



Black Card Report – National/Regional Tournament

Recipient Name: _____

Type: _____Fencer _____Non-Fencer

Tournament: _____

Penalty Duration, Level Recommendation (By Referee):

Date: _____ Event (ex. DVIMF): _____

Exclusion for Event

Level 1

Round: _____Pool _____DEs

Exclusion for Entire Tournament

Level 2

Required - Note Applicable Rule(s): _____

<p><u>REFEREE REPORT:</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p><u>REFEREE CHECKLIST:</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Notified recipient that he/she has received a Black Card</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Noted the Black Card on the score sheet</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> If rescinded, rationale for rescission of the black card</p>
<p><u>HEAD REFEREE REPORT:</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p><u>HEAD REFEREE CHECKLIST:</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Reviewed the case with the Referee</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Informed recipient of the penalty</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Explained implications of penalty, see full policy on following pages</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Allowed recipient to review this form, or if no longer in the venue properly noted</p>
<p><u>BOUT COMMITTEE REPORT:</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p><u>BOUT COMMITTEE CHECKLIST:</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Briefed by head referee and referee</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> If Event or Tournament Black, ensure recipient has exited venue after review</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Informed the TC representative of the tournament</p>

Definitions and Policy Description (Signatures required on following page)

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

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

Level 2 Black Cards may trigger sanctions in accordance with the Complaint and Hearing Procedures. This could include, but not be limited to, competitive penalties within the Rules of Competition such as temporary exclusion from tournaments for a period of up to two to six months which could be extended for egregious acts. Such sanctions will be determined by the Black Card Review Group. In the interest of the timeliness of Level 2 Black Cards, the Black Card Review Group shall make a preliminary determination upon written submissions from the



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issuing referee and Head Referee or from the Bout Committee, and from any written response thereto that the carded individual may timely submit. The Black Card Review Group shall endeavor to issue a preliminary decision to the carded individual within 10 business days them receiving the black card. Following the preliminary determination, the individual who received the card shall have the right to request a hearing, as set forth below. Such a hearing shall be requested within 5 businesses days of receipt of the Black Card Review Groups preliminary decision. In the event a hearing is requested, the Black Card Review Group shall determine whether any tournament exclusion initially imposed shall be stayed pending the outcome of the hearing. As used herein, “individual” shall refer to the parent or guardian of record of any carded individual who is a minor.

A hearing will be conducted before members of the Black Card Review Group who meet the requirements for a disciplinary panel as set forth in the Complaint and Hearing Procedures. If the individual does not request a hearing, then he or she shall be deemed to have accepted the preliminary determination as final. Any hearing requested by the individual shall be conducted under the procedures set forth in the Complaint and Hearing Procedures. Following such a hearing, the Black Card Review Group members who conducted the hearing shall issue a final determination, which may adhere to the preliminary determination or may impose measures either more or less stringent. Any suspension of membership privileges shall be subject to Board review as set forth in the Bylaws. The individual shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Grievance and Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the Complaint and Hearing Procedures.

Promptly following a determination of the Black Card Review Group that upholds a Level 2 Black Card, the USA Fencing National Office shall transmit a follow-up email to the carded individual (with copies to the Ethics Committee and Black Card Review Group), advising the individual as follows: (1) The black card has been recorded. (2) If applicable, a sanction has been issued and recorded. The sanction(s) shall be described in detail. (3) The offending individual has been placed on probation for 24 months from the date of issuance of the black card. (4) Any additional black cards received during the probationary period will trigger (i) the offending individual’s removal from the entirety of the tournament in which the subsequent black card was received, (ii) a renewal of the 24 month probation period beginning from the date of the issuance of the additional black card, and (iii) review by the Black Card Review Group for possible additional sanctions. (5) Failure to abide by any sanctions imposed by the Black Card Review Group shall be considered severe misconduct and the violator shall be referred to the Grievance and Disciplinary Committee for disciplinary action.

The Black Card Review Group reserves the right to refer any case that may involve a violation of USA Fencing Codes of Conduct, Fence Safe Handbook, or other applicable policies to the Grievance and Disciplinary Committee for review.

Additional Tracking of Rescinded Black Cards

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

Referee (print name)	Signature	Date
Head Referee (print name)	Signature	Date
Bout Committee Chair (print name)	Signature	Date
National Only: Tournament Committee Rep (print name)	Signature	Date
Recipient (print name)	Signature	Date