USA FENCING

2026-2027

ATHLETE HANDBOOK



USA FENCING

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ABOUT USA FENCING

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

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

USA Fencing is the sole U.S. authority recognized by the Fédération Internationale d'Escrime (FIE) for able-bodied fencing and by World Para Fencing, the wheelchair-fencing discipline governed by World Abilitysport (formerly IWAS), for parafencing. These bodies sanction the World Fencing Championships, the World Para Fencing Championships, and the fencing and parafencing events at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Accordingly, any U.S. athlete who wishes to compete in official international competitions must obtain the appropriate annual license (FIE, EFC or World Para Fencing) through USA Fencing and be formally entered into each event by USA Fencing.

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

DISTRIBUTION LIST
The current membership is notified of the posting and revisions to the current edition of the Athlete Handbook via the USA Fencing website at usafencing.org. The Handbook is the property of USA Fencing and is available at **www.usafencing.org/rules-compliance**

Permission is granted for reproduction of any portion of this book, with attribution to USA Fencing and a link to **www.usafencing.org/rules-compliance** — to ensure that the latest version is easily accessible.

Please contact the USA Fencing National Office with any document/link issues: **b.wendell@usafencing.org**.

Special thanks to **Brandon Rochelle** for his work reviewing this edition.

How to Use This Book

This book is written for fencers, coaches and parents to help them gain an understanding of the competitive and developmental programs of USA Fencing. It contains information that will allow fencers to progress in the sport of fencing as high as they can.

Please know that a lack of familiarity with the information contained herein is not justification for an appeal. When there are modifications to any of the programs described herein, such changes will be posted to the USA Fencing website at **www.usafencing.org/rules-compliance**.

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

It's just as important that fencers keep the National Office updated with respect to their current mailing address to ensure receipt of information mailed by USA Fencing and the National Weapons Coaches. USA Fencing will post the latest information on the USA Fencing website and through our social media channels.

If you can't find what you're looking for on our website or in this book, you can contact USA Fencing by email at information@usafencing.org.

Fencers who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USA Fencing may contact the Office of the Athlete Ombuds, which offers independent, confidential advice to elite athletes regarding their rights and responsibilities in the Olympic and Paralympic Movement, and assists athletes with a broad range of questions, disputes, complaints and concerns.

Learn more and contact the Athlete Ombuds **at this link**.

Athlete Handbook Changelog

This page contains a list of changes to the 2026-27 Athlete Handbook made after its initial publication date.

- **Sept. 13, 2026**: Updated 11.5 (Vet Team Event Selection) to a new version.
- **Sept. 16, 2026**: Section 2.11.5: Updated Junior qualification criteria; typo fixes throughout; legacy Point table on Page 76 corrected
- **Sept. 27, 2026**: Section 2.5: Added the October and November 2026 NAC Elite-tier transition exception; Section 2.5.1: clarified age-category eligibility exceptions for Senior, Junior, Cadet, Youth 12 and Youth 14; added Section 2.5.2, Eligibility Exemption Policy (Elite Events Only).
- **Oct. 1, 2026**: Added the Unified Divisional and Adult point tables, regional and national, to the Appendices, completing the reference in Section 3.3.4; added ADT and ADC to the acronym list on Page 8; Section 3.4.4: corrected the SJCC point description to reference the SJCC columns of the Unified Junior and Unified Cadet point tables.
- **Oct. 22, 2026**: Section 2.6.3: Removed outdated automatic-qualifier language; clarified that only Y14 fencers who qualify through National Points are skipped in Division Qualifier results; added bullets clarifying that already-qualified fencers are not skipped and that Division Qualifier qualification does not trickle down between age categories.
- **Oct. 27, 2026**: Section 2.6.1: completed the incomplete sentence on Y14 division qualifiers; Section 2.6.3: corrected "will be accepted" to "will not be accepted" for results submitted in other formats; numbered the Junior Olympic division qualifier table as Table 2.6.3.1, renumbered the National Championships table as Table 2.6.3.2 and updated the cross-reference; clarified the tie-for-sixth qualifying rule; Section 3.5: corrected the table labels so the Junior World Cup/Designated Cadet and Senior World Cup/Grand Prix headings each sit above the correct table.
- **Nov. 3, 2026**: Added Section 2.2.6, Capping and Elite/Challenger Events – Priority Registration, establishing a two-week Priority Registration Window for top Unified Points List holders in DVI, JNR and CDT events at National Tournaments.
- **Nov. 4, 2026**: Section 2.2.6: Extended Priority Registration Window eligibility to include U.S.-affiliated fencers who rank within the same number of spots among U.S.-affiliated athletes on the Unified Points List (for example, the top 72 U.S.-affiliated fencers on the Senior UPL for DVI).

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ACRONYMS USED IN THE ATHLETE HANDBOOK

AB	Able-Bodied
ADM	American Development Model
ADT	Adult
ADC	Adult Combined
AH	Athlete Handbook
Capping	Event field to a maximum number of entrants
CDT	Cadet (U17/U16)
DE	Direct Elimination
Div I	Division I
Div IA	Division IA
Div II	Division II
Div III	Division III
EFC	European Fencing Confederation
FIE	Federation International d'Escrime
ICL	International Competitive License – Foreign Fencers
IRC	International Regional Circuit – Y10, Y12, Y14, CDT & JR
JOs	Junior Olympic National Championship
JR	Junior (U20/U19)
JSF	Junior Strength Factor
JWC	Junior World Cup
NAC	North American Cup
NRPS	Legacy National Rolling Point Standings
PARA	Parafencing
RCC	Regional Cadet Circuit
RJC	Regional Junior Circuit
RJCC	Regional Junior & Cadet Circuit
ROC	Regional Open Circuit
RPC	Regional Para Circuit
RRPS	Regional Ranking Point System
RYC	Regional Youth Circuit
SF	Strength Factor
SJCC	Super Junior and Cadet Circuit
SSF	Senior Strength Factor
SWC	Senior World Cup
SYC	Super Regional Youth Circuit
TM	Team Fencing
USOC	United States Olympic Committee
USOPC	United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee
USCSS	United States Center for SafeSport
VET	Veteran
WAS	World Abilitysport
WPF	World Para Fencing
WC	World Cup
WV	Weight Value
Y10	Youth 10 Age Group
Y12	Youth 12 Age Group
Y14	Youth 14 Age Group

CHAPTER 1
USA FENCING MEMBERSHIP/ INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE LICENSE

1.0 HOW TO BECOME A USA FENCING MEMBER

You must have a current USA Fencing Competitive level membership to participate in USA Fencing-sanctioned events. Individuals may only have one membership. An Access Membership will permit competition at all sanctioned local tournaments including division qualifiers. A Competitive Membership is required to compete at regional or national sanctioned tournaments.

To become a USA Fencing member, visit the USA Fencing website, where you can use the online registration system **here**. USA Fencing no longer accepts paper applications. All individual memberships must be processed through the USA Fencing's Online registration system. Please be aware that USA Fencing cannot consider you a member in good standing or provide proof of membership until the application and dues have been processed by the USA Fencing National Office ("National Office").

1.1 AGE/CITIZENSHIP

Any member looking to compete regionally or nationally must have their age verified by USA Fencing before they are able to register for any regional or national tournament. Please upload an image of your birth certificate, passport, green card, driver's license and/or other legal document clearly showing date of birth and name to your member profile at member.usafencing.org. Uploading is the preferred method, but you may also email documents to Member Services at **information@usafencing.org**. Once your birth date has been verified, you do not need to do this again.

To compete in any National Championship, fencers will need to verify their nationality in addition to verifying their age. Nationalitly verification will be required for national championship events in the 2026-27 season. Birth certificate, green cards, passports, permanent residency status are all eligible documents for verifying nationality. A driver's license will not suffice. Members can upload applicable document using the same process as for age verification.

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

1.2 DIVISION & REGIONAL AFFILIATION

A member can declare a division and region affiliation based on their residence, location of the school that member is attending or location of the primary club that the member will represent in USA Fencing competitions. Each fencing season, a member must declare their division and region affiliation for that membership year.

That division determines which divisional qualifier fencers can compete in to qualify for Junior Olympics or the USA Fencing National Championship (Summer Nationals). The regional affiliation determines which region fencers can earn regional points in (for youth categories only). Members may request a change in division and/or region if they move to a new geographic location (permanent residence or school) or select a primary club which is located in a different division and notifies the National Office in writing of the new address and division change request. In addition, the regional affiliation will determine which region you are able to register for tournaments in during the three week, in-region protection window for regional tournaments. Members who are living or working for an extended period outside of the United States or on active military duty can request "national" division affiliation; supporting documentation must be submitted to information@usafencing.org. Members who represent the USA competitively and choose the National division affiliation must also choose which region they affiliate with. Those with a National division affiliation can compete in one divisional qualifier per event category in their selected region for Junior Olympics and Summer Nationals. Youth Fencers will only earn points in the Region they chose to affiliate with. Members with International Competitive Licenses, or those who represent a country other than the USA, will have a divisional affiliation of "US Fencing." These members will also need to choose which region they affiliate with. Youth fencers will only earn regional points in the region they chose to affiliate with.

1.3 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE LICENSE

Fencers who are not U.S. citizens — or are not eligible to represent the USA — must have a current USA Fencing International Competitive License to participate in regional or national sanctioned tournaments. An Access membership is permitted for non-USA citizens to compete in sanctioned local tournaments.

To obtain an International License, visit the USA Fencing website or use the online registration system **here**. Please be aware that USA Fencing cannot consider your International Competitive License valid until the application and dues have been processed by the USA Fencing National Office.

1.4 CLUB REPRESENTATION & AFFILIATION

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

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

All fencers should notify the National Office of all club affiliations at the start of the fencing season and, as such, any club affiliation changes during the fencing season. **All fencers will have the ability to update their club affiliation in their membership profile twice per season.** They should also notify competition organizers of such affiliations, even if representing another club (or school) or fencing unattached for reasons given below. Competition organizers should apply the same criteria for separating fencers with the same club affiliations as they do for fencers with same club representation. **Only current USA Fencing clubs will be listed in the membership database.** You cannot affiliate with a non-member club. Only the club listed in the athlete's membership profile will be considered valid. Club affiliations are dependent on the date tournament organizers download the entrants for a tournament. Please note this could be up to one week prior to the start of competition.

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

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

Note: Club Affiliation changes will not be processed after the commencement of an event under any circumstances.

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

1.5 USA FENCING CLUB INFORMATION

Find the latest information about **clubs** and **club insurance** on our website.

CHAPTER 2
DOMESTIC COMPETITIONS

2.0 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

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

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

All USA Fencing-sanctioned events must have at least one rated referee as part of the tournament cadre. Any tournaments not in compliance with this requirement will have their sanctioning, results and any ratings that could be awarded based upon the event grouping and results invalidated. **Go here** for a current list of rated referees. All tournament officials must be compliant with the USA Fencing SafeSport Policy, including maintaining a current background check. In addition, all officials must complete the free, online SafeSport Training Course and have a completed, and returned with a green light, background check.

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

For information on black cards, medical withdrawal and no shows, see the **Appendices**.

2.1 RATINGS

2.1.1 What are Ratings?

Fencers are classified into the following letter ratings: A (highest), B, C, D, E and U (unclassified, lowest) as well as by national ranking, for those who achieved points at sanctioned events. These provide an objective scale for the seeding of competitions. Ratings are written A23, B22, C21, etc. with the letter indicating the most recent year in which the rating was earned or re-earned. Used in combination with National Ranking, ratings provide a measuring standard for fencers as they progress through the sport.

Ratings are available on the **USA Fencing Member List** and are searchable by last name, first name, membership number, division or representing country and are updated automatically on the membership listing. Ratings may also be viewed in the member's profile at **member.usafencing.org**.

2.1.2 How is a Rating Earned?

Ratings are earned in each weapon at USA Fencing-rated competitions at local, divisional, regional or national levels. The rating of a competition is based on number of competitors and rating of the fencers and determines the type and number of ratings awarded or revised. Please see the **Appendices**.

2.1.3 How are Rating Changes Made Official?

Rating changes from local tournaments must be certified and submitted by the division through USA Fencing's approved local and divisional event results uploading system using the Fencing Time results file, which includes the event officials and rating changes. Event officials must have a valid USA Fencing background screen and completed SafeSport training. For details regarding this, go to **www.usafencing.org/reporting**

Complete Event Officials Forms, including valid USA Fencing background screens and SafeSport certifications.

Rating changes from regional tournaments and division qualifiers must be certified by submission of complete results (upload) in the online tournament system by the organizer of the regional tournament or division qualifier at which the rating was earned. The results report is available as an export from the most recent version of FencingTime available. Division qualifiers must be submitted to the Division with the Fencing Time results file. Rating changes will be processed and posted once results and referee reports are verified.

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

Only ratings appearing on the membership listings available on the USA Fencing website are official. Only these listings should be used when seeding tournaments. Results and rating changes posted on non-USA Fencing tournament registration sites must be verified by USA Fencing. If a rating has not been updated on the USA Fencing website, the fencer

should first contact the tournament organizer or the appropriate division officer to determine whether the results have been submitted. Ratings not updated and posted to the USA Fencing website by the rating change deadline for a respective tournament will not be updated after the fact.

Once the results files are submitted to the National Office and any associated fees have been collected, the rating change will be updated within five business days, except under extenuating circumstances, including:

1. Ratings will not be awarded to fencers who compete in competitions in which they are considered age and/or rating ineligible. In addition, such ineligible fencers may not be used to calculate the new ratings earned by others in those events.
2. For events in which any fencers are not current USA Fencing Competitive members, the award of any new ratings, points or qualification for that competition may be delayed or withheld until such memberships are properly paid and processed.
3. Organizers submitting rating changes from RYC, SYC, ROC, RJCC or RPC tournaments have not yet submitted the required program sanction fees and/or results/referee reports to the National Office.
4. The tournament was not approved by the Division as a part of the sanctioned event calendar for that season.
5. The tournament is not compliant with SafeSport and/or FenceSafe policies - the posting of results and ratings earned may be delayed until such time the tournament is found to be in compliance.

Should an athlete representing any country at a FIE/WAS World Championships, Grand Prix or World Cup in the current season and/or previous three seasons, earn a rating based on the rating chart in Section 2.1.5, they must contact the National Office to update rating.

For the FIE Veteran World Championships, USA Fencing will review these results after the conclusion of the tournament and award earned or renewed ratings as appropriate.

2.1.4 How long is a rating valid?

Ratings are valid for four seasons after they are earned. If, after four seasons, the rating has not been renewed, it then reverts to the next lowest letter and the then current year. Such change will be effective at the beginning of the new fencing season – Aug. 1. For example, if you earned a B in 2020 (B20) and did not re-earn your B for four more years, your B became a C24 on Aug. 1, 2024. If you then did not renew your C24 for four more years, it becomes a D28 on Aug. 1, 2028.

2.1.5 How to Determine Ratings for Foreign Fencers?

Ratings for foreign fencers will be determined by placement at designated FIE Cadet, Junior, Senior competitions, designated EFC Cadet competitions, and World Championships in the current season and/or previous three seasons in the weapon in which the athlete requests entry, based on the chart below. Note: Parafencers will earn ratings at the same requirements as for FIE Veterans events. Results at Zonal Championships are not considered.

	A	B	C
Senior	1st – 64th	65th – 96th	National Team member
Junior	1st – 32nd	33rd – 64th	National Team member
Cadet	1st – 16th at Cadet World Championships	17th – 32nd at Cadet World Championships	National Team member
Parafencing	1st – 3rd at Parafencing World Championships	5th – 8th at Parafencing World Championships	9th – 16th at Parafencing World Championships
Veteran 40 – 49	1st – 3rd at Veteran World Championships	5th – 8th at Veteran World Championships	9th – 16th at Veteran World Championships
Veteran 50 – 59	1st – 3rd at Veteran World Championships	5th – 8th at Veteran World Championships	9th – 16th at Veteran World Championships
Veteran 60 – 69		1st – 3rd at Veteran World Championships	5th – 8th at Veteran World Championships
Veteran 70+			1st – 3rd at Veteran World Championships

In all cases, the rating year suffix is the year in which the result was earned. In the event a fencer's international results are not from competitions listed in the previous chart, the National Events Department will consult with the National Weapon Coach or Chief of Sport Performance regarding which rating should be used.

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

2.2 TYPES OF DOMESTIC COMPETITIONS

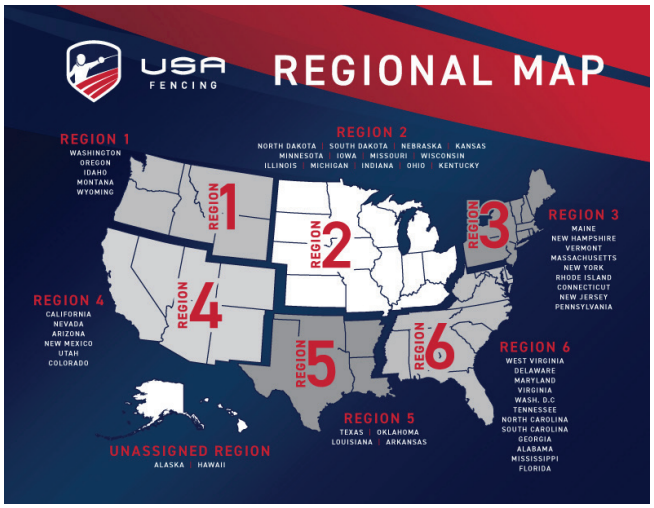
2.2.1 Local Competitions

A wide variety of competitions can be found at the local level in clubs or sponsored by local organizations. Schedules for these competitions can be found by contacting your division.

2.2.2 Division Competitions

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

2.2.3 Regional Competitions



The USA Fencing Region Map is located above. A calendar of regional events can be found here.

Regional Open Circuit (ROC): The ROCs serve as one of the qualification paths for certain events at the USA National Fencing Championships and July Challenge. DV1A, DV2, DV3, VET, ADT, and ADC are all sanctioned ROC events.

Regional Junior/Cadet Circuit (RJCC): The RJCCs serve as one of the qualification paths for Junior Olympic Fencing Championships and the July Challenge. Points earned at RJCCs will be added to the unified points list; please refer to Chapter 3 for more information on the Regional Point structure. For a schedule of RJCCs, go here.

Regional Parafencing Circuit (RPC): RPCs serve as more localized competitive opportunities for parafencers around the country. Parafencers will be eligible to earn ratings as a part of these competitions, helping them improve their potential seeding for Parafencing North American Cup events.

Super Junior/Cadet Circuit (SJCC): Best efforts will be made to host at least two SJCC tournaments during each season. All Junior and Cadet age fencers may participate in the Super Junior/Cadet Circuit; results from both SJCCs can contribute to a fencer's unified point standings.

Super Youth Circuit (SYC): There are numerous SYC tournaments throughout the country for Y10, Y12 and Y14 athletes. If a regional organizer choosing to run Y8 events in conjunction with and SYC, the Y8 events are not eligible for points, only weapon rating changes. Youth fencers may participate in one or more Super Youth tournaments; however, **only the single best result** is included in the revised National Point Standings published after each SYC.

National points are awarded to the top 40% at an SYC competition according to the point table in the Appendix. These competitions are one of the qualification paths for Y10 events at the March NAC and Y10, Y12 and Y14 events at the USA National Fencing Championships. Please refer to Chapter 3 for more information on the Youth Point structure. For a schedule of SYCs, go here.

International Regional Circuit (IRC): Best efforts will be made to host at least two International Regional Circuit tournament held outside the United States. In addition, youth athletes that fence in an IRC in Y10 events will meet the prerequisite for fencing in the March Youth NAC. Also, the top 40% of finishers in Junior and Cadet will qualify for

the Junior Olympics, while the top 40% of finishers in Y10, Y12 and Y14 will earn qualification to Summer Nationals. If the organizers choose to run Y8 events at the IRC, the Y8 events will not be eligible for points, only weapon rating changes.

Regional Youth Circuit (RYC): The RYC tournaments are held throughout the season for Y10, Y12 and Y14 athletes. These competitions are one of the qualification paths for Y10 events at the March NAC and the USA Fencing National Championships. Please refer to **Chapter 3** for more information on the Regional Point structure. For a schedule of RYCs, go **here**. Y8 events may also be hosted with an RYC, but please note that no regional points are awarded for Y8 events. Fencers may, however, still earn ratings as a sanctioned event category.

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

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

Regional Tournament Capping: Regional organizers will continue to be allowed to cap events in the coming season to keep sizes manageable, and the National Office will continue to monitor caps to review if they are being set equitably and according to data-based rationale.

Regional Organizers wishing to utilize caps are required to follow the capping structure outlined in the following graphic when registration opens. Initial caps for events can be set within these parameters, and then, at four weeks from the start of the tournament, organizers may adjust their caps based on demand across different events. When possible, organizers are still encouraged to adjust their caps and add entries equally for the two genders in the same weapon/age category (i.e. JNRME and JNRWE).

2.2.4 National Tournaments and Championships

A schedule of all events and deadlines can be found online here.

North American Cup (NAC): The North American Cup tournaments are a series of tournaments organized by USA Fencing. These events may include some combination of these categories: Y10, Y12, Y14, Cadet, Junior, Div I, Div II, Div III, Vet Open, Vet Age, Parafencing, and Cadet/Y14/Junior/Senior Team. For Div I NACs, athletes must meet the criteria for a "C" or better rating at the time of their entry. For Div II NACs, athletes must meet the age and rating criteria ("C" or lower rating) at the time of their entry. For Div III NACs, athletes must meet the age and rating criteria for a ("D" or lower rating) at the time of their entry.

Beginning with the 2026-27 season, North American Cups are points-restricted events. Along with meeting the applicable age and rating eligibility criteria for their category.

Junior Olympic Fencing Championship (JOs): The Junior Olympic Fencing Championships are held each year before the Junior & Cadet Fencing World Championships. JOs is the National Championships for Cadet, Junior and Junior Team in each of the six weapons. Fencers must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, meet age criteria and qualify to compete in this tournament. Athletes that have represented another country in the last three years at FIE-level competitions (Veteran/Senior/Junior and those athletes that represented another country in the Cadet World Championships) are not eligible to compete in a National Championship, unless the athlete has been officially approved by the FIE to represent the USA.

Division I National Championships: The Div I National Championships, held in conjunction with the April NAC, are championships for for fencers on the Unified points list for Seniors, Juniors and the top Cadets. Competitors must be U.S. citizens or Permanent Residents. Fencers qualify for these Championships by earning the required amount of National Points, via participation in local, regional and national competitions earlier in the season. Fencers may also qualify via modern pentathlon.

