

## USA Fencing National Championships Appeal Procedure

In exceptional cases, subject to approval by the USA FENCING Board of Directors, a member of USA FENCING in good standing may be permitted to qualify to the Junior Olympic Fencing Championships or USA Fencing 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 USA FENCING National Events, 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 USA FENCING
- 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 USA FENCING expects the officer to so notify the national office in writing.
- A completed entry form for the National Championships 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 USA FENCING)

- ❑ A non-refundable fee of \$100.00 payable to USA FENCING
  
- ❑ 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 USA FENCING*)
  
- ❑ Email address for reply to the appeal
  
- ❑ Appeal submitted within five business days of the qualifier
  
- ❑ Championships Entry form and payment

*If your petition is received without the information requested above including payment, it will be returned unprocessed.*

*Petitions are processed in 4-6 weeks.  
To check the status of your Petition, please email:*

*Christine.simmons@usfencing.org*



USA Fencing Petition Form

Athlete Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Division/Section: \_\_\_\_\_

Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Events you are petitioning to enter: \_\_\_\_\_

Classification in all three weapons: Epee\_\_\_\_ Foil \_\_\_\_ Saber \_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

American Express\_\_\_\_\_ Discover\_\_\_\_\_ Visa\_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard\_\_\_\_\_ Check\_\_\_\_\_ Money Order\_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date\_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

State reason for this Petition here:

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

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Attach supporting documentation