



2018-2019

Parent's Guide to Fencing At Apex Fencing Academy



Created by AFA Parent Task Force
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Vocabulary List

askFRED.net – website used by fencing tournament organizers. You can sign up for local tournaments via askFRED.

RYC – Regional Youth Circuit RYCs are hosted throughout the year in Region 6. These competitions are qualification paths for youth (Y10, Y12) for the March NAC. They also serve as a qualification path (Y10, Y12, Y14) for the Summer Nationals.

Region 6 – Our region encompassing Maryland to Florida in the east, Tennessee to Alabama in the west. There are a total of 6 regions throughout the USA.

SYC – Super Youth Circuit SYCs are hosted throughout the year usually in every region. These competitions are one of the possible qualification paths for youth (Y10, Y12) for the March NAC. They also serve as a qualification path (Y10, Y12, Y14) for the Summer Nationals. At an SYC, you can earn national points.

Rating – A letter ranking assigned to a fencer. All fencers start as a “U” fencer, meaning they are unrated. The ratings work up from an E to an A, with A being the highest. You can earn a rating by placing at sanctioned tournaments.

JOs – Junior Olympics - serves as the National Championships for the Cadet and Junior age categories. Fencers with enough national points can automatically qualify for JOs.

NAC – North American Cup National tournaments held around the US for different age groups & divisions.

RJCC – Regional Junior Cadet Circuit - A regional tournament series & qualifying path for Junior Olympics & July Challenge. Regional points are earned at these tournaments.

ROC – Regional Open Circuit - The ROCs serve as one of the qualification paths for certain events at the USA National Fencing Championships and July Challenge (regional points are earned here)

Division – regions can be broken up into smaller Divisions. We belong to the North Carolina Division.

Summer Nationals – The culmination of the fencing season. This tournament that lasts over 10 days in late June – early July, and requires qualification.

July Challenge – A July tournament for fencers in the junior and cadet age group that requires qualification. The July Challenge takes place same location/time as Summer Nationals.

USA Fencing - The governing body for the sport of fencing in the United States. It is a subsidiary of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC). It's partially funded by the USOC and provides the infrastructure that standardizes fencing across the country. It has a website for all USA tournaments that follow the qualification path.

USA Membership - You can purchase a USA membership by paying \$75 annually on usfencing.org for a competitive membership. It is a \$10 annual fee for a non-competitive membership. If you want to compete in sanctioned tournaments, you need a competitive membership. The

membership buys a place for a fencer in the USA Fencing registry and funds national competitions throughout the year. Each fencer receives a unique USA Fencing ID Number. This number is used to track a fencer's tournament results, ratings and qualifications for national events. The fees from this membership pay for referees at national tournaments and the online systems used to keep track of fencers throughout the US. It also provides your fencing club liability insurance for each fencer. All clubs are required to have every fencer maintain a membership with USA Fencing.

Safesport – a policy followed by USA Fencing that addresses sexual, emotional and physical misconduct, including bullying, harassment, and hazing

DE – Direct Elimination - At a tournament, after pools are completed, fencers are reseeded and put into a bracket. The bouts that follow are called Direct Elimination bouts, because if a fencer wins, they move on to next round, and if they lose, they are eliminated from the tournament.

Bye – A fencer might be awarded a bye in the direct elimination bracket. This means the fencer is automatically promoted to the next round.

Pools – At a tournament, pools are the initial groups of fencers that fence on a particular strip. Every fencer in the pool will fence each other, and then the results (wins, losses, touches scored and touches received) will be used to calculate your fencer's seeding for the Direct Elimination round.

Bout – The act of two fencers fencing each other. Typically to 5 touches in pools and to 15 touches in DEs.

Tableau – After seeding, fencers are put into brackets known as the tableau.

Piste – Another word for the fencing strip

Pod – the group of strips in an area; this term is usually used in the Direct Eliminations round of a tournament. Ex. Pod K consists of strips K1, K2, K3, and K4

Seeding – your ranking among the fencers competing in the event. It will differ for the pools and DEs.

