



US Fencing Association National Championships Appeal Procedure

In exceptional cases, subject to approval by the USFA Executive Committee, a member of the USFA in good standing may be permitted to qualify to the Junior Olympic Championships or Summer National Championships by appeal. No petition may contravene the results of a qualifying competition – a fencer who has fenced in the competition without withdrawing due to valid medical reasons cannot then petition to disregard or override those results.

The following criteria and procedures are applicable to filing an appeal:

An appeal may be filed by a fencer who qualified (by means of competition or appeal) to that same competition in the prior season or whose competitive record during the current fencing season indicates a strong possibility that the athlete would have qualified had they been able to compete in the qualifying competition **but**:

1. Was unable to compete in the qualifying competitions this season, **OR**
2. Did compete and had to withdraw because of a disabling injury or illness.

(Note: Mere attendance at an out-of-town school during the qualifying competition shall not constitute inability to compete.)

All appeals must be made in writing to the National Events Manager, U.S. Fencing Association National Office, 1 Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5774. Such appeals **are to be filed within five business days** following the competition at which the petitioner could have qualified. Relief from this deadline will be granted only when the specific qualifying competition is held less than two weeks prior to the entry deadline. Under no circumstances will petitions be accepted if received after the entry deadline for the Championships.

The appeal must be accompanied by:

- A non-refundable fee of \$100.00, payable to the USFA
- A written statement that gives the specific details of the dates, reason for absence or withdrawal, and other pertinent facts. Written notice from the attending physician and/or statement from the Bout Committee must substantiate any medical reasons if the medical reason required withdrawal from the qualifying competition.
- A summary of the fencer's significant competitive results during the past year. In particular, results in previous National Championships and recent North American Cup (NAC) competitions should be noted.
- Evidence that a copy of the petition has been submitted to the Chair or Secretary of the Division or Section that hosted the qualifying competition. If the basis for the petition does not correspond with information available to the Division or Section officer, then the USFA expects the officer to so notify the national Office in writing.
- A completed entry form for the National Championships (Junior Olympics/Summer Nationals) with the correct registration and entry fees. If the petition is not approved, these fees associated with the entry will be refunded.
- Inclusion of a fax back sheet for reply to the appeal if athlete does not have a current e-mail address; otherwise responses to the appeal will be made by e-mail.

Petitions that do not meet these requirements will not be considered.

Decisions on petitions will be based upon the validity of reasons given for absence or withdrawal and the probability that the fencer would have qualified had they competed in the qualifying competition to its conclusion, based on results achieved in other competitions.

If a fencer is permitted to enter a National Championships competition by this appeal procedure, the fencer's entry will in no way affect the number of qualifiers from the Division or Section involved.

Appeal Checklist
(Additional documentation may be requested by the USFA)

- A non-refundable fee of \$100.00 payable to the USFA (new fee amount effective 1/30/09)
- Letter from the athlete outlining the reason for the appeal with a summary of significant competition results during the last year
- Copy of the letter sent to a Division/Section Officer notifying them of the Appeal
- Letter from a physician if the petition is for medical reasons (*if needed*)
- Letter from the Bout Committee Chair if a medical withdrawal occurred during the qualifier (*if requested by the USFA*)
- Email address or fax number for reply to the appeal
- Appeal submitted within five business days of the qualifier
- Championships (Junior Olympics/ Summer Nationals) Entry form and payment

If your petition is received without the information requested above and payment, it will be returned to you unprocessed.

**Junior Olympics Petitions are processed in 3-5 weeks. Summer National Petitions take 4-6 weeks.
To check the status of your Petition, please email:**

courtneyw@usfencing.org



US Fencing Petition Form

Athlete Name: _____

Division/Section: _____

Club: _____

Events you are petitioning to enter: _____

Classification in all three weapons: Epee _____ Foil _____ Saber _____

Email Address: _____

Birth Year: _____

Payment for \$100 Petition Fee (Please check your payment method below):

Check _____ Money Order _____ (payable to the United States Fencing Association)

