



**USA**  
FENCING

**2020-21  
Regional Youth Circuit (RYC)  
Requirements**

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### **TOURNAMENT SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS:**

The National Office considers the following when determining hosts for RYC tournaments:

- RYCs must occur between August 1, 2020-April 26, 2021
- Size, quality and safety of venue
- Venue safety and security
- History of tournament staff and bidding organizer in producing successful events
- Ability to meet venue requirements (see below)
- Balancing bid awards, locations and eligible organizers in the region
- Location and date of competition in regard to other RYC, SYC, ROC, SJCC, RJCC tournaments or NACs. Please take note of the national and regional tournament schedule when selecting dates for RYC events.
- SafeSport compliant staff
- Viability of schedule submitted in relation to tournament resources, number of events and projected numbers (for larger RYCs, the National Office may request the submission of a strip management plan).
- RYC host organizer must be a current USA Fencing member. Member and Affiliate Clubs bidding will be given priority.

More detailed information concerning selection criteria may be found in the Bidding Organizer Information Packet.

### **BIDDING ORGANIZERS:**

- For the 2020-21 season, tournament organizers are to complete the online bid application and submit a \$75 bid processing fee by **March 30, 2020**. Bids containing all required information will be reviewed by the National Office and put into consideration for final approval. RYC events to be combined with ROC or RJCCs **MUST** be submitted by **January 2, 2020**.
- All bidding RYC organizers agree to have read the Bidding Organizer Information Packet document and this RYC Requirements document. These serve as reference and support resources for all regional organizers.
- Ordinarily, a single viable location may be approved to host up to two RYC tournaments a season. This is to promote equitable distribution of tournaments throughout the region. The National Office is permitted to deviate from this norm at their discretion according to the number of interested bidders and viable locations in their region in conjunction with the needs of the fencing population.
- Approved RYCs will be posted on the [regional calendar](#).
- Only approved RYCs will be considered for qualification purposes.
- Approved RYC Organizers have access to one free email blast advertising their tournament to the membership. Contact Deanna Doughton at [d.doughton@usafencing.org](mailto:d.doughton@usafencing.org) to request an e-blast transmission to the applicable membership.

## **VENUE REQUIREMENTS:**

The fencing venue is a most important element in hosting a successful tournament. Interested bidders may contact Dan Mott ([d.mott@usafencing.org](mailto:d.mott@usafencing.org)) for guidance in negotiating venue contract agreements. It must be available from approximately 6 a.m.-11:59 p.m. each day of the tournament and for at least one day in advance for set up. It must be clean, well maintained and possess the following characteristics:

1. Ceiling height sufficient to permit safe and unobstructed fencing
2. Venue safety and security including evacuation plan
3. The number of strips and the strip layout is an important consideration and is dependent on the region and the projected number of registrants. Bids must reflect an adequate number of strips to accommodate the historical number of registrants in a given region.

One fencing strip measures 14 meters long x 1.5 meters wide and must include two meters on either end as a safety zone. Venue flooring should be a wood, composition or carpet surface on which fencing strips can be affixed. At least four strips must be grounded strips. Organizers may request a relaxation of the four grounded strip requirement in the “**Venue Considerations**” portion of the online bid submission. Decisions to adjust this requirement will be regionally responsive.

Strip layout must provide an adequate amount of space for the referee on the side of each strip, with the scoring box to be placed approximately one meter out from the center of the opposite side of the strip. Scoring boxes back to back are the ideal arrangement.

4. Competition area must be well lit with even lighting throughout.
5. Area near the fencing floor for armory, registration desk, officials lounge, vendor and trainer.
6. An athletic trainer is required onsite during all hours of competition, and must be easily accessible in the main hall of competition. Access to ice is mandatory.
7. Ample amount of restrooms.
8. The temperature in the competition hall must be between 65° and 75° F.
9. A stage or visibly designated area for the Bout Committee. The BC area is centrally located with clear site to all strips, and should be equipped with sufficient tables, chairs, electricity, internet access and public address system.
10. The public address system needs to reach all areas of the venue, including the designated officials lounge, with a microphone located at the BC stage.
11. An area must be designated and easily accessible to fencers for posting pools, DE tables and results. Internet access and live results are preferable.
12. Adequate space for fencing bag storage away from the competition floor.
13. Adequate parking and easy access to transportation, especially to the host hotel.
14. Venue food/drink concessions are open throughout the competition. Concessions must include “athlete-friendly” foods (fruit, energy bars, bagels, water, sports drink).
15. Free water stations and/or drinking fountains must be available.

