

USA FENCING POLICY FOR DEALING WITH INACTIVE AND NON-FUNCTIONAL DIVISIONS

- I. A recognized division of USA Fencing will be designated as an “Inactive Division” if it meets the conditions set forth in Part II below. An Inactive Division may be returned to active status if and when it meets the conditions set forth in Part V below. USA Fencing will not remit or owe a share of dues to the Inactive Division, will not recognize anyone as an officer of the Inactive Division, will not recognize tournament results or ratings changes for locally organized events, and will not allow members to identify with the Inactive Division when seeding competitions.
- II. A division will be considered inactive if it meets any of the following criteria:
 - A. As of January 1 of the calendar year it has fewer than 25 individual members who belong to a class of membership that includes voting rights, without regard to whether the members have met other requirements for entitlement to vote; or
 - B. It fails to conduct elections of officers and an executive committee for a period of 13 months; or
 - C. It fails to file required reports with USA Fencing for two consecutive membership years; or
 - D. It fails to handle funds under its control in accordance with law or USA Fencing policy and fails to rectify any such failure within a reasonable time after being put on notice thereof; or
 - E. It fails in two consecutive seasons (a) to conduct any required qualification tournaments or (b) to submit a compliant required report of any qualifying tournament; or
 - F. The Board of Directors of USA Fencing by resolution finds the division to be noncompliant in any material respect with USA Fencing rules, mandates, policies, or procedures and declares it to be “Inactive” indefinitely or until stated conditions are satisfied.
- III. Treatment of Inactive Divisions.
 - A. Established boundaries remain of an Inactive Division, subject to action by the Board of Directors.

- B. Inactive Divisions need not comply with bylaws, file officer or financial reports, or use the Division Operating Guide and may not conduct any division or USA Fencing business or activities while considered inactive.
- C. Inactive Divisions may not host sanctioned tournaments and may not qualify athletes to USA Fencing competitions. However, a contiguous division with which a USA Fencing member club has affiliated under Section III.E. may sanction tournaments organized by such clubs at any venue within either the Inactive Division or the division with which the club has elected to affiliate.
- D. Individual members of Inactive Divisions whose membership category includes the right to compete may, subject to the provisions of section III.E.:
 - 1. Fence without division affiliation or
 - 2. Elect to join any division with boundaries contiguous to the Inactive Division¹, in which case:
 - a. The member shall be recognized as a member of the contiguous division for all competitive and administrative purposes, including, but not limited to, the rights to vote and stand for selection to an office or other role in the division; and
 - b. The member having chosen to join a contiguous division may not change division affiliation except in compliance with such USA Fencing requirements and procedures as apply to all other members of the contiguous division.
 - c. Members of Inactive Divisions that do not share a border with another division may elect to join any division in the same Region.
- E. Club members of Inactive Divisions may exist without division affiliation or, at their option, may elect to join any division with boundaries contiguous to the Inactive Division, but in such event all members who designate such club as their own will be recognized as members of the division that club has joined.
- F. A contiguous division adopted by a club or individual member of an Inactive Division under this procedure may not discriminate against that club or individual and shall treat that club or individual as a full member of the adopted division for all purposes.
- G. Members of Inactive Divisions who are not eligible to join a contiguous division or who choose not to do so retain the non-competitive member rights, including the right to vote in national elections and any insurance associated with their membership class.

¹ In the case of Alaska, the Western Washington and Oregon Divisions shall be considered as contiguous and in the case of Hawaii, the Central California, Southern California, Orange Coast and San Diego Divisions shall be considered as contiguous.

- H. Any funds held by an Inactive Division shall be transferred to the USA Fencing National Office, and together with all funds in the possession of USA Fencing and allocated to the Inactive Division shall be held by USA Fencing on behalf of the Inactive Division. If the Inactive Division does not return to active status within two fiscal years of being declared inactive, all such funds shall become part of the USA Fencing general fund and shall not thereafter come under the control or use of the Inactive Division.
- I. The USA Fencing membership records of members who affiliate with a contiguous division shall reflect membership in the affiliated division. The membership records of members who do not affiliate with a contiguous division shall indicate that the member is unaffiliated with any division.

IV. Return to active status.

A division will no longer be considered inactive and will be returned to active status in good standing at the beginning of the membership year or on the first business day of the calendar year when the following conditions exist:

- A. More than 25 members who belong to a class of membership that includes voting rights, without regard to whether the members have met other requirements for entitlement to vote, reside within or belong to clubs located within the established boundaries of the Inactive Division; and
- B. Two USA Fencing member clubs are located within the division boundaries; and
- C. Members of the Division (acting alone or with the assistance of USA Fencing)
 - 1. Conduct elections of officers and executive committee members; and
 - 2. Adopt approved Bylaws and Division Operating Guide; and
 - 3. File for the then current season all reports required by USA Fencing; and
 - 4. Demonstrate proper handling of funds under its control and appropriate financial controls; and
 - 5. Demonstrate the ability to conduct required qualifying tournaments.
- D. If the Inactive Division was so designated by resolution of the USA Fencing Board of Directors, members of the Inactive Division demonstrate compliance with any conditions established by the Board of Directors for the return to active status.

In addition, the following principles apply:

- E. A division seeking return to active status and good standing may request assistance from USA Fencing with and during the process of satisfying the foregoing requirements.
- F. Upon a division's return to active status, the following shall occur:
 - 1. The memberships of the clubs and individuals who opted to affiliate with a contiguous division shall be returned to the reactivated division.
 - 2. All funds held by USA Fencing pursuant to Section III.H. and not transferred to USA Fencing's general fund thereunder shall be transferred to control of the reactivated division.