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

Parafencing National Championship: The Para National Championship is held in conjunction with either the March or April NAC tournaments. Competitors must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT CAPPING STRUCTURE

Use this when comparing cap sizes for men's and women's events in the same age category/weapon

How many pools are in the larger of the two events?*	How many fencers are in the larger of the two events?*	What is the allowable difference in the cap?**
3 or fewer	21 or fewer	Must be equal
4 to 7	22 to 49	One pool maximum
8 to 11	50 to 77	Two pools maximum
12 or more	78 or more	Three pools maxiumum

*Assumes regional tournaments use pools of five to seven athletes, within a targeted goal of poolswith size or seven athletes whenever possible.

**The recommendations for capping differential apply only to events of a different gender within the same age/weapon category. For example, a tournament with a Cadet Men's Foil cap of seven pools could have a Cadet Women's Foil cap of six, seven or eight pools (one maximum difference).

USA Fencing National Championships (Summer Nationals): The USA Fencing National Championships are held in June/July. Fencers must be U.S. citizens or Permanent Residents and qualify to compete in this tournament. Events in these Championships include (in all six weapons): Y10, Y12, Y14, Vet Age, Div IA, Div II and Div III. For rating restricted championship events (Div II/ Div III), the rating of the fencer at the time of registration determines eligibility to compete.

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

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

2.2.5 Capping Policy (2026-27 season)

For the 2026-27 season, DVI, JNR and CDT events at all North American Cups will be capped at a maximum of 336 entries TOTAL. This number is a combination of the fencers competing in the Elite Division of 112 + the fencers competing in the Challenger Division of 224. Once an event has met the cap, a waitlist will be started with the next fencer wishing to sign up.

2.2.6 Capping and Elite/Challenger Events – Priority Registration (2026-27 season)

For the 2026-27 season, DVI, JNR and CDT events at all National Tournaments will be capped at a maximum of 336 total entries. These events will have a Priority Registration Window of two weeks, during which the following groups will have early access to register in the respective category:

- DVI
  - Top 72 Senior UPL Points Holders
  - Top 24 Junior UPL Points Holders
  - Top 20 Cadet UPL Points Holders
- JNR
  - Top 88 Junior UPL Points Holders
  - Top 24 Cadet UPL Points Holders
- CDT
  - Top 112 Cadet UPL Points Holders

U.S. fencers: In addition to the groups above, the Priority Registration Window is open to U.S.-affiliated fencers who rank within the same number of spots among U.S.-affiliated athletes on the Unified Points List. For example, in DVI, the Top 72 Senior UPL Points Holders are eligible, as are the top 72 U.S.-affiliated fencers on the Senior UPL.

After this window, registration will open to all age- and rating-eligible fencers for the category, at regular fees.

2.3 ENTERING COMPETITIONS/TOURNAMENTS

2.3.1 Local/Divisional Competitions

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

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

Links to online entry forms for these competitions are available on the **USA Fencing website**. Only tournaments posted on the USA Fencing Regional Event Calendar are recognized as regional tournaments. Registrations for these competitions will be processed through the National Office.

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

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

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

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

2.4 USA FENCING NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

For registration accuracy, speed and to do our part to be green, USA Fencing uses an online registration system. The online registration system generates a receipt of payment upon processing of a valid payment. If you need any assistance, please email nationalevents@usafencing.org. All entries must be received at the National Office by the published deadline for that tournament. Fencers must meet all eligibility criteria for any respective National Tournament, and qualification is required for any Championship tournament. See

Pending	National Office is checking eligibility (NOTE: Qualification should not be assumed if your entry is in this status.)
Approved	Registration has been paid and you are eligible for the event
Waitlist Pending	No Payment Method has been entered and you have not been assigned a position on waitlist
Waitlist	Payment method has been accepted and athlete assigned waitlist position
Withdrawn	Withdrawn from the event
Denied	You are ineligible to participate

below for a list of registration statuses and definitions when reviewing entries in the online registration system:

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

Deadlines for entry are strictly enforced. Deadlines are published on the USA Fencing website. Online entries must be submitted by 11:59:59 p.m. Pacific Time of the posted ratings change deadline. Late entries are accepted online only for a specified time frame, with payment of triple the total amount due for regular entries up to the posted late entry deadline date by 5:00 p.m. local time (where the event is being hosted).

A link to the entrants list is posted on the specific tournament web page located on the USA Fencing website under Events – **usafencing.org**. It is the fencer's responsibility to verify that the events registered for, rating for each weapon and division information is accurate before the seeding deadline for the tournament. Any discrepancies must be reported to the National Office (**information@usafencing.org**) no later than 24 hours after the seeding for that event is posted on the USA Fencing website. Club affiliation changes may be considered until the end of check-in for that event.

For Championship tournaments, the online system generates separate emails for each event once entry is approved. It is the fencer's responsibility to verify that the Championship events registered for have been officially approved by the National Office. Championship eligibility confirmation from clubs, divisions, regional tournament organizers are not considered official until verified by USA Fencing. A refund of the full Event fee will be processed by the National Office for any events where an athlete fails to qualify. Tournament fees and Admin fees are considered nonrefundable. Event fee refunds are processed 4-6 weeks after the tournament. There are no event fee refunds after the posted deadline for the tournament.

Refund Policy Exception – Qualification-Dependent Events
If a qualifying competition takes place after the regular fee entry deadline but before the qualification deadline and an athlete does not qualify:
• Single-Event Registration: If registered for only one event, the event fee, the tournament and administrative fees will be refunded. In the event this is applicable for a given athlete, they should email nationalevents@usafencing.org to request a full refund.
• Multiple-Event Registration: If registered and qualified for other events, only the event fee for the non-qualified event will be refunded.

2.4.1 Withdrawal and Refund Policy

For a refund of 50% of the event fee(s), all withdrawals must be received by the National Office by the posted withdrawal deadline. Registration and processing fees are nonrefundable and nontransferable. To withdraw from a national tournament, fill out the withdraw form linked here and select the event(s) from which you are withdrawing. No event fee refunds will be given for withdrawals after the posted withdrawal deadline.

To withdraw from a local or regional tournament, please email the listed tournament organizer. Contact information is located on their registration page. Regional withdrawal and refund policies may vary from tournament to tournament but can not be more stringent than the national policy listed above.

2.4.2 No-Show Policy

If a fencer does not complete the withdraw form by 5:00 PM local time relative to where the tournament is being held on the day before their scheduled competition or fails to appear for their event at a USA Fencing-sanctioned national tournament, the fencer will be subject to a $250 No-Show fine and the fencer's membership will be locked, making them unable to register for any new events or renew their membership until payment is received.

The fine will be enforced for each event at which a fencer fails to appear. As an example, if a fencer fails to appear at two events during the course of a national tournament, the fencer will need to pay $250 per event with a total balance of $500. All fencers who are scratched after not appearing at the strip will be notified via email from the National Office and provided with instructions on how they can complete payment of the fine and reinstate their membership.

2.5 ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE

Fencers must have an active membership with competitive rights and be in good standing to compete in specified USA Fencing-sanctioned national competitions.

For Cadet, Junior and Senior (Div I, Div IA, Div II and Div III) categories, in addition to holding a current membership and being age/rating eligible for USA Fencing-sanctioned tournaments, fencers must also earn a minimum number of points to compete at the national levels.

As of the beginning of the 2026-27 season, no minimum number of points has been established for regional tournaments, so those competitions remain open, provided all age and rating eligibility criteria are met.

To register and fence in national tournaments, fencers must meet the minimum number of points required for their category. The table below breaks down the minimum points needed for each category.

Access members can fence at local events only. To compete at regional or national tournaments, fencers must have a

membership type with competitive privileges.

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

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

Competition format for Cadet, Junior and Div I.
Beginning with the first NAC of the season, Cadet, Junior and Div I events will follow a revised competition format. When total registrations for an event reach 169 or more, the event will split into two tiers: Elite and Challenger.

The Elite tier will consist of the following fencers, as of 15 days prior to the competition: the top 16 ranked Cadet fencers on the National Rolling Point Standings; the top 24 ranked Junior fencers on the Unified Points List; and all remaining positions filled, in order, from the Senior Unified Points List, with a minimum of 72 positions going to fencers from the Senior Unified Points List. (If a fencer occupies a spot on more than one eligible Unified Point List age category, that spot does not slide down to the next fencer in that category — it is added to the positions allocated from the Senior Unified Points List.)

The Challenger tier will consist of the remaining eligible athletes registered in the age category, up to a maximum of 224 athletes.

If an event has 168 or fewer fencers, the field will not split; all fencers will compete in one event, which will award points based on the Elite points tables in the Appendices.

TOURNAMENT LEVEL	CDT	JNR	DVI/SNR
NATIONAL	100	100	150
REGIONAL	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
LOCAL	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

Exception for October and November 2026 NACs (Elite Tier Only)

For the October and November 2026 NACs only, fencers who are ranked in the top 112 of the Legacy Point Standings for the respective age category, but outside the top 112 on the Unified Points List, may opt in to be placed in the Elite tier. These fencers will be added to the Elite field and will not displace fencers who qualify for the Elite tier based on the Unified Points List.

Registration process. When fencers register for a Div I NAC, Junior or Cadet event, all entries initially go into a single event in the registration portal. 15 days from the first date of competition, event sizes will be confirmed, and events with 169 or more fencers will split into two tiers based on the rankings as of that date. Once an event has split, it will not return to a single-tier format, even if the final field falls below 169 fencers. Fencers assigned to the Elite tier may not elect to fence in the Challenger tier. Fencers assigned to the Challenger tier may opt in to advance to the Elite tier if a position becomes available. The latest a fencer may be advanced from Challenger to Elite is 5 p.m. local time the day before the event date. (For example, if an event takes place Saturday, a fencer could be moved in as late as 5 p.m. local time Friday.)

2.5.1 2026-2027 Age/Rating Eligibility Rules
EXCEPTION TO AGE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Senior, Junior and Cadet

For Senior, Junior and Cadet, if a fencer is currently eligible, as of the entry deadline for that tournament, to compete at the national level in the respective category, the fencer may enter local and regional competitions in the next older age category, even if the fencer is younger than allowed by the age bracket. The fencer must then meet the points requirements necessary to compete nationally, as must all age-eligible fencers.

Youth 12 and Youth 14
For Youth 12 and Youth 14, if a fencer is currently, as of the entry deadline for that tournament, listed in a National age

Table A: Before and Including February NAC

2026-27 Local/Regional/National Tournaments
(October 2026 NAC, November 2026 NAC, December 2026 SJCC, 2027 Junior Olympics & 2027 February NAC)

CATEGORY	CODE	BIRTH YEARS	CLASS
DIVISION I	DIV 1	Born 2013 or earlier	A, B or C
DIVISION IA	DIV 1A	Born 2013 or earlier	N/A
DIVISION II	DIV 2	Born 2013 or earlier	C, D, E or U
DIVISION III	DIV 3	Born 2013 or earlier	D. E or U
PARAFENCING	PARA	Born 2013 or earlier	N/A
SENIOR TEAM	STM	Born 2013 or earlier	N/A
ADULT	ADLT	Born between 2005-1987	N/A
ADULT COMBINED	ADLTC	Born 2005 or earlier	N/A
VETERAN (40 & Older) / VETERAN TEAM	VET/VTM	Born 1987 or earlier	N/A
VETERAN 40-49	V40	1978–1987	N/A
VETERAN 50-59	V50	1968–1977	N/A
VETERAN 60-69	V60	1958–1967	N/A
VETERAN 70 & OLDER	V70	Born 1957 or earlier	N/A
VETERAN 80 & OLDER	V80	Born 1947 or earlier	N/A
JUNIOR & JUNIOR TEAM	JNR/JTM	2007–2013	N/A
CADET & CADET TEAM	CDT/CTM	2010–2013	N/A
YOUTH 14 & YOUTH 14 TEAM	Y14/Y14TM	2012–2015	N/A
YOUTH 12	Y12	2014–2017	N/A
YOUTH 10	Y10	2016–2019	N/A
YOUTH 8	Y8	2018–2020	N/A

Table B: After February NAC

2027 March NAC, 2027 April NAC, 2027 May SJCC, 2027 National Championships & July Challenge & Associated Regional & Division Qualifying Competitions Only
(Post 2027 February NAC)

Note: Eligibility is the same as noted in Table A above for all categories except Junior and Cadet.

CATEGORY	CODE	BIRTH YEARS	CLASS
JUNIOR	JNR	Born 2008–2014	N/A
CADET	CDT	Born 2011–2014	N/A

Important note: For all local and regional sanctioned competitions being held between the qualification deadline for the current season's Junior Olympic Championships and the February NAC, Junior and Cadet age fencers eligible according to BOTH schedule A and Schedule B can fence in the respective categories.

group point standing, the fencer may enter the next older age category of competition, even if the fencer is younger than allowed by the age bracket.
For categories of competitions in which criteria in addition to age must be met, the fencer must also meet those criteria by the entry deadline. This includes USA Fencing Regional and National Tournaments where minimum points criteria are in effect in order to be eligible.

Example: a fencer who is too young to compete in Y12 events (based on the season's age categories) can fence in Y12 events IF they are on the Y10 National Points Standings at the entry deadline for that tournament.

2.5.2 Eligibility Exemption Policy (Elite Events Only)

An athlete who has met any of the following criteria may petition for entry into the Elite tier of a North American Cup or National Championship event:

• Competed while representing the United States, or another FIE member nation, at any of the following within the past four years:

• Olympic Games

• World Championships (Senior, Junior or Cadet)

• A designated Senior, Junior or Cadet international event

• Placed within the Top 32 of the Elite field at a North American Cup or National Championship, in the respective age category for which an exemption is being requested, within the previous two seasons

• Fenced as an individual competitor at the NCAA National Championships within the previous two seasons

Note: For Top 32 results from the 2024-25 and 2025-26 seasons, no Elite field was identified. Therefore, a Top 32 finish in the entire field will be accepted as meeting this criterion.

An athlete must submit a petition through the approved online submission form no later than the Withdrawal Deadline for the respective national event.

After submission, the documentation provided will be reviewed by National Office staff, including the Chief of Sport Performance. Once a decision is rendered, the athlete will receive notification of the decision and next steps. Decisions made after review by National Office staff are final and are not subject to further review or appeal.

2.6 GENERAL QUALIFYING INFORMATION

2.6.1 Division Qualifiers

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

Division qualifiers are restricted to members of the division for the following events: Y14, Div II and Div III (USA Fencing National Championships) and Cadet and Junior (JOs). Veteran fencers can qualify for USA Fencing National Championships via Division II or Division III division qualifiers. Division qualifying tournaments cannot be mixed gender competitions. **For Y14 division qualifiers only, fencers who have already qualified through national points are skipped when determining qualifiers (see 2.6.3).**

Athletes must be eligible to represent the USA. Athletes that have represented another country in the last three years at FIE-level competitions (Veteran/Senior/Junior/Cadet are not eligible to compete in a National Championship, unless the athlete has been officially approved by the FIE to represent the USA. A foreign fencer who is in the United States on a visa is NOT eligible to fence in any National Championships, individual or team, or associated division qualifying competitions. Divisions allowing ineligible athletes to compete in qualifying competitions may be fined by USA Fencing – a $500 fine, which may be invoiced or withheld from the division's membership rebate.

For information regarding your division qualifier schedule, check your division's website or contact your division officers.

All divisions must give at least a four-week notice of the date, time and place of the qualifying competitions by posting this information on a platform that is free and available to the general public.

Policy on ineligible fencers in division qualifiers:

1. For division qualifying events in which any ineligible fencers are discovered (i.e., age, rating, membership, citizenship or representing country), the division and athlete(s) in question will be notified and instructed of the information needed to resolve the situation. Any missing membership forms, fees or paperwork needed to resolve the issue must be received by the National Office within 10 business days from the time of notification of the problem by the National Office. Late submission may result in the division qualifiers being recalculated based on the eligible fencers in the competitive field.
2. No qualification or ratings will be awarded to fencers who compete in division qualifiers where ineligible athletes (i.e., age, rating, membership, citizenship or representing country) are allowed to compete until the situation is resolved.
3. All entries for the given Championship will remain registered, in a Pending status until the issues regarding the division qualifier in question are resolved.
4. Petitions or protests will be reviewed after the situation is resolved.

2.6.2 Regional Qualifying Paths

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

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

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

Regional Open Circuit (ROC): Open to current USA Fencing members, with a competitive type membership are eligible to fence in open/senior competitions. Fencers not eligible to represent the USA cannot compete in USA Fencing National Championship events.

Regional Junior/Cadet Circuit (RJCC): Open to current USA Fencing members with a competitive type membership are eligible to fence in Cadet and/or Junior competitions and who have met the minimum number of required points to participate in RJCC tournaments. Fencers who are not eligible to represent the USA cannot compete in USA Fencing National Championship events. Fencers not eligible to represent the USA may qualify for the July Challenge via the SJCC/RJCC system as it is not a National Championship.

Super Youth Circuit and Regional Youth Circuit (SYC/RYC): Open to current USA Fencing members with a competitive type membership. Fencers not eligible to represent the USA cannot compete in USA Fencing National Championship events. National point holders will not be skipped on the Regional Ranking List when determining the number of qualifiers.

2.6.3 Determination of Divisional Qualifiers

Division qualifiers are determined by the qualifying information for various event types. For more information, see Tables 2.6.3.1 and 2.6.3.2.

For Y14 Division Qualifiers, when determining who has qualified for a Championship, only fencers who qualify through National Points are skipped over to the next eligible fencer. Fencers who qualify for championships via regional points are not skipped over.

- Fencers who are already qualified do not get skipped in the results for those who earn qualification.
- Qualification via the Division Qualifiers does not trickle down. For example, if a fencer qualifies in the Junior event for the respective category and is age eligible for Cadet, this fencer must also fence and earn qualification for the Cadet event and is not skipped over in the standings.

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

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

Complete results must be submitted to the National Office via the USA Fencing registration database no later than **72 hours** after the completion of the tournament. Results and reports will not be accepted in any other format. These forms must reflect complete results and are the only acceptable notice from the regional tournaments and divisions regarding their qualifying fencers.

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

paid in full.

Division Qualifiers — Junior Olympic Fencing Championships (Cadet and Junior).
A Division must hold a Division Qualifier event for each category it wishes to qualify fencers for in the Junior Olympic Championships, and a minimum of four fencers must be registered for the event to be
fenced. If the event is not fenced, all registration fees will be refunded to registered fencers, and no fencers will qualify by this pathway from that Division. The deadline for submitting Division Qualifier
results for the 2027 Junior Olympic Championships to the National Office is **Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2026**.

2.6.3.1 Table: Number of Qualifiers for Junior Olympic Fencing Championships (Cadet and Junior) from Division Qualifying Competitions

COMPETITORS	4-8	9-16	17-32	33+
QUALIFIERS	1	2	4	6

Fencers placing fifth through eighth are ranked by pool results. If two fencers are tied for sixth place, both fencers will qualify

2.6.3.2 Table: Number of Qualifiers for USA Fencing National Championships from Division Qualifying Competitions rounded up

# Competitors	1	2	3-12	13-16	17-20	21-24	25-28	29-32	33-36	37-40	41-44	45-48
# Qualifiers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

2.6.4 Combined Division II/Division III Divisional Qualifier Example
Below is an example of how to determine qualifiers for Division III when the division holds only one competition to determine qualifiers for both Division II and Division III.
A Division II/III qualifying competition has the following entries:
Number of C fencers = 8
Number of D fencers = 12
Number of E fencers = 11
Number of U fencers = 15
Total number of Fencers = 46
Total number of Division II qualifiers = 12 (based on 46 total C, D, E, and U fencers)
Total number of Division III qualifiers = 10 (based on 38 total D, E, and U fencers)

How to Determine Qualifiers:
• List the fencers in order of their finish.

• The first 12 qualify for Division II and Division III if rating eligible at the start of the event.

• Then count the number of D, E and U fencers. In this example, there are 38 such fencers. The 25% of that group equals 10, the number of fencers who can qualify for Division III Nationals only.

• Starting with the first fencer after those qualified for Division II (in this example, 13th place); count off the next 10 D, E or U fencers who have not already qualified by other paths. These (10) D, E, or U fencers are qualified for Division III. Any C fencers in this range are skipped, but not counted against the 10, because they are not eligible to fence Division III.

2.6.5 Petition Process

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

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

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

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

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

All petitions must be made through an online system to USA Fencing National Events; the petition link is available through the specific tournament page on usafencing.org. Under no circumstances will petitions be accepted if received after the posted petition deadline for the Championships.

The petition must be accompanied by:

1. A nonrefundable petition fee of $100, to be charged at the conclusion of the online petition process.
2. A written statement that gives specific details of the dates, reason for absence or withdrawal, and other pertinent facts. Written notice from the independent attending physician and/or statement from the Bout Committee must substantiate any medical reasons if the medical reason required withdrawal from the qualifying competition.
3. A summary of the fencer's significant recent competitive results. In particular, results in previous National Championships and recent North American Cup (NAC) competitions should be noted. (Example: top 64 international, top 8 in a USA Fencing NAC/Championship, top 16 at a ROC, top 24 at an SYC).
4. If the petition is not approved and the athlete is already registered for the Championship, only the event fee will be refunded.
5. Responses to the petition will be made via email. Petitions that do not meet these requirements will not be considered.
6. Decisions on petitions will be based upon the validity of reasons given for absence or withdrawal and the probability that the fencer would have qualified had they competed in the qualifying competition to its conclusion, based on results achieved in other recent competitions.
7. If a fencer is permitted to enter the Junior Olympic Fencing Championships, Division I National Championships, July Challenge or USA Fencing National Championship competition by this petition procedure, the fencers' entry will in no way affect the number of qualifiers from the division involved.

2.7 QUALIFYING COMPETITION PROTEST PROCESS

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

For more detailed information regarding the protest process, see below from the **USA Fencing Operations Manual**.

2.8 YOUTH FENCING (Y14, Y12, Y10, Y8)

2.8.1 What is a Youth Tournament?

Youth tournaments for fencers who are 8 and under (Y8), 10 and under (Y10), 12 and under (Y12), and 14 and under (Y14), refer to the Age Rating Restriction Rules for current birth years for these categories in **Table 2.5.1**.

2.8.2 Youth Local Tournaments

A wide variety of competitions can be found at the local level in clubs or sponsored by local organizations. Schedules for these competitions can be found by

contacting your division. Division contact information is available on the USA Fencing website here or by emailing information@usafencing.org.

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

2.9 YOUTH REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

For RYC and SYC tournaments, fencers must meet the birth years in Table 2.5.1. There are no rating requirements.

All information regarding seeding can be found in Table 2.15.1.1; all competition format information can be found in Table 2.16.1.

2.10 YOUTH NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

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

2.10.1 Youth 10 North American Cup (NAC)

A. Eligibility (age, rating and qualifying path)
Fencers must meet the birth years in Table 2.5.1. There are no rating requirements.

