

**USA FENCING**  
**ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**2020 OLYMPIC GAMES**  
**June 19, 2019**  
**Amended November 6, 2020**

Note: Following the IOC's announcement that the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 have been rescheduled to take place July 23 – August 8, 2021, it was confirmed that these Games would still be referred to as the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. Therefore, any references to the Olympic qualification system, Olympic Team, and Olympic Games still reflect '2020' in these selection procedures.

**1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

- 1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the Team:

- 1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of selection.

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.

- 1.1.2. Minimum International Olympic Committee (IOC) standards for participation:

Any competitor in the Olympic Games must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) which is entering such competitor. For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the Olympic Charter (Rule 41).

- 1.1.3. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation (if any):

- Athletes must be at least 13 years old as of the nomination date.
- All athletes must comply with the provisions of the Olympic Charter currently in force, including but not limited to, Rule 41 (Nationality of Competitors) and Rule 43 (World Anti-Doping Code and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions). Only those athletes who comply with the Olympic Charter may participate in the Olympic Games.
- The complete International Fencing Federation (FIE) Qualification System for the 2020 Olympic Games can be found [HERE](#).

- 1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):

- Athlete must be a current member of USA Fencing and in good standing at the time of selection.
- Athlete must successfully complete all Games Registration requirements by stated deadline.
- Any athlete age 18 or older ~~as of Closing Ceremony~~ will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current USOPC Background Check Policy.
- Any athlete age 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony will be required to complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport's online training.

## 1.2. Tryout Events:

- 1.2.1. Provide the event names, dates and locations of all trials, events and camps to be used as part of the selection process.

The following qualification pathways are the methods in which quota places are earned for the 2020 Olympic Games, in accordance with the [FIE Qualification System](#):

1. Team Qualification (quotas are allocated to NOCs):
  - a. FIE Official Team Ranking List of ~~5 April 2021 4 April 2020~~
2. Individual Qualification:
  - a. Through team qualification (see 1 above)
  - b. FIE Individual Adjusted Official Ranking (AOR) List by zone of ~~5 April 2021 4 April 2020~~ (quotas are allocated to athletes by name)
  - c. FIE Zone Qualifying Events (quotas are allocated to athletes by name)

### Team Qualification: **Men's Sabre, Men's Foil, Men's Epée, Women's Sabre, Women's Foil, Women's Epée**

A total of 144 quota places (48 teams) will be allocated between the team events in Men's Sabre, Men's Foil, Men's Epée, Women's Sabre, Women's Foil and Women's Epée. The eight (8) teams\* in each of the six (6) events will be composed of three (3) fencers and will qualify as follows:

- **FIE Official Team Ranking List of ~~5 April 2021 (4 April 2020)~~:** The Team Ranking List is established according to the number of points accumulated during the competitions below from (3 April 2019 ~~to 8 March 2020~~) ~~to and from~~ (~~TBD to 5 April 2021 4 April 2020~~):
  1. Team World Cup Competitions
  2. Team World Championships
  3. Team Continental Championships
  - The first four (4) teams on the FIE Official Team Ranking of ~~5 April 2021 4 April 2020~~, irrespective of which zone they are from, qualify for the 2020 Olympic Games.

- The highest ranked team from each of the four (4) FIE zones (Africa, America, Asia-Oceania, Europe) among the teams ranked from the 5th to the 16th position on the FIE Official Team Ranking of 5 April 2021 ~~4 April 2020~~ qualify for the Olympic Games.
- If a zone is not represented in these ranking positions, the next team on the FIE Official Team Ranking of 5 April 2021 ~~4 April 2020~~ will qualify, irrespective of its zone.

\* In some weapons/events, there may be nine (9) teams entered, depending on Japan's use of Host Country Places.

**Individual Qualification: Men's Sabre, Men's Foil, Men's Epée, Women's Sabre, Women's Foil and Women's Epée**

- **Team Qualification:** For any weapon that USA Fencing qualifies through team qualification, the three (3) fencers named to the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team (as described in 1.3.) will also be qualified to participate in the individual competition in their respective weapon.

