



DATE: November 2, 2009

TO: Division Chairs and Secretaries

FROM: Ashley Razo, National Events Director

SUBJECT: Qualifying Information for the 2010 Junior Olympics

The forms for reporting the results of Qualifying competitions for the 2010 Junior Olympic Championships are attached. These forms must be used to report the full results of each qualifying competition with all the details requested and returned to the National Office immediately after the qualifying competitions and no later than January 15, 2010. By submitting the forms promptly we can process the entries from your Division in a timely manner. **Junior Olympic Entry Forms cannot be processed without the qualifying report forms from the appropriate Division.**

The list of automatic qualifiers based on point standings for each age group at the Junior Olympics will be posted on the website and will be updated periodically. **If a fencer becomes an automatic after the qualifying competition, it does not affect the results of the qualifying competition.**

The Junior Olympic Entry Form is posted on the USFA website. A copy of the Junior Olympic Entry Form should be distributed to the athletes who qualify for the Junior Olympic Championships. You will also find attached general tournament information, and excerpts from the Athlete Handbook. Take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the enclosed information so you can answer questions from your members. Please contact the National Office if you need any further information or explanation of the qualifying procedures. There are no qualifying competitions for the Junior Team event.

There are NO alternates for any competition at the USFA Junior Olympic Championship tournament. There are NO required Junior Team Qualifying Competitions. The Junior Team event is open at Junior Olympics.

Classifications can be awarded at a Division Junior Olympic qualifying competition and must be noted on the qualifying report form. Cadet events must be rated as a C1 or greater for a classification to be awarded. (See the attached Classification Chart).

The USFA office will verify the accuracy in determining the number of qualifiers in each event. If there is an error, the USFA will request that the Division contact the affected fencer(s).

Organizers for the Division Qualifying competition must arrange to have at least one referee with a rating of five or higher at the qualifying tournament. For more information on referee ratings, please visit the FOC website at: www.fencingofficials.org.

Athletes are permitted to fence in their Division qualifying competitions only IF:

- 1) The athlete is a U.S. citizen OR permanent resident of the United States and a current competitive member of the USFA
- 2) The athlete's birth year falls in that age bracket **OR**
- 3) **The athlete is on the national rolling point standings in the next younger age bracket**

JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

Eligible fencers are U.S. citizens OR permanent residents of the United States, current competitive members of the USFA, and meet qualification standards for each age category.

Any fencer who is a citizen or permanent resident who has represented another country in the last three years is not eligible for any USFA National Championship competition, individual or team, including corresponding Division and Section qualifying competitions. A foreign fencer who is in the US on a visa is NOT eligible to fence in any National Championships or associated qualifying competitions.

On the USFA Membership list and membership card a foreign fencer is designated with an asterisk after their first name (*). If you have conflicting information about whether a fencer is foreign, contact the USFA at (719) 866-4511. Fencers must have a USFA "Competitive Member" card with an expiration date of 7/31/10 or later or be listed on the USFA online membership list as a current competitive member.

Important Notice: The National Teams for the Junior and Cadet World Championships will be selected at this event. To view the selection criteria for the each weapon please visit www.usfencing.org and click on International Events.

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 qualifying competition is complete and the number of qualified athletes is determined, those who have already qualified to the Championships in that event (athletes determined to be automatic qualifiers) are skipped in determining those who have become qualifiers in 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. So, if the ones who are automatic qualifiers are 1st, 3rd, 6th, and 7th, then the qualifiers from this competition are those who have placed 2nd, 4th, 5th, 8th and 9th.

TABLE 2-2: NUMBER OF QUALIFIERS FOR JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

#	1	2	3 to 12	13-16	17-20	21-24	25-28	29-32	33-36	37-40	41-44	45-48
# Competitors												
# Qualifiers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

BOD, 10/03

UNDER-17 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Fencers must be born between 1993 and 1996

AND BE

- On the Cadet NRPS on Jan. 19, 2010 **OR**
- In the top 8 of the Youth 14 NRPS on Jan. 19, 2010 **OR**
- Qualified for the Under-20 JO Championships (BOD, 10/04) **OR**
- On the Cadet NRPS at the time of the Division JO qualifying competition **OR**
- In the top 25% [refer to Table 2.2] in their Division's Under-17 J.O. qualifying competition (BOD, 10/03)

UNDER-20 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Fencers must be born between 1990 and 1996

AND BE

- On the Junior NRPS on Jan. 19, 2010 **OR**
- In the top 16 of the Cadet NRPS on Jan. 19, 2010 **OR**
- On the Junior NRPS at the time of the Division JO qualifying competition **OR**
- In the top 25% [refer to Table 2.2] in their Division's Under-20 J.O. qualifying competition (BOD, 10/03)

NRPS stands for National Rolling Point Standings, which can be viewed on the US Fencing website. There are no qualifying competitions for Junior Team events.

