



**USA**  
FENCING

**2020-21  
Super Youth Circuit (SYC)  
Requirements**

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## **TOURNAMENT SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS:**

Among the criteria the National Office considers when determining hosts for SYC tournaments are:

- SYCs must occur between August 1, 2020- May 3, 2021
- Size, quality, and safety of venue
- History of tournament staff and bidding organizer in producing successful events
- Ability to meet venue requirements (see below)
- Balancing bid awards, locations and eligible organizers in the region
- Location and date of competition in regards to other RYC, SYC, and ROC, SJCC and/or RJCC tournaments or NACs. Please take note of the national and regional tournament schedule when selecting dates for SYC events
- Availability of qualified SafeSport compliant staff
- Viability of schedule submitted in relation to tournament resources, number of events and projected numbers
- SYC Host Organizer must be a current USA Fencing member. Member and Affiliate clubs bidding will be given priority.

More detailed information concerning selection criteria may be found in the [Bidding Organizer Information Packet](#) on the USA Fencing website.

## **BIDDING ORGANIZERS:**

For the 2020-21 season, tournament organizers are to complete the online and submit a \$75 bid processing fee by January 2, 2020. Bids submitted by the deadline and containing all required information will be reviewed by the National Office and put into consideration for final approval.

- All bidding SYC organizers agree to have read the [Bidding Organizer Information Packet](#) document available on the website and this SYC Requirements document. These serve as reference and support resources for all regional organizers
- Approved SYCs will be posted the USA Fencing [regional calendar](#).
- Only approved SYCs will be considered for qualification purposes.
- Approved SYC Organizers have access to one free email blast advertising their tournament to the membership.
- Contact Deanna Doughton at [d.doughton@usafencing.org](mailto:d.doughton@usafencing.org) to request an e-blast transmission to the applicable membership.

## **VENUE REQUIREMENTS**

The fencing venue is a most important element in hosting a successful tournament. Interested bidders may contact Dan Mott ([d.mott@usafencing.org](mailto:d.mott@usafencing.org)) for guidance in negotiating venue contract agreements. It must be available from approximately 6 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. Ceiling height sufficient to permit safe and unobstructed fencing
2. Safety and security of the venue and participants is very important so make sure there are no hazards and that your venue has sufficient security with an evacuation plan in place.
3. Depending on the region and the projected number of registrants, the number of strips is an important consideration. Bids must reflect an adequate number of strips to accommodate the historical number of registrants in a given region. One fencing strip measures 14 meters long x 1.5

meters wide and should include two 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. For SYC Tournaments, **ALL** strips must be grounded.

4. Strip layout must provide an adequate amount of space for the referee on the side of each strip, with the scoring box to be placed approximately one meter from the center of the opposite side of the strip. Scoring boxes back to back are the ideal arrangement.
3. Competition area must be well lit with even lighting throughout.
4. Area on or near the fencing floor for armory, registration desk, officials lounge, vendor and trainer.
5. 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.
6. Ample amount of restrooms.
7. The temperature in the competition hall must be between 65° and 75° F.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. An area must be designated and easily accessible to fencers for posting pools, DE tables and results. Internet access and live results are preferable.
11. Adequate space for fencing bag storage away from the competition floor.
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. Free water stations and/or drinking fountains must be available.
15. 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.

#### **SCHEDULING:**

A complete projected schedule of all events to be held is to be submitted with each SYC bid. It should be designed with consideration given to the projected number of participants in relation to the available strips. Consideration must also be given to fencers competing in cross over age groups when creating a schedule. Events within the same weapon and gender with direct age cross over should NOT be scheduled on the same day. For example: Y10 WE and Y12 WE or Y12 WE and Y14 WE cannot be held on the same day. Y10 WE and Y14 WE can be held the same day. Organizers bidding for additional events outside the SYC must also ensure additional cross over events are separated.

When creating a schedule, organizers must also consider demands of the armory check in relation to the first events of the day when the armory is busiest.

