



USA  
FENCING

2022-2023

# ATHLETE HANDBOOK



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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'Esclime (FIE), the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) and other organizations recognize its exclusive jurisdiction. It is the officially designated National Governing Body (NGB) of fencing by the USOPC.

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

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

## 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](https://www.usafencing.org). The Handbook is the property of USA Fencing and is available at [www.usafencing.org/manuals](https://www.usafencing.org/manuals).

Permission is granted for reproduction of any portion of this book, with attribution to USA Fencing and a link to [usafencing.org/manuals](https://www.usafencing.org/manuals) – 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](mailto: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/manuals](http://www.usafencing.org/manuals). The posted Athlete Handbook will be updated and an e-blast (an email from USA Fencing) will be sent to the membership notifying them of the changes to the Handbook. All National Team changes must have the explicit approval of the national coach or coaches and the Chief of Sports Performance.

Details on the operations of the organization are described in the latest edition of the USA Fencing Operations Manual, available on the USA Fencing website at [www.usafencing.org/manuals](http://www.usafencing.org/manuals). The Operations Manual explains the competitive opportunities for all members and the way competitions should operate within the tenets of the organization and the sport.

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

Periodically, USA Fencing and the National Weapon Coaches will communicate by email special notices to the membership and/or fencers on the National Point Standings. Fencers must keep the USA Fencing National Office informed of their current email address and make sure it is correct within their member profile ([member.usafencing.org](http://member.usafencing.org)), because this is the primary communication path to fencers and coaches associated with weapon squad programs, team notifications and updates to the Handbook.

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](mailto:information@usafencing.org).

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

Fencers who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USA Fencing may contact the 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 2022-23 Athlete Handbook made after its initial publication date.

- **May 25, 2023**  
Reworked Chapter 13 to incorporate new Complaint and Hearing Procedures
- **May 2, 2023**  
Updated language in 2.4.1 about refunds.
- **March 21, 2023**  
Updated language in 2.16.1 pertaining to Vet 70 and Vet 80 events.
- **Jan. 26, 2023**  
Added language that had been mistakenly omitted about the cap on the number of entries from a single club. (Section 2.14)
- **Dec. 21, 2022**  
Revised language in final paragraph of 2.1.3
- **Dec. 20, 2022**  
Revised Black Card Policy section (Pages 104-106) to reflect policy as amended by the Board of Directors on December 3, 2022.  
Clarified 1.1 and 1.3.1 to encourage members to upload an image of their birth certificate, passport, green card, driver's license and/or other legal document clearly showing date of birth and citizenship to their member profile at [member.usafencing.org](http://member.usafencing.org). Previous instructions were to email this document, which is still an option but not the preferred method.
- **Nov. 16, 2022**  
Revised Black Card Policy section (Pages 104-106) to reflect policy as amended by the Board of Directors on February 16, 2022.  
Added World Championships points graphic to 3.1.8  
Other small corrections to typos, etc.
- **Nov. 22, 2022**  
Added Table B to Page 18 to clarify eligibility rules for Cadets and Juniors at tournaments held after the Junior Olympics.
- **Dec. 2, 2022**  
Added the USA Fencing Transgender and Nonbinary Athlete Policy (Section 14.4)

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## ACRONYMS USED IN THE ATHLETE HANDBOOK

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| ADM     | American Development Model                               |
| 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'Esgrime                       |
| ICL     | International Competitive License – Foreign Fencers      |
| IRC     | International Regional Circuit – Y10, Y12, Y14, CDT & JR |
| IWAS    | International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation     |
| JOs     | Junior Olympic National Championship                     |
| JR      | Junior (U20/U19)   |
| JSF     | Junior Strength Factor                                   |
| JWC     | Junior World Cup   |
| NAC     | North American Cup                                       |
| NRPS    | National Rolling Point Standings                         |
| PARA    | Parafencing  |
| RCC     | Regional Cadet Circuit                                   |
| RJC     | Regional Junior Circuit                                  |
| RJCC    | Regional Junior & Cadet Circuit                          |
| ROC     | Regional Open Circuit                                    |
| RRPS    | Regional Ranking Point System                            |
| RYC     | Regional Youth Circuit                                   |
| SF      | Strength Factor  |
| SJCC    | Super Junior and Cadet Circuit                           |
| SSF     | Senior Strength Factor                                   |
| SWC     | Senior World Cup   |
| SYC     | Super Regional Youth Circuit                             |
| TM      | Team Fencing   |
| USOC    | United States Olympic Committee                          |
| USOPC   | United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee           |
| USCSS   | States Center for SafeSport                              |
| VET     | Veteran  |
| WC      | World Cup  |
| 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. 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](#). Please note that there will be a \$10 fee for all paper applications. Please be aware that USA Fencing cannot consider you a member in good standing or provide proof of membership until the application and dues have been processed by the USA Fencing National Office (“National Office”). If one registers at a local event, or submits a paper form, it is the individual’s responsibility to ensure that the application is received by the National Office.

### 1.1 AGE/CITIZENSHIP

Competitive, Collegiate Competitive members and International Competitive License holders are encouraged to have their birth date and citizenship or permanent resident status verified by USA Fencing. Please upload an image of your birth certificate, passport, green card, driver’s license and/or other legal document clearly showing date of birth and citizenship 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.

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 AFFILIATION

A member can declare a division 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 the division affiliation for that membership year. That division is the one from which the fencer must qualify to the USA Fencing National Championships. The member may request a change in division if 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. 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](#).

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

### 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 note that there will be a \$10 fee for all paper license applications. Please be aware that USA Fencing cannot consider your International Competitive License valid until the application and dues have been processed by the USA Fencing National Office. If one registers at a local or regional event, or submits a paper form, it is the individual’s responsibility to ensure that the application is received by the National Office.

#### 1.3.1 Age/Citizenship

Athletes with an International Competitive License must have their birth date, citizenship, representation status and residence address verified by USA Fencing. 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 citizenship 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](mailto:information@usafencing.org). Once your birth date has been verified, you do not need to do this again.

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

#### 1.4 CLUB REPRESENTATION & AFFILIATION

The term “club” as used in this chapter, includes any organized fencing group of individual members with a current USA Fencing Affiliate or 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 or Affiliate clubs. 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.

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 classification and by individual competition vs. team competition.

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

All USA Fencing-sanctioned events must have at least one rated referee. [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](mailto:RCRulesandExams@refereescommission.org) for any questions regarding the rules of competition.

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

### 2.1 CLASSIFICATIONS

#### 2.1.1 What are Classifications?

Fencers are classified into the following letter classifications: A (highest), B, C, D, E and U (unclassified, lowest) as well as by national ranking, for those who achieved points at national events.

These provide an objective scale for the seeding of competitions. Classifications are written A22, B21, C20, etc. with the letter indicating the most recent year in which the classification was earned or re-earned. Classifications provide a measuring standard for fencers as they progress through the sport.

Classifications are available on the [USA Fencing](#)

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

#### 2.1.2 How is a Classification Earned?

Classifications are earned in each weapon at USA Fencing-rated competitions at local, divisional, regional or national levels. The rating of a competition is based on number of competitors and classification of the fencers and determines the type and number of classifications awarded or revised. Please see the [Appendices](#).

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

Classification changes from local tournaments must be certified and submitted by the division to [classifications@usafencing.org](mailto:classifications@usafencing.org) using the Fencing Time results file, which includes the event officials and classification changes. Event officials must have a valid USA Fencing background screen and completed SafeSport training. The Classification Change Form is available on the USA Fencing website by clicking [here](#).

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

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

Regional organizers are required to upload classification changes within 48 hours (2 days) from the

competition or tournament end date. Failure to report classification changes may affect an individual fencer's seeding and/or the rating of the competition the fencer is participating in. In addition, it will affect an organizer's status in future bidding.

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

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

1. Classifications will not be awarded to fencers who compete in competitions in which they are considered age and/or classification ineligible. In addition, such ineligible fencers may not be used to calculate the new classifications earned by others in those events.
2. For events in which any fencers are not current USA Fencing Competitive members, the award of any new classifications, points or qualification

for that competition may be delayed or withheld until such memberships are properly paid and processed.

3. Organizers submitting classification changes from RYC, SYC, ROC or RJCC tournaments have not yet submitted the required program support fees and/or results/referee reports to the National Office.

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

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

Classifications are valid for four seasons after they are earned. If, after four seasons, the classification has not been renewed, it then reverts to the next lowest letter and the then current year. Such change will be effective at the beginning of the new fencing season – Aug. 1. For example, if you earned a B in 2018 (B18) and did not re-earn your B for four more years, your B became a C22 on Aug. 1, 2022. If you then did not renew your C22 for four more years, it becomes a D26 on Aug. 1, 2026.

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

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

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

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

## 2.2 TYPES OF DOMESTIC COMPETITIONS

### 2.2.1 Local Competitions

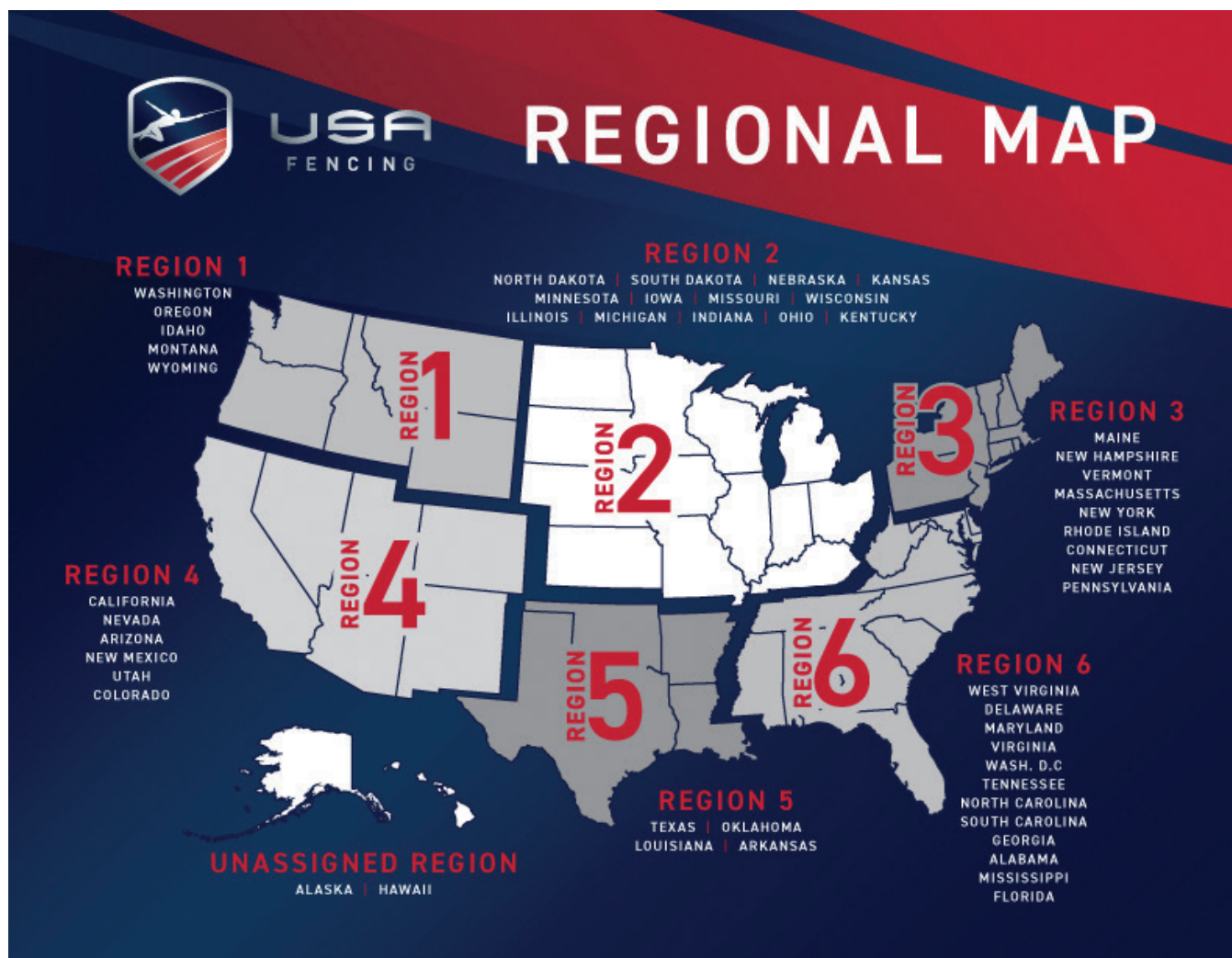
A wide variety of competitions can be found at the local level in clubs or sponsored by local organizations. Schedules for these competitions can be

found by contacting your division. Division contact information is available on the USA Fencing website (division information) or by emailing [information@usafencing.org](mailto:information@usafencing.org).

### 2.2.2 Division Competitions

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

### 2.2.3 Regional Competitions



The USA Fencing Region Map is located on the previous page. 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. There are no national points awarded at ROC competitions; please refer to [Chapter 3](#) for more information on the regional point structure. For a schedule of ROCs, go [here](#).

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

**Super Junior/Cadet Circuit (SJCC):** There may be one to two SJCC tournaments during the 2022-23 season. All Junior and Cadet age fencers may participate in the Super Junior/Cadet Circuit; however, **only the single best result** is counted in the revised National Point Standings.

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

**International Regional Circuit (IRC):** There are no IRC competitions scheduled during the 2022-2023 season.

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

National points are awarded to the top 40% at an SYC competition according to the point table in the

Appendix. These competitions are one of the qualification paths for Y10 and Y12 events at the March NAC and the USA National Fencing Championships. Please refer to [Chapter 3](#) for more information on the Youth Point structure. For a schedule of SYCs, go [here](#).

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

**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 classifications based on the total number that fence and the current classification of those fencers in the high school individual event. The athlete would have to be a current member as of, or during, the tournament to receive a classification change. Those who do not have a current USA Fencing High School or Competitive membership will not receive classification changes. High school recognized tournaments are not required to meet the C1 tournament requirement to award classifications. These competitions are not a qualification path for the USA Fencing National Championships.

Regional tournaments are allowed to impose reasonable event registration caps. Caps must be formulated referencing similar events in the region, and/or previous event registration numbers, if applicable. Caps must be set before registration is opened for the tournament, and the caps must be posted in the tournament's description.

## 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 classification at the time of their entry. For Div II NACs, athletes must meet the age and classification criteria (“C” or lower classification) at the time of their entry. For Div III NACs, athletes must meet the age and classification criteria for a (“D” or lower classification) at the time of their entry.

**Junior Olympic Fencing Championship (JOs):** The Junior Olympic Fencing Championships are held each year in February. JOs is the National Championships for Cadet, Junior and Junior Team in each of the six weapons. Fencers must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, meet age criteria and qualify to compete in this tournament. Athletes that have represented another country in the last three years at FIE-level competitions (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 fencers on the National Rolling Point Standings for Seniors, Juniors and the top Cadets. Competitors must be U.S. citizens or Permanent Residents. Fencers qualify for these Championships via the National Rolling Point Standings, top placements from the last Div IA and Div II National Championships and via modern pentathlon.

Athletes that have represented another country in the 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 resi-

dents.

**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 classification restricted championship events (Div II/ Div III), the classification 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.

## 2.3 ENTERING COMPETITIONS/TOURNAMENTS

### 2.3.1 Local/Divisional Competitions

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

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

Links to online entry forms for these competitions are available on the [USA Fencing website](#). Only tournaments posted on the USA Fencing Regional Event Calendar are recognized as regional tournaments. Registrations for these competitions will be processed through the National Office. There are no IRC competitions scheduled during the 2022-2023 season.

### 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 Senior Events

Manager, 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 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. Paper entry forms are also available to be emailed, mailed or faxed to the National Office. For faster processing of paper entries, email your form to [nationalevents@usafencing.org](mailto:nationalevents@usafencing.org). There will be a \$20 fee assessed to all paper entry forms. All entries, regardless of method, must be received at the National Office by the published deadline for that tournament. Qualification is required for any Championship tournament. See below for a list of registration statuses

and definitions when reviewing entries in the online registration system:

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 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 were deemed ineligible to participate  |

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

**Deadlines for entry are strictly enforced.** Deadlines are published on the USA Fencing website, on the online registration system and on the paper entry forms. Postmarks are not considered; entries must arrive at the National Office by the posted deadline. Online entries must be submitted by 11:59:59 p.m. Pacific Time of the posted deadline date. Late entries are accepted online only for a specified time frame, with payment of triple the total amount due for regular entries up to the posted late entry deadline date by 11:59:59 p.m. Pacific Time.

A link to the entrants list is posted on the specific tournament web page located on the USA Fencing website under Events – [usafencing.org](http://usafencing.org). It is the fencer's responsibility to verify that the events registered for, classification for each weapon and division information is accurate before the seeding deadline for



the tournament. Any discrepancies must be reported to the National Office ([information@usafencing.org](mailto:information@usafencing.org)) no later than 48 hours after the seeding for that event is posted on the USA Fencing website. Club affiliation changes may be considered until the end of check-in for that event.

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

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

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

#### **2.4.1 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 tournament, email [withdrawals@usafencing.org](mailto:withdrawals@usafencing.org) with the athlete/team name, member number, and events from which you are withdrawing. No event fee refunds will be given for withdrawals after the posted withdrawal deadline.

For National Championship events (i.e. Junior Olympics) and/or events with qualification criteria, if a fencer registers for an event that the fencer does not qualify to fence in, a refund only the event fees will be processed after the qualification deadline. Tournament and Admin fees are considered non-refundable and non-transferable. Event fee refunds are processed within 4-6 weeks after the tournament.

#### **2.4.2 No-Show Policy**

If a fencer fails to appear for an event at a USA Fencing-sanctioned national tournament, the fencer will be subject to a \$250 No-Show fine, and the fencer's membership shall be suspended. Until payment of the fine is received, the member will no longer be able to register for any USA Fencing-sanctioned competitions, and the fencer will not be able to renew their membership.

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 be current Competitive USA Fencing members in good standing or hold a current International Competitive License to compete in specified USA Fencing-sanctioned national competitions.