B. Qualifying Path

- Fence in one Regional Youth Circuit or one Super Youth Circuit competition in the current season in the age and weapon category in which the fencer requests entry acceptance OR
- Fence in one International Regional Youth Circuit in the current season in the age and weapon category in which the fencer requests entry acceptance.

C. Seeding and Format
All information regarding seeding can be found in Table 2.15.1.1; all competition format information can be found in Table 2.16.1.

2.10.2 Youth 12 North American Cup (NAC)

A. Eligibility (age, rating and qualifying path)
Subject to the listed exceptions, fencers must meet the birth years in Table 2.5.1. There are no rating requirements.

B. Qualifying Path

- Fence in one Regional Youth Circuit or one Super Youth Circuit competition in the current season in the age and weapon category in which the fencer requests entry acceptance OR
- Be on the Youth 12 national Point Standings at the Qualification Deadline
- Be on the Youth 10 National Point Standings
- Fence in one International Regional Youth Circuit in the current season in the age and weapon category in which the fencer requestions entry acceptance.

C. Seeding and Format
All information regarding seeding can be found in Table 2.15.1.1; all competition format information can be found in Table 2.16.1

2.10.3 Youth 14 North American Cup (NAC)

A.Eligibility (age and rating)
Subject to the listed exceptions, fencers must meet the birth years in Table 2.5.1. There are no rating requirements.

B. Qualifying Path
No qualifying path, except the birth year criteria.

C. Seeding and format
All information regarding seeding can be found in Table 2.15.1.1; all competition format information can be found in Table 2.16.1.

2.10.4 Youth 10 National Championships

A. Eligibility (age, representation, rating)
Fencers must meet the birth years in Table 2.5.1., and be able to represent the USA competitively. There are no rating requirements.

B. Qualifying Path

- Be on the Y10 National Point Standings at the Qualification Deadline OR
- Be on the Y10 Regional Youth Point Standings in your region at the Qualification Deadline OR
- Earn at least 60 Y12 Regional Points during the current season (total points=an athlete's top three point results)
- Earn points in a IRC Y10 tournament within the qualification window

C. Seeding and Format
All information regarding seeding can be found in Table 2.15.1.1; all competition information can be found in Table 2.16.1.

2.10.5 Youth 12 National Championships

A. Eligibility (age, representation, rating)
Subject to the listed exceptions, fencers must meet birth years in Table 2.5.1 and be able to represent the USA competitively. There are no rating requirements.

B. Qualifying Path

- Be on the Y12 National Point Standings at the Qualification Deadline OR
- Earn at least 70 Y12 Regional Points during the current season (Total points = an athlete's top three point results) OR
- Earn at least 160 Y14 Regional Points during the current season (Total points = an athlete's top three point results) OR
- Place in the top 25% of the fencer's division's Y14 National Championship qualifying competition
- Place in the top 40% in a Y12 IRC tournament

C. Seeding and Format
All information regarding seeding can be found in Table 2.15.1.1; all competition format information can be found in Table 2.16.1.

2.10.6 Youth 14 National Championships

A. Eligibility (age, representation, rating)
Subject to the listed exceptions, fencers must meet the birth years in Table 2.5.1 and be able to represent the USA competitively. There are no rating requirements. Athletes that have represented another country in the last three years at FIE-level competitions (Veteran/Senior/Junior and those athletes that represented another country in the Cadet World Championships) are not eligible to compete in a National Championship, unless the athlete has been officially approved by the FIE to represent the USA.

B. Qualifying Path

- Be on the Youth 14 National Point Standings at the regular entry fee deadline OR
- Earn at least 160 Y14 Regional Points during the current season (Total points = an athlete's top three point results) OR
- Finish in the Top 40% of the final competitive field at a Y14 IRC tournament during the current season OR
- Place in the top 25% (round up) of the fencer's division's Y14 National Championship qualifying competition

C. Seeding and Format
All information regarding seeding can be found in Table 2.15.1.1; all competition format information can be found in Table 2.16.1.

International Regional Circuit
The International Regional Circuit is offered as a part of the regional tournaments for Youth events. No National Points are awarded; however, fencers may earn qualification to the July Challenge, Summer Nationals, and Junior Olympics through these tournaments, provided all other eligibility criteria are also met for those events.

2.11 CADET/JUNIOR TOURNAMENTS

2.11.1 What is a Cadet/Junior Tournament?

Refer to the Age/Rating Restriction Rules for current birth years for these categories **Table 2.5.1.**
Points can be awarded across Cadet and Junior tournaments at all levels - Local, Regional and National - based upon a fencer's finishing placement. These points are then aggregated, using only a fencer's best six results by point value earned, to create a points total. That total determines a fencer's eligiblity to compete in both Regional and National events, and also determines a fencer's National Ranking on the Unified points list.

2.11.2 Cadet/Junior Local Tournaments

A wide variety of competitions can be found at the local level in clubs or sponsored by local organizations. Schedules for these competitions can be found by contacting your division. Division Contact information is available on the USA Fencing Webisite (**usafencing.org/division-information-for-members**)

2.11.3 Cadet/Junior Divisional Tournaments

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

2.11.4 Regional Junior/Cadet Circuit (RJCC) Tournaments

A. Regional Cadet (RCC)
The Cadet Regional Tournament is offered as part of the Regional Junior Cadet Circuit (RJCC). Points are awarded to participating fencers according to the points tables in the appendices.

• **Eligibility (age, rating)**
Subject to the exceptions in Table 2.5.1, fencers must be at least 13 years old on Jan. 1 in the year of the competition. Fencers younger than that must, as of the final entry deadline, be on the Y14 national rolling point standings to be eligible. Fencers must also meet the minimum points threshold in order to fence in Regional Tournaments. There are no rating requirements.

• **Seeding and Format**
All information regarding seeding can be found in Table 2.15.1.1; all competition format information can be found in Table 2.16.1.

B. Regional Junior Circuit (RJC)
Points are awarded to all fencers based upon finishing placement and the points tables listed in the appendices of this document. Fencers may earn points in an event in any region, NOT just their home region.

• **Eligibility (age, rating)**
Subject to the exceptions in Table 2.5.1, fencers must be at least 13 years old on Jan. 1 in the year of the competition. Fencers younger than that must, as of the final entry deadline, be on the Cadet national rolling point standings to be eligible. Fencers must also meet the minimum points threshold in order to fence in Regional Tournaments. There are no rating requirements.

• **Seeding and Format**
All information regarding seeding can be found in Table 2.15.1.1; all competition format information can be found in Table 2.16.1.

C. Super Junior & Cadet Circuit SJCC
Points are awarded to all fencers based upon finishing placement, according to the Points Tables published in the appendices of this document.

• **Eligibility (age, rating)**
Subject to the exceptions in Table 2.5.1, (Junior and Cadet age criteria after the Junior Olympics). Fencers younger than the birth year span in Table 2.5.1. must be on the Unified points list as of final entry deadline to be eligible. Fencers must also meet the minimum points threshold in order to fence in Regional Tournaments. There are no rating requirements.

• **Seeding and Format**
All information regarding seeding can be found in Table 2.15.1.1; all competition format information can be found in Table 2.16.1.

2.11.5 Cadet/Junior National Tournaments

These national tournaments, along with designated Division I NACs, are part of the selection criteria for the Junior/Cadet World Championship Team. Points are awarded to all fencers based upon finishing placement, according to the Points Tables published in the appendices of this document.

Cadet/Junior North American Cup (NAC)

• **Eligibility (age and rating)**
Subject to the exceptions in Table 2.5.1, fencers must be at least 13 years old on Jan. 1 in the year of the competition. Fencers younger than that must, as of the final entry deadline, be on the Y14 National Point Standings to be eligible to earn qualification for Cadet events or have enough points on the Junior Unified Points List in order to be able to fence at National Tournaments for Junior to be eligible to earn qualification for Junior events. All other qualification requirements still apply for a fencer to earn the right to compete. Fencers must also meet the minimum points threshold in order to fence in National Tournaments. There are no rating requirements.

• **Seeding and Format**
All information regarding seeding can be found in Table 2.15.1.1; all competition format information can be found in Table 2.16.1.

Cadet/Junior – Junior Olympic Fencing Championships

• **Eligibility (age, rating):**
Subject to the exceptions in Table 2.5.1, fencers must be at least 13 years old on Jan. 1 in the year of the competition. Fencers younger than that must, as of the Qualification Deadline, be on the Y14 National Point Standings to be eligible for Cadet events or have enough points on the Cadet Unified Points List in order to be able to fence at National Tournaments for Cadet. Fencers must also meet the minimum points threshold in order to fence in National Tournaments. There are no rating requirements.

Fencers must meet age requirements as above and be able to represent the USA competitively. Athletes that have represented another country in the last three years at FIE-level competitions (Veteran/Senior/Junior and those athletes that represented another country in the Cadet World Championships) are not eligible to compete in a National Championship, unless the athlete has been officially approved by the FIE to represent the USA.

Qualification

CADET

- Fencers must meet eligibility AND
- Have earned 125 points on the Cadet Unified Points Lists at the Qualification Deadline OR
- Have earned at least 120 regional points on either the Cadet or Junior Regional Point Standings prior to August 1, 2026 but after December 10, 2025. (Total points = an athlete's top two point results) OR
- Finish in a qualifying position via their Divisions respective Division Qualifier tournament. OR
- Finish in the top 40% in a Cadet event at an IRC this season. OR
- For EPEE ONLY: the top 3 (on Modern Pentathlon Point Standings) USA Fencing Modern Pentathlon fencers will be eligible to compete in the JO epee events without qualifying by any other means. USA Modern Pentathlon fencers MUST be USA Fencing members

JUNIOR

- Fencers must meet age eligibility AND
- Have earned 200 points on the Junior Unified Points List at the Qualification Deadline OR
- Have earned at least 120 regional points on the Junior Regional Point Standings prior to August 1, 2026 but after December 10, 2025 (Total points = an athlete's top two point results) OR
- Finish in the top 40% in a Junior event at an IRC this season. OR
- Finish in a qualifying position via their Divisions respective Division Qualifier tournament.
- For EPEE ONLY: the top 3 (on Modern Pentathlon Point Standings) USA Fencing Modern Pentathlon fencers will be eligible to compete in the JOI epee events without qualifying by any other means. USA Modern Pentathlon fencers MUST be USA Fencing members.

- **Seeding and Format**

All information regarding seeding can be found in Table 2.15.1.1; all competition format information can be found in Table 2.16.1.

Cadet & Junior July Challenge

The July Challenge is held in late June/early July in conjunction with the USA Fencing National Championships. Only those that meet the new season's birth year span on 2.5.1 (second table) are eligible to compete in these events, since this event is held after the February NAC.

- **Eligibility (age, rating)**

Subject to the exceptions in Table 2.5.1, fencers must be at least 13 years old on Jan. 1 in the year of the competition. Fencers must also meet the minimum points threshold in order to fence in National Tournaments. There are no rating requirements for U.S. athletes.

CADET

- Qualification criteria for the July Challenge is still being finalized for the Cadet category and will be added to this document at a later date.

JUNIOR

- Qualification criteria for the July Challenge is still being finalized for the Junior category and will be added to this document at a later date.

- **Seeding and Format**

All information regarding seeding can be found in Table 2.15.1.1; all competition format information can be found in Table 2.16.1.

International Regional Circuit

The International Regional Circuit is offered as a part of the regional tournaments for Cadet and Junior events. Fencers may earn qualification to the July Challenge through these tournaments, provided all other eligibility criteria are also met for those events.

2.12 SENIOR/OPEN TOURNAMENTS

2.12.1 What is a Senior/Open Tournament?

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

To compete in a USA Fencing-sponsored Senior/Open event, all fencers must be a current competitive member of USA Fencing, at least 13 years old on Jan. 1 in the year of the competition Exception criteria apply as outlined in the following sections.

2.12.2 Senior/Open Local Tournaments (Div IA)

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

Competitors must be at least 13 years old on Jan. 1

in the year of the competition or have earned enough points to be eligible to fence National Tournaments in the Junior category.

2.12.3 Senior Divisional Tournaments

Each division can host a qualifying tournament for Division II (Div II) and/or Division III (DV3) for the USA Fencing National Championships. Divisions may also hold senior/open tournaments during the season to provide general competition opportunities. Divisional information can be found through the division- specific websites.

2.12.4 Senior Regional Tournaments

Division II (DV2 Regional Open Circuit (ROC)

Division II tournaments, offered as part of the Regional Open Circuit (ROC), provide competition opportunities for fencers 13 years and older with a rating of C or below. Points will be awarded to fencers in all finishing placements, according to the points tables listed in the appendices. These points will be eligible for use in calculating the total for a fencer to advance to National Tournaments in DV1A, DV2 and DVI.

- **Eligibility (age, rating)**
  Fencers must be at least 13 years old on Jan. 1 in the year of the competition or have earned enough points to be eligible to fence National Tournaments in the Junior category. Fencers must have a rating of "C", "D", "E", or "U".
- **Seeding and Format**
  All information regarding seeding can be found in Table 2.15.1.1; all competition format information can be found in Table 2.16.1.

Division IA (DIA) Regional Open Circuit (ROC)

Division IA tournaments, offered as part of the Regional Open Circuit (ROC), provide competition opportunities for fencers 13 years and older. Points will be awarded to fencers in all finishing placements, according to the points tables listed in the appendices. These points will be eligible for use in calculating the total for a fencer to advance to National Tournaments in DV1A, DV2 and DVI.

- **Eligibility (age, rating, qualifying path)**
  Fencers must be at least 13 years old on Jan. 1 in the year of the competition or have earned enough points to be eligible to fence National Tournaments in the Junior category.
- **Seeding and format**
  All information regarding seeding can be found in Table 2.15.1.1; all competition format information can be found in Table 2.16.1.

Division III (DV3)

Division 3 tournaments, offered as part of the Regional Open Circuit (ROC), provide competition opportunities for fencers 13 years and older.

- **Eligibility (age, rating)**
  Fencers must be 13 years years old on Jan 1 in the year of competition or meet the exception criteria. Fencers must have a weapon rating of D, E, or U.
- **Seeding and Format**
  All information regarding seeding can be found in Table 2.15.1.1; all competition format information can be found in Table 2.16.1.

2.12.5 Senior National Tournaments

(Div I) North American Cup (NAC)

This event offers high level competition for fencers 13 years of age or older. Points are awarded towards the Senior, Junior and Cadet Unified Points List and Legacy Points Lists, depending on age eligibility. For awarding ratings, Division I tournaments are always at least a Group A4 competition.

- **Eligibility (age and rating)**
  Fencers must be at least 13 years old on Jan. 1 in the year of the competition. Fencers must have a rating of "A", "B", or "C" at the entry deadline AND have earned enough points to be eligible to fence in the National Tournaments in the DV1 category.
- **Seeding and Format**
  All information regarding seeding can be found in Table 2.15.1.1; all competition format information can be found in Table 2.16.1.

Division II (Div II) USA Fencing National Championships

This event is part of the USA Fencing National Championships, held each summer.

- **Eligibility (age, rating, qualification path)**
  Fencers must be at least 13 years old on Jan. 1 in the year of the competition or AND have earned enough points to be eligible to fence National Tournaments in the SNR category. Fencers must have a rating in the weapon of "C", "D", "E" or "U" at the time of registrations AND be eligible to represent the U.S. competitively
- **Qualification**

Qualification criteria for this category has not been finalized as of the publishing date of this document. This information will be published and the document updated accordingly in the Fall of 2026

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

- **Seeding and Format**
  All information regarding seeding can be found in Table 2.15.1.1; all competition format information can be found in Table 2.16.1.

(Div III) USA Fencing National Championships
This event is part of the USA Fencing National Championships, held each summer.

- **Eligibility (age, rating, qualification path)**
  Fencers must be at least 13 years old on Jan. 1 in the year of the competition AND have earned enough points to be eligible to fence National Tournaments in the SNR category. Fencers must have a rating of "D", "E", or "U" at the time of registration AND be eligible to represent the USA competitively

- **Qualification**
  Qualification criteria for this category has not been finalized as of the publishing date of this document. This information will be published and the document updated accordingly in the Fall of 2026.

Note: If you have qualified for Division III, meet the age and rating standard on the day you register online for the Championship, you are eligible to fence in that event at the National Championship. If you qualified for Division III at your Division Qualifier and at that same time earned a higher rating, you are eligible for the National Championship. In this instance, please email nationalevents@usafencing.org for registration assistance.

- **Seeding and Format**
  All information regarding seeding can be found in Table 2.15.1.1; all competition format information can be found in Table 2.16.1.

Division IA (Div IA) USA Fencing National Championships
This event is part of the USA Fencing National Championships, held each summer. For awarding ratings, Division IA tournaments are always at least a Group A3 competition.

- **Eligibility (age, rating, qualifying path)**
  Fencers must at least 13 years old on Jan. 1 in the year of the competition AND have earned enough points to be eligible to fence National Tournaments in the SNR category and be a U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident. There is no rating requirement.

- **Qualification**
  Qualification criteria for this category has not been finalized as of the publishing date of this document. This information will be published and the document updated accordingly in the Fall of 2026

- **Seeding and Format**
  All information regarding seeding can be found in Table 2.15.1.1; all competition format information can be found in Table 2.16.1.

Division I (Div I) National Championships
The Division I National Championships are held annually in April. This event, along with other designated competitions, is part of the selection criteria for the Senior World Championship or Olympic Team. Athletes that have represented another country in the last three years at FIE-level competitions (Veteran/Senior/Junior/Cadet are not eligible to compete in a National Championship, unless the athlete has been officially approved by the FIE to represent the USA.

- **Eligibility (age, rating, qualification path)**
  Fencers must be at least 13 years old on Jan. 1 in the year of the competition (see Table 2.5.1 for exceptions). Fencers must have a rating of "A", "B", or "C" at the entry deadline and be a U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident.

- **Qualification**

Qualification criteria for this category has not been finalized as of the publishing date of this document. This information will be published and the document updated accordingly in the Fall of 2026.

- **Seeding and Format**

All information regarding seeding can be found in Table 2.15.1.1; all competition format information can be found in Table 2.16.1.

Division I July Challenge

The July challenge is held in June/July, in conjunction with the USA Fencing National Championships.

- **Eligibility (age, rating, qualification path)**

Fencers must be at least 13 years old on Jan. 1 in the year of the competition (see Table 2.5.1 for exceptions). Fencers must have a rating of "A", "B", or "C" at the entry deadline and meet the specific event criteria below.

- **Qualification**

Qualification criteria for this category has not been finalized as of the publishing date of this document. This information will be published and the document updated accordingly in the Fall of 2026.

2.14 PARAFENCING TOURNAMENTS

2.14.1 What is a Parafencing Tournament?

Parafencing tournaments provide competition opportunities in a parafencing chair and frame with the opportunity to earn a fencing rating. See Chapter 12.4.1 for more information.

2.15 VETERAN TOURNAMENTS

2.13.1 What is a Veteran Tournament?

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

2.13.2 Veteran Local Tournaments

A wide variety of competitions can be found at the local level in clubs or sponsored by local organizations. Schedules for these competitions can be found by contacting your division. Division contact information is available on the USA Fencing webite (usafencing.org/division-information-for-members)

2.13.3 Veteran Divisional Tournaments

Vet fencers can use Division 2 and Division 3 qualifying tournament to qualify for vet events at Summer Nationals. Divisions may also hold other Senior/Open tournaments during the season to provide general competition opportunities. Divisional information can be found through the division-specific websites – division information.

2.13.4 Veteran Regional Tournaments

Veteran Regional Open Circuit (ROC)

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

- **Eligibility (age, rating)**

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

- **Seeding and Format**

All information regarding seeding can be found in Table 2.15.1.1; all competition format information can be found in Table 2.16.1.

2.13.5 Veteran National Tournaments

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

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

- **Eligibility (age, rating, qualifying path)**

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

- **Qualifying Path**

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

- **Seeding and Format**

All information regarding seeding can be found in Table 2.15.1.1; all competition format information

can be found in Table 2.16.1.

Veteran (V40, V50, V60, V70, V80+) USA Fencing National Championships
V40, V50, V60, V70 and V80+ events are held at the USA Fencing National Championships; there is no Championship event for Vet Open or Vet Team. Veteran National Championships is the last tournament for selection to the World Veteran Championships. Athletes that have represented another country in the last three years at FIE-level competitions (Veteran/Senior/Junior and those athletes that represented another country in the Cadet World Championships) are not eligible to compete in a National Championship, unless the athlete has been officially approved by the FIE to represent the USA.

Eligibility (age, rating, qualifying path)

- Age eligibility for the separate age categories (V40, V50, V60, and V70) is governed by the FIE rules for the Veteran World Championships. For each Veteran age group fencers must meet the birth years specified in Table 2.5.1.

Qualification

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

Seeding and Format
All information regarding seeding can be found in Table 2.15.1.1; all competition format information can be found in Table 2.16.1.

2.14 TEAM EVENTS

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

Eligibility: Senior or Division I team members must be at least 13 years old on Jan. 1 in the year of the competition or meet the minimum point threshold on the Junior Unified Points List. Junior team members must meet the posted birth year criteria for the specific team competition or be meet the minimum point threshold on the Cadet Unified Points List at the Qualification Deadline. Members of the Veteran team must meet the posted birth year criteria for the specific team competition. Members of the Youth 14 team must meet the posted birth year criteria. Specific age and rating rules for each category are given in Table 2.5.1. Teams must register for the tournament by the posted deadlines. All members must meet the appropriate tournament criteria. There needs to be two teams to hold an event.

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

Senior and Veteran Team events: The Senior & Veteran Team events are no longer Championship events. Any three or four fencers that are age and gender eligible for the event may enter a team. They must be competitive USA Fencing members. All registered members of a team must be present on site.

Div I Team event at National Championship:
The Div I Team event is a Championship event. Any three or four fencers that meet the age, gender, and weapon rating requirements for the event may enter a team. They must be competitive USA Fencing members and U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents. All registered members of a team must be present on site.

Junior Olympic Fencing Championships:
The JO Team event is a Championship event. Any three or four fencers that meet the age and gender requirements for the event may enter a team. They

must be competitive USA Fencing members and U.S. citizens or Permanent Residents. All registered members of a team must be present on site.

A. Registration:
Teams are required to register 3-4 team member names and captain name with the team entry – this will streamline the verification of the membership, Unified points standing and rating prior to the tournament.

Note: If a rostered fencer is not registered for any individual events for the given tournament, they must also pay the Tournament Registration Fee, separate of the team registration fees. Tournament registration fees can be paid on site at the registration desk any time before the event.

Those fencers who are NCAA fencers will need to self- monitor NCAA eligibility.

