



**2009-2010
Regional Youth Circuit Guidelines**

TOURNAMENT SELECTION CRITERIA

The Regional Youth Coordinator will implement the following criteria when determining hosts for RYC tournaments:

- Size, quality, and safety of venue
- Floor surface
- Size of experienced volunteer base from which to draw on for leadership (preferred but not determinative)
- History of producing successful events
- Ability to meet venue requirements (see below)
- Location of competition in regards to other RYC tournaments
- Availability of qualified Referees
- RYC Host Organizer must be a current USFA member

VENUE REQUIREMENTS

Competition area must be well lit with even lighting throughout.

The temperature in the competition hall should be between 65° and 75° F.

Fencing strips need to be at least 1 meter wide and 12 meters long, with adequate run-off. They need not be grounded. 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 strip 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.

The Bout Committee should be centrally located with a clear site to all strips inside the competition hall, and should be properly equipped with tables, chairs, and a public address system.

An area must be designated and easily accessible to fencers for posting pools, DE tables, and results.

Locker rooms or large restrooms should be available for changing areas.

Venue food/drink concessions open throughout the competition are preferable. Concessions must include "athlete-friendly" foods (fruit, energy bars, bagels, water, sports drink).

Water stations and/or drinking fountains must be available during competition.

REGISTRATION

Entry Fees: Fees may not exceed \$30 per individual registration fee and \$25 per event. The Tournament Director may charge registration and event fees at his/her discretion as long as it does not exceed these amounts.

Refund Policy: Tournament Directors may implement their own refund policies for their RYC events. This pertains to both no-shows and withdrawals.

Waiver of Liability: Tournament Directors must include a statement in the waiver that photography, filming, recording or any other form of media of the athlete during the tournament can be used by the host organization and the USFA. There should be a check box option for individuals to refuse media coverage of the fencer.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008, ALL TOURNAMENTS DESIGNATED AS REGIONAL YOUTH CIRCUIT (RYC) EVENTS SHALL BE REQUIRED TO REMIT A PROGRAM SUPPORT FEE OF \$2.00 PER INDIVIDUAL REGISTRANT TO THE USFA. THIS PAYMENT IS DUE WITH THE RESULTS SUBMISSION TO THE USFA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT MANAGER. CHECK IS PAYABLE TO THE UNITED STATES FENCING ASSOCIATION. (Board of Directors, September 2008)

TOURNAMENT CHECK-IN

Youth fencers must check-in with their membership card or a letter of good standing. Athletes without proof of membership must fill out all appropriate forms to pay for membership. Payment will be returned if membership can be verified.

The USFA is working towards an age verification process. This season, parents should come prepared with ONE of the following in case the fencer's age needs verification for eligibility purposes:

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

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Uniforms (jacket, pants, knee-high socks, fencing glove):	Standard fencing uniforms; cannot have any rips, tear, or holes. Warm-up pants are not allowed. Fencing glove must cover half of the forearm. In epee and foil, a full jacket is required (i.e., a jacket with croissard/groin strap).
Plastrons (underarm protectors):	Standard fencing plastron; required with every uniform
Chest Protector:	Required for females
Masks:	12K punch test; sewn in bib. Bib is not target in foil. Elastic strap at back of mask is required
Blades:	For Y10 competitions, 30” or 32” required. Y12 and Y14 competitions, standard blade length of 30-35” permitted.
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.
Names on Uniforms:	Not required for RYC events

EQUIPMENT CHECK

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 inches.

RULES OF COMPETITION

RYC events are run in accordance with USFA rules and formats. Each Tournament Director should have a copy of the current USFA Rulebook, RYC Guidelines Manual, and USFA Operations Manual onsite.

Tournament Format: All events will include a minimum of 1 round of pools. For Y10 and Y12 events, pools of 5 or 6 (whenever possible, equal pool sizes should be used) with 100% of the fencers promoted to a direct elimination tableau.

For Y10 and Y12, direct elimination bouts are best 2 out of 3 – 5 touch bouts (each 5 touch bout is 3 minutes with a 1 minute break between) During the 1 minute breaks, ONE person, designated by the fencer (a team-mate, coach, or parent), may be on the strip with the fencer.

For Y14 events, pools of 6 or 7 (whenever possible, equal pools sizes should be used) with 100% of the fencers promoted to a direct elimination tableau.

For Y14 events, direct elimination bouts are 15 touch bouts (3- 3 minute periods with a 1 minute break between). During the 1-minute breaks, ONE person, designated by the fencer (a teammate, coach, or parent), may be on the strip with the fencer.

Combining Events: Events may be combined to provide a larger field of competition if there are **fewer than 5 entries of one gender**. The Youth Committee recommends combining events by age rather than gender. For example, combine Y10 Men's & Women's Saber rather than Y10 & Y12 Women's Saber. This should be taken into consideration when planning the original tournament schedule.

Information regarding how low participation numbers will be handled needs to be clearly communicated to registrants leading up to the competition.