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

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

## 2.5.1 2022-2023 Age/Classification Eligibility Rules

**Table A: For 2022-23 Local/National Tournaments & Junior Olympic Championships (Excluding July Challenge, USA Fencing National Championships & Nationals Qualifying Tournaments through Regions and Divisions)**

| CLASS        | BIRTH YEARS          | CODE    | CATEGORY                                |
|--------------|----------------------|---------|---|
| A, B or C    | Born 2009 or earlier | DIV 1   | DIVISION I                              |
| N/A          | Born 2009 or earlier | DIV 1A  | DIVISION IA                             |
| C, D, E or U | Born 2009 or earlier | DIV 2   | DIVISION II                             |
| D, E or U    | Born 2009 or earlier | DIV 3   | DIVISION III                            |
| N/A          | Born 2009 or earlier | SR OPEN | SENIOR (OPEN) See 2.11.2                |
| N/A          | Born 2009 or earlier | PARA    | PARAFENCING & CLASSIFICATION TOURNAMENT |
| N/A          | Born 2009 or earlier | STM     | SENIOR TEAM                             |
| N/A          | Born 1983 or earlier | VET/VTM | VETERAN (40 & Older) / VETERAN TEAM     |
| N/A          | 1974 - 1983          | V40     | VETERAN 40-49                           |
| N/A          | 1964 - 1973          | V50     | VETERAN 50-59                           |
| N/A          | 1954 - 1963          | V60     | VETERAN 60-69                           |
| N/A          | Born 1953 or earlier | V70     | VETERAN 70 & OLDER                      |
| N/A          | Born 1943 or earlier | V80     | VETERAN 80 & OLDER                      |
| N/A          | 2003 - 2009          | JNR/JTM | JUNIOR & JUNIOR TEAM                    |
| N/A          | 2006 - 2009          | CDT/CTM | CADET & CADET TEAM                      |
| N/A          | 2008 - 2011          | Y14     | YOUTH 14 & YOUTH 14 TEAM                |
| N/A          | 2010 - 2013          | Y12     | YOUTH 12                                |
| N/A          | 2012 - 2015          | Y10     | YOUTH 10                                |

**Table B: March NAC, April NAC, July Challenge, USA Fencing National Championships & Associated REGIONAL & DIVISION Qualifying Competitions ONLY, and LOCAL Competitions after Junior Olympics**

*Note: Eligibility is the same as noted in Table A above – UNLESS included in the table below.*

| CLASS | BIRTH YEARS | CODE | CATEGORY |
|-------|-------------|------|----------|
| N/A   | 2004 - 2010 | JNR  | JUNIOR   |
| N/A   | 2007 - 2010 | CDT  | CADET    |

## EXCEPTION TO AGE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

(All other qualification criteria remains):

**1. Youth 12** – A fencer born after 2013 can fence in Y12 IF the fencer is on the National Youth 10 Point Standings at the time of the entry deadline for that tournament.

**2. Youth 14** – A fencer born after 2011 can fence in Y14 IF the fencer is on the National Youth 12 Point Standings at the time of the entry deadline for that tournament.

**3. Cadet** – A fencer born after 2009 can fence in Cadet local and regional competitions, NAC Cadet tournaments and Junior Olympic Cadet Fencing Championship and qualifying tournaments IF the fencer is on the National Youth 14 Point Standings at the time of the entry deadline for that tournament.

**4. Junior** – A fencer born after 2009 can fence in Junior local and regional competitions, NAC Junior and Junior Olympic Fencing Championships and qualifying tournaments IF the fencer is on the National Cadet Point Standings at the time of the entry deadline for that tournament.

**5. Division I** – For national (e.g., NAC) competitions, those born after 2009 must be on the National Junior Point Standings; for the 2023 July Challenge for Division I, those born after 2009 must be on the National Junior Point Standings.

**6. Division IA, II, III** – For all local, regional (including ROC) and national (e.g., NAC) competitions, those born after 2009 must be on the National Junior Point Standings; for the 2023 National Championships and qualifying competitions for Division IA, II, III; those born after 2009 must be on the National Junior Point Standings.

**7.** A fencer who is on the National Junior Rolling Point Standings (NRPS) and is born after 2009 may compete in Senior (Open) competition

## 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. **Fencers who have earned national points are the only athletes who will be skipped over in the results to determine qualifying athletes.** Athletes who have already qualified via a regional path will not be skipped over.

Fencers must be U.S. citizens or Permanent Residents. 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. 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. To obtain names, emails and phone numbers for any of the division's officers, contact the National Office by phone (719-866-4511) or email ([information@usafencing.org](mailto:information@usafencing.org)).

Policy on ineligible fencers in division qualifiers:

- 1.** For division qualifying events in which any ineligible fencers are discovered (i.e., age, classification, membership, citizenship or representing country), the division and athlete(s) in question will be notified and instructed of the information needed to resolve the situation. Any missing membership forms, fees or paperwork needed to resolve the issue must be received by the National Office within 10 business days from the time of notification of the problem by the National Office. Late submission may result in the division qualifiers being recalculated based on the eligible fencers in the competitive field.
- 2.** No qualification or classifications will be awarded to fencers who compete in division qualifiers where ineligible athletes (i.e., age,

classification, membership, citizenship or representing country) are allowed to compete until the situation is resolved.

3. All entries for the given Championship will remain “registered” until the issues regarding the division qualifier in question are resolved.

4. Petitions or protests will be reviewed after the situation is resolved.

### 2.6.2 Regional Qualifying Paths

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

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

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

**Regional Open Circuit (ROC):** Open to current USA Fencing members, with a competitive type membership are eligible to fence in open/senior competitions and to foreign fencers with a current ICL (International Competitive License). Foreign fencers are not eligible to compete in USA Fencing National Championship events.

**Regional Junior/Cadet Circuit (RJCC):** Open to current USA Fencing members with a competitive type membership are eligible to fence in Cadet and/ or Junior competitions and to age-eligible foreign fencers with a current ICL (International Compet-

itive License). Foreign fencers are not eligible to compete in USA Fencing National Championship events. Foreign fencers may qualify for the July Challenge via the SJCC/RJCC system as it is not a National Championship but will need an International Competitive License to fence in this national tournament. National point holders will not be skipped on the Regional Ranking List when determining the number of qualifiers.

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

### 2.6.3 Determination of Divisional Qualifiers

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

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

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

Qualifying forms and instructions are sent to regional (ROC, RJCC, RYC, SYC & SJCC) tournament organizers and division officers via email; information is also posted on the USA Fencing website under the Championship Tournament page and

Regional Resources page ([Tournament Resources](#)). It is the regional tournament organizer's and/or division officer's responsibility to adhere to the qualifying information; failure to do so may result in qualifying field adjustments and/or nullification of the results from the qualifying tournament. Complete results from these qualifying tournaments must be submitted in the proper excel format; the qualifying report is available as an export in Fencing Time v3.02 or later.

Complete results must be submitted to the National Office via the USA Fencing registration database

no later than **48 hours** after the completion of the tournament. Results and reports will be accepted in any other format. These forms must reflect complete results and are the only acceptable notice from the regional tournaments and divisions regarding their qualifying fencers.

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

### 2.6.3.1 Table: Number of Qualifiers for Junior Olympic Fencing Championships and USA Fencing National Championships from Division Qualifying Competitions 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 classification 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. U.S. citizens and Permanent Residents are eligible to petition.

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

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

- Was unable to compete in the various qualifying competitions this season due to 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](https://www.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](mailto:nationalevents@usafencing.org) specifying the rule infraction(s). This must be done immediately to the Bout Committee at the qualifying competition and within three business days after the qualifying competition to the National Office; otherwise, no action will be taken by USA Fencing. Even if a timely protest is submitted, there is no guarantee that the protest will be upheld.

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

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

### 2.8.1 What is a Youth Tournament?

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

### 2.8.2 Youth Local Tournaments

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

### 2.8.3 Youth Divisional Tournaments

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

## 2.9 YOUTH REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

For RYC and SYC tournaments, fencers must meet the birth years in [Table 2.5.1](#). There are no classification 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, classification and qualifying path)

Fencers must meet the birth years in [Table 2.5.1](#). There are no classification 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 10 National Point Standings

at the regular fee entry deadline.

### C. Seeding and Format

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

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

#### A. Eligibility (age, classification and qualifying path)

Subject to the listed exceptions, fencers must meet the birth years in [Table 2.5.1](#). There are no classification 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 regular fee entry deadline
- Be on the Youth 10 National Point Standings at the regular fee entry deadline

### C. Seeding and Format

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

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

#### A. Eligibility (age and classification)

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

#### B. Qualifying Path

No qualifying path, except the birth year criteria.

#### 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, classification)

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

#### B. Qualifying Path

- Be on the Y10 National Point Standings at the regular fee entry deadline OR
- Be on the Y10 Regional Youth Point Standings in your region at the regular fee entry deadline OR
- Earn at least 60 Y12 Regional Points during

the current season (total points=an athlete's top three point results) OR

### 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, classification)

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

### B. Qualifying Path

- Be on the Y12 National Point Standings at the regular fee entry deadline OR
- Earn at least 70 Y12 Regional Points during the current or 2021-22 season (Total points = an athlete's top three point results) OR
- Earn at least 150 Y14 Regional Points during the current or 2021-22 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

### 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, classification)

Subject to the listed exceptions, fencers must meet the birth years in Table 2.5.1 and be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident. There are no classification requirements. Athletes that have represented another country in the last three years at FIE-level competitions (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 150 Y14 Regional Points during the current season (Total points = an athlete's top three point results) OR
- Place in the top 25% (round up) of the fencer's division's Y14 National Championship qualify-

ing competition

### C. Seeding and Format

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

## 2.11 CADET/JUNIOR TOURNAMENTS

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

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

### 2.11.2 Cadet/Junior Local Tournaments

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

### 2.11.3 Cadet/Junior Divisional Tournaments

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

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

#### A. Regional Cadet (RCC)

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

#### • Eligibility (age, classification)

Subject to the exceptions in [Table 2.5.1](#), fencers must be at least 13 years old on 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. There are no classification requirements.

#### • Seeding and Format

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



## B. Regional Junior Circuit (RJC)

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

### • Eligibility (age, classification)

Subject to the exceptions in [Table 2.5.1](#), fencers must be at least 13 years old on 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. There are no classification requirements.

### • Seeding and Format

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

## C. Super Junior & Cadet Circuit SJCC

The Super Junior & Cadet Circuit tournaments may be held during the 2022-2023 season. National points are awarded to the top 40% of the competitors at a .2 weight value of the National Point Tables.

### • Eligibility (age, classification)

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

### • Seeding and Format

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

### 2.11.5 Cadet/Junior National Tournaments

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

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

##### Eligibility (age and classification)

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 for Cadet events or be on the Cadet National Point Standings to be eligible for Junior events. There are no classification requirements.

##### • Seeding and Format

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

#### Cadet/Junior – Junior Olympic Fencing Championships

##### Eligibility (age, classification):

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 regular fee entry deadline, be on the Y14 National Point Standings to be eligible for Cadet events or on the Cadet National Point Standings to be eligible for Junior events. There are no classification requirements.

Fencers must meet age requirements as above and be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident representing the United States. Athletes that have represented another country in the last three years at FIE-level competitions (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
- Be on the Cadet National Rolling Point Standings (NRPS) at the regular fee entry deadline OR
- Earn at least 110 regional points on either the Cadet or Junior Regional Point Standings (Total points = an athlete's top two point results) OR
- Be in the top 25% (round up) of their division's Cadet JO qualifying competition OR
- Be in the top 25% (round up) of their division's Junior JO qualifying competition (Junior event must occur first) OR
- For EPEE ONLY: the top 3 (on Modern Pentathlon Point Standings) USA Fencing Modern Pentathlon fencers will be eligible to compete in the JO epee events without qualifying by any other means. USA Modern Pentathlon fencers MUST be USA Fencing members

## JUNIOR

- Fencers must meet age eligibility AND
- Be on the Junior national rolling point standings (NRPS) at the regular fee entry deadline OR
- Earn at least 110 regional points on the Junior Regional Point Standing (Total points = an athlete's top two point results) OR
- Be in the top 25% (round up) of their division's Junior JO qualifying competition OR
- For EPEE ONLY: the top 3 (on Modern Pentathlon Point Standings) USA Fencing Modern Pentathlon fencers will be eligible to compete in the JOI epee events without qualifying by any other means. USA Modern Pentathlon fencers MUST be USA Fencing members

### • Seeding and Format

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

## Cadet & Junior July Challenge

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 Junior Olympic Championships.

### • Eligibility (age, classification)

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. There are no classification requirements for U.S. athletes.

## CADET

- Fencers must meet eligibility AND
- Be on Cadet NRPS (age out after JOs) OR
- Be in the top 50% of the Y14 National Rolling Point Standings (NRPS) at the regular fee entry deadline OR
- Earn at least 65 regional points on their region's Cadet Regional Point Standings OR
- Earn at least 65 regional points on their region's Junior Regional Circuit Points OR
- Earn at least 65 regional points on either the Cadet or Junior Regional Point Standings (Total points = an athlete's top two point results)

## JUNIOR

- Fencers must meet age eligibility AND
- On Junior NRPS (age out after JOs) by entry deadline OR
- On Cadet NRPS (age out after JOs) OR

- Earn at least 65 regional points on your regions Junior Regional Point Standings OR
- Be in the top 25% of the Youth 14 National Rolling Point Standings (NRPS) at the regular fee entry deadline OR
- Earn at least 65 regional points on the Junior Regional Point Standings (Total points = an athlete's top two point results)
- Foreign athletes who meet the USA Fencing classification standard of "A", "B" as defined in Section 2.2.4

### • Seeding and Format

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

## 2.12 SENIOR/OPEN TOURNAMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 2.12.3 Senior Divisional Tournaments

Each division will host a qualifying tournament for Division II (Div II) and/or Division III (Div III) for the USA Fencing National Championships. Divisions

may also hold senior/open tournaments during the season to provide general competition opportunities. Divisional information can be found through the division-specific websites.

#### 2.12.4 Senior Regional Tournaments

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

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

- **Eligibility (age, classification)**

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

- **Seeding and Format**

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

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

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

- **Eligibility (age, classification)**

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

- **Seeding and Format**

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

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

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

awarded to the top 40% of the field.

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

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

- **Seeding and format**

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

#### 2.12.5 Senior National Tournaments

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

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

- **Eligibility (age and classification)**

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

- **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. No points are awarded.

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

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

- **Qualification**

Fencers must meet eligibility requirements AND:

- Fencers must meet eligibility and classification requirements as of the entry deadline AND
- Place in the top 25% of the current season's division qualifying competition OR
- Be on the current Div IA ROC Regional Point Standings OR

- Be on the current Div II ROC Regional Point Standings
- Place in the top 40% of a Div II NAC, if held.

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

#### Seeding and Format

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

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

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

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

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

#### Qualification

Fencers must meet eligibility requirements **AND**:

- Fencers must meet eligibility and classification requirements as of the entry deadline AND
- Place in the top 25% (round up) of the total number of "D", "E", or "U" fencers competing in the current season division's Division II Qualifying competition (when Division II and Division III qualifying competition held together) OR
- If separate Division III qualifying competition in the current season held by division, then top 25% of the field will qualify for Division III National Championships OR
- Be on the Division IA or Division II Regional Open Circuit point standings, if classification eligible, at the regular fee entry deadline for these Championships OR
- Qualified for Division II National Championships, if classification eligible

**Note:** If you have qualified for Division III, meet

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

#### Seeding and Format

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

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

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

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

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

#### Qualification

- Fencers must meet eligibility requirements AND
- Be on the current season's Div IA ROC Regional Point Standings OR
- Be in the top 8 of the current season's Division II Regional Open Circuit point standings at the regular fee entry 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](#).

#### **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 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, classification, 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 classification of "A", "B", or "C" at the entry deadline and be a U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident.

#### **Qualification**

Fencers must meet eligibility requirements **AND**

- Fencers must meet eligibility requirements **AND**
- Be on the current Senior National Rolling Point Standings (NRPS) at the regular fee entry deadline OR
- Be on the current Junior National Rolling Point Standings (NRPS) at the regular fee entry deadline OR
- Be on the current Cadet National Rolling Point Standings (NRPS) at the regular fee entry deadline OR
- Have placed in the top 8 in the 2021-22 season's Division IA National Championships OR
- Have placed in the top 4 in the 2021-22 season's Division II National Championships OR
- 2023 NCAA National Championships Individual Competitors (24)
- For EPEE ONLY: the top 3 (on Modern Pentathlon Point Standings) USA Fencing Modern Pentathlon fencers will be eligible to compete in the Division I epee events without qualifying by any other means. USA Modern Pentathlon fencers **MUST** be USA Fencing members.

#### **Seeding and Format**

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

### **Division I July Challenge**

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

#### **Eligibility (age, classification, 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 classification of "A", "B", or "C" at the entry deadline and meet the specific event criteria below.

#### **Qualification**

- Fencers must meet eligibility requirements **AND**

- Be on the current Senior National Rolling Point Standings (NRPS) at the regular fee entry deadline OR

- Be on the aged out Junior National Rolling Point Standings (NRPS) at the regular fee entry deadline OR

- Top 24 of the aged-out Cadet NRPS at the regular fee deadline and age eligible OR

- Top 16 from Div IA Regional Points OR

- Be in the top 4 of the Division II regional points at the regular fee entry deadline OR

- 2023 NCAA National Championships Individual Competitors (24) OR

- Foreign athletes who meet the USA Fencing classification standard of "A", "B" as defined in Section 2.2.4.

## **2.13 VETERAN TOURNAMENTS**

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

Veteran tournaments provide competition opportunities for fencers 40 years and older. There are 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 website or by emailing [information@usafencing.org](mailto:information@usafencing.org)

### **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, classification)**

Fencers must meet the age eligibility requirements to fence in a Veteran Combine or Veteran age-

group event. See [Table 2.5.1](#) for details.

#### Seeding and Format

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

### 2.13.5 Veteran National Tournaments

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

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

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

Age eligibility for the separate age categories is governed by the FIE rules for the Veteran World Championships (V50/V60/V70+). 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, classification, qualifying path)

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

the birth years specified in [Table 2.5.1](#).

#### Qualification

- Must meet eligibility requirements above AND
- Compete in the current season's division qualifying competition for Division II and/or Division III Championships OR
- Compete in any Regional Open Circuit event during the current season OR
- Compete in any NAC during the current season OR
- Be on the Veteran Age Group national rolling point standings (NRPS) at the regular fee entry deadline OR
- Be on the Veteran Combine regional point standings at the regular fee entry 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 on the Junior NRPS. Junior team members must meet the posted birth year criteria for the specific team competition or be on the Cadet national rolling point standings (NRPS) at the regular fee entry deadline. Members of the Veteran team must meet the posted birth year criteria for the specific team competition. Members of the Youth 14 team must meet the posted birth year criteria. Specific age and classification rules for each category are given in [Table 2.5.1](#). Teams must register for the tournament by the posted deadlines. All members must meet the appropriate tournament criteria. There needs to be two teams to hold an event.

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

on site.

**Senior and Veteran Team events:** The Senior & Veteran Team events are no longer Championship events. All non-championship team events held at the national level will have no club or division affiliation requirements. Any three or four fencers that are age and gender 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. All championship team events, held at the national level, will have a club requirement. Any three or four fencers that meet the age and gender for the event may enter a team if they have represented the club during the current season. They must be competitive USA Fencing members and U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents. All registered members of a team must be present on site.

For team championship events, a maximum of four teams may be registered with athletes representing a single club. The represented club will be determined by the athletes' primary club affiliation, and all athletes must share the same primary club.

**Junior Olympic Fencing Championships:**

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

For team championship events, a maximum of four teams may be registered with athletes representing a single club. The represented club will be determined by the athletes' primary club affiliation, and all athletes must share the same primary club.

**A. Registration:**

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

fencers who are NCAA fencers will need to self-monitor club affiliation and NCAA eligibility.

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

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

1. ALL Team Captains or their representatives must check-in with the Team Events Bout Committee during the designated time to verify their team. Captains or representatives will need to remain present in the venue for fencer order determination. Once the roster has been verified at check-in, no other changes will be allowed.
2. ALL Team Captains should verify the information used for seeding as posted. If discrepancies are not reported to the Bout Committee by the close of check-in, the information stands as presented.
3. Table will be constituted, and Team Captains or Representatives will then determine fencer order.
4. Depending on the size of the event, a coin flip or equivalent may be used or the higher seeded team will automatically be designated as the "winner of the coin flip" and assigned the 1-2-3 side. The bout committee may also conduct a coin flip or equivalent with or without the captains present. (Match order: 3-6, 1-5, 2-4, 1-6, 3-4, 2-5, 1-4, 2-6, 3-5).
5. If a team has an alternate, all members of the team must present at the strip when called, for every match.
6. Direct elimination from beginning of competition. Relay format, 9 bouts to a maximum score of 45 – increments of 5 touches or maximum time of 3 minutes for each bout. Fence off for 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 Fencers' Senior national rolling points as of 10 days prior to the start of the tournament and classifications earned by the appropriate posted tournament deadline.