Y10 - Youth ages 10 and under (2008-2011 birth years)

Y12 - Youth ages 12 and under (2006-2009 birth years)

Y14 - Youth ages 14 and under (2004-2007 birth years)

Cadet - Ages 17 and under (2002-2005 birth years)

Junior- Ages 20 and under (1999-2005 birth years)

Open – Tournament event with no specific restrictions except an age minimum (born 2005 or earlier)

Division 2 - Fencers (born 2005 or earlier) who have the rating C, D, E or U

Division 3 - Fencers (born 2005 or earlier) who have the rating D, E or U

VET – Veteran fencer ages 40 and above

Points - An athlete's result in an event may earn them points. There are regional and national points lists which help determine qualification for higher-level events. Regional points are earned at RYC and RJCC events, and National points are earned at SYC and NAC events.

Live Results – A way via the internet or screens at the event to keep up where your fencer needs to be (strip assignments). This application also gives the up to date results of each fencing event.

Sanctioned Tournament – A tournament where a fencer can earn ratings and points. A rated referee is required. There are equipment requirements at a sanctioned tournament - padded chest protectors (women and young boys), mask cords, body cords, lame, jacket, plastron, glove, knickers or fencing pants and a mask. This equipment must pass inspection.

Unsanctioned Tournament – A tournament that does not award ratings or points. A tournament that doesn't require all the equipment needs of a sanctioned tournament. Armory check-in is not a requirement at unsanctioned tournaments. These tournaments are excellent for beginning fencers.

Event Resources

We keep a tournament calendar with appropriate local, regional and national events, deadlines and links to the appropriate event websites - [Apex Fencing Tournament Calendar](#)

Master list of regional events by USA Fencing - [USA Fencing Regional Event Calendar](#)

[USA Fencing](#)

[askFRED](#)

What Do I Need to Fence in a Tournament?

You need to have a USA Fencing "Competitive" Membership, currently \$75/yr., expires each July 31. Note: Some events in NC clubs are UNSANCTIONED. In that case, you still need a "Non-Competitive" (\$10/yr.) USA Fencing Membership.

You will need to bring full fencing attire (fencing pants, long socks, underarm protector, chest protector, white jacket, glove, mask and lame). In addition, you will need 2 weapons, body cords, and mask cords – a spare is required in case one breaks.

Choosing Tournaments:

Tournaments can be viewed in a series of levels:

- **Local Tournaments:** Usually smaller tournaments, beginning fencers should start here
- **Regional Tournaments:** Larger tournaments with a wider variety of fencers
- **National/International:** Extremely competitive tournaments

Region 6 is a large part of the United States, so attending tournaments often will require you and your fencer to travel far and often. We encourage your fencer to get to as many tournaments as you possibly can. Fencing in tournaments is a great way to quickly gain experience in fencing. Talk to seasoned fencers on how this has helped them. Larger tournaments can at first seem intimidating, and your fencer will not initially rank highly, but don't let that discourage them.

Locally, All-American Fencing Academy in Fayetteville and Apex Fencing Academy often host unsanctioned events in foil and epee, and more rarely they also host sanctioned tournaments. On occasion, Mid-South in Durham holds tournaments in foil and epee, although they are primarily a saber club.

RYCs are competitions that are part of the Regional Youth Circuit, a series of competitions designated by USA Fencing as developmental tournaments for young fencers. There is a Regional Points system, where fencers are awarded points based on their finishes. These are tallied at the end of the season (the top three fencers on the regional points list for each age, gender and weapon will receive a patch & certificate commemorating their achievement from USA Fencing after the end of the season). RYCs are also qualifying events for the youth NAC and Summer Nationals. Fencers will experience what it's like to go to a competition with all of their gear, check in, have their equipment checked by an armorer, be assigned to a pool, meet their referee, fence in a pool, and fence direct elimination bouts (**DEs**).