16. It is desirable that a finals strip is separated from the preliminary strips to provide special attention for athletes with an enhanced audience seating area.

#### **SCHEDULING:**

A **complete** projected schedule of all events is to be submitted with each RYC bid. Schedules should be designed with consideration given to the projected number of participants in relation to the available strips. Consideration must also be given to fencers competing in cross over age groups when creating a schedule. If the RYC is run over multiple days, events within the same weapon and gender with direct age cross over should NOT be scheduled on the same day. For example: Y10 WE and Y12 WE or Y12 WE and Y14 WE cannot be held on the same day. Y10 WE and Y14 WE can.

When creating a schedule, organizers must also consider demands of the armory check in relation to the first events of the day when the armory is busiest.

RYC tournaments organizers may submit bids for a RYC combined with outside events (such as an RJCC, ROC or team events). RYCs may be single, double or include all three weapons. Decisions on the awarding weapon restricted RYCs will be regionally responsive. An organizer bidding for additional events outside the RYC must also ensure cross over events are separated.

Organizers requesting to combine RYCs, with RJCC, ROC or other non-regional events may be asked to submit a strip management plan, including projected participant numbers per event, along with their schedule.

#### **EVENT STAFF:**

All USA Fencing rules and regulations concerning SafeSport, membership, background check clearance and the hiring of staff under the age of 18 (minors) must be adhered to. Refer to the Bidding Organizer Information Packet for more detailed information.

**Bout Committee (BC):** The number of people on the BC should be determined by the size of the tournament. Prior experience is essential to running a successful tournament. Contact the Tournament Committee ([tc@usafencing.org](mailto:tc@usafencing.org)) if you need assistance in hiring qualified BC staff.

**Referees:** Contact your Regional Coordinator or the Referees' Commission if you need assistance in hiring referees. The Referee Coordinator/Head Referee may hold testing and/or clinics in conjunction with the RJCC tournament. Referees can be paid on a flat fee basis or per-round basis.

**Armors:** Generally, two armorers are required, some tournaments will require more. Depending on the projected number of entries, the number of armorers must be sufficient to move athletes through equipment check in order to keep the tournament schedule moving. The armorers are responsible for conducting equipment check. It is also critical to have enough working electrical equipment (two extra sets beyond what the number being used).

**Medical:** The Local Organizing Committee is obligated to provide one athletic trainer on site during all hours of competition and be equipped with proper medical supplies including ice. All of the tournament staff should know where the closest hospital is from the venue, and be able to provide directions in case of an emergency.

**SafeSport Contact:** One designated SafeSport contact should be assigned for each tournament. This person needs to be a current USA Fencing member with the completed SafeSport training and background check clearance. The designated contact must be available during the entirety of the tournament and will receive additional resources prior to the tournament's start date.

#### **REGISTRATION:**

**Entry Fees:** Fees may not exceed \$30 per individual registration fee and \$45 per event.

**Registration for all regional tournaments is through the USA Fencing Online Registration Platform.**

Organizers may request an exemption from the max fee standard in their original online bid submission. Costs such as high venue rental fees and staff travel/housing are examples which would warrant such a request. Organizers are required to provide substantiating information for such an exemption to be granted. USA Fencing receives \$6 per participant sanction fee at each RYC, and is included in the registration fee. All required tournament documents must be uploaded to the tournament portal within **72 hours** of the tournament. Classification changes and regional points updates will automatically be updated once the tournament is finalized through the USA Fencing Platform. This includes all competitors cleared as members of USA fencing and all referees fulfilling current background check and SafeSport requirements.

**Late Entry Policy:**

Late entry fees are to be set at the discretion of the organizer, but must not exceed the triple fee amount. The late entry policy, including whether or not walk-in entries will be allowed, must be clearly stated in all materials and on all websites for each RYC.

**Refund Policy:**

Organizers may implement their own refund policies for their RYC as long as they are no more stringent than the policy of the National Office. This pertains to both no-shows and withdrawals. The refund policy must be clearly stated in all materials and on all websites for each RYC. Organizers are able to withdraw and refund the event fee(s) through the Tournament Portal. Registration fees are non-refundable unless the tournament or an event is cancelled. If you have to cancel the tournament or an event, email Deanna Doughton at [d.doughton@usafencing.org](mailto:d.doughton@usafencing.org) to process a refund for the registration fees.