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

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

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

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

**Teams:** To seed teams for competitions, a seed value is calculated for each team based on the

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

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

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

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

For example, for a competition on Sept. 1, 2022,

| Fencer  | NRPS | Team Seeding Points | Classification | Team Seeding Points | Total Seeding Points |
|---|------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| A   | 18th | 115                 | A22            | 670                 | 785                  |
| B   |      | 0                   | C19            | 460                 | 460                  |
| C   |      | 0                   | U              | 100                 | 100                  |
| D   | 53rd | 50                  | B21            | 570                 | 620                  |
| Team Seeding Points: (sum of best three) 1865 |      |                     |                |                     |                      |



within each classification the year is reflected in 10 point increments, with an A22 worth 670 points, an A21 worth 660 points, A20 given 650 points and A19 worth 640 points. The same process is used for the other letter classifications (B, C, D, and E). Those fencers who have yet to earn a classification (U) are given 100 points.

The individual seed value is calculated by adding the calculated NRPS and classification points for

## **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. If foreign fencers are in attendance, the separation for nationality shall take precedence over separation for division and/or club/school representation/affiliation.

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).

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

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

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

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

| CATEGORY   | LOCAL   | DIVISION/REGIONAL   | NATIONAL   |
|--|---|---|--|
| Open Competitions, Division I, IA NACs, ROCs<br>Div I July Challenge (National only) | Classification/Year   | DVIA: Nat'l Senior Rolling Points the classification/year.<br>DV2 & DV3: Classification/Year only   | National Senior Rolling Point Standings, followed by classification (A, B, C, D, E, U) and within each classification by year in which classification last earned. Same class and year are randomized. |
| Div I and IA National Championships  | N/A   | N/A   | National Senior Rolling Point Standings, followed by classification (A, B, C, D, E, U) and within each classification by year in which classification last earned. Same class and year are randomized. |
| Division II, III   | Classification/Year   | Classification/Year   | Classification/Year  |
| Veteran Open (40 & Older)  | Classification/Year   | Classification/Year   | Classification/Year  |
| Veteran Age  | Classification/Year   | Classification/Year   | See the "Vet Seeding" outline below.   |
| Junior NAC   |   |   | National Senior Rolling Point Standings, followed by classification (A, B, C, D, E, U) and within each classification by year in which classification last earned. Same class and year are randomized. |
| Junior   | Classification/Year   | National Junior Rolling Points, then classification/year  | National Junior Rolling Points, then classification/year.  |
| Cadet  | Classification/Year   | National Cadet Rolling Points, then classification/year   | National Cadet Rolling Points, then classification/year  |
| Youth 14   | Classification/Year   | National Youth 14 Rolling Points, then classification/year  | National Youth 14 Rolling Points, then classification/year   |
| Youth 12   | Classification/year   | National Youth 12 Rolling Points, then classification/year  | National Youth 12 Rolling Points, then classification/year   |
| Youth 10   | Classification/year   | National Youth 10 Rolling Points, then classification/year  | National Youth 10 Rolling Points, then classification/year   |
| Division I Team  | Seeding is based on Senior National Points and participating fencers' classification/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR classification and year only | Seeding is based on Senior National Points and participating fencers' classification/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR classification and year only | Seeding is based on Senior National Points and participating fencers' classification/year as of the posted entry deadlines.  |
| Senior Team  | Seeding is based on Senior National Points and participating fencers' classification/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR classification and year only | Seeding is based on Senior National Points and participating fencers' classification/year only as of the posted entry deadlines OR classification and year only | Seeding is based on Senior National Points and participating fencers' classification/year as of the posted entry deadlines   |

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

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

### Seeding Conflict Resolutions:

1. In the first round of pools, conflicts of fencers within a pool from the same division or club who are on the National Rolling Point Standings in their weapon and category (special rules apply for Div I NAC) will be resolved, if possible, by movement of lowest ranked fencer in the pool with a conflict or conflicts; priority of movement will be non-ranked fencers (those with lowest classification in that pool) before ranked fencers
2. In resolving conflicts within pools, priority is given to club conflict vs. division conflicts so that when resolving conflicts fencers may be in pool with fencers from the same division.
3. Lower ranked fencer is moved, when necessary,

to resolve conflicts of club or division.

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

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

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

## 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 classification, followed by year within that classification.

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 excep-

tion 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 classification group, e.g., A, B, C, etc. ranked fencers (NRPS) will be seeded ahead of non-ranked fencers regardless of year of classification.

a. Fencers within a particular classification 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.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Division I National Championships   | One round of pools; 6 or 7 person pool, 80% promoted to simple direct elimination.  |
| Division I NAC Epee and Foil Format   | <p><b>Two-Pool Format (203 fencers or greater)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-day event with two rounds of pools</li> <li>• Top 34 fencers will receive a bye into the second round of pools. Byes will be awarded based on the USA Fencing National Rolling Points Standings, as of the regular seeding deadline (10 days before the start of the tournament).</li> <li>• First round pools; 6 or 7-person pool with 75% promoted to single elimination until 64 fencers remain</li> <li>• Second round pools; 6 or 7-person pools composed of 64 remaining first round fencers and top 34 who received an initial bye</li> <li>• 75 fencers promoted from second round to single elimination until 1 fencer remains</li> </ul> <p><b>One-Pool Format (202 fencers or less)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One round of pools; 6 or 7-person pool</li> <li>• 75% promoted to single elimination</li> </ul> |
| Division I NAC Saber and July Challenge (see the tournament Athlete Packet for more information regarding DV1 Epee formats) | One round of pools; 6 or 7-person pool, 75% promoted to single elimination. The national coaches, sports performance and tournament committee may elect to use specialized formats for Division I national tournaments to be published in each tournament's athlete packet.   |
| Division IA, II, III National Championships, Division IA NAC  | 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.  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Division II, III, IA Championship                               | One round of pools; 5 and 6 or 6 and 7 persons per pool, 80% promoted to simple direct elimination.   |
| Division II, III, IA Championship                               | One round of pools; 5 and 6 or 6 and 7 persons per pool, 80% 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                           | One round of pools of 6 or 7 persons per pool, 80% 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.<br><br>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                        | Two rounds of pools for events with less than 10 athletes; 100% promoted to simple direct elimination.  |
| *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 Classification 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.

## 2.17 EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR DOMESTIC TOURNAMENTS

### 2.17.1 Requirements for Domestic Tournaments

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

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/m<sup>3</sup>. (The material can be attached to

the current plastic models or incorporated into the manufacture of new chest protectors). The material must have the SEMI technical mark at the center of the upper edge. We are aware that manufacturers may not offer older style "hubcap" protectors that conform to the rules. Therefore, fencers who use this style of protector are allowed to retrofit their existing protectors to bring them into compliance with the rules-that is, by attaching the required soft material to the protector. These retrofitted protectors are NOT required to have the manufacturer/FIE mark, but retrofitted protectors must be inspected at equipment check to ensure that they comply with the rules. Once inspected, the technician will apply the competition's inspection mark.

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

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

Saber and foil masks with electric bib are not allowed for use in epee an 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 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 result 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](mailto:masks@fencingofficials.org) that clearly show the entirety of the design. Accepted designs will be posted on the Referees'

Commission (formerly Fencing Officials Commission) website.

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

**For information on the regulations for 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 handler (i.e., wrist strap, orthopedic grip) must fix the hand in one position such that the top of the thumb is no more than 2 cm. from the inner surface of the guard. It is not permissible to fence in warm-up pants.

### **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. Veterans and Youth 10 DEs, are 10-touch bouts with two periods; the one-minute rest occurs when one fencer's score reaches 5 touches or when three minutes have elapsed, whichever occurs first.

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

# CHAPTER 3

## AWARDING POINTS

### 3.1 POINT STANDINGS

USA Fencing maintains the following point standings:

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

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

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

#### 3.1.1 “Age Out” Policy

For domestic events, Junior and Cadet fencers will

“age out” at the end of the Junior Olympic Fencing Championships ([see Table 2.5.1](#)). After the Junior Olympics 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 National Rolling Point Standings (NRPS) 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 NRPS 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 and Veteran 40-49 and 80+ point standings are updated to include only those who meet the age criteria for the new season.

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

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**3.1.2 Replacement Schedule**  
Points (except Regional Youth and Team Point Standings – for Team Point Standings, see [Team Point Standings](#)) remain until replaced by the equivalent event in the following season. If there is no equivalent event, points 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 2022                               |  |
| Div I  | October NAC 2021                                   |
| PARA   | October NAC 2021                                   |
| CDT  | October NAC 2021                                   |
| Y14  | October NAC 2021                                   |
| December NAC 2022                              |  |
| Div I  | December NAC 2021                                  |
| JNR  | December NAC 2021                                  |
| CDT  | December NAC 2021                                  |
| January NAC 2023                               |  |
| Div I  | January NAC 2022                                   |
| PARA   | January NAC 2022                                   |
| JNR  | January NAC 2022                                   |
| Vet Age  | January NAC 2022                                   |
| Junior Olympic Championships 2023              |  |
| JNR  | Junior Olympic Championships 2022                  |
| CDT  | Junior Olympic Championships 2022                  |
| March NAC 2023                                 |  |
| Y14  | March NAC 2022                                     |
| Y12  | March NAC 2022                                     |
| Y10  | March NAC 2022                                     |
| CDT  | April NAC 2022                                     |
| PARA   | Parafencing National Championships 2022            |
| April National Championships & NAC 2023        |  |
| Div I  | Division I National Championships & April NAC 2022 |
| JNR  | April NAC 2022                                     |
| Vet Age  | March NAC 2022                                     |
| Vet Open                                       | March NAC 2022                                     |
| National Championships and July Challenge 2023 |  |
| Div I  | July Challenge 2022                                |
| JNR  | July Challenge 2022                                |
| CDT  | July Challenge 2022                                |
| Vet Age  | National Championships 2022                        |
| Y14  | National Championships 2022                        |
| Y12  | National Championships 2022                        |
| Y10  | National Championships 2022                        |

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

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

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

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

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

Regional tournament organizers will use the applicable point standings as of 5 p.m. MT the Wednesday prior to the tournament.

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

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

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

National Rolling Point Standings are used in the following situations:

- To seed USA Fencing national, regional and divisional competitions (see [Table 2.15.1.1](#))
- As a qualifying path to the various National Championship tournaments
- As a measure of the progress of the fencer in 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 National Team Point Standings (Cadet, Junior, Senior, Veteran)

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

National Team Point standings are used in the following situations:

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

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

**Cadet Team Points** – 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 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 last Veterans World Championships (50-59, 60-69, 70-79), 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 50-59, Veteran 60-69 and Veteran 70+ World Teams. These are the categories established by the FIE for the Veterans World Championships. There is no Veteran 40-49 or 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 and international events as listed in the selection criteria for each weapon. Refer to [Chapter 12](#).

### 3.2 EARNING DOMESTIC POINTS - OVERVIEW

#### 3.2.1 USA Fencing Domestic Point Tournaments

Tournaments at which Regional Points can be earned.

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

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

Tournaments at which National Points can be earned:

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

- Points are only earned in categories for which one is age eligible
- The single best SYC result in each age category counts toward national point totals
- The single best SJCC result in each age category counts toward national rolling point totals

### 3.3 EARNING DOMESTIC POINTS - REGIONAL

#### 3.3.1 Regional Youth Circuit (RYC)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### 3.3.4 Regional Open Circuit (ROC)

In each ROC category (Division IA, Division II and Veterans), competitions will award points to the top

40% of the competitive field (rounded up to the next higher integer) to a maximum of 64th place, using the point tables for regional competitions found in the Appendix.

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

### 3.4 EARNING DOMESTIC POINTS - NATIONAL STRUCTURE OF POINT STANDINGS

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

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

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

For Youth, Cadet, Junior, and Senior National point competitions (NACs, JOs, July Challenge and National Championships), points will be awarded based on the table below. 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.

### 3.4.1 Transfer of Nationality

If a fencer who previously represented another nation in EFC and/or FIE international competition is approved, in accordance with the relevant statutes, to represent the United States, and at the time of approval has USA Fencing national points, their cadet, junior, senior 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.

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

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

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

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

Should the dates of the Division I National Championships conflict with a designated Senior World Cup or Grand Prix tournament, 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

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

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

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

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

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

Sr64=Number of athletes ranked 33-64 in the National Rolling Point Standings.

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

- The size of the field (N) used will be those fencers who start a pool round
- The FIE and USA Fencing standings are those at the start of the competition
- The strength factor is calculated to the thousandths digit (for example, .906)
- If there is a tie in the point standings, all tied fencers will be counted in the calculation of the strength factor. (For example, if two fencers are tied for 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 national points at 0.2 of the NAC/Championship points table to 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% = 41.2)

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

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 Sports 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. See the weapon-specific selection criteria for further details.

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

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

### 3.5.1 Strength Factor for USA Fencing International Points

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

- If a competitor is on both the Junior and Senior FIE ranking list, the better of the two values is used in the calculation of the Junior (JSF) or Senior (SSF) Strength Factor.
- The SSF 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 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)

$$\text{JSF} = \left[ \frac{N}{3} + 10(\text{Jr8}) + 8(\text{Jr16}) + 6(\text{Jr32}) + 12(\text{Sr16}) \right] / 100$$

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](#).

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# 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.

| Category of International Competition                                | License Required | FIE Points Awarded | USA Fencing Points Awarded | Max # of Entries Allowed by FIE/EFC   | Max # of Entries Allowed by USA Fencing | Registration Fee | Squad Fee |
|--|------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------|-----------|
| FIE Individual Senior World Cup/Grand Prix – “A” Designated          | FIE              | YES                | YES                        | 12                                    | 12                                      | \$30             |           |
| FIE Individual Senior World Cup held in USA – “A” Designated         | FIE              | YES                | YES                        | 30                                    | 30                                      | \$30             |           |
| FIE Individual Senior Grand Prix held in USA – “A” Designated        | FIE              | YES                | YES                        | 20                                    | 20                                      | \$30             |           |
| FIE Individual Junior World Cup – “A” Designated                     | FIE              | YES                | YES                        | 12                                    | 12                                      | \$30             | \$250     |
| FIE Individual Junior World Cup held in USA – “A” Designated         | FIE              | YES                | YES                        | 30                                    | 30                                      | \$30             | \$250     |
| FIE Individual World Cup – “A” Non- Designated Junior                | FIE              | YES                | NO                         | 12                                    | 4                                       | \$30             |           |
| FIE Team World Cup, Junior & Senior                                  | FIE              | YES**              | NO                         | 1 TM-4 Fencers                        | 1 TM-4 Fencers                          |                  |           |
| FIE Satellite  | FIE              | YES                | NO                         | No limit                              | 4                                       | \$30             |           |
| FIE World Championships – Junior & Senior – Annual                   | FIE              | YES                | YES                        | 4 fencers per weapon                  | 4 fencers per weapon                    |                  |           |
| FIE World Championships – Cadet – Annual                             | FIE              | NO                 | YES                        | 3 fencers per weapon                  | 3 fencers per weapon                    |                  |           |
| FIE World Veteran Championships – Annual                             | FIE              | NO                 | YES                        | 4 fencers per weapon per age category | 4 fencers per weapon per age category   |                  |           |
| Wheelchair Fencing World Championships (Parafencing) – every 2 years | IWAS             | IWAS               | YES                        | No Limit                              | No Limit                                |                  |           |
| Wheelchair Fencing World Cup (Parafencing) Competitions              | IWAS             | IWAS               | YES                        | No Limit                              | No Limit                                |                  |           |

|  |     |     |                        |   |   |      |       |
|--|-----|-----|------------------------|---|---|------|-------|
| Designated European Cadet Competitions   | EFC | NO  | YES                    | 20  | 20  | \$30 | \$250 |
| Non-designated European Cadet Competitions                                     | EFC | NO  | NO                     | 20  | 4   | \$30 |       |
| Pan American Youth & Veteran Championships                                     | FIE | NO  | NO                     | 6   | 6   | \$30 | \$250 |
| Pan American Zonal Championships, Senior – Annual                              | FIE | Yes | NO                     | 4 fencers per weapon  | 4 fencers per weapon  |      |       |
| Pan American Zonal Championships – Junior – Annual                             | FIE | YES | See selection criteria | 4 fencers per weapon  | 4 fencers per weapon  | \$30 | \$250 |
| Pan American Zonal Championships – Cadet – Annual                              | FIE | NO  | NO                     | 4 fencers per weapon  | 4 fencers per weapon  |      |       |
| 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                                   |      |       |

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

#### 4.1.1 International Competitions

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

For competitions other than those under the auspices of the FIE, EFC or IWAS, 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. A list of the fencers who have requested entry in each international competition and those who have been accepted is posted on [member.usafencing.org](http://member.usafencing.org).

#### 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 (cf o.30).
4. Apart from the stipulations above, there is no maximum age limit for those taking part in any other official events of the FIE, except in regard to the different Veteran categories.
5. All participants in an official competition of the FIE who are under the age of majority in the country in which such competition is being held must either: a) be accompanied by a person who is a parent or guardian of the participant or who has been delegated in a form valid in the country of the competition from a parent or guardian of such participant to act on behalf of the participant regarding health-related issues; or b) have such power of attorney issued to a person who has achieved their majority and who will be at the competition site

According to the EFC Cadets Circuit Organisations' [Rules](#)

The participants in cadet competitions are principally those who can participate at World Cadets Championships in the same fencing season, thus reaching 17 years on or after 1st of January of the year when the World Championships are held.

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

However, it is possible that in case of some extraordinary advanced young fencer, upon written agreement of their parents, coach and doctor recom-

mendation even younger fencer can participate in a specific cadet competition

#### 4.1.3 Citizen Requirement

To compete in Junior World Cup, Senior World Cup, Grand Prix individual and team competitions, 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 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 Sports 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](http://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 Sports 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

#### 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 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.

A coach who at times coaches American fencers but is not a National or designated Team USA coach may coach a fencer representing another nation when 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 National Office 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 to attend the competition. Refunds will be processed automatically upon completion of the event. The \$30 registration fee is non-refundable.

| LEVEL  | REGISTRATION FEE | SQUAD FEE | LATE FEES  |
|--------|------------------|-----------|--|
| Senior | \$30             | N/A       | \$30<br>(Registration Fee)<br>+ \$255 (Late Fee)<br>= \$285                              |
| Junior | \$30             | \$250     | \$30<br>(Registration Fee)<br>+ \$250<br>(Squad Fee)<br>+ \$255 (Late Fee)<br>= \$535.00 |
| Cadet  | \$30             | \$250     | \$30<br>(Registration Fee)<br>+ \$250<br>(Squad Fee)<br>+ \$255 (Late Fee)<br>= \$535.00 |

### 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.

### Selection

Athletes will be selected based on 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](http://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 classification. If ties remain, fencers will be chosen by drawing lots.

**\*\*When National 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 classification. If ties remain, fencers will be chosen by drawing lots.