SYCs are higher-level national competitions that are part of the Super Youth Circuit. These competitions are designated by USA Fencing to serve as qualifying events for national championships for Y10, Y12 & Y14 fencers. Fencers who finish in the top 40% in each event will earn national points. SYCs tend to be large, competitive events and can be intimidating (or inspiring) for newer fencers.

National events (NACs/Junior Olympics/July Challenge/Nationals) are appropriate for athletes who are motivated to challenge themselves and compete at the highest level. When in doubt, ask your coaches, teammates, or even seasoned team parents what tournaments your fencer should be looking to attend.

Registering for a Tournament

To register for a tournament, go to USA Fencing's website for regional and national tournaments and AskFRED for local tournaments. Both sites have options for searching for tournaments in your area, age group, and skill level. The "more info" or "details" section of each tournament's page will have lots of information about events, days and times, the venue, the hosting club or division, hotels near the venue, etc. You will also see the registration deadline. This is the cut-off date to register at the regular fee amount. Late registrations often pay significant fees, up to triple the original cost. You can also see who else is registered for the tournament.

Pay close attention to the time listed for your fencer's event. The time indicated is the time that check in closes for the event. The pools could begin at or any time after the close of check in, so be sure that you arrive at the venue with plenty of time to check in, get equipment checked, and warm up before the time listed. **Coaches recommend arriving an hour before registration closes.**

Tournament Travel

Local Tournament: If you will be driving to the tournament, you need to decide if you will go straight from home the day of the event, or if you will stay at a hotel closer to the venue the night before. Generally, it is best to have your fencer well rested and well fed the night before a tournament. If the venue is more than an hour or two away, you might consider driving the day before and spending the night close to the venue, especially if your fencer has an early check-in time.

Tournament Requiring Air Travel: If you are flying to a tournament, these are some helpful hints to minimize the stress on both you and your fencer: The first rule is never fly the day you fence. There are some fencers who can perform the same day after a red-eye flight, but most cannot. Try to fly into the host city the day before your first event, and if at all possible schedule your arrival so that your fencer can eat something and get a decent night's sleep once you arrive. With time zone changes, school requirements and unhelpful airline schedules, travel can be difficult, so try to do whatever will make your fencer's experience easier. It's also a good rule to avoid booking your return flight on the same day as your fencer's last event. Fencing tournaments almost always run late, and events are often scheduled for the end of the day. Unless you can schedule about 12 hours between your fencer's start time and the flight, it is unadvisable to try to fly home the same day. In addition, for some tournaments, you may have to book your travel before the event check-in times are posted (this applies to NACs and Nationals), which means you might not know what time your

fencer is competing each day until after you book your flights. Book your flight home for the day after your fencer's last event if at all possible.

The next hurdle is your luggage. The fencing bag will be checked, and it should only contain weapons and some large toiletries or non-fencing clothing. The rest of your fencer's gear should be packed in a carry-on bag and kept with them at all times. If the airline loses your checked luggage, the weapons can easily be borrowed from other fencers at the event, unlike more personal equipment like jackets and masks. If worst comes to worst, some national tournaments will have equipment vendors on site who sell you new equipment.

If the airline asks you what is in the bag, your answer is "sports equipment," not swords or weapons. If pressed, it's "fencing equipment."

At the Tournament

The night before the event

- Double-check the time that registration closes for your event and ensure that you will arrive with enough time to check in and get equipment checked and warm up by then. This usually means that you should arrive 1 hour before registration closing time.
- Packing checklist for fencing bag:
 - 2-4 working weapons and body cords (as well as mask cords if fencing foil)
 - Toolkit with screwdrivers, tip tape, and a wrench
 - Long socks that come up to the knee
 - Fencing jacket, lame, glove, plastron, chest protector, and mask
 - Extra clothes to change into after the event, including your AFA jacket
- Pack a support bag with a water bottle or sports drink and a snack. This can also go into the fencing bag if there is room. Remember that your fencer may be too nervous to eat a great breakfast, or too excited to eat in between pools and DEs.
- Don't forget your fencer's USA Fencing membership card and a copy of their birth certificate. They will need the card to check in, and the age verification if USA Fencing doesn't have it on file yet.
- Feed your fencer. Carbohydrates, protein and water are the most important. Hydration starts the week before.