**Cancellation Policy:**

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

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

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

**TOURNAMENT CHECK-IN:**

All youth fencers (international and domestic) must register with a valid USA Fencing Membership (international athletes need a current International Competitive License or can purchase a \$10 per regional tournament waiver to enter the tournament). Athletes registering as walk-ins without proof of membership must complete a Competitive membership registration prior to competing. **In order to expedite the processing of results and the updating of points, online membership application is highly recommended on the day of a regional tournament if walk-ins are allowed.**

Organizers should have a computer dedicated to use for online membership applications to be completed available at registration. If paper membership forms are completed, they should be faxed to the National Office at the end of the

last event of the tournament to (719) 632-5737. The processing of paper membership forms by the National Office will likely delay the processing/updating of results, classifications and regional points. Payment will be returned if membership can be verified.

Parents/guardians should come prepared with ONE of the following in case the fencer's age needs verification for eligibility purposes or submit one of the following to [information@usafencing.org](mailto:information@usafencing.org):

1. A government issued photo ID with date of birth included
2. A **copy** of birth certificate
3. Passport

To avoid bringing this documentation, USA Fencing has an age verification process.

**Current Verification Process:**

An athlete can submit a copy of their birth certificate or passport to the National Office via email ([information@usafencing.org](mailto:information@usafencing.org)), mail or fax and they will verify the date of birth in the database. Once the date of birth has been verified, it is indicated on permanent and temporary membership cards.

The athlete can also take the same documentation to a SYC/RYC event or divisional qualifier and tournament organizers can submit a spreadsheet with the verification information to USA Fencing Membership Services. No copy is needed as long as tournament organizers verify the information. This is up to tournament organizers to handle.

Information regarding athlete verification is available for tournament organizers by requesting a "National Verification" list from Membership Services ([information@usafencing.org](mailto:information@usafencing.org)) at the National Office. It's best to request 3-5 business days in advance of when the list is needed.

**ELIGIBILITY:**

All fencers must **be current Competitive members of USA Fencing** in good standing to compete in RYC events.

Please refer to the Age Classification Chart for birth year requirements and exceptions.

**International Fencers:**

International fencers may compete in RYCs and earn regional points with either a paid waiver or a current International Competitive License. They may use this path to compete in the March/April Youth NAC. However, they are not eligible to compete at the National Championships in Y10, Y12 or Y14 because they are National Championship events.

International fencers are not eligible to win an overall RRPS patch. An international athlete who falls into the top three on the RRPS at the end of the season will be skipped.

**EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS:**

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|---|---|
| Uniforms (jacket, pants, knee-high socks, fencing glove): | Standard fencing uniforms; cannot have any rips, tear, or holes (gloves included). Warm-up pants are not allowed. Fencing glove must cover the lower half of the forearm. Tape covering holes on gloves is not permitted. 800 N requirement for sabre must be enforced. |
| Plastrons (underarm protectors):                          | Standard fencing plastron; required with every uniform  |
| Chest Protector:  | Required for females. For foil, any chest protector (male or female) must have the approved   |

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|                         | neoprene layer. For more information, click <a href="#">here</a> .   |
| Masks:                  | 12K punch test; sewn in bib visual inspection - cannot have any rips, tears or holes in the bib; all rivets must be installed; covering over the welds must be present and installed so it will not catch a blade. Conductive bib in foil is required; retrofit conductive bibs must be installed such that they will not catch a blade; they shall be tested for conductivity of 5 ohms or less with no dead areas; tabs are not required; if tabs are present, they must be conductive - if not they must be removed. Elastic strap at back of mask is required and must be tight enough to prevent the mask from falling off. |
| Blades:                 | The maximum blade length permitted for Y10 competitions is 32.5 inches. This requirement must be strictly enforced. Y12 and Y14 competitions, standard blade length of 30-35" permitted.   |
| Lame                    | Tested for conductivity of 5 ohms or less with no dead areas; must not have any rips, tears or holes or loose seams.   |
| Body Cord/<br>Mask Cord | Tested for continuity and conductivity of one (1) Ohm or less per line; clips must be visibly soldered and free of corrosion   |
| Weapon Handle:          | Any attachment to a weapon's handle must fix the hand in one position such that the top of the thumb is no more than 2 cm from the inner surface of the guard. French grip epee handles shall not exceed 20 cm in length when measured from the front of the guard to the end of the pommel nut.   |
| Names on Uniforms:      | Not required at RYCs   |

**EQUIPMENT CHECK:**

Fencers **must** get all standard equipment checked by the armorers prior to competition. This includes lames, body and mask cords, masks and gloves. Weapons are checked (weights and shims) during pools and direct eliminations for all events. Officials should be informed of all rules specific to youth events, especially that ALL Y10 events be fenced with blades no longer than 32.5 inches.