**\*\*When National Rolling Points Standings are used for Senior and Junior international event selections, all non-U.S. citizens will be removed from the standings.**

#### **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 classification 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

#### **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 only be considered if the athlete was required to take time off from all qualifying competitions due to a medical condition, illness, pregnancy or military service for the six-month period preceding the petition.

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 medical documentation)

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

- USA Fencing Director of Sports 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)
- A member of the USA Fencing Sports Performance Resource Team
- Considerations:
  - Petitioning athlete must have made 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, pregnancy or military service that results in the athlete being out of qualifying competitions for a new six-month period.

#### 4.2.3 Finalizing the Entries

The point standings as of the day after the regular entry deadline will determine the priority order of fencers and alternates. Results that change the point standings between the regular entry deadline and the competition will not affect selection. Notification of selection will be sent by email to all fencers who have entered.

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 Sports 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 an injury or illness must provide documentation from a qualified independent physician stating the nature of injury or illness. This documentation must be sent to the US Fencing Sports Performance Depart-

ment ([international@usafencing.org](mailto:international@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 Sports Performance Department ([international@usafencing.org](mailto: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](http://www.fie.org)

#### 4.3.1 Certifying International Competitions

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

#### 4.3.2 Drug Testing

Please refer to [www.usada.org](http://www.usada.org) and [www.fie.org](http://www.fie.org) for all information concerning drug testing.

### 4.4 NATIONAL TEAM DEFINITION

Athletes selected for the Pan American Games, Olympic and Paralympic Games or Cadet, Junior, Senior, Wheelchair, and Veteran World Championships are considered members of the National Team.

### 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.

- Junior and Cadet World Fencing Championships
- Senior World Fencing Championships
- World University Games
- 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
- Parafencing Zonal 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 Director of Sports 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.

## 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 three age categories (50-59 years, 60-69 years and 70+ years).

An FIE license for the season in which a fencer qualifies for Veteran World Championships is required to compete. (i.e., for the 2022 Veteran World Championships, a 21/22 License for 2022 vet world team is required). At this time, individual athletes participating in the Veterans World Championships are responsible for funding their trip and expenses.

#### 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:

| 2022 |               |
|------|---------------|
| 50+  | 1964-1973     |
| 60+  | 1954-1963     |
| 70+  | 1953 & before |

#### 11.3 SELECTION CRITERIA

The top four fencers in each weapon in each of the three 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 athlete with the best result in the individual event for each of the Categories A, B and C at that Veteran World Championship will be selected as the first member in their Category for the Team event in that weapon at that Veteran World Championship. The athletes with the second-best result in each of the three Categories will be selected to be the substitutes for each Category in the Team event. Should either of the top two fencers be tied, e.g., both were third places, a coin flip will be conducted by the Team captain to determine the priority for the position. Should either of the athletes with the best results not be available to compete in the team competition, the position will go to the athlete with the third best result, and so on.

## **CHAPTER 12**

### **PARAFENCING**

#### **12.1 PARAFENCING COMPETITIONS**

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

#### **12.2 ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY & CLASSIFICATION**

Athletes with permanent disabilities that include, but are not limited to, amputation, spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, stroke and cerebral palsy are eligible to compete within the United States. There are three categories of competition, based upon disability classification. The three categories are: A, B and C with each category indicating the degree of disability from least "A" to most severe "C". An official classifier for IWAS (International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation) determines the specific category for each parafencer who attempts to compete internationally. The fencer must have one of the following eligible impairments: impaired muscle power, athetosis, impaired passive range of movement,



hypertonia, limb deficiency, ataxia or leg length difference.

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

### 12.3 RULES

USA Parafencing operates under IWAS Rules: USA Fencing Rule Book

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

| 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 |   |   |

### 12.4 COMPETITION

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

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

### 12.5 SEEDING & FORMATS

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

## 12.6 PARAFENCING POINT STANDINGS

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

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

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

**International Points** – For International events with >10 athletes, the following formula will be used:  
 $(\# \text{entries} - \text{place} + 1) / \# \text{entries}$  x 200 points

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 12.7 2022-2023 PARAFENCING SELECTION CRITERIA

IWAS 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.

The IWAS competition calendar and updates are available on the following website: [iwasf.com/iwasf/index.cfm/sports/iwas-wheelchair-fencing/competitions1/](https://www.usafencing.org/index.cfm/sports/iwas-wheelchair-fencing/competitions1/)

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

**Selection Date:** TBD after the calendar is approved by

IWAS. A date will be set for selection approximately 30-90 days before the event.

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

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

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

# CHAPTER 13

## 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](https://www.usafencing.org/disciplinary-actions) (<https://www.usafencing.org/disciplinary-actions>) or below:

#### 13.1.1 INTRODUCTION

The following Complaint and Hearing Procedures ("Procedures") apply to complaints that are filed with the United States Fencing Association ("USFA") and are within the jurisdiction of the Grievance and Disciplinary Committee ("Committee"). Any person who becomes a member of USFA or participates in USFA-sanctioned events agrees to be subject to these Complaint and Hearing procedures.

#### 13.1.2 JURISDICTION

The USFA Grievance and Disciplinary Committee is created and governed by the USFA Bylaws, and the policies, rules, and practices adopted by USFA. The purpose of these Complaint and Hearing Procedures is to provide a mechanism for adjudicating cases that fall within any of those policies or that allege conduct detrimental to USFA, and to adjudicate the grievances of USFA members. Nothing in these Procedures shall be construed as expanding or limiting the jurisdiction of the Committee.

The Committee shall not have jurisdiction over the following complaints: (a) complaints involving disputes over matters covered by USFA's Black Card policy; (b) complaints concerning the resolution of disputes arising in the

context of traveling teams where such resolution is directed to other personnel under separately stated USFA policies, (c) complaints over which the Referees Commission is given exclusive jurisdiction, and (d) complaints within the description of Section 6 and 7, below. With respect to any matter over which the Referees Commission has non-exclusive jurisdiction, the Manager shall determine which tribunal will adjudicate the Complaint.

### 13.1.3 COMPLAINTS

§3.1 Contents. A Complaint alleging a violation of the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, USOPC Bylaws, USFA Articles of Incorporation, USFA Bylaws, any USFA rule, regulation, or policy (except as set out below), or any grievance of a USFA member against another member or the USFA itself shall:

§3.1.1.1 A Complaint may be filed anonymously, and information concerning misconduct may be submitted to USFA through other informal channels. In either event, the Manager in consultation with the Chair of the USFA Board of Directors ("Chair of the Board") may decide that USFA will become a Complainant.

§3.1.1.2 The USFA Senior Manager of Compliance & Athlete Safety (hereinafter, "Manager") may request that the Chair of the Board appoint a representative to undertake responsibility for pursuing any Complaint in which USFA serves as a Complainant.

§3.1.2 Set forth a statement in clear and concise language of the conduct or omission that is alleged to constitute a violation or upon which the grievance is based;

§3.1.3 Identify where possible any specific policy or rule that the Complainant alleges has been violated;

§3.1.4 Be signed by the person making the Complaint or, where the Complainant is a minor, by the minor's parent or legal guardian, who shall attest to its validity, under express affirmation that all factual statements contained in the Complaint are true to the best of the Complainant's knowledge, information and belief;

§3.1.5 Provide a telephone number and sufficient contact information for the Complainant or the Complainant's counsel or representative (or, for a minor, the minor's parent or legal guardian) to permit the exchange of information in written or electronic form (physical address or email);

§3.1.6 State the relief sought, except that the relief specifically requested shall not serve as a limitation on the relief that the Hearing Panel may grant.

§3.1.7 Attach documentation or materials to support initial review of the Complaint. Attachment of information or materials shall not serve as a bar to the Complainant's subsequent provision of information in accordance with the Hearing Panel's procedural orders or at the hearing, unless doing so would unfairly disadvantage the Respondent.

§3.1.8 If the Complaint alleges denial of an opportunity to compete in a Protected Competition, the Com-

plaint shall also identify the Protected Competition and any other person(s) whose opportunity to participate may be affected by the Committee's adjudication.

§3.1.9. With respect to any Complaint alleging the denial of an opportunity to compete in a Protected Competition, USFA shall be named as a Respondent and shall have the right, in its discretion, to defend against that Complaint.

§3.2 Filing and Distribution. A Complaint shall be filed online through the USFA Grievance and Disciplinary Committee Portal. The Committee will supply a copy to the Chair of the Board and the Manager. In the event the Chair of the Board has an actual or perceived conflict of interest the Committee need not supply a copy to the Chair of the Board but shall supply it to an At-Large Director, who does not have an actual or perceived conflict of interest. If the Respondent is the USFA Senior Manager of Compliance & Safety, the Committee will supply a copy to the Chief Executive Officer or other senior executive who is not a Respondent and who does not have an actual or perceived conflict of interest.

§3.2.1 Upon receipt of the Complaint, the USFA Manager shall assign a case number to the matter. The Manager, in consultation with the Chair of the Board (or other At-Large Director selected under Section 3.2) shall determine whether USFA will serve as a Complainant. That determination shall not be subject to review. No Complainant shall have the right to have USFA serve as the Complainant or as an additional Complainant in any case.

§3.2.1.1. In the exercise of their discretion, the Chair of the Board (or other At-Large Director selected under Section 3.2) and the Manager shall be guided by consideration (among other factors) of whether the Complaint was filed by an individual acting in an official USFA capacity or whether there is a key organizational interest at stake in the matter.

§3.2.1.2. The Manager may request that the Chair of the Board appoint a representative to undertake responsibility for pursuing any Complaint in which USFA serves as a Complainant.

§3.2.2 The Committee may waive any defect or insufficiency in any Complaint filed hereunder or accept an insufficient Complaint provisionally, conditioned on the Complainant furnishing necessary additional information within the time limits established by the Hearing Panel.

§3.2.3 The Manager shall have the authority to file a Complaint on behalf of USFA even in the absence of a third-person Complainant.

§3.3 Compromise or Mediation. With respect to any Complaint on which USFA is a Complainant, the Manager shall have the authority to compromise or settle the Complaint upon terms approved by the Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the Board. With respect to any other Complaint, the Manager may endeavor to mediate the Complaint or may assign a third person to mediate the Complaint.

#### 13.1.4 COMPLAINT DISTRIBUTION AND APPOINTMENT OF HEARING PANEL

Upon receipt of a Complaint, the Complaint shall be distributed and served as follows:

§4.1 The Manager shall forthwith forward a copy of the Complaint to the Committee Chair.

§4.2 The Committee Chair, or their designee, shall perform an initial review of materials provided with the Complaint to ensure that the Complaint is complete under the provisions of Section 3 and that it is not frivolous, beyond the Committee's jurisdiction, imprudent in light of existing or available collateral proceedings (such as other civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings) or otherwise inappropriate for the Committee's consideration. Any decision by the Committee Chair regarding its exercise of jurisdiction over the Complaint may be undertaken by the Committee itself as well and may be made at any stage of the proceedings. A decision to dismiss under this section may be appealed pursuant to Section 13.

§4.3 The Committee may dismiss a Complaint that fails to comply with the provisions of Section 3 fourteen days after giving the Complainant notice of deficiencies and an opportunity to cure them. In the event that the Complainant does not cure the deficiencies within that period, the Complainant shall be barred from filing another Complaint arising from the same transaction or event unless the Committee finds special circumstances warranting an additional extension.

§4.4 In the event that the Committee Chair or the Committee dismisses the Complaint under Sections 4.2 or 4.3, they shall state the reasons for dismissal in writing, which writing shall be communicated to the Complainant.

§4.5 If the Complaint is not dismissed upon initial review by the Committee, the Committee shall instruct the Manager to serve the Complaint on the Respondent(s), including notice of the alleged violation or charges and all supporting documents, not more than 14 days after receipt of a sufficient Complaint together with a copy of these Complaint and Hearing Procedures through the Respondent's e-mail address on file with the USFA or, in the absence of same, at the address or email address provided by the Complainant.

§4.6 The Respondent(s) shall have fourteen days from service of the Complaint to file a written response to the Complaint, if they wish, or such shorter time as the Committee Chair shall require where the nature of the Complaint requires expedited procedures. When the nature of the Complaint requires expedited procedures, the Committee Chair may impose such deadlines as are reasonable under the circumstances, taking into account the necessity of expedited procedures and the provision of a fair opportunity for the parties to respond to the Complaint and to prepare for any hearing to the extent reasonably possible. The failure to file a written response

shall be deemed to constitute a denial of the allegations of the Complaint. The Manager shall serve a copy of the response, if any, on the Complainant at the e-mail address set out in the Complaint.

§4.7 After the initial review has been completed and the Complaint accepted, the Committee Chair shall assign the Complaint to a Hearing Panel of three (3) members, at least one of whom shall be an athlete satisfying the requirements of the USOPC Bylaws and who shall be appointed by the Chair of the USFA Athlete Council. Hearing Panel members may be but need not be members of the Committee and may be but need not be "independent" as that term is defined in the USFA Bylaws. All Hearing Panel members shall be impartial and free of any actual or apparent conflicts of interest in the matter. The Committee Chair shall designate one of the Hearing Panel members to serve as Panel Chair. In selection of the Panel Chair, preference shall be given to individuals with education or experience in the practice of law or arbitration.

§4.8 All Hearing Panel members shall be impartial, disinterested and shall be free of any actual or apparent conflict of interest. Within seven days of appointment to a Hearing Panel, each Hearing Panel member shall expressly confirm that they have no known conflicts or shall disclose any conflicts or potential appearances of impropriety. Upon appointment of the Hearing Panel, and after passage of the time specified in this Section, the Committee Chair shall instruct the Manager to notify the parties of the identity of the Hearing Panel members.

§4.9 In the event any party objects to the composition of the Hearing Panel, the Committee, without the participation of any member designated to serve on the Hearing Panel, shall determine the validity of such challenge. A challenge shall be upheld if the challenged member's service involves an actual conflict or reasonably creates an appearance of a conflict or other impropriety, and any member so removed shall be replaced by the Committee Chair, ensuring that the composition of the Hearing Panel satisfies the requirements set out above.

§4.10 The Committee shall endeavor to maintain a pool of qualified Hearing Panel members approved by the Board of Directors.

§4.11 The deadlines may be accelerated by the Hearing Panel or agreement of parties as necessary.

#### 13.1.5 SANCTIONS

A Hearing Panel, after conducting such investigation or hearings as they may determine to be necessary, may impose any of the following sanctions or resolutions:

§5.1 Dismiss the Complaint with or without permission to re-file;

§5.2 Censure a party, publicly or privately;

§5.3 Establish a period of probation, with or without conditions;

§5.4 Deny, grant, suspend or restore the eligibility or right to compete or participate of any member of USFA;

§5.5 Issue such interim orders, prohibitory or mandatory in nature, as may be necessary pending a final decision; and

§5.6 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;

§5.7 Assess actual costs to the prevailing party; and

§5.8 Assess sanctions in any combination of the foregoing or assess any other remedies, including reasonable fines, deemed appropriate under the circumstances.

### **13.1.6 DOPING AND SAFE-SPORT DECISIONS**

The Committee shall not have any jurisdiction to adjudicate complaints that fall within the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States Anti-Doping Agency, or the doping rules of FIE, or complaints over which the US Center for Safe Sport has exclusive jurisdiction or has given USFA notice that it is exercising discretionary jurisdiction.

### **13.1.7 FIELD OF PLAY DECISIONS**

The final decision of a referee or other competition official during a competition and within the purview of The Rules of Competition shall not be reviewable through, or the subject of, these Complaint and Hearing Procedures unless the decision is alleged to be the product of fraud, corruption, partiality or other misconduct of the official. For purposes of this Section, the term "official" shall include all individuals designated as officials under The Rules of Competition.

### **13.1.8 PRELIMINARY HEARING and TEMPORARY ORDERS**

In appropriate cases, the Committee Chair before appointment of the Hearing Panel, and the Panel Chair after such appointment, following an initial investigation and after providing the Respondent an opportunity to be heard, may impose such temporary orders as may be necessary for the good of the sport of Fencing and the protection of USFA or its members. The temporary order may encompass any remedy or order permissible in a final decision (except expulsion). Nothing in this Section shall preclude imposition of temporary orders or interim measures under FenceSafe policies.

### **13.1.9 HEARINGS**

§9.1 The Panel Chair shall preside over all proceedings before the Hearing Panel. After the Hearing Panel is confirmed under Sections 4.8 and 4.9, the Panel Chair shall conduct a preliminary conference with the parties during which the Hearing Panel shall impose dates for (a) the hearing and for any pre-hearing conferences the Hear-

ing Panel deems necessary, (b) the parties' exchange of all exhibits to be used as evidence, (c) the parties' exchange of identification of witnesses, their contact information, and a brief statement as to the subject matter of their testimony, (d) submission of hearing briefs by the parties if desired by the Hearing Panel or the parties, and any other preliminary matters. In the event that both parties waive their right to a hearing, the Hearing Panel may adjudicate the matter on written submissions. Any deadlines established in the preliminary conference shall allow sufficient time for each party to examine evidence so as reasonably to prepare for the hearing.

§9.2 The Hearing Panel may impose such remedial measures as it may deem advisable for the failure of any party to comply with the procedural orders of the Hearing Panel.

§9.3 A hearing before the Hearing Panel may be held in person, telephonically, or through a videoconference service. The hearing shall be held in real-time and shall provide all parties the opportunity to attend and participate in the entire proceedings (except deliberations by the Hearing Panel) unless the right to a hearing is waived by the parties. Where appropriate and with the consent of the parties, the hearing may be conducted in part through written means and in part by testimony and oral argument, except that the Hearing Panel shall not consider any written or oral evidence that the opposing party has not been given an opportunity to rebut.

§9.4 The Complainant(s), the Respondent(s) and any other person participating in a hearing conducted by a Hearing Panel shall be entitled to be represented by a person of their choice at their own expense. Such representative may, but need not be, an attorney.

§9.5 Judicial rules regarding admissibility of evidence shall not apply to the Hearing Panel, except that the Hearing Panel shall respect all lawful claims of privilege based on Colorado law.

§9.6 Any hearing, or a part thereof, shall be open to members of the Hearing Panel, any attorney advising the Panel Chair, the Complainant(s), the Respondent(s), any other real party in interest, their representatives and any witnesses, except that the Hearing Panel shall exclude from the hearing any witnesses who have not testified if so requested by any party. The Panel Chair may, in the interests of justice and the sport of Fencing, direct the participants to keep all or parts of the proceedings and the decision confidential. All of the record of the hearing shall be kept confidential by the Hearing Panel and USFA, except for such public sanctions as may be imposed.

§9.7 In all hearings, the Claimant shall bear the burden of proving any alleged violation by a preponderance of the evidence.

### **13.1.10 PRE-HEARING PROCEDURES**

The procedures to be followed in connection with all hearings of the Hearing Panel shall be as follows:

§10.1 The Panel Chair shall issue a Preliminary Hearing Order setting out the deadlines established under Section 9.1.

§10.1.1 The Panel Chair shall endeavor to schedule the hearing within 90 days after the last filing.

§10.2 The Hearing Panel, may, sua sponte or upon request of a party and for good cause, amend any of the dates set out in the Preliminary Hearing Order.

§10.3 No party or party representative shall engage in any ex parte communication with the Panel Chair or the members of the Hearing Panel. All requests for relief shall be made in writing and submitted to the Hearing Panel, with a copy to the opposing party(ies). When a party has designated a representative, all communications to that party shall be through the representative only.

