



Operations Manual

2019 Edition

USA Fencing

Phone: 719-866-4511

Main Fax: 719-632-5737

Membership/Events Fax: 719-325-8998

Finance Fax: 719-325-8996

International Fax: 719-325-8995

4065 Sinton Road, Suite 140
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Website: www.usafencing.org

Email: information@usafencing.org

Updated: April 2019

Preface and Acknowledgements

The United States Fencing Association (USA Fencing), also known as and referred to herein as USA Fencing, is a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of Colorado. The Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Association 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 USA Fencing National Office.

Operations Manual

This edition of the Operations Manual is an update to the major revision of the Operations done in 2011. This version incorporates procedural changes of USA Fencing that have occurred since the 2011 edition. The manual will be updated periodically in accordance with the actions of USA Fencing Board of Directors and on the basis of recommended corrections and/or modifications. Certain Appendices in this version are works in progress. Revisions will be noted by the date provided.

Unless otherwise explicitly provided, references in this Operations Manual to other documents and publications should be construed to mean the current versions of those materials at the time of the application of the provision in question. Additional information on the history of USA Fencing, National Teams and various award recipients, click [here](#).

The 2019 Operations Manual revisions are due to the efforts of Brandon Rochelle, Jennie Salmon, Kirsten Crouse, Alan Geller, Rasha Abdellatif, Leslie Winckler & Christine Strong Simmons.

Suggestions to enable this manual to be more user friendly are welcome and can be forwarded to c.simmons@usafencing.org.

The Operations Manual is the property of USA Fencing and is available on USA Fencing website, Resources Tab/Documents: www.usafencing.org. Permission is granted for reproduction of any portion of this book.

Version April 2019
Christine Strong Simmons, Editor-in-Chief
Sr. Director of Operations

Table of Contents

Revisions to Operations Manual.....	5
Chapter 1 - The Corporation	6
USA Fencing Purpose	6
History Overview.....	7
Jurisdiction and Affiliations	7
National Office.....	7
Board of Directors.....	8
Committees, Commissions and Task Forces.....	8
Publications and Communications	8
American Fencing.....	8
Group Exemption	8
Athlete Handbook	8
Operations Manual.....	8
Financial Policy and Procedures	9
USA Fencing Website.....	9
Organizational Units - Division Specifications	9
Policy on Mailing List	9
United States Fencing Foundation [USFF] - History.....	10
USFF Trustees.....	10
USA Fencing Hall of Fame.....	10
Coach Recognition Programs	10
USOC/USA Fencing Coach of the Year Program	11
Chapter 2 – Membership.....	12
Rights of Membership.....	12
Voting Privileges.....	12
International Licenses	12
New Members	12
Membership Definitions	13
Definition of Division Membership	13
Rebate of Share of Dues	13
Arrears	13
Chapter 3 – Competitions.....	14

Authorized/Sanctioned Competitions	14
Competitor Status	14
Competitor Requirements	14
Division Responsibilities	15
Regional	16
Qualifying Competitions - Divisions	16
National	16
Scheduling of Competitions - Divisions	16
Type of Tournaments	17
National Qualifying Competitions	18
National Championships	19
National Calendar	19
Chapter 4 - Tournament Management	20
Bout Committee – Decision Making Procedures and Responsibilities	20
Composition for National Tournaments	21
Composition for Regional and Local Tournaments	21
Post tournament responsibilities	21
Protests	21
On Strip Protests	22
Jury of Appeal	22
Jury of Appeal Procedure	22
Tournament Operations – The Venue	23
Registration Policies	23
Scheduling Guidelines	23
Seeding and Pool Layout	24
Scoring	24
Medical Withdraws, No Shows, Eliminations and Exclusions	25
Running an Efficient Direct Elimination Table	25
Video Replay	25
Referee Requirements Click	26
Medical Staff Recommendations	26
National Tournament Scheduling Criteria	26
Chapter 5 – General Entry Information	28
Eligibility and Fencer Responsibility	28
General	28

Representation in USA Fencing Team Competitions	28
Denial of Entry.....	28
Chapter 6 – Classification System	29
Classifications	29
Types of Competition for Ratings	29
Awarding Classifications – General Principles	30
Establishing Classification for Foreign Fencers	30
Administration of Classifications	30
Chapter 7 – Competition Procedures	31
Seeding.....	31
National Rankings.....	31
Division and Regional Competitions	31
Club Mates.....	31
Formats.....	31
Local Competition Formats	31
Formats for Qualifying Competitions	32
Chapter 8 – Rules Governing USA Fencing Championships.....	33
General	33
Competitive Fields	33
Qualification Criteria for Qualifying Competitions	33
Appendices	35
Guidelines for Forming New Divisions	35
Article XV of USA Fencing Bylaws:	35
Tournament Procedures.....	35
Repechage	38
Pool Formats.....	47
Classification System	52
USA Fencing Classification Reference Chart.....	54
Strip layout.....	55
Forms.....	56

Revisions to Operations Manual

April 2019 Publish Date

Chapter	Section	Change/Update	Date of Change

Chapter 1 - The Corporation

The United States Fencing Association (USA Fencing), also known as and referred to herein as USA Fencing, is a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of Colorado. The Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Association 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 USA Fencing National Office.

USA Fencing tax identification number is solely for the use of USA Fencing and not available for use by any other organization affiliated with USA Fencing. Divisions who have obtained their own unique tax identification number are required to file with the IRS. A copy of such filings must be submitted to USA Fencing Business Services Department.

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

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, Wheelchair World Championships and fencing at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Any U.S. fencer wishing to participate in official international competitions must be accredited by USA Fencing to the FIE or to the host country as to amateur standing and qualification.

The Operations Manual explains the organizational structure of USA Fencing and the competitive opportunities for all members and the manner in which competitions should operate within the tenets of the organization and of the sport.

The governance of the organization is specified in USA Fencing Bylaws and can be located [here](#) on USA Fencing website.

USA Fencing Purpose

The purposes of USA Fencing shall be:

1. To serve as the National Governing Body for the sport of fencing in the United States, and in that capacity to fulfill the lawful obligations imposed on national governing bodies and to enjoy the privileges and prerogatives accorded national governing bodies by United States Law, the USOC and the FIE.
2. To provide local, regional and national competitive opportunities for fencers of all levels of ability under uniform rules and regulations and to strive for improvement in all aspects of organizing and conducting fencing competition.
3. To select, support and prepare individuals and teams to represent the United States in international fencing competitions.
4. To develop, support and promote fencing referees in domestic and international competition.
5. To promote the sport of fencing in the United States and around the world and to disseminate information about fencing so that people may be exposed to and enjoy its many physical, mental and social benefits.
6. To provide support in the form of information and programs to fencing instructors and to organizations and groups that offer fencing opportunities.
7. To make available information and opportunities that will allow fencing practitioners to enhance their skills and to increase the enjoyment and benefit they derive from the sport.
8. To provide assistance and support to other organizations that promote fencing or conduct fencing competitions in a manner consistent with the purposes, goals and means of USA Fencing.
9. To foster good will and harmonious relationships with fencers and fencing organizations in foreign countries for the betterment of the sport of fencing.

History Overview

USA Fencing was founded in New York City on April 22, 1891, as the Amateur Fencers League of America (AFLA). Previously the Amateur Athletics Union (AAU) had conducted fencing competitions. See Appendix A for a brief history of USA Fencing.

United States fencers have achieved considerable prestige on and off the strip. Despite financial and geographical handicaps to participation in most major international competitions, US fencers have competed with distinction internationally since 1904.

Go to link for details on USA Fencing members who have distinguished themselves in international fencing matters – Fédération Internationale d'Escrime (FIE), International Olympic Committee (IOC) and IWAS, International Paralympic Committee, and a summary of U.S. performances at World Championships and Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Jurisdiction and Affiliations

USA Fencing is a member of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) and IWAS as the national governing body (NGB) of the Olympic sport of fencing in the United States and of the FIE, the official international governing body of worldwide fencing. The FIE is a member of the IOC (International Olympic Committee).

The FIE governs all official international fencing competitions including the World Fencing Championships and the Olympic Games. The FIE establishes the eligibility criteria for athletes to compete in official FIE competitions: World Cup competitions, Grand Prix, World Championships for all age categories and the Olympic Games. See the current edition of the Athlete Handbook for information on FIE competitions.

USA Fencing, as a member of the USOC, works in close cooperation with the USOC in the selection and training of athletes for the U.S. fencing teams to the Olympic and Pan American Games. For these teams USA Fencing nominates athletes and cadre members for USOC approval. For all other international fencing teams USA Fencing selects athletes and the cadre members. Every athlete on any US team must be a current competitive member of USA Fencing who is a citizen of the United States and eligible to represent the United States. Every official staff (cadre) member of US teams must be a current member of USA Fencing.

USA Fencing maintains close relations with other sports organizations, including the US Fencing Coaches Association (USFCA) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

National Office

The National Office is located in Colorado Springs, Colorado. It has several departments addressing specific areas of USA Fencing operation: Membership Services, Events (regional, national and domestic international events), Finance & Business Services, Communications, Marketing, Coach Education, Development and Sport Performance. All departments and the day-to-day operations of USA Fencing are the responsibility of the Executive Director, who as the CEO implements the policies and programs of USA Fencing and its board of directors.

At the beginning of each season, USA Fencing Membership Services publishes on USA Fencing website documents relevant for division officers for effective operation of the divisions. These documents contain information to provide service to the members, forms and information for operating competitions in the area, and forms and information from Events for the new season of national tournaments and national championships.

Information may include:

- sample bylaws
- national calendar
- membership applications for individuals and clubs
- national tournament entry forms and online registration
- Athlete Handbook
- USA Fencing Rules
- Spectator Guide

Board of Directors

USA Fencing [Bylaws](#) state that the board of directors is vested with the full powers and responsibility for the management and policies of USA Fencing, subject to these bylaws.

Committees, Commissions and Task Forces

The standing committees of USA Fencing, as defined by USA Fencing Bylaws are:

- [Audit Committee](#) - primary responsibility for reviewing and overseeing the financial procedures, controls, reports, and regulatory filings of USA Fencing, and reporting on the foregoing to the board of directors.
- [Budget Committee](#) - primary responsibility for working with the professional staff and exercise oversight in the development and formulation of USA Fencing's annual budget; presenting the budget to the board of directors for its review, revision and approval; monitoring budgetary performance; recommending variances to the budget; and reporting on the foregoing to the board of directors at each meeting of the board.
- [Election Committee](#) - responsible for fairly administering the elections by the membership of national officers and positions on the board of directors specified in these bylaws, for deciding issues raised and encountered during the conduct of elections, and for overseeing balloting on other matters brought before the membership
- [Nominating Committee](#) - responsible for selecting candidates for elected positions and offices in USA Fencing as specified in these bylaws and in so doing shall take care to select candidates who possess experience and knowledge pertinent to the purposes, interests and needs of USA Fencing.
- [Ethics Committee](#) – responsible for promoting and sustaining a culture of ethical conduct throughout the USA Fencing. The Ethics Committee shall review all USFA codes of conduct, conflict of interest regulations and disclosures, and other policies and reports addressing prescribed and recommended standards of behavior of USA Fencing members, contractors and employees.

Publications and Communications

American Fencing

American Fencing is the official publication of USA Fencing. *American Fencing* was founded by Jose de Capriles and William L. Osborn, who served as editor and publisher, respectively, without remuneration. The magazine is distributed to members of USA Fencing four times a year as part of their membership benefits, and is often used for official announcements to USA Fencing members. Subscriptions also circulate throughout the fencing world.

American Fencing serves as a resource and gives priority to official communications from officers of USA Fencing and chairpersons of any committee or commission duly established by USA Fencing. To ensure publication, submissions must be identified as an official communication so that it is not mistaken for a regular article or letter being proposed for publication at the discretion of the editor.

All questions of policy regarding *American Fencing* are referred to the *American Fencing* Policy Board: USA Fencing President, Secretary, and Treasurer, the editor of the magazine, and the editors emeriti. The Executive Director is an advisor to the Policy Board. Persons who wish to submit articles or advertisements for publication in the magazine should email them to information@usafencing.org addressed to the editor of *American Fencing*.

Group Exemption

USA Fencing offers its divisions the opportunity to take part in the group exemption process with the Internal Revenue Service in accordance with the program outlined below. Participation will be on a voluntary basis, and will require compliance with existing regulations. For more information, email finance@usafencing.org.

Athlete Handbook

At the beginning of each fencing season USA Fencing publishes an *Athlete Handbook* that describes current programs offered by USA Fencing to provide opportunities for athletes of all ages and proficiency levels to enhance their domestic and international competitive experiences as well as gain the means by which to become world class athletes. The National Office will notify USA Fencing membership of changes to any of the programs domestic or international requirements via posting on USA Fencing website and with a list of revisions to the Athlete Handbook that is published in both the book and on the website.

Operations Manual

USA Fencing publishes an Operations Manual that will be posted on the website and that is updated periodically. This manual

serves to assist the administrative units to understand their responsibilities and manner in which to manage qualifying tournaments and local competitions.

Financial Policy and Procedures

USA Fencing has published a Financial Policy and Procedures that is posted on the website that is updated periodically. USA Fencing intends this manual to be used as a set of *guidelines* for day-to-day business operations. This manual is approved by the board of directors, which serves as the sole authority for financial policies and procedures.

USA Fencing Website

The official USA Fencing website address is www.usafencing.org. The website, under the authority of USA Fencing, is a source of information about USA Fencing competitions throughout the country, international competitions, member fencing clubs, current coach and athlete membership and club list, the national and regional schedule of tournaments, and official forms and documents. The website provides links to various association resources, online registration, committees, and other related websites.

Organizational Units - Division Specifications

For the purpose of administering its local affairs and conducting competitions for USA Fencing members, the United States is divided into 67 divisions [See Appendix G for the current list of divisions]. The first divisions were established on March 20, 1892, in Nebraska and New England.

The boundaries of a division must follow either established political or postal boundaries; a division may be made up of several non-contiguous political or postal entities. For example, a division could be defined as being comprised of several states, one state or contiguous counties within one or more states. The National Division was created for those USA Fencing members who reside in an area not currently within the boundaries of any division or who reside outside the United States or are members of the Armed Forces.

Petitions for the establishment of a new division or for the partition of an existing division must include an acceptable description of the boundaries of the anticipated new division.

See the Appendices for Guidelines for Forming a New Division. Contact USA Fencing Director of Operations at the National Office for the latest edition of the Division Operating Guide. The Division Operating Guide is also available at www.usafencing.org, under Membership/Division Resources.

Divisions must amend their bylaws to include the following paragraphs:

The (Division) is an administrative unit of USA Fencing and is subject to general supervision and control under the provisions in USA Fencing Bylaws and Operations Manual. The fiscal year of the (Division) will be that of USA Fencing.

The purpose of the (Division) is to support, enhance, and develop the sport of Fencing. A copy of the bylaws for each division will be retained by the National Office. The (Division) shall submit bylaw revisions to USA Fencing National Office within 90 days of the revision.

All required financial reports, officers' reports, and division bylaws must be filed with USA Fencing National Office by their specified due dates. All divisions participating in the group exemption process are required to obtain a distinct Tax Identification Number. USA Fencing Membership Services Director will offer assistance in this endeavor. A division that fails or elects not to comply with the above implementation procedure will not be afforded the advantages of this program.

The advantage to participating in this program is that it allows corporations and other sponsors to make tax-deductible donations to the division. It is also possible to obtain state sales tax exemption once a division is federally exempt (under the group exemption of USA Fencing).

Members of USA Fencing should have access to division records in the spirit of openness and transparency. USA Fencing Board of Directors recommends that members initially inquire of their division officers before requesting such documents from the National Office. It is also recommended that divisions post such information to their websites.

Policy on Mailing List

Mailing Lists can be provided by the Membership Services department by following these procedures. Email addresses are not provided.

1. Division Use of Lists

- Each division will be entitled to receive on request up to four sets of lists and/or labels of their members during each membership year at no cost.
- These lists may only be used only for official division business.
- These lists cannot be used for third party solicitation purposes.
- Additional lists or labels will be made available at \$.05 per name for labels.
- Each division can submit an email to membership services to be sent as an email blast to the members of that division.

2. Use of Lists by Other Groups

- USA Fencing Committees and Commissions, educational institutions, fencing camps, competition sponsors, regional organizers and constituent entities that support, promote and carry out the mission of USA Fencing may submit a written request (standard form) to the Executive Director of USA Fencing, stating items of information to be included.
- Candidates for any elected office of USA Fencing may request mailing list and/or labels.
- Use of lists shall be limited to the purposes stated in the application, which must be consistent with USA Fencing purposes and mission.
- Characteristics of the desired list(s) must be specified in the request, e.g. by age category, by gender, by type of membership, by weapon, by classification of fencer, by classification as official, etc., in alphabetical, geographic, other order.
- The applicant must agree to the security of the list (non-proliferation) and name the person(s) responsible for list custody and security.
- Commissions and committees of USA Fencing shall be treated in the same manner as divisions, with respect to lists pertinent to their respective areas of responsibility.
- A fee shall be charged for lists and/or labels, shipping, and administrative services, based on costs.

3. USA Fencing members who do not wish to appear on such lists may contact USA Fencing Membership Services in writing requesting that their membership mailing information not be included on any mailing list other than that used for distributing official USA Fencing information and news.

United States Fencing Foundation [USFF] - History

The United States Fencing Foundation (USFF) was established in 1986 when the 1984 LA Olympics achieved unprecedented financial success, 40 percent of the surplus was awarded to the USOC, 40 percent to the Los Angeles Organizing Committee, and 20 percent was split among the NGBs. USA Fencing share was \$1,285,218. It was invested in the USFF to provide a revenue stream for future grants to USA Fencing.

USFF Trustees

USA Fencing Board of Directors elects the USFF Board of Trustees in accordance with the USFF Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. At the time of their election, two of the trustees must be serving as members of the Board of Directors of the United States Fencing Association and the other six must be members of the Association but may not be serving as members of such board. At least one of the six non-officer members shall have been a past officer of the Association. Should the officer, non-officer, or member status of any trustee change during the four year term, the trustee shall be automatically removed.

USA Fencing Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame committee assists USA Fencing in selecting members with especially outstanding achievements in American fencing, whether through competition, coaching or service for induction into USA Fencing Hall of Fame. The committee solicits suggestions from the membership, makes nominations, prepares interpretive materials and organizes the presentation of awards to the honorees. USA Fencing conducts the balloting for the Hall of Fame electronically. A candidate shall be declared elected on receiving a simple majority of "yes" votes.

Coach Recognition Programs

USOC/USA Fencing Coach of the Year Program

In 1996, the United States Olympic Committee started a program to recognize outstanding achievements in coaching. Initially the program considered two coaches submitted by each NGB; one as their Developmental Coach of the Year and one as their Elite Coach of the Year. In 2004 the USOC added a third category, Volunteer Coach of the Year. The coaches are nominated based on their accomplishments within a category in the previous calendar year. In 2004 the USOC also added the Doc Councilman Science Award to recognize those coaches who have maximized the use of Sports Science in enhancing the development of athletes in their sport.