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	1 → A 2 → 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 USFA sanctioned individual competitions that are restricted to Veterans and to Junior fencers.

Division, Section and Regional Youth and Cadet competitions must meet or exceed criteria for C1 to award changes in classification. (BOD, July '02, July 03).

The USFA does permit classification changes at mixed competitions without regard to gender of fencers.



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

United States Fencing Association Junior Olympic National Championships Athlete Information



HOTEL:

For All USFA Hotel Reservations:

Marriott Hotel

Contact Tournament Housing Services (THS)

Reservations by Phone: 888-536-TEAM

Reservations Online: www.thsweb.com

VENUE:

Memphis Cook Convention Center

Main Hall

255 North Main Street

Memphis, TN 38103

AIRLINE RESERVATIONS:

For assistance with travel arrangements, call the USFA Official Travel Partner – Polk Majestic Travel at 866-481-2209 or United Airlines Olympic Desk at 800-841-0460.

SHUTTLE – HOTEL/VENUE:

No shuttle provided, the Marriott Hotel Downtown is one block from the venue

RENTAL CAR:

To reserve an **Avis** rental car, please refer to the information on our website www.usfencing.org

Junior Olympic Day Schedule – Check In Times will be posted on the USFA Website. There will be set finals times each night of competition.

CHECK IN:

Fencers must check in each day that they compete, within the indicated hours of check in, or they will be withdrawn from that event. **The Venue will open for fencers each competition day at 7:00 am.** Fencers should not plan to leave earlier than the day after their last competition as there is no way to predict when any competition will be finished. Fencers who withdraw after starting a competition for other than verified medical reasons will be disqualified from the competition and national points and/or classifications that might have been earned for that competition will not be awarded. Further disciplinary action may be taken.

WEAPONS CHECK:

Weapons check will be open each day of the competition at 7:00 am. Competitors with events on Friday may be given priority to have their weapons checked from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm on Thursday at the venue IF the set-up for the Tournament has been completed. Weapons check will test the mask, lamé jacket, gloves and body cords. Items that have passed inspection will be specially marked. Masks must have sewn-in bibs. Masks that do not pass the 12-kg punch test will be impounded or given a visible mark to signify that the mask is “not approved for use.” Equipment vendors will be present at the venue. All events are conducted with electric equipment. Equipment that fails when reporting on the strip for a bout or changing weapon will receive a yellow card (See T.45 of the FIE Rules). Fencers must report to strip immediately after their strip assignments (pool or DE) have been posted. A preliminary check will be conducted to ensure the presence of: Underarm plastron, 2nd weapon and body cord, weapon check control marks. No fencer will be allowed to fence if these conditions are not met.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION:

Fencers must wear the required clothing — regulation fencing jacket and pants, underarm protector (plastron), knee socks and a fencing glove that covers half the forearm. Women must wear breast protectors. In épée and foil, a full jacket is required (i.e., a jacket with croissard/groin strap). 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. Warm-up pants are not allowed. Fencing uniforms must not have any rips, tears, holes, etc. U.S. Fencing allows uniforms of a single pastel color or designs on the rear (unarmed) arm and leg. As the purpose of uniform color or design is for audience interest, such designs should be in good taste.

In all three weapons, each fencer’s last name must be printed legibly from a distance of 15 feet, by hand or machine, in capital letters between 8 and 10 cm high: either (1) on the back of the uniform jacket or lamé between the shoulders; (2) on the front or side of the thigh of the “rear” leg; or (3) on a piece of fabric or lamé material that is firmly sewn to the uniform in such a way that it will not detach during fencing or catch the opponent’s point. Fabric attached to the uniform must be the same color as the part of the uniform to which it is attached. Conductive materials must be attached in such a way as to not alter the conductivity of the metallic vest or jacket. **NAMES PRINTED ON TAPE ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.**

The use of an FIE certified uniform and mask is not required for USFA competitions. However, the protective plastron must:

1. Have at least two layers;
2. Include a sleeve down to the elbow without opening or seam in the region of the armpit; and
3. Ensure the best possible protection. It may be fixed to the jacket without being entirely sewn in.
4. It does not need to be constructed of 800 Newton material.

In electric saber, the glove, whether a regulation saber glove or a glove used with a regulation manchette must overlap the metallic jacket that, itself, must overlap the cloth jacket.

Saber blades marked with the year of manufacture and/or conforming to the stiffer FIE standards are required for all USFA competitions except Youth 10 competitions. This requirement for the saber blades will necessitate a flexibility test at USFA National competitions. Even when the year is specified on a blade, there is no guarantee that the blade will pass the flexibility test. Allow additional time for weapons check at these competitions.