SYC tournament organizers who have successfully hosted at least two successful SYCs may submit bids for Regional Cadet, non-regional Cadet or team events to be combined with the SYC. Organizers requesting to combine SYCs with non-regional Cadet, Regional Cadet or team events **MUST** submit a strip management plan, including projected participant numbers, along with their schedule.

#### **EVENT STAFF:**

All USA Fencing rules and regulations concerning SafeSport, membership, background check clearance and the hiring of staff under the age of 18 (minors) must be adhered to. Refer to the [Bidding Organizer Information Packet](#) on the website for more detailed information.

**Bout Committee (BC):** 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. Contact Tournament Committee ([tc@usafencing.org](mailto:tc@usafencing.org)) if you need assistance in hiring qualified BC staff.

**Referees:** Contact your [Regional Coordinator](#) or the Referees' Commission if you need assistance in hiring referees. The Referees' Commission (RC) may hold testing and/or clinics in conjunction with the RYC tournament. Referees can be paid on a flat fee basis or per-round basis.

**Armors:** The services of a minimum of two experienced armorers are necessary. Depending on the projected number of entries, the number of armorers must be sufficient to move athletes through equipment check in order to keep the tournament schedule moving. The armorers are responsible for conducting equipment check. Also, it is critical to have enough working electrical equipment (two extra sets beyond what the number being used). SYC head techs must be hired from the national hire list.

**Medical:** The Local Organizing Committee is obligated to provide one athletic trainer on site during all hours of competition and be equipped with proper medical supplies including ice.

**SafeSport Contact:** One designated SafeSport contact should be assigned for each tournament. This person needs to be a current USA Fencing member with the completed SafeSport training and background check clearance. The designated contact must be available during the entirety of the tournament and will receive additional resources prior to the tournament's start date.

All of the tournament staff should know where the closest hospital is from the venue, and be able to provide directions in case of an emergency.

#### **REGISTRATION:**

**Entry Fees:** SYC entry fees consist of a maximum \$35 registration and \$50 for each event entered.

**Registration for all sanctioned regional tournaments is through the USA Fencing Online Registration Platform.**

Organizers may request an exemption from the max fee standard in their original online bid submission. Costs such as high venue rental fees and staff travel/housing are examples which would warrant such a request. Organizers are required to provide substantiating information for such an exemption to be granted.

USA Fencing receives \$6 per participant sanction fee at each SYC, and is included in the registration fee. All required tournament information/results must be submitted, via the Online Tournament Registration Portal,

within **72 hours** of the tournament. Classification changes and national points updates will be made, via the Online Tournament Portal, once the National Office has approved the finalized tournament through the USA Fencing Platform. This includes all competitors cleared as members of USA fencing and all referees fulfilling current background check and SafeSport requirements.

**Late Entry Policy:** Late entry fees are to be set at the discretion of the organizer, but must not exceed the triple fee amount organizers are not required to accept walk-in entries. The late entry policy, including whether or not walk-in entries will be allowed, must be clearly stated in all materials and on all websites for each SYC.

**Refund Policy:** Organizers may implement their own refund policies for their SYC as long as they are no more stringent than the policies of the National Office. This pertains to both no-shows and withdrawals. The refund policy must be clearly stated in all materials and on all websites for each SYC. The organizer will withdraw the athlete and then click on "Refund" for the event fee to be refunded. The registration fees are non-refundable unless and event or tournament is cancelled. To refund the registration fee due to cancellation, please email [d.doughton@usafencing.org](mailto:d.doughton@usafencing.org).

**Cancellation Policy:** In the most extreme circumstances, regional tournaments may be cancelled, delayed or rescheduled by the majority decision of a group composed of the tournament organizer, the USA Fencing National Office, knowledgeable support personnel, the relevant Regional Coordinator and the USA Fencing Director of Operations and/or the Executive Director. USA Fencing has the right to require any regional tournament organizer to cancel, delay or reschedule a regional tournament in the best interest of the membership due to unforeseen extreme weather occurrences or other catastrophic circumstances. Organizers must include in their public tournament information page their refund policy in the case that a catastrophic event causes the cancellation, delay or rescheduling of their tournament.