§10.4 In addition to the items set out in Section 9 above, the Hearing Panel may impose such other procedural orders as it deems necessary to the fair and efficient conduct of proceedings.

§10.5 A Respondent may seek dismissal of a Complaint on any grounds set out for denial of jurisdiction above by filing a motion with the Hearing Panel, except that the filing of a motion shall not stay the running of any other deadlines established hereunder unless ordered by the Hearing Panel. A Claimant shall have seven days to respond to such motion or such additional time as the Hearing Panel may order. The Hearing Panel may deny the motion to dismiss without awaiting a response from the Claimant.

§10.6 Once the Hearing Panel has taken jurisdiction of a matter, the Complainant may withdraw the Complaint only with the Hearing Panel's permission and under such conditions as the Hearing Panel may impose, which may include the payment of any costs.

§10.7 In light of the special nature and timing considerations related to Complaints alleging the denial of an opportunity to compete in a Protected Competition, the Hearing Panel may impose additional or different requirements from those set out herein, including but not limited to shortening any time period hereunder.

### **13.1.11 CONDUCT of HEARING**

§11.1 Hearings shall be conducted fairly and in an orderly fashion, but without regard for the formalities of traditional courtroom procedures. Any hearing shall be set in a manner that allows each party to participate in person, by teleconference, or by videoconferencing.

§11.2 If any party fails to be available without good cause shown in advance, the hearing may go forward at the duly noticed time and proceed to judgment despite that person's absence. If the Panel Chair determines that in the interests of justice and the sport of Fencing the hearing cannot proceed without the absent party, the Panel Chair may adjourn the hearing and reschedule it for such time as is necessary for the absent party to be pres-

ent. Any subsequent absence may be taken into account by the Hearing Panel in reaching its decision, and the Hearing Panel may impose reasonable conditions on the missing party for continuation of the hearing.

§11.3 The hearing shall be conducted in the following manner, and the Hearing Panel may set reasonable time limits for each portion of the hearing consistent with the nature of the hearing and relief sought.

§11.3.1 The Panel Chair shall open the hearing and conduct such preliminary matters as may be necessary. The Hearing Panel may continue any hearing, or recess a hearing that has been commenced, for good cause shown.

§11.3.2 Each party shall have the opportunity to make a brief opening statement.

§11.3.3 The Complainant shall call each of its witnesses for examination, which witnesses shall be sworn upon their oath, substantially as follows: "I do hereby swear or affirm under penalties of perjury that the testimony I give shall be true and complete." In lieu of formal examination, the witnesses may make a statement after being sworn. Upon completion of each witness's examination or statement, the opposing party(ies) or their counsel may cross-examine the witness. The Panel Chair shall have the power to limit the examination of witnesses as may be necessary to avoid the introduction of irrelevant evidence, to protect against harassment or intimidation of any witness, or to avoid repetitive testimony, except that the Panel Chair may not bar the cross-examination of any witness as to relevant matters introduced as part of that witness's direct examination or their statement in lieu of testimony. The Complainant shall then have the opportunity to conduct re-direct examination and the witness shall have the opportunity to make a concluding statement limited to the issues that were raised in cross-examination. No further examination or statements shall be permitted except as the Panel Chair may permit in their discretion. Exhibits may be presented through witnesses, by stipulation or in any other way permitted by the Hearing Panel.

§11.3.4 Following conclusion of the presentation of witnesses or witness statements by the Complainant, the Respondent(s) shall have the opportunity to present witnesses and exhibits in the same manner as stated in Section 11.3.3.

§11.3.5 Following the conclusion of the presentation of evidence by the Respondent(s), the Complainant shall have the opportunity to present rebuttal witnesses and exhibits in the same manner as above to respond to new evidence that was presented by Respondent's witnesses.

§11.3.6 Following conclusion of the Complainant's rebuttal evidence, each side shall be permitted to give closing argument. The Panel Chair shall decide on the time limits for such closing arguments and whether they are to be delivered orally or in writing. The Complainant may divide closing argument time so as to permit rebuttal of

the Respondent's(s') closing argument.

§11.3.7 The Hearing Panel members may question any witness presented by the parties. The Panel Chair shall direct the order of such questioning and any follow-up questions by the parties.

§11.3.8 The Hearing Panel shall issue a written decision and findings of fact and deliver it to the Manager, who shall serve it on the parties within ten business days. The Panel Chair shall complete any hearing information form utilized by USFA.

§11.3.9 No failure to satisfy the timing requirements of any of these Complaint and Hearing Procedures by USFA or by any Hearing Panel shall serve to invalidate any decision or to deprive the Hearing Panel of jurisdiction over the Complaint.

§11.3.10. In the event that the Hearing Panel determines that any Complaint is frivolous, groundless, or vexatious, or if a Complainant fails to appear before at a duly scheduled hearing, the Hearing Panel may impose a charge of up to \$250 against the Complainant for each infraction.

### 13.1.12 ANTI-RETALIATION AND INTERFERENCE

§12.1 No person shall engage in any retaliation against any Protected Individual who files a Complaint under these procedures or participates in the defense or prosecution of such a Complaint. For purposes of this policy, "retaliation" means any adverse or discriminatory action, or the threat of an adverse or discriminatory action, including, but not limited to, removal from a training facility, reduced coaching or training, reduced meals or housing, removal from competition, harassment, or abuse carried out against a Protected Individual as a result of any communication, including the filing of a formal Complaint by the Protected Individual or a parent or legal guardian of the Protected Individual relating to an allegation of physical abuse, sexual harassment, or emotional abuse, or otherwise given in connection with any proceeding conducted under these procedures. The phrase "Protected Individual" shall be read to include (but not be limited to) any amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official associated with the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee, any National Governing Body and person who serves as a witness, who provides information in support of any investigation, or in any manner is associated with the investigation or pursuit of prosecution or defense of a Complaint filed hereunder, regardless of whether that person testifies. The violation of this Section shall constitute a violation of a USFA rule and shall be subject to sanctions hereunder.

§12.2 No person shall interfere with proceedings under these procedures by intimidating or otherwise imposing on or attempting to influence parties, witnesses, potential witnesses, Hearing Panel or Committee members, or any person associated with the investigation, pursuit, prosecution or adjudication of a Complaint filed

hereunder with the intent of preventing, changing or limiting their participation in such proceedings, nor shall any person without good and just cause attempt to delay, disrupt or prevent such proceedings. The violation of this Section shall constitute a violation of a USFA rule and shall be subject to sanctions hereunder.

### 13.1.13 APPEALS

The decision of the Hearing Panel or the dismissal of a Complaint under Section 4.2 or 4.3 may be appealed to the Board of Directors or, when required by USFA Bylaws or the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, to a provider of arbitration and mediation services based in the US and designated by USOPC with the concurrence of the USOPC AAC and the National Governing Bodies' Council. The standard on appeal to the Board of Directors shall be the same as the legal standard imposed for the review of decisions of administrative agencies by courts of law under Colorado law. No appellant shall have the right to a hearing de novo before the Board of Directors. For purposes of Section 9 of the USOPC Bylaws, a party shall not be deemed to have exhausted their administrative remedies with respect to an alleged denial (or threat of denial) of an opportunity to compete unless the party has sought relief from the Committee (or been made a party to a Complaint seeking relief from the Committee), and the request for relief has been adjudicated by the Committee.

### 13.1.14 CONTACT INFORMATION

These Procedures are administered by USFA's Senior Manager of Compliance & Athlete Safety, whose name and contact information can be found at <https://www.usafencing.org/contact-us>

Certain persons who are involved in any disciplinary procedure may be able to obtain additional information or assistance through the office of the USOPC Ombuds, whose contact information and resources can be accessed at <https://www.teamusa.org/athlete-ombuds>, or at 1-719-866- 5000. The Athlete Ombuds office can also be reached through e-mail at [Ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:Ombudsman@usathlete.org)

## 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 allegations.**

### 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 alle-

gation 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:

- Doping based on 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 Hearing or any charges or allegations.
- The Panel is not bound by the rules of evidence. Witnesses may testify in person, by telephonic instrument, or if there is no objection, by written declarations or affidavits.
- The fencer and any Other Affected Athlete shall have the rights:
  - To appear personally and be represented by counsel at the Hearing.
  - To cross-examine all witnesses and present any additional relevant evidence.
  - To testify on 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 Director of Sports Performance, National Weapon Head Coach, and representative from the AAC the nature of the charges, the conclusion of the investigation and any discipline imposed or recommended.

Activity:

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

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

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

### **13.3.3 (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.
- "Director of Sports Performance" shall mean the Director of Sports Performance of USA Fencing.
- "National Coach" shall mean, a coach employed or contracted by USA Fencing to represent USA Fencing in international fencing competition or such a coach's designee, including, but not limited to, a Team Manager, when such designee is officially recognized by USA Fencing in the designee's role and has maintained, or is expected to maintain, that role for more than two (2) months.

### **Procedures**

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

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

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

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

E. The Director of Sports Performance shall make a

determination whether the complaint has sufficient merit to proceed and is otherwise not deficient. To this end, the Director of Sports Performance may conduct reasonable inquiries.

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

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

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

G. During the investigation, the Director of Sports Performance may (and generally will) discuss the matter with the National Coach and may share the complaint with the National Coach. The National Coach shall respond to any Director of Sports Performance's inquiries within five (5) days of such inquiries and otherwise discuss the matter with the Director of Sports Performance. If the Director of Sports Performance requests that the National Coach's response be in writing, the National Coach shall do so within five (5) days of such request. The Director of Sports Performance may share the National Coach's response(s), written or otherwise, with the Aggrieved Party. The National Coach's obligations shall not supersede, or otherwise be implemented in a manner inconsistent with the National Coach's due process rights.

H. The Director of Sports Performance may request that the Aggrieved Party and the National Coach enter into mediation or arbitration. This may include mediation and arbitration provided by USA Fencing or by an individual or individuals designated by the Director of Sports

Performance. In the event that the Aggrieved Party and the National Coach agree to mediation or arbitration, the dispute resolution procedure shall be stayed until the mediator(s) or arbitrator(s) concludes such mediation or arbitration or until the Director of Sports Performance terminates such mediation or arbitration.

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

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

# CHAPTER 14

## CODES OF CONDUCT & USA FENCING POLICIES

### 14.1 FENCER CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC);

- Will refrain from conduct detracting from my ability or that of my teammates to attain peak performance;
- I will seek to attend team functions, meetings, practices, competitions, and media events, in a timely manner and refrain from actions and activities that would be a disruption, either to myself or my teammates;
- Will respect the property of others whether personal or public;
- Will respect members of my team, other teams, spectators and officials and will notify persons invested with supervision of the team at events, training camps or competitions of any circumstanc-

es that would prevent any member from being able to compete or participate at an optimal level;

- Will engage in no form of discriminatory behavior or verbal, physical or sexual harassment or abuse (see USA Fencing policy on sexual misconduct and harassment). I understand that it is a USA Fencing rule that any sexual conduct or advance or any other inappropriate sexually oriented behavior directed toward an athlete by another athlete or person in a position of authority is prohibited;
- Will follow USA Fencing rules established by the Team Leader, Team Captain, or any other person vested with the authority of USA Fencing, including by way of example, rules regarding required attendance at camps and events and curfew at events while a member of a USA Fencing team;
- Will abide by the FIE rules regarding eligibility for World Cup and World Championship competition, with USOPC rules regarding eligibility for Olympic competition, and rules concerning allowable trademark identification on clothing and equipment worn or used at all of these events;
- Am aware that USA Fencing sponsors, suppliers, and licensees provide critical support for the Team and that, when requested, I will wear USA Fencing sponsored apparel and use USA Fencing sponsored equipment at official USA Fencing and FIE events;
- Will not use or authorize the use of my name, person, picture, voice, or any of my sports performances for the purpose of trade during designated events without the prior written consent of USA Fencing;
- Will attempt to participate in media and sponsor-related activities if compatible with my training and competitive schedule at designated events when requested by the National Coach or the Team Leader, or 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.

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

---

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Signature of Fencer: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 14.2 NON-FENCER CODE OF CONDUCT

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

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

- Violation of the Amateur Sports Act, which requires that USA Fencing must provide an equal opportunity to amateur fencers, coaches, trainers, administrators and officials to participate in amateur athlete competition without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex or national origin.
- Any inappropriate sexual contact or advance or any other inappropriate sexual oriented behavior or action directed towards a fencer by a cadre member, including violation of any sexual misconduct or harassment policy of USA Fencing that may be in effect.
- The sale or distribution of illegal drugs or the illegal sale or distribution of any substance on the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) recognized list of banned substances.
- The illegal possession or use of illegal drugs in the presence of a fencer by a cadre member.
- Engaging in any activity that contravenes the stricter laws of the United States of America (USA) or the host country in which the activity is taking place.
- Providing alcohol to a fencer by a cadre member when the fencer is under the legal age and therefore prohibited from purchasing or consuming alcohol.
- The act or the appearance of intoxication from the use of alcohol or illegal drugs in the presence of a fencer or cadre member.
- Any non-consensual physical contact with or abuse (including verbal abuse) of any person by a

cadre member.

- Any intentional act of dishonesty in connection with any USA Fencing related activity.
- Any non-consensual physical contact, obscene language or gesture or other threatening language or conduct directed toward any official, which is related to any decision made by such official in conjunction with a USA Fencing related event.
- Violation of any team rule of conduct as established by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC), USA Fencing, the Federation International d'Esime (FIE), International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS), 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, IWAS, International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Paralympic Committee (IPC) or other governing body.

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

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

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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## 14.3 OTHER CODES OF CONDUCT

### 14.3.1 Member Code of Conduct

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

I will:

- Act in a sportsmanlike manner consistent with the spirit of fair play and responsible conduct;
- Abide by all applicable USA Fencing rules and regulations, including USA Fencing's FenceSafe Policy, Athlete Handbook and Rulebook.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all opponents, coaches, referees, officials, administrators, parents, fencers and spectators regardless of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation.
- Never physically contact a referee in an aggressive or confrontational manner.

- Support clean competition, including an environment free of doping, and will follow all applicable rules related to anti-doping as established by the United States Anti-Doping Agency, the World Anti-Doping Agency and the Federation International d'Esime.
- Respect my competitors and other members of the fencing community in person or via electronic or phone communication or social media. Accordingly, I will not bully, harass or otherwise be disrespectful or disparaging to others.
- Remember that at all times I am an ambassador for the sport of fencing, whether in or out of competition.

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

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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### 14.3.2 Coach Code of Conduct

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

I will:

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

ronment free of doping, and encourage fair play at all time.

- Understand my influence as a coach to be an educator and role model, imparting fencing knowledge as well as proper personal, academic, and social behaviors including sportsmanship.
- Be open to the latest coaching practices that take into account the principles of growth and development of fencers including maintaining knowledge of current rules and standards in fencing.
- Ensure that the emotional and physical well-being of my students and all participants in the sport with whom I engage is the highest priority and placed ahead of a personal desire to win or my personal gain.

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

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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### 14.3.3 USA Fencing Spectator Code of Conduct

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

- Display good sportsmanship by respecting athletes, coaches, referees, officials and other spectators.
- Act appropriately and remain orderly so I do not disturb the smooth running of the competition. I will remember to enjoy the competition – regardless of the outcome – and will not taunt or disturb other spectators.
- Abide by all applicable USA Fencing rules and regulations, including USA Fencing's FenceSafe Policy, Athlete Handbook and Rulebook.
- Support the referees and coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity. I understand that continually vocalizing criticism so that it detrimentally affects the good order of the competition is a violation of fencing rules.

- Never physically contact a referee in an aggressive or confrontational manner.
- Be a role model by positively supporting athletes and not shouting instructions or criticism to the athletes, coaches or officials.
- Help provide a safe and fun environment for all participants.
- Encourage all competitors in a positive manner, remembering that the use of profanity and objectionable gestures are offensive and are prohibited.
- Be supportive after the competition – win or lose. I will recognize good efforts and sportsmanship.

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

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

USA Fencing has been made aware that you are involved in an Ethics, SafeSport or other disciplinary complaint that has been submitted either to the US Center for 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.

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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## 14.4 USA FENCING TRANSGENDER AND NONBINARY ATHLETE POLICY

USA Fencing is committed to ensuring athletes have the opportunity to participate in USA Fencing sanctioned events on a fair, inclusive and safe basis without discrimination. Currently USA Fencing has two divisions – men's and women's – that default to using the gender binary to determine participation in each division.

However, we recognize not all individuals' gender identities are binary, and a gender binary default for participation could potentially cause harm – leaving some individuals to feel excluded and unsafe. Within our divisions, USA Fencing will not discriminate on the basis of gender identity, regardless of sex assigned at birth, or any other form of gender expression for participation in any division. As such, athletes will be permitted to participate in USA Fencing sanctioned events in a manner consistent with their gender identity/ expression, regardless of the gender associated with the sex they were assigned at birth in accordance with the guidelines listed below.

### A. Registration and Participation for Athletes Participating in Domestic Competitions

To participate in a USA Fencing-sanctioned event, athletes are to register with USA Fencing as the gender in which they identify and wish to compete during registration/ renewal. Please note, this selection will be logistically binding and athletes will not be permitted to modify their gender during the season. If the athlete registers as a gender other than their gender associated with the sex assigned at birth, they should adhere to the the following requirements:

#### Youth (Y10, Y12, Y14)

- Transgender and nonbinary athletes competing in youth events are permitted to compete in the gender category with which they identify, without restriction.
- Registration and/or other documents submitted on behalf of a minor must be submitted by, or with the express approval of, a parent or guardian.

#### Cadet

- Transgender and nonbinary athletes competing in youth events are permitted to compete in the gender category with which they identify.
- Registration and/or other documents submitted on behalf of a minor must be submitted by, or with the express approval of, a parent or guardian.

- Transgender Cadet athletes who qualify to compete in junior and/or senior competitions must adhere to the requirements for transgender athletes in those divisions (see below).

### Junior, Senior and Veteran athletes

See requirements below for national ranking competitions

- Transgender male (FTM) athletes:
  - Athletes who have received a medical exception for treatment with testosterone for purposes of USA Fencing sanctioned competitions may compete in men's events, and are no longer eligible to compete in women's events.
  - Athletes who are not taking testosterone related to gender transition may participate in either men's or women's events.
- Transgender female (MTF) athletes:
  - Athletes being treated with testosterone suppression medication, for the purposes of USA Fencing-sanctioned competitions may continue to compete in men's events, but may only compete in women's events after completing one calendar year (12 months) of testosterone suppression treatment. Proof of compliant hormone therapy must be provided prior to competition.
- Nonbinary athletes:
  - Athletes are permitted to compete as the gender of which they identify as at the time of registration. However, if an athletes wishes to compete as a gender opposite of the gender associated with the sex assigned at birth, they must adhere to the aforementioned guidelines for transgender athletes.

\*Restrictions are based on most relevant scientific data: [https://13248aea-16f8-fc0a-cf26-a9339dd-2a3f0.filesusr.com/ugd/2bc3fc\\_4a135824fabcd462183c71357c93a99b4.pdf](https://13248aea-16f8-fc0a-cf26-a9339dd-2a3f0.filesusr.com/ugd/2bc3fc_4a135824fabcd462183c71357c93a99b4.pdf)

### B. Registration and Participation for Athletes Participating in International Competitions

Any athlete who qualifies for the International Fencing Federation (FIE) World Championship and/or any competitions hosted by the FIE, are to adhere to the compliance requirements set forth by the FIE Transgender Policy. Failure to adhere to FIE transgender policy guidelines impact the athlete's participation in international competition. For the most up-to-date international transgender policies, refer to the [International Olympic Committee](#) and [FIE](#).