- Sleep can be tough the night before a tournament- time zone changes, nervousness, and an unfamiliar bed can all cause problems. Encourage your fencer to get as much rest as possible.

The day of the event

- Arrive at the venue an hour before the close of registration. You want to have plenty of time to get situated without rushing and stressing out your fencer
- Have your fencer check in for the day's event as soon as you arrive at the venue, if possible. If check in for the event is not open yet, go to the armorer and get the equipment checked.
- If multiple AFA families are going, there may be an area where the club sets up (meeting spot) has been set up. At large venues such as NAC's which are usually held at convention centers, AFA tends to meet up around Strip K (for Kristzi). Head there to meet with other athletes. If something goes wrong (usually missing or failed equipment), the team can work together to solve the problem.
- At the armorer's table, you will present the following pieces of equipment- mask, glove, zipped up lame with cords removed, 2 mask cords and 2 body cords (untangled). The armorer will check the conductivity of the cords by plugging them into a testing machine- if they pass, the armorer will mark them with a piece of colored tape. If they don't pass, you will need to replace them or borrow cords from a teammate. The lame will be checked for conductivity using a testing machine and a small probe. All areas of the material will be checked, and if the armorer finds "dead spots" that won't register a touch, the item won't pass and it will need to be replaced, repaired or you will need to borrow one. The body of the glove will also be inspected for structural integrity- no holes or tape repairs will be allowed. The mask must pass both a conductivity test on the bib material and a punch test of the steel mesh. The lame, glove and mask will be marked with a stamp unique to the tournament if they pass. Referees on the strips will be checking for these control marks before both pools and DEs. Equipment without control marks/tape cannot be used and they will make **NO** exceptions.
- Teammates should do a warm up together. If the coach has travelled to the event, listen and make sure you follow their instructions for warmup. Have everyone gather at a strip and have the fencers start doing their footwork warm ups **ON THE STRIP**. Space on strips will be at a premium, and if they lose custody of the strip they may not get it back when they are ready to fence their warm up bouts. The oldest fencer or an experienced parent can help with the warm up routine, which should start about ½ hour or 1 hour before the close of registration. The idea is to be warmed up mentally and physically but not tired. Always try to fence at least several competitors whom you don't normally fence during your warmup – getting repetitions with an unfamiliar opponent helps warm up your mind for problem solving during the pool.
- If the coach has travelled to the event, it is the job of fencers' parents to provide lunch and dinner for the coach. If several team fencers are at the event, take turns providing for your coach.