The coaches named by each sport for each category will be candidates for the USOC Coach of the Year in each category. The top five volunteer, developmental and national finalists, along with the winner of the "Doc Councilman" Science award winner will be flown to the annual Coach of the Year event. Each of these coaches receives a plaque and is recognized by the USOC in its annual Coach of The Year Souvenir Program book.

Five finalists in each category are named, and the USOC votes on a USOC Developmental Coach of the Year and USOC National (replaces original title of Elite) Coach of the Year.

USA Fencing adopted this program to recognize coaches for their contributions to the sport and to elevate the status of the coaching profession in fencing.

VOLUNTEER COACH - a coach who does not receive payment in any form for his/her involvement in coaching at any level. The nominee should actively be coaching youth athletes.

DEVELOPMENTAL COACH - a coach of a youth club, high school or junior-level athlete or a coach directly responsible for coaching athletes to the national or junior national level. They can receive payment for services.

NATIONAL COACH - the coach of an elite athlete who competes at the highest level of the sport or a coach of an elite-level club, or coach of a collegiate, Pan-Am, World Championship or Olympic Games team. The nominee must currently be coaching or within one year of their retirement.

"DOC" COUNCILMAN SCIENCE AWARD - a coach who utilizes science, medicine and/or technology as an integral part of his/her coaching methods or has created innovative ways to integrate sport science into coaching.

Chapter 2 – Membership

Rights of Membership

USA Fencing Board of Directors has established that: All individual members who are in good standing shall be entitled to exercise all rights reserved to the membership class to which they belong, subject to the limitations of the bylaws and to such regulations and limitations as the board of directors may from time to time lay down with respect to particular categories of competitions. Only those individual members who have attained his or her 18th birthday as of the preceding February 1 and whose dues, as specified by the board of directors, have been received by USA Fencing National Office on or before that date, and who belong to a membership class the attributes of which include the right to vote, are eligible to vote on matters that may be presented to the membership pursuant to these bylaws. Unless otherwise provided in these bylaws, only members who are eligible to vote may hold elected or appointed positions within USA Fencing. The date of admission to membership is determined according to the provisions of Article V. To be eligible to vote or to hold an elected or appointed position within USA Fencing, members must on or before February 1 of the year at issue either have provided their date of birth to USA Fencing National Office or delivered to the National Office a sworn or affirmed statement, that he or she has attained, or will attain, their 18th birthday as of that date. All rights and privileges of membership shall cease upon death, resignation, expulsion, suspension or failure to pay dues. For more information on USA Fencing membership types, click [here](#).

A member is not entitled to vote in USA Fencing elections or participate in competitions until they have submitted the required paperwork and payment to USA Fencing Membership Services or the tournament organizer payment of dues to a division secretary or other duly appointed agent renders a fencer eligible only to fence in local, division or regional competitions sanctioned by USA Fencing or the division where the dues were paid. Once the membership has been satisfactorily processed, the individual will receive a membership number.

Voting Privileges

All individual members, in eligible membership categories, in good standing, who have paid their dues (membership processed and fee collected), as specified by the board of directors, on or before February 1st of each membership year and who have attained their 18th birthday as of that date shall have the right to vote on all matters that may be voted on by USA Fencing and its member divisions. In addition, these members may hold any office to which they may be elected or appointed. A person is considered a member when USA Fencing National office satisfactorily processes the membership application and associated fees. Members whose applications are incomplete, e.g., missing required signatures, will not be considered in good standing until all information has been completed, signatures have been obtained and fees have been collected.

Members must inform USA Fencing Membership Services of their date of birth and U.S. citizenship, if not noted on their membership application, on or before February 1st of the current membership year or stated in writing that they have, or will attain their 18th birthday as of that date to be eligible to vote in any USA Fencing election.

Members in good standing who are 18 and older, as of Feb. 1 of the membership year and who have provided USA Fencing with their date of birth and citizenship by Feb. 1 of the membership year may vote on matters of USA Fencing in accordance with the provisions of USA Fencing Bylaws.

International Licenses

Competitive members of USA Fencing can apply for an FIE License in order to compete in international competitions. See the *Athlete Handbook* for rules governing application for an FIE License and entry procedures for FIE World Cup competitions. Members of USA Fencing may not compete in any international team competitions representing the United States without specific approval of the Sports Performance Department.

New Members

A new member or a first time membership upgrade (individuals only), whose individual one-year dues are paid between April 1 and July 31 shall be entitled to membership through the next membership year without the payment of additional dues. A person who has not been a member of USA Fencing for the past five years will be treated as a new member in establishing the expiration date of membership.

Membership Definitions

USA Fencing membership is required to compete in any USA Fencing sanctioned event. The membership year coincides with the fencing season which occurs between August 1 and the following July 31. All dues are payable on application for membership and thereafter on or before the next membership year begins.

Membership dues are not prorated at any time. Please click [here](#) to see current membership types and dues.

Definition of Division Membership

A fencer must identify to which division the member will belong. A fencer may be a member of the division:

- In which the fencer resides; OR
- In which the fencer's club is located, OR
- In which the fencer is a resident student at a school (i.e., not a day student).

The division for the member becomes the place from which the member can qualify for the Junior Olympic Fencing Championships and the associated qualifying competitions for USA Fencing National Championships.

A fencer may change division membership if the fencer moves to a place that is located in another division. Such change will affect the division from which the fencer can then qualify for any national championship tournament. A fencer, who resides at a school located in another division, must decide when submitting the membership application whether to represent the division where his/her home (residence) is located or the division where his/her school is located. Contact information@usafencing.org if you need to adjust your division.

If a member reports a change of address, the member must notify Membership Services if the division needs to be changed.

Rebate of Share of Dues

Rebate checks will only be issued to those divisions that have filed the required financial reports, (from the Division Treasurer) and division reports indicating current officers. Checks will be issued semi-annually. Rebates will not be paid and amounts reserved for that purpose will be returned to USA Fencing's general funds if reports are not received during the current membership year.

Arrears

All dues received by USA Fencing National Office shall be accounted for by USA Fencing. Before an administrative unit is eligible to receive any payments, a satisfactory financial report must first be filed with USA Fencing National Office for the previous membership year. That portion of dues not reserved to administrative units of USA Fencing shall be deposited to the national account of USA Fencing for general USA Fencing purposes.

Chapter 3 – Competitions

Authorized/Sanctioned Competitions

A USA Fencing sanctioned competition refers to competitions that have been authorized by USA Fencing designated representatives who are responsible for the operation and conduct of official competitions (e.g. USA Fencing or one of its divisions or regions), in accordance with the *Rules of Competition* and related modifications as specified in the current USA Fencing Operations Manual.

The following paragraphs outline the conditions for application of the term sanctioned competition. Succeeding chapters of this manual expand on specific areas with regards to the conduct of sanctioned competitions. Nothing in USA Fencing *Operations Manual* should be understood to contradict the specifications of USA Fencing *Rules of Competition*, Part 5, and Disciplinary Rules for Competition. USA Fencing safety requirements must be followed at all USA Fencing sanctioned competitions.

Competitor Status

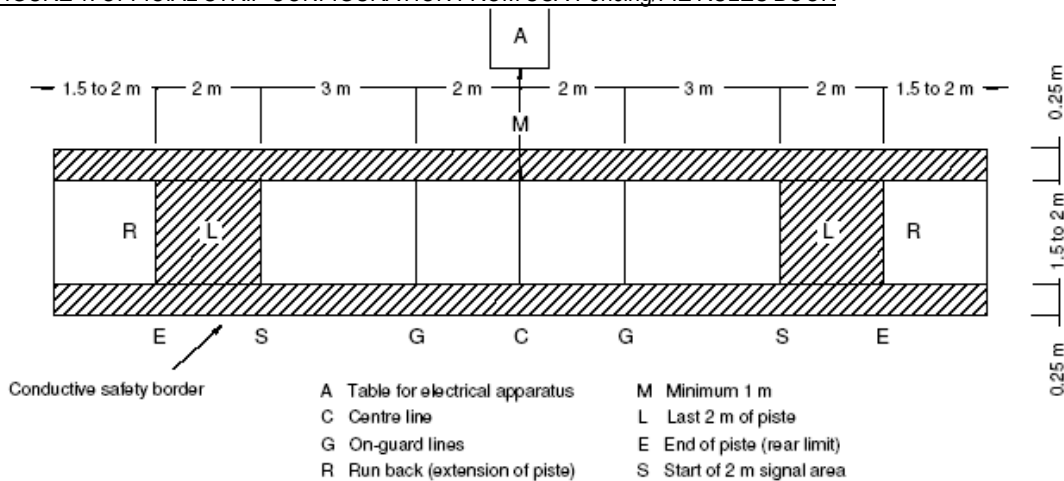
1. Competitive or International Competitive members of USA Fencing may participate in competitions scheduled by or under the auspices of USA Fencing Board of Directors or its authorized representatives: e.g., USA Fencing committees, division officers, regional coordinators, etc. Foreign fencers may fence in USA Fencing competitions (non-qualifying competitions).
2. Competitive members of USA Fencing may participate in collegiate and scholastic meets for which they are eligible, and in tournaments organized by the Intercollegiate Fencing Association, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, other recognized intercollegiate and interscholastic associations, invitational meets, or unofficial club and inter-club competitions.
3. Competitive members of USA Fencing may participate in foreign individual competitions when such competitions are organized by or under the sponsorship of a National Fencing Federation that is a member of the FIE. Members may also compete in international collegiate or scholastic competitions organized by a group recognized by the FIE, USA Fencing or the National Fencing Federation of the country in which the competition is held, or the IOC.
4. There are age restrictions depending on the category and/or level of the competition. See the current edition of the Athlete Handbook for specific age eligibility criteria.

Competitor Requirements

1. Competitive members of USA Fencing can earn classifications at competitions that have been sanctioned by recognized entities under the jurisdiction of USA Fencing Board of Directors: e.g., officers of divisions and the National Office. For a local or qualification competition to be considered sanctioned, it must be included in the division's official schedule emailed to the members and/or posted on the corresponding web site or, in the case of Regional/Super Circuit, Regional Open Circuit tournaments or national tournaments, published in the annual Athlete Handbook and/or posted on USA Fencing web site, www.usafencing.org, under Events.
2. Sanctioned competitions must be organized and conducted by persons appointed by the appropriate USA Fencing governing group, e.g., divisions, National Office etc. The competitions must be conducted in accordance with current USA Fencing rules of competition as described in USA Fencing Rule Book, the Athlete Handbook and the Operations Manual. These competitions must be open to current USA Fencing Competitive, International Competitive and Collegiate Competitive members who meet the stated restrictions of the competitions, such as age category or the type of competition, e.g., Class "C" or Division II or similar restrictions, or as an open with only minimum age restriction.
3. Sanctioned tournaments or competitions are those published by an acceptable USA Fencing official division, RYC, SYC, ROC or national USA Fencing) means of communication – in print, electronic media via email and/or official website. Any deviation from published information about the sanctioned competitions – either in manner of operation or splitting or combining to increase the number of classifications to be earned can be the basis for withdrawal of the sanction and thus nullify award of classifications.
4. The facility at which USA Fencing sanctioned competitions/tournaments are held must have proper insurance coverage for the duration of the tournament. Consult with USA Fencing Membership Services for details.

5. A sanctioned tournament or competition must meet USA Fencing Rules of Competition, including the layout of strips in the facility. Minimum requirements for such strip configuration are divided by the level at which the competitions are held. See Appendix N for strip specifications.
 - a. Local: Fencing strips need to be at least 1 meter wide and 12 meters long, with adequate run-off. Grounded strips are preferred but not required. Scoring apparatus can be located at a reasonable position along the strip, ensuring clear visibility for the referee's line of sight to the Fencing; with placement at the center of the strip optimal. The final two meters of the strip must be clearly marked. In regards to the run off, if the facility does not have the means for exact compliance, accommodations must be made in how the strip usage is handled. For example, if there is insufficient room for the proper length of the strip, then the fencer must be given opportunity in use of the strip to have an equivalent amount of strip during the bouts.

FIGURE 1: OFFICIAL STRIP CONFIGURATION FROM USA Fencing/FIE RULES BOOK



- b. Regional/Qualifier: Fencing strips need to be at least 1.2 meters wide and 14 meters long, with adequate run-off. When possible, finals strips should be grounded. Scoring apparatus must be clearly visible from either end of the strip with placement at the center of the strip optimal for the referee. The final two meters of the strip must be clearly marked.
- c. National: Fencing strips must conform to the FIE rules regarding length, width and placement of the scoring machines at the center point of the fencing strip. All strips at national USA Fencing tournaments are required to start the tournament with FIE standard scoring machines equipped with visible bout timing and scoring.

Division Responsibilities

Division competitions are the responsibility of the division officers and its Executive Committee. Only those competitions published in the official division schedule, whether by newsletter mailed or emailed to division members or posted on the division website, and which are conducted under the authority of the division, are deemed to be sanctioned by the division and may be considered for a rating whereby fencers may earn a classification, all other conditions specified in this manual being satisfied.

Divisions are responsible for scheduling and conducting the division qualifying tournaments at which fencers can qualify for specific individual competitions for the Junior Olympic Fencing Championships and for individual competitions at the National Championships. The qualifying paths are described in Athlete Handbook.

The official published schedule is one that is printed and mailed or emailed to the members of the division and/or posted on the official website of the division. At the beginning of each fencing season the division should mail or email to its members of the current and prior season with its website address and date when the schedule of competitions will be posted on its website. In this way, the division keeps its members informed of the status of the schedule without extra mailings and in a way that all the competitors can access schedule details. It is recommended that the division email or mail a printed version of the schedule to the clubs in its area with a note specifying that its web site will post changes to and details of the scheduled competitions.

Divisions may, under their auspices, sanction competitions within their territorial boundaries that are organized by current USA Fencing member clubs, individuals or other organizations who must have proper insurance coverage for the event, and for which the division ensures that such competitions are conducted in accordance with the current USA Fencing *Rules of Competition* and operating procedures. These competitions must be included in the official schedule of division competitions to be considered “sanctioned” competitions.

It is a common practice that divisions will list other competitions that are not “sanctioned” by the division but rather are to inform its members of other competitive opportunities. The division should indicate which competitions or tournaments are not held under their authority, and therefore are not sanctioned.

Regional

USA Fencing has established a Regional Youth Circuit (RYC) and a Super Youth Circuit (SYC) for three age categories of youth fencers – Youth 10 for those between the ages of 7 and 10; Youth 12 for those between the ages of 9 and 12; and Youth 14 for those between the ages of 11 and 14. The ages specified refer to the age of the athlete as of the first of January in the current season. See the Athlete Handbook for details on age restrictions

In addition, USA Fencing has established a Regional Junior and Cadet Circuit (RJCC) and a Super Junior and Cadet Circuit (SJCC) for cadet and junior age categories. See the Athlete Handbook for details on age restrictions. There is also one – two International Regional Circuit competitions held outside of the United States for Junior and Cadet trying to qualify for the July Challenge and Youth categories to satisfy the prerequisite for the March Youth NAC.

The Regional Open Circuit (ROC) is designed to promote and develop strong regional tournaments for the Open/Division IA fencer who seeks competitive opportunities beyond the local and division levels but below the NAC Division I level. Other competitive opportunities in the ROC tournaments are provided for Veteran (40 & Older) and Division II (C, D, E or U) fencers. ROCs are selected by a panel review through a bid process.

See the Athlete Handbook for current status of the various regional programs. These tournaments are governed by current USA Fencing Rules of Competition and serve as a qualification path for USA Fencing tournaments. Classifications may be earned at these competitions. See Chapter 6 for description of the classification system.

Qualifying Competitions - Divisions

Divisions have the responsibility to hold competitions to qualify their fencers for the National Championships and the Junior Olympic Fencing Championships. Members of the division must be notified at least four weeks prior to the date of the competitions that will be used to qualify fencers to the National Championships or the Junior Olympic Fencing Championships. This notification must include all pertinent information concerning the location of the tournament, the schedule of competitions and the specific entry details.

To meet these responsibilities each division must schedule the qualifying competitions no later than the deadline set by the National Office for submission of qualifying forms for the Championships (JOs and Nationals) and conduct the division qualifying tournaments at which fencers can qualify for specific individual competitions for the Junior Olympic Fencing Championships and for individual competitions at the National Championships. See the current Athlete Handbook for qualification paths and deadlines for submission of qualifying forms for each of the national championship tournaments.

National

National competitions (including the annual national championship tournaments) are held under the authority of the president of USA Fencing and the board of directors that have delegated the responsibility to the National Office and the executive director. In any [national] tournament in which the strips are enclosed so that access to the scoring table is denied to non-competitors, the score shall be clearly posted or clearly announced, in a manner visible or audible to the public, after each touch.

Scheduling of Competitions - Divisions

USA Fencing season officially begins on August 1 and ends July 31. Divisions should adhere to the guidelines specified here.

The division schedules must include the information described in the following paragraphs.

1. Distinguish competitions that will not require electrical equipment – all USA Fencing competitions should be conducted with electrical scoring equipment. It would be expected that the only non-electric competitions would be those specified

- as “novice”, competitions for fencers who have competed less than one or two years.
2. The place, date, and time for close of registration for each competition at the tournament should be carefully considered. In cases where competitions will start in the evening, especially during the week, those responsible for determining the schedule should consider the age of the competitors; e.g. for the younger age fencers it is detrimental for a competition to end late in the evening during the week. Such time considerations should be noted in developing the schedule of qualifying competitions.
 3. The schedule must specify the entry fee and conditions for entries. The schedule must indicate the name and address of the venue, the organizer name and email to whom entries are to be sent and the online registration link is required and the closing date for entries.
 4. There should be a description of the terms, if any, for admission of spectators.
 5. Any special regulations or conditions governing the competitions and/or the venue must be specified.
 - a. At the beginning of each season (and not later than October 1) each division must publish dates of individual competitions, including competitions from which fencers can qualify to enter the Junior Olympic Fencing Championships and/or competitions at the National Championships. The official published schedule is one that is mailed or emailed to the members and/or posted on the official website of the division.
 - b. In determining dates of competitions, every effort should be made to avoid scheduling qualifying competitions on the same weekend as the national tournaments, i.e., the North American Circuit (NAC) tournaments.
 - c. Similarly, divisions should strive to avoid, to the extent possible, scheduling Youth14 qualifying competitions to the National Championships on the same weekend as a Super/Regional Youth Circuit tournament.
 - d. Similarly, divisions should strive to avoid, to the extent possible, scheduling Division II/Veteran qualifying competitions to the National Championships on the same weekend as a Regional Open Circuit tournament.
 - e. Divisions must give at least four weeks' notice of qualifying competitions to: Junior Olympic Fencing Championships and National Championships.