### C. USA Fencing Classification

Transgender athletes will be permitted to keep the fencing classification that was held prior to transitioning. For example, a transgender woman who held an A classification in the men's division will keep her A classification in the women's division.

### D. USA Fencing National Rankings (points)

If an athlete changes their gender category, points earned under their previous gender category will be forfeited and not applied to the athlete's record.

### E. National Championship Qualification

Athletes who qualify for USA Fencing National Championships must compete in the National Championship event as the gender under which they qualified.

### F. Appeals

Appeals are to be reported in accordance with all disciplinary procedures and dispute resolutions as listed in the [Athlete Handbook](#).

### G. Anti-Doping Requirements Remain Applicable

In accordance with the FIE, it is the responsibility of the athlete to monitor testosterone level(s), and submit appropriate documentation to satisfy anti-doping policies. If hormonal medications utilized for gender transition are listed on the World Anti-Doping Agency's Prohibited List USADA can grant a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE). The TUE application process is thorough and designed to balance the need to provide athletes access to critical medication while protecting the rights of athletes to compete on a level playing field. Further information regarding the TUE application process can be found [here](#).

### H. Report of Grievance

Abuse and/or harmful acts towards the transgender and nonbinary community will not be tolerated. Any instances or grievances should be immediately reported to the USA Fencing Safe Sport coordinator and the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging. Complete the short online [reporting form here](#).

Policy development governing the inclusion of transgender and nonbinary athletes is an emerging endeavor. As new research on the participation of these athletes and the physiological effects of gender transition on athletic performance becomes available, policies are subject to re-evaluation and change to ensure they reflect the most current evidence-based information.

## CHAPTER 15

### USA FENCING SAFESPORT POLICY

#### USA FENCING FENCESAFE HANDBOOK

#### April 15, 2019 Update

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.

Effective April 15, 2019, the U.S. Center for SafeSport issued a revised Code, which can be found here and supersedes and replaces previous versions of the Code.

#### June 3, 2019 Update

Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy replaces Proactive Policies

#### Dec 31, 2019

Updates to BGS

#### April 15, 2021

Move Disciplinary Proceedings to Athlete Handbook

#### Effective Jan. 1, 2019

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 SafeSport related policies, procedures and requirements that are important to creating and maintaining a FenceSafe

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.

## I. WHAT TO REPORT, AND TO WHOM

Every Adult Participant shall report:

Observed violations of this Policy, the Code and the MAAPP.

Observations or allegations of child physical or sexual abuse.

Every constituent may report: suspected violations of this Policy or the Code,

### **Sexual misconduct**

Conduct by an Adult Participant that could constitute sexual misconduct must be reported to the Center as set forth in the SafeSport Practices and Procedures for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement (Appendix A to the Code). USA Fencing will also accept reports of Sexual Misconduct and pass them along to the Center.

If an allegation involves child abuse or neglect, the matter must also be referred to the appropriate legal authorities.

### **Other misconduct**

#### **Emotional and Physical Misconduct**

Conduct by an Adult Participant that could constitute Emotional or Physical Misconduct under this Policy, including Bullying Behaviors, Hazing and Harassment, should be reported to USA Fencing.

#### **Proactive Policies**

Conduct by an Adult Participant that could violate a proactive policy should be reported to USA Fencing.

### **Retaliation**

#### **Sexual misconduct**

Retaliation related to an allegation of sexual misconduct should be reported to the Center. If reported to USA Fencing, then USA Fencing shall report the alleged retaliation to the Center.

#### **Other misconduct**

Retaliation related to an allegation of other misconduct— Emotional Misconduct, Physical Misconduct, Bullying Behaviors, Hazing, Harassment or proac-

tive policies as contained in the MAAPP— should be reported to USA Fencing.

PLEASE REFER TO ATHLETE HANDBOOK CH 13 FOR DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS – [LINK HERE](#)  
USA FENCING SCREENING AND BACKGROUND CHECK PROGRAM

### Screening and Background Check Program

The purposes of USA Fencing's Background Check Program are as follows:

Protect USA Fencing athletes and participants from known offenders so that such known offenders do not have access to USA Fencing members in connection with USA Fencing-sanctioned events or activities.

Deter offenders that have not been caught from joining USA Fencing programs.

Protect USA Fencing's reputation as a sport where participants are protected against abuse.

Help protect USA Fencing, USA Fencing Clubs and their respective employees and volunteers from liability that could arise from allowing a previous offender to have access to athletes and participants. USA Fencing Screening Policies

USA Fencing's policy includes set criteria for which a person may be disqualified and prohibited from serving as an employee or volunteer of USA Fencing or USA Fencing Clubs. Under the policy, USA Fencing will not authorize or sanction any employee or volunteer who has routine access to athletes and participants unless that person consents to be screened and passes a criminal background screen conducted by USA Fencing through the Coach, +Coach upgrade or +CheckEd upgrade Member programs.

USA Fencing shall conduct screening of its employees, member volunteers and independent contractors as follows:

All members of the USA Fencing Board of Directors, each member of a USA Fencing committee/task force and division officers shall be screened through the Coach, +Coach upgrade or +CheckEd upgrade Member programs upon their election or appointment to the position and then shall be re-screened every two (2) years. This includes a Supplement background check after one year.

All USA Fencing employees shall be screened as a condition of their employment and then shall be re-

screened every two (2) years. This includes a Supplement background check after one year.

All coaches, instructors and other staff for any USA Fencing National Team event shall be screened as a condition of being selected for such position or shall have been screened by USA Fencing within the past two (2) years.

All individuals who are acting as coaches or instructors of athletes or participants at USA Fencing clubs, their events or activities, or at USA Fencing-sanctioned events or activities, shall be screened through the Coach Member, or +Coach upgrade, Member programs.

All persons acting as officials or administrative personnel at USA Fencing-sanctioned events shall be screened through the Coach, +Coach or +CheckEd upgrade Member programs.

All volunteers at USA Fencing-sanctioned events who will have frequent contact with athletes and participants shall be screened through the Coach, +Coach upgrade or +CheckEd upgrade Member programs program.

### **USA Fencing Club Screening Policies**

As a condition of its affiliation with USA Fencing, each Member and Affiliate Club must be in compliance with the requirements set forth below:

All Club employees and independent contractors, including but not limited to coaches and instructors, must be USA Fencing Coach, +Coach upgrade or +CheckEd upgrade prior to such individuals having access to athletes and participants

In addition, all Club owners, directors, managers, and program administrators, and all other affiliated persons having frequent contact with athletes or participants at the Club or its events or activities, must be USA Fencing Coach, +Coach upgrade or +CheckEd upgrade.

An approved screen of Club personnel through those programs shall be valid for two years. All previously screened persons must complete a new background screen every two (2) years. This includes a Supplement background check after one year.

### **Search Criteria**

Social Security Number validation;

Name and address history records;

Two independent Multi-Jurisdictional Criminal Database searches covering 50 states plus DC, Guam, and Puerto Rico;

Federal District Courts search for each name used and district where the individual currently lives or has lived during the past seven years, going back the length of time records are available and reportable; County Criminal Records for each name used and county where the individual currently lives or has lived during the past seven years, going back the length of time records are available and reportable for each county searched;

National Sex Offender Registry database search of all available states, plus DC, Guam, and Puerto Rico; Multiple National Watch Lists; SafeSport Disciplinary Records; Comprehensive International Records search U.S. citizens who have lived outside of the United States for six consecutive months in any one country, during the past seven years; Motor Vehicle Records of at least a 3-year history in the state of licensure; (if driving is required for position).

**Supplemental Background Checks.** All supplemental off-year background check screens will be conducted using at least the following search components:  
Multi-Jurisdictional criminal database covering 50 states plus DC, Guam, and Puerto Rico  
Sex Offender Registry database searches of all available states, plus DC, Guam, and Puerto Rico; and SafeSport Disciplinary Records.  
USA Fencing Criminal Background Check Disqualification Criteria

Any background check that results in a report of a disposition or resolution of a criminal proceeding, other than an adjudication of not guilty, for any of the below criminal offenses will be issued a red light determination:

Any felony (any crime punishable by confinement greater than one year)

### **Any misdemeanor involving:**

All sexual crimes, criminal offenses or a sexual nature to include but not limited to; rape, child molestation, sexual battery, lewd conduct, possession and distribution of child pornography, possession and distribution of obscene material, prostitution, indecent exposure, public indecency, and any sex offender

registrant (any participant that has been convicted of, received an imposition of a deferred sentence for, or any plea of guilty or no contest for any sexual crime, criminal offense of a sexual nature, and/or sex offender registrant must be reported);

#### **Any drug related offenses;**

Harm to a minor and vulnerable person, including, but not limited to, offenses such as child abandonment, child endangerment/neglect/abuse, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, and DUI with a minor;

Violence against a person (including crimes involving firearms and domestic violence);

Stalking, harassment, blackmail, violation of a protection order and/or threats;

Destruction of property, including arson, vandalism, and criminal mischief; and

#### **Animal abuse or neglect.**

Secondary Review of Responsible Sport Organization Determinations: USA Fencing will comply with the USOPC Background Check Policy and Procedures as it relates to situations under which a secondary review of USA Fencing's determination will be conducted by the USOPC. (USOPC BG Policy and USOPC BG Procedures)

#### **USA Fencing Background Check Appeal Procedures**

All appeals of "red light" or "adverse action letter" background checks shall be referred to the FenceSafe Coordinator (FSC) for initial evaluation, and when appropriate, for further action in accordance with USA Fencing policies and procedures. In the discharge of these duties, the SSC shall consult with the Chief Executive Officer and USAF legal counsel as they deems appropriate. If the SSC is the subject of the complaint, the President shall serve the functions assigned by this policy to the SSC.

Any member of the USAF or applicant for USAF membership who is denied admission or appointment to any position on the basis of a "red light" background check or an "adverse action letter" predicated on the results of a background check shall have a right to seek review of that decision in accordance

with the procedures here specified.

Should any individual receive a "red light" finding or an "adverse action letter" based on a USAF required background check and wish to contest any resulting USAF decision to deny their application for membership or to deny them any USAF position or appointment, that individual has a right to a review of the denial. The person who seeks review is referred to herein as "the appellant." The appellant may act on their own behalf during the appeal or may be assisted by a representative.

Unless otherwise notified by the USAF that a shorter period is required because of nomination deadlines dictated by the USAF, the USOPC, the FIE or by prevailing circumstances, the appellant shall have 10 business days from the date that they is informed of the decision from which the appeal is being taken to notify the SafeSport Coordinator of the appeal.

The SSC shall review any evidence and argument submitted by the appellant or on their behalf and shall undertake such additional investigation as the SSC believes necessary to make an initial determination of the merits of the appeal. Upon reaching that determination, the SSC may inform the appellant thereof and shall ascertain from the appellant whether they wishes to proceed to a hearing by the Board of Directors.

If the appellant wishes to proceed, and the Board has previously provided for the hearing of background check appeals by a committee of the Board, and has constituted and populated such a committee, the SSC shall refer the matter to that committee and shall forward to them, their field in the matter, including (a) all statements, documents and other evidence obtained by him, including the background check findings; (b) the arguments and evidence submitted by the appellant or on his behalf, and (c) the SSC's recommendation whether the decision being appealed should be upheld or overruled and the reasons underlying that recommendation. If the committee is not in place, the matter will be referred directly to the Board of Directors at the next scheduled meeting.

The designated committee shall review the file. The decision shall be reversed if a majority of the members of the Board (or of the designated committee) present and voting concludes either (a) by a preponderance of the evidence that the background check results were based on erroneous information; or (b)



that to a reasonable degree of certainty the applicant does not pose a danger to the individuals with whom they is expected to come into contact by virtue of the class of membership, the position or the appointment that was denied on the basis of the “red light” or “adverse action letter.” If the designated committee is not unanimous in their ruling, the review will be done by the USA Fencing Board of Directors.

The SSC shall communicate the results of the appeal to the appellant with copies to the CEO, legal counsel and any other person or organization necessary to effect any change in the appellant’s status resulting from the decision on appeal.

If the appellant disagrees with the outcome of the appeal, they may file a demand for arbitration with the American Arbitration Association as provided in the Bylaws. The award obtained in the arbitration shall be final and binding on all parties.

The intentional submission of false information or evidence in connection with any proceeding provided herein shall be grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with USAF disciplinary procedures.

USA Fencing and U.S. Center for SafeSport Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy  
The U.S. Center for SafeSport (the Center) and USA Fencing are committed to building a sport community where participants can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of emotional, physical, and sexual misconduct.

## INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Center for SafeSport (the Center) is committed to building a sport community where Participants can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of emotional, physical, and sexual misconduct. Throughout this document the most commonly used terms are defined in the Terminology section in the back of this document.

### Authority

The Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and SafeSport Authorization Act of 2017 authorizes the Center to develop training and policies to prevent abuse—including physical, emotional, and sexual abuse—within the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Movement. 36 U.S.C. § 220542(a)(1). Federal law requires that, at a minimum, national governing bodies and

paralympic sports organizations must offer and give consistent training related to the prevention of child abuse: (1) to all adult members who are in regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors and (2) subject to parental consent, to members who are minors. 36 U.S.C. § 220542(a)(2)(E). Federal law requires that these policies contain reasonable procedures to limit unobservable and uninterrupted one-on-one interactions between an amateur athlete, who is a minor, and an adult, who is not the minor’s legal guardian, at facilities under the jurisdiction of organizations within the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Movement. 36 U.S.C. § 220542(a)(2)(C).

### What is the MAAPP?

To that end, the Center has developed the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP). The MAAPP is a collection of proactive prevention and training policies for the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Movement. It has three primary components:

1. An Education & Training Policy that requires training for certain Adult Participants within the Olympic & Paralympic Movement;
2. Required Prevention Policies, focused on limiting one-on-one interactions between Adult Participants and Minor Athletes, that Organizations within the Olympic & Paralympic Movement must implement to prevent abuse;
3. Recommended Prevention Policies.

The Center developed the MAAPP to assist National Governing Bodies (NGBs), Paralympic Sport Organizations (PSOs), Local Affiliated Organizations (LAOs), the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), and other individuals to whom these policies apply in meeting their obligations under federal law (note: implementing these policies does not guarantee that an organization or individual fully complies with federal law or all applicable legal obligations). These Organizations should share these policies with all Participants and with parents/guardians of minor athletes. Those implementing these policies should consider the physical and cognitive needs of all athletes.

The MAAPP focuses on just two important aspects of a much larger comprehensive abuse prevention strategy. These policies address training requirements and limiting one-on-one interactions between adults and minor athletes. These policies are intended to be enforceable and reasonable, acknowledging, for example, that when a 17-year-old athlete turns 18, they become an adult athlete, and a complete prohi-

bition of one-on-one interactions may not be necessary or practical. Additionally, there may be other instances when one-on-one interactions could occur, and in those cases, these policies provide strategies so parents/guardians can provide informed consent if they choose to allow a permitted interaction. **The Center recommends that parents first complete training on abuse prevention to be informed about potential boundary violations and concerns before consenting to the interaction.**

While the MAAPP will help organizations implement these policies to greatly improve minor athlete safety, in no way can they guarantee athlete safety in all circumstances, especially when the policies are not fully implemented, followed, or monitored. These policies are not comprehensive of all prevention strategies, nor are they intended to be. These policies should be implemented alongside the **SafeSport Code**. Additionally, other resources are available that may assist organizations in improving athlete safety.

#### **How Does the Center Ensure Compliance with the MAAPP?**

Federal law requires the Center to conduct regular and random audits of the NGBs to ensure compliance with these policies. 36 U.S.C. § 220542(a)(2)(E). More specific organizational compliance requirements can be found in the Appendix. Additionally, it is the responsibility of the USOPC and each NGB, LAO, and Adult Participant to comply with the MAAPP. The aforementioned Organizations can act in their respective programs for violations of the MAAPP by Adult Participants. Adult Participants also have an independent responsibility to comply with these MAAPP provisions. Violations of these provisions can result in sanctions under the SafeSport Code.

#### **Is the MAAPP Different from the SafeSport Code?**

Saul, J., & Audage, N.C. (2007). *Preventing Child Sexual Abuse Within Youth-Servicing Organization: Getting Started on Policies and Procedures*. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Canadian Centre for Child Protection. (2014). *Child Sexual Abuse: It Is Your Business*. Winnipeg, Manitoba: Canadian Centre for Child Protection.

*The Australian Royal Commission Into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. (2017). Final Report.*

Yes. The **SafeSport Code** works alongside the MAAPP to prevent abuse. The MAAPP includes proactive prevention policies for organizations and individuals, while the SafeSport Code contains misconduct policies for individuals. However, violations of the MAAPP can violate the SafeSport Code, and violators can be sanctioned.

#### **SCOPE**

##### **The MAAPP Applies to “In-Program Contact” Within the Olympic & Paralympic Movement**

The MAAPP is required for the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), National Governing Bodies (NGB), Local Affiliated Organizations (LAO), and Paralympic Sport Organizations (PSO) within the Olympic & Paralympic Movement (each an “Organization”).

Some policies impose requirements on USA Fencing and/or its divisions or member clubs at sanctioned events and facilities partially or fully under USA Fencing’s jurisdiction. For example, USA Fencing and/or its divisions or member clubs, as the case may be, must monitor locker rooms at their respective facilities and sanctioned events. Other policies impose certain requirements on Adult Participants under USA Fencing’s jurisdiction when the Adult Participant is having “In-Program Contact.” For example, Adult Participants cannot have one-on-one electronic communications with Minor Athletes that they coach.

#### **Who is a Minor Athlete?**

A **Minor Athlete** is an amateur athlete under 18 years of age who participates in, or participated within the previous 12 months in, an event, program, activity, or competition that is part of, or partially or fully under the jurisdiction of, USA Fencing and/or its divisions or member clubs

**Partial or Full Jurisdiction:** Includes any sanctioned event or activity (including all travel and lodging in connection therewith) conducted by the USA Fencing or any of its divisions or member clubs, and any facility that USA Fencing or any of its divisions or member clubs owns, leases, or rents for practice, training, or competition.

## Who is an Adult Participant?

An **Adult Participant** is any adult (18 years of age or older) who is:

1. A member or license holder of USA Fencing
2. An employee or board member of USA Fencing and/or its divisions or member clubs
3. Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USA Fencing
4. Authorized, approved, or appointed by an USA Fencing and/or its divisions or member clubs to have regular contact with or authority over Minor Athletes.

*<sup>2</sup>This may include volunteers, medical staff, trainers, chaperones, monitors, contract personnel, bus/van drivers, officials, adult*

## What is In-Program Contact?

In-Program Contact includes sanctioned events and facilities, but it also applies more broadly to sport-related interactions. The MAAPP defines “In-Program Contact” as:

Any contact (including communications, interactions, or activities) between an Adult Participant and any Minor Athlete(s) related to participation in sport.

Examples of in-program contact include, but are not limited to: competition, practices, camps/clinics, training/instructional sessions, pre/post game meals or outings, team travel, review of game film, team- or sport-related relationship building activities, celebrations, award ceremonies, banquets, team- or sport-related fundraising or community service, sport education, or competition site visits.