- Team events will follow posted entry deadline.
- Seeding information will be based on the same deadlines used for individual events.
- Preliminary team seeding and table will be posted on the USA Fencing website. Any discrepancies should be emailed to **nationalevents@usafencing.org**.
- During registration, each team will be required to submit a name for the team. At the time of check-in, should the Bout Committee determine the team name is inappropriate and/or in violation of any USA Fencing rules, polices or codes of conduct, the Bout Committee retains the right to require that the team name be changed before check-in is completed.

B. The Team Captain will check in the team during the one hour check in on the day of the event.

1. ALL Team Captains or their representatives must check-in with the Team Events Bout Committee during the designated time to verify their team. Captains or representatives will need to remain present in the venue for fencer order determination. Once the roster has been verified at check-in, no other changes will be allowed.

2. ALL Team Captains should verify the information used for seeding as posted. If discrepancies are not reported to the Bout Committee by the close of check-in, the information stands as presented.

3. Table will be constituted, and Team Captains or Representatives will then determine fencer order.

4. Depending on the size of the event, a coin flip or equivalent may be used or the higher seeded team will automatically be designated as the "winner of the coin flip" and assigned the 1-2-3 side. The bout committee may also conduct a coin flip or equivalent with or without the captains present. (Match order: 3-6, 1-5, 2-4, 1-6, 3-4, 2-5, 1-4, 2-6, 3-5).

5. If a team has an alternate, all members of the team must present at the strip when called, for every match.

6. Direct elimination from beginning of competition. Relay format, 9 bouts to a maximum score of 45 – increments of 5 touches or maximum time of 3 minutes for each bout. Fence off for 3rd.

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

For the Senior and Division I team event, seeding is based on the participating Unified Points List as of 5 p.m. LOCAL TIME, the day prior to the first day of competition, and ratings earned by the appropriate posted tournament deadline.

For the Junior team event, seeding is based on the participating fencers' unified points list as of 5 p.m. LOCAL TIME, the day prior to the first day of competition, and ratings earned by the appropriate posted tournament deadline.

For the Veteran team event, seeding is based on the participating fencers' Veteran Open national rolling points as of 5 p.m. LOCAL TIME, the day prior to the first day of competition, and ratings earned by the appropriate posted tournament deadline.

For the Youth 14 team event, seeding is based on the participating fencers' Youth 14 national rolling points as of 5 p.m. LOCAL TIME, the day prior to the first day of competition, and ratings earned by the appropriate posted tournament deadline.

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

Teams: To seed teams for competitions, a seed value is calculated for each team based on the Unified Points List, Veteran open point standings for the Veteran teams, Youth 14 point standings for the Youth 14 teams, and/or the rating of each member of the team. The National Rolling Point standings /Unified points standings and the rating of each member of the team are those as of 5 p.m. LOCAL TIME, the day prior to the first day of competition.

Unified Points List: The first value considered when determining seeding is based on the fencer's Unified Points List. A fencer who is first on the Unified Points List receives 132 points, second receives 131 points and so on, down to 32nd (32nd = 101 points). Fencers who are ranked 33rd or lower on the Unified Points List are allocated 50 points. Fencers who are not on the Unified Points List are not given any points. (**See appendices 1 - 2** for complete point tables.)

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

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

For example, for a competition on Sept. 1, 2026, within each rating the year is reflected in 10 point increments, with an A24 worth 670 points, an A23 worth 660 points, A22 given 650 points and A21 worth 640 points. The same process is used for the other letter ratings (B, C, D, and E). Those fencers who have yet to earn a rating (U) are given 100 points.

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

Fencer	Unified Point List	Team Seeding Points	Rating	Team Seeding Points	Total Seeding Points
A	18th	115	A23	670	785
B		0	C20	460	460
C		0	U	100	100
D	53rd	50	B22	570	620
Team Seeding Points: (sum of best three) 1865					

2.15 COMPETITION SEEDING FOR INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

2.15.1 Seeding Principles

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

In USA Fencing competitions, fencers from the same division and/or club or school are separated if possible, based on FIE rules for separating fencers of the same nationality. The highest priority criteria for separation is club or school, followed by division, followed by nationality.

The Unified Points List as of 5 p.m. LOCAL TIME, the day prior to the first day of competition will be used for seeding in a domestic point tournament.

Details on each event's format can be found in **Table 2.16.1.1**.

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

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2.15.1.1 Table: Seeding Principles for Specific Categories of Tournaments
For Division I, Junior and Cadet National Tournaments, seeding order based on rankings will be determined by the rankings using the Unified Points Lists, according to the Trial points structure. Rankings can be found in the Membership Database by clicking **here**. The Team Selection points lists will NOT be used in tournament seeding.

CATEGORY	LOCAL	DIVISION/REGIONAL	NATIONAL
Division I, IA, Senior Open	Unified Points List Standings, followed by rating (A, B, C, D, E, U) and within each rating by year in which rating last earned. Same class and year are randomized.		
Division II, III, Adult, Adult Combined	Unified Points List, followed by rating (A, B, C, D, E, U) and within each rating by year in which rating last earned. Same class and year are randomized.		
Veteran Open (40 & Older)	Rating/Year	Rating/Year	Rating/Year
Veteran Age	Rating/Year	Rating/Year	See the "Vet Seeding" outline below.
Junior	Unified Points List, followed by rating (A, B, C, D, E, U) and within each rating by year in which rating last earned. Same class and year are randomized.		
Cadet	Unified Points List, followed by rating (A, B, C, D, E, U) and within each rating by year in which rating last earned. Same class and year are randomized.		
Youth 14	Rating/Year	National Youth 14 Rolling Points, then rating/year	National Youth 14 Rolling Points, then rating/year
Youth 12	Rating/year	National Youth 12 Rolling Points, then rating/year	National Youth 12 Rolling Points, then rating/year
Youth 10	Rating/year	National Youth 10 Rolling Points, then rating/year	National Youth 10 Rolling Points, then rating/year
Youth 8	Rating/year		
Division I Team	Seeding is based on Senior Unified Points and participating fencers' rating/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR rating and year only	Seeding is based on Senior National Points, Unified Points List and participating fencers' rating/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR rating and year only	Seeding is based on Unified Points List and participating fencers' rating/year as of the posted entry deadlines.
Senior Team	Seeding is based on Senior Unified Points List and participating fencers' rating/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR rating and year only	Seeding is based on Unified Points List and participating fencers' rating/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR rating and year only	Seeding is based on Senior Unified Points List and participating fencers' rating/year as of the posted entry deadlines

Junior Team	Seeding is based on Junior National Points and participating fencers' rating/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR rating and year only	Seeding is based on Junior National Points and participating fencers' rating/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR rating and year only	Seeding is based on Junior National Points and participating fencers' rating/year as of the posted entry deadlines
Cadet Team	Seeding is based on Cadet National Points and participating fencers' rating/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR rating and year only	Seeding is based on Cadet National Points and participating fencers' rating/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR rating and year only	Seeding is based on Cadet National Points and participating fencers' rating/year as of the posted entry deadlines.
Y14 Team	Seeding is based on Y14 National Points and participating fencers' rating/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR rating and year only	Seeding is based on Y14 National Points and participating fencers' rating/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR rating and year only	Seeding is based on Y14 National Points and participating fencers' rating/year as of the posted entry deadlines
Veteran Team	Seeding is based on Veteran Open National Points and participating fencers' rating/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR rating and year only	Seeding is based on Veteran Open National Points and participating fencers' rating/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR rating and year only	Seeding is based on Veteran Open National Points and participating fencers' rating/year as of the posted entry deadline.
Parafencing	N/A	Seeding is based on national point rankings	Seeding is based on national point rankings

- Within the same rating values, the order is random.
- Ties in the Unified Points List are seeded randomly.
- Direct Elimination Seeding: Fencers are seeded by their results in the pool round wherein the results of fencers in all the pools are ordered by best results to poorest results: highest ratio of victories vs. bouts fenced, touches scored vs. touches received.

Seeding Conflict Resolutions:

1. In the first round of pools, conflicts of fencers within a pool from the same division or club who are on the Unified Points List in their weapon and category (special rules apply for Div I NAC) will be resolved, if possible, by movement of lowest ranked fencer in the pool with a conflict or conflicts; priority of movement will be non-ranked fencers (those with lowest rating in that pool) before ranked fencers

2. In resolving conflicts within pools, priority is given to club conflict vs. division conflicts so that when resolving conflicts fencers may be in pool with fencers from the same division.

3. Lower ranked fencer is moved, when necessary, to resolve conflicts of club or division.

The Unified Point List and ratings as of 5PM Local time the day before regional and local tournaments will be used for seeding purposes. The Unified Point List and ratings as of 5PM the Wednesday before a national tournament begins will be used for seeding purposes Table 2.16.1.1.

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

Veteran Seeding

I. Ranked fencers who are deemed as protected fencers are those who are entitled to a seeded draw ahead of all other domestic fencers and will not be moved from their pool even if there is a club or division conflict. Seeding is only given to fencers ranked as follows; if fencers are not in attendance, lower ranked fencers do not "move up" in seeding.

II. National Veteran Age Category Rolling Point Standings, with top 8 ranked ahead of all others, followed by rank within each rating, followed by year within that rating.

a. In reviewing pools and any conflicts generated, these fencers **CANNOT** be moved out of the pools in which the draw places them. The only exception would be the case of ties in ranking.

i. Conflict in a pool is: two or more fencers from the same division and/or same club or school

ii. Review of pool compositions is to minimize such conflicts within the rules governing conflict resolution

III. Within a rating group, e.g., A, B, C, etc. ranked fencers (NRPS) will be seeded ahead of non-ranked fencers regardless of year of rating.

a. Fencers within a particular rating group with a ranking **CANNOT** be moved to resolve pool conflicts.

2.16 NATIONAL COMPETITION FORMATS

2.16.1 Table: National Competition Formats

Reminder:

Maximum DE Field Size of 256

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

Event Type	Format
Division I National Championships, Division I NACs and Division I July Challenge	One round of pools; 6 or 7 person pool, 75% promoted to simple direct elimination.
Division IA, II, III National Championships, Both Elite and Challenger Tiers	One round of pools, 6 and 6 or 6 and 7 persons per pool, 80% promoted to simple direct elimination.
Div IA, Div II, Veteran Regional Open Circuit (ROC)	One round of pools (of sizes in accordance with the Operations Manual maximized to 6 and 7 fencers as possible), with 100% promoted to a direct elimination table.
Division II, III, IA NAC	One round of pools; 5 and 6 or 6 and 7 persons per pool, 100% promoted to simple direct elimination.
Junior Olympic Fencing Championships	One round of pools; of 6 or 7 persons per pool, 80% promoted to simple direct elimination
Junior & Cadet NAC and July Challenge (Both Elite and Challenger Tiers)	One round of pools of 6 or 7 persons per pool, 80% promoted to simple direct elimination.

Super Junior and Cadet Circuit	One round of pools of 6 or 7 persons per pool, 100% promoted to simple direct elimination
Y14 SYC & NAC	One round of pools; 5 and 6 or 6 and 7 persons per pool, 100% promoted to simple direct elimination.
Y14 National Championship	One round of pools; 5 and 6 or 6 and 7 persons per pool, 80% promoted to simple direct elimination.
Y12 NAC, Regional and Super Youth Circuit	One round of pools; 5 and 6 or 6 and 7 persons per pool, 100% promoted to direct simple elimination in which bouts are 15 touch bouts.
Y12 National Championship	One round of pools; 5 and 6 or 6 and 7 persons per pool, 80% promoted to simple direct elimination.
Y10 NAC, National Championships, Regional & Super Youth Circuit	One round of pools; 5 and 6 or 6 and 7 persons per pool, 100% promoted to simple direct elimination in which bouts are 10 touch bouts with two 3 minute periods.
Veteran Age NAC & National Championships	One round of pools; 5 and 6 or 6 and 7 persons per pool. 100% promoted to simple direct elimination in which bouts are 10 touch bouts with two 3 minute periods. There is a one-minute rest between periods. For Vet 70 and Vet 80 events with pools of 8 or more, , the pools will not be double stripped until the pool is half complete; i.e. after the 14th bout in a pool of 8 and after the 18th bout in a pool of 9.
Veteran Open NAC	One round of pools; 5 and 6 or 6 and 7 persons per pool. In V70 and V80 events, pools with 8 or more fencers will not be allowed to double strip until the pool is halfway completed 100% promoted to single direct elimination in which bouts are 10 touch bouts with two 3 minute periods. There is a one minute rest between periods.
Parafencing NAC & National Championships	All event sizes will include 100% promotion to DE's. Events with 5 or fewer fencers: one pool, two rounds of pools. Events with 6-9 fencers: one pool, one round of pools. Event with 10 or more fencers: 5, 6, or 7 persons per pool, one round of pools.
*Parafencing Walk N Roll Tournaments	The tournament is seeded based upon the ratings of all fencers. The parafencers and able-bodied fencers will be able to earn ratings from this event based upon the USA Fencing Event Rating Chart. During the competition, all able-bodied fencers will compete against each other using traditional able-body rules. When two parafencers, or an able-bodied and parafencer, fence in pools or direct elimination bouts, the bout will take place in a seated position using parafencing rules.
Team Competitions NAC & Championships	Direct elimination from beginning of competition. Relay format, 9 bouts to a maximum score of 45 – increments of 5 touches or maximum time of 3 minutes for each bout. Fence-off for 3rd.

***The "Walk N Roll" is a tournament variation allowed at local level events. This tournament allows for both able-bodied and parafencer to compete in the same competition. The tournament must have appropriately USA Fencing rated referees and all parafencing bouts must be fenced in competition wheelchair frames.**

Parafencing Open Classification Tournament

The tournament is seeded based upon the ratings of all fencers. Parafencers and able-bodied fencers are able to earn ratings from this event based upon the USA Fencing Event Rating Chart. During the competition all fencers compete in fencing chairs and frames and follow parafencing rules, regardless of classification or able-bodied fencer. This event is open to able-bodied fencers, parafencers, and athletes found "Not Eligible" in parafencing classification. Competition follows Parafencing NAC format.

2.17 EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR DOMESTIC TOURNAMENTS

2.17.1 Requirements for Domestic Tournaments

Uniforms, Plastrons, Chest Protectors, Masks and Blades:

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

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

Plastrons (underarm protectors):
Standard fencing plastron; required with every uniform (FIE label not required)

Chest Protectors:
Women must wear chest or breast protectors. Chest protection is allowed for men but must be worn under the jacket (Rule Book: m.24.4.c). In foil, this breast /chest protector must be worn below the protective plastron and have the following characteristics: The entire outside of the chest protector (the side facing the opponent) must be covered with a soft material such as E.V.A. (Ethylene-vinyl acetate) of four mm thickness and density of 22kg/m3. (The material can be attached to the current plastic models or incorporated into the manufacture of new chest protectors). The material must have the SEMI technical mark at the center of the upper edge. We are aware that manufacturers may not offer older style "hubcap" protectors that conform to the rules. Therefore, fencers who use this style of protector are allowed to retrofit their existing protectors to bring them into compliance with the rules-that is, by attaching the required soft material to the protector. These retrofitted protectors are NOT required to have the manufacturer/FIE mark, but retrofitted protectors must be inspected at equipment check to ensure that they comply with the rules. Once inspected, the technician will apply the competition's inspection mark.

Mask bibs must be fixed to the exterior of the grille starting from the reinforcement band onwards and extending as protection for the neck. Must withstand 12K punch test; elastic strap at back of mask is required. Masks that do not pass the 12K punch test will be impounded and given a visible mark to signify that the mask is "not approved for use" at any level of competition (local, regional, divisional, or national) [per FIE rule m.257.d].
In foil competitions, the conductive bib is required at all levels (local, divisional, regional and national). Details can be found in the USA Fencing Rulebook: m.27.
Saber and foil masks with electric bib are not allowed for use in epee at any level (local, divisional, regional, or national) (**USA Fencing Clarification**).
The metal on the bib/mask can ground out the opponent's tip.

Blades
See table below.

Maximum Lengths, Blade Sizes 0-3

Blade Size Number	0	2	3
Blade Length: MM			
FOIL	775	825	850
EPEE	775	825	850
SABER	765	820	850

For Y8 and Y10 competitions, maximum blade length of 32.5", all other competitions, standard blade length of 70-90cm (~27.5" – 35.4") for foil/epee and 70-88cm (~27.5" – 34.6") for Saber. (FIE Material Rules, Jan. 2011, M.8, M.16, M.23). For all weapons, any attachment to a weapon's handle (i.e., wrist strap, orthopedic grip) must fix the hand in one position such that the top of the thumb is no more than 2cm from the inner surface of the guard.

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

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

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

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

In epee and foil, a full jacket is required (i.e., a jacket with croissard/groin strap). In foil and saber; the lame must have croissard/groin strap. Any attachment to a weapon's handle (i.e., wrist strap, orthopedic grip) must fix the hand in one position such that the top of the thumb is no more than 2 cm. from the inner surface of the guard. It is not permissible to fence in warm-up pants. Fencing uniforms must not have any rips, tears, holes, etc. USA Fencing allows uniforms of a single color other than black and designs on the rear (unarmed) arm. As the purpose of uniform color or design is for audience interest, such designs should be in good taste.
For information on the regulations for Saber 800NW gloves, reference the rulebook. Fencers must wear the required clothing – regulation fencing jacket and pants, underarm protector (plastron), knee socks, and a fencing glove that covers half the forearm. Women must wear breast protectors. Chest protection is allowed for men, but must be worn under the jacket (**rulebook: m.24.4.c**). In epee and foil, a full jacket is required (i.e., a jacket with croissard/groin strap). In foil and saber; the lame must have croissard/groin strap. Any attachment to a weapon's handle (i.e., wrist strap, orthopedic grip) must fix the hand in one position such that the top of the thumb is no more than 2 cm. from the inner surface of the guard. It is not permissible to fence in warm-up pants.

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

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

Bout format: See the rulebook. For all Veterans DEs, bouts are 10-touch bouts with two periods. For Veterans Saber bouts, and Y8 and Y10 bouts only, the one-minute rest occurs when one fencer's score reaches 5 touches or when three minutes have elapsed, whichever occurs first.

For information on competition, types, reference Table 2.15.1.

CHAPTER 3
AWARDING POINTS

3.1 POINT STANDINGS
USA Fencing maintains the following point standings:
1. Regional Point Standings (Youth)
2. Regional Open Circuit Standings (Veteran)
3. Unified Points List (Cadet, Junior, and Senior))
4. National Team Legacy Point Standings (Cadet, Junior, Senior, Veteran)
5. Parafencing National Point Standings

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

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

3.1.1 "Age Out" Policy
For domestic events, Junior and Cadet fencers will "age out" at the end of the February NAC (see Table 2.5.1). After the February NAC and up until after Junior Worlds, there are two sets of points: "age-out" and normal.

For the March NAC, April NAC and July Challenge, the Cadet and Junior Unified Points Lists contain those fencers who meet the age requirements for the next World Cadet and World Junior Championships, respectively.

NOTE: For qualification to the Division I Championships in April, only the normal Cadet and Junior Unified Point List will be used. Fencers only listed on the "age-out" standings are not considered for qualification by national points.

After the National Championships in July (on or before Aug. 1), the Youth point standings are updated to include only those who meet the age criteria for the new season.

After the Veterans World Championships in the fall, the Veteran Age Point Standings are updated to reflect those who are eligible in each age category for the next Veteran World Championships.

3.1.2 Replacement Schedule

Points (except Regional Youth and Legacy Point Standings – for Legacy Point Standings, see Legacy Point Standings) remain until replaced by the equivalent event in the following season. If there is no equivalent event, points may remain for 12 months or less, or until a fencer ages out of a given category (Youth, Cadet, Junior). The replacement schedule for all events is below and will also be included in Chapters 5-10 for the designated calendar.

Rolling Points Replacement Events	
New Event	Event Rolling Off
October NAC 2026	
Div I	October NAC 2026
CDT	October NAC 2026
Y14	November NAC 2026
PARA	October NAC 2026
November NAC 2026	
DVI	November NAC 2026
JNR	October NAC 2026
CDT	November NAC 2026
December SJCC 2026	
JNR	NA
CDT	NA
Junior Olympic Championships + Para NAC 2027	
JNR	Junior Olympic Championships 2026
CDT	Junior Olympic Championships 2026
PARA	February NAC 2026
February NAC 2027	
DVI	February NAC 2026
JNR	February NAC 2026
Vet Age	February NAC 2026
Vet Combined	February NAC 2026
March NAC 2027	
DV2	NA
Y14	March NAC 2026
Y12	March NAC 2026
Y10	March NAC 2026

Rolling Points Replacement Events	
New Event	Event Rolling Off
April National Championships & NAC 2027	
Div I	Division I Nat'l Championships 2026
PARA	Para National Championships 2026
JNR	April NAC 2026
Vet Age	April NAC 2026
Vet Combined	April NAC 2026
May SJCC 2027	
JNR	June SJCC 2026
CDT	June SJCC 2026
National Championships and July Challenge 2027	
Div I	July Challenge 2026
JNR	July Challenge 2026
CDT	July Challenge 2026
Vet Age	National Championships 2026
Y14	National Championships 2026
Y12	National Championships 2026
Y10	National Championships 2026

Super Youth Circuit (SYC) tournaments also operate on a replacement schedule. The first SYC of each previous season is replaced by the first SYC of the current season. The second is replaced, by the second, and so on. The same SYC tournament is not guaranteed to be replaced by itself each year, as SYCs are not guaranteed to be awarded each year they are bid on.

3.1.3 Regional Point Standings (Youth)

Regional Point Standings for Youth reflect an athlete's results at RYC tournaments within their home region. These point standings are posted online and are updated within five business days after the tournament organizer has properly submitted results, event officials form, membership forms and paid the program service fee. For more information on this point system, please visit the **regional points list**. These point standings are not used for seeding, only National Point Standings are used for seeding at regional tournaments.

Regional tournament organizers will use the applicable national point standings for seeding as of 5 p.m. LOCAL TIME, the day prior to the first day of competition.

3.1.4 Regional Open Circuit Point Standings (Veteran)

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

Regional tournament organizers will use the applicable point standings as of 5 p.m. LOCAL TIME, the day prior to the first day of competition.

3.1.5 National Rolling Point Standings (NRPS) (Youth, Veteran)

National Rolling Points are earned and Unified Points Lists (Cadet, Junior and Senior) at North American Cups, National Championships, July Challenge, SYCs (Youth only), and designated international events as listed in the selection criteria for each weapon. For Cadet, Junior and Senior (Div I) fencers, these points are tracked using the Unified Points Lists for domestic ranking and seeding, and are made up of a fencer's total point value on the National Rolling Point Standings is the combination of their six best results across all levels. Points may be combined from any mix of levels, from local to international.