Each type of competition or tournament must be explicitly described in the schedule published by an authorized agent of USA Fencing: i.e., division, regional coordinator or USA Fencing. Some examples of competitions that might be held are given below. Competitions at a tournament are gender specific unless the schedule states that the competition will be mixed. The description given in the published schedule of any tournament must specify gender and the weapon which will be fenced.

All tournaments at which fencers can earn qualification to any USA Fencing national championship competition must be gender specific, i.e., mixed competitions are NOT permitted in any qualifying competition¹. In all other cases, if a division has determined that a mixed competition will be held if less than a certain number of fencers enter a competition, then that must be so stated: what that minimum number is, below which the competition will combine both the men and women's events in that weapon. Classifications can be earned in a mixed competition – see paragraph D below.

The schedule must indicate the possibility that a single gender competition could become a mixed competition if numbers so dictate or if participants express a desire for it to become mixed. Under no circumstances can a qualifying competition be a mixed competition¹.

Type of Tournaments

Open: An open competition is one in which the only restriction is that the athlete be at least 13 years old as of January 1st of that season or on the National Junior Point Standings at the close of entries.

Closed: A closed competition is a USA Fencing competition in which eligibility is limited on the basis of division membership. In a closed competition, athletes must meet the minimum age requirement of 13 years old as of January 1st of the season or be on the National Junior Point Standings.

Restricted

1. A restricted competition is one in which the eligibility of competitors is limited on the basis of classification, rank, age, academic status or special invitation. Athletes must meet the minimum age requirement, 13 years old as of January 1st of the current season or, if younger than 13, be on the National Junior Point Standings, to compete in a restricted competition unless the restriction is based on youth age categories. All competitors must comply with the restrictions of the competition.
2. Restricted competitions limited to fencers of a certain age or academic status shall not be further restricted on the basis of classification or rank unless the contrary is specifically announced in the schedule.
3. The designation of a competition as Class B or Class C (or any other classification designation) indicates the highest level of fencers permitted to participate therein. These competitions allow fencers of lower classifications unless

information to the contrary is specifically announced in the schedule. Minimum age rules are in effect for those competitions.

4. In age-restricted competitions, fencers must meet the age criteria specified in the current season edition of the *Athlete Handbook*.
5. A fencer by be too old or too young to enter a national competition. Refer to the most recent edition of the *Athlete Handbook* for current information on age restrictions which supersedes specifications herein.

¹ A specific exemption has been provided for the Regional Youth competitions in that for six or fewer entries in a competition, the competition can become a mixed competition for that age category.

Mixed (Co-ed): A mixed (or co-ed) 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. Youth competitions may be mixed if there are six 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. See Chapter 6.

Team: A team competition is a competition between groups of two or more fencers. For any particular team competition, the number of fencers on a team is the same for all teams and is specified in advance. Team competitions have been held for teams with as few as two members (e.g., in a mixed doubles competition where the teams have one male and one female fencer in one weapon) to as many as six members (e.g., in a six-weapon team competition where the teams are made up of a male and a female fencer in each of the three weapons).

For national team championship competitions mixed teams are not allowed; each team is a single weapon team composed of no fewer than three members with one additional allowed as a substitute (if available). Refer to the most recent edition of the *Athlete Handbook* for more information on the national team championship tournaments.

High School Recognized competitions: A recognized high school competition can issue classification changes for those athletes with a High School membership or Competitive membership. These tournaments, while not sanctioned, are recognized by USA Fencing National Office.

National Qualifying Competitions

The title “Championship” is limited to the most important competitions or tournaments in a national or division schedules. The title “National Championship” may only be used by USA Fencing.

Each division is responsible for scheduling competitions for fencers to qualify for specific events at the Junior Olympic USA Fencing Championships; each division is responsible for scheduling competitions for fencers to qualify for events at USA Fencing National Championships.

Division national qualifying competitions are restricted to members of the division. The qualifying competitions must adhere to the rules governing qualifying competitions: age of participants, citizenship requirements, classification restrictions, etc. These qualifying competitions, including the Regional Open Circuit, Regional and Super Youth Circuits, must be held prior to the deadline specified in the national calendar for submission of the complete results of the qualifying competitions.

6. The division qualifying forms are emailed to officers of a division. The National Office must receive complete results of each qualifying competition given on the qualifying forms from the division before individual entries from division qualifiers can be processed. Failure to submit such qualifying forms will delay the processing of entries from that division and can jeopardize the eligibility of the fencers to the National Championships.
7. Incomplete or “adjusted” qualifying reports will jeopardize the eligibility of the fencers competing in those competitions and qualifying for the Championships tournament and possible loss of the division rebate.

All competitions that qualify individuals to USA Fencing National Championships through the division are open only to competitive members of the division who are permanent residents or U.S. citizens and who meet the age requirements for each competition.

Competitive members who meet the requirements of USA Fencing and the division and who are in good standing and file a timely and proper entry shall not be denied entry to a qualifying competition or other sanctioned competition unless the athlete arrives after close of registration for the particular competition in which he/she is entered.

National Championships

USA Fencing sponsors the national championship tournaments listed below and in which competitions are held for all three weapons and for each gender. Rules governing national championships are described in Chapter 8 and the most recent version of the Athlete Handbook.

- Junior Olympic Fencing Championships
- Division I National Fencing Championships
- Para National Fencing Championships
- National Fencing Championships

National Calendar

Prior to the first national tournament, the dates for all National tournaments should be available in the National Calendar posted on USA Fencing website. A link to the national calendar will be provided in USA Fencing Athlete Handbook. The dates of the national tournaments are established by the director of operations in consultation with the sports performance director and the executive director. Once the dates for the different categories of national tournaments are confirmed, those dates will be released to the membership, even if all venues have not been fully resolved.

The national calendar posted on the website, under Events, will be updated periodically as additional information becomes available. The daily schedule of each competition for each national tournament will be developed by the Tournament Committee and USA Fencing National Events based on recent history of participation in those events and, wherever possible, on a rotation of the days for specific competitions within the season.

Chapter 4 - Tournament Management

The organization of a competition or tournament is the responsibility of an organizing committee appointed or approved by the appropriate USA Fencing sanctioning body. The organizing committee provides for the physical facilities, necessary equipment, supplies, personnel and awards to ensure the smooth running of the tournament. This organizing committee is normally referred to as the Local Organizing Committee (LOC). In the case of national and international tournaments held in the United States, the National Office acts as the LOC and may delegate responsibilities to local representatives as needed. For regional events, the LOC is composed of those personnel named in regional bid submissions that may be updated with advanced notice and approval from the National Office. Local events are run by an ad-hoc group created by a club or division holding a local competition.

For national tournaments, the designated National Events staff person arranges for the appropriate physical facilities and is responsible for the logistics of all tournament equipment and supplies. The Tournament Committee (TC), Sports Medicine (SMED), the Technical Committee (SEMI) and the Referees' Commission (RC) select the personnel required for effective operation of the tournament. At each national tournament the National Events staff person, the Bout Committee (BC) Chair, the TC representative, the RC representatives and the head tech will coordinate the organization and management of the tournament.

Throughout a national tournament, the TC rep and/or the National Events staff person is the person representing USA Fencing and ensuring that each competition is in compliance with the Rules of Competition approved by the board of directors and specified in the current edition of the Athlete Handbook. The TC Rep will review with the BC Chair the seeding rules that will be followed for each of the competitions in the tournament, ensuring that all athletes are treated in a fair and judicious manner and with an emphasis on those competitions that count towards selection of athletes for international teams. The TC rep, in consultation with the BC Chair and National Events staff will determine the best procedures in instances when unexpected problems or situations arise affecting the operation of the tournament; e.g., power failures, weather conditions limiting air travel, etc. When necessary they will enact the procedures of the Crisis Management Group (see Section 5) with the TC rep ensuring that all efforts will be made to contact those persons responsible for decisions on how the tournament should be handled. The TC rep will be an advocate for the athletes and RCs on the impact of the decisions on selection of athletes for international competitions.

Results from all levels of sanctioned tournaments must be transferred to electronic medium for submission to the National Office. Tournaments may be run on specific tournament software to assist with seeding and round creation, and is required for all regional-level competitions and higher.

Bout Committee – Decision Making Procedures and Responsibilities

The Bout Committee, under the direction of its chair, has the ultimate authority for conducting a competition. It is in charge of all personnel, competitors, officials and other persons present, including spectators. The Bout Committee Chair shall enforce all organizational rules of competition and may remove spectators or competitors from the venue, including issuing a black card, in accordance with the current rules of competition.

USA Fencing staff reserves the right to remove people from the venue.

The Bout Committee has no power to amend the rules of USA Fencing. In emergency cases it may change the manner in which the competition or competitions will be conducted after consultation with the Crisis Management Group. In all such cases, a report of the action taken must be submitted to the Tournament Committee and board of directors.

The Bout Committee can request the presence of the head tech in matters dealing with apparent equipment problems or questions regarding conformity of equipment.

The members of the Bout Committee for each competition will be posted in a prominent place at the venue (registration area and Bout Committee location) prior to the start of each competition at the tournament.

Composition for National Tournaments

The Bout Committee for USA Fencing tournaments shall consist of three members of USA Fencing in good standing. The BC Chair, the TC rep, and the RC designated head referee for each event (or referee coordinator for tournament-level decisions) shall constitute the Bout Committee for and will ensure that the competition is conducted in accordance with the criteria specified in the current Rules of Competition, operating procedures of USA Fencing and the Athlete Handbook.

The Tournament Committee shall appoint the Bout Committee Chair or Chairs and competition staff persons for operation of the Bout Committee for each national tournament. The RC will be responsible for appointing the referee assigners and event referees, one of whom will be considered the head referee and member of the Bout Committee. See www.refereescommission.org for more information on functions of the RC.

The Bout Committee operations will be supported by staff that will record results from each round of the competitions and will monitor the progress of the competitions. A training program for event staff should be in place each season. Persons who have successfully organized and run regional-level competitions or higher are eligible to participate in the training program as space allows. Individuals interested in joining the national event training program can contact tc@usafencing.org.

Composition for Regional and Local Tournaments

The Bout Committee for competitions other than national tournaments will consist of three persons: the Bout Committee Chair and two others familiar with the rules of USA Fencing and the conduct of USA Fencing competitions. The persons serving on the Bout Committee for local or regional tournaments should represent different clubs or divisions, respectively, when possible. These individuals shall be named prior to the start of the tournament.

Any member of the Bout Committee who is a competitor or team captain may not participate in the seeding of pools or details for the format for the competition in which he or she is involved.

The chair of the Bout Committee for local and regional tournaments is responsible for review of plans and programs set up by the local organizing committee, the conduct of the competition, assignment of referees, format of the competition, seeding of pools, and direct elimination operation and maintenance of discipline. At local tournaments, a separate person may be named for assignment of referees. At regional tournaments and higher, a dedicated referee assigner is required. This person should be a high-rated referee who is not a participant in any of the competitions in the tournament.

Post tournament responsibilities

The Bout Committee is responsible for properly submitting and validating results with the designated USA Fencing representative. For national and regional tournaments, the Bout Committee will submit its electronic results directly to the national office no later than 72 hours after the end of competition. Local tournaments must submit their results within 72 hours of the end of competition to the appropriate sanctioning body (in most cases the division). The specific requirements for submission are determined by the National Office but may include an electronic record of final results, round results, and referee utilization. A report of any tournament-level black cards must be filed with the National Office.

Protests

The Bout Committee is not a parliamentary body that makes administrative decisions by majority vote. However, on questions properly brought to it on appeal, the Bout Committee decides by majority vote. In such cases, each person constituting the bout committee has one vote. In case of a tie in the vote of the Bout Committee, the decision of the referee stands when the protest deals with the decision of the referee during a bout.

Any person involved, directly or indirectly, in the protest, or with a conflict of interest in the protest, must remove him or herself from hearing the protest. If a person needs to remove him or herself, a replacement or replacements will be named by the RC head referee or the TC rep. The Bout Committee must resolve all conflict of interest issues before hearing the appeal.

An athlete representative, if present and not of the same club or school affiliation as the protesting fencer nor involved in the same competition, may be requested by the protesting athlete, in a non-voting capacity, to participate in the deliberations of the Bout Committee as an advocate for the athlete.

On Strip Protests

If the protest is lodged at the strip with the referee, the fencer can appeal to the Bout Committee in accordance of t.122 of the Fencing Rules. This appeal must be made:

- a) in individual events, by the fencer,
- b) in team events, by the fencer or the team captain

It should be made courteously but without formality, and should be made verbally to the referee immediately and before any decision is made regarding a subsequent hit.

Initially, the head referee will determine if the protest is valid and reviewable. For points of fact, the decision of the referee is final. For other protest, the full Bout Committee will convene at the strip. After deliberation, the decision of the Bout Committee is final and there is no further appeal permitted. There is no appeal of the Bout Committee when it is the appellate body for a referee decision. Once the fencer unhooks, or continues to fence an additional touch, there is no longer an opportunity for a protest.

If a fencer or team disagrees with an action of the Bout Committee, not in its appellate (appeal) capacity, the individual or team can appeal the decision of the Bout Committee to the Jury of Appeal.

Jury of Appeal

The Jury of Appeal is responsible for hearing a protest against a decision of the Bout Committee, when that decision has been made by the Bout Committee in other than its appellate (appeal) capacity. The decisions of the Jury of Appeal are final.

A member of the Jury of Appeal must excuse himself or herself if he or she is personally involved or if, by reason of his or her affiliation, he or she is confronted with a potential conflict of interest; no proxy votes are permitted.

Whatever juridical authority has taken a decision prior to the Jury of Appeal, this decision may be subject to an appeal to a higher juridical authority, but only to one such appeal. No decision on a question of fact can be the subject of an appeal (cf. t.122.1/2). An appeal against a decision only suspends that decision when it can be judged immediately.

Every appeal must be accompanied by the deposit of a guaranty of \$100; this sum may be confiscated for the benefit of the Bout Committee if the appeal is rejected on the grounds that it is 'frivolous'; this decision will be taken by the juridical authority responsible for hearing the appeal.

Jury of Appeal Procedure

The Jury of Appeal at a national competition shall be composed of one member each from the following groups, if present and unaffiliated:

- Tournament Committee
- Referee Commission
- Athlete Advisory Group
- National Coaches Representative
- National Office Representative

The Jury of Appeal shall elect a chair from among its members to deliver the decision.

At the beginning of each national tournament, the Tournament Committee representative shall compile a list of all those eligible to serve on the Jury of Appeal, consisting of no more than one representatives and one alternates from each of the above groups, chosen from those who will be in attendance at the tournament. A member of the Bout Committee whose decision is being appealed may not serve on a Jury of Appeal. This list will be posted at registration and at the location of the bout committee throughout the tournament.

The Jury of Appeal at a division sanctioned competition shall be composed of one member of the division's board of directors or designate, one designated referee with a rating of 5 or higher, and one athlete or one coach not otherwise represented. A member of

the Bout Committee may not serve on a Jury of Appeal. The chair for a divisional competition shall be the chair of the division unless the division chair is also a member of the Bout Committee. In the absence of the division chair, the Jury of Appeal shall elect a chair from among its members.

The Jury of Appeal for regionally sanctioned competitions shall be composed of one nationally trained bout committee member or member of a division board of directors, one designated referee with a rating of 5 or higher, and one neutral coach or athlete not otherwise represented.

During its deliberations, the Jury of Appeal shall have the right to consult with advisors (e.g., technical or legal experts) as it sees fit. Such advisors are not required to be voting members of the Jury of Appeal.

Each member of the Jury of Appeal, including the chair, shall deliberate and then cast one vote. All decisions of the Jury of Appeal are decided by majority vote. In the event of a tie vote, the decision of the Bout Committee stands. In all cases, the record of the action taken and the reason therefore must be filed with the National Office.

Tournament Operations – The Venue

A tournament's location should be announced well in advance of the scheduled competition date. Any changes to location or schedule must be announced to all competitors, and in the case of regional events, must be approved by the National Office.

The tournament venue includes all space inside of a facility including the competition floor, observation areas, restrooms, meeting rooms and all other spaces physically connected to any of the above or contracted in the venue agreement. Exclusions from the venue will be enforced in all of the above areas.

Each tournament must post the following information in a publically visible space or online:

- Name of Bout Committee chair
- Name of head referee
- Name of athlete representative (national events only)
- Name of tournament committee representative (national events only)
- Event seeding
- Round results
- Final results

Registration Policies

Registration for a tournament event is considered final only when all necessary fees have been paid and a valid competitive-type membership is verified or completed. It is recommended for tournaments to have an on-site computer to expedite new membership registrations and processing of tournament results. Fees may include a tournament registration fee, an administrative processing fee, and a per-event fee.

Each tournament must post deadlines for tournament entry and the associated fee schedule. A late fee may be enacted no earlier than four weeks prior to a tournament. On-site registrations are allowed at the discretion of the tournament organizer. The policy for on-site registrations must be posted in advance.

Tournaments must post the date that classifications and ranking information is considered final. No changes to classifications or ranking may be processed after this date.

In situations where athletes are given a bye past an initial round based on initial seeding, the date that selection will be made must be published in advance, and only individuals with confirmed registrations will be considered.

Scheduling Guidelines

To assist in scheduling, the following estimates should be taken into considerations when forming an event schedule:

Average Bout Timing in Minutes

	Single Pool Bout	Complete Pool of 7	15-touch bout	Team Match
Foil	6.5	140	20	80
Epee	6.5	140	20	80
Sabre	3.5	80	13.5	60

When running a multi-event tournament, having an appropriate number of strips should be the primary planning consideration for any tournament schedule. Use the following formula to get a strip estimate quickly:

Number of strips needed = Estimated number of competitors per day / 14

Tournaments using this formula should complete no later than 7 p.m. if started by 9 a.m. If tournaments cannot provide the appropriate number of strips for pools, double fighting may be needed. Whenever possible, announce to the athletes when the second flight of pools will begin. This can be planned for using the average bout timetable above. If a second flight time is announced, it must be adhered to. Fencing may not begin before the announced flight time unless agreed to by all competitors.

Armory staff should be available at least one hour prior to the close of check-in to conduct safety and weapons check as needed.

Seeding and Pool Layout

Reference the Athlete Handbook for specific seeding criteria by event type.

For event formats that use a points list for seeding, the date that points list is considered final must be published in the tournament information.

For pool layouts, at national-level events both division and clubs for each competitor will be used for conflict resolution in initial pool rounds. In formats with multiple pool rounds, no conflict resolution is conducted for subsequent rounds. For local and regional tournaments, only club conflicts are considered. Teammates will fence first whenever there are unavoidable conflicts.

Referees should be assigned to pools to minimize division and club conflicts wherever possible.

Using two strips simultaneously to run a pool, called double stripping, is permitted in all weapons for pools of seven people. Foil and epee pools of six may be double stripped. Sabre pools of six, and smaller pools in all weapons, may not be doubled stripped.

Scoring

A record of all bout scores must be kept. Sanctioned events must submit results electronically to the National Office. The original scoresheets must be kept for a period of 60 days. Electronic results should be kept for at least one year.

