

UNITED STATES FENCING ASSOCIATION



OPERATIONS MANUAL

1994 Edition

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USFA Board of Directors through February, 1994.**

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CHAPTER I. GENERAL

1. AUTHORIZED COMPETITIONS

- A. Except as herein provided, competitive members of the United States Fencing Association (USFA) 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 USFA. Violations of this rule are punishable by disciplinary penalties according to the gravity of the offense.
- B. Members of the USFA are authorized to participate in collegiate and scholastic meets for which they are eligible, and in tournaments organized by the Intercollegiate Fencing Association, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and similar intercollegiate and interscholastic associations, providing that such events are conducted under fencing rules that substantially conform to the rules of the USFA.
- C. Members of the USFA 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 objections thereto by the federation of the country in which the event is held. Members of the USFA who wish to participate in foreign or international competitions must be certified by the USFA as to eligibility by the issuance of a USFA competitive membership card bearing the official FIE logo. Members of the USFA may not compete in foreign or international competitions as a team representing the US except upon specific approval of the Board of Directors or a committee designated by the Board to select members of international teams.

2. CLASSIFICATION OF FENCERS

For the purpose of providing reasonable equality of strength in the seeding of competitions, fencers are classified nationally on the basis of competitive experience and achievement into the following classifications: Class A (highest), Class B, Class C, Class D, Class E, and Class U (Unclassified, lowest). Within each of these major classifications, the fencers are classified based upon the

calendar year in which the major classification was last achieved. This minor classification shall be indicated by a two digit number immediately following the major classification (e.g., "A85" would be the classification of a fencer who achieved an "A" classification in 1985). The minor classifications shall be used to rank the fencers within the major classifications so that, for example, a "C86" shall be considered ranked higher than a "C85" but lower than all "B" fencers.

The classification of a fencer in each weapon shall be changed immediately upon meeting the conditions outlined below. The following rules govern the classification of fencers:

A. A FENCER IS CLASSIFIED AS CLASS "A"

- (1) by placing in the top eight of an individual competition rated as Group I-A (see Section 4 below); OR
- (2) by winning an individual competition rated as Group I; OR
- (3) by being selected to represent the US on the official team in the World Championships, Olympic Games, or Pan American Games; OR
- (4) by being selected to represent the US on the official team in the World Under-20 Championships AND placing in the top 8; OR
- (5) by being selected to represent the US on the official team in the World University Games AND placing in the top 6; OR
- (6) 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.

B. A FENCER IS CLASSIFIED AS CLASS "B"

- (1) by placing ninth through sixteenth in an individual competition rated as Group I-A (see Section 4 below); OR
- (2) by placing second or third in an individual competition rated as Group I; OR
- (3) by winning an individual competition rated as Group II; OR
- (4) by fencing in the final round of four as a member of a team that wins a US National Team Championship; OR

- (5) by placing first, second, or third in the Modern Pentathlon Epée event at the Olympic Games or World Championships; OR
- (6) by being selected to represent the US on the official team in the World Under-20 Championships AND placing in the top 16; OR
- (7) by being selected to represent the US on the official team in the World University Games; OR
- (8) 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.

C. A FENCER IS CLASSIFIED AS CLASS "C"

- (1) by placing seventeenth through twenty-fourth in an individual competition rated as Group I-A (see Section 4 below); OR
- (2) by placing fourth through sixth in an individual competition rated as Group I; OR
- (3) by placing second or third in an individual competition rated as Group II; OR
- (4) by winning an individual competition rated as Group III; OR
- (5) by fencing in the final round of four as a member of a team that places second or third in a US National Team Championship; OR
- (6) by being selected to represent the US on the official team in the World Under-20 Championships; OR
- (7) by having attained an "A" classification in another weapon.

D. A FENCER IS CLASSIFIED AS CLASS "D"

- (1) by placing twenty-fifth through thirty-sixth in an individual competition rated as Group I-A (see Section 4 below); OR
- (2) by placing seventh through ninth in an individual competition rated as Group I; OR
- (3) by placing fourth through sixth in an individual competition rated as Group II; OR
- (4) by placing second or third in an individual competition rated as Group III; OR
- (5) by winning an individual competition with at least fifteen participants; OR

- (6) by having attained a "B" classification in another weapon.
- E. A FENCER IS CLASSIFIED AS CLASS "E"
- (1) by placing thirty-seventh through fifty-second in an individual competition rated as Group I-A (see Section 4 below); OR
 - (2) by placing seventh through ninth in an individual competition rated as Group II (see Section 4 below); OR
 - (3) by placing fourth through sixth in an individual competition rated as Group III; OR
 - (4) by winning an individual competition rated as Group IV; OR
 - (5) by placing second or third in an individual competition with at least fifteen participants; OR
 - (6) by having attained a "C" classification in another weapon.
- F. A fencer drops one level of major classification if that fencer fails, during a period of four years, to re achieve the results necessary to earn that major classification. All such reclassifications will take effect at the beginning of the fencing season.
- For example, a fencer classified as "B85", would be reclassified as "C89" at the start of the 1989-1990 fencing season. The minor classification changes at the same time to indicate that the new classification was achieved in the calendar year 1989. A fencer who loses an "E" classification as a result of the application of this rule becomes Unclassified.
- G. For purposes of classification, in rated competitions (see Section 4 below), professionals will be treated the same as amateurs.
- H. A fencer remains unclassified as long as he does not qualify for one of the other classifications under the foregoing rules.
- I. Except as specifically provided herein, the classification of a fencer in one weapon has no effect upon his classification in another weapon and is not affected by his winning or competing in individual three-weapon events, invitational meets, intercollegiate events, or unofficial club and interclub competitions.