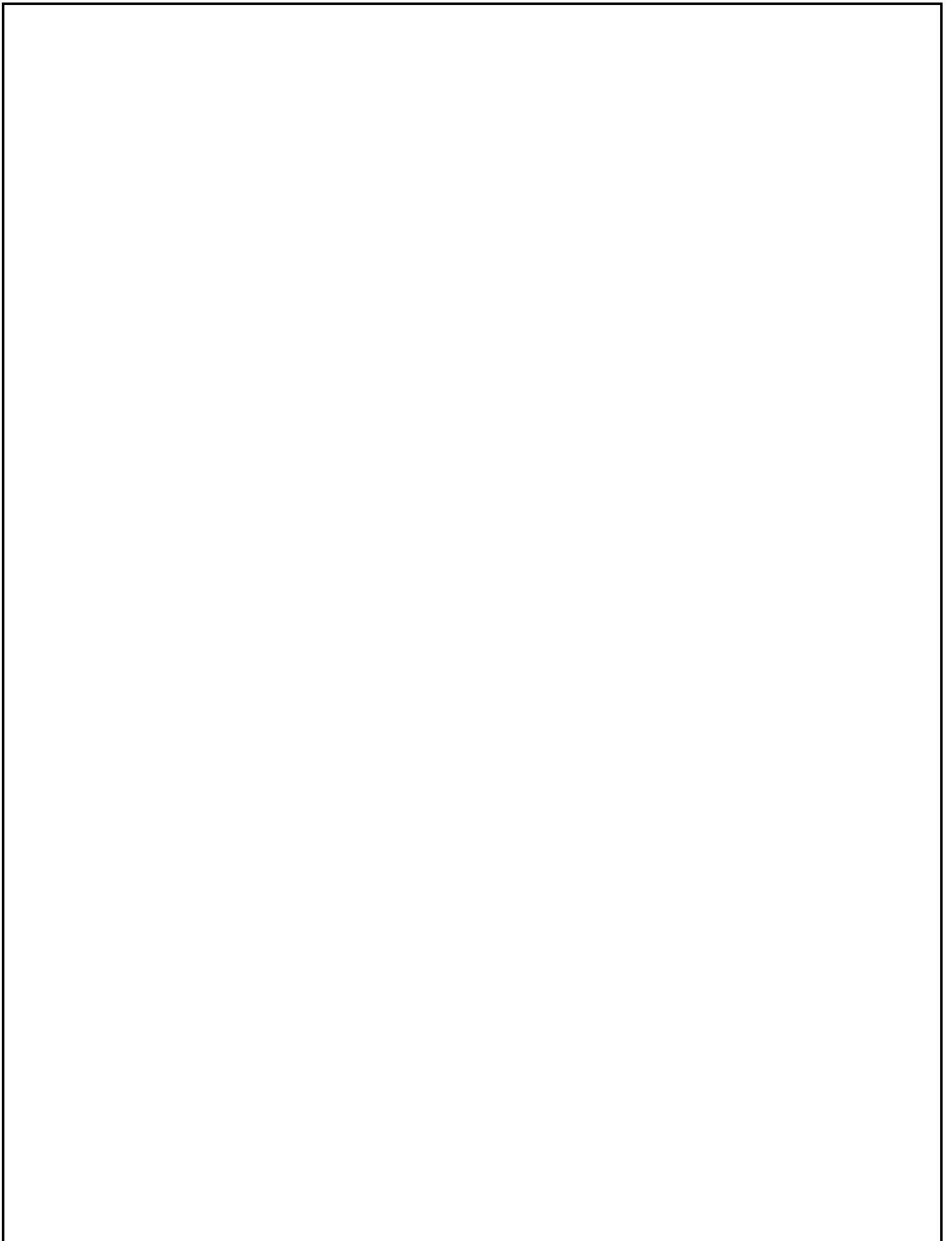
Credit Card _____

American Express _____ Discover _____ MasterCard _____ Visa _____

Card Number: _____ Exp Date _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____





US Fencing Petition Form

State reason for this Petition here:

Provide information on your fencing results during the past two seasons here:

Attach supporting documentation for this petition here (Doctor's note, school schedule, bout committee medical withdraw letter etc.)

Attach a copy of your email to a Division or Section Officer that you are petitioning to enter a National Championship