Seeding: Seeding should be based on the following order:

- National Rolling Points Standing (RYC events go all the way down the NRPS, not just through the top 32)
- 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.

POINTS & CLASSIFICATION

There are no points awarded at RYC events.

Classifications may be awarded only at tournaments at which electrical apparatus for the scoring of touches is used. 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.

EVENT STAFF

Bout Committee: 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.

Officials: Contact your Regional Youth Coordinator if you need assistance in hiring Officials. The Fencing Officials Commission (FOC) may hold testing and/or clinics in conjunction with the RYC tournament. Officials can be paid on a flat fee basis or per-round basis.

Arbitrator: There should be one experienced individual to oversee Officials and their assignments. The Arbitrator is also responsible for handling complaints regarding Officials.

Armorer: It is critical to have enough working electrical equipment (2 extra sets beyond what the number being used) and strongly suggested to have a knowledgeable Armorer on site.

All of the Event Staff should know where the closest hospital is from the venue, and be able to provide directions in case of an emergency. In addition, a first aid kit and ice must be available on site.

Please have the Tournament Organizer, Bout Committee, an Official, and Armorer (if applicable) fill out the RYC Tournament Survey.

AWARDS

Organizers should provide medals, ribbons, trophies or certificates to the top 8 finishers in events that have more than 10 entrants and to the top 3 in events with fewer than 10 entrants.

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

ELIGIBILITY

Fencers must be current competitive members of the USFA and in good standing to compete in RYC events. USFA new membership paperwork needs to be available at the door for walk-up registration.

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

HOSPITALITY

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

POST-EVENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Submit the following items to the USFA Youth Development Manager **no later than two weeks following the event:**

- A check made out to the United States Fencing Association for \$2.00 per registrant. Please submit the check with the RYC Program Support Fee Form
- RYC Tournament Surveys
- Any new Membership Forms with payment
- Photos and/or video of the tournament to be showcased on the USFA website to increase awareness of Youth Programs

United States Fencing Association
Attn: Courtney Winner
1 Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5774
courtneyw@usfencing.org

The following should be submitted to your Regional Youth Coordinator no later than two weeks following the event:

- Results Report & Classification Change Report Form in Excel format
- A copy of the pools, DE, tournament brackets, etc. that show how all of the events panned out
- Recommendations for future RYC tournaments

2009-2010 NATIONAL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Houston SYC	September 5-7, 2009	Houston, TX
NAC A: Division II, Division III, Cadet	October 9-12, 2009	Des Moines, IA
Mission Fencing Center SYC	October 23-25, 2009	Rocky Point, NY
NAC B: Junior, Cadet, Youth 14	November 6-9, 2009	Kansas City, MO
Flower City SYC	November 20-22, 2009	Rochester, NY
NAC C: Division I, Veteran	December 4-6, 2009	Pittsburgh, PA
Louisville SYC	December 13-15, 2009	Louisville, KY
NAC D: Division I, Junior	January 15-18, 2010	San Jose, CA
NFFWC SYC	January 29-31, 2010	Annandale, VA
Junior Olympic Championships	February 12-15, 2010	Memphis, TN
Cobra SYC	February 26-28, 2010	Jersey City, NJ
Prise de Fer SYC – BOYS ONLY	March 20-21, 2010	Wellesley, MA
Paul Pesthy Memorial SYC	March 20-21, 2010	San Jose, CA
NAC E: Division II, Division III, Veteran	March 26-29, 2010	Dallas, TX
Prise de Fer SYC – GIRLS ONLY	April 10-11, 2010	Wellesley, MA
NAC F: Division I, Youth 14/12/10	April 16-19, 2010	Virginia Beach, VA
Summer Nationals	July 4-13, 2010	Atlanta, GA

Please take note of the National Tournament Schedule when selecting dates for RYC events. Youth do not participate in many NACs, but their Coaches are often in attendance instructing older athletes.



**United States Fencing Association
2009-2010 Regional Youth Circuit Program Support Fee**

Implemented by the Board of Directors effective October 1, 2008, all tournaments designated as Regional Youth Competitions (RYC) shall be required to remit a Program Support Fee of \$2.00 per individual registrant to the USFA National Office (see Athlete Handbook page 8).

Tournament Title: _____

Contact Name: _____

City, State: _____

Host Club: _____

Tournament Date(s): _____

USFA Youth Region: _____

Total Number of Participants: _____ X \$2.00 = Total Amount: _____

Method of Payment:

Check or Money Order Enclosed

Payable to the USFA • \$25 charge for returned checks

Check/Money Order Number: _____ Name/Club on Check: _____

Credit Card (Debit cards accepted with a Visa or MasterCard Logo only)

Signature _____ Cardholder _____

VISA MasterCard AMEX Discover

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Please mail this form with payment to the address below within two weeks following your tournament:

United States Fencing Association
Attn: Courtney Winninger
One Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5774