- J. Every member of the USFA is personally responsible for ascertaining his own classification in each weapon. To avoid questions with respect to individual fencers, each division, through its executive committee or other designated officer or committee, should certify all classification changes (both major and minor) that have occurred in the competitions of that division during the fencing season.
- K. Whenever, at a competition, a question is raised concerning the classification of a fencer, the bout committee in charge shall decide the case, and such determination shall be conclusive for that competition. However, for subsequent competitions the decision shall be subject to review by the appropriate executive committee and by the National Board of Directors.
- L. Fencers having achieved a classification before the minor classifications were established (1984) shall be given a minor classification of the year in which the rules to establish such minor classifications became effective. Fencers with a prior classification of "XA" shall be given a classification of "B" upon adoption of these rules.
- M. Classifications can be earned only in regularly scheduled competitions run by the USFA, its sections, or its divisions. Classifications cannot be awarded if adequate notice of the competition has not been given to the members of the organizing body via such means as a published schedule, newsletter, or notices posted in clubs. Classifications can be earned in competitions sanctioned by a body of the USFA but not run by that body (e.g., State Games) only after the sanctioning body has determined that the competition has been run in such a manner as to justify the awarding of classifications.
- N. Classifications of "B" or higher must be certified to the National Headquarters by the organizing section or division of the competition in which said classification was earned.

3. RANKING FENCERS, VETERANS

Two additional categories exist independently of the above classifications: Ranking Fencers and Veterans.

- A. Ranking Fencers in a particular weapon are those who have achieved a ranking under the current national point

system. For the purpose of seeding competitions, Ranking Fencers shall be subdivided into two classes:

- (1) A specified number of Ranking Fencers in each weapon in the current point standings for a particular category shall be entitled to a seeded draw ahead of all other domestic fencers in USFA individual competitions of that category, as follows:

Senior (Open)	Top 24 in Open points
Junior (U-20)	Top 18 in U-20 points
Cadet (U-17)	Top 12 in U-17 points
U-15	Top 8 in U-15 points
U-13	Top 8 in U-13 points
U-11	Top 8 in U-11 points

- (2) Other Ranking Fencers who have points in the relevant category shall be seeded ahead of all other domestic fencers with the same letter classification but behind all fencers with a higher letter classification.
- B. Veterans are all fencers who (1) have attained the age of 50 years, or (2) have attained the age of 40 years and, in addition, have retired from all competitions except the Veterans individual events or 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-A Competition, a competition must be a US National Individual Division I Championship or meet all of the following requirements:
 - (1) There must be a minimum of sixty-four participants in the competition of which at least twelve must be Class A, another twelve must be Class B (or higher), and another twelve must be Class C (or higher);
AND
 - (2) At least four of the top eight finishers must be Class A and at least another four of the top twelve finishers must be Class B (or higher).
- B. In order to qualify as a Group I Competition, a competition must meet all of the following requirements:
 - (1) There must be a minimum of fifteen participants in the competition of which at least six must be Class C (or higher); AND

- (2) At least two of the top eight finishers must be Class A and another two of the top eight finishers must be Class B (or higher).
- C. In order to qualify as a Group II Competition, a competition must be a US Division II National Individual Championship or meet ALL of the following requirements:
- (1) There must be a minimum of fifteen participants in the competition of which at least six must be Class D (or higher); AND
 - (2) At least two of the top eight finishers must be Class B (or higher) and another two of the top eight finishers must be Class C (or higher).
- D. In order to qualify as a Group III Competition, a competition must meet EITHER one of the following requirements:
- (1) There must be a minimum of fifteen participants in the competition of which six must be Class E (or higher) and at least two of the top eight finishers must be Class C (or higher) and another two of the top eight finishers must be Class D (or higher); OR
 - (2) There must be a minimum of fifteen participants in the competition of which eight must be Class E (or higher) and at least four of the top eight finishers must be Class D (or higher).
- E. In order to qualify as a Group IV Competition, there must be a minimum of six participants.
- F. International competitions sponsored by the USFA may be rated, with international fencers of stature considered as Class A in evaluating the field.
- G. Sectional Age Group Championships and National Age Group events (all NACs, JOs and U-19 National Championships) may be rated if they meet the criteria above. Other Age Group events are not rated.
- H. Every division is authorized to schedule competitions restricted to fencers under or over a certain age, to Unclassified fencers or novices (relatively inexperienced fencers), or to other categories of fencers provided that, if some fencers are barred from such events, an appropriate description of the basis of eligibility of contestants must be announced in the schedule. Such events may not be

rated unless such restriction is based solely upon fencers' classifications or division or section membership.

- I. Every division is authorized to schedule competitions open to both men and women. For the purpose of seeding and rating such competitions, men's and women's ratings will be considered to be equivalent.
- J. In determining the rating of a Sectional Championships, 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.

5. DESIGNATION OF COMPETITIONS

- A. An open competition is one in which all competitive members in good standing of the USFA and of the same sex are eligible to compete without regard to their classification, rank, age, or divisional membership.
- B. A closed competition is a sectional, interdivisional, or divisional competition open to members of the same sex in which eligibility is 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 of classification, rank, age, sex, academic status, or special invitation.
 - (1) A Class A competition is one open to Class A and Ranking fencers; it may be open to other members of the USFA only to the extent noted in the schedule.
 - (2) 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.
 - (3) Restricted competitions limited to fencers of a certain age or academic status shall not be further restricted on the basis of classification or rank unless the contrary is specifically announced in the schedule.
 - (4) Competitions restricted to members of the International Squad may be classified.
 - (5) For age-restricted competitions, fencers must be under the specified age as of 00:00 hours, January

1st of the season in which the National Championships are held. For example, a fencer born 1/1/75 would be eligible to compete in the Under-17 Championships held in February 1992, while a fencer born 12/31/74 would be ineligible for that event.

- (6) Only those competitors who reach their 11th birthday before January 1st, 00:00 hours of the fencing season (8/1-7/31) are eligible to compete in NAC Opens or the National Championships (Division I, Division II, Team).
- D. A mixed competition is a competition in which members of both sexes may compete. A mixed competition must be clearly designated as such in the schedule. Only members of the same sex may compete in the Divisional, Sectional, or National Championships or their qualifying events (including NACs) in any weapon.
- E. The title "Championship" shall be limited to the most important competitions or tournaments in national, sectional, interdivisional or divisional schedules.
- (1) National Championships include the individual open men's foil, épée and sabre and women's foil and épée championships, and the corresponding team events. The Board of Directors reserves the right to designate other competitions as National Championships, open or restricted, and also reserves the right to designate certain national events as demonstration or trial (i.e., non-championship) events.
 - (2) Sectional Championships include open or closed interdivisional championships in all weapons run by each of the sections of the USFA. No restricted competitions shall be designated as Sectional Championships without the express approval of the Board of Directors.
 - (3) Divisional Championships may be open or closed and shall be limited to one per weapon during any one fencing season. No restricted competition shall be designated as a Divisional Championship without the express approval of the Board of Directors.
- F. Academic contests, where the number of touches scored is not the sole criterion for victory in a bout, are

permitted, provided adequate notice of the exact character of the event is included in the schedule.

6. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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

- A. At the beginning of each season (and not later than October 1) each section and division through appropriate officers or committees, shall draft and publish a schedule of team and individual events.
- B. The schedule shall indicate the name and address of the person to whom entries are to be forwarded 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 competition is scheduled to start.
- C. All foil and épée competitions shall be held with electrical equipment unless specifically identified as "nonelectric" in the schedule.
- D. The schedule should include the following information:
 - (1) The title and classification of each event.
 - (2) The date, hour, and place.
 - (3) The entry fee, method, and conditions for entries.
 - (4) The terms for admission of spectators, if any.
 - (5) Any special regulations or conditions.

7. ELIGIBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS

- A. Only competitive members of the USFA in good standing or holders of valid, current FIE licenses are eligible to compete in team or individual events scheduled by or under the auspices of the USFA, except by special invitation of the appropriate divisional or sectional officers of committees for events under their jurisdiction, or as restricted by the Board of Directors for the National Championships (see Chapter V, Eligibility for the Tournament).
- B. No member of a division shall be in good standing unless his division is in good standing according to the established rules and practices of the USFA. 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 liable to the appropriate organizing committee of the USFA for the amount of the entry fee and shall be ineligible to enter any subsequent USFA 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 USFA membership in good standing but also as to compliance with every other requirement.

8. CLUB REPRESENTATION AND AFFILIATION

The term "club" as used in these rules includes any organized fencing group of individual members. The group may be affiliated with a club, industrial institution, association, or other entity. A recognized club is one which has a relatively stable organizational structure and membership, a place for regular fencing activity, and preferably a professional fencing master for lessons and training. The division for such a club will be the location identified as the primary place where regular fencing activity is conducted. A club may only be a member of one division.

A distinction is made between club "affiliation" and "representation." A fencer may be affiliated with more than one club but can represent only one of them (except as provided for below) in USFA competitions during one fencing season.

- 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. The fencer's first stated club affiliation at a USFA competition in each fencing season will determine that fencer's club representation for that year.
- B. A college or scholastic fencer, who is also a member of another recognized club, may represent his school in dual

meets and other interscholastic or intercollegiate events, and also represent the other club in USFA events. In addition, if the rules of his school conference require it, he may represent his school or fence unattached in all USFA individual events held during the school fencing season or, in the case of collegiate fencers, during the period in which NCAA rules regarding playing dates have jurisdiction while representing his club during the other portions of the USFA year.

- 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 except as noted in paragraph B above for collegiate fencers in NCAA Division I and Division II schools.
- D. All fencers should notify the National Headquarters of all club affiliations at the start of the fencing season or as such club affiliations change. They should also notify competition organizers of such affiliations even if representing another club (or school) or fencing unattached for reasons given above in paragraph B. Competition organizers should apply the same criteria for separating fencers with the same club affiliations as they do for fencers with the same club representation.

In all non-World Cup competitions, fencers affiliated with the same club shall be separated as much as possible by applying the rules regarding the separation of fencers of the same nationality as specified by the *FIE Rules for Competition* for the particular format being used, treating different club affiliations as if they were different nationalities. The separation for nationality shall take precedence over separation for club affiliation.

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, whether or not any official has waived or failed to enforce strict compliance therewith.

CHAPTER II. MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

1. RESPONSIBILITY FOR EVENTS

- 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 chairs and executive committees pursuant to sectional bylaws. The sectional chairs, after consultation with the chair or executive committee of the host division, appoint the organizing committee, the bout committee, and their respective chairs, subject to the approval of the sectional executive committee.
- C. Divisional events are under the supervision of the chair and the executive committee or other appropriate committee of the division, pursuant to the divisional bylaws. The chair, with the approval of the appropriate divisional committee, appoints the organizing committee, the bout committee, and their respective chairs.
- D. No meeting of the general membership or the Board of Directors of the USFA shall be scheduled at a time that fencing is scheduled at a national competition (National Championships, Junior Olympic Championships, North American Cup, et cetera), or an international competition conducted in the United States (World Cup, World Championships, et cetera). USFA committees are responsible for ensuring that their meetings do not interfere with the smooth running of any national competition.

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 3, to the maximum extent possible, as well as any awards.

3. BOUT COMMITTEE

Each bout committee, through its chair, is responsible for and in complete charge of all competitions within its jurisdiction, including all officials, contestants, and spectators. At national events, the Tournament Committee representative works in

conjunction with the bout committee chair to ensure that the competition is conducted in accordance with the criteria approved by the Board of Directors.

A. THE CHAIR

The chair is responsible for review of plans and programs set up by the organizing committee, the conduct of the competition, assignment of referees (at National events, this is the responsibility of the Fencing Officials Commission representative(s)), seeding of pools, and maintenance of discipline.

B. DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURE

The bout committee itself is not a parliamentary body which makes administrative decisions by majority vote. All of the committee's authority is vested in the chair, who may delegate it as he sees fit. The advisory capacity cannot overrule the chair on administrative matters. Only on questions properly brought to it on appeal does the bout committee decide by majority vote. In such cases, the chair has only one vote.

C. REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

- (1) The bout committee for USFA events shall consist of members of the USFA in good standing.
- (2) The minimum requirement for a place on the bout committee is a thorough knowledge of the rules.
- (3) Any member of the bout committee who is a competitor or team captain may not participate in the seeding of pools or direct elimination plan for the event in which he is involved.