Regional tournaments which are cancelled due to no fault of the organizer will be rescheduled, if possible, within the season for which the tournament was awarded. Organizers may NOT cancel, delay or reschedule a regional tournament without the approval of the aforementioned group. Tournament organizers cancelling an SYC without approval shall refund all monies paid by registered tournament entrants, including fees associated non-SYC events. If such cancellation is made unreasonably and/or on short notice, the organizer may additionally be held responsible for reimbursement of expenses incurred by tournament entrants, and organizers are strongly encouraged to maintain general business liability insurance to provide for such an eventuality. USA Fencing will not be held responsible for the refund or reimbursement of any such fees or expenses, and by bidding, tournament organizers agree to hold USA Fencing harmless and to indemnify USA Fencing against any claims made by tournament entrants as a result of the cancellation of a tournament or as a result of the withdrawal of sanction by USA Fencing.

#### **TOURNAMENT CHECK-IN:**

All fencers (international and domestic) must register with a valid USA Fencing membership. Athletes registering as walk-ins without proof of a USA Fencing membership must complete registration and payment for a USA Fencing Competitive membership prior to competing. **In order to expedite the processing of results and the updating of points, online membership application is highly recommended on the day of a regional tournament if walk-in entries are allowed.** Organizers allowing walk-ins should have a computer dedicated to use for online membership applications to be completed available at registration. If paper membership forms are completed, they should be faxed to the National Office at the end of the last event of the tournament to (719) 632-5737. The processing of paper membership forms by the National Office will likely delay the processing/updating of results, classifications and regional points. Payment will be returned if membership can't be verified.

#### **ELIGIBILITY:**

Parents/guardians should come prepared with ONE of the following in case the fencer's age needs verification

for eligibility purposes or submit one of the following to:

[information@usafencing.org](mailto:information@usafencing.org):

- 1. A government issued photo ID with date of birth included
- 2. A **copy** of birth certificate
- 3. Passport

To avoid bringing this documentation, USA Fencing has an age verification process.

#### **Current Verification Process:**

An athlete can submit a copy of their birth certificate or passport to the National Office via email, mail or fax and they will verify the date of birth in the database. Once the date of birth has been verified, it is indicated on permanent and temporary membership cards.

The athlete can also take the same documentation to a SYC/RYS event or divisional qualifier and tournament organizers can submit a spreadsheet with the verification information to the USA Fencing Membership Services. No copy is needed as long as tournament organizers verify the information. This is up to tournament organizers to handle.

Information regarding athlete verification is available for tournament organizers by requesting a "National Verification" list from Deanna Doughton at [d.doughton@usafencing.org](mailto:d.doughton@usafencing.org). It's best to request 3-5 business days in advance of when the list is needed.

All Fencers must be current Competitive/International members of USA Fencing in good standing to compete in SYC events.

Please refer to the [Age Classification Chart](#) for birth year requirements and exceptions.

#### **International Fencers:**

International fencers may compete in SYCs and earn regional points, with either a "Waiver" (\$10 per regional tournament) or a current International Competitive License. However, they are not eligible to compete at the Junior Olympics, Division I Championships or the National Championships because these are National Championships. They may compete at the NAC level with a current International Competitive License.

#### **EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS:**

Uniforms (jacket, pants, knee-high socks, fencing glove):	Standard fencing uniforms; cannot have any rips, tear, or holes (gloves included). Warm-up pants are not allowed. Fencing glove must cover the lower half of the forearm. Tape covering holes on gloves is not permitted. 800 N requirement for sabre must be enforced.
Plastrons (underarm protectors):	Standard fencing plastron; required with every uniform
Chest Protector:	Required for females. For Foil, any chest protector (male or female) must have the approved neoprene layer. Click <a href="#">here</a> for more information.
Masks:	12K punch test; sewn in bib visual inspection -

