coaching*

#### 1. Policy

The AFLA recognized that the teaching of fencing by amateurs is a major instrumentality for the development of the sport in the U.S., but suggests that amateurs encourage established groups to hire a professional teacher as soon as the membership can support one.

#### 2. Prohibitions

In furtherance of this policy, the following prohibitions have been enacted:

(a) An amateur coach may not receive direct or indirect compensation for his services.

(b) An amateur coach may not, without specific authorization from the Board of Directors or the national AFLA Executive Committee, regularly give instruction (even if he receives no compensation) in any case where some person or organization assesses a fee or requires a consideration for such instruction, as distinguished from the use of physical facilities or equipment. However, nothing in this paragraph is intended to prohibit mutual instruction or coaching by members of a club for their common benefit.

(c) An amateur coach may not receive reimbursement of expenses for giving private lessons or for private training of an individual for fencing competition. An amateur coach may receive reimbursement of his actual out-of-pocket expenses for travel and subsistence in connection with group coaching, but this shall not be construed as authorizing the payment of compensation for instruction under the guise of reimbursed expenses.

#### 3. Exemptions

Notwithstanding the preceding prohibitions, the following are regarded as amateur fencers unless otherwise disqualified:

(a) Teachers of physical education or other subjects who are full-time members of the faculty of an accredited elementary school, high school, preparatory school, college or university, who, as an incidental part of their duties, offer instruction in fencing to students regularly enrolled in such academic institutions, and who receive no extra remuneration therefore beyond their regular academic salaries.

(b) Members of the Armed Forces of the U.S. who are detailed or assigned to give instruction in fencing as part of their service duties, and who receive no extra remuneration therefore beyond the service pay of their rating or rank.

(c) Students who are degree candidates in good standing, who teach fencing at their college or university as an incidental condition of their participation in an established plan of financial aid to

BY-LAWS OF THE AMATEUR FENCERS LEAGUE OF AMERICA,  
INCORPORATED

**ARTICLE I**

**Organization and Name**

The name of this Corporation shall be "The Amateur Fencers League of America, Incorporated". The Corporation is chartered and exists under the Non-Profit Corporation Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is qualified as a tax exempt organization under the Federal Internal Revenue Code.

**ARTICLE II**

**Purposes**

The purposes of the Corporation shall be:

1. To promote the social welfare by advancing physical fitness through the establishment, maintenance and promotion of regular programs of athletic activity, physical conditioning and training in the art and sport of fencing.
2. To combat juvenile delinquency by providing, for children and youths, regular supervised programs of wholesome athletic activity and training in the art and sport of fencing.
3. To further individual self-discipline, build character and promote sportsmanship by providing regular supervised training, instruction and competitions in the art and sport of fencing.
4. To aid in the improvement and development of the powers of analysis, thinking, decision-making and self-discipline of the individual through training in the art and sport of fencing.
5. To provide programs of supervised and qualified instructions with approved and trained coaches and teachers in the art and sport of fencing.
6. To organize and supply directions for inter-collegiate and inter-scholastic fencing meets and competitions.
7. To instruct the public and provide general information with respect to the art and sport of fencing and the benefits to be derived from participation therein through lectures and other programs on the subject useful to the individual and beneficial to the community.
8. To disseminate knowledge and basic factual material about the art and sport of fencing.
9. To establish classes of formal instruction in the art and sport of fencing by a regular faculty according to a regular curriculum at fixed locations.
10. To establish and promote a nationwide program of fencing competitions.
11. To establish and promote the growth of fencing clubs and salles d'armes throughout the country.
12. To select and prepare individuals and teams to represent the United States in international competitions including the Olympic games and the Pan-American games.
13. To encourage the art and sport of fencing in the United States of America, its territories and possessions, to define amateur status in respect to fencing and to formulate and enforce regulations relating thereto.
14. To formulate and publish rules for management of fencing contests and exhibitions in the United States of America, its territories and possessions.
15. To group all amateur fencers within its territorial jurisdiction for the purposes of conducting annual local and national championships, and competitions preliminary thereto designed to awaken and maintain interest in competitive fencing as well as in the art of fencing as a cultural promotion and exercise.
16. To promote "people-to-people" friendship by maintaining harmonious relations with fencing systems of foreign countries and committees of other organizations interested in promoting international competitions and advancing the sport and art of fencing.