Unless specified in the selection criteria for each weapon, designated senior international events occurring after the Cadet and Junior World Championship teams are selected and before the start of the next season will not count for cadet and junior rolling points. The Legacy Points lists are used to track ranking for Team Selection.

National Rolling Point Standings or Unified Points Lists are used in the following situations:

- To seed USA Fencing national, regional and divisional competitions (see **Table 2.15.1.1**)
- As a qualifying path to the various National Championship tournaments
- As a measure of the progress of the fencer in their peer group
- To select athletes for international competition prior to the activation of the current season's National Team Point Standings (Cadet, Junior, Senior, Veteran)

See Chapters 5 – 12 for specific weapon information.

3.1.6 Youth Point Standings (SYC and National Tournaments)

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

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

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

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

The Youth Point Standings will be computed on a rolling point basis. See Section 3.1.2 for replacement schedule.

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

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

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

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

3.1.7 Legacy Point Standings (Cadet, Junior, Senior, Veteran)

Legacy Points are earned at domestic and international events as listed in the selection criteria for each weapon.

Legacy Point standings are used in the following situations:

- To select fencers for specific international teams (see for weapon specific criteria and **Chapter 11** for Veteran and **Chapter 12** for Parafencing)
- To select athletes for designated competitions according to the international calendar, located at https://www.usafencing.org/international-competition. (Athletes should always consult the International Calendar to confirm which points will be used for selection to each event.)

Cadet Team Points –usually generated after the second designated Cadet international event, dependent on event dates and registration deadlines;

Junior Team Points – usually generated after the second designated Junior World Cup, dependent on event dates and registration deadlines.

Senior Team Points – usually generated after the fourth designated Senior international competitions (World Cup or Grand Prix), dependent on event dates and registration deadlines.

Veteran Team Points – generated after the second Veteran NAC

3.1.8 Veteran Rolling and Team Point Standings

There are five groups of Veteran Rolling Point Standings based on results at National Veteran competitions and three groups of Veteran Team Point Standings. There are five age categories: 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70 & older, and 80 & older – where age eligibility is determined by the fencer's year of birth.

Veteran Rolling Point Standings are the sum of the best two of the three domestic Veteran Age competitions, plus points earned at the most recent Veterans World Championships, as indicated in the points table below.

World Championships Points for Rolling Standings Only

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

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

Veteran Team Point Standings are calculated as the sum of the best two of the three domestic Veteran Age competitions in the current season. Team Point Standings are calculated for the selection of Veteran World Championship Team. These are the categories established by the FIE for the Veterans World Championships. There are no 80+ events at the Veteran World Championships.

3.1.9 Parafencing National Point Standings

Parafencing National points are earned at the North American Cups, Parafencing National Championships, World Cups and World Championships. Refer to **Chapter 12**.

3.2 EARNING DOMESTIC POINTS – OVERVIEW

3.2.1 USA Fencing Domestic Point Tournaments

Tournaments at which Regional Points can be earned.

	Junior	Cadet	Y14	Y12	Y10	Veteran
Y14 RYC			X			
Y12 RYC				X		
Y10 RYC					X	
Veteran ROC						X

- Best 3 results from ROCs held in any region count toward regional point totals on a seasonal point basis for Veteran events
- Best 3 results from RYCs within the athlete's region count toward regional point totals on a seasonal point basis

Tournaments at which National Points can be earned:

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

Points are only earned in categories for which one is age eligible
- This table illustrates the eligible categories to be used for trickle-down points in the NRPS
- The single best SYC result in each age category counts toward national point totals

3.3 EARNING DOMESTIC POINTS – REGIONAL

3.3.1 Regional Youth Circuit (RYC)

Fencers only earn points at RYCs within their home region (region is assigned based on division affiliation). The best 3 results count towards the point total. These points may qualify Y10, Y12 and Y14 fencers to the USA Fencing National Championships. RYC points are not used in any National Point Standings, for seeding or team selection purposes.

Using the formula below, RYC tournaments will award points to all participants: (# entries – place + 1) /# entries) x 100 points

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

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

3.3.2 Regional Junior/Cadet Circuit (RJCC)

Fencers may earn points at an RJCC in any region, not just their home region. Points earned at Regional Junior/Cadet tournament are calculated into the Unified Points Lists.

Points will be awarded at RJCC competitions according to the points tables in the Appendices.

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

3.3.4 Regional Open Circuit (ROC)

In each of the following ROC categories (Division IA, Division II, Division III, Adult and Adult Combined), competitions will award points to all participants based on finishing placement, according to the points tables in the appendices and may be used to help a fencer earn eligibility to fence in Division I at North American Cup tournaments and National Championships. A fencer's best six results make up their point total on the Senior Unified Points Lists.

For Veteran events the best 3 results, in each respective category, count towards the point total. These points will qualify for Veteran ROC events to the USA Fencing National Championships. For qualification path details, refer to **Chapter 2**. ROCs must have at least 2 competitors and **cannot be fenced as mixed gender**.

3.4 EARNING DOMESTIC POINTS – NATIONAL STRUCTURE OF POINT STANDINGS

For Cadet, Junior and Senior (Div I) fencers, a fencer's total point value on the Unified Points Lists is the combination of their six best results across all levels, as determined by the point values earned for each result. Points may be combined from any mix of levels, from local to international to determine a fencer's ranking.

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

For Youth and Veteran National point competitions (NACs and National Championships), points will be awarded based on the table below. (Parafencing points will be awarded based on the equations listed in Chapter 12.6) See the chart below:

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

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

The point tables are found in the **Appendices**. In national point competitions, points are awarded to a maximum place of 64th for Youth events.

3.4.1 Transfer of Nationality

Earning National Points - Legacy Points for Team Selection

Point standings for Cadet, Junior, Para and Senior fencers for team selection are based on a combination of two groups: Group I and Group II. In general, Group I reflects domestic point tournaments while, in most cases, Group II reflects international competitions. Please see **Chapters 5 – 12** for selection criteria.

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

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

3.4.2 Strength Factor for USA Fencing Division I North American Cup events (Legacy Points Only)

SF will be calculated and utilized only for Team Selection points, as of August 2026 and that this will be reviewed during the trial period. No SF will be calculated for points tables according to the trial points.

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

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

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

Should the weekend of the Division I National Championships conflict with a designated Senior World Cup or Grand Prix tournament, or the Junior & Cadet World Championships the Division I National Championships will have a minimum strength factor of .8 and a maximum of 1.1. This will apply only to the weapon(s) with the conflict.

FORMULA FOR STRENGTH FACTOR (SF)

SF = [N/10 + 6(SrFIE32) + 5(Sr4) + 4(Sr8) + 3 (Sr16) + 2(Sr32) + 1(SR64)]/100

N= Number of competitors who finish the competition and are listed in the final results.

SrFIE32=Number of athletes ranked in the top 32 of the FIE World Rankings
Sr4=Number of athletes ranked 1-4 in the National Rolling Point Standings
Sr8=Number of athletes ranked 5-8 in the National Rolling Point Standings
Sr16=Number of athletes ranked 9-16 in the National Rolling Point Standings
Sr32=Number of athletes ranked 17-32 in the National Rolling Point Standings
Sr64=Number of athletes ranked 33-64 in the National Rolling Point Standings.

The following principles will be used when calculating the strength factor:

- The FIE and USA Fencing standings are those at the start of the competition
- The strength factor is calculated to the thousandths digit (for example, .906)
- If there is a tie in the point standings, all tied fencers will be counted in the calculation of the

strength factor. (For example, if two fencers are tied for 8th in the point standings, both fencers will count in the number of athletes ranked 5-8.)
• Foreign Fencers - Prior to seeding each event, foreign fencers will be added to the rolling point standings (if applicable.)
• Points earned at a NAC by a foreign fencer will roll off as the event is replaced. Once a foreign fencer has no domestic points, they will be removed from the rolling points list (as to not affect the strength factor).
• Fencers ranked in the FIE Top 32 and USA Fencing top 64 will be counted in both calculations.

3.4.3 SYC Points

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

For example:

Field = 100 fencers therefore 40 fencers earn national points

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

Field = 200 fencers therefore 64 fencers earn national points (40% = 80 but awarding points is capped at 64th place)

In all SYC Youth events, 3 fencers must compete for points to be awarded. Refer to the Points Table for greater detail on youth points.

3.4.4 SJCC Points

The Super Junior and Cadet Circuit (SJCC) competitions will award points according to the SJCC column of the Unified Junior and Unified Cadet point tables in the Appendices.

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

3.5 EARNING POINTS – INTERNATIONAL

The point tables for international points can be found in the Appendices.

Specific FIE Junior World Cup (JWC) individual competitions and European Fencing Confederation (EFC) Cadet competitions are selected by the Sport Performance Department and the National Coaches and specified as **designated** international competitions. Unless otherwise specified in selection criteria, all Senior World Cup and Grand Prix competitions are designated. The designated international competitions are normally considered in Group II calculations for Team Selection Points only. For the Unified Points List, a fencer's best six results based upon points earned will be combined to calculate their points total, without restriction. See the weapon-specific selection criteria for further details.

Points will be awarded for results at events described in Chapters 5 – 10.

Junior World Cup & Designated Cadet International Event:

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

Senior World Cup/Grand Prix:

Field Size:	Points Awarded to Table of
2-4	Gold Medalist
5-7	2
8-12	4
13-22	8
23-42	16
43-80	32
81+*	64

**SF must be 2.0 or greater to award points for 33-64.*

3.5.1 Strength Factor for Designated Senior & Junior International Events (Legacy Points Only)

NRPS and trial points, no SF calculations are done as of August 2026 and that this will be subject to review during the trial period. This means that SF will only be used in the Team Selection/Legacy points to start the 26-27 season.

The Strength Factor (SF) is a multiplier used to gauge the strength of a designated Senior or Junior international event and to determine the number of USA Fencing points earned for placement in the competition. The Junior and Senior Strength Factor (SF) takes into consideration the size (N) of the field and the number of FIE ranked fencers in the competition.

- If a competitor is on both the Junior and Senior FIE ranking list, the better of the two values is used in the calculation of the Junior (JSF) or Senior (SSF) Strength Factor.
- The SSF and JSF are applied to the Point Table in the **Appendices**.
- The FIE standings used are those at the start of the competition.
- The maximum value allowed for the JSF and SSF is 2.0 even if the formula generates a higher value.
- If the weapon's team selection criteria assign a minimum or maximum or strength factor and/or weight value, that value will override the value generated by the SF formula.

FORMULA FOR SENIOR STRENGTH FACTOR (SSF)

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

Where SSF = Senior Strength Factor

N = Number of Competitors excluding DNF

Sr8 = No. of fencers 1-8 in the FIE Senior World Cup standings

Sr16 = No. of fencers 9-16 in the FIE Senior World Cup standings

Sr32 = No. of fencers 17-32 in the FIE Senior World Cup standings

Sr64 = No. of fencers 33-64 in the FIE Senior World Cup standings

Sr100 = No. of fencers 65-100 in the FIE Senior World Cup standings

Jr16 = No. of fencers 1-16 in the FIE Junior World Cup standings

FORMULA FOR JUNIOR STRENGTH FACTOR (JSF)

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

Where JSF = Junior Strength Factor

N = Number of Competitors excluding DNF

Jr8 = No. of fencers 1-8 in the FIE Junior World Cup standings

Jr16 = No. of fencers 9-16 in the FIE Junior World Cup standings

Jr32 = No. of fencers 17-32 in the FIE Junior World Cup standings

Sr16 = No. of fencers 1-16 in the FIE Senior World Cup standings

There is no Strength Factor for designated Cadet international competitions. A Weight Value may be assigned based on the assessment of its expected competitive strength or conflict with a domestic national event.

For further details regarding the point values of events for team selection, **go here**.

CHAPTER 4
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

4.1 International Competition Categories

There are different categories of international competition at which FIE and/or USA Fencing points can be earned.

Pan American Youth & Veteran Championships	FIE	NO	NO	6	6	$30	$275
Pan American Zonal Championships, Senior – Annual	FIE	Yes	NO	4 fencers per weapon	4 fencers per weapon		
Pan American Zonal Championships – Junior & Cadet – Annual	FIE	YES	See selection criteria	4 fencers per weapon	4 fencers per weapon	$30	$275
Pan American Zonal Olympic Qualifiers – every 4 years in year of Olympic games	FIE	NO	NO	If USA has no OG qualifiers in one or more weapons, 1 fencer/ weapon	If USA has no OG qualifiers in one or more weapons, 1 fencer/ weapon		
World University Games – every other (odd) year	FIE	NO	NO	4 per weapon	4 per weapon		
Pan American Games – year prior to Olympic Games	FIE	NO	NO	See Official Selection Procedures	See Official Selection Procedures		
Youth Olympic Games – every 4 years – middle of Olympic Game Cycle	FIE	NO	NO	See Official Selection Procedures	See Official Selection Procedures		
Olympic Games – every 4 years	FIE	YES	YES	See Official Selection Procedures	See Official Selection Procedures		
Para American Zonal Championships	WAS	YES	NO	No Limit	No Limit		
Paralympic Games	WAS	YES	YES	See Official Selection Procedures	See Official Selection Procedures		

** FIE Team points (by country) for FIE World Team Standings

4.1.1 International Competitions

Fencers can only be entered in FIE, EFC and WAS competitions and tournaments by their national fencing federation. USA Fencing is responsible for entering US fencers in all FIE, EFC and WAS international competitions.

For competitions other than those under the auspices of the FIE, EFC or WAS, fencers are responsible for their own entry in accordance with the information provided by the organizer of the competition.

Information regarding the international calendar, eligibility, and deadlines is posted on the USA Fencing website, under the Athlete tab.

4.1.2 Age Criteria

According to the FIE Organizational Rules (o.29)

1. No fencer may obtain an FIE license, enabling them to enter for an official FIE competition, until they have reached their 13th birthday.

2. Fencers taking part in all the official FIE Cadet competitions must be under 17 years old at midnight on the 31st December of the year preceding the year in which the competition takes place.

3. Fencers taking part in all the official FIE Junior competitions, individual or team, must be under 20 years old at midnight on 31st December of the year preceding the year in which the competition takes place.

According to the EFC Cadets Circuit Organisations' Rules

1. Fencers taking part in all the official EFC Cadet competitions must be under 17 years old at midnight on the 31st December of the year preceding the year in which the Championships competition takes place.

2. Yet the lowest age of fencers should be under same conditions as cited here above, 12 years.

3. However, it is possible that in case of some extraordinary advanced young fencer, upon written agreement of their parents, coach and doctor recommendation even younger fencer can participate in a specific cadet competition

4.1.3 Citizen Requirement

To compete in any FIE Cadet, Junior or Senior event, Para World Cup or to be selected for World Championships, World University Games, Pan American Zonal Championships, Pan American Games, Youth Olympic Games and the Olympic or Paralympic Games, fencers must be United States citizens, in possession of a US passport and eligible to represent the United States by applicable selection deadlines.

Permanent residents in the process of obtaining U.S. citizenship may register only for EFC (not FIE) Cadet international events. Approved permanent residents will be selected, in rank order, after eligible U.S. citizens.

For rules regarding change of country affiliation, see the FIE **Administrative Rules** (1.4). Fencers wishing to change nationality must first contact the USA Fencing Chief of Sport Performance in writing indicating the desire to change representation to or from United States with a brief explanation of reasons and support for such request.

Please reference 3.4 above for information concerning the transfer of points when a fencer changes their fencing nationality.

4.1.4 International Competitions at which Points Are Earned

The list of Cadet, Junior and Senior designated international competitions is posted on the USA Fencing website - **www.usafencing.org/international-calendar**.

USA Fencing athletes can only earn points towards the National Point Standings from results achieved at competitions specified in the weapon **selection criteria**.

4.1.6 Junior and Senior World Cup Team Competitions

For each World Cup team competition, each country can enter one team of three fencers plus a substitute.

The National Weapon Coach, in consultation with the Chief of Sport Performance, will determine selection of the fencers for each World Cup Team competition, considering, but not limited to, the following criteria:

- National Point Standings
- Performance in prior domestic and international competitions
- Development opportunities
- Adherence to Fencer Code of Conduct Agreement

4.1.7 Coaching at Designated Competitions

No coaching of any kind, including by a parent or guardian, is allowed when two fencers representing the USA are competing against each other. Furthermore, no National or designated Team USA or a USA Fencing funded (fully or partially) coach may coach any athlete from another nation at an international competition in any bout, regardless of whether the foreign athlete is competing against a USA fencer.

4.2 ENTRY PROCEDURES & ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

4.2.1 Registration and Eligibility

All entries/payments/withdraws must be received by the posted deadlines, no later than 11:59:59 PM Pacific Time.

Any athlete who is age eligible may register online and request entry to a competition.

Entries will be accepted online only by the posted entry deadlines for each international competition, except for force majeure.

By registering for an international competition, the athlete is confirming their intent to attend the competition if selected. The athlete's registration does not guarantee the fencer will be selected for the competition.

Fees: The table on this page shows the associated fees for each competition level.

The squad fee is refundable if athlete is not selected for the competition. Refunds will be processed automatically upon completion of the event. The $30 registration fee is non-refundable.

The $275 Squad Fee helps offset the cost of the travel of required referees and designated coach.

Waitlist Procedures

After the regular entry deadline and prior to the late entry deadline, all waitlisted fencers who registered by the regular entry deadline, will be placed on the waitlist in rank order.

Following the late entry deadline, all remaining fencers (regular and late entry) will be placed on the waitlist in rank order.

If a vacancy for individual international competition becomes available, the first alternate will be notified by email. The notified athlete must reply within 24 hours of the time the email was sent. If no reply is received by email, the next alternate will be notified.

Fencers who register via late entry will not be considered for selection until after the late entry deadline.

LEVEL	REGISTRATION FEE	SQUAD FEE	LATE FEES
Senior	$30	N/A	$30 (Registration Fee) + $255 (Late Fee) = $285
Junior	$30	$275	$30 (Registration Fee) + $275 (Squad Fee) + $255 (Late Fee) = $535.00
Cadet	$30	$275	$30 (Registration Fee) + $275 (Squad Fee) + $255 (Late Fee) = $535.00

Selection

Athletes will be selected based on Legacy point standings as of the regular entry deadline in the following order.

The points used for selection of each event is indicated on the international calendar: www.usafencing.org/international-calendar.

SENIOR EVENTS:

1. Top 24 athletes on the Senior National Points Standings
2. Top 12 athletes on the Junior National Points Standings
3. Top 8 athletes on the Cadet National Points Standings
4. All remaining athletes on the Senior National Points Standings
5. All remaining athletes on the Junior National Points Standings
6. All remaining athletes on the Cadet National Points Standings
7. Athletes not on any National Point Standings; these athletes will be ranked according to USA Fencing rating. If ties remain, fencers will be chosen by drawing lots.

**When Change to Legacy Rolling Point Standings are used for Senior and Junior international event selections, all non-U.S. citizens will be removed from the standings.

JUNIOR EVENTS:

1. Top 24 athletes on the Junior National Points Standings
2. Top 12 athletes on the Cadet National Points Standings
3. All remaining athletes on the Junior National Points Standings
4. All remaining athletes on the Cadet National Points Standings
5. Age-eligible athletes not on any National Points Standings; these athletes will be ranked according to USA Fencing rating. If ties remain, fencers will be chosen by drawing lots.

CADET EVENTS:

Athletes on the Cadet National Points standings in the following order:

a) U.S. citizens
b) Approved permanent residents
c) Age-eligible athletes not on any National Points Standings; these athletes will be ranked according to USA Fencing rating in the same order as above. If ties remain, fencers will be chosen by drawing lots.
d) After late entry deadline, any athletes remaining on the waitlist will be selected in the following order:

- U.S. citizens in rank order
- Permanent residents in rank order

**Points earned at designated cadet international events while representing any country other than the USA will be removed from the National Points Standings prior to selections.

4.2.2. Petition Process

An athlete who has represented the United States at a Senior World Championships or Olympic Games within the previous four years may petition entry into a Senior World Cup or Grand Prix competition if they are not eligible for selection via the traditional method (national point standings). A petition will be considered if the athlete was required to take time off from all qualifying competitions due to a medical condition (disease, disorder, injury, or illness that affects the athlete's physical or mental health).

At least ten days prior to the regular entry deadline of the Senior World Cup or Grand Prix in which the athlete would like to compete; the athlete must file a petition containing the following information:

- Senior World Championship or Olympic Games competitive history
- Reason for time off (with documentation)

A panel made up of the following individuals will have the authority to approve or deny a petition:

- USA Fencing Chief of Sport Performance
- A National Weapon Coach (if the National Weapon Coach is the personal coach of the athlete involved, they will be required to recuse themselves)
- Two athletes appointed by the USA Fencing Athletes Advisory Council (from a different weapon than the athlete submitting petition)
- The USA Fencing Director of Sports Medicine

PETITION CONSIDERATIONS:

- Petitioning athlete should make every reasonable effort to attend qualifying North American Cup, July Challenge or National Championship events prior to submitting a petition.
- An athlete may petition for selection to a maximum of three events in a twelve-month period.
- Petitions need not be requested consecutively (athlete can choose a maximum of three competitions within the twelve-month period).
- The panel will consider the athlete's competitive history and will have discretion on how many petitions to grant (to a maximum of three in a twelve-month period).
- An athlete granted a petition may apply for additional petitions if there is a subsequent medical condition, illness, or military service that results in the athlete being out of qualifying competitions. Acute or chronic injury or illness which may affect ability to participate should be reported immediately to Director of Sports Medicine and/or Chief of Sport Performance
- If the petition is granted, the athlete will replace the 12th ranked athlete selected for the relevant competition.

4.2.3 Finalizing the Entries

The point standings as of the day after the regular entry deadline will determine the selection order

of fencers. Results that change the point standings between the late entry deadline and the competition will not affect selection. Notification of selection will be sent by email to all registered fencers. If there are ties on the point standings, it will be resolved by the following criteria:

- Total number of points accumulated in Group II of the selection criteria. See Chapter 3 for specific details
- Highest points earned at a single designated World Cup or Grand Prix used in calculating the sum of points in Group II
- Next highest points earned at a single designated World Cup or Grand Prix until there is no tie
- Highest place at a single designated World Cup or Grand Prix
- Next highest place at a single designated World Cup or Grand Prix until there is no tie
- Highest place in any U.S. national point competition
- Next highest place in any U.S. national point competition until there is no tie
- If there is still a tie, fencers will be ranked by drawing lots.

4.2.4 Withdrawal Procedures

Withdrawals must be received no later than the regular entry deadline for that competition. Failure to withdraw by the posted deadline may result in a fine of $250.

Penalty for Late Withdrawal

USA Fencing will fine athletes who do not arrive in time for an event with no notice to the Sport Performance Department, $1000 dollars plus fines levied by the FIE or EFC.