DRUG TESTING:

There may be drug testing conducted for athletes who compete in this tournament. Any detection of banned substances would be cause for suspension and loss of national points earned for selection towards any U.S. Fencing team. There are over-the-counter medications that may contain banned substances and it is the fencer's responsibility to ensure that he or she does not inadvertently take any medication that contains a banned substance. For any questions about medications and banned substances, call the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency Drug Hotline at 800-233-0393 or visit their website at www.usantidoping.org.

CALL TO FENCING STRIP:

The second call for a missing fencer at the beginning of a pool or direct elimination bout at a National USFA competition will be announced over the public address system one minute following the first call at the strip. If the fencer fails to report to the referee at the assigned strip within one minute of that second call, the referee will call for the fencer at the strip one final time; if the fencer still fails to report to the strip within one minute after the final call, the fencer will be excluded (a black card will be issued) from that competition. BOD 9/2006

FORMAT:

There will be one round of pools with 80% of the fencers promoted to the direct elimination (DE) ladder, to a direct elimination final of 8 fencers. There is NO repêchage at Championship tournaments and there will NOT be a fence off for 3rd place, i.e., both fencers are tied for 3rd.

In the pool round, bouts are 5-touch bouts with 3-minute time limit. In direct elimination, bouts are 15-touch bouts, fenced in three 3-minute segments, with 1-minute rest between segments, for a total of 9 minutes fencing time. In Sabre, the first period will end when the 3-minutes have passed or when the score of one of the fencers has reached 8.

National points are awarded to those placing in the same bracket as the top 40% of the number of fencers competing to a maximum place of 32; 400 points awarded for 1st in Under-17 competitions and 600 points for 1st in Under-20 competitions. (See Athlete Programs Handbook, 2008-2009, for more details.)

TEAM REGISTRATION PROCESS:

Please read below as the team process will be different from the one used at Summer Nationals. Please see the team entry form for appropriate tournament deadlines.

Registration

1. Teams will be required to submit 3-4 team member names and captain with the team entry – this will streamline the verification of membership, NRPS and classification prior to the tournament. Those fencers who are NCAA fencers will need to self-monitor club affiliation and NCAA eligibility.
2. NAC, JO's and Veteran team events will be an open registration process in line with individual entry deadlines.
3. Clubs may enter no more than 3 teams per event.
4. At North American Cup tournaments Junior & Division 2 team member's division composites will be allowed. Fencers on composite teams must be from the same geographic USFA division and cannot be on a club team in the same event.

- a. Veteran Teams will be open to any 3-4 Veteran aged competitive members. Club & Division affiliations will not be enforced for Veteran Team events.
5. The team events are purely voluntary and if coaches want their fencers to rest rather than to compete that is a decision between coach and fencer. Those fencers who are NCAA fencers would need to self-monitor club affiliation and NCAA eligibility.
6. Seeding information will be based on the same deadlines used for individual events.
7. Preliminary team seeding and table will be posted on the USFA web site.
 - a. This will allow the teams to verify information and contact the National Office with any corrections by a designated date. If teams fail to do so, information stands as presented.
 - b. Table will only be reconstituted if the classification and/or NRPS are in error
 - c. If a team withdraws after the classification deadline for that tournament, the table stands as constituted.
 - d. Higher seeded team would automatically be designated as the “winner of the coin flip” and assigned the 1-2-3 side

At the Venue

8. Teams will be required to check-in with the Bout Committee by a designated time to determine fencer order. Time will be posted with check-in schedule.
 9. At the team start time, posted with the check-in schedule, both teams and referees will be at their designated strips. Strip assignments will be posted in the venue.
 10. Format will be direct elimination team matches, fence off for 3rd.
- Fencers' can compete in one individual and one team event per day.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Division of Fencer: _____

Congratulations, you have qualified for the USFA Junior Olympic National Championships in Memphis, TN, February 12-15, 2010. You are qualified for the following events:

In order to participate in the Junior Olympic National Championships, you must fill out and send the special Junior Olympics National Entry Form to the USFA National Office. If the entry form is not available at this tournament, you may obtain an entry form through the U.S. Fencing website: www.usfencing.org

This form does not constitute notification to the USFA of your qualification status. Send in your Entry Form. The Division will send the results of the qualifying competition to the USFA National Office, which will process the Entry Form you submit.

Congratulations and good luck.

Verified By: _____
Bout Committee Representative

NOTE: All qualifying forms are checked for accuracy in determining the number of qualifiers. If a discrepancy is discovered the Division will be notified by the USFA Office. The Division will then notify the fencer(s) involved.

The USFA office **MUST RECEIVE** your entry no later than **January 19, 2010**. Late entries will be accepted between January 20 – January 25, 2010, with a payment of triple the regular fees. No entries accepted after January 25 under any circumstances. You may only enter one event per day. **Classification changes must be received by February 1, 2010.**

You must be a US citizen or permanent resident who is eligible to represent the United States at international competitions. If you have represented another country in international competitions and have not received approval from the FIE to represent the United States, you are **NOT** eligible to fence in any USFA National Championships.