1 who receive benefits under such a plan that do not exceed the amount normally given to  
ts of similar financial need and scholastic standing.

udent counselors in summer camps who teach fencing as an incidental part of their duties,  
not receive more than the normal stipend for camp counselors of similar age and

uance of Amateur Coaching

board of Directors, or its Executive Committee, may upon its own motion or upon  
any person order an investigation of any situation involving amateur coaching. Upon an  
nding by the Board that the continuance of such amateur coaching is detrimental to the  
of fencing, the national secretary shall forward to the amateur coach by registered mail a  
cation of such finding. Thereafter, the acceptance of any reimbursement of expenses by  
coach shall constitute a violation of the Amateur Code and shall render the individual  
iplinary suspension for one year, and to permanent suspension upon repetition of the

*of Professionals in Other Sports*

FLA By-Laws no longer require that all persons who are professionals in other sports be  
denied amateur status in fencing. A distinction is made between professional competitors  
n any sport, who are denied amateur status in fencing; and professional teachers of other  
re eligible for amateur status in fencing as long as they are not professional teachers of  
distinction has been specifically approved by the IOC in correspondence with the FIE.  
rules governing competitors in the Olympic Games or Pan American Games may, by  
fessionalism in another sport, deny amateur status to persons regarded as amateurs by the  
e FIE. The eligibility of AFLA members for Olympic or Pan American competition,  
I be determined by the general definition of an amateur then currently approved by the  
n American Sports Organization.

*istration of Amateur Code*

ase in which there has been an alleged violation of the letter or spirit of the Amateur  
reviewed on its merits by the Board of Directors. When a violation is found to exist, the  
rminate or suspend the amateur status of the violator, depending on the seriousness of  
nssofar as the action of the Board is disciplinary in character, it must be preceded by  
lleged violator and a hearing on the issue, if requested by the alleged violator.

*Governing Exhibitions*

nt of Official Permission

ateur member of the AFLA may participate in an exhibition without permission from  
Directors, or the division Executive Committee, or an authorized representative of these  
ies. Violation of this rule may result in severe disciplinary penalties.

hibition

policy of the AFLA that any fencing exhibition must be conducted in a manner which  
ublicize and popularize the sport. No exhibition shall be authorized under conditions  
ing in an unfavorable light.

ions of modern fencing shall conform to the rules of the AFLA. No bouts between men  
permitted if any score is kept. The wearing of masks is required.

ions of historical swordplay in period costume are encouraged and participation in  
bouts within the limits of good taste is permitted.

Programs

ation of an amateur fencer in television programs is strictly limited to that portion of  
voted to entertainment. Appearance in any portion devoted to an advertising message is  
identified as a fencer on the program, donation of the fees (if any) involved in the  
y be donated to the AFLA or the USOC to preserve amateur status.

imitations

ateur may receive reimbursement of his actual out-of-pocket expenses for travel and  
nd may accept a medal or prize of nominal value, in connection with an occasional  
ition. He may not receive any other remuneration, and he may not devote any  
regular portion of his time to giving exhibitions for which he receives reimbursement  
d prizes.

## ARTICLE III Fiscal Year

Year of the Corporation shall commence on 1 September and end on 31 August following.

## ARTICLE IV Membership

All persons who have met their obligations with respect to payment of dues as hereinafter Article V shall be members of the corporation.

Membership shall be of six classes: Honorary, Active, Collegiate, Student, Associate, and

Life MEMBERSHIP shall be open to anyone who shall have rendered distinguished service to the Corporation. A candidate shall be elected on Honorary Member of the Corporation by the Board of Directors of the Corporation upon a two-thirds vote of those present at any meeting. Honorary members shall have all the rights and privileges of Life Members.

MEMBERSHIP shall be open to all persons upon payment of the dues specified in these By-Laws.

Life MEMBERSHIP shall be open to all persons who have attained the age of 19 but have not yet attained their 25th birthday as of the beginning of the current fiscal year upon payment of the dues for the current year as specified in these By-Laws.