All competitors should be allowed the opportunity to review a final pool scoresheet, and any direct elimination scoresheet. The competitor must sign the scoresheet to indicate they have review the scores contained therein.

Between any round, competitors must be allowed a sufficient period of time to review the round results before a new round may begin. For national tournaments, competitors must be allowed 15 minutes to review results. For regional tournaments, 10 minutes must be given. For local tournaments, five minutes.

If a scoring protest is brought, the Bout Committee should review the scoresheet. If the score was incorrectly recorded from the scoresheet, it must be corrected immediately. If the score was recorded correctly from the scoresheet, but the competitor is protesting the recorded score, the two competitors in the bout should be brought together along with the referee. The referee or Bout Committee should attempt to gain consensus between the fencers on the correct score. If no consensus can be reached by the end of the review period, the score recorded on the scoresheet will stand.

Competitors must protest scores by the end of the review period. No scores can be changed after the expiration of the review period. In individual completion, only the competitor may protest a score. In team competition, only the team captain may protest a score.

At the conclusion of a direct elimination bout, the bout scoresheet may be given to the competitor to return to the Bout Committee. It is the responsibility of the competitor, or designated representative, to return the bout scoresheet immediately to the Bout Committee table without delay. Any bout rest period begins at the conclusion of the previous bout, not when the bout slip is returned to the Bout Committee. If any scoresheets are given to the competitor at the Bout Committee table, they must be taken to the appropriate referee without manipulation or delay. Deliberately altering any scoresheet without consent of the referee and opponent is considered manifest cheating and will be penalized with a black card.

Final results should be posted in the venue, or online. Protests of final round scoring must be made within 24 hours of the competition of an event. Scoring changes that impact final placement must be made prior to the awards ceremony and posting of final results.

Medical Withdraws, No Shows, Eliminations and Exclusions

There are three types of removal from competition:

- **Medical:** leaving the competition due to a medical issue. The competitor will maintain their place in the final results as if they had lost the bout. For documentation purposes, tournament organizers should receive a report from the medical staff.
- **No Show/Elimination:** the competitor abandons the competition after three calls, with the second call done over a loud speaker system. The competitor will maintain their place in the final results as if they had lost the bout.
- **Black Card/Exclusion:** the competitor is issued a black card. The competitor will be removed completely from the final results as if they never existed. Fencers placing below the competitor will not move up in place.

If a competitor is removed during a pool round prior to completing the pool for any reason, the bouts fenced will be nullified as if never fenced. If the competitor completes the pool, but withdraws prior to the direct elimination, the results from the pool round will be record and the competitor will be removed from the direct elimination table by giving their opponent a bye into the next round.

Running an Efficient Direct Elimination Table

Direct elimination tables are most efficiently run with a dedicated member of the bout committee or referee cadre handing bout slips to referees at the strip instead of referees returning to the bout committee after each bout. This position is called a pod captain.

The pod captain should position themselves near a strip, and competitors should be told to report to that position when posting the direct elimination table.

As fencers return their bout slips to the Bout Committee, the scores should be verified and a potential match should be investigated for the next round. If a bout with both competitors is made, the bout slip given to the competitor to return to the pod captain.

Video Replay

Video replay is optional for all local and regional tournaments. The following criteria are used for scheduling video replay at national tournaments:

Guaranteed from the round of 16:

Division I, Junior, Cadet

Guaranteed from the round of 8:

Y10, Y12, Y14, Vet 50, Vet 60, Vet 70

Guaranteed from the round of 4:

Division IA, Division II, Division III, Vet 40, Vet 80, Vet Combined

Guaranteed for the Gold/Bronze:

Teams

Referee Requirements Click [Here](#)

Medical Staff Recommendations

Regional and national tournaments are required to have on-site medical staff. It is highly recommended for local tournaments.

Regional tournaments must have at least one staff member available, and national events must have at least two staff members. The following is a list of recommended certifications for medical staff:

ATC - Unrestricted certification/license (Certified Athletic Trainer)

- Must be overseen by a licensed physician (MD/DO/DC) and/or Physicians' Advisory Board

DC - Unrestricted medical license (Doctor of Chiropractic)

- Must obtain (DACBSP) Diplomat American Chiropractic Board of Sports Medicine Physicians
- Minimal requirements are Certified Chiropractic Sports Physician (CCSP) - within good standing as well as working toward completion of DACBSP.
- And/or Dual-credentialing - DC, ATC

DPT/PT - Unrestricted license (Physical Therapist or Doctor of Physical Therapy)

- Must obtain (ABPTS) American Board of Physical Therapy Specialist in Sports Medicine
- Must be overseen by a licensed physician (MD/DO/DC) and/or Physicians' Advisory Board
- Dual Credentialing - DPT/PT, ATC

MD/DO - Unrestricted medical license (Medical Doctor or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine)

- Must obtain (ACGME) Graduate Medical Education in Sports Medicine
- And/or completion of Sports Medicine Fellowship at sponsoring institutions
 - The sponsoring institution must also sponsor an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) - accredited residency program in sports medicine

PA - Unrestricted license (Physician Assistant)

- Must have Dual Credentials - PA, ATC
- Must be overseen by a licensed physician (MD/DO/DC) and/or Physicians' Advisory Board

National Tournament Scheduling Criteria

National tournament scheduling references the following scheduling criteria when planning tournament combination and event structure. Only group 1 criteria are required, but group 2 and 3 are referenced whenever possible.

Group 1: Mandatory Criteria

- For any one weapon, the Div I, Junior, and Cadet competitions must not be held on the same day.
- For any one weapon, competitions in immediately adjacent age groups (e.g., Y14 and Y12) must not be held on the same day.
- For any one weapon, team and individual competitions in the same (NACs or Junior Olympics) or adjacent (Summer Nationals) age-levels must not be held on the same day.

Group 2: Highly Desirable

- The projected lengths of the first and last days of competition should be shorter than those of intervening days.
- Each day should include a balance of right of way weapon and épée competitions. If large foil and sabre events must be held on the same day, their start times should be separated as much as possible. If two sabre events are held on the same day, their numbers should be relatively small and their start times separated as much as possible.
- (Junior Olympic Championships) A day of rest should be scheduled between Junior and Cadet competitions in the same weapon.
- A day of rest should be scheduled between Junior and Division I competitions in the same weapon.
- (Summer Nationals) For any one weapon, competitions in adjacent age groups should not be widely separated.

- Scheduling of the first competition of the first day should take into consideration the demands of that competition on weapons control. [added 2005]
- For any one weapon, same day scheduling of individual and team competitions should be avoided when it is possible that a fencer could fence in both competitions.
- Team competitions should be scheduled for after the individual competition in the same category.
- For any one weapon, same day scheduling of Youth 14, Cadet, and Junior and open team competitions should be avoided. [added 2005]
- For any one weapon, same day scheduling of Veterans and Division IA competitions should be avoided. [added 2005]
- Whenever possible Youth 10 events should be scheduled early in the day. [added 2007]
- For any one weapon, Division II and Division III same day scheduling of competitions should be avoided. [added 2007]
- The day on which a competition is scheduled should be rotated through the days of the week for any one weapon and age group.

Group 3: If Possible

- If there is a shortage of referees in a given weapon, the last day should include only smaller competitions in that weapon.
- Coaches' timely requests to hold training camps before or after competitions should be honored whenever possible.
- Membership and board meeting needs should be considered when developing schedules for Summer Nationals and the Junior Olympic Championships.
- Competitions in the same age group and sex but in different weapons (e.g., Y14ME and Y14MF) should not be held on the same day.
- Schedules should accommodate those single weapon fencers who wish to fence in multiple weapons for team selection competitions.

If one weapon is inconvenienced during one season (competitions scheduled on multiple weekdays, or with repeated early or late starts, for example), special attention should be paid to scheduling that weapon the following season.

Chapter 5 – General Entry Information

Eligibility and Fencer Responsibility

Please refer to the Athlete Handbook for current information.

General

If a member's division is not in good standing, the board of directors may transfer the member to the National Division and establish rules regarding eligibility to enter competitions and for the holding of additional competitions as may be appropriate.

A fencer who has entered a competition but has failed to pay the required entry fee, and has either participated in the competition or failed to withdraw from the competition in a timely fashion, shall be liable to the appropriate organizing committee for the amount of the entry fee and shall be ineligible to enter any subsequent competition until restored to good standing by payment of the sum due.

It is the responsibility of the fencer to ensure that an entry form/online entry for a competition is filed in accordance with the organizing committee's regulations for that competition.

Unless otherwise specified, USA Fencing *Rules for Competition* govern USA Fencing competitions and it is the responsibility of each fencer to be familiar with them (athlete packet, Athlete Handbook, Rules for Competition then Operations Manual)

It is the responsibility of the fencer to provide the necessary equipment to compete in accordance with the rules of USA Fencing.

Representation in USA Fencing Team Competitions

Please refer to the Athlete Handbook for specific information on club representation and affiliation and team events.

The term "club" refers to any organized fencing group of individual members. The group may be affiliated with a club, industrial institution, school, association or other entity. The club may only be a member of one division which shall be where its regular fencing activity is conducted. To be eligible for club membership in USA Fencing, a club must meet the following criteria:

1. The owners and/or principal officers of the club of such club must be USA Fencing members.
2. All members of the coaching staff must be members of USA Fencing.
3. Each Member Club must have a minimum of 10 members of USA Fencing who have declared that club as their club.

Denial of Entry

The entry from a member, who is not in good standing because of arrears in dues or entry fees, because of disciplinary penalties in effect, or otherwise, shall be rejected.

Chapter 6 – Classification System

Classifications

Each USA Fencing sanctioned competition may be rated on the basis of the level or relative strength of the participants and the number of participants in the competition. The level of the fencer is determined by the classification each fencer has earned. Letters “A” through “E” are awarded to a fencer on the basis of the fencer’s performance in the competition, i.e., the placement the fencer has achieved. “A” classification is the highest letter a fencer can earn. There are two digits appended to each letter indicating the calendar year in which that letter classification was earned or re-earned, e.g., “A11” means the classification of “A” was earned in 2011. A fencer who has not yet achieved a classification in a weapon is given a “U” for unclassified without any year attached to the letter. Classifications may be awarded only at tournaments at which electrical apparatus for the scoring of touches (i.e., does not required conductive strips) is used.

Types of Competition for Ratings

Age-Restricted: Any USA Fencing age-restricted competition can be rated for classification change consideration except those competitions that are restricted to Cadet (Under 17 or Under 16) or Youth age categories, which must meet the criteria for a Group C1 or higher (See classification chart in Appendix 2.7) for the competition to be ranked for classification changes.

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 must be announced in the schedule. Restricted competitions may not be rated unless the restriction is based solely upon fencers’ classifications, age or division membership.

1. SCHOLASTIC: Competitions that are conducted under the auspices of a scholastic organization, e.g., NCAA, High School Athletic Association, etc. are not rated for the purpose of classification changes.
2. HIGH SCHOOL: Recognized high school competitions may award classification changes for those athletes with a High School Competitive or Competitive membership if the tournament meets the guidelines for rated tournaments.
3. MIXED: A division may schedule competitions open to both men and women. For the purpose of seeding and rating, such competitions, men and women’s ratings will be considered equivalent.
 - a. If there are six or fewer fencers in a gender specific competition and there is an opposite gender-specific competition in the same weapon at the same venue on that day the two can be combined for one mixed competition. As an example, if a Youth 12 girl’s foil has six entries and a Youth 12 boy’s foil is being held at the same venue that day, the two could be combined for one competition.
 - b. For competitions that have more than six fencers in each gender specific competition, the competitions shall remain separate.
 - c. The division’s schedule shall specify the conditions under which competitions will change from gender specific to mixed competition.
 - d. No qualifying competition for Junior Olympic USA Fencing Championships or National Championships may be mixed. Any qualifying competition that is conducted as a mixed competition will not count for qualification for that Nationals or JO Championships.
 - e. Competitions held at State Games may be considered for USA Fencing rating if:
 - i. All competitors are current competitive members of USA Fencing
 - ii. The local division has given its sanction for the competitions, publicized the tournament and has posted relevant information on its website.
 - iii. The division has assigned one or more of its members to conduct the competition according to current USA Fencing rules.

Awarding Classifications – General Principles

For the purpose of providing reasonable equality of strength in the seeding of competitions, fencers are classified nationally on the basis of competitive achievement into the following classifications, from high to low: Class A (highest), Class B, Class C, Class D, Class E, and Class U (Unclassified, lowest). Within each of these major classifications (with the exception of classification of U), a two-digit number is attached to the letter to indicate the calendar year in which the fencer earned the letter classification or re-earned that classification.

This minor classification shall be indicated by a two-digit number appended to the major classification (e.g., “A11” would be the classification of a fencer who achieved an “A” classification in 2011). The minor classifications shall be used to rank the fencers within the major classifications so that, for example, a “C09” shall be considered to be ranked higher than a “C08” but lower than all “B” fencers.

Details of the rules that govern the classification of fencers are described in the Appendices.

1. If a competition qualifies as more than one group (i.e., Group A1 and Group B3), each fencer will earn the higher classification to which that fencer is entitled. For example, if a competition qualifies as Group A1 and as Group B3, the winner earns an “A”, as the Group A1 award is higher for that place; the fencer who finishes eighth earns a “C”, as the Group B3 award is higher for that place.
2. A fencer can earn an “A” or “B” classification by attaining distinction in international competition which in the judgment of the Board of Directors is equivalent to that described in Appendix M and summarized in Table 2. The awarding of the classification may be retroactive.

Establishing Classification for Foreign Fencers

Please refer to the Athlete Handbook for more information on how to determine a classification for foreign fencers.

Administration of Classifications

Please refer to the Athlete Handbook for more information. Classifications are valid for four years after they are earned. If, after four years, the classification has not been re-earned, it then reverts to the next lowest letter and the current year. Such change will be enacted at the beginning of the new fencing season – August 1.

1. Classifications must be certified in writing to the Director of Membership Services by the organizer of the competition in which said classification was earned. Every member of USA Fencing is personally responsible for ascertaining his or her own classification in each weapon. To avoid questions with respect to individual fencers, each division, through its Executive Committee or other designated officer or committee, should certify all classification changes (both major and minor) to the National Office. Changes should be reported within two weeks. Failure to report changes in a timely fashion may affect athletes competing in a national competition.
2. Classifications become official when verified at the National Office by the issuance of a new membership card specifying the new classification(s).
3. A fencer drops one level of major classification if that fencer fails, during a period of four years; to re-achieve the results necessary to earn that major classification. All such reclassifications will take effect at the beginning of the fencing season (i.e., August 1) For example, if you earned a B in 2004 (B04) and did not re-earn your B for four years, your B would become a C08 on August 1 of 2008. If you then did not re-earn your C08 for four more years, it would become a D12 on August 1, 2012. A fencer who loses an “E” classification as a result of the application of this rule becomes Unclassified.
4. A fencer remains unclassified in all weapons as long as he or she does not qualify for one of the other classifications under the foregoing rules.
5. The classification of a fencer in one weapon has no effect upon his or her classification in another weapon and is not affected by his or her winning or competing in individual three-weapon competitions, invitational competitions, or unofficial club and inter-club competitions. Classifications can be earned only in regularly scheduled competitions run by USA FENCING, its divisions, regions or through official regional youth tournaments. Classifications can only be awarded if adequate notice of the competition has been given to the members of the organizing body via such means as a published schedule on the division’s website, newsletter, or notices sent to all USA Fencing clubs within the division. Classifications can be earned in competitions sanctioned by a body of USA Fencing but not run by that body (e.g., State Games) only after the sanctioning body has determined that the competition has been run in such a manner as to justify the awarding of classifications.

Chapter 7 – Competition Procedures

Seeding

Please refer to Chapter 2 of the Athlete Handbook for more information on seeding both individual and team events.

National Rankings

Please refer to Chapter 2 of the Athlete Handbook for more information how rankings are used for seeding; Chapter 3 of the Athlete Handbook discusses how points are awarded.

Division and Regional Competitions

In some areas of the country, divisions and regions have established a ranking system for the fencers in their division. Since those rankings reflect performance of the fencers among themselves, those may be more meaningful in seeding division competitions if the participants in the competition are just members of the division. If the division does not have its own ranking system or the participants represent other divisions, then the division should seed the competition on the basis of the classifications of the fencers, class and year, randomizing within the same classification and year. Separating teammates can be done among those with the same classifications, disregarding year if necessary.

In division and regional competitions, seeding can use the national rolling point standings within each classification or it can use just the classification, letter and year, for seeding.

After the first round seeding is based on the results of the promoted fencers from the last round.

Club Mates

In all domestic competitions, fencers representing the same club and/or division are to be separated as much as possible by applying the rules regarding the separation of fencers representing the same country as specified by the *FIE Rules for Competition (o.13.)* When the first round of the competition consists of pools, club representations and/or divisions are treated as if they were different nationalities. For purposes of USA Fencing, the separation for club representation takes precedence over separation for division representation. In separating teammates, it is important to swap fencers at the same level, primarily with same classification. Note, however, that ranked fencers may not be swapped – they must maintain their positions even if there are club mates among the ranked fencers in the pool.

Formats

Please refer to Chapter 2 of the Athlete Handbook for more information on national tournament formats.

Local Competition Formats

In local competitions, there are a number of variations that can be used to benefit the level of fencers in that division, both in individual and team competitions. In addition to the formats that are discussed below, the following can be used at non-qualifying competitions:

Brazilian: 100 percent promoted from a pool round to direct elimination

Canadian: 80 percent promoted to simple direct elimination down to 16 fencers; followed by 2 pools of 8 fencers, fenced on 4 strips; 8 fencers promoted to direct elimination of 8.

If the Division sees a need for additional direct elimination bouts then it can add repêchage to its format in the direct elimination round, whether at complete tableau of 32 or of 16. This allows fencers to gain more experience with 15 touch bouts before competing at a national tournament.

Whatever format the division or region decides to use, it must be announced and posted before the start of the competition.

Formats for Qualifying Competitions

In the qualifying competitions for National and Junior Olympic Championships the division or region can use any of these formats:

- 1 or 2 rounds of pools, 100 percent promoted to direct elimination through first place.
- 1 or 2 rounds of pools followed by direct elimination, with approximately 80 percent of the competitors in each round promoted to the next round of pools or to the direct elimination round.

Other acceptable formats for division qualifying competitions are:

- By pools throughout; or
- Preliminary round of pools of 5 and 6 or 6 and 7 persons per pool
- Promotion of between 70 percent and 100 percent to a direct elimination tableau.
- Simple direct elimination tableau without repêchage.
- Direct elimination with repêchage can be considered.

Once entries close for a competition and the total number of competitors present is known, the BC Chair will determine how many pools of what size will be established for the first round. The pools so determined must have at least five fencers in each and preferably will have no more than seven. In cases where the pools will not all be the same size only two different sizes are allowed, e.g., five- and six-person pools, six- and seven-person pools. If there are less than ten fencers registered, those fencers can be placed in one pool and can be fenced on two strips.