- Once registration has closed for your event, you will need to watch for the pools to be posted and listen for announcements. Many larger tournaments use a live results program, so you will be able to check for pool assignments on your smart phone or other device. The organizers will tell you if they are using a live program. If not, then there will be a designated area where pools will be posted after they are announced. Once the pool assignments are posted, check which pool your fencer is in and what strip # the pool is assigned to. The strip numbers are usually posted at the middle of each strip, hanging from the table where the scoring machines are, or at one end of the strip. Fencers need to report to their assigned strip as soon as its posted. Bring either the entire fencing bag or their strip bag (fencers must have at least one spare weapon and set of cord next to the strip for every bout in case their primary one breaks or fails). You should feel comfortable leaving the fencing bag zipped shut and out of the way during pools and DEs- it is very rare to have anything broken or stolen. Usually the fencers all leave their bags in the same spot and only take their strip bags and water bottles to their strips.
- Be sure your fencer visits the restroom right before or right after the close of registration. There won't be time to go in between pool bouts. If a fencer needs to use the restroom during a pool bout or after DE bouts have been called to the pod or strip, they need to tell their referee immediately. If your fencer misses being called to the strip for a bout, it could result in a warning or even disqualification from the event.
- When you get your fencer to the strip, look around for the referee - it'll be the person in a blazer with a clipboard (usually). You may get to the strip before the referee. The referee will call all the fencers in the pool over to check the control marks on their gear and make sure they're wearing a plastron/chest protector. They will either call the fencers by name or by number (the number comes from the order they are listed on the pool sheet). Fencers need to listen for their name or number- the referee will announce who is fencing the current bout and who is "on deck" and should be ready to hook up as soon as the current bout is over. **BE READY TO GO** – referees spend a lot of time on their feet and appreciate promptness.
- Have your fencer's water bottle and spare weapon & cords next to the strip. In case of a broken blade or malfunctioning cord, the spare needs to be available immediately or your fencer will be given a yellow card (a warning).
- As a parent, the one way to support your athlete is to take videos. Videos are helpful for the athlete to review by themselves and with their coach. Talk to coach about uploading them to a Dropbox site.
- When a bout is called, the fencer called first should hook up on the referee's right side, and the second fencer called should hook up on the referee's left side, unless one of the fencers is left-handed (left-handed fencers will usually hook up on the referee's left for better line of sight). If the referee has a preference, he or she will let your fencer know. You or the coach can help your younger fencer hook up if they need assistance, but aside from that you need to stay off the strip. You can cheer energetically but politely for your fencer against opponents from other clubs, but if two AFA fencers are facing each other in a bout, you should stay quiet or clap for both fencers.
- Your fencer will fence every other fencer in the pool in one bout to five touches. At the beginning of each bout, they will test their blades and salute their opponent and referee. At the end of the pool, the referee will ask the fencers to check their scores on the sheet that he has been recording

results on. If you have kept score for your fencer, let them know what scores to look for (one win, two fours and three twos, etc.). Their signature on the pool sheet is their acknowledgement that the scores are correct, so make sure to verify the scores before signing. Your fencer also needs to shake the referee's hand and thank them.

- There will be a break between pools and DEs. Offer your fencer a snack and some water and encourage another visit to the restroom. They should rest a bit but be ready to warm up again. The length of time between pools and DEs can vary wildly, anywhere from 20 minutes at smaller tournaments to an hour or more at large tournaments. Listen for announcements about your fencer's event, watch for the DE bracket to be posted, and have your fencer report to the assigned strip (or pod of strips) as soon as it's posted.

- A note about food at the venue: some larger tournaments have food vendors on site, and some smaller tournaments will have food for sale at their facility. Don't expect a lot of healthy choices- while there may be sandwiches, fruit or salads, you are more likely to find burgers, fries, chicken strips and junk food (especially at events held in convention centers, like most NACs). As a hungry parent, you may want to plan ahead. You can sometimes dart out if there are local food options close by, but it's safest to do that either before or after your fencer's event.

- After the pool results are in, a direct elimination or DE bracket is created. Each fencer will be seeded according to their pool results and assigned an opponent in the table. The bracket is set up so that the top fencers after pools face the bottom fencers after pools first, so that in a table of 8 fencers, #1 faces #8, #2 faces #7, etc. This can be tough if your fencer did poorly in pools, because they may be facing a tough opponent early in the DEs. In Y10, the DE bouts are 10-touch bouts with a 1-minute break for water/coaching when one fencer reaches 3 minutes of fencing (foil/epee), a total of two periods. All other age brackets, DE bouts are 15-touch bouts with a 1-minute break for water/coaching when one fencer reaches 3 minutes of fencing (foil/epee), a total of three periods. If the coach is there, they will take your fencer the water bottle and talk to them about the bout during the break. If there is no coach at the strip, you may take water to your fencer during the break or have an older team member do it. Your fencer cannot unhook or leave the strip to get water during the 1-minute break. If your fencer loses the DE bout, they are done for the event and their final place will be determined by their seeding after pools and the bracket they finished in (top 8, 16, 32, etc.). If your fencer wins the bout, they advance to the next bracket and fence a new opponent.