D. SCOPE OF AUTHORITY

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

E. APPEAL

The decisions of the bout committee on matters within its jurisdiction are final. However, if it ignores a positive prescription of the rules, or applies the rules incorrectly, a protest by the aggrieved person or 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.

F. CHAIR FOR NATIONAL EVENTS

The chair or co-chairs of the bout committee for national events (other than the National Championship Tournament, see Chapter V, Section 3.C) are appointed by the Tournament Committee after consultation with the organizers.

4. JURY OF APPEAL

The Jury of Appeal is responsible for hearing a protest against a decision of the bout committee or of a referee (where permitted under the *Rules for Competition*) which has been properly filed and overruled. 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 must excuse himself if he is personally involved or if, by reason of his affiliation, 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 Chapter IV, 2.)

A. 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 chair or acting chair 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 chair of the Jury of Appeal shall be the senior nationally elected officer present; if no national officer is present, a chair shall be elected by the Jury of Appeal from among its members. Each member of the Jury of Appeal, including the chair, shall cast one vote. In the event of a tie vote, the chair shall have an additional vote.

B. 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 chair or acting chair 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 chair shall be the section chair. In his absence, the Jury of Appeal shall elect a chair from among its members. Each member of the Jury of Appeal, including the chair, shall cast one vote. In the event of a tie vote, the chair shall have an additional vote.

C. COMPOSITION OF THE JURY OF APPEAL AT A DIVISIONAL EVENT

The Jury of Appeal at a divisional competition shall be composed of all members of the Board of Directors and of the divisional executive committee present at the event, the chair or acting chair 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 chair shall be the chair of the division. In his absence, the Jury of Appeal shall elect a chair from among its members. Each member of the Jury of Appeal, including the chair, shall cast one vote. In the event of any tie vote, the chair shall have an additional vote.

5. JURIES

All members of the Jury shall be members in good standing of the USFA or of a foreign fencing association in good standing with the FIE.

6. SPECTATORS

"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 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 referee or the bout committee.

7. COMPETITORS' CHECK LIST

- A. Associate members of the USFA and members not in good standing are not eligible to compete.**
- B. It is the responsibility of the fencer to ensure that his entry for a competition is filed in accordance with the organizing committee's regulations for that event.**
- C. Unless otherwise specified, all USFA competitions are governed by the USFA *Rules for Competition* and it is the responsibility of the fencer to familiarize himself with them.**
- D. It is the responsibility of the fencer to provide himself with the necessary equipment to compete in accordance with the rules of the USFA.**
- E. Unless otherwise provided, a fencer who violates any of the above conditions 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 chair 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 to the National Championships are subject to special regulations (see Chapter V). National Championship entries must be submitted at least three weeks prior to the opening of the Championships.

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 Championships).

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 in effect, or otherwise.

4. TEAM EVENTS

- A. There shall be no limitation on the number of team entries from one club unless a specified limit is fixed in advance by the appropriate governing body (see special rules for National Championships).
- B. Members of two or more teams representing the same club may not be interchanged during the competition (see exception for National Championships, Chapter V, Section 12.A).
- C. The names of individual fencers on the team need not be formally filed at the time the team entry is made, but should be given to the bout committee before the plan of competition is worked out.
- D. No team entry shall be permitted to compete with a lesser number of members than required for the particular event (which shall be three unless otherwise announced in the schedule).

- E. Every individual member of a team shall, by participating in the competition, personally certify his eligibility to compete.

5. COMPOSITE TEAMS

- A. A composite team is one whose members do not represent the same club (they may all be unattached). Such teams are permitted unless notice to the contrary is included in the schedule of events. Further, a fencer may be part of a composite team in an event in which his club is formally represented with the approval of the appropriate division. Composite teams may compete *hors concours* in the National Championship qualifying round, but will not count in determining qualifiers to the National Championships.
- B. Composite teams must furnish a guarantee for the safe custody of any trophy which may be won.
- C. The bout committee shall refuse the entry of any composite team when, in its judgment, the conditions of subsections A, and B, have not been complied with in every respect.
- D. A fencer who is a member of a club may fence on a composite team without prejudice to his right to represent his club during the same season (see Chapter I, Section 8).

CHAPTER IV. DISCIPLINE

The principles set forth in the International Code of Discipline shall govern the imposition of disciplinary penalties in the US, with such modifications as may be necessary to conform to structural organization of the USFA and to any provisions contained in this chapter.

1. JURY OF APPEAL

(see also Chapter II, Section 4)

A. APPEAL PROCEDURE

If a protest against a decision of the bout committee or the referee (where permitted under the *Rules for Competition*) 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.

B. PENALTIES

In case the penalty of exclusion or disqualification is inflicted during 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 or team of any placement or prizes earned before the offense. If one of the latter, the penalty may include forfeiture of any placement or prizes earned during the competition. In all cases, the record of the action taken and the reason therefor must be filed with the Secretary for presentation to the National Board of Directors. In addition, the Jury of Appeal may recommend to the appropriate executive committee or the Board of Directors the imposition of more severe penalties, i.e., reprimand, suspension, or expulsion from the USFA.

CHAPTER V. SPECIAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RULES¹

1. NATURE OF THE TOURNAMENT

The National Championship competitions shall be announced annually in the divisional and national schedules 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 and section for its USFA 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:

Division I: open individual events in men's foil, épée and sabre and women's foil and épée;

Division II: individual events restricted by classification in men's foil, épée and sabre and women's foil, épée and sabre;

Team: events in men's foil, épée and sabre and women's foil and épée;

Under-19: individual events in men's foil, épée, and sabre and women's foil and épée;

Demonstration (non-championship): a team event in women's sabre and (1994-1996) an individual event in Under-19 women's sabre.

A separate Junior Olympic National Championship Tournament shall be held and shall include individual championship events in men's foil, épée and sabre and women's foil and épée in the Under-20, Under-17 and Under-15 age groups, as well as demonstration (non-championship) events in Under-13 men's foil, épée and sabre and women's foil and épée and in Under-11 men's and women's foil.