In all qualifying competitions for which the formula includes one or more rounds of pools, the first choice for determination of the number of pools is that each pool contains seven fencers; the second choice is that each pool contains six fencers. When neither of these options is possible, given the number of fencers, the pools should be a combination of seven-person pools and six-person pools, with the top seeded fencers have the larger pools. The top seeded fencers are not moved; instead the fencers seeded lowest are moved to meet this priority in pool size distribution. In doing so, club conflicts must be avoided to the extent possible.

Once the fencing in the pool round has started, no changes can be made to any pool even if a pool falls below the size of the smaller pools in the round due to an unexpected withdrawal (i.e., black card or medical withdrawal) of one or more of the fencers.

See Appendix O for Order of Bouts for different size pools and for multiple teammates in a pool. See Appendix N for Tournament Forms and team seeding prior to the 2007 National Championships. See Appendix Q for rules governing use of repêchage in direct elimination.

See *Athlete Handbook* for more information on conduct of NAC tournaments.

Chapter 8 – Rules Governing USA Fencing Championships

General

Please refer to Chapter 2 of the Athlete Handbook for more information on the various Championships conducted by USA Fencing.

Competitive Fields

For individual championship competitions, there must be at least six fencers entered at the regular fee entry deadline for the competition to be held. Less than six fencers will be the basis for cancellation of that competition. For team championship competitions there must be at least six teams entered by the regular entry deadline for the competition to be held; otherwise, it will be cancelled. An exception to this rule at this time is wheelchair competitions.

Qualification Criteria for Qualifying Competitions

1. All qualifying competitions must conform strictly to the rules governing USA Fencing competitions. Each division, at its discretion, may designate its divisional championships as its qualifying competition to the National Championships. The divisions must give at least a three-week notice of the date, time and place of the qualifying competitions.
2. Each division is required to schedule qualifying competitions for each competition for which, there are divisional qualifying requirements for the National Championships. Divisions should hold separate qualifying competitions, whenever possible, for each championship competition. Divisions must make every reasonable effort to ensure that competition schedules permit competitors to qualify for all competitions for which they are eligible. There may be instances due to limited availability of venues whereby divisions need to combine qualifying competitions. The one that could be combined is that which qualifies fencers to Division II and Division III National Championships. It is not recommended to combine Under-20 and Under-17.
3. All qualifying competitions should be scheduled with regard to date, time, and location in such a manner as to prevent undue hardship to members wishing to attend such competitions. They may not be scheduled in conflict with major religious holidays or competitions on the national calendar in that weapon (such as North American Circuit tournaments). If a division is geographically large, the qualifying competitions should be held on weekends or national holidays.
4. Organizers of divisional qualifying tournaments for national championship tournaments must arrange that at least one referee with a rating of five or higher is present at such tournaments in order to achieve some minimum quality assurance.
5. In the event that the number of entries for a qualifying competition is equal to or less than the number of authorized qualifiers, the qualifying competition need not be held and all entries shall be qualified for that event at the National Championships.
6. In the event that the number of entries for the National Division is greater than the minimum number of qualifiers allowed, a qualifying competition may be held at the site of the National Championships on the day before that national championship competition is scheduled to be held.
7. There are no alternates to any national championship competition; only those who have met the qualifying standard will be eligible to enter the National Championships.
8. Qualification places must be determined regardless of the format used — the number of qualifiers is not increased due to ties. By “ties”, it is meant that the fencers are tied in all indicators as explained in USA Fencing Rules for Competition. If two or more fencers finish in a tie for the last qualifying place(s), which fencer(s) are qualifiers must be determined by fencing as many barrage bouts as needed to determine the qualifier(s). If a format with direct elimination is used, only ties for the last qualifying place must be resolved by fencing a barrage between the fencers involved. The barrage should match the finals format as fenced. For example, if the tie occurs in the direct elimination round, then the fencers fence a 15-touch bout, if tie occurs in a five-touch round robin final, the barrage bouts must be five-touch bouts.

9. In determining the number of qualifiers, the number of competitors is the total number of fencers who competed in the qualifying competition who are eligible to fence in the Championships. Once the number of qualifiers is determined, those who have already qualified to the Championships in that event (athletes who are automatic qualifiers) are skipped in determining those who have qualified for that competition. For example, if there are 20 competitors in the qualifying competition, of which four have already qualified for that particular championships event, those four are skipped in determining the five qualifiers from that competition. Example: If the automatic qualifiers placed 1st, 3rd, 6th, and 7th, then the qualifiers are those who have placed 2nd, 4th, 5th, 8th and 9th.
10. Acceptable formats for qualifying competitions, individual or team, are:
 - By pools throughout; or
 - Preliminary round of pools of 5 and 6 or 6 and 7 persons per pool
 - Promotion of between 70 percent and 100 percent to a direct elimination tableau.
 - Simple direct elimination tableau without repêchage.
 - Direct elimination with repêchage can be considered.
11. A fencer may appeal to USA Fencing Board of Directors a decision made by the Bout Committee at a qualifying competition as a possible violation of the rules, by forwarding in writing the appeal to the National Office within three business days after the qualifying competition. If a Jury of Appeal considered the protest at the competition, there is no further appeal of the decision.
 - When a local Bout Committee has decided on an appeal of a decision of a referee, there is no further appeal. Examples of decisions that are made by the Bout Committee that may be appealed are: the format used at the competition disallowing the entry of a fencer, or scheduling multiple events in such a way that a fencer is unable to seek qualification in an event, etc.
 - At a competition, the next higher authority is the Jury of Appeal. [t.97 of USA Fencing Rules of Competition: (e) The decisions of the Bout Committee that it takes spontaneously or in its own right (as the first level of authority) are subject to appeal to a Jury of Appeal.
12. The board of directors may set aside the results of any qualifying competition which does not conform to USA Fencing Rules of Competition and/or rules specified in USA Fencing Operations Manual and require that the qualifying competition be rescheduled, designate the qualifiers from that division or require that some or all of the contesting fencers compete in a special qualifying competition held at the site of the National Championships on the day before the national championship competition is scheduled to be held.
13. Within 10 days after the completion of each of its qualifying competitions, the secretary of each division shall transmit to USA Fencing National Office a list of the final placement of all competitors in the qualifying competitions. The form must be submitted electronically in the specified format which is available at www.usafencing.org.

These forms do not constitute the required entries for the Tournament, which must be submitted by each competitor. Individual entries cannot be processed until the National Office has received the appropriate qualifying result forms from the division. All requested information must be provided in method(s) provided by the National Office.

USA Fencing National Office shall check the certified lists against the list of USA Fencing members in good standing and shall use these lists to process the entries.

Appendices

Guidelines for Forming New Divisions

Prior to the July 2010 revision of USA Fencing Bylaws, the following procedure was in place:

In accordance with Article XIV Section 1 of the Bylaws of the US Fencing Association, the board of directors established the following guidelines to inform its decisions regarding the establishment of new divisions.

1. The proposed division should encompass a minimum of two USA Fencing member clubs.
2. These clubs must have been member clubs of USA Fencing for at least three years.
3. The two clubs must each have a minimum of 15 USA Fencing members.
4. The new division will be in a probationary status for two years. During that period, it must increase the size of its membership by 10 percent.
5. A complete set of Bylaws for the proposed division must be included with the petition to the board.
6. The application must include a rationale for the proposed division that explains how it will better serve its members' interest than the current division.
7. The application must include, along with the petition itself and the proposed Bylaws, a statement that Guidelines (1), (2), and (3) above are met or a rationale as to why they should be waived.

The application should be sent to the National Office of USA Fencing, attention USA Fencing Secretary, and a full copy, including all enclosures, must be sent to the current division chairs for comment. The Executive Committee of USA Fencing will review the application and any comments made by the chairs and, if it desires more information, may refer the application to other committees of USA Fencing for review and comment. When it is satisfied that it has the necessary information to make a recommendation, it will place the application on the agenda of the next meeting of the Board of Directors with its recommendation for approval or disapproval.

Article XV of USA Fencing Bylaws:

Section 4 Application for Division Charter.

The application for a charter, addressed to the Secretary of USA Fencing, shall be signed by not less than ten members, accompanied by the dues and fees for the current year prescribed in these bylaws and outlining the territorial jurisdiction sought for the proposed division.

Section 5 Grant or Denial of Division Charters.

The Board shall, at its discretion, grant or deny the request for a charter. If granted, the charter shall be the constitution of the division and the members thereof shall, within six months, adopt rules for the administration of local affairs not inconsistent with the bylaws and submit a copy to the Secretary of USA Fencing.

Tournament Procedures

Refer to the current Athlete Handbook for the latest information; any discrepancies between this appendix and the Athlete Handbook, the Athlete Handbook will prevail.

Seeding For NAC Division I Competitions

See Chapter 2 of the Athlete Handbook for seeding information.

A. Team Composition

Each team match is fenced with three fencers, with the option of a fourth fencer designated as the substitute. The fencers on one team in a match are numbered 1-3; the opposing fencers are numbered 4-6. Each slot on a team competes against the three opposing slots (nine relays) so that maximum score a team can score is 45. Substitution of fencers is specified FIE Rules - Article 562:

- If a member of a team is *obliged* to withdraw during a match, either as a result of an accident, or by reason if some cause beyond his control that has been duly recognized by the referee, his team captain may ask the permission of the bout committee to put in a substitute to continue the match at the point where the fencer who so obliged withdrew, even during a bout in progress. However, a fencer who is thus replaced cannot take back his place on the team during the same match.

- In the course of a match, the team captain may ask to replace a fencer with the substitute named before the start of the match. The substitution may only be made at the end of a bout. The fencer who has been replaced *may not fence again during that match*, even in the case of an accident or unavoidable circumstances in order to replace a fencer on the strip. The announcement that a fencer is to be substituted, which must be made by the referee to the opposing team captain, must be made at the latest before the beginning of the bout preceding the next bout of the fencer who is to be replaced.
- If an accident occurs in the bout that follows the request for a substitution, the team captain may annul that request. If the captain of the opposing team has also requested a substitution, this substitution may be implemented or canceled.

A. Order of bouts

The bouts of each team match are fenced in the following order: 3-6, 5-1, 2-4, 6-1, 3-4, 5-2, 1-4, 6-2, 3-5. The placing of each team on the score sheet (i.e. 1-3 or 4-6) is initially determined by lot, and then the order of the fencers is specified by the team captains. (New Rule for 2006: A team no longer loses a match if a fencer competes out of order. If a fencer competes out of order, the match is started over from the point where the incorrect order occurred.)

B. Relay format

The relays are fenced in multiples of five touches (5-10-15-20, etc.); with the maximum time for each relay bout at three minutes.

- The first pair of opponents will fence until one of the fencers has reached a score of five touches, within the maximum fencing time of three minutes. The next pair of opponents will fence until one of the fencers has scored ten touches or three minutes of fencing time has expired, and so forth with successive pairs fencing for multiples of five touches.

If, at the end of three minutes, the appropriate multiple of five has not been reached, the next two fencers continue from the existing score and fence until one reaches the relevant multiple of five for that pair (e.g., the third pair will go until one has a score of 15) or three minutes of fencing has lapsed. (Example: in the second relay, the score is 8-6 when time expires. The third relay begins with a score of 8-6, and continues until one of the teams has a total score of 15 touches, or three minutes elapses.)

C. Determining the victor

The winning team is the one that first scores 45 touches (9 x 5 touches), or that has scored more touches at the end of regulation time. In the case of a tied score at the end of regulation time for the final relay, an additional minute of fencing will be allowed, to a single decisive touch. This decisive touch will be fenced by the final two fencers. Before restarting the team match, the referee will flip a coin to determine the winner should the score remain tied at the end of the additional minute, and *will note this priority on the score sheet*. If a fencer and the possible substitute are forced to withdraw, or if a fencer is excluded, that team has lost the team match.

METHOD FOR SEEDING OF TEAMS AT NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS [As of July 2007]

Teams: To seed teams at the National Team Championships a seed value is calculated for each team based on the national rolling point standing (NRPS), senior point standings for the Senior teams and junior point standings for the Junior teams, and/or the classification of each member of the team. The National standing and the classification of each member of the team are those as of three weeks prior to the start of the National Championships.

NRPS Points: The first set of team points for each member of the team is based on the fencer's national point standing. A fencer who is first on the 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 NRPS are allocated 50 points. Fencers who are not on the NRPS are not given any points.

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

Within each classification, the year is reflected in 10 point increments, with an A07 worth 670 points, an A06 worth 660 points, A05 given 650 points and A04 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 thus determined NRPS and classification points for each team member. The three highest total point values are then added. This sum becomes the team's total points. Teams are then ranked by highest team total points (number 1 seed) to lowest team total points (last seeded team).

Example:

Fencer	NRPS	Team points	Classification	Team points	Total points
A	18th	115	A07	670	785
B		0	C06	460	460
C		0	U	100	100
D	53rd	50	B07	570	620
TEAM SEEDING POINTS (Sum of the best three)				1865	

SEEDING TEAM COMPETITIONS PRIOR TO 2007

Prior to 2007 National Team Championships the manner in which teams were seeded is described below. At the 2006 annual meeting of the Board of Directors the formula for seeding teams at the National Team Championships was approved on a provisional basis pending review by the Tournament Committee after its implementation at the 2007 National Championships. This method of seeding teams was subsequently approved by the Board at its February 2008 meeting, for continued implementation.

The formats in use prior to 2007 is described herein for those divisions who wish to have an alternate method to seeding teams in their team competitions.

DIVISION I & UNDER-19 NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Bout Committee may assign quality points, equal to a placement no higher than 17th, to an athlete who did not fence in the individual competition but whose past national and/or international record, demonstrates that the fencer could have had that performance if he or she had fenced.

Each team is given a seed value based on the sum of the three best results (i.e., placements) of its individual team members in the associated individual National Championships, e.g., Division I National Championships for Division I Team Championships. Teams are then ranked, assigning the highest seed to the team with the lowest seed value (or sum) and the team with the largest seed value ranked last. Teams with the same seed value are randomized by computer or neutral person for seeding rank.

For the Division I National Team Championships the seeding value is calculated as the sum of the three best results of members of the team in the Division I Individual National Championships. For the Under-19 National Team Championships the seeding value is based on the sum of the three best results of members of the team in Under-19 Individual National Championships.

SENIOR TEAM NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

For the Senior National Team Championships the seeding is based on the best placement value from one of three categories of the National Championships: Division IA, II and III, of members of the team registered for the competition.

For Division IA the value is the actual placement; for Division II the value is placement +10; and for Division III the value is placement plus 20. The fencer is given the lowest value of the three possible values (Division IA, II, and III). The team value is the sum of the lowest values of each of three members of the team.

If a fencer on the team has not fenced in any of the individual competitions, the fencer is given the value equal to the number of fencers in the specific competition plus 1; e.g., for Division I Team Championships, non-competitor is given the value equal to total field in that Division I competition; in Senior Team Championships, non-competitor is given the value equal to the total field in Division III competition plus 21.

TABLE 4: NATIONAL SENIOR TEAM SEEDING

CATEGORY	COMPUTATION	EXAMPLE
Division I A	Value = Placement	50
Division II	Value = Placement + 10	15
Division III	Value = Placement + 20	DNC
Non Competitor Seed Value	Value = Max Div 3+1 Sum: 3 of min of above 4	100 (99 competitors) 165

Repechage

Once you have made the Top 32 fencers in the tournament, then

- If you win one more time, you are in the top 24
- If you win two more times, you are in the top 12
- If you win three more times, you are in the top 8 –

CONGRATULATIONS

If you *lose* your first bout in the 32:

- If you the next bout – you are in the 24 Once you

are in the top 24 with one loss, then

- If you win again, you are in the top 16
- If you win two more times, you are in the top 12
- If you win three more times, you are in the top 8

CONGRATULATIONS

FIE Rules of Competition ~1990's edition

DIRECT ELIMINATION FORMAT

If the competition will include direct elimination table format, it must be determined if there will be repêchage or not. Repêchage refers to the format whereby although a fencer has lost a bout in direct elimination, that fencer has not been eliminated from the competition; but rather the fencer has a second chance to remain in the competition by fencing others who have lost a bout in direct elimination. As long as that fencer continues to win his or her bouts, the fencer remains in the competition. As soon as the fencer loses a second bout in the direct elimination table, the fencer is then eliminated. So one can say that repêchage means a second chance to reach the final direct elimination round of 8 fencers. There is no repêchage at that point – winners continue, losers have finished the competition with a final result in the top 8.

Repêchage is normally used when the direct elimination table has 32 fencers, if the initial table was one of 64 or greater. If the initial table starts with 32 or less fencers, repêchage will be used from the 32 if there are 32 fencers in the table, a complete table, otherwise the repêchage will be used from a complete table of 16 fencers.

The direct elimination bouts are for 15 touches, maximum nine minutes, divided into three periods of three minutes, with a one minute rest

between each period. As an exception, in saber, the first period ends either at the expiration of the three minutes or when one of the fencers has scored eight touches. During this rest, the coach of the fencer may have access to the fencer.

METHOD OF SEEDING THE INITIAL DIRECT ELIMINATION TABLE

In most cases, there will be one round of pools prior to direct elimination. The outcome of the pool round will determine how fencers are seeded into the direct elimination tableau. Normally as many, if not all, pools have the same number of fencers, between 6 and 7. From that round approximately 70 percent-80 percent of the fencers will advance to the direct elimination table.

If there is more than one round of pools preceding the direct elimination round, the bout committee must determine and announce if only the final pool round will count for seeding the direct elimination table or the sum of the results of more than one round of pools will count for seeding in the table.

DETERMINING THE QUALIFIERS

First, one tabulates the results of all fencers in the pool round and orders the fencers from best performance to lowest performance. These results are determined first by the number of bouts won and then by the number of touches scored less touches received.

- a) The first indicator, the bout indicator, is determined by dividing the number of victories by the number of bouts fenced (formula V/B).
- b) The fencer or fencers with the highest bout indicator (maximum 1.00) will be seeded first or be among the top fencers.
- d) If several fencers have the same bout indicator, a second indicator, the touch indicator is calculated by subtracting the number of touches received from the number of touches scored, TS-TR. The fencer with the highest positive value of TS-TR has the highest seed among those with the same bout indicator.
- e) In case the bout indicator and the touch indicator is the same, the fencer having scored the most touches will be given the highest seed.
- f) In case two or more fencers have the same bout indicator, touch indicator and touches scored, their seeding classification will be decided. Although these fencers will be given a separate seed number for placement in the direct elimination tableau, it must be noted that they were tied originally.
- g) The Bout Committee will then place the fencers in order of their final seeding value in the initial direct elimination table. No other changes will be considered for placement of the fencers in the table.
- i) In the case of a withdrawal before the direct elimination table has been established, the last place in the table (e.g. the 64th and 32nd, the 16th etc.) is left blank.
- j) In the case of a withdrawal after the direct elimination table has been established and before the fencing has commenced the position of the fencer withdrawn will be left blank.

