



TOURNAMENT SELECTION CRITERIA

As with any event, there are ideal scenarios USA Fencing looks for in the selection of host cities. While not always necessary for a successful bid, the following elements are examples of how details can truly make a difference.

- Strong record of hosting quality events.
- City located within a close proximity of a hub airport.
- Having the host hotels within walking distance of the venue for convenience and to alleviate Officials of having to use a shuttle system.
- In addition to the venue concessions, restaurants within walking distance to the competition venue.
- Provide prizes for the top eight athletes in each event (# of events * 6 weapons).
- Local activities in conjunction with the tournament can provide participants with entertainment options in addition to the fencing competition.
- Discounted meal packages or coupons at the hotel during the event for participants.
- Complimentary breakfast (at the hotel or venue) and lunch (at the venue) for Officials and the BC is ideal.
- Commitment to contact local media (news stations and newspapers) for coverage of the event.
- Host club and community should have a strong volunteer base from which to draw on for leadership.

VENUE REQUIREMENTS

The fencing venue is the single most important element in hosting a successful tournament. It must be available from approximately 6:00 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. Minimum ceiling height of 15 feet.
2. Minimum of 18 strips with ability to accommodate up to 24 strips. One fencing strip measures 14 meters long x 2 meters wide and should include 2 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 10 strips must be grounded metal strips.

3. Provide an adequate amount of space for the referee on the side of each strip, with the scoring box to be placed approximately 3 feet 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 on or near the fencing floor for Armory, Registration Desk, Officials Lounge, and Trainer. Area on or near the fencing floor for vendor booths is optional.
6. An Athletic Trainer is required on site 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.
12. Adequate parking and easy access to transportation, especially to the host hotel.
13. Venue food/drink concessions are open throughout the competition. Concessions must include “athlete-friendly” foods (fruit, energy bars, bagels, water, sports drink).
14. Water stations and/or drinking fountains must be available.
15. Meeting space to feed Officials and for Committee Meetings.

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.

REGISTRATION

Entry Fees: SYC entry fees consist of a \$40 registration fee and \$30 for each event entered. USA FENCING receives \$5 per participant at each SYC, and is included in the \$40 registration fee. Monies must be paid to USA Fencing within two weeks following the event. ***Results and classification changes will be made by the National Office once the Program Fee has been paid.***

Late Entry Policy: Within 4 weeks and up to 72 hours preceding the close of registration of the event, a triple fee policy is in effect. Within 72 hours preceding the close of registration for the event, a \$200 charge on top of the normal late entry fee is required. The late entry policy must be clearly stated in all materials and on all websites for each SYC.

Refund Policy: Tournament Directors may implement their own refund policies for their SYC 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 USA Fencing. There should be a check box option for individuals to refuse media coverage of the fencer.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008, ALL TOURNAMENTS DESIGNATED AS SUPER YOUTH CIRCUIT (SYC) EVENTS SHALL BE REQUIRED TO REMIT A PROGRAM SUPPORT FEE OF \$5.00 PER INDIVIDUAL REGISTRANT TO USA FENCING. THIS PAYMENT IS DUE WITH THE RESULTS SUBMISSION TO USA FENCING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT MANAGER. CHECK IS PAYABLE TO USA FENCING. (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.

USA Fencing 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:	Required for SYCs. The 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 or lamé between the shoulders; (2) on the front side of the thigh of the “rear” leg; or (3) on a piece of fabric or lamé material that is sewn to the uniform in such a way that it will not detach during fencing or catch the opponent’s point. Reference the Athlete Handbook for more information.

EQUIPMENT CHECK

Fencers must get equipment checked by the Armorers prior to competition. 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

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

Tournament Format: The format for all SYC events must be one round of pools with 100% promoted to a direct elimination (DE) tableau. All events must use pools of six or seven whenever possible. In events with fewer than 11 entrants, the BC may elect to have two rounds of pools followed by 100% promoted to a DE tableau. There is no fence-off for third place.

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 DE tableau.

For Y14 events, DE bouts are 15 touch bouts (3- 3 minute periods with a 1 minute break between). During the 1minute breaks, ONE person, designated by the fencer (a team-mate, 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 shall be based on the following order:

1. Current national rolling point standings according to age group and weapon. This filters down the entire list, not just the top 32 as done in a NAC.
2. Letter ranking with year classification
3. Athletes with neither of the above are seeded on a random basis after the athletes who are seeded by the preceding factors.