MEMBERSHIP shall be open to all persons who have not yet attained the age of 19 as of the beginning of the current fiscal year upon payment of the dues for the current year as specified in these By-Laws.

MEMBERSHIP shall be open to any person upon payment of the dues as specified in these By-Laws. Associate Members shall have all the rights and privileges of Active Members, subject to the provisions of these By-Laws that they shall not be entitled to fence in competitions.

MEMBERSHIP shall be open to all persons upon payment to the Corporation of the Life Membership fee specified in these By-Laws. Life Members shall have all the rights and privileges of Active Members, but shall be exempt from the obligation of paying dues subsequent to the payment of the Life Membership fee.

Members, except Associate Members, shall be entitled to participate in any competition under the auspices of the Corporation, subject to the limitations of these By-Laws and to such other limitations as the Board of Directors may from time to time lay down with respect to categories or classes of members or competitions.

Members who have paid their dues, as specified in these By-Laws, on or before February 1st of the current year and who have attained their 21st birthday as of that date shall have the right to vote at any meeting that may be voted upon by the Corporation pursuant to these By-Laws and, to hold any office that they may be elected or appointed provided that only amateurs may be elected as officers of the Corporation. The date of admission to membership is determined according to the provisions of Article V.

Membership shall not entitle any member to any share in the assets of the Corporation, and any property hereby declared to be irrevocably dedicated to the charitable purposes set forth in Article V of these By-Laws. All rights and privileges of membership shall cease upon death, resignation, or failure to pay dues.

## ARTICLE V Fees, Dues and Arrears

The schedule of annual dues of the Amateur Fencers League of America shall be as follows:

Annual Dues	Annual Dues Prepaid for a 3-year period
\$10.00	\$25.00
6.00	15.00
3.00	7.50
2.00	5.00

Dues shall be paid directly to the Secretary of the Corporation or his duly authorized agent.

Section 2. Annual dues shall be allocated according to the following schedule, and Divisional and Sectional shares of dues shall be paid by the Secretary of the Corporation to the Treasurers of the Section and divisions to be retained by them.

Class of Membership	Allocation of Dues			
	Annual Divisional Share	Annual Sectional Share	Prepaid for a 3-year Period Divisional Share	Prepaid for a 3-year Period Sectional Share
Active	\$3.00	\$1.00	\$7.50	\$2.50
Collegiate	1.00	1.00	2.50	2.50
Associate	1.00	—	2.50	—
Student	1.00	—	2.50	—

Where the division is not a member of any specified section, the Sectional share of dues shall be paid by the Secretary of the Corporation to the Treasurer of the Division to be retained by the Division.

Section 3. LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE. The Life Membership fee shall be \$150.00. One-half of this fee shall be paid over by the Secretary of the Corporation to the Treasurer of the Division to which the member belongs to be retained by the Division, except that if the member also belongs to a section, the Secretary of the Corporation shall pay to the Treasurer of the Section \$10.00 to be retained by the section, and \$65.00 to the Treasurer of the Division.

Section 4. All dues are payable on application for membership and thereafter on or before September 1 of each fiscal year.

Section 5. All dues paid to the Secretary of the Corporation shall be recorded by him and unless allocated to a section or division paid over to the Treasurer for general Corporation purposes.

Section 6. A new member is not admitted to membership and an old member is not in good standing until his dues and fees have been received by the Secretary of the Corporation or by a duly authorized agent thereof.

## ARTICLE VI Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Corporation shall consist of a President, an Executive Vice President, a Vice President for each established Section of the Corporation, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Section 2. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Corporation and shall preside at all meetings of the A.F.L.A., Inc. and of the Board of Directors, and perform such other duties as usually pertain to that office and which are not inconsistent with these By-Laws.

Section 3. The Executive Vice President shall perform such duties as the President shall delegate to him.

Section 4. The Sectional Vice Presidents shall act as chairmen of their respective Sections and in order of their seniority (or if of equal service, then by drawing lots) in the absence of the Vice President, and the Executive Vice President shall preside at all meetings of the Corporation and of the Board of Directors. Each Sectional Vice President shall within a time specified by the Secretary of Corporation, file with the Secretary of the Corporation a report of the finances and activities of his Section for the current year.