	cannot have any rips, tears or holes in the bib; all rivets must be installed; covering over the welds must be present and installed so it will not catch a blade. Conductive bib in foil is required; retrofit conductive bibs must be installed such that they will not catch a blade; they shall be tested for conductivity of 5 ohms or less with no dead areas; tabs are not required; if tabs are present, they must be conductive - if not they must be removed. Elastic strap at back of mask is required and must be tight enough to prevent the mask from falling off.
Blades:	For The maximum blade length permitted for Y10 competitions is 32.5 inches. This requirement must be strictly enforced. Y12 and Y14 competitions, standard blade length of 30-35" permitted.
Lame	Tested for conductivity of 5 ohms or less with no dead areas; must not have any rips, tears or holes or loose seams.
Body Cord/ Mask Cord	Tested for continuity and conductivity of one (1) Ohm or less per line; clips must be visibly soldered and free of corrosion
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. French grip epee handles shall not exceed 20 cm in length when measured from the front of the guard to the end of the pommel nut.
Names on Uniforms:	Not required at SYCs

### **EQUIPMENT CHECK:**

Fencers **must** get equipment checked by the armorers prior to competition. This includes lamés, body and mask cords, masks and gloves. 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 32.5 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 Requirements Manual and the USA Fencing Athlete Handbook.

Note: At least two athletes must compete (have fenced) in a given SYC age/weapon event to fulfill eligibility requirements for the Y10 and/or Y12 NAC. Event results submitted with only one participant listed will not result in the athlete fulfilling the qualification requirement. In all events, three fencers must compete in order for national points to be awarded.

**Open Entry:** SYC tournaments award **national points**, which lead to qualification for the National Championships and therefore no caps can be made on any event within any registration period. Once all published registration is closed, organizers are no longer required to accept entries. Organizers may extend published deadlines at their



discretion, but must abide by any extensions for all events and may not adjust them once published.

**Participation:** Any athlete who is age eligible may compete in an SYC

**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 maximize pools of seven and then go to pools of six whenever possible. In events with fewer than 12 entrants, the BC may elect to have two rounds of pools followed by 100% promoted to a DE tableau or complete a pool larger than seven on more than one strip. Depending on referee and strip resources, events containing less than 18 competitors may complete pools larger than seven when fenced on more than one strip. Double stripping of pools of six or less is not allowed.

For Y10, direct elimination bouts are 10-touch bouts (two three minute periods with a one minute break between) with the first period ending after three minutes **or** when the score reaches five touches on one side, **whichever comes first**. During the one minute breaks, ONE person, designated by the fencer (a teammate, coach, or parent), may be on the strip with the fencer.

For Y12 and Y14 events, DE bouts are 15-touch bouts (three three minute periods with a one minute break between). During the one minute breaks, ONE person, designated by the fencer (a teammate, coach, or parent), may be on the strip with the fencer.

There is no fence-off for third place.

All SYC tournaments must run using standard electrical scoring equipment.

**Combining Events:** No event at an SYC may be combined regardless of number of entrants.

**Seeding:** Seeding shall be based on the following order:

1. Current National Rolling Point Standings regardless of classification.
2. Classification and year
3. If athlete has neither national points nor a weapon classification, they are seeded on a random basis with the other athletes in the same situation.

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. The current seeding file is available at <http://www.usafencing.org/regional-seeding>. Current National Rolling Points Standings will be posted here on or about the Wednesday of each week, for access by tournament organizers for uploading into tournament software.

**Tournament Software:** USA Fencing requires the use of Fencing Time as the software for regional tournaments. The Bout Committee should be experienced with this software. Tracking of referees is mandatory. Organizers are encouraged to provide live result updates for their tournament.

#### **NATIONAL POINTS, QUALIFICATION & CLASSIFICATION:**

**National Points:** SYC Competitions award **national** ranking points to the top 40% of the field up to 64 fencers regardless of where the cut off occurs, within a pool round of a direct elimination bracket. The percentage is rounded up to the nearest whole number. For example, if there are 17 fencers in an event, 40% of 17 is 6.8. Therefore, the top seven finishers earn points.