- If your fencer earns a medal (top 4 at some tournaments, top 8 at others), they should stay until the very end of their event to receive it. Medals are usually given out shortly after the final bout. Have your fencer wear either their full fencing gear or their club jacket and knickers or club pants. At NAC's fencers who receive medals must wear either their presentation uniform, which would be the AFA club jacket with black pants or fencing knickers and jacket. At NAC's fencers are NOT allowed to mix fencing knickers with club jackets when receiving medals.

- Everyone likes to feel like they have a cheering section. If other AFA fencers are still fencing, their teammates should be cheering them on. Check the schedule to see when other genders/age groups are fencing and try to be supportive. Encourage your fencer to watch the later rounds of their own event, even if they've already lost their DE bout. The best fencing of the day is likely to be in the later rounds, and your fencer should be watching and learning.

- Everyone has a different parenting style (and you know your own fencer best), but it's best to be positive and supportive with your fencer, win or lose. Don't make too much of a win or a loss. Fencing is a tough sport and the kids work very hard. When talking with your fencer after the bout, try to focus on being supportive and constructive - what worked well, what didn't work as well, what they'll try next time. A good way to think about it is "It's okay to lose the bout, but don't lose the lesson." Many experts advise parents to limit themselves to "I loved watching you fence today!" in the first few minutes after their fencer's last bout. The coach will handle the technical fencing issues. Some recommend giving fencers a few minutes alone to absorb what has happened and to compose themselves. Some fencers might be fine and want to discuss things immediately, again, you know your fencer the best, but don't be surprised if they need some alone time to process.
- Carefully repack the fencing bag before you leave the venue- check the area around your last strip and your bag for all equipment, water bottles, etc. Walk by the lost and found table on your way out and see if anything looks familiar.
- Team dinners during tournaments can be really fun and a great way to unwind. Remember, **WE ARE A TEAM!** Keep in touch with coaches and other parents at the tournament to see if you can set something up. AFA usually uses Google Hangouts to keep in touch.
- When you get back to the hotel, lay out or hang dry the sweaty gear in the hotel room overnight. This is especially important if your fencer is fencing on multiple days.

Sportsmanship

Remember when you fence at a competition you are representing yourself, your club, your coaches, and your family. It is very important to show good sportsmanship! There are times you will lose when you thought you should have won, and days you will win and surprise yourself. Referees are only human and sometimes make bad calls or mistakes; accept this. Shake your opponent's hand and make eye contact at the end of each bout. Make sure to shake your referee's hand at the end of a pool or DE bout and say "thank you."

Qualifying Paths

Junior Olympic Championships Path

Feb 15-18, 2019 Denver, CO

Cadet Age AND

- Be on the Cadet National Rolling Point Standings OR
- Earn at least 110 regional points on either the Cadet or Junior Regional Point Standing OR
- Be in the top 8 of the Youth 14 National Rolling Point Standings OR
- Be in the top 25% (round up) of their division's Cadet JO qualifying competition OR
- Be in the top 25% (round up) of their division's Junior JO qualifying competition. Junior event must occur first.

Junior Age AND

- Be on the Junior National Rolling Point Standings OR
- Be in the top 16 of the Cadet National Rolling Point Standings OR
- Earn at least 110 regional points on the Junior Regional Point Standing OR
- Be in the top 25% (round up) of their division's Junior JO qualifying competition

National Championship Path

April 12-15, 2019 Salt Lake City, UT

Senior Div 1 (Held in April in conjunction with the April NAC)

- "A", "B" or "C", 13+ or Junior National Point List AND
- Senior National Rolling Point Standings OR
- Junior National Rolling Point Standings OR
- Top 4 Cadet National Rolling Point Standings OR
- Previous season Top 8 Div 1A National Championship OR
- Previous season Top 4 Div 2 National Championship

National Championship Path (Summer Nationals)