Organization of the bouts – format

- a) All the bouts of the direct elimination table will be fenced in the order of the table, beginning at the top and finishing at the bottom, and continuing to the right – where the winners are placed. Once there remaining four fencers who are promoted to the direct elimination final of 8, then the bouts to the left of the original table are fenced, the fencers who have lost a bout fence each other to remain in contention for the final four places in the final of 8.
- b) After the first set of bouts in the repêchage side of the direct elimination tableau are fenced, the winners are numbered 9-16 according to their original seed value into the direct elimination round and the losers from Table B, are numbered 1-8, for the repêchage table of 16. The 8 winners of these bouts fence each other as they advance in the table. The four winners are then paired with the four losers from Table C, fencers who won two bouts from the 32 table and then lost their third bout. The four winners are numbered 5-8 and the four losers are numbered 1-4 and paired accordingly in the repêchage direct elimination table of 8. The four winners from this table are promoted to the final round of 8 and will be seeded 5-8 according to their original seed value from the pool round.

If the complete table started at 16, there will be four fencers who won their second bout, having lost their first bout, and four fencers who lost their next bout, after winning their first bout. The four winners are numbered 5-8 and the four losers are numbered 1-4, based on their original seed value into the original table. The four winners will advance to the final of 8 fencers.

Whenever winners and losers are paired during repêchage, the only consideration is whether or not a pair of fencers have already fenced each other during the direct elimination round. If they have then the fencer with the lower seed number is swapped with the fencer with the next lower number. If that swap is not possible, i.e., fencers will have fenced each other, no swap is done.

e) In the case of a withdrawal before the repêchage table has been established, it will be the lowest place in the table that must remain empty. Once the repêchage table is established the place in the table where the withdrawn fencer would have been positioned is left blank.

The direct elimination final of eight fencers

The pairing of fencers in the final 8 direct elimination table is determined as follows: those fencers who did not lose any bouts, i.e., went directly into the final 8 without a loss, are numbered 1-4, based on their original direct elimination seed value. The fencers who lost one bout and then won all their remaining bouts are numbered 5-8 based on their original seed value into the direct elimination table. No changes are made in the resulting pairings, even if fencers have fenced each other earlier in the direct elimination round.

If at the end of regulation time the scores are equal, the fencers fence for a deciding touch, with a maximum time limit of one minute. Before the fencing recommences the Referee will flip a coin to decide who will be the winner if scores are still equal at the end of the extra minute. In this case the score recorded on the score-sheet is the real score achieved in the bout.

Classification of fencers

555 (B) At official FIE competitions, all fencers must be ranked and all necessary bouts contested:

- first and second places are determined by the final bout
- fencers defeated in the second round of the finals place 3rd
- fencers defeated in the first round of the finals place 5th through 8th
- fencers defeated in Tables D, E, F and G are classified as follows:
 - the four fencers defeated in Table G place 9th through 12th
 - *in a tableau of 16*, the four fencers defeated in Table D place 13th through 16th
 - *in a tableau of 32*, the four fencers defeated in Table F place 13th through 16th
- the eight fencers defeated in Table E place 17th through 24th
- the eight fencers defeated in Table D place 25th through 32nd

Each group of fencers eliminated in the first round of the finals (5th – 8th) and in Tables D, E, F and G is classified within itself according to the original seed classification, before ties were resolved, of the fencers prior to placement into the direct elimination tableau. If fencers eliminated within a group were tied in their original seed value their share the same final placement, i.e., they are tied for the place. If a fencer has a legitimate withdrawal, e.g., medical, during the course of the direct elimination round, the fencer retains his place as set forth above, as if he had lost his remaining bouts). If a fencer receives a black card during the course of the direct elimination round, the fencer has no result and the place he would have earned if he had lost the bout is left vacant. The classification of fencers eliminated in the elimination rounds prior to the direct elimination round will be determined, round by round, according to their indicators (V/B, TS-TR, TS). In the case of ties in indicators, the fencers will be classified as tied.

- direct elimination without repêchage to 32 fencers;
- direct elimination with repêchage from 32 to 8;
- final of 8 by direct elimination, consisting of 4 fencers from the direct elimination and 4 fencers from the repêchage.

2) Elimination round

Pools will have six or seven fencers.

These pools will be seeded based on fencer's ranking.

– Bouts are fenced for 5 touches, three minutes.

A fencer who withdraws or is excluded is deleted from the pool, and his results are annulled as if he had not competed.

3) Classification – qualification

– A single general classification is established for all of the participants in all of the pools (V/B, TS-TR, TS).

– Before the beginning of the competition, the bout committee will determine and announce the number of fencers to qualify for the direct elimination table. This number must be at least $\frac{2}{3}$ and at most $\frac{4}{5}$ of the participants (from 20 percent to $33\frac{1}{3}$ percent eliminated).

– In the case of an absolute tie between the last qualifiers, there will not be a barrage, and those who are tied will all qualify, even if they are in excess of the anticipated number

4) Direct elimination table – composition

– The table of 32, 64, 128 or 256 may be incomplete.

– The classification of the fencers will be based on the single preliminary round of pools.

- The application of the principle of protection of fencers of the same club/team cannot place a fencer in a position lower than the total number of qualified fencers. However, in an incomplete table, a fencer who has earned a bye based on his or her classification may not be moved to a position in the table wherein he or she will face an opponent.

5) Progression of bouts in the direct elimination phase

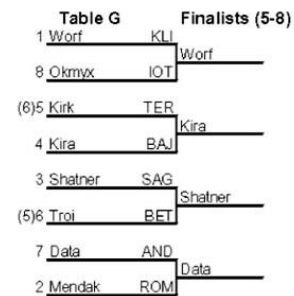
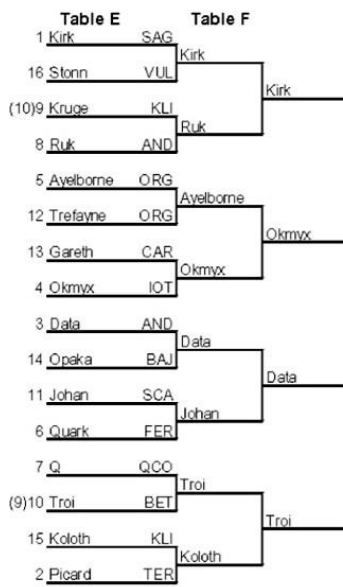
The direct elimination bouts are for 15 touches, maximum nine minutes, divided into three periods of three minutes, with a one minute rest between each period. As an exception, in saber, the first period ends either at the expiry of the three minutes or when one of the fencers has scored eight touches. During this rest a person, named before the bout, may have access to the fencer.

If at the end of regulation time the scores are equal, the fencers fence for a deciding touch, with a maximum time limit of one minute. Before the fencing recommences the Referee draws lots to decide who will be the winner if scores are still equal at the end of the extra minute. In this case the score recorded on the score-sheet is the real score achieved in the bout.

Seeding into Table E		
Losers of B (1-8)		
1	Kirk	(7)
2	Picard	(12)
3	Data	(14)
4	Okmyx	(15)
5	Ayelborne	(16)
6	Quark	(17)
7	Q	(25)
8	Ruk	(28)
Winners of D (9-16)		
9	Troi	(5)
10	Kruge	(9)
11	Johan	(18)
12	Trefayne	(19)
13	Gareth	(20)
14	Opaka	(21)
15	Koloth	(24)
16	Stonn	(32)

Seeding into Table G		
Losers of C (1-4)		
1	Worf	(6)
2	Mendak	(8)
3	Shatner	(10)
4	Kira	(30)
Winners of F (5-8)		
5	Troi	(5)
6	Kirk	(7)
7	Data	(14)
8	Okmyx	(15)

Final Placings		
1	Spock	VUL
2	Data	AND
3	Worf	KLI
4	Frakes	SAG
5	Sarek	VUL
6	Shatner	SAG
7	Tomalak	ROM
8	Kira	BAJ



Direct Elimination Table of 32 Fencers with Repechage

32 Fencers Qualified:		
Initial Seeding		
1	Spock	VUL
2	Sarek	VUL
3	McCoy	TER
4	Sabin	BET
5	Troi	BET
6	Worf	KLI
7	Kirk	TER
8	Mendak	ROM
9	Kruge	KLI
10	Shatner	SAG
11	Frakes	SAG
12	Picard	TER
13	Riker	TER
14	Data	AND
15	Okmyx	IOT
16	Ayelborne	ORG
17	Quark	FER
18	Johan	SCA
19	Trefayne	ORG
20	Gareth	CAR
21	Opaka	BAJ
22	Odan	TRI
23	Hugh	BOR
24	Koloth	KLI
25	Q	QCO
26	Krako	IOT
27	Nimoy	SAG
28	Ruk	AND
29	Tomalak	ROM
30	Kira	BAJ
31	Nog	FER
32	Stonn	VUL



Table A

To avoid placing two fencers of the same nationality in the same quarter of the table, the rule in article 552h is applied.

Examples:

TROI (#5) is moved to #6 because there is already a fencer of her nationality (SABIN) in the second quarter of the table; WORF (#6) takes the place of TROI.

RIKER (#13) is moved several places (finally he is placed in #16 in the first quarter of the table) as he cannot occupy places 13, 14 or 15 because of the fencers PICARD (second quarter of the table), MCCOY (third quarter of the table) and KIRK (fourth quarter of the table), who are all of his nationality.

Similarly, KOLOTH (#24) is moved to #26 in the fourth quarter of the table because of the presence of his countryman KRUGE in the first quarter. Q (#25) and KRAKO (#26) are each moved up one place.

NIMOY (#27) is moved to #28 to avoid being in the same quarter as his countryman FRAKES. RUK moves up to #27. The bout between Countrymen SPOCK and STONN is unavoidable because STONN is the last in the table and cannot be moved.

Table E

For establishing Table E no account is taken of the fencers' nationalities, but rather the repetition of bouts (Cf. 554b).

This is why TREFAYNE and AYELBORNE (ORG) must meet each other. On the other hand, TROI (#9) must be placed in the adjacent number (#10) in the corresponding table because she has already fenced against RUK (see Table A). KRUGE (#10) takes place #9.

Table G

As in Table E, repetition of bouts must again be avoided. Because of this KIRK (#6), who has already met SHATNER (see Table B) is moved to the adjacent number (#5) in the corresponding quarter of the table.

Finals

In establishing the final table, no account is taken of either the fencers' nationalities (FRAKES/3 – SHATNER/6) or bouts that are repeated (WORF/5 – TOMALAK/4).

NOTE: For USA Fencing competitions replace countrymen with club mates.

Pool Formats – Individual Competitions

Place teammates so that they fence each other before they fence other competitors in the pool. Use the special bout orders in those cases where the normal bout order would not allow this to be done.

o.14 The order of bouts in the pools is as follows:

Pool of 6 fencers:	1-2	4-3	6-5	3-1	2-6	5-4	1-6	3-5	4-2	5-1	6-4
	2-3	1-4	5-2	3-6							
Pool of 7 fencers:	1-4	2-5	3-6	7-1	5-4	2-3	6-7	5-1	4-3	6-2	5-7
	3-1	4-6	7-2	3-5	1-6	2-4	7-3	6-5	1-2	4-7	

Since tournaments may have pools with sizes other than 6 or 7, the order of bouts for various sizes is provided for reference below. The order of bouts is listed horizontally.

Pool of 4 fencers:	1-4	2-3	1-3	2-4	3-4	1-2					
Pool of 5 fencers:	1-2	3-4	5-1	2-3	5-4	1-3	2-5	4-1	3-5	4-2	
Pool of 8 fencers:	2-3	1-5	7-4	6-8	1-2	3-4	5-6	8-7	4-1	5-2	8-3
	6-7	4-2	8-1	7-5	3-6	2-8	5-4	6-1	3-7	4-8	2-6
	3-5	1-7	4-6	8-5	7-2	1-3					
Pool of 9 fencers:	1-9	2-8	3-7	4-6	1-5	2-9	8-3	7-4	6-5	1-2	9-3
	8-4	7-5	6-1	3-2	9-4	5-8	7-6	3-1	2-4	5-9	8-6
	7-1	4-3	5-2	6-9	8-7	4-1	5-3	6-2	9-7	1-8	4-5
	3-6	2-7	9-8								

Pool of 10 fencers:	1-4	6-9	2-5	7-10	3-1	8-6	4-5	9-10	2-3	7-8	5-1
	10-6	4-2	9-7	5-3	10-8	1-2	6-7	3-4	8-9	5-10	1-6
	2-7	3-8	4-9	6-5	10-2	8-1	7-4	9-3	2-6	5-8	4-10
	1-9	3-7	8-2	6-4	9-5	10-3	7-1	4-8	2-9	3-6	5-7
	1-10										

o.15 When there are **several fencers from the same country** in a pool:

1. If they do not form the majority of the competitors in the pool, they must fence off the bouts between themselves before meeting competitors of another nationality.
2. If they form the majority of the competitors in the pool, the Bout Committee may establish a special order of bouts, departing as little as possible from the principle laid down in 1) above, in order to obviate excessive fatigue or delays for the competitors who form the minority in the pool.

3. Examples of the order of fencers of the same nationality in a pool of six:

a) When a pool contains, among its six fencers,

— Two fencers of the same nationality A, or

— Two fencers of the same nationality A and two of the same nationality B, or

— Two fencers of the same nationality A, two of the same nationality B, and two of the same nationality C,

The fencers' names are placed on the pool sheet in such a way that those of the same nationality fence each other in their first bout and the order of bouts of a pool of six is that shown in Article o.14 above.

b) When a pool contains among its six fencers,

— Three fencers of the same nationality A, or

— Three fencers of the same nationality A and two fencers of the same nationality B, or

— Three fencers of the same nationality A and three fencers of the same nationality B,

The order of the bouts will be as follows:

1-2	4-5	2-3	5-6	3-1	6-4	2-5	1-4	5-3	1-6	4-2	3-6	5-1
3-4	6-2											

The fencers' names are placed on the pool sheet in the following way:

— The fencers of nationality A are given numbers 1, 2 and 3;

— The fencers of nationality B are given numbers 4 and 5 or 4, 5 and 6. The order of bouts will be as laid down in Article o.14.

c) When a pool contains among its six fencers four fencers of the same nationality A and two others of different nationalities, the four fencers of nationality A are placed on the pool sheet as 1, 2, 3 and 4 and the order of bouts in the pool is as follows:

3-1	4-2	1-4	2-3	5-6	1-2	3-4	1-6	2-5	3-6	4-5	6-2	5-1
6-4	5-3.											

4. Example of the order of fencers of the same nationality in a pool of seven:

a) When this pool contains, among the seven fencers,

- Two fencers of nationality A, or
- Two fencers of nationality A and two fencers of nationality B, or
- Two fencers of nationality A, two fencers of nationality B and two fencers of nationality C,

The fencers of the same nationality are listed on the pool sheet so that they fence their first bout against each other while following the order of bouts laid down in Article o.14 above for a pool of seven fencers.

b) When the pool contains

- Three fencers of nationality A, or
- Three fencers of nationality A and two fencers of nationality B, or
- Three fencers of nationality A, two fencers of nationality B and two fencers of nationality C,

The three fencers of nationality A must be listed 1, 2 and 3 on the pool sheet, the two fencers of nationality B, 4 and 5, and the two fencers of nationality C, 6 and 7.

The order of bouts for the pool of seven, detailed in Article o.14, is no longer valid and must be replaced by the following order:

1-2	4-5	6-7	3-1	4-7	2-3	5-1	6-2	3-4	7-5	1-6	4-2	7-3
5-6	1-4	2-7	5-3	6-4	7-1	2-5	3-6.					

Pool Formats

POOL FORMATS								
Entries	Pools of 6 or less				Pools of 6, 7, or more			
	Max		Min		Max		Min	
2	1	1x2						
3	1	1x3						
4	1	1x4						
5	1	1x5						
6	1	1x6						
7							1	1x7
8	2	2x4					1	1x8
9	2	1x4 1x5					1	1x9
10	2	2x5						
11	2	1x5 1x6						
12	2	2x6						
13							2	1x6 1x7
14							2	2x7
15	3	3x5						
16	3	2x5 1x6						
17	3	1x5 2x6						
18	3	3x6						
19							3	2x6 1x7
20	4	4x5					3	1x6 2x7
21	4	3x5 1x6					3	3x7
22	4	2x5 2x6						
23	4	1x5 3x6						
24	4	4x6						
25	5	5x5					4	3x6 1x7
26	5	4x5 1x6					4	2x6 2x7
27	5	3x5 2x6					4	1x6 3x7
28	5	2x5 3x6					4	4x7
29	5	1x5 4x6						
30	6	6x5	5	5x6				
31	6	5x5 1x6					5	4x6 1x7
32	6	4x5 2x6					5	3x6 2x7
33	6	3x5 3x6					5	2x6 3x7
34	6	2x5 4x6					5	1x6 4x7
35	7	7x5	6	1x5 5x6			5	5x7
36	7	6x5 1x6	6	6x6			6	6x6
37	7	5x5 2x6					6	5x6 1x7
38	7	4x5 3x6					6	4x6 2x7
39	7	3x5 4x6					6	3x6 3x7
40	8	8x5	7	2x5 5x6			6	2x6 4x7
41	8	7x5 1x6	7	1x5 6x6			6	1x6 5x7
42	8	6x5 2x6	7	7x6	7	7x6	6	6x7
43	8	5x5 3x6					7	6x6 1x7
44	8	4x5 4x6					7	5x6 2x7
45	9	9x5	8	3x5 5x6			7	4x6 3x7
46	9	8x5 1x6	8	2x5 6x6			7	3x6 4x7
47	9	7x5 2x6	8	1x5 7x6			7	2x6 5x7
48	9	6x5 3x6	8	8x6	8	8x6	7	1x6 6x7
49	9	5x5 4x6			8	7x6 1x7	7	7x7
50	10	10x5	9	4x5 5x6			8	6x6 2x7