2. DATES AND LOCATIONS

A. The date and place of the National Championship Tournament shall be determined at or before the National Tournament in the second year preceding the event. The Tournament Committee shall receive bids and/or generate alternative proposals at least three months prior to the

¹ See also Appendix E, Key Dates for Championship Events.

start of the Tournament at which the decision is to be made. Bids shall be submitted in conformance to the rules established by the Tournament Committee, and consideration by the Tournament Committee should include a site inspection. A review of all bids and/or alternative proposals along with recommendations will be presented by the Tournament Committee to the Board of Directors, who shall select the time and place of the Tournament.

- B. The Sectional Championships shall be held at least three weeks prior to the first day of the National Championships. The divisional qualifying competition shall be held at least three weeks prior to the date set for the Sectional Championships.
- C. The date and place of the USFA National Junior Olympic Tournament shall be determined at or before the Junior Olympic Tournament in the second year preceding the event. The Tournament Committee shall receive bids and/or generate alternative proposals at least three months prior to the start of the Tournament at which the decision is to be made. Bids shall be submitted in conformance to the rules established by the Tournament Committee and that consideration by the Tournament Committee should include a site inspection. A review of all bids and/or alternative proposals along with recommendations will be presented by the Tournament Committee to the Board of Directors, who shall select the time and place of the tournament.
- D. The divisional qualifying competition for the Junior Olympic Tournament shall be held at least five weeks prior to the first day of the Tournament.

3. ORGANIZATION

- A. The organizing committee is responsible for providing all physical facilities, necessary equipment, supplies, and ancillary personnel.
 - (1) 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.

- (2) From 24 to 30 regulation-sized strips will be required (depending upon registration and scheduling of events); these should be metallic, and thus suitable for all weapons, and may be any combination of platform types and/or mesh types. A distinctive finals strip on a low platform (see height regulation in the *Rules for Competition*) is desirable. The necessary stretching and fastening devices are required (with spares) for platform types; sufficient tape must be on hand for the mesh types. One three-weapon electrical scoring machine is required for each strip, plus at least a 50% overage to cover practice areas and to allow for spares. Three reels, at a minimum, should be allowed for each strip (the minimum required plus 50% spares). Spare floor cables are needed, but less than a 50% margin: more like 10-20%. If double-reeling is planned, twice as many reels and floor cables are required and special switching boxes are required at each scoring table. Sufficient batteries, battery eliminators, or AC cabling must be available to power all machines and auxiliary equipment. If AC power is used, Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters are needed to protect all the machines so powered. Extension lights for each foil and épée strip are required. Each strip must have a stop watch or stop clock as well as the appropriate weights and, for épée, travel gauges. There should be a public scoreboard for at least the final round.
- (3) The organizing committee shall provide the equipment and space for inspection and repair of weapons and machines. It should also provide space, at a fair price, for vendors to sell weapons, body cords, and other fencing equipment to contestants whose personal equipment breaks down during the competitions and cannot be repaired without undue delay.

- (4) The organizing committee shall arrange for the attendance of an adequate number of trained time keepers and scorers to ensure the proper and continuous conduct of the Tournament. It is also responsible for publicity and publication of the program.
- (5) The organizing committee shall be responsible for specified expenses for designated personnel required for the proper conduct of the Tournament, according to criteria established by committees acting with the approval of the Board of Directors.
- 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 chairs of the bout committee are approved by the Board, based on the recommendation of the Tournament Committee, in consultation with the chair(s) of the organizing committee .
The designated representatives of the Tournament Committee and of the Fencing Officials Commission are automatically voting members of the national bout committee. The former are responsible for the smooth and orderly function and operation of the Tournament, and the latter shall act for the bout committee on the designation of referees.
- D. The Jury of Appeal at the National Championships shall be composed of all members of the Board of Directors present at the event, the chair or acting chair 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 chair shall be the senior nationally elected officer present; if no national officer is present, a chair shall be elected by the Jury of Appeal from among its members. Each member, including the chair of the

Jury of Appeal, shall cast one vote. In the event of a tie vote the chair shall also cast the deciding vote.

4. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The organizing committee is required to provide financial support for the national training programs of each group represented in the Championships events:

Division I: National Team;

Under-15, Under-17 and Under-20: training programs.

The schedule of awards shall be established by the National Board of Directors or its designated committee.

5. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The exact schedule of events shall be prepared by the Tournament Committee in consultation with the organizing committee and the bout committee and, when approved by the Board of Directors, shall be published by the USFA in *American Fencing*, the National Newsletter, and/or championship confirmation materials.

6. MEMBERSHIP

- A. Only members in good standing at the time the entries for the Nationals are closed are entitled to compete in the National Championship competition.
- B. Entry to the events of the National Championship competition and USFA National Junior Olympics is limited to qualified US citizens and permanent residents only.

7. INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIERS

A. DIVISION I EVENTS

The following members of the USFA who are US citizens or permanent residents and are in good standing, are eligible to participate in the Division I individual events in the same weapon in which they meet the qualification criteria:

- (1) Former Division I National Champions in that weapon.
- (2) The top twenty-four finishers of the previous year's Division I National Championships.
- (3) The top eight finishers of the previous year's Division II National Championships.
- (4) Anyone who has earned points in the current year's open point system equivalent to two twenty-fourth

place finishes or one twelfth place finish in Open North American Cup competitions.

- (5) The current year's Under-19 Sectional Champions.
- (6) The top eight finishers in the current year's Under-20 National Championships.
- (7) The top eight finishers in the current year's Under-20 point standings and the top finisher in the current year's Under-17 point standings as of the end of the Junior Olympic Championships.
- (8) The winner of certain competitions open to collegiate fencers only (including the NCAA Championships). These competitions will be designated by the USFA Executive Committee at least four weeks before the date of that competition.
- (9) The top three fencers in the US Modern Pentathlon in men's épée and women's épée will be eligible to compete in the Division I men's épée and women's épée events, respectively, without qualifying by any other means.
- (10) The top six finishers of each Sectional Championships held in the year of the Division I Championships who are members of that section and do not otherwise qualify through paragraphs (1) through (9) above.