## Does the MAAPP Have Any Exceptions?

Yes. The MAAPP was written with certain appropriate exceptions in mind. Exceptions are addressed in each policy and include:

### 1. A Close-in-Age Exception

This exception applies to certain policies and allows for In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete if:

- a. The Adult Participant has no authority over the Minor Athlete; and

- b. The Adult Participant is not more than four years older than the Minor Athlete.

**Note:** This exception is different than the close-in-age exception in the [SafeSport Code](#) pertaining to misconduct.

### 2. Exceptions for Adult Participant Personal Care Assistants Working with a Minor Athlete

### 3. Exceptions for Dual Relationships

This exception applies to certain policies when the Adult Participant has a dual role or relationship with a Minor Athlete. The exception requires written consent of the Minor Athlete’s parent/guardian at least annually.

Many of the exceptions require parent/guardian consent. The Center recommends parents take training on child abuse prevention before providing consent under these policies. The Center offers a free Parent Course at [www.athletesafety.org](http://www.athletesafety.org).

*athletes, staff, board members, and any other individual who meets the Adult Participant definition.*

### Am I required to take SafeSport Training?

Certain Adult Participants within the Olympic & Paralympic Movement who have (i) regular contact with Minor Athletes, (ii) authority over Minor Athletes, or (iii) are employees or board members of the USOPC, NGBs, PSOs, or LAOs, are required to take training. The specific training requirements can be found in Part I.

## PART I EDUCATION & TRAINING POLICY

### A. Mandatory Child Abuse Prevention Training for Adult Participants

#### 1. Adult Participants Required to Complete Training

- a. The following Adult Participants must complete the SafeSport Trained Core either through the Center’s online training or the Center’s approved, in-person training:
  - i. Adult Participants who have regular contact with any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor;
  - ii. Adult Participants who have authority over any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor;
  - iii. Adult Participants who are an employee or

board member of USA Fencing and/or its divisions or member clubs

b. Adult Participants who are medical providers required to take training under Section (a) can take the Health Professionals Course in lieu of the SafeSport Trained Core. This includes designated medical providers at USA Fencing National Events and designate providers for USA Fencing National Team travel.

## 2. Timing of Training

Adult Participants must complete this training:

- a. Before regular contact with an amateur athlete who is a minor begins; and
- b. Within the first 45 days of either initial membership or upon beginning a new role subjecting the adult to this policy.

## 3. Refresher Training

The above listed Adult Participants must complete a refresher course on an annual basis, beginning the calendar year after completing the SafeSport Trained Core. Every four years, Adult Participants will complete the SafeSport Trained Core training. Medical providers can take the Health Professionals Course in lieu of the SafeSport Trained Core and are required to take the refresher courses on an annual basis if they meet the criteria for A(1).

## B. Minor Athlete Training Must Be Offered

1. USA Fencing and/or its divisions or member clubs, must on an annual basis offer and, subject to parental consent, give training to Minor Athletes on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.

2. The Center offers youth courses, located at [www.athletesafety.org](http://www.athletesafety.org), that meet this requirement.

## C. Parent Training Must Be Offered

1. USA Fencing and/or its divisions or member clubs must on an annual basis offer training to parents on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.

2. The Center offers a parent course, located at [www.athletesafety.org](http://www.athletesafety.org), that meets this requirement.

## D. Optional Training

1. Adult Participants serving in a volunteer capacity, who will not have regular contact with or

authority over Minor Athletes, should take the Center's brief Volunteer Course (or SafeSport Trained Core) before engaging or interacting with any Minor Athlete(s).

2. USA Fencing and/or its divisions or member clubs may provide training in addition to the SafeSport Trained Core, although they cannot refer to this training as "SafeSport" training. Training other than the SafeSport Trained Core or Refresher does not satisfy this policy.

3. Parents of Minor Athletes are provided free online access to the Center's parent course and are encouraged to take the training.

## E. Exemptions and Accommodations

1. Exemptions from this Education & Training Policy may be made on a case-by-case basis for victims/survivors. Requests may be made directly to the U.S. Center for SafeSport at [exemptions@safesport.org](mailto:exemptions@safesport.org).

2. The Center will work with USA Fencing and/or its divisions or member clubs on appropriate accommodations for persons with disabilities and individuals with limited English proficiency to satisfy these training requirements. Each NGB, PSO, LAO and the USOPC must provide reasonable accommodations and track any exemptions for individuals with disabilities and individuals with limited English proficiency.

# PART II

## REQUIRED POLICIES FOR ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

The U.S. Center for SafeSport recognizes that youth-adult relationships can be healthy and valuable for development. Policies on one-on-one interactions protect children while allowing for these beneficial relationships. As child sexual abuse is often perpetrated in isolated, one-on-one situations, it is critical that organizations limit such interactions between youth and adults and implement programs that reduce the risk of sexual abuse.

### MODEL POLICY: ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

#### A. Mandatory Components

## 1. Observable and Interruptible

a. All one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be observable and interruptible, except in emergency circumstances.

b. The exceptions below may apply to specific policies, and if the exceptions apply, they are listed in the policy. These exceptions also apply to all one-on-one In-Program Contact not specifically addressed in other policies:

- i. When a Dual Relationship exists; or
- ii. When the Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
- iii. If a Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant, and:

(1) the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to USA Fencing or the relevant division or member club, as the case may be, for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and

(2) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and

(3) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with USA Fencing's Background check policy; or

iv. In other circumstances specifically addressed in this policy that allow for certain one-on-one interactions if USA Fencing or the relevant division or member club, as the case may be, receives parent/ guardian consent.

(1) the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to USA Fencing or the relevant division or member club, as the case may be, for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and

(2) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and

(3) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with USA Fencing's Background check policy.

b. The Adult Participant providing the individual training session must receive advance, written consent from the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian at least annually, which can be withdrawn at any time; and

c. Parents/guardians must be allowed to observe the individual training session.

## 3. Meetings with licensed mental health care professionals and health care providers (other than athletic trainers )

If a licensed mental health care professional or licensed health care provider meets one-on-one with a Minor Athlete at a sanctioned event or a facility, which is conducted, operated or maintained by USA Fencing's or one of its divisions or member clubs, then the meeting must be observable and interruptible except:

a. If the door remains unlocked; and

b. Another adult is present at the facility and notified that a meeting is

occurring, although the Minor Athlete's identity needs not be disclosed; and

c. USA Fencing or the relevant division or member club, as the case may be, is notified that the provider will be meeting with a Minor Athlete; and

d. The provider obtains consent consistent with applicable laws and ethical standards, which can be withdrawn at any time.

## MODEL POLICY: MEETINGS AND TRAINING SESSIONS

### A. Mandatory Components

#### 1. Observable and Interruptible

Adult Participants must follow the one-on-one interaction policy in all meetings and training sessions where Minor Athlete(s) are present.

#### 2. Individual Training Sessions

a. One-on-one, In-Program, individual training sessions must be observable and interruptible except if:

- i. A Dual Relationship exists; or
- ii. The Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
- iii. A Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant, and:

## MODEL POLICY: ATHLETIC TRAINING MODALITIES, MASSAGES, AND RUBDOWNS

### A. Mandatory Components

#### 1. Athletic training modality, massage, or rubdown

All In-Program athletic training modalities, massages, or rubdowns of a Minor Athlete must:

- a. Be observable and interruptible; and

- b. Have another Adult Participant physically present for the athletic training modality, massage, or rubdown; and
- c. Have documented consent as explained in subsection (2) below; and
- d. Be performed with the Minor Athlete fully or partially clothed, ensuring that the breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals are always covered; and
- e. Allow parents/guardians in the room as an observer, except for competition or training venues that limit credentialing.

## 2. Consent

- a. Providers of athletic training modalities, massages, and rubdowns for USA Fencing or any its divisions or member clubs, or the USOPC, must, when applicable, obtain consent at least annually from Minor Athletes' parents/guardians before providing any athletic training modalities, massages, or rubdowns.
- b. Minor Athletes or their parents/guardians can withdraw consent at any time.

## B. Recommended

Only licensed providers should administer a massage, rubdown, or athletic training modality.

## MODEL POLICY: LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS

### A. Mandatory Components

#### 1. Observable and Interruptible

Adult Participants must ensure that all one-on-one In-Program Contact with Minor Athlete(s) in a locker room, changing area, or similar space where Minor Athlete(s) are present is observable and interruptible, except if:

- a. A Dual Relationship exists; or
- b. The Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
- c. A Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant and:
  - i. the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to USA Fencing or the relevant division or member club, as the case may be, for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
  - ii. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and

- iii. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with USA Fencing's Background check policy.

### 2. Conduct in Locker Rooms, Changing Areas, and Similar Spaces

- a. No Adult Participant or Minor Athlete can use the photographic or recording capabilities of any device in locker rooms, changing areas, or any other area designated as a place for changing clothes or undressing.
- b. Adult Participants must not change clothes or behave in a manner that intentionally or recklessly exposes their breasts, buttocks, groins, or genitals to a Minor Athlete.
- c. Adult Participants must not shower with Minor Athletes unless:
  - i. The Adult Participant meets the Close-in-Age Exception; or
  - ii. The shower is part of a pre- or post-activity rinse while wearing swimwear.
- d. Parents/guardians may request in writing that their Minor Athlete(s) not change or shower with Adult Participant(s) during In-Program Contact. USA Fencing or the relevant division or member club, as the case may be, and the Adult Participant(s) must abide by this request.

### 3. Media and Championship Celebrations in Locker Rooms

USA Fencing or any of its divisions or member clubs, as the case may be, may permit recording or photography in locker rooms for the purpose of highlighting a sport or athletic accomplishment if:

- i. Parent/legal guardian consent has been obtained; and
- ii. USA Fencing or the relevant division or member club, whichever is conducting the event or activity, approves the specific instance of recording or photography; and
- iii. Two or more Adult Participants are present; and
- iv. Everyone is fully clothed.

### 4. Personal Care Assistants

Adult Participant Personal Care Assistants are permitted to be with and assist Minor Athlete(s) in locker rooms, changing areas, and similar spaces where other Minor Athletes are present, if they

meet the requirements in subsection (1)(a)(iii) above.

## 5. Availability and Monitoring of Locker Rooms, Changing Areas, and Similar Spaces

a. USA Fencing or its relevant division or member clubs, as the case may be, must provide a private or semi-private place for Minor Athletes that need to change clothes or undress at sanctioned events or facilities partially or fully under USA Fencing's jurisdiction. For example, a partition can be placed in the corner or event organizers can tell participants they must come fully dressed.

b. USA Fencing or its relevant division or member club, as the case may be, must monitor the use of locker rooms, changing areas, and similar spaces to ensure compliance with these policies at sanctioned events or facilities that the relevant organization conducts, operates, maintains or is otherwise partially or fully under its jurisdiction.

### MODEL POLICY:

#### ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS<sup>4</sup>

##### A. Mandatory Components

###### 1. Open and Transparent

a. All one-on-one electronic communications between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be Open and Transparent except:

- i. When a Dual Relationship exists; or
- ii. When the Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
- iii. If a Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant and:

(1) the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to the USA Fencing or its relevant division or member club for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and

(2) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and

(3) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the USA Fencing's Background check policy.

b. Open and Transparent means that the Adult Participant copies or includes the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian, another adult family member of the Minor Athlete, or another Adult Participant.

- If a Minor Athlete communicates with the Adult Participant first, the Adult Participant must follow this policy if the Adult Participant responds.

c. Only platforms that allow for Open and Transpar-

ent communication may be used to communicate with Minor Athletes.

###### 2. Team Communication

When an Adult Participant communicates electronically to the entire team or any number of Minor Athletes on the team, the Adult Participant must copy or include another Adult Participant or the Minor Athletes' parents/guardians.

###### 3. Content

All electronic communication originating from an Adult Participant(s) to a Minor Athlete(s) must be professional in nature unless an exception in (1)(a) exists.

###### 4. Requests to discontinue

Parents/guardians may request in writing that the Organization or an Adult Participant subject to this policy not contact their Minor Athlete through any form of electronic communication. USA Fencing or the relevant division or member club, as the case may be, and the Adult Participant must abide by any request to discontinue, absent emergency circumstances.

###### 5. Social Media Connections

Adult Participants, except those with a Dual Relationship or who meet the Close-in-Age Exception, are not permitted to maintain private social media connections with Minor Athletes and must discontinue existing social media connections with Minor Athletes.

### MODEL POLICY: TRANSPORTATION

#### A. Mandatory Components

##### Transportation

a. An Adult Participant cannot transport a Minor Athlete one-on-one during In-Program travel, except if:

- i. A Dual Relationship exists; or
- ii. The Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
- iii. A Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant and:

(1) the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to USA Fencing or the relevant division or member club, as the case may be, for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and

(2) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and

(3) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the USA Fencing's Background check policy; or

- iv. The Adult Participant has advance, written consent to transport the Minor Athlete one-on-one obtained at least annually from the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian.
- b. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time.
- c. An Adult Participant meets the In-Program transportation requirements if the Adult Participant is accompanied by another Adult Participant or at least two minors.
- d. Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian is required at least annually for transportation sanctioned by USA Fencing or any of its divisions or member clubs.

## MODEL POLICY: LODGING

### A. Mandatory Components

#### 1. Hotel Rooms and Other Sleeping Arrangements

a. All In-Program Contact at a hotel or lodging site between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be observable and interruptible, and an Adult Participant cannot share a hotel room or otherwise sleep in the same room with a Minor Athlete(s), except if:

i. A Dual Relationship Exists, and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided USA Fencing and/or its divisions or member clubs with advance, written consent for the lodging arrangement;

ii. The Close-in-Age Exception applies, and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided USA Fencing and/or its divisions or member clubs with advance, written consent for the lodging arrangement; or

iii. The Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant, and:

(1) The Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided advance, written consent to USA Fencing and/or its divisions or member clubs for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete and for the lodging arrangement;

(2) The Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and

(3) The Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the USA Fencing's Background check policy.

b. Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian must be obtained for all In-Program lodging at least annually.

#### 2. Monitoring or Room Checks During In-Program Travel

If USA Fencing and/or its divisions or member clubs performs room checks during In-Program lodging, the one-on-one interaction policy must be followed and at least two adults must be present for the room checks.

#### 3. Additional Requirements for Lodging Authorized or Funded by the Organization

a. Adult Participants traveling with USA Fencing or one of its divisions or member clubs must agree to and sign the relevant organization's lodging policy at least annually.

b. Adult Participants that travel overnight with Minor Athlete(s) are assumed to have Authority over Minor Athlete(s) and thus must comply with the Center's Education & Training Policy.

## TERMINOLOGY

**Adult Participant:** Any adult (18 years of age or older) who is:

- a. A member or license holder of USA Fencing;
- b. An employee or board member of USA Fencing or relevant division or member clubs, as the case may be;
- c. Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USA Fencing;
- d. Authorized, approved, or appointed by USA Fencing or relevant division or member clubs, as the case may be, to have regular contact with or authority over Minor Athletes. This includes, but is not limited to, USA Fencing coaches, referees, event medical personnel and event staff

**Amateur Athlete:** An athlete who meets the eligibility standards established by the National Governing Body or paralympic sports organization for the sport in which the athlete competes.

**Authority:** When one person's position over another person is such that, based on the totality of the circumstances, they have the power or right to direct, control, give orders to, or make decisions for that person. Also see the Power Imbalance definition in the SafeSport Code. NOTE: NGBs, PSOs, and the USOPC must submit/include categories of members/



individuals that fall under the definition including specific volunteer designations.

**Close-in-Age Exception:** An exception applicable to certain policies when an Adult Participant does not have authority over a Minor Athlete and is not more than four years older than the Minor Athlete (e.g., a 19-year-old and a 16-year-old). Note: this exception only applies within the prevention policies and not regarding conduct defined in the SafeSport Code.

**Dual Relationships:** An exception applicable to certain policies when an Adult Participant has a dual role or relationship with a Minor Athlete and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent at least annually authorizing the exception.

**In-Program Contact:** Any contact (including communications, interactions, or activities) between an Adult Participant and any Minor Athlete(s) related to participation in sport.

**Examples of In-Program Contact include, but are not limited to:** competition, practices, camps/clinics, training/instructional sessions, pre/post game meals or outings, team travel, review of game film, team- or sport-related relationship building activities, celebrations, award ceremonies, banquets, team- or sport-related fundraising or community service, sport education, or competition site visits.

**Local Affiliated Organization (LAO):** A regional, state, or local club or organization that is directly affiliated with an NGB or that is affiliated with an NGB by its direct affiliation with a regional or state affiliate of said NGB. LAO does not include a regional, state, or local club or organization that is only a member of a National Member Organization of an NGB.

**Minor Athlete:** An Amateur Athlete under 18 years of age who participates in, or participated within the previous 12 months in, an event, program, activity, or competition that is part of, or partially or fully under the jurisdiction of, an NGB, PSO, USOPC, or LAO.

**Partial or Full Jurisdiction:** Includes any sanctioned event (including all travel and lodging in connection with the event) by the NGB, PSO, USOPC, or LAO, or any facility that the NGB, PSO, USOPC, or LAO owns, leases, or rents for practice, training or competition.

**National Governing Body (NGB):** A U.S. Olympic National Governing Body, Pan American Sport Organization, or Paralympic Sport Organization recognized by the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee pursuant to the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, 36 U.S.C. §§ 220501, et seq. This definition shall also apply to the USOPC, or other sports entity approved by the USOPC, when they have assumed responsibility for the management or governance of a sport included on the program of the Olympic, Paralympic, or Pan-American Games.

**Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant:** An Adult Participant who assists an athlete requiring help with activities of daily living (ADL) and preparation for athletic participation. This support can be provided by a Guide for Blind or visually impaired athletes or can include assistance with transfer, dressing, showering, medication administration, and toileting. Personal Care Assistants are different for every athlete and should be individualized to fit their specific needs. When assisting a Minor Athlete, Adult Participant PCAs must be authorized by the athlete's parent/guardian.

**Paralympic Sport Organization (PSO):** an amateur sports organization recognized and certified as an NGB by the USOPC.

**Regular Contact:** Ongoing interactions during a 12-month period wherein an Adult Participant is in a role of direct and active engagement with any Minor Athlete(s). This excludes those Adult Participants who only have incidental and observable contact with minor athletes at practices and events. NOTE: NGBs, PSOs, and the USOPC must submit/include categories of members/individuals that fall under the definition including specific volunteer designations.

**U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC):** A federally chartered nonprofit corporation that serves as the National Olympic Committee and National Paralympic Committee for the United States.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING AND PREVENTION POLICIES**

USA Fencing or the relevant division or member club, as the case may be, must implement proactive policies designed to prevent abuse. These organizational

requirements are described below.

### **A. Organizational Requirements for Education & Training**

1. USA Fencing must track whether Adult Participants under its jurisdiction complete the required training listed in Part I.
2. USA Fencing must, on an annual basis, offer and, subject to parental consent, give training to Minor Athletes on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.
  - a. For training to Minor Athletes, the Organization must track a description of the training and how the training was offered and provided to Minor Athletes.
  - b. USA Fencing is not required to track individual course completions of Minor Athletes.
3. USA Fencing must, on an annual basis, offer training to parents on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.