Only one/the highest SYC result in a given category is counted towards an athlete's national ranking. SYC points are awarded at a 0.8 scale of the Youth NAC points table.

Because the SYC awards national points and if the athlete is age eligible, there is trickle down for both points and qualification to the next lower age group.

Any participant, regardless of region, may earn NRPS at any SYC.

**Qualification:** The SYC tournament serves as one qualifying path for Y10 and Y12 fencers to the Youth NAC and for Y10, Y12 and Y14 fencers to the National Championships.

Athletes finishing in the top 40% of their event, up to 64 fencers, at an SYC earn national ranking points in that category. In Y12 and Y14, this qualifies athletes to compete at the National Championships for the season in which they earned national points. For Y10, athletes qualify to compete at the National Championships by participating in a RYC or SYC tournament within the competitive season.

Points/qualification are not finalized until complete results and the referee report are uploaded and approved in the tournaments and membership applications received by the National Office.

For more information on youth qualification paths, refer to the Athlete Handbook Chapter 2 and the Qualification Table available under the "Qualification Paths" tab on the Regional Events page.

Organizers are responsible for being able to answer questions from the membership concerning national points, regional points and qualification at their tournament.

**Classifications:** 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.

Classifications are not finalized until complete results, membership applications, Referee Report and Classification Change Report are received by the National Office and cleared. All must be received within 72 hours of the completion of an SYC tournament for results to be accepted for points, classification changes and qualification.

#### **AWARDS:**

An awards ceremony is required for each event with the top eight (in events with a starting field of 10 or more) or at least the top three (in events with a starting field fewer than 10) being recognized. Appropriate awards are medals, plaques or trophies or t-shirts.

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

#### **HOSPITALITY:**

Venue food/drink concessions should be readily available and open throughout the competition. Concessions must include "athlete-friendly" foods (fruit, energy bars, bagels, water, sports drink).

Organizers should provide information on local hotels, and be prepared to answer questions regarding directions, restaurants and attractions.

Any workshops or informational opportunities for coaches, parents, referees and athletes that can be organized in conjunction with an SYC tournament are encouraged.

Each SYC may have a member of USA Fencing staff or a 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 RC and the representative from USA Fencing Staff, if applicable. The LOC provides honoraria for officials, trainers, armorers and the BC.

### **ADDITIONAL EVENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

New for the 2020-21 season, all SYCs are required to hold a referee clinic:

- The clinic should be run by a locally available CRI referee resource, as much as possible.
- Clinic registration will be done through the USA Fencing Tournament Database.
- The referee clinic is not justification for an increase in fees for fencers.
- The CRI can be a referee already hired for the SYC.
- An example format for the clinic is below. The tournament organizer has the ability to schedule the clinic however it is best accommodated. Additionally, the referees are not required to be observed at the SYC and may find a more appropriate venue for observation at a smaller tournament.
  - Thursday: one-day referee seminar for new referees
  - Thursday night-Saturday morning: seminar attendees take the test online independently
  - Friday: CRI attends referee meeting to give a rules update and other information
  - Friday-Saturday: CRI observes new referees that have passed the online referee exam

### **POST-EVENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Tournament organizers have **72 hours** to upload the following through the USA Fencing Platform:

- Results (including classification changes)
- Referee Report
- Black Cards
  
- **If COMPLETE tournament results, membership applications, Event Officials Form and payment are not received within 72 hours**, the National Office will document the delay as a breach in the bid contract agreement. This will be included in the factors under consideration when reviewing future bids submitted by the organizer.
  
- Online SYC **customer surveys** will be sent out by the National Office to all participants in each regional tournament requesting their feedback. Once completed, survey results will be forwarded to the organizer. [If organizers have any questions or concerns in relation to the survey results, they should contact the National Office.](#)
  
- Photos and/or video of the tournament to be showcased on USA Fencing website to increase awareness of regional programs; send to Nicole Jomantas ([n.jomantas@usafencing.org](mailto:n.jomantas@usafencing.org))

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