POOL FORMATS								
Entries	Pools of 6 or less				Pools of 6, 7, or more			
	Max		Min		Max		Min	
51	10	9x5 1x6	9	3x5 6x6			8	5x6 3x7
52	10	8x5 2x6	9	2x5 7x6			8	4x6 4x7
53	10	7x5 3x6	9	1x5 8x6			8	3x6 5x7
54	10	6x5 4x6	9	9x6	9	9x6	8	2x6 6x7
55	11	11x5	10	5x5 5x6	9	8x6 1x7	8	1x6 7x7
56	11	10x5 1x6	10	4x5 6x6	9	7x6 2x7	8	8x7
57	11	9x5 2x6	10	3x5 7x6			9	6x6 3x7
58	11	8x5 3x6	10	2x5 8x6			9	5x6 4x7
59	11	7x5 4x6	10	1x5 9x6			9	4x6 5x7
60	12	12x5	10	10x6	10	10x6	9	3x6 6x7
61	12	11x5 1x6	11	5x5 6x6	10	9x6 1x7	9	2x6 7x7
62	12	10x5 2x6	11	4x5 7x6	10	8x6 2x7	9	1x6 8x7
63	12	9x5 3x6	11	3x5 8x6	10	7x6 3x7	9	9x7
64	12	8x5 4x6	11	2x5 9x6			10	6x6 4x7
65	13	13x5	11	1x5 10x6			10	5x6 5x7
66	13	12x5 1x6	11	11x6	11	11x6	10	4x6 6x7
67	13	11x5 2x6	12	5x5 7x6	11	10x6 1x7	10	3x6 7x7
68	13	10x5 3x6	12	4x5 8x6	11	9x6 2x7	10	2x6 8x7
69	13	9x5 4x6	12	3x5 9x6	11	8x6 3x7	10	1x6 9x7
70	14	14x5	12	2x5 10x6	11	7x6 4x7	10	10x7
71	14	13x5 1x6	12	1x5 11x6			11	6x6 5x7
72	14	12x5 2x6	12	12x6	12	12x6	11	5x6 6x7
73	14	11x5 3x6	13	5x5 8x6	12	11x6 1x7	11	4x6 7x7
74	14	10x5 4x6	13	4x5 9x6	12	10x6 2x7	11	3x6 8x7
75	15	15x5	13	3x5 10x6	12	9x6 3x7	11	2x6 9x7
76	15	14x5 1x6	13	2x5 11x6	12	8x6 4x7	11	1x6 10x7
77	15	13x5 2x6	13	1x5 12x6	12	7x6 5x7	11	11x7
78	15	12x5 3x6	13	13x6	13	13x6	12	6x6 6x7
79	15	11x5 4x6	14	5x5 9x6	13	12x6 1x7	12	5x6 7x7
80	16	16x5	14	4x5 10x6	13	11x6 2x7	12	4x6 8x7
81	16	15x5 1x6	14	3x5 11x6	13	10x6 3x7	12	3x6 9x7
82	16	14x5 2x6	14	2x5 12x6	13	9x6 4x7	12	2x6 10x7
83	16	13x5 3x6	14	1x5 13x6	13	8x6 5x7	12	1x6 11x7
84	16	12x5 4x6	14	14x6	14	14x6	12	12x7
85	17	17x5	15	5x5 10x6	14	13x6 1x7	13	6x6 7x7
86	17	16x5 1x6	15	4x5 11x6	14	12x6 2x7	13	5x6 8x7
87	17	15x5 2x6	15	3x5 12x6	14	11x6 3x7	13	4x6 9x7
88	17	14x5 3x6	15	2x5 13x6	14	10x6 4x7	13	3x6 10x7
89	17	13x5 4x6	15	1x5 14x6	14	9x6 5x7	13	2x6 11x7
90	18	18x5	15	15x6	15	15x6	13	1x6 12x7
91	18	17x5 1x6	16	5x5 11x6	15	14x6 1x7	13	13x7
92	18	16x5 2x6	16	4x5 12x6	15	13x6 2x7	14	6x6 8x7
93	18	15x5 3x6	16	3x5 13x6	15	12x6 3x7	14	5x6 9x7
94	18	14x5 4x6	16	2x5 14x6	15	11x6 4x7	14	4x6 10x7
95	19	19x5	16	1x5 15x6	15	10x6 5x7	14	3x6 11x7
96	19	18x5 1x6	16	16x6	16	16x6	14	2x6 12x7
97	19	17x5 2x6	17	5x5 12x6	16	15x6 1x7	14	1x6 13x7
98	19	16x5 3x6	17	4x5 13x6	16	14x6 2x7	14	14x7

99	19	15x5 4x6	17	3x5 14x6	16	13x6 3x7	15	6x6 9x7
100	20	20x5	17	2x5 15x6	16	12x6 4x7	15	5x6 10x7

POOL FORMATS								
Entries	Pools of 6 or less				Pools of 6, 7, or more			
	Max		Min		Max		Min	
101	20	19x5 1x6	17	1x5 16x6	16	11x6 5x7	15	4x6 11x7
102	20	18x5 2x6	17	17x6	17	17x6	15	3x6 12x7
103	20	17x5 3x6	18	5x5 13x6	17	16x6 1x7	15	2x6 13x7
104	20	16x5 4x6	18	4x5 14x6	17	15x6 2x7	15	1x6 14x7
105	21	21x5	18	3x5 15x6	17	14x6 3x7	15	15x7
106	21	20x5 1x6	18	2x5 16x6	17	13x6 4x7	16	6x6 10x7
107	21	19x5 2x6	18	1x5 17x6	17	12x6 5x7	16	5x6 11x7
108	21	18x5 3x6	18	18x6	18	18x6	16	4x6 12x7
109	21	17x5 4x6	19	5x5 14x6	18	17x6 1x7	16	3x6 13x7
110	22	22x5	19	4x5 15x6	18	16x6 2x7	16	2x6 14x7
111	22	21x5 1x6	19	3x5 16x6	18	15x6 3x7	16	1x6 15x7
112	22	20x5 2x6	19	2x5 17x6	18	14x6 4x7	16	16x7
113	22	19x5 3x6	19	1x5 18x6	18	13x6 5x7	17	6x6 11x7
114	22	18x5 4x6	19	19x6	19	19x6	17	5x6 12x7
115	23	23x5	20	5x5 15x6	19	18x6 1x7	17	4x6 13x7
116	23	22x5 1x6	20	4x5 16x6	19	17x6 2x7	17	3x6 14x7
117	23	21x5 2x6	20	3x5 17x6	19	16x6 3x7	17	2x6 15x7
118	23	20x5 3x6	20	2x5 18x6	19	15x6 4x7	17	1x6 16x7
119	23	19x5 4x6	20	1x5 19x6	19	14x6 5x7	17	17x7
120	24	24x5	20	20x6	20	20x6	18	6x6 12x7
121	24	23x5 1x6	21	5x5 16x6	20	19x6 1x7	18	5x6 13x7
122	24	22x5 2x6	21	4x5 17x6	20	18x6 2x7	18	4x6 14x7
123	24	21x5 3x6	21	3x5 18x6	20	17x6 3x7	18	3x6 15x7
124	24	20x5 4x6	21	2x5 19x6	20	16x6 4x7	18	2x6 16x7
125	25	25x5	21	1x5 20x6	20	15x6 5x7	18	1x6 17x7
126	25	24x5 1x6	21	21x6	21	21x6	18	18x7
127	25	23x5 2x6	22	5x5 17x6	21	20x6 1x7	19	6x6 13x7
128	25	22x5 3x6	22	4x5 18x6	21	19x6 2x7	19	5x6 14x7
129	25	21x5 4x6	22	3x5 19x6	21	18x6 3x7	19	4x6 15x7
130	26	26x5	22	2x5 20x6	21	17x6 4x7	19	3x6 16x7
131	26	25x5 1x6	22	1x5 21x6	21	16x6 5x7	19	2x6 17x7
132	26	24x5 2x6	22	22x6	22	22x6	19	1x6 18x7
133	26	23x5 3x6	23	5x5 18x6	22	21x6 1x7	19	19x7
134	26	22x5 4x6	23	4x5 19x6	22	20x6 2x7	20	6x6 14x7
135	27	27x5	23	3x5 20x6	22	19x6 3x7	20	5x6 15x7
136	27	26x5 1x6	23	2x5 21x6	22	18x6 4x7	20	4x6 16x7
137	27	25x5 2x6	23	1x5 22x6	22	17x6 5x7	20	3x6 17x7
138	27	24x5 3x6	23	23x6	23	23x6	20	2x6 18x7
139	27	23x5 4x6	24	5x5 19x6	23	22x6 1x7	20	1x6 19x7
140	28	28x5	24	4x5 20x6	23	21x6 2x7	20	20x7
141	28	27x5 1x6	24	3x5 21x6	23	20x6 3x7	21	6x6 15x7
142	28	26x5 2x6	24	2x5 22x6	23	19x6 4x7	21	5x6 16x7
143	28	25x5 3x6	24	1x5 23x6	23	18x6 5x7	21	4x6 17x7
144	28	24x5 4x6	24	24x6	24	24x6	21	3x6 18x7
145	29	29x5	25	5x5 20x6	24	23x6 1x7	21	2x6 19x7
146	29	28x5 1x6	25	4x5 21x6	24	22x6 2x7	21	1x6 20x7
147	29	27x5 2x6	25	3x5 22x6	24	21x6 3x7	21	21x7
148	29	26x5 3x6	25	2x5 23x6	24	20x6 4x7	22	6x6 16x7
149	29	25x5 4x6	25	1x5 24x6	24	19x6 5x7	22	5x6 17x7

150	30	30x5	25	25x6	25	25x6	22	4x6 18x7
-----	----	------	----	------	----	------	----	----------

POOL FORMATS										
Entries	Pools of 6 or less					Pools of 6, 7, or more				
	Max			Min		Max			Min	
151	30	29x5 1x6	...	26	5x5 21x6	25	24x6 1x7	...	22	3x6 19x7
152	30	28x5 2x6	...	26	4x5 22x6	25	23x6 2x7	...	22	2x6 20x7
153	30	27x5 3x6	...	26	3x5 23x6	25	22x6 3x7	...	22	1x6 21x7
154	30	26x5 4x6	...	26	2x5 24x6	25	21x6 4x7	...	22	22x7
155	31	31x5	...	26	1x5 25x6	25	20x6 5x7	...	23	6x6 17x7
156	31	30x5 1x6	...	26	26x6	26	26x6	...	23	5x6 18x7
157	31	29x5 2x6	...	27	5x5 22x6	26	25x6 1x7	...	23	4x6 19x7
158	31	28x5 3x6	...	27	4x5 23x6	26	24x6 2x7	...	23	3x6 20x7
159	31	27x5 4x6	...	27	3x5 24x6	26	23x6 3x7	...	23	2x6 21x7
160	32	32x5	...	27	2x5 25x6	26	22x6 4x7	...	23	1x6 22x7
161	32	31x5 1x6	...	27	1x5 26x6	26	21x6 5x7	...	23	23x7
162	32	30x5 2x6	...	27	27x6	27	27x6	...	24	6x6 18x7
163	32	29x5 3x6	...	28	5x5 23x6	27	26x6 1x7	...	24	5x6 19x7
164	32	28x5 4x6	...	28	4x5 24x6	27	25x6 2x7	...	24	4x6 20x7
165	33	33x5	...	28	3x5 25x6	27	24x6 3x7	...	24	3x6 21x7
166	33	32x5 1x6	...	28	2x5 26x6	27	23x6 4x7	...	24	2x6 22x7
167	33	31x5 2x6	...	28	1x5 27x6	27	22x6 5x7	...	24	1x6 23x7
168	33	30x5 3x6	...	28	28x6	28	28x6	...	24	24x7
169	33	29x5 4x6	...	29	5x5 24x6	28	27x6 1x7	...	25	6x6 19x7
170	34	34x5	...	29	4x5 25x6	28	26x6 2x7	...	25	5x6 20x7
171	34	33x5 1x6	...	29	3x5 26x6	28	25x6 3x7	...	25	4x6 21x7
172	34	32x5 2x6	...	29	2x5 27x6	28	24x6 4x7	...	25	3x6 22x7
173	34	31x5 3x6	...	29	1x5 28x6	28	23x6 5x7	...	25	2x6 23x7
174	34	30x5 4x6	...	29	29x6	29	29x6	...	25	1x6 24x7
175	35	35x5	...	30	5x5 25x6	29	28x6 1x7	...	25	25x7
176	35	34x5 1x6	...	30	4x5 26x6	29	27x6 2x7	...	26	6x6 20x7
177	35	33x5 2x6	...	30	3x5 27x6	29	26x6 3x7	...	26	5x6 21x7
178	35	32x5 3x6	...	30	2x5 28x6	29	25x6 4x7	...	26	4x6 22x7
179	35	31x5 4x6	...	30	1x5 29x6	29	24x6 5x7	...	26	3x6 23x7
180	36	36x5	...	30	30x6	30	30x6	...	26	2x6 24x7
181	36	35x5 1x6	...	31	5x5 26x6	30	29x6 1x7	...	26	1x6 25x7
182	36	34x5 2x6	...	31	4x5 27x6	30	28x6 2x7	...	26	26x7
183	36	33x5 3x6	...	31	3x5 28x6	30	27x6 3x7	...	27	6x6 21x7
184	36	32x5 4x6	...	31	2x5 29x6	30	26x6 4x7	...	27	5x6 22x7
185	37	37x5	...	31	1x5 30x6	30	25x6 5x7	...	27	4x6 23x7
186	37	36x5 1x6	...	31	31x6	31	31x6	...	27	3x6 24x7
187	37	35x5 2x6	...	32	5x5 27x6	31	30x6 1x7	...	27	2x6 25x7
188	37	34x5 3x6	...	32	4x5 28x6	31	29x6 2x7	...	27	1x6 26x7
189	37	33x5 4x6	...	32	3x5 29x6	31	28x6 3x7	...	27	27x7
190	38	38x5	...	32	2x5 30x6	31	27x6 4x7	...	28	6x6 22x7
191	38	37x5 1x6	...	32	1x5 31x6	31	26x6 5x7	...	28	5x6 23x7
192	38	36x5 2x6	...	32	32x6	32	32x6	...	28	4x6 24x7
193	38	35x5 3x6	...	33	5x5 28x6	32	31x6 1x7	...	28	3x6 25x7
194	38	34x5 4x6	...	33	4x5 29x6	32	30x6 2x7	...	28	2x6 26x7
195	39	39x5	...	33	3x5 30x6	32	29x6 3x7	...	28	1x6 27x7
196	39	38x5 1x6	...	33	2x5 31x6	32	28x6 4x7	...	28	28x7
197	39	37x5 2x6	...	33	1x5 32x6	32	27x6 5x7	...	29	6x6 23x7
198	39	36x5 3x6	...	33	33x6	33	33x6	...	29	5x6 24x7
199	39	35x5 4x6	...	34	5x5 29x6	33	32x6 1x7	...	29	4x6 25x7
200	40	40x5	...	34	4x5 30x6	33	31x6 2x7	...	29	3x6 26x7

POOL FORMATS

Entries	Pools of 6 or less				Pools of 6, 7, or more				
	Max			Min	Max			Min	
201	40	39x5 1x6	...	34	3x5 31x6	33	30x6 3x7	29	2x6 27x7
202	40	38x5 2x6	...	34	2x5 32x6	33	29x6 4x7	29	1x6 28x7
203	40	37x5 3x6	...	34	1x5 33x6	33	28x6 5x7	29	29x7
204	40	36x5 4x6	...	34	34x6	34	34x6	30	6x6 24x7
205	41	41x5	...	35	5x5 30x6	34	33x6 1x7	30	5x6 25x7
206	41	40x5 1x6	...	35	4x5 31x6	34	32x6 2x7	30	4x6 26x7
207	41	39x5 2x6	...	35	3x5 32x6	34	31x6 3x7	30	3x6 27x7
208	41	38x5 3x6	...	35	2x5 33x6	34	30x6 4x7	30	2x6 28x7
209	41	37x5 4x6	...	35	1x5 34x6	34	29x6 5x7	30	1x6 29x7
210	42	42x5	...	35	35x6	35	35x6	30	30x7
211	42	41x5 1x6	...	36	5x5 31x6	35	34x6 1x7	31	6x6 25x7
212	42	40x5 2x6	...	36	4x5 32x6	35	33x6 2x7	31	5x6 26x7
213	42	39x5 3x6	...	36	3x5 33x6	35	32x6 3x7	31	4x6 27x7
214	42	38x5 4x6	...	36	2x5 34x6	35	31x6 4x7	31	3x6 28x7
215	43	43x5	...	36	1x5 35x6	35	30x6 5x7	31	2x6 29x7
216	43	42x5 1x6	...	36	36x6	36	36x6	31	1x6 30x7
217	43	41x5 2x6	...	37	5x5 32x6	36	35x6 1x7	31	31x7
218	43	40x5 3x6	...	37	4x5 33x6	36	34x6 2x7	32	6x6 26x7
219	43	39x5 4x6	...	37	3x5 34x6	36	33x6 3x7	32	5x6 27x7
220	44	44x5	...	37	2x5 35x6	36	32x6 4x7	32	4x6 28x7
221	44	43x5 1x6	...	37	1x5 36x6	36	31x6 5x7	32	3x6 29x7
222	44	42x5 2x6	...	37	37x6	37	37x6	32	2x6 30x7
223	44	41x5 3x6	...	38	5x5 33x6	37	36x6 1x7	32	1x6 31x7
224	44	40x5 4x6	...	38	4x5 34x6	37	35x6 2x7	32	32x7
225	45	45x5	...	38	3x5 35x6	37	34x6 3x7	33	6x6 27x7
226	45	44x5 1x6	...	38	2x5 36x6	37	33x6 4x7	33	5x6 28x7
227	45	43x5 2x6	...	38	1x5 37x6	37	32x6 5x7	33	4x6 29x7
228	45	42x5 3x6	...	38	38x6	38	38x6	33	3x6 30x7
229	45	41x5 4x6	...	39	5x5 34x6	38	37x6 1x7	33	2x6 31x7
230	46	46x5	...	39	4x5 35x6	38	36x6 2x7	33	1x6 32x7
231	46	45x5 1x6	...	39	3x5 36x6	38	35x6 3x7	33	33x7
232	46	44x5 2x6	...	39	2x5 37x6	38	34x6 4x7	34	6x6 28x7
233	46	43x5 3x6	...	39	1x5 38x6	38	33x6 5x7	34	5x6 29x7
234	46	42x5 4x6	...	39	39x6	39	39x6	34	4x6 30x7
235	47	47x5	...	40	5x5 35x6	39	38x6 1x7	34	3x6 31x7
236	47	46x5 1x6	...	40	4x5 36x6	39	37x6 2x7	34	2x6 32x7
237	47	45x5 2x6	...	40	3x5 37x6	39	36x6 3x7	34	1x6 33x7
238	47	44x5 3x6	...	40	2x5 38x6	39	35x6 4x7	34	34x7
239	47	43x5 4x6	...	40	1x5 39x6	39	34x6 5x7	35	6x6 29x7
240	48	48x5	...	40	40x6	40	40x6	35	5x6 30x7
241	48	47x5 1x6	...	41	5x5 36x6	40	39x6 1x7	35	4x6 31x7
242	48	46x5 2x6	...	41	4x5 37x6	40	38x6 2x7	35	3x6 32x7
243	48	45x5 3x6	...	41	3x5 38x6	40	37x6 3x7	35	2x6 33x7
244	48	44x5 4x6	...	41	2x5 39x6	40	36x6 4x7	35	1x6 34x7
245	49	49x5	...	41	1x5 40x6	40	35x6 5x7		35x7
246	49	48x5 1x6	...	41	41x6	41	41x6		6x6 30x7
247	49	47x5 2x6	...	42	5x5 37x6	41	40x6 1x7		5x6 31x7
248	49	46x5 3x6	...	42	4x5 38x6	41	39x6 2x7		4x6 32x7
249	49	45x5 4x6	...	42	3x5 39x6	41	38x6 3x7		3x6 33x7
250	50	50x5	...	42	2x5 40x6	41	37x6 4x7		2x6 34x7