B. DIVISION II EVENTS

The following members of the USFA who are US citizens or permanent residents and are in good standing, are eligible to participate in the Division II Championship individual events in the same weapon in which they meet the qualification criteria, provided that they are classified as Class C or lower at the time that they so qualify (except that the classification restrictions in this section shall be waived for any Division II event for which there is no equivalent Division I event):

- (1) Each division shall be entitled to a number of qualifiers based on the number of eligible fencers in the division's Division II qualifying event as follows:
 - 12 or fewer entries = 3 qualifiers
 - 13-24 entries = 4 qualifiers
 - 25-36 entries = 5 qualifiers

and so forth with one additional qualifier for each 12 entries or fraction thereof. The host division shall

be entitled to double the number of qualifiers it would normally be allowed.

- (2) The qualifiers to the current year's Under-19 National Championships.
- (3) The top sixteen finishers in the current year's Under-20 National championships.
- (4) The top eight finishers in the current year's Under-17 National Championships.
- (5) The top three finishers of certain competitions open to collegiate fencers only (including the NCAA Championships). These competitions will be designated by the USFA Executive Committee at least four weeks before the date of that competition.
- (6) The top eight finishers in the current year's Under-20 point standings and the top four finishers in the current year's Under-17 point standings as of the end of the Junior Olympic Championships.
- (7) The top eight finishers of the previous year's Division II National Championships, provided that event is not scheduled as a Division I event for the current National Championships.
- (8) The top four finishers of each Sectional Championships held in the year of the Division II Championships who are members of that section and do not otherwise qualify for the Division II's through paragraphs (1) through (7) above. Fencers who are classified as Class B or higher prior to the Sectional Championships are skipped in determining the Division II qualifiers. In addition, any eligible fencers who qualify for the Division I Championships from their section via rule A.(10), above, and are classified as Class C or lower prior to the Sectional Championships, also qualify for the Division II's.

C. UNDER-20 EVENTS

The following members of the USFA who are US citizens or permanent residents, are in good standing, and who meet the age criteria specified in Chapter I, Section 5.C., are eligible to participate in the Under-20 individual events in the same weapon in which they meet the qualification criteria:

- (1) The Under-17 National Champion from the previous year.
- (2) The top eight finishers of the previous National Under-19 Championships.
- (3) The top twenty-four finishers of the previous Under-20 Championships provided they still meet the requirement of age.
- (4) Anyone who has placed in the top thirty-two in any one Open North American Open Cup or World Cup competition since the previous National Under-20 Championships.
- (5) The top eight finishers in the current year's Under-20 point standings and the top four finishers in the current year's Under-17 point standings.
- (6) The top six finishers of certain competitions open to collegiate fencers only (including the preceding NCAA Championships). These competitions will be designated by the USFA Executive Committee by September of the year preceding the National Championships.
- (7) Each division shall be entitled to a minimum of three qualifiers who do not otherwise qualify through paragraphs (1) through (6) above, based on the number of eligible fencers in the division's Under-20 qualifying event in each weapon as follows:
 - 12 or fewer entries = 3 qualifiers
 - 13-24 entries = 4 qualifiers
 - 25-36 entries = 5 qualifiersand so forth with one additional qualifier for each 12 entries or fraction thereof. The host division shall be entitled to double the number of qualifiers it would normally be allowed.

D. UNDER-19 EVENTS

The following members of the USFA who are US citizens or permanent residents, are in good standing, and who meet the age criteria specified in Chapter I, Section 5.C., are eligible to participate in the Under-19 individual events in the same weapon in which they meet the qualification criteria:

- (1) The top eight finishers from the previous Under-17 National Championships.

- (2) The top eight finishers of the previous National Under-19 Championships provided they still meet the requirements of age.
- (3) The top sixteen finishers of the current year's Under-20 Championships provided they still meet the requirements of age.
- (4) Anyone who has placed in the top thirty-two in any one Open North American Open Cup or World Cup competition since the previous National Under-19 Championships.
- (5) The top eight finishers in the current year's Under-20 point standings, the top four finishers in the current year's Under-17 point standings, and the top two finishers in the current year's Under-15 point standings as of the end of the Junior Olympic Championships.
- (6) The top six finishers of certain competitions open to collegiate fencers only (including the NCAA Championships). These competitions will be designated by the USFA Executive Committee by September of the year preceding the National Championships.
- (7) Each section shall be entitled to a minimum of three qualifiers who do not otherwise qualify through paragraphs (1) through (6) above, determined by the number of eligible fencers in the section's Under-19 Championships as follows:
 - 6 or fewer entries = 3 qualifiers
 - 7-12 entries = 4 qualifiers
 - 13-18 entries = 5 qualifiers
 - 19-24 entries = 6 qualifiers
 - 25-30 entries = 7 qualifiersand so forth with one additional qualifier for each 10 entries or fraction thereof.
- (8) The top six finishers of the host division's Under-19 Championships who do not otherwise qualify through paragraphs (1) through (7) above.

E. UNDER-17 EVENTS

The following members of the USFA who as US citizens or permanent residents, are in good standing, and who meet the age criteria specified in Chapter I, Section 5.C., are eligible to participate in the Under-17 individual

events in the same weapon in which they meet the qualification criteria:

- (1) The top eight finishers of the previous National Under-17 Championships provided they still meet the requirement of age.
- (2) The top sixteen finishers of the previous National Under-19 Championships provided they still meet the requirement of age.
- (3) The top twenty-four finishers of the previous Under-20 Championships provided they still meet the requirement of age.
- (4) Anyone who has placed in the top thirty-two in any one Open North American Open Cup or World Cup competition since the previous National Under-17 Championships.
- (5) The top sixteen finishers in the current year's Under-20 point standings, the top eight finishers in the current year's Under-17 point standings, and the top four finishers in the current year's Under-15 point standings.
- (6) Each division shall be entitled to a minimum of three qualifiers who do not otherwise qualify through paragraphs (1) through (5) above, based on the number of eligible fencers in the division's Under-17 qualifying event in each weapon as follows:

12 or fewer entries = 3 qualifiers

13-24 entries = 4 qualifiers

25-36 entries = 5 qualifiers

and so forth with one additional qualifier for each 12 entries or fraction thereof. The host division shall be entitled to double the number of qualifiers it would normally be allowed.