### **B. Required Prevention Policies and Implementation**

1. USA Fencing must develop minor athlete abuse prevention policies that contain the mandatory components of the Center's model policies in Part II. These model policies cover:
  - a. One-on-one interactions
  - b. Meetings and training sessions
  - c. Athletic training modalities, massages, and rubdowns
  - d. Locker rooms and changing areas
  - e. Electronic communications
  - f. Transportation
  - g. Lodging
2. The policies must be approved by the Center as described in subsection (C) below. The policies may include the recommended components in Part II and the recommended policies in Part IV. Given the uniqueness of each sport, however, some recommended components or policies may not be feasible or appropriate. An Organization may choose to implement stricter standards than the model policies.
3. USA Fencing must also require that its member clubs implement these policies within their club.
4. USA Fencing must implement these policies for all In-Program Contact.

- a. At sanctioned events and facilities partially or fully under its jurisdiction, the organization must take steps to ensure the policies are implemented and followed.
- b. For In-Program Contact that occurs outside USA Fencing's and/or the relevant division's or member club's sanctioned event or facilities, implementing these policies means:
  - i. Communicating the policies to individuals under its jurisdiction;
  - ii. Establishing a reporting mechanism for violations of the policies;
  - iii. Investigating and enforcing violations of the policies.

5. USA Fencing must have a reporting mechanism to accept reports that an Adult Participant is violating USA Fencing's minor athlete abuse prevention policies. USA Fencing must appropriately investigate and resolve any reports received, unless the violation is reported to the Center and it exercises jurisdiction over the report. This requirement is in addition to requirements to report abuse under the SafeSport Code.

### **C. Policy Approval and Submission Process**

1. USA Fencing may adopt the MAAPP as-is or adapt it to fit their needs. Regardless, each Organization must submit their policies to the Center at [compliance@safesport.org](mailto:compliance@safesport.org) for review and approval by January 31, 2021. The Center will approve, approve with modifications, or deny the policies. If the Center denies the proposed policy, the mandatory components of Part II become the default policy until the Center approves the policy.
2. USA Fencing must require their LAOs to incorporate the mandatory components of Part III. NGBs may require that their LAOs implement the NGB's policies, which may be more stringent than the policies in Part II.
3. An USA Fencing may, in its discretion, require its National Member Organizations (NMO) to implement these policies.
  - An NGB that chooses to require its NMOs to implement the Education & Training Policy must obtain advanced, written approval from the Center to expand the training access to additional persons.

Requests must be submitted to [ngbervices@safesport.org](mailto:ngbervices@safesport.org).

4. The mandatory components of Part II will serve as the default policy for any organization that fails to develop its own policy as required by this section.

#### ADULT PARTICIPANTS AT USA FENCING

| Adult Participant  | Regular Contact | Authority |
|--|-----------------|-----------|
| USA Fencing Staff and Interns  |                 | x         |
| USA Fencing Board / Committee members                                    |                 | x         |
| USA Fencing Club Staff/ Board members                                    |                 | x         |
| USA Fencing Club volunteers  |                 | x         |
| USA Fencing Division Officers  |                 | x         |
| Coaches  | x               | x         |
| Event officials (referees, bout committee, armorers, etc.)               | x               |           |
| Event volunteers   | x               |           |
| Medical professionals  | x               |           |
| Vendors at National Events   | x               |           |
| Adult athletes traveling on a team with minors, supported by USA Fencing | x               |           |
| Adult members who have regular contact with minor athletes               | x               |           |
| USA Fencing members 18 years of age and older                            |                 |           |

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# APPENDICES

## DOMESTIC POINT TABLE

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

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

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

## VETERAN POINT TABLE

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

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

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS POINTS FOR ROLLING STANDINGS ONLY

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

## INTERNATIONAL POINT TABLES – SENIOR, JUNIOR, CADET

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

| PLACE | SENIOR WORLD CUP,<br>GRAND PRIX, WORLD<br>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,<br>GRAND PRIX, WORLD<br>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 ROC)

| PLACE | SUPER YOUTH |       |       | SJCC  |        | PLACE | ROC    |        |         |      | PLACE |
|-------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|---------|------|-------|
|       | Y10         | Y12   | Y14   | CADET | JUNIOR |       | DIV IA | DIV II | DIV III | VET  |       |
| 1     | 80          | 120   | 160   | 80    | 120    | 1     | 1000   | 500    | 500     | 1000 | 1     |
| 2     | 73.6        | 110.4 | 147.2 | 73.6  | 110.4  | 2     | 920    | 460    | 460     | 920  | 2     |
| 3     | 68          | 102   | 136   | 68    | 102    | 3     | 850    | 425    | 425     | 850  | 3     |
| 3     | 68          | 102   | 136   | 68    | 102    | 3     | 850    | 425    | 425     | 850  | 3     |
| 5     | 56          | 84    | 112   | 56    | 84     | 5     | 700    | 350    | 350     | 700  | 5     |
| 6     | 55.6        | 83.4  | 111.2 | 55.6  | 83.4   | 6     | 695    | 347.5  | 347.5   | 695  | 6     |
| 7     | 55.2        | 82.8  | 110.4 | 55.2  | 82.8   | 7     | 690    | 345    | 345     | 690  | 7     |
| 8     | 54.8        | 82.2  | 109.6 | 54.8  | 82.2   | 8     | 685    | 342.5  | 342.5   | 685  | 8     |
| 9     | 42.8        | 64.2  | 85.6  | 42.8  | 64.2   | 9     | 535    | 267.5  | 267.5   | 535  | 9     |
| 10    | 42.4        | 63.6  | 84.8  | 42.4  | 63.6   | 10    | 530    | 265    | 265     | 530  | 10    |
| 11    | 42          | 63    | 84    | 42    | 63     | 11    | 525    | 262.5  | 262.5   | 525  | 11    |
| 12    | 41.6        | 62.4  | 83.2  | 41.6  | 62.4   | 12    | 520    | 260    | 260     | 520  | 12    |
| 13    | 41.2        | 61.8  | 82.4  | 41.2  | 61.8   | 13    | 515    | 257.5  | 257.5   | 515  | 13    |
| 14    | 40.8        | 61.2  | 81.6  | 40.8  | 61.2   | 14    | 510    | 255    | 255     | 510  | 14    |
| 15    | 40.4        | 60.6  | 80.8  | 40.4  | 60.6   | 15    | 505    | 252.5  | 252.5   | 505  | 15    |
| 16    | 40          | 60    | 80    | 40    | 60     | 16    | 500    | 250    | 250     | 500  | 16    |
| 17    | 28          | 42    | 56    | 28    | 42     | 17    | 350    | 175    | 175     | 350  | 17    |
| 18    | 27.6        | 41.4  | 55.2  | 27.6  | 41.4   | 18    | 345    | 172.5  | 172.5   | 345  | 18    |
| 19    | 27.2        | 40.8  | 54.4  | 27.2  | 40.8   | 19    | 340    | 170    | 170     | 340  | 19    |
| 20    | 26.8        | 40.2  | 53.6  | 26.8  | 40.2   | 20    | 335    | 167.5  | 167.5   | 335  | 20    |
| 21    | 26.4        | 39.6  | 52.8  | 26.4  | 39.6   | 21    | 330    | 165    | 165     | 330  | 21    |
| 22    | 26          | 39    | 52    | 26    | 39     | 22    | 325    | 162.5  | 162.5   | 325  | 22    |
| 23    | 25.6        | 38.4  | 51.2  | 25.6  | 38.4   | 23    | 320    | 160    | 160     | 320  | 23    |
| 24    | 25.2        | 37.8  | 50.4  | 25.2  | 37.8   | 24    | 315    | 157.5  | 157.5   | 315  | 24    |
| 25    | 24.8        | 37.2  | 49.6  | 24.8  | 37.2   | 25    | 310    | 155    | 155     | 310  | 25    |
| 26    | 24.4        | 36.6  | 48.8  | 24.4  | 36.6   | 26    | 305    | 152.5  | 152.5   | 305  | 26    |
| 27    | 24          | 36    | 48    | 24    | 36     | 27    | 300    | 150    | 150     | 300  | 27    |
| 28    | 23.6        | 35.4  | 47.2  | 23.6  | 35.4   | 28    | 295    | 147.5  | 147.5   | 295  | 28    |
| 29    | 23.2        | 34.8  | 46.4  | 23.2  | 34.8   | 29    | 290    | 145    | 145     | 290  | 29    |
| 30    | 22.8        | 34.2  | 45.6  | 22.8  | 34.2   | 30    | 285    | 142.5  | 142.5   | 285  | 30    |
| 31    | 22.4        | 33.6  | 44.8  | 22.4  | 33.6   | 31    | 280    | 140    | 140     | 280  | 31    |
| 32    | 22          | 33    | 44    | 22    | 33     | 32    | 275    | 137.5  | 137.5   | 275  | 32    |

## REGIONAL POINT TABLE FOR PLACEMENTS OF 33-64

| PLACE | SUPER YOUTH |       |      | SJCC  |        | PLACE | ROC    |        |         |     | PLACE |
|-------|-------------|-------|------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|---------|-----|-------|
|       | Y10         | Y12   | Y14  | CADET | JUNIOR |       | DIV IA | DIV II | DIV III | VET |       |
| 33    | 10          | 15    | 20   | 10    | 14     |       | 270    | 135    | 135     | 270 | 33    |
| 34    | 9.8         | 14.70 | 19.6 | 9.8   | 13.8   | 34    | 265    | 132.5  | 132.5   | 265 | 34    |
| 35    | 9.6         | 14.4  | 19.2 | 9.6   | 13.6   | 35    | 260    | 130    | 130     | 260 | 35    |
| 36    | 9.4         | 14.10 | 18.8 | 9.4   | 13.4   | 36    | 255    | 127.5  | 127.5   | 255 | 36    |
| 37    | 9.2         | 13.8  | 18.4 | 9.2   | 13.2   | 37    | 250    | 125    | 125     | 250 | 37    |
| 38    | 9           | 13.50 | 18   | 9     | 13     |       | 245    | 122.5  | 122.5   | 245 | 38    |
| 39    | 8.8         | 13.2  | 17.6 | 8.8   | 12.8   | 39    | 240    | 120    | 120     | 240 | 39    |
| 40    | 8.6         | 12.90 | 17.2 | 8.6   | 12.6   | 40    | 235    | 117.5  | 117.5   | 235 | 40    |
| 41    | 8.4         | 12.6  | 16.8 | 8.4   | 12.4   | 41    | 230    | 115    | 115     | 230 | 41    |
| 42    | 8.2         | 12.30 | 16.4 | 8.2   | 12.2   | 42    | 225    | 112.5  | 112.5   | 225 | 42    |
| 43    | 8           | 12    | 16   | 8     | 12     |       | 220    | 110    | 110     | 220 | 43    |
| 44    | 7.8         | 11.70 | 15.6 | 7.8   | 11.8   | 44    | 215    | 107.5  | 107.5   | 215 | 44    |
| 45    | 7.6         | 11.4  | 15.2 | 7.6   | 11.6   | 45    | 210    | 105    | 105     | 210 | 45    |
| 46    | 7.4         | 11.10 | 14.8 | 7.4   | 11.4   | 46    | 205    | 102.5  | 102.5   | 205 | 46    |
| 47    | 7.2         | 10.8  | 14.4 | 7.2   | 11.2   | 47    | 200    | 100    | 100     | 200 | 47    |
| 48    | 7           | 11.60 | 15.6 | 7     | 11     |       | 195    | 97.5   | 97.5    | 195 | 48    |
| 49    | 6.8         | 10.2  | 13.6 | 6.8   | 10.8   | 49    | 190    | 95     | 95      | 190 | 49    |
| 50    | 6.6         | 9.90  | 13.2 | 6.6   | 10.6   | 50    | 185    | 92.5   | 92.5    | 185 | 50    |
| 51    | 6.4         | 9.6   | 12.8 | 6.4   | 10.4   | 51    | 180    | 90     | 90      | 180 | 51    |
| 52    | 6.2         | 9.30  | 12.4 | 6.2   | 10.2   | 52    | 175    | 87.5   | 87.5    | 175 | 52    |
| 53    | 6           | 9     | 12   | 6     | 10     | 53    | 170    | 85     | 85      | 170 | 53    |
| 54    | 5.8         | 8.70  | 11.6 | 5.8   | 9.8    | 54    | 165    | 82.5   | 82.5    | 165 | 54    |
| 55    | 5.6         | 8.4   | 11.2 | 5.6   | 9.6    | 55    | 160    | 80     | 80      | 160 | 55    |
| 56    | 5.4         | 8.10  | 10.8 | 5.4   | 9.4    | 56    | 155    | 77.5   | 77.5    | 155 | 56    |
| 57    | 5.2         | 7.8   | 10.4 | 5.2   | 9.2    | 57    | 150    | 75     | 75      | 150 | 57    |
| 58    | 5           | 7.50  | 10   | 5     | 9      | 58    | 145    | 72.5   | 72.5    | 145 | 58    |
| 59    | 4.8         | 7.2   | 9.6  | 4.8   | 8.8    | 59    | 140    | 70     | 70      | 140 | 59    |
| 60    | 4.6         | 6.90  | 9.2  | 4.6   | 8.6    | 60    | 135    | 67.5   | 67.5    | 135 | 60    |
| 61    | 4.4         | 6.6   | 8.8  | 4.4   | 8.4    | 61    | 130    | 65     | 65      | 130 | 61    |
| 62    | 4.2         | 6.30  | 8.4  | 4.2   | 8.2    | 62    | 125    | 62.5   | 62.5    | 125 | 62    |
| 63    | 4           | 6     | 8    | 4     | 8      | 63    | 120    | 60     | 60      | 120 | 63    |
| 64    | 3.8         | 5.70  | 7.6  | 3.8   | 7.8    | 64    | 115    | 57.5   | 57.5    | 115 | 64    |

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



**USA**  
FENCING

# REGIONAL MAP

## REGION 1

WASHINGTON  
OREGON  
IDAHO  
MONTANA  
WYOMING

## REGION 2

NORTH DAKOTA | SOUTH DAKOTA | NEBRASKA | KANSAS  
MINNESOTA | IOWA | MISSOURI | WISCONSIN  
ILLINOIS | MICHIGAN | INDIANA | OHIO | KENTUCKY

## REGION 3

## REGION 3

MAINE  
NEW HAMPSHIRE  
VERMONT  
MASSACHUSETTS  
NEW YORK  
RHODE ISLAND  
CONNECTICUT  
NEW JERSEY  
PENNSYLVANIA

## REGION 4

CALIFORNIA  
NEVADA  
ARIZONA  
NEW MEXICO  
UTAH  
COLORADO

## REGION 4

## REGION 5

## REGION 5

TEXAS | OKLAHOMA  
LOUISIANA | ARKANSAS

## REGION 6

## REGION 6

WEST VIRGINIA  
DELAWARE  
MARYLAND  
VIRGINIA  
WASH. D.C.  
TENNESSEE  
NORTH CAROLINA  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
GEORGIA  
ALABAMA  
MISSISSIPPI  
FLORIDA

## UNASSIGNED REGION

ALASKA | HAWAII

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                    | CLASSIFICATIONS AWARDED                                    |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| GROUP E1                         | 6                       | None                                 | N/A  | 1 → E  |
| GROUP D1<br>Changed per BOD      | 15                      | 4 E's (or higher)                    | 2 E's (or higher) In top 8                   | 1 → D<br>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<br>2-4 → D<br>5-8 → E                                |
| GROUP C2                         | 25                      | 4 D's & 4 E's (or                    | 4 D's (or higher) In top 8                   | 1 → C<br>2-4 → D<br>5-8 → E                                |
| GROUP C3                         | 64                      | 24 D's & 12 E's (or higher)          | 4 D's in top 8 & 4 E's (or higher) In top 12 | 1-4 → C<br>5-8 → D<br>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<br>2-4 → C<br>5-6 → D<br>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<br>2-4 → C<br>5-8 → D<br>9-12 → E                    |
| GROUP B3                         | 64                      | 24 C's & 12 D's (or higher)          | 4 C's In top 8 & 4 D's (or higher) In top 12 | 1-4 → B<br>5-8 → C<br>9-16 → D<br>17-32 → E                |
| GROUP A1<br>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<br>2 → B<br>3-4 → C<br>5-6 → D<br>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<br>2-4 → B<br>5-8 → C<br>9-10 → D<br>11-12 → E       |
| GROUP A3                         | 64                      | 24 B's & 12 C's (or higher)          | 4 B's in top 8 & 4 C's (or higher) In top 12 | 1-4 → A<br>5-8 → B<br>9-16 → C<br>17-24 → D<br>25-32 → E   |
| GROUP A4                         | 64                      | 12 A's & 12 B's & 12 C's (or higher) | 4 A's In top 8 & 4 B's (or higher) In top 12 | 1-8 → A<br>9-16 → B<br>17-24 → C<br>25-32 → D<br>33-48 → E |

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **BLACK CARD, MEDICAL WITHDRAWAL, OR NO-SHOW**

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

### **Medical Withdrawal**

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

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

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

### **No-Show**

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

## **USA Fencing Rule t.105**

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

## **SCORESHEET PROTESTS**

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

- If both fencers agree, the scoresheet will be changed
- If both fencers do not agree:
  - The 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 photos are not valid score documents and will not be used by the bout committee. The standard review period will

not be extended during the deliberation of the 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 classifications:**

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

### **Tournament formats with provisional approval:**

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

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

### **Tournament formats specifically excluded from awarding classifications:**

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

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

1. All pool bouts must be 5 touches and 3 minutes (Rule o.17).
2. All direct elimination bouts must be 15 touches

and three-3 minute periods, or 10 touches and two 3- minute periods for Veterans and Youth 10, with one-minute rests between periods. In 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 and Youth 10 events, the one-minute rest occurs when one fencer’s score reaches 5 touches (Rule 0 23-24 ).
3. There must be at least 50% promotion of fencers between rounds.
4. DEs with repêchage and DEs fenced to all places are not allowed for National Qualifiers.
5. There will not be a fence-off for third place unless it is necessary to determine a single qualifying slot.
6. If there is an absolute tie for the final qualifying slot, there must be a fence-off (15-touch bout, or DE format mandated by age-level of event(s) to determine the final qualifying slot.

### **Notification:**

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

2. Format must be announced when published.
3. Format must be announced at the start of the tournament.
4. Must meet divisional rules for sanctioning.

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

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

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

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

## **SHARKS & MINNOWS TOURNAMENT FORMAT**

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

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

The second round of pools contains two types, the “shark” and “minnow” pools. The shark pool is the

top-seeded fencers to come out of the first round.

Example (Fencers A-Q, seeded in order)  
“Sharks”

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

“Minnows”

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

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

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

A (1) v. P (16)

B (2) v. N (15)

C (3) v. M (14)

G (7) v. J (10)

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

## **COMPETITION TYPES**

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

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

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

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

Restricted competitions may not be rated unless the restriction is based solely upon fencers' classifications, USA Fencing age categories or division/region

membership, or meet the size restrictions defined in the information above.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 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](mailto: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 fol-

low-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 | [Rule Book Video Referencing \(t.42\)](#)

SafeSport | [SafeSport](#)

Anti-doping | [www.usada.org](http://www.usada.org)

FIE Rule Books | [FIE Rule Book](#)

RC Site | [Referees' Commission Website](#)

Regional Calendar | [www.usafencing.org/regional-events](http://www.usafencing.org/regional-events)

National Calendar | [www.usafencing.org/national-events-calendar](http://www.usafencing.org/national-events-calendar)

International Calendar | [www.usafencing.org/international-calendar](http://www.usafencing.org/international-calendar)



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