Section 5. The Secretary shall conduct all official correspondence of the Corporation, keep a record of all meetings of the Corporation and of the Board of Directors, issue notices to members of all meetings of the Corporation, and perform such duties as may be assigned to the Secretary by these By-Laws or by the President. If the Board appoints a Recording and/or Corresponding Secretary, the Secretary shall prescribe their duties and supervise their activities.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall keep the accounts of the Corporation; shall receive all moneys, fees, dues, etc.; shall pay all bills approved by the Board of Directors; and shall preserve vouchers for such disbursements. The Treasurer shall, at the Annual Meeting, submit a report, audited by a committee of the Board of Directors, of the financial transactions of the preceding fiscal year. The Treasurer shall keep all funds of the Corporation in such account or accounts, each subject to withdrawals upon such signature or signatures, as the Board of Directors may from time to time prescribe.

Section 7. Before exercising their offices the President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer shall each file such bond for the faithful performance of his duties as the Board of Directors may approve.

## ARTICLE VII Board of Directors

Responsibility for the general management and policies of the Corporation shall be vested in the Board of Directors composed of the officers of the Corporation, the Chairman of each Division of the Corporation and Additional Directors from the Divisions of the number hereinafter specified.

Each Division shall be entitled to one Director for the first seventy-five members and one Additional Director for each succeeding seventy-five members or major fraction thereof. Directors, for purposes of entitlement to Additional Directors, shall be in good standing as of the end of the preceding fiscal year.

The officers of the Corporation shall be elected annually by the membership of the Corporation in the manner specified in these By-Laws.

The Chairman and Additional Directors, if any, of each Division shall be elected annually by the membership of each Division in the manner specified in the By-Laws of the Corporation and of the Corporation.

At the elections for Additional Directors each divisional member eligible to vote shall be entitled to cast as many votes as there are Additional Directors to be elected. Each such member may cast the whole number of his votes for one nominee or distribute them upon two or more nominees as he may prefer.

The Board of Directors shall be vested with full powers of management of the Corporation in accordance with these By-Laws.

At any meeting of the Board of Directors a quorum shall be seven members present in the absence of a quorum a lesser number shall have the power to adjourn to a given time and place, and the place and time of each meeting shall be designated by the President.

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors shall be convened, upon not less than thirty days notice, during the month of September.

Special Meetings of the Board of Directors may, and upon written request of seven or more members, be called by the President on fourteen days notice. All notices shall state the object of the meeting and business not mentioned therein may not be acted on at any Special Meeting, except by unanimous consent of the members present.

Communications may be by Mail.

Any question or matter which might be passed at a special Meeting of the Board shall be referred to a vote by mail at the discretion of the President, or upon written request of a majority of the members of the Board of Directors who hold membership, in the aggregate, in three Divisions.

By mail, the Secretary of the Corporation shall mail to each member of the Board a statement of the question to be voted upon, and of the date on which voting shall be required, with a request that each member cast his vote thereon and communicate it to the Secretary prior to the closing date. The closing date shall be not less than fourteen days after the date of the question.

The Board of Directors shall have power to constitute an Executive Committee composed of not more than five members which Committee shall include the President, the Executive Vice President and the Secretary. Such Executive Committee, if constituted by the Board, shall have such powers and authority as the Board may by resolution prescribe, provided, however, that the power so delegated shall not be taken until the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors may appoint a Recording and/or Corresponding Secretary to serve until the subsequent Annual Meeting of the Board and to perform such duties as may be required by the Board, the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

The Board of Directors shall appoint annually legal counsel to advise and represent the Corporation and its officers.

The Board of Directors shall have power to define amateur status and in the absence of a definition the Board of Directors shall be deemed to have adopted the following definition:

An amateur fencer is one who participates in fencing solely for the love of the sport, and who does not derive direct or indirect financial benefits from competition or exhibitions in

fencing and who has never been a professional teacher of fencing or a professional competitor or trainer in any branch of athletics or who has been reinstated as an Amateur by the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors shall have the sole power to interpret this Section, to enact an amateur code for the guidance of the members of the Corporation; to prescribe and apply disciplinary penalties for infractions of the amateur code, including warning, reprimand and temporary or permanent suspension from amateur competition, according to the circumstances, and to grant reinstatement hereunder. Members of the Armed Forces of the United States duly appointed or assigned as instructors of fencing are exempt from the provisions of this section when in the discharge of such official duty.