F. UNDER-15 EVENTS

The following members of the USFA who as US citizens or permanent residents, are in good standing, and who meet the age criteria specified in Chapter I, Section 5.C., are eligible to participate in the Under-15 individual events in the same weapon in which they meet the qualification criteria:

- (1) The top eight finishers of the previous Under-15 National Championships provided they still meet the requirement of age.
- (2) The top sixteen finishers of the previous Under-17 National Championships provided they still meet the requirement of age.
- (3) The top twenty four finishers of the previous Under-19 and Under-20 National Championships provided they still meet the requirement of age.
- (4) The top twenty four finishers in the current year's Under-20 point standings, the top sixteen finishers in the current year's Under-17 point standings, and the top eight finishers in the current year's Under-15 point standings, provided they meet the requirement of age.
- (5) Each division shall be entitled to a minimum of three qualifiers who do not otherwise qualify through paragraphs (1) through (4) above, based on the number of eligible fencers in the division's Under-15 qualifying event in each weapon as follows:

12 or fewer entries = 3 qualifiers

13-24 entries = 4 qualifiers

25-36 entries = 5 qualifiers

and so forth with one additional qualifier for each 12 entries or fraction thereof. The host division shall be entitled to double the number of qualifiers it would normally be allowed.

G. QUALIFICATION VIA POINT STANDINGS

In the preceding sections which describe the qualification criteria for the National Championships via point standings, unless otherwise specified, the point standings will be those at the end of the last domestic event in which points are awarded which precedes the date for the close of entries for that National Championship or Junior Olympics.

H. ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIERS

In all the qualifying competitions for the individual National Championships, when the number of qualifiers who will be eligible to compete in that tournament from each division or section is determined by the number of eligible contestants competing for qualification, the

following will *not* be counted among those who will be included in the number of eligible contestants:

- (1) those who are not members of the division or section, AND
- (2) those who are not eligible to fence in the National Championships.

8. QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS

A. CRITERIA

The dates and locations of the Sectional Championships and divisional qualifying competitions must conform to the criteria specified in Section V.2 of this *Operations Manual*. The qualifying competitions shall be open to all amateur members of the USFA in good standing who meet the requirements hereinafter set forth.

Unless otherwise provided by the division or section, only members of the division or section may compete in that division's or section's qualifying competition. No amateur member who is in good standing and files a proper entry shall be denied entry if he or she is eligible under Section 6 above.

- B. QUALIFICATION BY APPEAL:** In exceptional cases, subject to specific approval by the USFA Executive Committee, a member of the USFA in good standing may be permitted to qualify by appeal.

The procedures for qualification by appeal are common to the Under-15, Under-17, Under-19, Under-20, and Senior National Championship events (Division I and Division II). They are as follows:

- (1) Appeals may be filed by fencers who were qualifiers (by means of competition or appeal) to that same event (i.e., foil, épée, or sabre) in the prior season or whose competitive record during the current fencing season indicates a strong possibility that they would have qualified had they been able to compete in the qualifying competition but:
 - a) were unable to compete in local qualifying events this season, OR
 - b) did compete and had to withdraw because of a disabling injury or illness.

(Mere attendance at an out-of-town school during the qualifying event shall not constitute inability to compete.)

- (2) All appeals must be made in writing to the National Secretary (addressed to the USFA National Headquarters, One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909) and must be received within three business days following the event from which the petitioner could have qualified, and in no case later than the entry deadline for the championship.

The appeal must be accompanied by:

- a) A non-refundable filing fee of \$25.00 made payable to the USFA.
 - b) A statement of specific details as to the dates, reason for absence, and other pertinent facts. Any medical reasons must be substantiated by written confirmation from a physician.
 - c) A summary of the fencer's significant competitive results during the past year. Results in previous National Championships (JO Championships, where applicable) and recent North American Cup events should especially be noted.
 - d) A self-addressed, stamped envelope for reply to the appeal.
- (3) Appeals will be reviewed by the USFA Executive Committee. Decisions will be based upon the validity of reasons for absence or withdrawal and the probability of the fencer having qualified through competition, based on results achieved in other events.

If a fencer is permitted to enter a National Championship event under this appeal procedure, his/her entry will in no way affect the number of qualifiers from the division or section involved. The USFA Executive Committee shall, at the following meeting of the Board of Directors, make a full written report of all petitions for qualification by appeal to the National and JO Championships citing specific detailed reasons in each case for their decision.

- C. All qualifying competitions shall conform strictly to the rules governing USFA events. Each division, at its discretion, may designate its Divisional Championships as its qualifying competition to the Sectional Championships. The divisions and sections must give at least three weeks notice of the date, time and place of the qualifying events.
- All qualifying competitions should be scheduled with regard to date, time, and location in such a manner as to prevent undue hardship to members wishing to attend such competitions. They should not be scheduled in conflict with major religious holidays or events on the National Calendar in that weapon (such as North American Cup events). If a division is geographically large, the qualifying competitions should be held on weekends or national holidays.
- D. A fencer may appeal from the local bout committee and/or the Jury of Appeal of a qualifying competition any decisions involving a possible violation of the rules to the USFA Executive Committee by forwarding said appeal to the National Headquarters within three business days after the qualifying competition. In the event the Executive Committee votes in favor of the appeal, it may designate that the fencer be considered a member of the National Division for the purposes of qualification.
- E. Each division is required to schedule qualifying competitions for the Division II, Under-20, Under-19, Under-17 and Under-15 National Championships. Divisions must hold Under-19 qualification competitions separate from the Under-15, Under-17 and Under-20 qualification competitions. The Under-15, Under-17 and Under-20 qualification competitions can be combined only if three or fewer fencers enter one of these competitions. In this case, arrangements must be made to determine the qualifiers, in order, for each of the categories. It is recommended that these competitions not be combined. Separate qualifying competitions may be held on the same day, but not concurrently.
- F. Upon request of the division hosting the National Championships, the Board of Directors may require that divisional and/or sectional qualifying competitions charge a surcharge on all entries to these competitions. Said

surcharges must then be sent by the division and/or section to the National Headquarters with the certified list of qualifiers. The National Headquarters will then forward these surcharges to the host division to help defray the expenses of the National Championships.