June 28-July 7, 2019 Columbus, OH

Y10 Age AND

- Be on the Y10 National Rolling Point Standing OR
- Be on the Y10 Regional Youth Point Standing in your region OR
- 60 points on your region's Y12 Regional Youth Point Standing OR
- Participate in a SYC or RYC in the current season

Y12 Age (with exceptions) AND

- Be on the Y12 National Rolling Point Standing OR
- Be in the top 8 of the Y10 National Rolling Point Standing OR
- Earn at least 70 Y12 Regional Point OR
- Earn at least 150 Y14 Regional Point OR

- Place in the top 25% of the fencer's Y14 Divisional Qualifier competition

Y14 Age (with exceptions) AND

- Be on the Youth 14 National Rolling Point Standing OR
- Be in the top 16 of the Y12 National Rolling Point Standing OR
- Earn at least 150 Y14 Regional Point OR
- Place in the top 25% of the fencer's Y14 Divisional Qualifier competition

Senior Div 1A "A", "B" or "C", 13+ or Junior National Point List AND

- Top 8 previous season Div 1A National Championship OR
- Top 4 previous season Div 2 National Championship OR
- On Div 1A ROC Regional Point Standings OR
- Top 8 Div 2 ROC Regional Point Standings OR
- Top 40% Div 1A NAC

Senior Div 2 "C", "D", "E" or "U", 13+ or Junior National Point List AND

- Place in the top 25% of the fencer's Div 2 Divisional Qualifier competition OR
- On Div 1A ROC Regional Point Standing OR
- On Div 2 ROC Regional Point Standing OR
- Top 40% Div 2 or Div 1A NAC

Senior Div 3 "D", "E" or "U", 13+ or Junior National Point List AND

- Place in the top 25% of the fencer's Divisional Qualifier competition out "D", "E" & "U" fencers OR
- On Div 1A ROC Regional Point Standing OR
- On Div 2 ROC Regional Point Standing OR
- Top 40% Div 3, Div 2 or Div 1A NAC OR
- Qualified for Div 2 and class eligible ("D", "E" or "U")

Veteran (V40, V50, V60, V70+) Age AND

- On Veteran National Rolling Point Standings OR
- Compete in any NAC OR
- On Veteran Regional Point Standings OR
- On compete in any ROC OR
- Compete in fencer's Divisional Qualifier competition

July Challenge Path **Held in conjunction with Summer Nationals**

The July Challenge is held in late June early July, in conjunction with the USA Fencing National Championships. This competition constitutes the beginning of the Cadet and Junior

point cycle/season which is why their NRPS are updated with the new season's birth year span in April each year. Only those that meet the new season's birth year span are eligible to compete in these events.

Cadet Age AND

- Be on Cadet National Rolling Point Standing (Age out after JOs) OR
- Be in the top 50% of the Y14 National Rolling Point Standing OR
- Earn at least 65 of your region's Cadet Regional Circuit Points OR
- Earn at least 65 of your region's Junior Regional Circuit Points OR
- Foreign athletes who meet the USA Fencing classification standard of "A", "B" or "C"

Junior Age AND

- On Junior National Rolling Point Standing (Age out rankings after JOs) OR
- On Cadet National Rolling Point Standing (Age out rankings after JOs) OR
- Earn at least 65 regional points on the Junior Regional Point Standing OR
- Be in the top 25% of the Youth 14 National Rolling Point Standing OR
- Foreign athletes who meet the USA Fencing classification standard of "A", "B"

Senior Div 1 "A", "B" or "C", 13+ or Junior National Point List AND

- Senior National Rolling Point Standings OR
- Top 48 of Junior National Rolling Point Standings OR
- Top 24 Cadet National Rolling Point Standings OR
- Top 16 Div 1A Regional Point Standings OR
- Top 4 Div 2 Regional Point Standings OR
- 2018 NCAA National Championship OR
- Foreign athletes who meet the USA Fencing classification standard of "A" or "B"