A total of 60 quota places (10 per weapon) will be distributed between Individual Men's Sabre, Individual Men's Foil, Individual Men's Epée, Individual Women's Sabre, Individual Women's Foil and Individual Women's Epée for fencers who did not qualify through team qualification, in addition to the 24 (or 27 – see \* above) fencers directly qualified through team qualification, as follows:

- **FIE Individual Adjusted Official Ranking (AOR) List by zone of 5 April 2021 ~~4 April 2020~~:**  
The Individual Official Ranking List is established according to the number of points accumulated during the competitions below from 3 April 2019 to ~~4 April~~ 8 March 2020 and from TBD to 5 April 2021.
  1. Individual Grand Prix competitions
  2. Individual World Cup competitions
  3. Satellite competitions
  4. Individual World Championship
  5. Individual Continental Championships
- The Individual Adjusted Official Ranking (AOR) is the FIE Official Ranking (as above) which is modified as follows: The names of all the fencers by NOC and by weapon, who have qualified through the team qualification, are removed. For the other NOCs, only the highest ranked fencers by NOC, by zone and by weapon are kept.
- The six (6) highest ranked fencers on the FIE AOR by zone with only one (1) fencer per NOC per weapon, will directly qualify for the Olympic Games, as follows:
  - Two (2) from Europe
  - Two (2) from Asia-Oceania
  - One (1) from America
  - One (1) from Africa
- Qualification through the individual AOR by zone is reserved for NOCs that do not have any fencers qualified through team qualification.

- **FIE Zone Qualifying Events:** The four (4) highest placed fencers in the zone qualifying events with only one (1) fencer per NOC per weapon will directly qualify for the Olympic Games, as follows:
  - One (1) from Europe
  - One (1) from Asia-Oceania
  - One (1) from America and
  - One (1) from Africa.

Only NOCs which do not have any fencer qualified through the team qualification or through the individual AOR by zone, in the weapon concerned, can participate in the respective zone qualifying events, with a maximum of one (1) fencer per NOC per weapon.

In no case may an NOC qualify more than three (3) fencers per weapon to the 2020 Olympic Games.

The zone qualifying events are expected to take place in the second half of April ~~2020~~ 2021. Specific dates, locations and other details will be made available at <http://fie.org/competitions>.

- 1.2.2. Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for the trials, events and camps listed above in 1.2.1. (if any).

As described in 1.2.1., the FIE Official Team Ranking List of ~~4 April 2020~~ 5 April 2021 is established according to the number of points accumulated at Team World Cups, Team World Championships and Team Continental Championships held during the Olympic qualification period (from 3 April 2019 to ~~4 April~~ 8 March 2020 and from TBD to 5 April 2021).

USA Fencing fields teams to these events in accordance with the USA Fencing Athlete Handbook published at <https://www.usafencing.org/athlete-handbook>, the international selection criteria posted at <https://www.usafencing.org/selection-criteria>, and based on the international calendar posted at <https://www.usafencing.org/international-calendar>.

As described in 1.2.1., the FIE Individual Adjusted Official Ranking (AOR) List by zone of ~~4 April 2020~~ 5 April 2021 is modified from the Individual Official Ranking List which is established according to the number of points accumulated at Individual Grand Prix, Individual World Cup, Satellite competitions, Individual World Championship and Individual Continental Championships held during the Olympic qualification period.

USA Fencing enters athletes to participate in these events in accordance with the current USA Fencing Athlete Handbook made available at <https://www.usafencing.org/athlete-handbook>, through the

international selection criteria posted at <https://www.usafencing.org/selection-criteria>, and based on the international calendar posted at <https://www.usafencing.org/international-calendar>.

- 1.3. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process (include maximum Team size).

For weapons in which the USA qualifies a Team, the top three (3) athletes on the National Senior Team Point Standings, upon conclusion\* of the Designated USAF Senior Team Points-Impacting Events in 2021 (hereafter referred to as “designated events/competitions”) as of 1 May 2020 will be nominated to the 2020 Olympic Team for the individual and team competitions. The fourth athlete on the Senior Team Point Standings as of 1 May 2020 will be designated as the replacement athlete (or “P Alternate Athlete”) and may be used to substitute a fencer nominated to compete in the team competition. National Senior Team Point Standings are regularly updated by USA Fencing and posted at <https://www.usafencing.org/current-point-standings>.

\* USA Fencing National Senior Team Point Standings were frozen as of March 11, 2020.