- G. In the event that the number of entries for a qualifying competition is less than the number of authorized qualifiers, the qualifying competition need not be held and all entries shall be automatically qualified for the Tournament.
- H. In the event that the number of entries for qualification from the National Division is greater than the number of authorized qualifiers, a qualifying competition will be held at the site of the National Championships on the day before that National Championship event is scheduled to be held.
- I. In the Division I individual events at the National Championships, alternates will not be allowed to take the place of a qualified fencer who does not enter the Nationals. In the Age Group Championships and Division II individual events, each division and section is entitled to a number of alternates equal to the number of qualifiers to which they are entitled. If the alternates have submitted a timely entry, they will be allowed to take the place of qualified fencers from the same section or division who have not entered the Nationals in that event.
- J. Qualification places must be determined without ties — the number of qualifiers is not increased due to ties. If two or more fencers finish in a tie for the last qualifying place, which fencer(s) are qualifiers and which fencer(s) are alternates must be determined by fencing as many barrage bouts as is necessary. All alternate placements must also be determined without ties. If two or more fencers finish in a tie for one of the alternate places, their qualification order must be determined by fencing as many barrage bouts as is necessary.
(By "ties" in the above paragraph, it is meant that the fencers are tied in all three indicators: bout, touch indicator, and touches received. If they are not tied in all three indicators, their placement is determined by the normal procedures for determining placement in pools in a qualifying round as explained in Article 521 of the *Rules for Competition*.)

K. If at all possible, the divisions should hold the Division II qualifying events as separate events open only to those eligible to compete in the Division II Nationals.

L. The qualifying events are considered the first rounds of the Nationals themselves. As such, the organizers may use only the following competition formats:

for Division I, Under-19 and Junior Olympic events:

- by pools; or
- by direct elimination with a mixed format of one or more rounds of elimination pools, followed by direct elimination (with or without repêchage) to qualify eight fencers for a direct elimination final;

for Division II events:

- either of the above two formats; or
- the Brazilian system (two rounds of seeding pools followed by a direct elimination table without repêchage, seeded based on the combined results of the two rounds of pools).

[Note: Sectional Championships, which serve as qualifying rounds for both Division I and Division II events, may only use the formats permitted for qualifying to Division I events.]

M. The Board of Directors may set aside the results of any qualifying competition which does not conform to the rules and require that the qualifying competition be rescheduled, designate the qualifiers from that division or section, or require that some or all of the contesting fencers compete in a special qualifying competition held at the site of the National Championships on the day before the National Championship event is scheduled to be held.

9. NUMBER OF TEAM QUALIFIERS

A. Teams will consist of three members plus one substitute. Each division will be allowed the following number of teams, based on the number of clubs represented in the qualifying round: 1-5 clubs, 2 teams; 6-10 clubs, 3 teams; more than 10 clubs, 4 teams. The top 3 teams of the previous Nationals qualify automatically as long as they are club members of the USFA in good standing. Each division is entitled to a number of alternate teams equal to the number of qualified teams to which they are

entitled. If alternate teams have submitted a timely entry, they will be allowed to take the place of qualified teams from the same division which have not entered the Nationals in that event.

- B. Teams shall represent a club which is a club member of the USFA no later than the time of the qualifying event. No club may qualify more than one team even though the rules of the qualifying competition may permit a club to enter two or more teams.
- C. Composite teams are forbidden in the Tournament, except as noted in Part G of this section. Composite teams may enter the qualifying rounds but must compete *hors concours*.
- D. Only clubs which are members of a division shall qualify from that division.
- E. The US Modern Pentathlon Squad and the three branches of the armed forces (Army, Air Force, and Navy) may each enter one team in each event. The normal rules regarding club requirements during the season are waived as to Pentathletes and service personnel for purposes of exercising this privilege in the tournament provided they submit entries identifying themselves as members of these teams by the deadline for entries to the Nationals and waive the right to fence on any other team.
- F. The host division shall be entitled to double the number of team qualifiers it would normally be allowed.
- G. If a division is unable to provide club representation for team competition in a given weapon, despite conducting a regularly scheduled team qualifying competition, then a division composite team may be entered in the National Team Championship competition.
Division composite teams must be composed of fencers who are members of the division so represented.
Composite team members must also have competed at least once during that regular season in a competition held by the division which the composite team represents.
Members of composite teams will be selected based on highest final placement in the following events:
 - 1. Primary Selection Criteria: Divisional Championship event in the team competition weapon.

2. **Secondary Selection Criteria:** Sectional Championship event in the team competition weapon.

In the case of a division composite team, the names of the members of the team must be listed at the time the team entry is submitted for the National Championships.

10. CERTIFICATION OF QUALIFIERS

- A. Immediately upon the completion of all of its qualifying competitions, the Secretary of each division and section shall transmit to the National Headquarters a certified list of the final placement of all entries to the qualifying competitions as well as any surcharge which may have been authorized under Section 8.F.

- B. Qualifying forms must reach the National Headquarters as follows:

Divisional forms - four weeks prior to the first day of the Nationals or Junior Olympics

Sectional forms - three business days after the Sectional Championships

These forms do not constitute the required entries for the Tournament, which must be submitted by the competitors themselves. Failure to provide such certified lists may lead to the disqualification of competitors from that division or section. All requested information must be provided in a legible format, preferably on the forms provided by the National Headquarters.

- C. The USFA National Headquarters shall check the certified lists against the list of USFA members in good standing and shall forward the lists, with the endorsement, or corrections, to the chair of the national bout committee.

11. PROCEDURE FOR ENTRIES

- A. Every individual or team qualifier who wishes to participate in the National Championship competitions must file an official entry with the USFA National Headquarters at least three weeks before the first day of the championships.
- B. Every entry must be accompanied by the required fees and a stamped self-addressed business size envelope. All fees are determined by the Board of Directors and shall be announced in the schedule for the Tournament.