



DATE: November 15, 2010
TO: Division/Section Chairs and Secretaries
FROM: USA Fencing
SUBJECT: Qualifying Information for the 2011 USA Fencing National Championships

The Excel form for reporting the results of qualifying competitions for the 2011 USA Fencing National Championships is attached. The Excel form must be used to report the full results of each qualifying competition with all the details requested and returned electronically to Amanda Ward (amanda.ward@usfencing.org), as soon as possible after the qualifying competitions and no later than **Monday, May 9, 2011**. The sooner the National Office receives the results of the qualifying competitions, the sooner the entries from that Division or Section can be processed and athletes notified of their status for the Nationals. **USA Fencing National Championship Entries cannot be processed without the qualifying report forms from the athlete's Division, Section, RYC, SYC or ROC tournament organizer.**

The list of automatic qualifiers based on point standings, Regional Qualifiers or 2010 National Championship results are posted on the website under Events on the 2011 USA Fencing National Championships tournament page and will be updated periodically. Given the varying dates of qualifiers, Divisions and Sections should check the [latest point standings](#) to determine any additional qualifiers. **If a fencer becomes an automatic after the qualifying competition, it does not affect the results of the qualifying competition.**

The Nationals Entry Form will be posted on the USA FENCING website under Events on the 2011 USA Fencing National Championships tournament page. A copy of the Nationals Entry Form should be distributed to the athletes who qualify for the 2011 USA Fencing National Championships. Athletes can register for the Nationals online at www.railstation.org/usfencing at no additional fee once results from qualifying competitions are received.

The day schedule for Nationals will not be posted until the FIE approves the competition schedule for the Pan American Zonal Championships. The schedule will be posted on the USA FENCING website under Events on the 2011 USA Fencing National Championships tournament page once available.

General tournament information is included as well as relevant excerpts from the Athlete Handbook. Familiarize yourself with the enclosed information so you can answer questions from your members. Please contact Tanya Brown (t.brown@usfencing.org) if you need any further information or explanation of the qualifying procedures or wish to list your qualifying tournament on the Events Calendar.

There are NO alternates for any competition at the 2011 USA Fencing National Championships.

Classifications can be awarded at a ROC, Division or Section qualifying competition and must be noted on the qualifying report form. Youth 14 events must be rated as a C1 or greater for a classification to be awarded. (See the included Classification Chart).

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

Organizers for the Division or Section 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 or Section qualifying competitions only IF:

- 1) The athlete is a U.S. citizen OR permanent resident **and** a current competitive member of USA FENCING AND
- 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

Changes to 2011 USA Fencing National Championships

The Division is no longer required to run a team qualifier

Starting with the 2010-2011 fencing season, the only Junior and Cadet National Championships are the Junior Olympic Fencing Championships in February. In July 2011 the Under 19 and Under 16 events will be incorporated in NAC framework; in addition Youth 12, Youth 10, Under 19 Team and Veteran Team events will be held during the USA Fencing National Championship tournament, these events are not designated as National Championships. The Under 19 and Under 16 events held in July mark the beginning of the domestic season for the Under 19 (Junior) and Under 16 (Cadet) and the end of the domestic season for all other categories.

USA FENCING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Eligible fencers are U.S. citizens OR permanent residents of the United States, current competitive members of USA FENCING, 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 USA FENCING 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.

If you have conflicting information about whether or not a fencer is foreign, contact USA FENCING at (719) 866-4511. Fencers must have a USA FENCING "Competitive Member" card with expiration date of 7/31/11 or later or be listed on the USA FENCING online membership list as a current competitive member.

Important Notice: The members of the Team for the 2011 Veteran World Championships will be selected at this tournament. To view the selection criteria for the each weapon please visit www.usfencing.org and click on International.

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 1: NUMBER OF QUALIFIERS FOR USA FENCING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS FROM DIVISIONS/SECTIONS (25% RULE)

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

BOD, 10/03

TABLE 2: NUMBER OF QUALIFIERS FOR USA FENCING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS FROM EACH ROC (10% RULE)

# Competitors	1-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-80	81-90	91-100	101-110	111-120	121-130	131-140	141-150
# Qualifiers	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

NRPS stands for National Rolling Point Standings, which can be viewed on the US Fencing website under Points.

DIVISION IA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Fencers must be 13 years old before January 1 of the current season or on the Junior NRPS **AND**

- Place in the top 25% (with a minimum of 8) at the current season Senior Section Championships (see Table 1) **OR**
- Placed in top 8 at the previous season Division I-A National Championships **OR**
- Placed in top 4 at the previous season Division II National Championships **OR**
- Placed in the top 10% (with a minimum of 4) at any current season Regional Open Circuit (ROC) event (see Table 2).

DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS

Fencers must be 13 years old before January 1 of the current season or on the Junior NRPS. Fencers must have a classification in the weapon of "C", "D", "E" or Unclassified at the time of the qualifying competition **AND** meet age requirements as above **AND**

- Place in the top 25% of the current season's Division Qualifying competition (see Table 1) [BoD, September 2006] **OR**
- Qualified for Division 1A, if classification eligible. [BoD, September 2008] **OR**
- Finish in the top 10% (with a minimum of 4) of a Division II ROC (see Table 2) [BoD, September 2010]

If a fencer meets the classification requirement when his or her application is processed by the USFA, and subsequently earns a higher classification, the fencer retains eligibility for that tournament.

DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS

Fencers must be 13 years old before January 1 of the current season or on the Junior NRPS. Fencers must have a classification in the weapon of "D", "E" or Unclassified at the time of the qualifying competition **AND** meet age requirements as above **AND**

- Place in the top 25% (see Table 1) of the total number of "D", "E" or "U" fencers competing in the current season Division's Division II Qualifying competition (when Division II and Division III qualifying competition held together; See the example below for more details) **OR**
- If separate Division III qualifying competition held by Division, then top 25% of the field will qualify for Division III National Championships [BOD September 2006] **OR**
- Qualified for Division II. [BOD, September 2008].

If a fencer meets the classification requirement when his or her application is processed by the USFA, and subsequently earns a higher classification, the fencer retains eligibility for that tournament.

YOUTH 14 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Fencers must meet age eligibility above **AND**

- Earn Youth 14 points at a current season Super Youth Circuit Competition **OR**
- Earn points at a current season Youth 14 NAC, Cadet NAC, or the previous season's Cadet Summer National Championships **OR**
- Earn points at the previous season's Youth 14 Summer National Championships **OR**
- Be on the Youth 14 point standings at the time of the Division's qualifying competition **OR**
- Place in the top 25% (see Table 1) of the fencer's Division's Youth 14 qualifying competition held in the current season **OR**
- Place first in the Y14 event at a current-season RYC tournament [BoD, October 2010]

VETERAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Fencers must meet age eligibility requirements above **AND** compete in

- Current season Section Championships **OR**
- Current season Division qualifying competition for Division II and/or Division III Championships in which only those with a "C" classification or lower (D, E, or U) may compete **OR**
- Any Regional Open Circuit event during the current season **OR**
- Any NAC during the current season.

SENIOR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Division does not have to hold a qualifying competition. Teams must meet the criteria below

- All Club Teams and team members must be current club and competitive USFA members respectively.
- No more than 3 teams per USFA member club per event will be allowed to enter.
- Members of the team must be born in 1997 or earlier
- Members of the team must have represented the Club at a competition during the 2010-2011 Season.
- Club Team members must be U.S. citizens or Permanent Residents who have not represented another country in the past three years, and have represented the club in USFA competitions this season.

Combined Division II/Division III Qualifier Example

Below is an example of how to determine qualifiers for Division III when the Division holds only one competition to determine qualifiers for both Division II and Division III.

A Division II/III qualifying competition has the following entries:

Number of C fencers = 8

Number of D fencers = 12

Number of E fencers = 11

Number of U fencers = 15

Total Number of Fencers = 46

List the fencers in order of their finish.

The first 12 who have not already qualified to Division II by other paths are qualifiers from the Division's competition.

Then count the number of D, E, and U fencers. In this example there are 38 such fencers. 25% of that group equals 10, the number of fencers who can qualify for Division III Nationals.

The first Division III qualifier is the D, E, or U fencer who placed highest; the second Division III qualifier is the D, E, or U fencer who placed next highest, on to the 10th highest D, E, or U fencer, who has not already qualified by other paths.



USA Fencing National Championships Athlete Information

HOTEL:	<u>For All USA FENCING Hotel Reservations:</u> Contact Tournament Housing Services (THS) Reservations by Phone: 888-536-TEAM Reservations Online: www.thsweb.com
VENUE:	Reno-Sparks Convention Center – Halls 4 & 5
AIRLINE RESERVATIONS:	United Airlines Olympic Desk at 800-841-0460
SHUTTLE – HOTEL/VENUE:	There are no shuttles provided for transport to and from the venue.
RENTAL CAR:	To reserve an Avis rental car, please refer to the information on our website www.usfencing.org
<u>Nationals Day Schedule –</u>	The Nationals Day Schedule will be posted on the USA Fencing Website, under EVENTS – www.usfencing.org
<u>Nationals Athlete Packet –</u>	The Nationals Athlete Packet will be posted on the USA Fencing Website, under EVENTS – www.usfencing.org
<u>Transportation from/to airport -</u>	USA Fencing has teamed up with Super Shuttle to offer USFA members and affiliates a 10% discount on transportation services. Visit their website for service location information; discount code USFEN . Super Shuttle does not provide service in Reno. Hotel Shuttles are available from the airport.



Date: _____

Name: _____

Division/Section of Fencer: _____

Congratulations, you have qualified for the USA Fencing National Championships in Reno, NV. You are qualified for the following events:

In order to participate in the USA Fencing National Championships, you must fill out and send the USA Fencing National Championship Entry Form to the USA Fencing National Office or register online. If the entry form is not available at this tournament, you may obtain an entry form through the USA Fencing website: www.usfencing.org or you can register online via the USA Fencing National Championship Tournament page.

This form does not constitute notification to USA Fencing of your qualification status. The Division or Section will send the results of the qualifying competition to the USFA National Office.

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 or Section will be notified by the USA FENCING Office. The Division or Section will then notify the fencer(s) involved.

The USA FENCING office MUST RECEIVE your entry no later than Monday, **May 9, 2011 to be accepted at regular fees.**

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 USA FENCING National Championships.

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 USA FENCING 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).

USA FENCING does permit classification changes at mixed competitions without regard to gender of fencers.

USA Fencing National Team Championship Classification Information

1. A fencer qualifies for a "B" classification by fencing in the final round of four as a member of a team that wins the USFA National Team Championships if 6 or more teams competed in that Team Championships.
2. A fencer qualifies for a "C" classification by fencing in the final four as a member of a Team that places second and third in the USFA National Team Championships if 6 or more teams competed in that Team Championships.

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:*

j.bourne@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:

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

Attach supporting documentation and entry form