Medical Waivers for Illness or Injury

Athletes seeking relief from penalties due to a medical condition (disease, disorder, injury, or illness that affects the athlete's physical or mental health) must provide documentation from a qualified independent physician stating the nature of medical condition. This documentation must be sent to the US Fencing Sport Performance Department (sportsmedicine@usafencing.org).

Other Force Majeure

Athletes with other issues that prevent them from attending an international event, (i.e., cancelled flights, family crisis, etc.) can report their justification and supporting documentation directly to the USA Fencing Sport Performance Department (international@usafencing.org), which may authorize the withdrawal without penalty.

4.3 FIE

For the most recent FIE Rules, Statutes and Administrative Rules, visit: www.fie.org

4.3.1 Certifying International Competitions

An international competition must satisfy FIE criteria for points to be awarded.

4.3.2 Anti-Doping Testing

Please refer to www.usada.org and www.fie.org for all information concerning anti-doping testing.

4.4 NATIONAL TEAM DEFINITION

Athletes selected for the Olympic Games or Cadet, Junior, Senior, and Veteran World Championships are considered members of that season's National Team. Parafencing National Teams are selected on an annual basis determined by cumulative performance data.

4.5 INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

USA Fencing establishes selection criteria for the international tournaments outlined below. Specific selection criteria for these tournaments are found in Chapters 5-10. Chapter 11 and Chapter 12.

- Olympic Games
- Pan American Games
- Pan American Youth & Veteran Zonal Championships
- Pan American Junior and Cadet Fencing Zonal Championships
- Pan American Senior Zonal Fencing Championships
- Paralympic Games
- Parafencing World Championships
- World Veteran Fencing Championships
- Youth Olympic Games

4.6 TIES FOR TEAM SELECTION

Ties for team selection will be resolved in the following priority:

- Total number of points accumulated in Group II of the selection criteria. See Chapter 3 for specific details.
- Highest points earned at a single designated World Cup or Grand Prix used in calculating the sum of points in Group II.

- Next highest points earned at a single designated World Cup Grand Prix until there is no tie.
- Highest place at a single designated World Cup or Grand Prix.
- Next highest place at a single designated World Cup or Grand Prix until there is no tie.
- Highest place in an U.S. national point competition.
- Next highest place in any U.S. national point competition until there is no tie.
- If there is still a tie, then the Chief of Sport Performance, National Weapons Coach, and a representative from the AAC will resolve the tie.

4.7 DECLINATION OF CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM SELECTION

Should an athlete decline their selection to a Championship Team, the next highest ranked athlete as of the selection date will be named to the Team.

4.8 HIGH PERFORMANCE ATHLETE PREGNANCY AND PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY.

This policy supports athletes who experience pregnancy or become parents while protecting their health, well-being, and ability to continue pursuing long-term athletic careers. **Read the policy here**.

CHAPTER 5

MEN'S EPEE

- **Find the selection criteria here**.

CHAPTER 6

MEN'S FOIL

- **Find the selection criteria here**.

CHAPTER 7

MEN'S SABER

- **Find the selection criteria here**.

CHAPTER 8

WOMEN'S EPEE

- **Find the selection criteria here**.

CHAPTER 9

WOMEN'S FOIL

- **Find the selection criteria here**.

CHAPTER 10

WOMEN'S SABER

- **Find the selection criteria here**.

CHAPTER 11

VETERAN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

11.1 TOURNAMENT DESCRIPTION

Individual competitions are held for six weapons. For World Championships, each country can enter four fencers in each of the six gender weapon combinations in each of the four age categories (40-49 years, 50-59 years, 60-69 years and 70+ years).

An FIE license for the season in which a fencer qualifies for Veteran World Championships is required to compete. (i.e., for the 2026 Veteran World Championships, a 25/26 License is required).

11.2 ELIGIBILITY

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

Birth Year Eligibility dates for FIE Veterans World Championships:

2026	
40+	1977-1986
50+	1967-1976
60+	1957-1966
70+	1956 and before

11.3 SELECTION CRITERIA

The top four fencers in each weapon in each of the four age categories will be selected according to the Veteran Age Team Point Standings after the USA Fencing National Championships. Should an athlete decline their selection to a Championship Team, the next highest ranked athlete as of the selection date will be named to the Team.

Any foreign fencers on the point standings will be removed when determining team standings.

11.4 TIES FOR SELECTION

If there is a tie in points such that not all four persons can be clearly selected as the team members, then the tie(s) must be resolved using the following procedure. This tie breaking procedure is to be conducted in the sequence set forth below. (Ex: If a tie is resolved with the first step, then no further action is to be taken).

1. Among those tied, the person who has the highest result in any one of the two competitions counting towards Veteran Team selection will be selected.

2. If all those tied have the same high result, then the athlete who has the best third result among the three events counting towards Veteran World Team selection.

3. If the persons are still tied, then the fencers will fence off in a 10-touch bout with two, three minute periods. The fence off will be held no sooner than ten minutes after the last competition in the event and no later than the end of the same day's competitions. Should there be more than two fencers who need to fence off, this will be held as a round robin in 10 touch bouts.

Should the results of the round robin produce a tie between two fencers, an additional 10 touch bout with two, three-minute periods will be held to resolve the tie. If the round robin produces a tie between more than two fencers, an additional round robin will be held to break the tie. The 10-touch bout (for ties between two fencers) and round robin (ties between multiple fencers) format will continue until the tie is fully resolved.

4. If one or more persons is not present for the fence off, the tie will be resolved in favor of the fencer who is present.

5. If none of the persons tied for a position are present at the final competition at which selection will be accomplished, the position will be determined by a priority electronically generated by the scoring machines on the final strip, conducted by the chair of the bout committee immediately after the final competition in the event and under the supervision of the chair of the Veterans Committee or their designee.

11.5 TEAM EVENT SELECTION

The top two fencers in each age category are selected for the age-specific team event based on their finish in the individual event.

If a fencer places 1st or 2nd and two others tie for 3rd, the 3rd-place fencer with the stronger pool record (win–loss ratio, then indicators) earns the team spot. The fifth spot for each team will be filled by the fencer with the highest percentile finish across the two age groups. The calculation for percentile is as follows: 100 x (N(size of field)- P (place)/ N).

CHAPTER 12

PARAFENCING

12.1 ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

Athletes are eligible to compete in parafencing if they have a permanent disability that falls within one of the eligible impairment categories: impaired muscle power, athetosis, impaired passive range of movement, hypertonia, limb deficiency, ataxia or leg length difference. Participation in USA Fencing and World Abilitysport tournaments are open to any fencer who is eligible to be classified by the respective organization and is at least 13 years old on Jan. 1 in the year of the competition (see Table 2.5.1). There is no maximum age limit.

12.2 ATHLETE CLASSIFICATION

There are three classification categories in which athletes are placed in indicating the degree of disability from least "A" to most severe "C". Official classi-

fiers determine the classification category for each parafencer.

12.2.1 National Classification

Change wording to USA Fencing implemented the national classification system in the 2025-26 season in order to adhere to the U.S. Paralympic National Classification Policies and Procedures. A copy of that policy can be found here (**www.usopc.org/national-classification-resources**). International WAS classifications will trickle down to the national level.

National Classification Levels
National Provisional (NP): The athlete has received a PROVISIONAL sport class(es) by alternative evaluation methods including video analysis, remote evaluation, and/or medical diagnostics information. The athlete must go through athlete evaluation at the national level at the earliest opportunity in order to receive recognized national sport class(es) and sport class status. Athletes who receive NP status will be listed in the national classification database for the respective sport.

National Classified (NN): The athlete has been evaluated at ONE (1) appearance by a national classification panel as appointed by USA Fencing. All NN status athletes are adequately classified for national competition within the U.S. and will be included into the national sport classification database. Athletes with NN sport class status do not need to undergo athlete evaluation at the national level again unless their impairment has changed.

National Review (NR / NR*): The athlete has been evaluated at a minimum of ONE (1) appearance by a national classification panel as appointed by USA Fencing. An athlete may be designated for Review status due to any of the circumstances outlined below:
• Degenerative impairment / condition (may include a fixed review date at discretion of the classification panel)
• Fluctuating impairment / condition
• Request for Review due to change in medical condition – must be requested by athlete/coach/parent on the (national) Request for Classification Review form and include relevant medical documentation outlining the change in impairment.
• Age – an NN or NC athlete may be designated for classification review at a particular age (i.e. following puberty once growth has ceased) as determined by the classification panel in accordance with sport-specific athlete evaluation standards. Once the evaluation is conducted by an appointed national classification panel the athlete's status will revert to its previous state (NN or NC).
Athletes with an NR designation may only be protested ONE (1) time relative to the designated Sport Class they are assigned. If an athlete is reviewed by a protest panel and reassigned an NR status, they will be designated by an asterisk (*) in the national sport classification database notating that they cannot be subject to additional protests.

National Confirmed (NC): The athlete has been evaluated at a minimum of TWO (2) appearances by a national classification panel as appointed by USA Fencing. Athletes with NC status may not be classified again nationally. The athlete may be classified internationally by World Abilitysport. The NC athlete may request a National Review if there has been a medically documented change to their impairment.

National sport class status pertains to national classifications only. Athletes wishing to obtain an international classification must follow the World Abilitysport rules and undergo classification evaluation by an international panel [there is no transfer of national sport class and sport class status to international sport class and sport class status]. Once an athlete has undergone international classification evaluation they may NOT undergo national classification evaluation for their respective sport.

Athletes must have a minimum National Provisional (NP) classification to compete at USA Fencing regional and national events.

12.2.2 International Classification

In order to compete internationally, all athletes must be evaluated and classified by World Abilitysport. An official WAS appointed classifier panel will determine the specific category for each parafencer who attempts to compete internationally. All international classification documentation must be submitted through the USA Fencing National Office no later than 6 weeks ahead of the respective competition.

12.3 RULES

USA Fencing operates under WAS Rules: USA Fencing Rule Book. World Abilitysport rules can be found at parafencing.org/about/rules-and-documents/

Important material rules under WAS include: required wheel covers (spoke protectors) and required epee apron/skirt with USA on bottom. At this time, fencing chair checks are not conducted at USA Fencing sanctioned competition.

For further information, contact the USA Fencing National office at international@usafencing.org.

12.4 PARAFENCING COMPETITION

12.4.1 Domestic Competition

USA Fencing organizes two NAC para tournaments each season, usually held in conjunction with a fall and a winter NAC. The National Parafencing Championships are held annually in March or April. In domestic competitions, athletes will compete in categories according to their gender, but in open classification events.
Regional Para Circuit (RPC) Tournaments (see section 2.2.3) are held across the country where athletes are eligible to earn fencing ratings.
Local parafencing competitions may include mixed gender events or be a Walk N Roll (see section 2.16.1) tournament.

12.4.2 International Competition

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

The WAS competition calendar and updates are available on the following website: parafencing.org/competitions/upcoming
If WAS hosts an entry-limited event, the following criteria will be used:

12.5 SEEDING & FORMATS

Please refer to Table 2.15 for seeding and 2.16 for format information.

Men's	A	B	C
Epee	X	X	X
Foil	X	X	X
Saber	X	X	
Epee Team	Combined team - all classifications – minimum 1 B		
Foil Team	Combined team - all classifications – minimum 1 B		
Saber Team	Combined team - all classifications – minimum 1 B		

Women's	A	B	C
Epee	X	X	X
Foil	X	X	X
Saber	X	X	
Epee Team	Combined team - all classifications – minimum 1 B		
Foil Team	Combined team - all classifications – minimum 1 B		
Saber Team	Combined team - all classifications – minimum 1 B		

Mixed Epee Team	Combined team - 1 Male Cat A, 1 Male Cat B, 1 Female Cat A, 1 Female Cat B
Mixed Foil Team	Combined team - 1 Male Cat A, 1 Male Cat B, 1 Female Cat A, 1 Female Cat B.
Mixed Saber Team	Combined team - 1 Male Cat A, 1 Male Cat B, 1 Female Cat A, 1 Female Cat B.

12.6 PARAFENCING POINT STANDINGS

Parafencing National Points are calculated as the sum of the best two of three domestic parafencing competitions (Group I) and the sum of the best four international competition results which include WAS World Cups, Zonal Championships, and World Championship (Group II). Group I replacement schedule is found in section 3.1.2 and Group II replacement calendar will be published on usafencing.org when competition dates are available from WAS. A recent competition will replace the oldest equivalent event on the points list to maintain a minimum of seven events.

Parafencing athletes will receive points using the following formulas:

Domestic Points – (#entries – place +1) / # entries) x 100 points
The winner of each NAC, regardless of size of field, will earn 100 points.

International Points – For International events with less than 10 athletes, the following formula will be used: (#entries – place +1) / # entries) x 200 points

The winner of an event with less than 10 athletes (1-10) will earn 200 points

For International events with 11-20 athletes, the following formula will be used: (#entries – place +1) / # entries) x 250 points
The winner of an event with 11-20 athletes will earn 250 points

For International events with more than 20 athletes, the following formula will be used: (#entries – place +1) / # entries) x 300 points

The winner of an event with more than 20 (21 or more) athletes will earn 300 points

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

12.7 2025-2026 PARAFENCING SELECTION CRITERIA

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

Para Fencing World Championships, which happens every two years, limits entries to 4 fencers per individual event.

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

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

For additional information, contact the USA Fencing National office at **international@usafencing.org**.

Note: World Abilitysport is currently reviewing the team format and trialing a few new options.

CHAPTER 13
COMPLAINT AND HEARING PROCEDURES AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

13.1 COMPLAINT AND HEARING PROCEDURES

All complaints alleging violations of the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, USOPC Bylaws, USFA Articles of Incorporation, USFA Bylaws, any USFA Rule, regulation, or policy, or any grievance of a USFA member against another member of USFA shall be governed by the USFA Complaint and Hearing Procedures under the jurisdiction of the Grievance and Disciplinary Committee. The full Complaint and Hearing Procedures can be found **here**.

13.2 FENCESAFE COMPLAINTS

FenceSafe Reports
When filing a report for a FenceSafe violation(s), individuals should use the "USA FENCING FENCESAFE ABUSE/MISCONDUCT REPORTING FORM" located **here**.

FenceSafe reports can be made anonymously and are not subject to the signature requirement. However, **anonymous reporting may make it difficult for USA Fencing to investigate or properly address potential allegation**s.

13.2.1 Responding to reports of FenceSafe allegations
Reports that allege sexual misconduct will be immediately turned over to the Center. On receipt of an allegation of misconduct, as defined in the Code that does not involve child physical or sexual abuse, USA Fencing shall determine the appropriate steps to address the conduct based on several factors, including (i) the age of the claimant or victim, (ii) the age of the accused and (iii) the nature, scope and extent of the allegations. Such steps may include, without limitation:

- The collection of additional information from the individual in question, other individuals with

potential knowledge or evidence of the incident or the accused individual
- Retention of legal counsel or investigation services to investigate
- Determine if interim measures are necessary

Interim Measures
If the FenceSafe report indicates that an individual's continued membership or participation poses a risk of ongoing physical or emotional harm, USA Fencing may determine to implement interim measures which could include suspending the accused individual pending final resolution of the report to eliminate any danger to an athlete, sport participant or other individual. In such instances, USA Fencing will provide the individual with notice and offer her/him an opportunity to contest the suspension.

USA Fencing may suspend the accused individual where there is a reasonable belief that the individual has committed emotional, physical or sexual misconduct or has been subject to a criminal disposition. Evidence which may be found sufficient to support a reasonable belief includes, at a minimum:
- the suspension or termination of employment or membership by a national governing body or other sport organization
- a FenceSafe Report Form with specific and credible information
- other legal documentation or report supporting a reasonable belief that the individual has committed emotional, physical or sexual misconduct, including but not limited to abuse of a child, or has been subject to a criminal disposition (e.g., a criminal charge, conviction or plea bargain).

13.3 REMOVAL FROM TEAM, LOSS OF POINTS AND/OR FUNDING

13.3.1 General Principles

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

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

13.3.2 Expedited Grievance Steps

Scope
These procedures are intended to be used once a team has staged (e.g., gathered at any point in outside the U.S. for purposes of traveling or participating at a competition), when a fencer or cadre member including coaches, administrators or other staff:
- contests being removed from a team;
- contests an improper denial of a place on a team selected using criteria specified by USA Fencing;
- contests an improper preclusion by USA Fencing of their opportunity to compete at any competition;
- is or may be subjected to discipline by USA Fencing, whether the action on which any proposed discipline is based occurred before or after the team has staged.

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

Reimbursement of Fencer's Expenses
All expenses, including counsel, shall be the responsibility of the fencer or cadre member.

Appeals
A fencer or cadre member may request that the USA Fencing committee responsible for team selections overrule any decision made by the Team

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

Procedures

- The Team Leader shall inform the fencer and any Other Affected Athletes of:
  - The issues or allegations which have been referred to the Team Panel.
  - The date, time and place of Hearing, and the manner in which the Hearing shall take place. The Hearing may be held in person, by teleconference, or as may otherwise be directed by the Team Leader.
- The Panel shall conduct a Hearing at a time and place determined by the Team Leader. The Hearing may be adjourned from time to time as deemed necessary by the Team Leader in order to obtain additional information, obtain testimony from witnesses or receive written submissions from any party. At or prior to the Hearing, if available, the fencer or any Other Affected Athlete shall have the right to receive copies of any written information provided to the Panel members concerning the Hearting or any charges or allegations.
- The Panel is not bound by the rules of evidence. Witnesses may testify in person, by telephonic instrument, or if there is no objection, by written declarations or affidavits.
- The fencer and any Other Affected Athlete shall have the rights:
  - To appear personally and be represented by counsel at the Hearing.
  - To cross-examine all witnesses and present any additional relevant evidence.
  - To testify on their own behalf or remain silent.
  - To address the Panel or otherwise make a statement of position personally or through their counsel or representative.
- As soon as practicable after the close of the Hearing, the Team Panel shall prepare the Team Panel Report and submit it to the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall send a copy of the Team Panel Report to the fencer, any Other Affected Athlete, and each member of the USA Fencing committee responsible for team selections within one week after receiving it.
- The recommendation(s) of the Panel shall be effective and implemented unless stayed by the USA Fencing committee responsible for team selections or the Board of Directors or its designee.
- Absent extraordinary circumstances, the failure to comply with any of the time limitations set forth herein shall not be grounds to overturn the decision in question, or, to prohibit the imposition of sanctions.
- Nothing herein shall preclude any fencer or Other Affected Athlete, during the procedures set forth above or at its conclusion, from seeking to enforce or protect their rights under any provision of the Bylaws of USA Fencing, or the Bylaws of the USOPC, including the right to seek the intervention of the USOPC CEO or to submit any dispute to arbitration.

13.3.3 National Team Disciplinary Procedures

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

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

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

the nature of the charges, the conclusion of the investigation and any discipline imposed or recommended.
Activity:

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

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

Appeal from the decision of a Disciplinary Panel may be made by the individual or individuals involved to the Chief of Sport Performance, National Weapon Head Coach, and representative from the AAC within 15 days of receipt of notice of the panel decision. The decision may be delivered orally at the time of the Hearing. The decision of the Disciplinary Panel may be appealed to the Chief of Sport Performance, National Weapon Head Coach, and representative from the AAC, the Board of Directors of USA Fencing, or its designee, at the election of the appealing party. The body to which the appeal is addressed shall appoint a panel to hear the appeal and render a final decision as expeditiously as reasonably possible. These rules and regulations have been promulgated for the protection of all fencers, coaches, officials and others under the authority of USA Fencing.

13.3.3 (a) National Team Dispute Resolution
This dispute resolution procedure is intended to manage conflicts and to foster strong relationships between international fencers, coaches and USA Fencing staff.
13.3.3 (b) Scope of National Team Dispute Resolution
This dispute resolution procedure applies to a complaint by an Aggrieved Party against a National Coach, as those terms are defined below.
To be eligible to use this procedure, a complaint must pertain to a National Coach's role as an international coach on behalf of USA Fencing, in contrast to a dispute about the National Coach's role as a private fencing coach, fencing club administrator, or USA Fencing member. Examples of matters that might come within the scope of the dispute resolution procedure, include, but are not limited to, actual, apparent, or potential conflicts of interest by the National Coach, allocation of coaching resources during international competitions, selection for international tournaments, selection of dates and locations of training camps, other requirements imposed by a National Coach, allocation of USA Fencing funds by a National Coach, delegation of responsibilities by the National Coach to a third party, and the National Coach's conduct.

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

Definitions
The following terms shall have the following meanings:

- "Aggrieved Party" shall mean a fencer who is a current representative of USA Fencing international fencing competition or has a material chance of representing USA Fencing in international fencing competition in the near future, when pursuing their own interests; the parent or guardian of a minor fencer, acting as the minor fencer's representative, where the minor fencer is a current representative of USA Fencing in international fencing competition or has as material chance of representing USA Fencing in international fencing competition in the near future, when pursuing the minor fencer's interests; or the personal
coach, if such coach is a USA Fencing member, of

a fencer who is a current representative of USA Fencing in international fencing competition, or has a material chance of representing USA Fencing in international fencing competition in the near future, when pursuing the fencer's interests or the coach's own interest.
• "Athlete Council" shall mean, the USA Fencing Athlete Council.
• "Executive Director" shall mean the Executive Director of USA Fencing.
• "Chief of Sport Performance" shall mean the Chief of Sport Performance of USA Fencing.
• "National Coach" shall mean, a coach employed or contracted by USA Fencing to represent USA Fencing in international fencing competition or such a coach's designee, including, but not limited to, a Team Manager, when such designee is officially recognized by USA Fencing in the designee's role and has maintained, or is expected to maintain, that role for more than two (2) months.

Procedures
A. The Aggrieved Party is encouraged to discuss the matter directly with the National Coach.

B. The Aggrieved Party may discuss the matter informally with the Chief of Sport Performance before or after discussing the matter with the National Coach.

C. At any time during the dispute resolution process, the Aggrieved Party may invite an Athlete Council member to facilitate the Aggrieved Party's interactions under the dispute resolution process. The Athlete Council member may decline the Aggrieved Party's request for any or no reason or may refer the invitation to another Athlete Council member. The Aggrieved Party shall have the right to have any Athlete Council member so invited: Be present at any telephonic or in-person meetings under the dispute resolution process between the Aggrieved Party and the National Coach or the Chief of Sport Performance and be heard by the National Coach or Chief of Sport Performance in a reasonable manner.

D. The Aggrieved Party has the right to submit a written complaint concerning the matter to the Chief of Sport Performance. The submission of a written complaint concerning the matter to the Chief of Sport Performance by an Aggrieved Party concerning a National Coach's role as an international coach on behalf of USA Fencing initiates this dispute resolution procedure.