- Men’s épée, men’s foil, women’s épée and women’s foil each had one international competition remaining prior to the shutdown of international events after which qualifications by name would be determined through the National Senior Team Point Standings.
  - Therefore, once the FIE confirms its rescheduled international calendar, one more international event will be designated for each of these four weapons as the final international competition remaining for qualification.
  - Revised online registration deadlines will be announced once the event schedule is known. Selections for the designated international event for each weapon will be made using the National Senior Team Point Standings as of March 11, 2020, regardless of the date of competition for the designated event.
- Men’s and women’s saber each had two international competitions remaining prior to the shutdown of international events after which qualifications by name would be determined through the National Senior Team Point Standings.
  - Therefore, once the FIE confirms its rescheduled international calendar, two more international events will be designated for each (men’s and women’s saber) as the final international competitions remaining for qualification.
  - Revised online registration deadlines will be announced once the event schedule is known. Selections for the designated international events will be made using the National Senior Team Point Standings as of March 11, 2020, regardless of the date of competition for the designated event.
- All weapons had one domestic competition remaining prior to the shutdown of domestic events after which qualifications by name would be determined through the National Senior Team Point Standings.
  - Therefore, once the FIE confirms its rescheduled international calendar, the final domestic event for qualification will be designated.

- Revised online registration deadlines will be announced once the event schedule is known.

In addition to the conditions of the global situation related to COVID-19, as well as the health, safety and well-being of the athletes, the following factors will be taken into consideration by USA Fencing when designating the final international and domestic competitions:

- Each weapon's remaining competitions will be designated and announced by USA Fencing as soon as possible following the FIE's announcement of the international calendar. USA Fencing will make every effort to provide three (3) months' advance notice to athletes.
- The preferred designated event would occur during Spring 2021.
- It is USA Fencing's intention to not designate the first international competition available, but to allow athletes an appropriate training period prior to the designated event.
- Designated events will be determined by the USA Fencing Senior Director of Sports Performance, National Coaches and the USAF Athletes' Council.
- If the FIE cancels an event that happens to be the competition designated by USAF, USA Fencing will make every attempt to designate an alternate event with as much notice as possible.
- By July 1, 2021, if any or not all of the designated competition(s) has not occurred, the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team will be determined based on the National Senior Team Point Standings as of July 1, 2021.
- Upon completion of the designated events, or July 1, 2021 (whichever comes first), USA Fencing will nominate athletes to the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team based on the National Senior Team Point Standings.

This is what is currently known by USA Fencing:

- On September 18, 2020, the FIE Executive Committee decided that competitions cannot be resumed before January 1, 2021.
- From 16-17 January 2021 to 21 May 2021, the FIE is supposed to hold four (4) World Cups in Women's and Men's Epee and Sabre and three (3) World Cups in Women's and Men's Foil, plus three (3) Grand Prixes in each weapon, Zonal qualifying events (15-19 April), as well as Zonal Championships (from June 1-15, 2021).
- The FIE's Olympic Rankings have been frozen since 8 March 2020 and, with plans for a continuation of the season that was cut short due to the pandemic, will be reactivated on 12 March 2021.

If a weapon does not qualify a Team through the FIE Official Team Ranking List as of 5 April 2021 ~~4 April 2020~~ and does not qualify athletes for the individual competition through the FIE Individual Adjusted Official Ranking List by zone as of 5 April 2021 ~~4 April 2020~~, the top (1) athlete on the National Senior Team Point Standings as of 5 April 2021 ~~4 April 2020~~ will be selected to compete at the Pan American FIE Zone Qualifying Event (dates TBD).

The winner of the Pan American FIE Zone Qualifying Event will qualify by name for the individual competition at the 2020 Olympic Games.