Section 12. The Board of Directors shall have power to formulate, establish, and publish the rules governing all amateur member fencing competitions and all exhibitions in which an amateur member of the Corporation shall participate, and in the absence of action to the contrary the Board of Directors shall be deemed to have formulated, established and published the following rules:

- (a) All amateur fencing competitions in the United States, its territories and possessions, shall be conducted only under the rules and sanction of the Amateur Fencers League of America, Incorporated.
- (b) An amateur fencer willfully competing in competition in the United States, its territories and possessions, not held under the rules and sanction of the A.F.L.A., INC., shall be liable to suspension and may be held ineligible to enter any contest under Corporation auspices for such period of time as the Board of Directors may determine.
- (c) Any amateur knowingly competing in fencing competition with anyone who has been suspended or disqualified by the Board of Directors of this Corporation renders himself liable to suspension and may be held ineligible to enter any contest under Corporation auspices for such period of time as the Board of Directors may determine.
- (d) Professionals shall be permitted to compete in amateur competition only under such rules and conditions as the Board of Directors may from time to time prescribe.

Section 13. Board of Directors to arrange for National Championships. The Board of Directors shall receive bids from the various divisions to hold the annual National Championship Tournament and shall select the time and place thereof. In no event shall the National Championship Tournament be held prior to the 30th day from the mailing of notice pursuant to Section 2 of Article XII.

Section 14. Disciplinary Powers of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors by a two-thirds vote of the members voting shall have power to reprimand, suspend, deny continuation of membership to, or expel any member whose conduct may be deemed detrimental to the welfare, interests or character of the Corporation, always provided, however, that any action other than reprimand may be taken only after the following conditions have been satisfied: (a) notice must be served upon the members of the Board and upon the member against whom the proposed action is to be taken, setting forth generally the character of the conduct forming the basis for the proposed action; and (b) if requested by the member to be disciplined or by three members of the Board, within ten days after the mailing of notice of the proposed action, a committee of not less than three members of the Corporation must be appointed by the President to investigate the conduct charged against the member, said committee must give the member an opportunity to be heard in respect of the charge and, after completing its investigation, must file a report favoring the action proposed to be taken by the Board.

Section 15. The Board of Directors may in their discretion, and upon the same vote as is provided for the election of Honorary Members in Article IV of the By-Laws, elect an Honorary President, an Honorary Vice President and/or an Honorary Secretary-Treasurer. Any such honorary officer shall be elected for life and shall be entitled to all the privileges of an Honorary Member and to attend all meetings of the Board of Directors but shall not be entitled to vote as a member of the Board.

## ARTICLE VIII Order of Business for All Meetings of the Corporation and the Board of Directors

1. Reading of Minutes
2. Report of Officers and Committees
3. Proposed Amendments to By-Laws (when appropriate)
4. Elections (when appropriate)
5. Unfinished Business
6. New Business

## ARTICLE IX

### Procedure for Meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Corporation

wise provided for in these By-Laws or in the Pennsylvania Non-Profit Corporation Law, meetings shall be governed by the provisions of Roberts Rules of Order.

## ARTICLE X

### Committees of the Board of Directors

Subject to the provisions of these By-Laws, the President, with the approval of the Board of its Executive Committee, shall have power to create and appoint the members of such special committees as he may deem necessary or appropriate, designate the chairmen assign functions thereto.

Every committee shall meet from time to time at the call of the Chairman thereof, and it is the duty of the Chairman to call a meeting upon the written request of a majority of the members of the committee or of the President.

The Chairman of each Committee shall transmit a full report of its activities to the Board of the Corporation prior to the Annual Meeting of the Corporation, and each Committee shall submit special reports as the President or Board of Directors shall direct.

## ARTICLE XI

### Meetings and Elections of the Corporation

The Annual Meeting of the Corporation shall be convened in the same city as and during the championship tournament, at a date and time fixed by the President of the Corporation.

Special Meetings of the Corporation may be called by the President or the Board of Directors at any time and place of which there shall be at least thirty days' notice. Business not specified in these By-Laws shall not be acted upon.