E. The Chief of Sport Performance shall make a determination whether the complaint has sufficient merit to proceed and is otherwise not deficient. To this end, the Chief of Sport Performance may conduct reasonable inquiries.

F. If the Chief of Sport Performance determines the complaint lacks sufficient merit to proceed or is otherwise deficient, they shall inform the Aggrieved Party of such determination in writing within two (2) weeks of the receipt of the complaint.

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

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

G. During the investigation, the Chief of Sport Performance may (and generally will) discuss the matter with the National Coach and may share

the complaint with the National Coach. The National Coach shall respond to any Chief of Sport Performance's inquiries within five (5) days of such inquiries and otherwise discuss the matter

with the Chief of Sport Performance. If the Chief of Sport Performance requests that the National Coach's response be in writing, the National Coach shall do so within five (5) days of such request. The Chief of Sport Performance may share the National Coach's response(s), written or otherwise, with the Aggrieved Party. The National Coach's obligations shall not supersede, or otherwise be implemented in a manner inconsistent with the National Coach's due process rights.

H. The Chief of Sport Performance may request that the Aggrieved Party and the National Coach enter into mediation or arbitration. This may include mediation and arbitration provided by USA Fencing or by an individual or individuals designated by the Chief of Sport Performance. In the event that the Aggrieved Party and the National Coach agree to mediation or arbitration, the dispute resolution procedure shall be stayed until the mediator(s) or arbitrator(s) concludes such mediation or arbitration or until the Chief of Sport Performance terminates such mediation or arbitration.

I. If the Chief of Sport Performance's position is unfilled or if the Chief of Sport Performance does not respond within the two (2) week limit, the Aggrieved Party may contact in writing the Executive Director about the unfulfilled position or the failure of the Chief of Sport Performance to act and submit the written complaint to the Executive Director for their action. In such an event, the dispute resolution process shall be followed, with the Executive Director fulfilling those obligations of the Chief of Sport Performance and within the two (2) week limit beginning the date the Executive Director receives such written complaint.

J. The initiation or resolution of this dispute resolution process shall not prejudice the Aggrieved Party from the ability to seek appropriate relief or other appropriate procedures.

CHAPTER 14
CODES OF CONDUCT & USA FENCING POLICIES

14.1 FENCER CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT

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

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

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

I have familiarized myself with the ACC and understand that acceptance of its provisions as written is a condition of my selection to the National Team, or to any named team, to any USA Fencing designated event, training camp or competition. This ACC must be signed in an unaltered form in all applicable places in order for an individual to become a member of the National Team or the team to any designated event, training camp or competition. The duration of any activity (event, training camp or competition) is

defined as the period beginning when a participant comes under the supervision of a Team Leader, Team Captain, National Coach or other person vested with the authority of USA Fencing until the participant is no longer under such immediate supervision.

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

- Will act in a sportsmanlike manner consistent with the spirit of fair play and responsible conduct;
- Will maintain a level of fitness and competitive readiness that will permit my performances to be at the maximum of my abilities;
- Will submit to a physical examination by USA Fencing medical personnel if my ability to compete is compromised due to physical injury and I understand that such injury may be cause for my not being selected to the National Team, or the Team designated event, being removed from the National Team, or the Team to any designated event, or not being allowed to participate if I remain on the Team;
- Will not commit a doping violation as defined by, as applicable, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Paralympic Committee (IPC), World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), the Federation International d'Escrime (FIE), World Abilitysport (WAS) or the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC);
- Will refrain from conduct detracting from my ability or that of my teammates to attain peak performance;
- I will seek to attend team functions, meetings, practices, competitions, and media events, in a timely manner and refrain from actions and activities that would be a disruption, either to myself or my teammates;
- Will respect the property of others whether personal or public;
- Will respect members of my team, other teams, spectators and officials and will notify persons invested with supervision of the team at events, training camps or competitions of any circumstances that would prevent any member from being able to compete or participate at an optimal level;
- Will engage in no form of discriminatory behavior or verbal, physical or sexual harassment or abuse (see USA Fencing policy on sexual misconduct and harassment). I understand that it is a USA Fencing rule that any sexual conduct or advance or any other inappropriate sexually oriented behavior directed toward an athlete by another athlete or person in a position of authority is prohibited;
- Will follow USA Fencing rules established by the Team Leader, Team Captain, or any other person vested with the authority of USA Fencing, including by way of example, rules regarding required attendance at camps and events and curfew at events while a member of a USA Fencing team;
- Will abide by the FIE and WAS rules regarding eligibility for World Cup and World Championship competition, with USOPC rules regarding eligibility for Olympic and Paralympic competition, and rules concerning allowable trademark identification on clothing and equipment worn or used at all of these events;
- Am aware that USA Fencing sponsors, suppliers, and licensees provide critical support for the Team and that, when requested, I will wear USA Fencing sponsored apparel and use USA Fencing sponsored equipment at official USA Fencing and FIE events;
- Will not use or authorize the use of my name, person, picture, voice, or any of my Sport Performances for the purpose of trade during designated events without the prior written consent of USA Fencing;
- Will attempt to participate in media and sponsor-related activities if compatible with my training and competitive schedule at designated events when requested by the National Coach or the Team Leader, or their designee;
- Will act in a way that will bring respect and honor to myself, my teammates, my family, USA Fencing and the United States of America;
- Will respect the laws, customs and traditions of the countries in which I may be traveling and competing while representing USA Fencing; and
- Will remember that at all times I am an ambassador for my sport, my country and the Olympic/Paralympic Movement.

14.2 NON-FENCER CODE OF CONDUCT

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

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

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

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

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

14.3 OTHER CODES OF CONDUCT

14.3.1 Member Code of Conduct

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to establish the United States Fencing Association's ("USFA") expectations for all those engaged in this great sport of fencing. It is a set of policies intended to promote a positive environment and good sportsmanship. By practicing these shared values we can create a culture that empowers and supports all members of the fencing community.

Except as provided by law, sanctions implemented by organizations outside of USFA, including international bodies such as FIE or WAS, do not limit the applicability of this Code of Conduct or the ability of USFA to impose additional sanctions. This includes sanctions for conduct that occurs at international events. USFA's authority under this Code of Conduct and other references such as the Athlete Handbook are not conditional in any way on any sanctions applied for international conduct, including if those international sanctions are set aside, reversed on appeal, or in any other way not implemented.

This Code of Conduct applies to the following individuals at all times: all members of USFA, Board of Directors members, officers (including division officers), committee members, task force members, working group members, resource team members, hearing panel members, volunteers, employees of USFA, officials, athletes, coaches, spectators, contractors, and others appointed or authorized to act on behalf of the USFA (collectively, "Members").

The USFA's Codes of Conduct requires all participants in USFA activities to observe high standards of business and personal ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities. As Members of USFA, we all must practice honesty and integrity in fulfilling our responsibilities and comply with all applicable laws and regulations. Specifically, compliance with the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act ("the Act"), the USOPC Bylaws, all USFA policies and procedures, and state and federal laws.

As a Member of USFA, you are committed to fair competition and respect for other Members, including athletes, coaches, referees, volunteers, tournament officials, spectators, and fans. You understand that sportsmanship is a key tenant of competition and will exhibit the qualities of sportsmanship at all times.

This Code of Conduct includes, but is not limited to, following the below requirements:

- Act in a sportsmanlike manner consistent with the spirit of fair play and responsible conduct;
- Conduct yourself in a dignified, professional manner relating to emotions, language, attitude, and actions.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all opponents, coaches, referees, officials, administrators, parents, fencers and spectators regardless of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation.
- Engage in no verbal, written, or physical threats or have any unwanted physical contact with others.
- Respect your competitors and other members of the fencing community in person, via electronic or phone communication, or social media. Accordingly, you will not bully, harass or otherwise be disrespectful or disparaging to others.
- Act appropriately and remain orderly so as to not disturb the smooth running of any competition, regardless of the outcome, and not taunt or disturb others.
- Support the referees, coaches, and event organizers by trusting their judgment and integrity so as to not affect the good order of any competition.
- Refrain from engaging or encourage others to engage in malicious or threatening language either verbally or in writing. To include hard copy, electronic communication, e-mail or on any social media sites. Refrain from tagging individuals in social media posts with the intent to harass.
- Remember that at all times you are an ambassador for the sport of fencing, whether in or out of competition.
- Report all Code of Conduct violations.
- Support clean competition, including an environment free of doping, and will follow all applicable rules related to anti-doping as established by the United States Anti-Doping Agency, the World Anti-Doping Agency and the Federation International d'Escrime.
- Abide by all applicable USA Fencing rules and regulations, including but not limited to the Athlete

Handbook, and Fencing Rulebook, FenceSafe Handbook, USA Fencing MAAPP, and the US Center for SafeSport Code.

• Adhere to the rules governing fair play and competitive manipulation per the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions, and the International Paralympic Committee Code of Ethics.

• Adhere to all applicable state, federal, and foreign laws, as applicable, including those governing the possession and use of drugs and alcohol and providing of drugs to any person and alcohol to minors.

• Refrain from physically contacting a referee, tournament organizer, or others in any way that can be interpreted as unwelcome or in an aggressive or confrontational manner.

• Act as a role model by positively supporting athletes and not shouting instructions that disturb order on the strip

• Encourage all competitors in a positive manner, and remember that in competition, the use of profanity and objectionable gestures are offensive and are prohibited.

• No USFA employee, contractor, or agent of USFA shall assist a Member or former Member in obtaining a new job (except for the routine transmission of administrative and personnel files) if the individual knows that the Member or former Member violated policies or procedures of the US Center for SafeSport related to sexual misconduct or was convicted of a crime involving sexual misconduct with a minor in violation of applicable laws or the policies or procedures of the US Center for SafeSport per Section 220524(a)(10) of the Act.

REPORTING & RESOLUTION

A violation of this Code of Conduct may be grounds for action, which could result in sanctions up to and including termination of membership.

Code of Conduct violations must be reported promptly through our online reporting portal which can be accessed here, to the Athlete Safety & Compliance Manager at j.saxon@usafencing.org, or to the Grievance and Discipline Committee at Grievance@usafencing.org. Reporters are permitted to submit reports anonymously. All reports will be reviewed and resolved per our Complaint and Hearing Procedures which can be found here. The Grievance and Discipline Committee in coordination with the USFA Senior Manager of Compliance ("Manager") will determine whether to resolve the matter via an informal compromise or mediation or proceed with formal disciplinary action. If an informal compromise or mediation is pursued, the Manager will investigate and provide notice of a resolution. If formal disciplinary action is pursued, the matter will be decided by a panel of disinterested Members pursuant to the Complaint and Hearing Procedures. Respondents will be afforded an opportunity to be heard on the merits before the panel prior to the imposition of any sanctions. Athlete Representatives will make up 33.3% of the panel. Temporary measures, such as a temporary suspension, may be imposed as necessary for the good of the sport of fencing and the protection of USFA or its Members. For questions regarding procedural review of complaints, please reach out to Athlete Safety & Compliance Manager at j.saxon@usafencing.org.

ANTI-RETALIATION

It is the right and responsibility of all Members to report violations or suspected violations of this Code of Conduct. All Members, good faith reporters or any person who participates or is involved in the investigation or adjudication of claims of violations ("Covered Third-Persons") is protected under this Code of Conduct from retaliation. An individual who retaliates against someone who has reported a violation in good faith or a Covered Third-Person is subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of membership.

No individual who in good faith reports a violation of the Codes of Conduct shall suffer harassment, retaliation, or adverse membership consequences. "Retaliation" means any adverse or discriminatory action, or the threat of an adverse or discriminatory action, including removal from a training facility, reduced coaching or training, reduced meals or housing, and removal from competition, carried out against a protected individual as a result of any communication, including the filing of a formal complaint, by the protected individual relating to the allegation of physical abuse, sexual harassment, or emotional abuse with (a) the US Center for SafeSport (b) a coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official associated with the corporation (c) the Attorney General (d) a Federal or State law enforcement agency

(e) the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or (f) Congress.

Retaliation may be present even where there is a finding that no violation occurred, but retaliation does not include good-faith actions lawfully pursued in response to a report of a violation. In addition, no Member nor USFA itself shall take or threaten to take any action against an athlete as a reprisal for disclosing information to or seeking assistance from the Office of the Athlete Ombuds as outlined in the Ted Stevens Act.

A copy of the full USFA Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy can be found here.

ACTING IN GOOD FAITH
Anyone reporting a violation or suspected violation must be acting in good faith and have reasonable grounds for believing the information disclosed indicates a violation. Any allegations that prove not to be substantiated and that prove to have been made maliciously or knowingly to be false will be viewed as a serious disciplinary offense and will be considered a Code of Conduct violation.

SANCTIONS
USFA may impose the following disciplinary measures in furtherance of this Code of Conduct:

a) Warning;
b) Reprimand;
c) Establish a period of probation, with or without conditions;
d) Deny, grant, suspend, or restore the eligibility or right to participate;
e) Public censure;
f) Private censure;
g) Deny, grant, suspend or restore membership in USFA for a definite or indefinite period of time, with or without terms of probation, or expel any member of USFA, including, without limitation, any administrator, athlete, coach, trainer, manager, official, officer, Board Member, spectator, chair or member of any committee or sub-committee;
h) Assess actual costs to the prevailing party;
i) Forfeiture of tournament results;
j) Assess sanctions in any combination of the foregoing or assess any other remedies, including reasonable fines, deemed appropriate under the circumstances.

RESOURCES
For information on the Code of Conduct, including any of its provisions, contact Athlete Safety and Compliance Manager at **j.saxon@usafencing.org** or **EthicsCommittee@usafencing.org**.

USOPC INTEGRITY UNIT - Through its Speak Up Policy, the USOPC Ethics and Compliance team seeks to empower athletes, USOPC employees and volunteers, NGB employees and volunteers, and other individuals within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement to raise and report their concerns.

Any individual may report concerns confidentially, or anonymously, online using the USOPC Integrity Portal.

Team USA Athletes:
ATHLETE OMBUDS: The Athlete Ombuds Office provides free cost-free, independent, and confidential advice regarding Team USA athlete rights, grievance procedures and any other guidance pertaining to selection procedures and can assist in mediating disputes between athletes and USFA.

To contact the Athlete Ombuds Office:
Website: **www.teamusa.org/athlete-ombuds**
Phone: (719) 866-5000
E-mail: **ombudsman@usathlete.org**

USFA REPORTING PORTAL - For additional resources and to access the USFA online reporting portal please visit: **www.usafencing.org/fencesafe-report**

14.3.2 Spectator Code of Conduct
As a spectator and supporter of the sport of fencing, I understand that it is my role to help create a positive and supportive environment for everyone involved in a tournament or other USA Fencing sanctioned activities – both on and off the strip.

I will:

- Display good sportsmanship by respecting athletes, coaches, referees, officials and other spectators.
- Act appropriately and remain orderly so I do not disturb the smooth running of the competition. I will remember to enjoy the competition – regardless of the outcome – and will not taunt or disturb other spectators.

• Abide by all applicable USA Fencing rules and regulations, including USA Fencing's FenceSafe policies, Athlete Handbook and Rulebook.

• Support the officials, event organizers, and coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity. I understand that continually vocalizing criticism so that it detrimentally affects the good order of the competition is a violation of fencing rules.

• Never physically contact an official or tournament organizer in any way that can be interpreted as unwelcome or in an aggressive or confrontational manner.

• Be a role model by positively supporting athletes and not shouting instructions that disturb order on the strip.

• Help provide a safe and fun environment for all participants.

• Encourage all competitors in a positive manner, remembering that the use of profanity and objectionable gestures are offensive and are prohibited.

• Be supportive after the competition – win or lose. I will recognize good efforts and sportsmanship.

• Recognize that USA Fencing competitions should be safe spaces for everyone and refrain from using harmful or discriminatory language.

• Do not engage, nor encourage others to engage in malicious or threatening language aimed at any member or USA Fencing staff member verbally or in writing whether hard copy or electronic communication, including e-mail or on any social media sites. I will not tag other members in social media posts with the intent to harass

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

14.3.3 USA Fencing Code of Conduct for Parties in Disciplinary Proceedings

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

1. All parties shall at all times behave in a civil and respectful manner toward each other and toward all others involved in the proceeding.

2. Except as permitted by the relevant disciplinary authority (e.g., to prepare for or conduct the hearing of a claim or defense), no party shall communicate directly with an adverse party by any means concerning the subject matter of the proceeding. Nor shall any party cause another person to do so.

3. No party shall retaliate against or harass or intimidate another party, or cause another person to do so, for making or raising any allegation, claim or defense in the proceeding.

4. No party shall retaliate against or harass or intimidate any witness, or otherwise attempt to improperly
influence another person's testimony or cooperation in the proceeding.

5. During the pendency of the proceeding and any appeal therefrom, each party shall minimize communications and physical interactions with each adverse party, and limit them as much as reasonably possible to those necessary and appropriate to the parties' respective activities involving or relating to the sport of fencing.

6. Adversity in a disciplinary proceeding creates a conflict of interest between opposing parties, pursuant to which, absent a mutual waiver by all parties or a contrary ruling from the Panel, a party must be disqualified from any position or activity in which they would have oversight or authority over their adversary. Such a conflict does not extend to students, teammates or club-mates of the adversary, absent sufficient evidence to the contrary.

7. The parties, may, in a writing signed by all of them, (i) waive such a conflict, in which event there shall be no disqualifications, or (ii) agree to the nature, scope and duration of disqualification.

8. Any of the parties to such a waiver or agreement may revoke it in writing, in which event it shall be of no further force or effect.

9. If there is no such waiver or agreement, or if it is revoked, then the Panel shall hear and determine any disputes concerning the nature, scope and duration of disqualification arising from a conflict described in this Paragraph 6, both as a preliminary matter and as part of its final report and recommendations. If the proceeding is before the Center, then a hearing officer appointed by the Executive Director shall hear and determine any such dispute as a preliminary matter, pending the Center's final determination and any appeal therefrom.

10. If any of these standards of conduct are violated, then the violating party may be sanctioned by USA Fencing. If a party believes, based upon good cause, that the standards are insufficient to protect against harassment, abuse, intimidation, retaliation or emotional or physical distress, then the party may request other appropriate restrictions from the relevant Panel, from the Center if the proceeding is before it.

14.4 USA FENCING TRANSGENDER AND NONBINARY ATHLETE POLICY

The latest version of this policy can be found at:
www.usafencing.org/transgender-and-nonbinary-policy

CHAPTER 15

USA FENCING SAFESPORT POLICY

USA FENCING FENCESAFE HANDBOOK

A copy of the FenceSafe Handbook can be found at
www.usafencing.org/fencesafe-policies

The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement is committed to creating and maintaining a sport community where all persons who participate in sport programs and activities can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of misconduct.

As a member National Governing Body of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee ("USOPC"), and pursuant to federal law, USA Fencing is required to adhere to the rules and regulations of the USOPC and of the U.S. Center for SafeSport (the "Center"), which has promulgated its "SafeSport Code for the US Olympic and Paralympic Movement" (the "Code").

Pursuant to USA Fencing's Bylaws as amended effective July 31, 2017, the Code superseded and replaced the USA Fencing FenceSafe Policy, which has been amended and restated as set forth herein (the "Handbook").

This handbook includes additional FenceSafe related policies, procedures and requirements that are important to creating and maintaining a safe environment. USA Fencing is committed to creating a safe and positive environment for athletes' physical, emotional and social development and to ensuring that it promotes an environment free of misconduct. USA Fencing is committed to improving the development and safety of athletes and participants involved in sport.

Find the **FenceSafe Handbook** and other **FenceSafe policies** at
www.usafencing.org/fencesafe-policies

APPENDICES

YOUTH DOMESTIC POINT TABLE

PLACE	NATIONAL COMPETITION		
	Y10	Y12	Y14
1	100	150	200
2	92	138	184
3	85	127.5	170
3	85	127.5	170
5	70	105	140
6	69.5	104.25	139
7	69	103.5	138
8	68.5	102.75	137
9	53.5	80.25	107
10	53	79.5	106
11	52.5	78.75	105
12	52	78	104
13	51.5	77.25	103
14	51	76.5	102
15	50.5	75.75	101
16	50	75	100
17	35	52.5	70
18	34.5	51.75	69
19	34	51	68
20	33.5	50.25	67
21	33	49.5	66
22	32.5	48.75	65
23	32	48	64
24	31.5	47.25	63
25	31	46.5	62
26	30.5	45.75	61
27	30	45	60
28	29.5	44.25	59
29	29	43.5	58
30	28.5	42.75	57
31	28	42	56
32	27.5	41.25	55

DOMESTIC POINT TABLE FOR PLACEMENTS OF 33-64 WHEN FIELD = 160 OR MORE FENCERS

PLACE	NATIONAL COMPETITION		
	Y10	Y12	Y14
33	12.5	18.75	25
34	12.25	18.375	24.5
35	12	18	24
36	11.75	17.625	23.5
37	11.5	17.25	23
38	11.25	16.875	22.5
39	11	16.5	22
40	10.75	16.125	21.5
41	10.5	15.75	21
42	10.25	15.375	20.5
43	10	15	20
44	9.75	14.625	19.5
45	9.5	14.25	19
46	9.25	13.875	18.5
47	9	13.5	18
48	8.75	13.125	17.5
49	8.5	12.75	17
50	8.25	12.375	16.5
51	8	12	16
52	7.75	11.625	15.5
53	7.5	11.25	15
54	7.25	10.875	14.5
55	7	10.5	14
56	6.75	10.125	13.5
57	6.5	9.75	13
58	6.25	9.375	12.5
59	6	9	12
60	5.75	8.625	11.5
61	5.5	8.25	11
62	5.25	7.875	10.5
63	5	7.5	10
64	4.75	7.125	9.5

UNIFIED DIVISION I & SENIOR POINT TABLE

FINISH	International	Elite	Challenger	Regional	Local
WIN	4,000	1,000	200	100	50
T2	2,560	690	160	85	45
T4	1,613	469	128	72	41
T8	1,000	314	102	61	37
T16	610	207	82	52	33
T32	366	135	66	44	30
T64	216	86	53	37	27
T96	125	-	-	-	-
T128	-	54	42	31	24
T160	71	-	-	-	-
T256	-	33	34	26	22
T288	40	-	-	-	-
T512	-	20	27	22	20
T544	22	-	-	-	-

UNIFIED JUNIOR POINT TABLE

FINISH	International	Elite	Challenger	SJCC	Regional	Local
WIN	3,200	800	160	120	80	40
T2	2,048	552	128	98	68	36
T4	1,290.4	375.2	102.4	80	57.6	32.8
T8	800	251.2	81.6	66	48.8	29.6
T16	488	165.6	65.6	54	41.6	26.4
T32	292.8	108	52.8	44	35.2	24
T64	172.8	68.8	42.4	36	29.6	21.6
T96	100	-	-	-	-	-
T128	-	43.2	33.6	30	24.8	19.2
T160	56.8	-	-	-	-	-
T256	-	26.4	27.2	24	20.8	17.6
T288	32	-	-	-	-	-
T512	-	16	21.6	20	17.6	16
T544	17.6	-	-	-	-	-

UNIFIED CADET POINT TABLE

FINISH	International	Elite	Challenger	SJCC	Regional	Local
WIN	2,400	600	120	90	60	30
T2	1,536	414	96	74	51	27
T4	967.8	281.4	76.8	60	43.2	24.6
T8	600	188.4	61.2	49	36.6	22.2
T16	366	124.2	49.2	40	31.2	19.8
T32	219.6	81	39.6	33	26.4	18
T64	129.6	51.6	31.8	27	22.2	16.2
T96	75	-	-	-	-	-
T128	-	32.4	25.2	22	18.6	14.4
T160	42.6	-	-	-	-	-
T256	-	19.8	20.4	18	15.6	13.2
T288	24	-	-	-	-	-
T512	-	12	16.2	15	13.2	12
T544	13.2	-	-	-	-	-

UNIFIED DIVISIONAL & ADULT POINT TABLE — REGIONAL (ROC)

Finish	Div. IA	Div. II	Div. III	Adult	Adult Combined
WIN	100	40	20	40	40
T2	85	34	17	34	34
T4	72	28.8	14.4	28.8	28.8
T8	61	24.4	12.2	24.4	24.4
T16	52	20.8	10.4	20.8	20.8
T32	44	17.6	8.8	17.6	17.6
T64	37	14.8	7.4	14.8	14.8
T128	31	12.4	6.2	12.4	12.4
T256	26	10.4	5.2	10.4	10.4
T512	22	8.8	4.4	8.8	8.8

Div. IA at 100% of the Senior regional value, Div. II at 40%, Div. III at 20%. Adult and Adult Combined are pointed at the Div. II value.