National Senior Team Point Standings are calculated as described in the USA Fencing Selection Criteria found here: <https://www.usafencing.org/selection-criteria> (under header “2019-20 International Selection Criteria” and “2020-21 International Selection Criteria”). The designated international calendar can be found at <https://www.usafencing.org/international-calendar>. The 2020 Division I National Championships ~~were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic will be held April 17-20, 2020.~~

## **2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)**

- 2.1. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any): N/A
- 2.2. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used (if any): N/A
- 2.3. Provide the name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members’ titles currently serving on the committee: N/A
  - 2.3.1. Specify the process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee: N/A

## **3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

- 3.1. Prior to entry by name to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, USA Fencing has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by USA Fencing may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Fencing:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USA Fencing Executive Director.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Fencing. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Fencing, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Failure to participate in Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in Section 9 of these procedures.
- 3.1.4. Violation of USA Fencing’s Code of Conduct:  
<https://www.usafencing.org/codes-of-conduct>

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USA Fencing Bylaws (<https://www.usafencing.org/by-laws>, Article XVI) and the USOPC’s Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.2. Once athlete entries have been submitted to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable USA Fencing Code of Conduct, the USOPC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply. The USOPC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures can be found at:  
[www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Ombudsman/Games-and-Competition](http://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Ombudsman/Games-and-Competition)  
[www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Governance-Documents](http://www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Governance-Documents)
- 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, PASO, WADA, FIE, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and USA Fencing's SafeSport policies, as applicable.

#### 4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

- 4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:

- 4.1.1. prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

See Section F: Reallocation of Unused Quota Places of the FIE Qualification System at <https://fie.org/fie/documents/letters/2020>  
~~<http://fie.org/fie/documents/letters/16>~~ (Information Letter ~~3-20 13~~).  
For qualified team events (where the quota was allocated to the NOC):  
Should an athlete decline his or her spot and/or become injured, the identified "P Alternate Athlete" will serve as the team member's replacement and the next fencer on the National Senior Team Point Standings as described in 1.3 will be selected as the new "P Alternate Athlete."

If the quota was allocated directly to the athlete and a replacement is needed (quota earned through Individual Qualification), the FIE will reallocate in accordance with the established Qualification System for Tokyo 2020.

If an athlete selected to compete at the Pan American FIE Zone Qualifying Event is unable to participate in this event, the next highest ranked athlete on the National Senior Team Point Standings as of ~~5 April 2021~~ ~~4 April 2020~~ will serve as the replacement (and thus be given the opportunity to qualify him/herself by name to the 2020 Olympic Games).

- 4.1.2. after submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

Refer to 4.1.1. and Section G: General Principles Regarding the Use of P Alternate Athletes of the FIE Qualification System.



## **5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

USA Fencing will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Games.

## **6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

In addition to the USOPC Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Olympic Games and are included as attachments:

USA Fencing Member Code of Conduct: <https://www.usafencing.org/codes-of-conduct>

## **7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES**

The USOPC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USA Fencing in the following locations:

7.1. USA Fencing Web site: <https://www.usafencing.org/selection-criteria>

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOPC.

7.2. Other: N/A

## **8. DATE OF NOMINATION**

The Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before:

June 4, 2021 – USA Fencing to submit a “short list” of potential athletes to the USOPC

July 1, 2021 – Final Nomination of Athletes

~~May 30, 2020~~

## **9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION**

Specify the location, schedule and duration of mandatory training and/or competition:

There are currently no plans to hold a mandatory training camp for the 2020 Olympic Team – Fencing. Should this change, athletes will be given at least 30 days’ notice by announcement through email to athletes and coaches, as well as posted online.

## **10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS**

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, PASO, WADA, FIE, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, PASO, WADA, FIE, USADA and USOPC Rules, as applicable.

## **11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

Kate Reisinger, Senior Director of Sports Performance  
[Sports Performance Resource Team](#)

## **12. NGB BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

The USA Fencing Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:  
<https://www.usafencing.org/by-laws>

## **13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**

These procedures are based on IOC, PASO, as applicable, and/or FIE rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC, PASO, as applicable, and/or FIE rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA Fencing. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOPC.




## **14. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN**

The Athlete Ombudsman provides cost-free, independent and confidential advice regarding athlete rights, grievance procedures and any other related guidance pertaining to selection procedures and can assist in mediating disputes between athletes and their NGB.

To contact the Athlete Ombudsman Office:  
PHONE: (719) 866-5000  
EMAIL: [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)  
WEBSITE: [www.usathlete.org](http://www.usathlete.org)

## 15. NGB SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USA Fencing.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USA Fencing Executive Director	Kris Ekeren		12/08/2020
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Kate Reisinger		12/09/2020
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Daria Hyla Schneider		12/01/2020

\* If the USOPC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

\* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by USA Fencing, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her Sport Performance Team.

\* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOPC AAC Representative, USA Fencing must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.