At the Annual Meeting there shall be elected by the membership a Nominating Committee consisting of five voting members of the Corporation which shall nominate candidates for the President, Executive Vice President, Sectional Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, and National Divisional Directors, which candidates shall be voted upon at the next Annual Meeting.

Before nomination for members of the Nominating Committee shall not be in order until nominations have been made of members of the Corporation who are members of at least five sections. This Committee shall file its nominations with the Secretary of the Corporation on or before April 1st next ensuing; and the Secretary shall, on or before April 1st thereafter, mail to each member of the Corporation a copy of the nominations filed by the Nominating Committee, or a copy shall be published in the official publication of the Corporation within the prescribed time.

The Nominating Committee shall nominate one member from each Section to represent the Section as a member of the Board of Directors. Nominees for the offices of Sectional Vice-President shall be appropriately designated in the official publication of the Corporation.

Additional nominations may be made on written petition of not less than fifty voting members of the Corporation provided such petition is presented to the Secretary of the Corporation on or before the date of the Annual Meeting.

When additional nominations for an office are made, the Secretary of the Corporation shall submit to the Annual Meeting a unanimous ballot for the candidate nominated for such office by the Nominating Committee. Where additional nominations have been made for any office, voting on the ballot shall be by voting members only, on ballots prepared by the Secretary and distributed to the voting members as provided in Article XII of these By-Laws. Where three or more candidates have been duly filed for any office, the ballots shall be prepared and counted in accordance with a system for preferential voting approved by the Board of Directors. Voting by proxy shall be permitted in a contested election.

Ballots shall be marked by putting a cross or other clear indication of choice opposite the name of the candidate or candidates for whom the voter desires to vote.

Ballots shall be sealed, in the envelope provided; the envelope shall be signed by the voter and delivered to the Corporation Secretary on or before June 1st.

(c) The envelopes so received are to be opened by the tellers only after the polls for election of officers are declared open at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation.

Section 6. The officers and directors of the Corporation shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast and shall take office as of September 1 next ensuing and shall hold office until the following August 31 and until their successors are elected and qualified.

Section 7. At any meeting of the Corporation a quorum shall consist, unless specifically otherwise provided for particular purposes of meetings, of twenty-five members, present in person or by proxy, and all business before the meeting other than elections may be voted on in person or by proxy, and a majority vote of those voting shall rule, provided, however, that no proxy shall be voted on a proposed change to these By-Laws unless the proxy specifies whether it is to be cast for or against the amendment.

Section 8. Vacancies in the offices of President, Executive Vice President, Sectional Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, or National Divisional Directors, occurring between Annual Meetings shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE XII

### Notices and Mailings of Ballots

Section 1. Any notices of ballots shall be deemed validly given or delivered if mailed to a member at the address last designated by such member to the Secretary of the Corporation or, failing such designation, to the member at the address of such member furnished by the secretary of his or her division.

Section 2. Notice of the Annual Meeting shall be given to all voting members of the Corporation by the Secretary, which notice shall be mailed or published in the official publication of the Corporation on or before May 15 prior to such meeting and shall contain a statement of the name or names of the officer or officers to be elected by unanimous ballot, if any, and otherwise a reference to the candidates to be voted on at the meeting. Such notice shall include or be accompanied by the text of any amendment to these By-Laws to be acted upon at such Annual Meeting.

Section 3. Where any officer is to be voted on at the Annual Meeting, ballots for the candidates and return envelopes shall be mailed to all voting members on or before May 15 prior to such meeting.

## ARTICLE XIII

### Divisions and Sections

Section 1. In order to facilitate the development of fencing in the United States of America, its territories and possessions, the Board of Directors may, upon application in conformance with these By-Laws, create administrative units to be known as Divisions. Such divisions shall be created by a charter designating the territorial limits of jurisdiction and setting forth such powers as the Board may prescribe and reserving to the Board the right and power to rescind or amend such charter at its discretion or when the total number of members in the division has fallen below ten.

Membership in a division shall be limited to persons eligible for membership in the Corporation who reside in, or belong to a fencing club located within the territorial limits of the Division and who are not members of another division.