NATIONAL

Finish	Div. IA	Div. II	Div. III
WIN	120	80	40
T2	96	64	32
T4	76.8	51.2	25.6
T8	61.2	40.8	20.4
T16	49.2	32.8	16.4
T32	39.6	26.4	13.2
T64	31.8	21.2	10.6
T128	25.2	16.8	8.4
T256	20.4	13.6	6.8
T512	16.2	10.8	5.4

Div. IA at 60% of the Challenger tier, National Championships only. Div. II at 40%, National Championships and NACs. Div. III at 20%, National Championships only. Adult and Adult Combined are not sanctioned at the national level.

VETERAN POINT TABLE

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

PLACE	VETERAN AGE GROUP	PLACE	VETERAN AGE GROUP
33	400	33	70
34	368	34	69
35	340	35	68
36	340	36	67
37	280	37	66
38	278	38	65
39	276	39	64
40	274	40	63
41	214	41	62
42	212	42	61
43	210	43	60
44	208	44	59
45	206	45	58
46	204	46	57
47	202	47	56
48	200	48	55
49	140	49	54
50	138	50	53
51	136	51	52
52	134	52	51
53	132	53	50
54	130	54	49
55	128	55	48
56	126	56	47
57	124	57	46
58	122	58	45
59	120	59	44
60	118	60	43
61	116	61	42
62	114	62	41
63	112	63	40
64	110	64	39

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS POINTS FOR ROLLING STANDINGS ONLY

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

LEGACY CADET DE, JUNIOR DE, DIV I POINT TABLE

PLACE	NATIONAL COMPETITION		
	Cadet DE	Junior DE	Division I
1	400	600	1000
2	368	552	920
3	340	510	850
3	340	510	850
5	280	420	700
6	278	417	695
7	276	414	690
8	274	411	685
9	214	321	535
10	212	318	530
11	210	315	525
12	208	312	520
13	206	309	515
14	204	306	510
15	202	303	505
16	200	300	500
17	140	210	350
18	138	207	345
19	136	204	340
20	134	201	335
21	132	198	330
22	130	195	325
23	128	192	320
24	126	189	315
25	124	186	310
26	122	183	305
27	120	180	300
28	118	177	295
29	116	174	290
30	114	171	285
31	112	168	280
32	110	165	275

PLACE	NATIONAL COMPETITION		
	Cadet DE	Junior DE	Division I
33	50	70	100
34	49	69	99
35	48	68	98
36	47	67	97
37	46	66	96
38	45	65	95
39	44	64	94
40	43	63	93
41	42	62	92
42	41	61	91
43	40	60	90
44	39	59	89
45	38	58	88
46	37	57	87
47	36	56	86
48	35	55	85
49	34	54	84
50	33	53	83
51	32	52	82
52	31	51	81
53	30	50	80
54	29	49	79
55	28	48	78
56	27	47	77
57	26	46	76
58	25	45	75
59	24	44	74
60	23	43	73
61	22	42	72
62	21	41	71
63	20	40	70
64	19	39	69

INTERNATIONAL POINT TABLES - LEGACY POINT STANDINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

REGIONAL POINT TABLE (SYC AND VET ROC ONLY)

PLACE	SUPER YOUTH			ROC
	Y10	Y12	Y14	VET
1	80	120	160	1000
2	73.6	110.4	147.2	920
3	68	102	136	850
3	68	102	136	850
5	56	84	112	700
6	55.6	83.4	111.2	695
7	55.2	82.8	110.4	690
8	54.8	82.2	109.6	685
9	42.8	64.2	85.6	535
10	42.4	63.6	84.8	530
11	42	63	84	525
12	41.6	62.4	83.2	520
13	41.2	61.8	82.4	515
14	40.8	61.2	81.6	510
15	40.4	60.6	80.8	505
16	40	60	80	500
17	28	42	56	350
18	27.6	41.4	55.2	345
19	27.2	40.8	54.4	340
20	26.8	40.2	53.6	335
21	26.4	39.6	52.8	330
22	26	39	52	325
23	25.6	38.4	51.2	320
24	25.2	37.8	50.4	315
25	24.8	37.2	49.6	310
26	24.4	36.6	48.8	305
27	24	36	48	300
28	23.6	35.4	47.2	295
29	23.2	34.8	46.4	290
30	22.8	34.2	45.6	285
31	22.4	33.6	44.8	280
32	22	33	44	275

PLACE	SUPER YOUTH			ROC
	Y10	Y12	Y14	270
33	10	15	20	265
34	9.8	14.70	19.6	260
35	9.6	14.4	19.2	255
36	9.4	14.10	18.8	250
37	9.2	13.8	18.4	245
38	9	13.50	18	240
39	8.8	13.2	17.6	235
40	8.6	12.90	17.2	230
41	8.4	12.6	16.8	225
42	8.2	12.30	16.4	220
43	8	12	16	215
44	7.8	11.70	15.6	210
45	7.6	11.4	15.2	205
46	7.4	11.10	14.8	200
47	7.2	10.8	14.4	195
48	7	11.60	14	190
49	6.8	10.2	13.6	185
50	6.6	9.90	13.2	180
51	6.4	9.6	12.8	175
52	6.2	9.30	12.4	170
53	6	9	12	165
54	5.8	8.70	11.6	160
55	5.6	8.4	11.2	155
56	5.4	8.10	10.8	150
57	5.2	7.8	10.4	145
58	5	7.50	10	140
59	4.8	7.2	9.6	135
60	4.6	6.90	9.2	130
61	4.4	6.6	8.8	125
62	4.2	6.30	8.4	120
63	4	6	8	115
64	3.8	5.70	7.6	275



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

EVENT RATING	MINIMUM NBR COMPETITORS	RATED FENCERS REQUIRED	RATED FENCERS MUST FINISH	CLASSSIFICATIONS AWARDED
GROUP E1	6	None	N/A	1 → E
GROUP D1 Changed per BOD	15	4 E's (or higher	2 E's (or higher) In top 8	1 → D 2-4 → E
GROUP C1	15	2 C's & 2 D's & 2 E's (or	2 C's & 2 D's (or higher) In top 8	1 → C 2-4 → D 5-8 → E
GROUP C2	25	4 D's & 4 E's (or	4 D's (or higher) In top 8	1 → C 2-4 → D 5-8 → E
GROUP C3	63	24 D's &12 E's (or higher)	4 D's in top 8 & 4 E's (or higher) In top 12	1-4 → C 5-8 → D 9-16 → E
GROUP B1	15	2 B's & 2 C's & 2 D's (or higher)	2 B's & C's (or higher) In top 8	1 → B 2-4 → C 5-6 → D 7-8 → E
GROUP B2	25	2 B's & 2 C's & 2 D's (or higher)	2 B's & C's (or higher) In top 8	1 → B 2-4 → C 5-8 → D 9-12 → E
GROUP B3	63	24 C's &12 D's (or higher)	4 C's In top 8 & 4 D's (or higher) In top 12	1-4 → B 5-8 → C 9-16 → D 17-32 → E
GROUP A1 Changed per BOD 7/07	15	2 A's & 2 B's & 2 C's	2 A's & 2 B's (or higher) In top 8	1 → A 2 → B 3-4 → C 5-6 → D 7-8 → E
GROUP A2	25	2 A's & 2 B's & 2 C's	2 A's & 2 B's (or higher) In top 8	1 → A 2-4 → B 5-8 → C 9-10 → D 11-12 → E
GROUP A3	63	24 B's & 12 C's (or higher)	4 B's in top 8 & 4 C's (or higher) In top 12	1-4 → A 5-8 → B 9-16 → C 17-24 → D 25-32 → E
GROUP A4	63	12 A's & 12 B's & 12 C's (or higher)	4 A's In top 8 & 4 B's (or higher) In top 12	1-8 → A 9-16 → B 17-24 → C 25-32 → D 33-48 → E

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

Division IA NAC & National Championships are always at least Group A3 events.

Division II NAC and National Championships are always at least Group B3 events. Division III NAC and National Championships are always at least Group C3 events.

Changes in ratings are allowed at USA Fencing-sanctioned individual events that are restricted to Veterans and to Junior fencers.

Division and Regional Youth Competitions must meet or exceed criteria for C1 to award changes in rating (BOD, July 02, July 03). USA Fencing does permit rating changes at mixed events without regard to gender of fencers.

Recognized high school events may issue rating changes based on this chart and are not required to meet the C1 tournament rating. Per the Board of Directors, March 2012, ratings are no longer awarded in team championship events.

BLACK CARD, MEDICAL WITHDRAWAL, OR NO-SHOW

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

Medical Withdrawal

If the fencer needs to medically withdraw due to a medical condition, it must be certified by a qualified medical professional, if available, otherwise by the Bout Committee.

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

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

No-Show

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

USA Fencing Rule t.105

1. A competitor who, while fencing, commits certain violent or vindictive actions against his opponent, or who does not fence to his utmost ability, or who profits from a fraudulent agreement with his opponent, may be excluded from the competition.

2. A competitor who is excluded from a competition may not continue to take part in that competition, even if he is already qualified for promotion to the next round. He loses the right to his individual rating and the place that he occupied remains unfilled; but the points obtained by the fencer up to the moment of his expulsion remain valid for the rating of the team in the team event, providing that he actually takes part in that team event.

SCORESHEET PROTESTS

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

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

If agreement cannot be reached, the recorded score stands. Referees may not change a scoresheet without both fencers present during a pool or any time prior to turning in the scoresheet to the bout committee. Fencer or spectator submitted video or phots are not valid score documents and will not be used by the bout committee. The standard review period will

not be extended during the deliberation of the score-sheet correction. If consensus cannot be achieved prior to the end of the standard review period, the score recorded stands and no further protests will be considered.

APPROVED LOCAL TOURNAMENT FORMATS

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

Tournament formats approved for awarding ratings:

1. Pool(s) to Pool(s) to Pool(s)
2. Pool(s) to standard DE
3. Pool(s) to DE with Repêchage
4. Pool(s) to DE with all places fenced
5. Round Robin (one large pool of at least 12 fencers)
6. NCAA Championship Format – Round Robin with super DE (top 4/8)
7. Y8 Developmental Format
8. "Sharks and Minnows"
9. Super Pools/Canadian Elite (Pools to DE to Pool(s) to DE)
10. Walk 'n' Rolls

Tournament formats with provisional approval:

1. Pool(s) to DE with loser's bracket to earn third (Wrestle backs).

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

Tournament formats specifically excluded from awarding ratings:

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

Rules for all US Fencing tournaments that award ratings:

1. All pool bouts must be 5 touches and 3 minutes (Rule o.17).
2. All direct elimination bouts must be 15 touches and three-3 minute periods, or 10 touches and two 3- minute periods for Veterans and Youth 10, with one-minute rests between periods. In saber direct elimination bouts, except Veterans and Youth 10, the one-minute rest occurs when one fencer's score reaches 8 or 3 minutes have expired in the first period, whichever occurs first. For Veteran and Youth 10 events, the one-minute rest occurs when one fencer's score reaches 5 touches (Rule o.23-24).
3. There must be at least 50% promotion of fencers between rounds, except when using NCAA Championship format.

Tournament formats for all US Fencing National Qualifiers:

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

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

Rules for all US Fencing tournaments that are National Qualifiers:

1. All pool bouts must be to a maximum of 5 touches and 3 minutes.
2. All direct elimination bouts must be 15 touches and three 3-minute periods, or 10 touches and two 3- minute periods for Veterans and Youth 10, with one-minute rests between periods. In saber direct elimination bouts, except Veterans and Youth 10, the one-minute rest occurs when one fencer's score reaches 8 or 3 minutes have expired in the first period, whichever occurs first. For Veteran Saber and ALL Youth 10 events, the one-minute rest occurs when one fencer's score reaches 5 touches or after 3 minutes have elapsed, whichever comes first (Rule t.42).
3. There must be at least 50% promotion of fencers between rounds.
4. DEs with repêchage and DEs fenced to all places are not allowed for National Qualifiers.
5. There will not be a fence-off for third place unless it is necessary to determine a single qualifying slot.
6. If there is an absolute tie for the final qualifying slot, there must be a fence-off (15-touch bout, or DE format mandated by age-level of event(s) to determine the final qualifying slot.

Notification:

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

Consequences for failure to follow the above rules:

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

Approval of tournament formats not listed above:
Tournament Committee subcommittee may be empaneled to hear proposed new tournament formats in two steps:

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

Y8 DEVELOPMENTAL FORMAT

The proposal approved by the Board of Directors also entailed a new competition format that was recommended by the YDRT for Y8 only.
This format will be recommended for use by all Y8 competition organizers for the 2025-26 season, with it becoming a required format beginning in 2025-26. The format will be referred to as the Youth Developmental Format and will be run as follows:

- Fencers will compete in two rounds of pools with no direct elimination.
- Instead of 7- or 8-fencer pools, the Y8/Youth Developmental format will use pools of 5 and 6 fencers. See the table below for a breakdown of the pool sizes to be used.
- For seeding, rather than using rating followed by both birth year and month as was previously announced, fencers will be seeded first by their rating and then by birth year only. All unrated fencers will be seeded according to birth year and then randomly for fencers that have the same birth year.
- In the event of an absolute tie at the break point for the two pools, the fencers placed in the top and bottom pool will be randomly determined. In Fencing Time, this will be done by the software. This will be done to avoid a barrage, as this was not determined to be a developmentally appropriate format for the Y8 category.
- After the first round, the second set of pools will be constructed based on results from the first round, with the top N fencers in the first pool. The next group is placed in the second pool, and the third in the pool after that (if applicable), until all pools have been constructed.
- Athletes then fence against the other fencers in their pool to determine final placement.
- Athletes in the top pool will fence off for places 1-N.
- Athletes in the second pool will fence off for places N+1 through (2N).
- In the top pool, there is a 4th place. Ordinarily we do not fence off to 4th, but in this format, a fencer can finish in 4th place.

SHARKS & MINNOWS TOURNAMENT FORMAT

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

Example (Fencers A-Q, seeded in order)
Pool 1: A, F, G, L, M, R
Pool 2: B, E, H, K, N, Q
Pool 3: C, D, I, J, O, P

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

Example (Fencers A-Q, seeded in order)
"Sharks"
Pool 1: A, B, C, D, E, F
"Minnows"
Pool 2: G, J, K, N, O, R
Pool 3: H, I, L, M, P, Q

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

A (1) v. P (16)
B (2) v. N (15)
C (3) v. M (14)
G (7) v. J (10)
H (8) v. I (9) Q, R not promoted

COMPETITION TYPES

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

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

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

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

Restricted competitions may not be rated unless the restriction is based solely upon fencers' ratings, USA Fencing age categories or division/region membership, or meet the size restrictions defined in the information above. Only tournaments operated in conjunction with an interscholastic institution or association, such as a high school state athletic association or collegiate athletic conference, may set restrictions on fencers eligible to compete in the competition based on attendance of a specific academic institution. Rated competitions restricted to a single club/institution are not permitted. Restriction of participation based upon a fencer's attendance of a specific USA Fencing member club(s) or non-member club(s) is not permitted.

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

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

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

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

- 9: one pool double stripped
- 10: two fives; or tripled strip one pool of 10
- 11: six and five
- 12: six and six

- 15: seven and eight; or three fives
- 16: two eights on at least three total strips; or five, five and six
- 17: two sixes and five
- 22: two sixes and two fives
- 29: four sixes and a five; or 3 sevens, and 1 eight double stripped

UPDATED BLACK CARD POLICY

In order to provide a safe environment for all USA Fencing members, including athletes, coaches, parents, referees and spectators, the USA Fencing Board of Directors approved updated black card policies, effective October 18, 2019 as amended by the Board of Directors on February 16, 2022 and amended again on December 3, 2022.

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

All tournament organizers are to send any black card reports at the conclusion of the tournament to the USA Fencing National Office. This may be done either during the results upload through the USA Fencing database or via email at **information@usafencing.org**.

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

In certain situations, as detailed below, a Black Card Review Group may be convened. The Black Card Review Group is comprised of two members each from the Tournament Committee, Athlete Council, Referee Commission and Ethics Committee to review both given and rescinded Black Cards annually and convene as needed in the cases of Level 2 and multiple Level 1 black cards received inside of the probation period.

Level 1, Standard Black Card

Standard Black Cards are those issued given for disrespect of referees, staff or other official personnel, unsportsmanlike conduct, throwing of equipment, disruptive behavior, issues of safety and other incidents that are neither administrative nor so extreme or severe as to warrant a Level 2 Black Card. Standard black cards shall be recorded and stored in the USA Fencing National Office database and result in a follow-up email from the USA Fencing National Office (with copies to the Ethics Committee and Black Card Review Group), advising the individual that: 1) the black card has been recorded, 2) the individual has been placed on probation for 12 months from the date of issuance of the black card, 3) the black card will be reviewed by National Office Staff and Ethics Committee, and 4) an additional Level 1 Black Card received during the probationary period will trigger a review by the Black Card Review Group, which can determine that the repeated violation warrants a Level 2 Black Card sanction of the individual.

Level 2, Severe Offenses

Level 2 Black Cards are those issued for extreme or severe offenses including but not limited to repeated Level 1 offenses, deliberate physical violence, verbal and verifiable threats, and verifiable cheating.

Level 2 Black Cards may trigger sanctions that could include, but not be limited to, competitive penalties within the Rules of Competition such as temporary exclusion from tournaments for a period of up to two months. Such sanctions will be determined in the first instance by the Black Card Review Group. The Black Card Review Group shall make its initial determination upon written submissions required from the issuing referee and Head Referee or from the Bout Committee, and from any written response thereto that the carded individual may timely submit. Following the initial determination, the individual who received the card shall have the right to request a hearing, as set forth below. In the event a hearing is requested, the Black Card Review Group shall determine whether any tournament exclusion initially imposed shall be stayed pending the outcome of the hearing. As used herein, "individual" shall refer to the parent or guardian of record of any carded individual who is a minor.

Promptly following a determination of the Black Card Review Group that upholds a Level 2 Black Card, the USA Fencing National Office shall transmit a follow-up email to the carded individual (with copies to the Ethics Committee and Black Card Review Group), advising the individual as follows:

1. The black card has been recorded.

2. If applicable, a sanction has been issued and recorded. The sanction(s) shall be described in detail.

3. The offending individual has been placed on probation for 24 months from the date of issuance of the black card.

4. Any additional black cards received during the probationary period will trigger (i) the offending individual's removal from the entirety of the tournament in which the subsequent black card was received, (ii) a renewal of the 24 month probation period beginning from the date of the issuance of the additional black card, and (iii) review by the Black Card Review Group for possible additional sanctions.

5. Failure to abide by any sanctions imposed by the Black Card Review Group shall be considered severe misconduct and the violator shall be referred to the Board of Directors for disciplinary action.

6. The individual may, within 5 business days of receiving the follow-up email, appeal the Group's initial determination via email to the National Office, Ethics Committee and Black Card Review Group. A hearing will then be conducted before members of the Black Card Review Group who meet the requirements for a disciplinary panel as set forth in the Athlete Handbook. If the individual does not demand a hearing, then he or she shall be deemed to have accepted the initial determination. Any hearing demanded by the individual shall be conducted under the procedures set forth in the Athlete Handbook. Following such hearing, the Black Card Review Group members who conducted the hearing shall issue a final determination, which may adhere to the initial determination or may impose measures either more or less stringent. Any suspension of membership privileges shall be subject to Board review as set forth in the Bylaws. The individual shall have rights of appeal according to the procedures set forth in the Athlete Handbook.

Additional Tracking of Rescinded Black Cards
Black cards given and rescinded will be recorded. The referee issuing the rescinded black card, and the Head Referee for the relevant event must each, separately, submit a written report that sets forth in detail: 1) the reason for the initial Black Card, 2) the rationale for rescission of the black card and 3) any disagreement with such rescission. All such reports shall be stored in the Black Card database and available to be reviewed by the Referees' Commission, National Office and Ethics Committee.

Black Card Review Group
The Black Card Review Group shall be comprised of two members each from the Tournament Committee, Referees' Commission and Ethics Committee and three athletes selected by the Athlete Council. It shall review both given and rescinded Black Cards annually, and it shall convene promptly to review and conduct required proceedings with respect to all Level 2 black cards. The Black Card Review Group shall create, update, and maintain internal guidelines for how various black cards should be handled for how hearings will be conducted. The Black Card Review Group shall react timely when reviewing cases.

REFERENCE LINKS

USA Fencing Rule Book
www.usafencing.org/rules-compliance

SafeSport
www.usafencing.org/fencesafe

Anti-doping
www.usada.org

FIE Rule Books
www.usafencing.org/resources-protocols

RC Site
Referees' Commission Website

Regional Calendar
usafencing.org/events-regional

National Calendar
usafencing.org/events-national

International Calendar
usafencing.org/events-international

FenceSafe Policies
usafencing.org/fencesafe-policies

USA FENCING

USAFENCING.ORG