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.

Tournament Software: USA Fencing strongly recommends using software programs XSeed, Fencing Time, Point Control, or EnGarde 8.12 to run the event. The LOC and BC should be familiar with the chosen software prior to the SYC.

POINTS & CLASSIFICATION

SYC Competitions award points to the top 40% of the field regardless of where the cut off occurs, within a pool round of a direct elimination bracket. For example, if there are 17 fencers in an event, 40% of 17 is 6.8. Only the top 6 finishers, not the top 7 finishers, earn points.

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: A member of USA Fencing Officials Commission (FOC) or an approved delegate must be designated to serve as FOC at the event. The Youth Development staff liaison will provide the LOC with a list of certified Officials and their contact information. 70% of contracted Officials must be rated in the primary weapon they will referee.

Armorer: The services of a minimum of two experienced Armorers or Technicians are necessary. The Armorers are responsible for conducting weapons check and a mask punch test. Also, it is critical to have enough working electrical equipment (2 extra sets beyond what the number being used).

Medical: The LOC 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 Event Staff should know where the closest hospital is from the venue, and be able to provide directions in case of an emergency.

Please have the SYC Observer and each Committee Chair fill out the SYC Tournament Survey.

AWARDS

An Awards Ceremony is required for each event with the top eight (in events with a starting field of eight or more) or the top three (in events with a starting field fewer than eight) being recognized. Appropriate awards are medals, trophies, or t-shirts. Also, all athletes are entitled to a certificate of participation upon request.

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

ELIGIBILITY

Fencers must be current competitive members of USA Fencing and in good standing to compete in SYC events. USA Fencing 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.

Each SYC should have a member of USA Fencing staff, Youth Development Committee, or 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 FOC and the representative from USA Fencing Staff/ Youth Development Committee. The LOC provides honoraria for Officials, Armorers, and the BC according to appropriate pay scales in consultation with the Youth Development Manager.

POST-EVENT RESPONSIBILITIES

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

- Results Report & Classification Change Form in Excel format
- A copy of the pools, DE, tournament brackets, etc. that show how all of the events panned out
- SYC After-Action Report
- SYC Tournament Surveys
- A check made out to the United States Fencing Association for \$5.00 per registrant. Please submit the check with the SYC Program Support Fee Form
- Any new Membership Forms with payment
- Photos and/or video of the tournament to be showcased on USA Fencing website to increase awareness of Youth Programs

USA Fencing
 Attn: Christine Strong Simmons
 1 Olympic Plaza
 Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5774
c.simmons@usfencing.org

2010-2011 NATIONAL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Houston SYC	September 4-6, 2010	Houston, TX
Flower City SYC	September 25-26, 2010	Rochester, NY
NAC A: Division I, Division II, VET/WCH	October 15-18, 2010	Cincinnati, OH
Arizona SYC	November 5-7, 2010	Phoenix, AZ
NAC B: Junior, Cadet, Youth 14	November 19-22, 2010	Milwaukee, WI
NAC C: Division I, Junior, Cadet	January 14-17, 2011	Dallas, TX
National Fencing Foundation SYC	February 2-6, 2011	Springfield, VA
Junior Olympic Championships	February 18-21, 2011	Dallas, TX
NAC D: Division II, Division III, Veteran, WCH	March 11-14, 2011	Detroit, MI
Paul Pesthy Memorial SYC	March 19-20, 2011	San Jose, CA
NAC E: Division I Nationals/Youth 14/12/10 NAC	April 15-18, 2011	Portland, OR
Summer Nationals	July 1 – 10, 2011	Reno, NV



USA Fencing
2010-2011 Super Youth Circuit Program Support Fee

Implemented by the Board of Directors effective October 1, 2008, all tournaments designated as Super Youth Competitions (SYC) shall be required to remit a Program Support Fee of \$5.00 per individual registrant to USA Fencing National Office (see Athlete Handbook page 8). Once the Program fee has been submitted to USA Fencing, classifications will be updated for the event.

Tournament Title: _____

Contact Name: _____

City, State: _____

Host Club: _____

Tournament Date(s): _____

USA FENCING Youth Region:

Total Number of Participants: _____ X \$5.00 = Total Amount: _____

Method of Payment:

Check or Money Order Enclosed

Payable to the USA Fencing • \$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:

USA Fencing
Attn: Christine Strong Simmons
One Olympic Plaza

Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5774