Section 2. In order to encourage annual interdivisional competition throughout the United States of America, its territories and possessions, the Board of Directors is empowered to create non-administrative units to be known as Sections. Such sections shall encompass large areas whose geographical limits shall be fixed and recorded by the Board. All divisions lying within the area covered by the section shall be members of the section and shall support the annual Sectional Championships as provided in these By-Laws.

Section 3. Subject to the directives and limitations contained in these By-Laws, each division and section is empowered to draft the By-Laws under which its respective functions shall be carried out.

Section 4. The application for a Charter, addressed to the Secretary of the Corporation, shall be signed by not less than ten persons, accompanied by the dues and fees for the current year prescribed in these By-Laws and outlining the territorial jurisdiction sought for the purposed Division.

Section 5. The Board of Directors shall, at its discretion, grant or deny the request for a Charter. If granted, the Charter shall be the Constitution of the Division and the members thereof shall, within six months, adopt rules for the administration of local affairs not inconsistent with these By-Laws and submit a copy to the Secretary of the Corporation.

There shall be an Annual Meeting of the Division, of which there shall be at least fifteen members, and a quorum shall consist of seven voting members present in person or by proxy.

At the Annual Meeting of the Division there shall be elected a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, (or Secretary-Treasurer), Additional Directors and members of the Executive Committee.

The management of the Division shall be vested in an Executive Committee which shall be elected officers and directors and other annually elected members in accordance with the provisions of this article.

The Division Chairman shall, within the time and format specified by the Secretary of the Corporation, file a complete report of the membership, finances and activities of the Division for the year.

Membership in a Section is limited to members of the component Divisions.

The Management of a Section shall be vested in an Executive Committee composed of the Section's Vice President from that Section (who shall act as Chairman), the Chairmen of the Sections which comprise the Section, and any Additional Directors from a Division in the Section. The Executive Committee shall conduct annual Sectional Championships and shall have such other powers as may be designated by the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee shall appoint a Treasurer.

The disciplinary powers of the Executive Committee shall be limited to the competitive expulsion or exclusion. All other discipline shall be referred to the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE XIV The National Division

Members of the Corporation who are not eligible, or do not apply for membership in a Division, shall be members of the National Division.

The National Division shall be administered by the officers of the Corporation and the members of the National Division.

## ARTICLE XV Colors

The Corporation shall be Dark Blue and Gold.

## ARTICLE XVI Amendments

Proposed amendments to these By-Laws may be proposed in writing at any Annual Meeting or at a special meeting of the Corporation called for the purpose of proposing amendments to the By-Laws upon written notice, setting forth the general tenor of the amendment or amendments to be adopted at such meeting. Proposed amendments shall be adopted if approved by a majority of those members present in person or by proxy and voting at such meeting, subject to the provisions of Article XI, Section 2.

## ARTICLE XVII Taking Effect of Revision

These By-Laws shall take effect on September 1, 1964 after their adoption at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation held in Atlantic City on July 10, 1964. Unless otherwise specified, amendments to these By-Laws shall take effect on September 1 next after their adoption. Copies of the amendments shall be mailed to every Division of the Corporation within thirty days after their adoption. No amendment shall be adopted unless a majority of the members of the Corporation who shall be present in person or by proxy at the meeting shall have adopted it. Any member who shall file a resignation prior to the effective date of these By-Laws shall be deemed to have waived any rights which they may have had theretofore pursuant to the provisions of these By-Laws and to have waived any rights which they may have had theretofore pursuant to the provisions of the By-Laws in effect prior to the taking of these By-Laws.

## ARTICLE XVIII Separate Accounts

The Corporation shall maintain an International Development Account. The Board of Directors is directed to establish and

maintain an International Development Account for the purpose of providing for the travel and related expenses of competitors, coaches, and officials, as selected by the Board of Directors, to participate in the following events:

- a. World Olympic Games
- b. Pan-American Olympic Games
- c. World Fencing Championships
- d. World Junior Fencing Championships
- e. Such other major international competitions as may be approved for participation by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. United States Development Account. The Board of Directors is directed to establish and maintain a United States Development Account for the following purposes.