**RULES OF COMPETITION:**

RYC events are run in accordance with USA Fencing rules and formats. Each Tournament Director should have a copy of the current USA Fencing Rulebook, RYC Requirements, Bidding Organizer Information Packet and the USA Fencing Athlete Handbook.

Note: At least two athletes must compete (have fenced) in a given RYC age/weapon event to fulfill eligibility requirements for inclusion in the Regional Ranking Points Standings (RRPS). Event results submitted with only one participant listed will not result in the athlete fulfilling qualification requirement and will not be included in the RRPS.

**Open Entry:** RYC tournaments award **regional points** which may lead to Qualification for the National Championships and therefore no caps can be made on any event within any registration period. Once all published registration is closed, organizers are no longer required to accept entries. Organizers may extend published deadlines at their discretion, but must abide by any extensions for all events and may not adjust them once published.

**Participation:**

Any athlete who is age eligible may compete in an RYC regardless of region. ONLY athletes fencing in their home region will earn Regional Ranking Points for their result. Fencers competing outside of their home region may earn classifications and will count in the total number of participants when awarding points, but will not earn points for their finish.

**Tournament Format:**

The format for all RYC events must be one round of pools with 100% promoted to a direct elimination (DE) tableau. All events MUST maximize pools of seven and then go to pools of six whenever possible. *In events with fewer than 12 entrants, the BC may elect to have two rounds of pools followed by 100% promoted to a DE tableau or complete a pool*



*larger than seven on more than one strip.* Depending on referee and strip resources, events containing less than 18 competitors may complete pools larger than seven when fenced on more than one strip. Double stripping of pools of six or less is not allowed.

For Y10, direct elimination bouts are 10-touch bouts (two three minute periods with a one minute break between) with the first period ending after three minutes or when the score reaches five touches on one side, whichever comes first. During the one minute break, ONE person, designated by the fencer (a teammate, coach, or parent), may be on the strip with the fencer.

For Y12 and Y14 events, direct elimination bouts are 15 touch bouts (three three minute periods with a one minute break between). During the one minute breaks, ONE person, designated by the fencer (a teammate, coach, or parent), may be on the strip with the fencer.

There is no fence-off for third place.

All RYC tournaments must run using standard electrical scoring equipment.

#### **Combining Events:**

Events may be combined to provide a larger field of competition if there are **fewer than six entries of one gender**. Events may only be combined by age. For example, combine Y10 men's and women's saber but not Y10 and Y12 women's saber. This should be taken into consideration when planning the original tournament schedule. When events are combined the results submitted to the National Office must indicate gender. Due to the formula for awarding regional points, it is recommended to hold gender specific events whenever possible. In mixed events, boys and girls will be sorted onto the appropriate regional list. Points will be awarded for placement, therefore, a second place finish awards second place points based on the formula described in the [Regional Point, Qualification and Recognition](#) document.

Information regarding how low participation numbers will be handled must be clearly stated in all materials and on all websites for each RYC.

#### **Seeding:**

Seeding should be based on the following order:

- Current National Rolling Points Standings in applicable age category/weapon/gender regardless of classification
- Classification and year
- If athlete has neither national points nor a weapon classification they are seeded on a random basis with the other athletes in the same situation

Fencers from the same club should be separated as much as possible in the first round of competition. Seeding must be posted prior to the posting of pools.

The current seeding file is available at [usafencing.org/regional-seeding](http://usafencing.org/regional-seeding). Current National Rolling Points Standings will be posted here on or about the Wednesday of each week, for access by tournament organizers for uploading into tournament software.

#### **Tournament Software:**

USA Fencing requires the use of Fencing Time as the software for these tournaments. The Bout Committee should be experienced with this software. Tracking of referees is mandatory. Organizers are encouraged to provide live result updates for their tournament.

### **REGIONAL POINTS, QUALIFICATION & CLASSIFICATION:**

#### **Regional Points:**

All athletes whose USA Fencing's membership division is in the region in which the RYC is held will earn regional points based on placement. Athletes fencing in an RYC outside their region will not earn regional points. Larger fields will award more points for placement. A percentage of athletes (Y12/Y14) will earn qualification from their rankings on the RRPS. For more information on this regional points formula see the Regional Point, Qualification and Recognition document.

Up to the best three results in a given category will be combined to determine a fencer's regional rank each season.

There is **NO** trickle down for POINTS at the regional level. For example: Y12 regional points do NOT trickle down to Y10.

There **IS** trickle down for QUALIFICATION at the regional level. Therefore, if a fencer qualifies in an older age group and is age eligible for a younger age group, they earn qualification in that category as well. For example: If a fencer qualifies to the National championships in Y14 and is age eligible for Y12, he/she will also qualify in Y12.