POOL FORMATS										
Entries	Pools of 6 or less					Pools of 6, 7, or more				
	Max			Min		Max			Min	
251	50	49x5 1x6	...	42	1x5 41x6	41	36x6 5x7	...	36	1x6 35x7
252	50	48x5 2x6	...	42	42x6	42	42x6	...	36	36x7
253	50	47x5 3x6	...	43	5x5 38x6	42	41x6 1x7	...	37	6x6 31x7
254	50	46x5 4x6	...	43	4x5 39x6	42	40x6 2x7	...	37	5x6 32x7
255	51	51x5	...	43	3x5 40x6	42	39x6 3x7	...	37	4x6 33x7
256	51	50x5 1x6	...	43	2x5 41x6	42	38x6 4x7	...	37	3x6 34x7
257	51	49x5 2x6	...	43	1x5 42x6	42	37x6 5x7	...	37	2x6 35x7
258	51	48x5 3x6	...	43	43x6	43	43x6	...	37	1x6 36x7
259	51	47x5 4x6	...	44	5x5 39x6	43	42x6 1x7	...	37	37x7
260	52	52x5	...	44	4x5 40x6	43	41x6 2x7	...	38	6x6 32x7
261	52	51x5 1x6	...	44	3x5 41x6	43	40x6 3x7	...	38	5x6 33x7
262	52	50x5 2x6	...	44	2x5 42x6	43	39x6 4x7	...	38	4x6 34x7
263	52	49x5 3x6	...	44	1x5 43x6	43	38x6 5x7	...	38	3x6 35x7
264	52	48x5 4x6	...	44	44x6	44	44x6	...	38	2x6 36x7
265	53	53x5	...	45	5x5 40x6	44	43x6 1x7	...	38	1x6 37x7
266	53	52x5 1x6	...	45	4x5 41x6	44	42x6 2x7	...	38	38x7
267	53	51x5 2x6	...	45	3x5 42x6	44	41x6 3x7	...	39	6x6 33x7
268	53	50x5 3x6	...	45	2x5 43x6	44	40x6 4x7	...	39	5x6 34x7
269	53	49x5 4x6	...	45	1x5 44x6	44	39x6 5x7	...	39	4x6 35x7
270	54	54x5	...	45	45x6	45	45x6	...	39	3x6 36x7
271	54	53x5 1x6	...	46	5x5 41x6	45	44x6 1x7	...	39	2x6 37x7
272	54	52x5 2x6	...	46	4x5 42x6	45	43x6 2x7	...	39	1x6 38x7
273	54	51x5 3x6	...	46	3x5 43x6	45	42x6 3x7	...	39	39x7
274	54	50x5 4x6	...	46	2x5 44x6	45	41x6 4x7	...	40	6x6 34x7
275	55	55x5	...	46	1x5 45x6	45	40x6 5x7	...	40	5x6 35x7
276	55	54x5 1x6	...	46	46x6	46	46x6	...	40	4x6 36x7
277	55	53x5 2x6	...	47	5x5 42x6	46	45x6 1x7	...	40	3x6 37x7
278	55	52x5 3x6	...	47	4x5 43x6	46	44x6 2x7	...	40	2x6 38x7
279	55	51x5 4x6	...	47	3x5 44x6	46	43x6 3x7	...	40	1x6 39x7
280	56	56x5	...	47	2x5 45x6	46	42x6 4x7	...	40	40x7
281	56	55x5 1x6	...	47	1x5 46x6	46	41x6 5x7	...	41	6x6 35x7
282	56	54x5 2x6	...	47	47x6	47	47x6	...	41	5x6 36x7
283	56	53x5 3x6	...	48	5x5 43x6	47	46x6 1x7	...	41	4x6 37x7
284	56	52x5 4x6	...	48	4x5 44x6	47	45x6 2x7	...	41	3x6 38x7
285	57	57x5	...	48	3x5 45x6	47	44x6 3x7	...	41	2x6 39x7
286	57	56x5 1x6	...	48	2x5 46x6	47	43x6 4x7	...	41	1x6 40x7
287	57	55x5 2x6	...	48	1x5 47x6	47	42x6 5x7	...	41	41x7
288	57	54x5 3x6	...	48	48x6	48	48x6	...	42	6x6 36x7
289	57	53x5 4x6	...	49	5x5 44x6	48	47x6 1x7	...	42	5x6 37x7
290	58	58x5	...	49	4x5 45x6	48	46x6 2x7	...	42	4x6 38x7
291	58	57x5 1x6	...	49	3x5 46x6	48	45x6 3x7	...	42	3x6 39x7
292	58	56x5 2x6	...	49	2x5 47x6	48	44x6 4x7	...	42	2x6 40x7
293	58	55x5 3x6	...	49	1x5 48x6	48	43x6 5x7	...	42	1x6 41x7
294	58	54x5 4x6	...	49	49x6	49	49x6	...	42	42x7
295	59	59x5	...	50	5x5 45x6	49	48x6 1x7	...	43	6x6 37x7
296	59	58x5 1x6	...	50	4x5 46x6	49	47x6 2x7	...	43	5x6 38x7
297	59	57x5 2x6	...	50	3x5 47x6	49	46x6 3x7	...	43	4x6 39x7
298	59	56x5 3x6	...	50	2x5 48x6	49	45x6 4x7	...	43	3x6 40x7
299	59	55x5 4x6	...	50	1x5 49x6	49	44x6 5x7	...	43	2x6 41x7
300	60	60x5	...	50	50x6	50	50x6	...	43	1x6 42x7

Classification System

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

are classified based upon the calendar year in which the major classification was last achieved. This minor classification shall be indicated by a two digit number immediately following the major classification (e.g., "A05" would be the classification of a fencer who achieved an "A" classification in 2005). The minor classifications shall be used to rank the fencers within the major classifications so that, for example, a "C06" shall be considered to be ranked higher than a "C05" but lower than all "B" fencers.

The following rules govern the classification of fencers:

- (1) A fencer is classified as Class "A":
 - (a) by placing in the top eight of an individual competition rated as Group A8; OR
 - (b) by placing in the top four of an individual competition rated as Group A4;
BOD 2/1999 **OR**
 - (c) by winning an individual competition rated as Group A1; OR
 - (d) by attaining distinction in international competition which in the judgment of the Board of Directors is equivalent to the preceding clauses of this paragraph; the awarding of the classification may be retroactive.
- (2) A fencer is classified as Class "B":
 - (a) by placing ninth through sixteenth in an individual competition rated as
 - (b) Group A8; OR
 - (c) by placing fifth through eighth in an individual competition rated as Group A4; OR
 - (d) by placing second or third in an individual competition rated as Group A1; OR
 - (e) by placing first through fourth in an individual competition rated as Group B4; OR
 - (f) by winning an individual competition rated as Group B1; OR
 - (g) by fencing in the final round of four as a member of a team that wins the US Division I Team Championships.; *BOD 10/2000* OR
 - (h) by attaining distinction in international competition which in the judgment of the Board of Directors is equivalent to the preceding clauses of this paragraph; the awarding of the classification may be retroactive.
- (3) A fencer is classified as Class "C":
 - (a) by placing seventeenth through twenty-fourth in an individual competition rated as Group A8; OR
 - (b) by placing ninth through sixteenth in an individual competition rated as Group A4; *BOD 2/1999* OR
 - (c) by placing fourth through sixth in an individual competition rated as Group A1; OR
 - (d) by placing fifth through eighth in an individual competition rated as Group B4; OR
 - (e) by placing second or third in an individual competition rated as Group B1; OR
 - (f) by placing first through fourth in an individual competition rated as Group C4; OR
 - (g) by winning an individual competition rated as Group C1; OR
 - (h) by fencing in the final four as a member of a Team that places second or third in the US Division I National Championships. *BOD 10/2000*
- (4) A fencer is classified as Class "D":
 - (a) by placing twenty-fifth through thirty-sixth in an individual competition rated as Group A8; OR
 - (b) by placing seventeenth through twenty-fourth in an individual competition rated as Group A4;
BOD 2/1999 OR
 - (c) by placing seventh through ninth in an individual competition rated as Group A1; OR
 - (d) by placing ninth through sixteenth in an individual competition rated as
Group B4; OR
 - (e) by placing fourth through sixth in an individual competition rated as Group B1; OR
 - (f) by placing fifth through eighth in an individual competition rated as Group C4; OR
 - (g) by placing second or third in an individual competition rated as Group C1; OR
 - (h) by winning an individual competition rated as Group D1
- (5) A fencer is classified as Class "E":
 - (a) by placing thirty-seventh through fifty-second in an individual competition rated as Group A8; OR
 - (b) by placing twenty-fifth through thirty-second in an individual competition rated as Group A4; *BOD 2/1999* OR
 - (c) by placing seventeenth through thirty-second in an individual competition rated as Group B4; OR
 - (d) by placing seventh through ninth in an individual competition rated as Group B1; OR
 - (e) by placing ninth through sixteenth in an individual competition rated as
Group C4; OR
 - (f) by placing fourth through sixth in an individual competition rated as Group C1; OR
 - (g) by placing second or third in an individual competition rated as Group D1; OR
 - (h) by winning an individual competition rated as Group E1
- (6) If a competition qualifies as more than one group (i.e., Group A1 and Group B4), each fencer will earn the higher classification to which that fencer is entitled. For example, if a competition qualifies as Group A1 and as Group B4, the winner earns an "A", as the Group A1 award is higher for that place; the fencer who finishes eighth earns a "C", as the Group B4 award is higher for that place.

USA Fencing Classification Reference Chart

COMPETITION RATING	MINIMUM NBR COMPETITORS	RATED FENCERS REQUIRED	RATED FENCERS MUST FINISH	CLASSIFICATIONS AWARDED
GROUP E1	6	NONE	N/A	1 E
GROUP D1 Changed per BOD 7/09	15	4 E's (or higher)	2 E's (or higher) in top 8	1 D 2-4 E
GROUP C1	15	2 C's & 2 D's & 2 E's (or higher)	2 C's & 2 D's (or higher) in top 8	1 C 2-4 D 5-8 E
GROUP C2	25	4 D's & 4 E's (or higher)	4 D's (or higher) in top 8	1 C 2-4 D 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 5-8 D 9-16 E
GROUP B1	15	2 B's & 2 C's & 2 D's (or higher)	2 B's & 2 C's (or higher) in top 8	1 B 2-4 C 5-6 D 7-8 E
GROUP B2	25	2 B's & 2 C's & 2 D's (or higher)	2 B's & 2 C's (or higher) in top 8	1 B 2-4 C 5-8 D 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 5-8 C 9-16 D 17-32 E
GROUP A1 Changed per BOD 7/07	15	2 A's & 2 B's & 2 C's (or higher)	2 A's & 2 B's (or higher) in top 8	A B 3-4 C 5-6 D 7-8 E
GROUP A2	25	2 A's & 2 B's & 2 C's (or higher)	2 A's & 2 B's (or higher) in top 8	1 A 2-4 B 5-8 C 9-10 D 11-12 E
GROUP A3	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 5-8 B 9-16 C 17-24 D 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 9-16 B 17-24 C 25-32 D 33-48 E

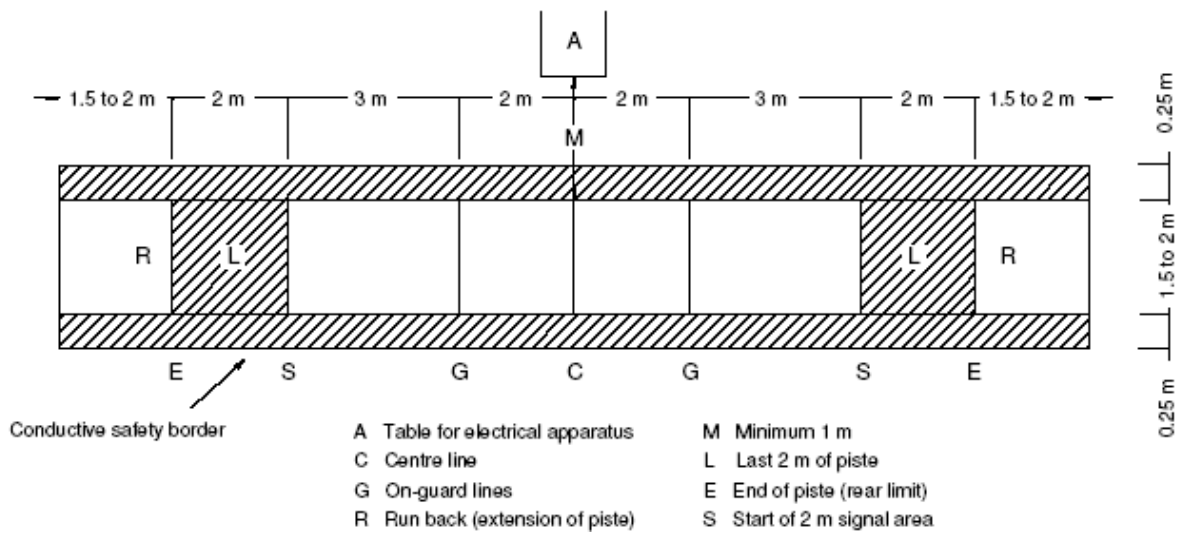
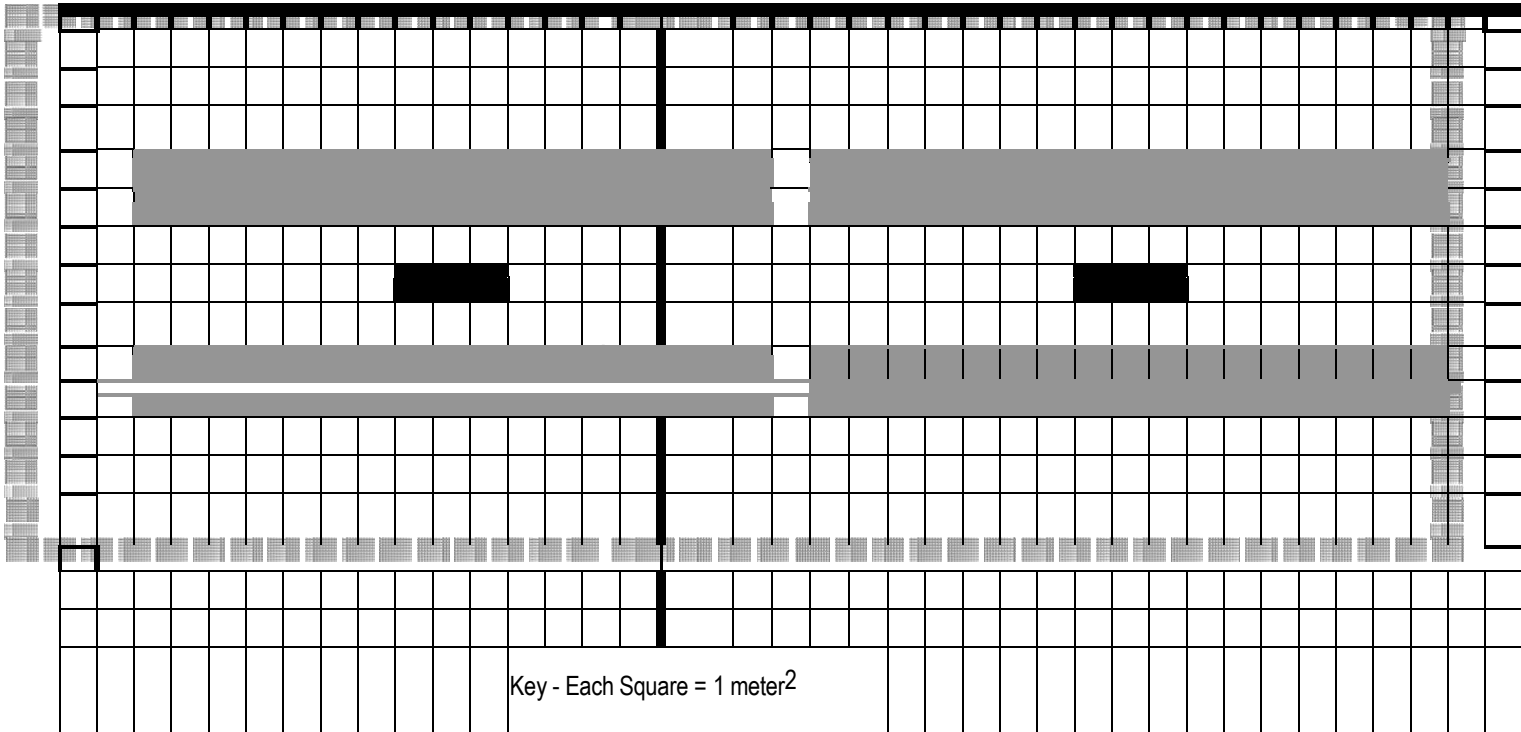
- Division I NAC and National Championships are always Group A4 competitions.
- Division I-A National Championships are always at least Group A3 competitions.
- Division II NAC and National Championships are always at least Group B3 competitions.
- Division III NAC and National Championships are always at least Group C3 competitions.
- Changes in classifications are allowed at USA Fencing sanctioned individual competitions that are restricted to Veterans and to Junior fencers.
- Division and Regional Youth and Cadet Competitions must meet or exceed criteria for C1 to award changes in classification. (BOD, July '02, July 03).
- High School Recognized competitions are not required to meet the C1 tournament requirement to award classifications.
- USA Fencing does not permit classification changes at mixed competitions without regard to gender of fencers.

Strip layout

Strip Layout for a Group of Four Strips (Total Area 120' x 40')

Taken from USA FENCING Official Bid Packet

OFFICIAL STRIP CONFIGURATION FROM USA FENCING/FIE RULES BOOK



FENCER BIO

PLEASE PRINT!!!

Event: _____

Name: _____ **Age:** _____

Hometown: _____ **Years Fencing:** _____

Club: _____

Coaches: _____

Best Three Fencing Results:

TEAM LINE UP FORM

Team:	Team Form						Competition:					
OPPONENT:	Round 1		Round 2		Round 3		Round 4		Round 5		Round 6	
Team Member Name	123	456	123	456	123	456	123	456	123	456	123	456
Captain's Name:												
<p>THE ORDER OF BOUTS IS: 3-6 1-5 2-4 1-6 3-4 2-5 1-4 2-6 3-5</p>												
<p>Instructions to Captains: Place the number (1, 2, or 3 if your team is to be on the left side of the scoresheet or 4, 5, or 6 if your team is to be on the right side of the scoresheet) in the appropriate column indicating the place each fencer is to have in your lineup; write "Sub" in that column for your substitute. Be sure to also write in the Captain's name.</p> <p>Important reminder: It is the team's responsibility to have the correct fencer on the strip for each bout. If the order is altered, intentionally or unintentionally,</p>												
Initial Seed:						Final Place:						