- a. Development of promotional materials useful in publicizing fencing and fencing activities among students and the general public.
- b. Organization of programs for the holding of fencing clinics throughout the United States.
- c. Award of Scholarships for fencing instruction in designated salles, clubs, schools, and institutions, or with selected coaches, to promising fencers in all weapons as chosen by the Board of Directors.
- d. Production and purchase of films and other instructional material as an aid to the teaching of fencing and as a means of promoting interest in, and understanding of, the sport.
- e. Creation of facilities and development of programs for the training of professional and amateur coaches and instructors.
- f. Establishment of the full-time, salaried post of Executive Secretary of the Corporation.
- g. Establishment of a permanent headquarters and office for the Corporation.
- h. Such other similar domestic development purposes as may be approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Contributions to Separate Accounts. Any contributor to the Corporation may direct that his gift be placed, in whole or in part, in one or more of the Separate Accounts provided for in these By-Laws and his instructions shall be carried out by the Board of Directors.

Contributions to such accounts qualify as a deductible charitable contribution under the rules of the Internal Revenue Department.

The Board of Directors shall have the right to place all or part of any contribution made to the Corporation in one or more of the Separate Accounts when the donor provides no instructions for the application of his gift.

Subject to the provisions of these By-Laws, the Board of Directors shall have the right to place revenue, income, and property of the Corporation in one or more of the Separate Accounts.

Section 4. Management of the Separate Accounts.

- a. The management of the Separate Accounts provided for these By-Laws shall be vested in a board of three fiduciaries, one of whom shall be the President of the Corporation and two of whom shall not be directors or officers of the Corporation.
- b. The President of the Corporation shall serve as fiduciary for the term of his office and until his successor has been elected and qualifies.
- c. One of the remaining two fiduciaries shall be elected by the Board of Directors to serve for a term of two years and until his successor has been elected and qualifies. Thereafter, the term of this office shall be four years.
- d. The remaining fiduciary shall be elected by the Board of Directors to serve for a term of four years and until his successor is elected and qualifies. Thereafter the term of this office shall be four years.
- e. At least six months prior to the expiration of the term of a fiduciary other than the President of the Corporation, the fiduciary shall give notice to the Board of Directors of his willingness to serve for another term office. In the event the fiduciary notifies the Board of his willingness to

serve, the Board shall vote on the question whether to elect the fiduciary to another term of office. In the event the fiduciary does not receive a majority of the votes cast, or in the event the fiduciary is unwilling to serve for another term of office, then the remaining fiduciaries shall nominate another candidate for the approval of the Board of Directors. In the event that such nominee does not receive the approval of the Board of Directors, the remaining fiduciaries shall nominate additional candidates until the Board of Directors elects one of such nominees to office.

- f. In the event of the death, resignation, or inability to serve of a fiduciary, the remaining fiduciaries shall nominate a candidate to fill the unexpired term for the approval of the Board of Directors in accordance with the procedure set forth in the preceeding paragraph.
- g. The board of fiduciaries shall have power to invest and reinvest the corpus of each such Account with due regard for both the earning of income and the appreciation of capital.
- h. The board of fiduciaries shall manage the Account in accordance with the principles of prudent management set forth in the Laws of Pennsylvania respecting fiduciaries, trusts and estates, except that the fiduciaries shall not be limited to investing in what are commonly known as "legal investments".
- i. The income from each Separate Account shall be paid over to the Corporation semi-annually and shall be expended for the purposes prescribed for each Separate Account.
- j. The principal of each Separate Account shall remain intact and not be subject to invasion or distribution by the fiduciaries for a period of fifteen years from the date of its creation or until the market value of the principal of the Separate Account shall equal \$100,000. Thereafter, at the direction of the Board of Directors, the Board of Fiduciaries shall have the power to invade principal and pay over to the Corporation an amount not to exceed in any one year 10% of the market value of the principal of the Separate Account.

---

AMATEUR FENCERS LEAGUE OF AMERICA  
P.O. Box 144, Terre Haute, Ind.

Second Class Postage Paid  
in Terre Haute, Ind. 47808  
Published at Terre Haute, Ind. 47808

JACK HESPENHEIDE 9081174  
1330 HILLCROFT LANE 4  
YORK PA 17403

---