There are **NO** national points earned at RYC events.

**Qualification:**

The RYC tournament serves as one qualifying path for Y10 and Y12 fencers to the Youth NAC and for Y10, Y12 and Y14 fencers to the National Championships. Athletes who meet or exceed the pre-established point total (150pts/Y14 and 70 pts/Y12.) within the qualifying period will qualify. These athletes will not be skipped at the Y14 divisional qualifiers if they fall into the qualifying group.

For more information on youth qualification paths, refer to the Athlete's Handbook Chapter 2, the [Regional Point, Qualification and Recognition and the Qualification Table](#).

Points/qualification are not finalized until complete results, the Referee Report and new membership applications are received by the National Office and cleared. Forms must be received within 72 hours of the completion of an RYC tournament for results to be accepted for points, classification changes and qualification.

Organizers are responsible for being able to answer questions from the membership concerning national points, regional points and qualification at their tournament.

**Youth NAC:**

Y10 and Y12 fencers must participate in at least one RYC or SYC tournament in the current season prior to the regular registration deadline for the March Youth NAC in order to be considered eligible to compete. RYC or SYCs that take place before the March NAC but after the regular registration deadline will NOT be considered for meeting eligibility requirement for the Youth NAC. Y14 registration for this NAC is open and has no pre-tournament qualification requirements.

**Classifications:**

The competition must meet or exceed criteria in Group C1 or higher to award changes in classification. Please refer to the Classification Chart for more information.

Classifications are not finalized until complete results, membership applications, Referee Report and Classification Change Report are received by the National Office and cleared.

**AWARDS:**

Organizers should provide medals, ribbons, trophies or certificates to the top eight finishers in events that have 10 or more entrants and to at least the top three in events with fewer than 10 entrants.

There need not be a fence-off for third place.

**Mixed Events:**

Organizers are required to award medals to the top three or eight according to the number of entrants in the event. It is up to the organizers discretion to separate out placing by gender and give awards separately. This is not required.

**REGIONAL RECOGNITION:**

A **Regional Ranking Point System** (RRPS) is in place to recognize participation and accomplishment of developing athletes at the regional level. At the end of the youth competitive season, the top three fencers of each age group and gender in each of the six regions will be awarded Regional Winner Patches by USA Fencing. If there is a tie for any of the three places, all fencers will earn awards. Regional award winners for the Y10, Y12 and Y14 categories will be recognized at the National Championships. For more details on this initiative, refer to the [Regional Point, Qualification and Recognition](#) document.

Rankings will be managed by the National Office and available for viewing on the [USA Fencing Tournament Platform](#). These rankings are regional only and ARE NOT RELATED IN ANY WAY TO THE NATIONAL ROLLING POINT STANDINGS. All athletes residing in the region in which the tournament is held earn regional points based on placement. Larger fields will award more points for placement.

**HOSPITALITY:**

Venue food/drink concessions should be readily available and open throughout the competition. Concessions must include "athlete-friendly" foods (fruit, energy bars, bagels, water, sports drink).

Organizers should provide information on local hotels, and be prepared to answer questions regarding directions, restaurants and attractions.

Any workshops or informational opportunities for coaches, parents, referees and athletes then can be organized in conjunction with an RYC tournament are encouraged.

Each RYC may have a member of USA Fencing staff or a selected representative in attendance to observe the event and ensure it is run appropriately. The LOC is responsible for transportation, accommodation and food for officials, armorers and the BC, including the Head Referee and the representative from USA Fencing Staff if applicable. The LOC provides honoraria for officials, armorers, and the BC.

**POST-EVENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Tournament organizers have **72 hours** to upload the following through the USA Fencing Platform:

- Results (including classification changes)
- Referee Report
- Black Cards
  
- **If COMPLETE tournament results, membership applications and referee report are not uploaded within 72 hours, USA Fencing will document the delay as a breach in the bid contract agreement. This will be included in the factors under consideration when reviewing future bids submitted by the organizer.**
  
- Online RYC **customer surveys** will be sent out by USA Fencing to all participants in each regional tournament requesting their feedback. Once completed, survey results will be forwarded to the organizer. [If organizers have any questions or concerns in relation to the survey results, they should contact USA Fencing.](#)
  
- Photos and/or video of the tournament to be showcased on USA Fencing website to increase awareness of regional programs; send to Nicole Jomantas ([n.jomantas@usafencing.org](mailto:n.jomantas@usafencing.org)).

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