



2015-2016

Regional Points / Regional Qualification
and
The Regional Recognition Program

(RYC and RJCC)

Regional Ranking Point System

(RRPS)

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To provide developing athletes from the Y10 through Junior competitive categories with regional fencing and qualification opportunities through Regional Youth Circuit (RYC) and/or Regional Junior Cadet Circuit (RJCC), Regional Junior Circuit (RJC) and Regional Cadet Circuit (RCC) tournaments throughout the competitive season.
- 2) To implement a Regional Ranking Points System (RRPS) that provides fencers competing at USA Fencing sanctioned RYC, RJCC, RJC, and RCC tournaments with a measure of their accomplishment based on placing at age group events within their region. This system awards points based on total participation. Therefore placement in larger competitive fields yield more points than smaller ones. This enhances the benefits of participation for fencers of all levels.
- 3) To implement a Regional Recognition Program to recognize and reward accomplishment at the Regional Tournament level.

End of season awards (patches, recognition in American Fencing Magazine...) will go to top three ranked fencers in each age group / gender / category per region. Primary Clubs will be awarded banners in recognition of the regional accomplishment of these athlete(s).
- 4) To create incentive through increased opportunity, interest and participation for more organizers to host RYCs and RJCCs in their area, extending the reach of these tournaments thereby growing fencing in underserved areas. Increased participation will also result in an increase of the number of qualification spots earned in a particular region.
- 5) To serve as a qualifying path for Y12 and Y14 to the Summer National Championships and for Cadet and Junior Fencers to the Junior Olympic Championships and July Challenge. A percentage of athletes will qualify from each region for these events based on their regional rank. Percentages may vary according to the competitive category. For more specifics on

qualification pathways, refer to the, RJCC or RYC Guidelines Manual and the USA Fencing Athlete Handbook

Regional Points Formula

Using the formula below, USA Fencing sanctioned Regional tournaments will award points to all participants identified as competitive members from the region in which the events was held.

$$\mathbf{((\# \text{ entries} - \text{place} + 1) / \# \text{ entries})} \times \mathbf{\text{maximum points}}$$

The winner of each Regional Event, regardless of size of field, will earn the pre-set Maximum points (100).

For example: Y12 1st place = 100 pts.

ALL other point allocations will depend on the number of participants. *(This approach is exclusive the RRPS in which all participants will earn points)*

EXAMPLE

In a Y12 field of 10 fencers:

1 = 100 pts.
2 = 90
3 = 80 ...
8 = 30
9 = 20
10 = 10

In a Y12 field of 25 fencers:

1 = 100 pts.
2 = 96
3 = 92
10 = 24
18 = 32
25 = 4

Rationale / Important Points

- Every participant from the home region earns points, so **competing** at a Regional Tournament results in all such participants earning regional points.
- The larger the field, the higher the points earned per placement.
 - o For less experienced developing fencers, participation in multiple Regional tournaments within their region will increase their Regional Rank and their competitive experience.
 - o For more experienced and skilled developing fencers, participation in multiple Regional tournaments within their region will be necessary for them to achieve a high enough overall rank to earn recognition and/or qualification, at the end of the season.
- Strong pool performance is rewarded as there is not a significant break in point values between DE rounds. (i.e.: Not a big difference between 8th and 9th place). Emphasizing pool performance is developmentally appropriate for the regional level as it prepares athletes for National level tournaments where a percentage of athletes may be cut after pools and seeding placement after pools may be more significant than at the regional/developmental level.
- These points are regional and will have **no** influence on the NRPS. The NO will maintain RRPS for each of the 6 regions.
- National points will have no effect on regional rankings. Points earned at NAC or Championship events will not trickle down to the regional lists.
- Unlike National Points, Regional points will not trickle down into lower age categories if the fencer is age eligible. Therefore, a fencer who has not fenced in a certain category, but is very highly ranked in a higher age category, cannot win a Regional Recognition award for a category they did not compete in.
- There is trickle down for Qualification from the Regional lists. Therefore, if a fencer qualifies in an older age category and is age eligible for a lower one, they will qualify for that category as well.
- In Y12 through Junior categories, regional qualification to the Summer National Championships (Youth), July Challenge (Cadet/Junior) and Junior Olympic Championships (Cadet/Junior) will be awarded to a percentage of athletes in each region. Percentages vary by category. Please refer to the Athletes Handbook for more information specific to qualification requirements.

- Since qualification is percentage based, each region will be allotted the same ratio of qualifiers. This reflects the strength and depth of fencing in the varying areas of the USA.
- This system is Regionally Responsive. Regional Coordinators (RC), the Youth Development Committee (YDC), the Tournament Committee (TC) and /or the National Office make decisions on event and tournament combinations based on the needs and resources of the region(s) they oversee.

FAQ

1) Can fencers compete at Regional Tournaments outside of their home Region?

Yes, fencers can compete at any Regional Tournament. Yet, if they compete out of their home Region they will not appear on that Region's Point List nor will points from an outside region transfer to an athletes point total in their home region. However, their participation will be counted in the overall entrants and be included when the points are calculated for the fencers who competed in their home region. A fencer can **ONLY** qualify from or win the Regional Recognition Award for the Region in which the division they represent is located.

2) How many results count towards a fencer's regional rank?

Given the current number and concentration of RYC's in each of the 6 regions, the YDC has indicated that the best 3 RYC results will count towards an athlete's final Regional Youth Ranking.

Given the current number and concentration of RJCC's in each of the 6 regions, the TC has indicated that the best 2 RJCC results will count towards an athletes final Regional Cadet or Junior Ranking.

These limits will be reviewed on a seasonal basis by the Regional Manager, YDC and TC.

3) Is there flexibility in the event combinations at these Regional Tournaments? For Example: Can there be single weapon RYC's?

Yes, in order to be responsive to each Regions needs different tournament combinations are allowable. The RCs, TC, YDC and NO work with organizers to determine if proposed combinations are appropriate for a given region and the resources of the organizer. Some possible tournament combinations are*:

- Single weapon RJCC
- Single category RJC or RCC (junior only/cadet only)

- Single weapon RYC (if found to be regionally responsive)
- RJCC combined with an ROC
- Team events added to an RJCC or RYC

*Single category RYCs are not recommended; nor are single gender tournaments. There is too much crossover in these categories.

4) **How many Regional tournaments can a single location hold?**

Ordinarily, a single location/venue can hold up to **2 Regional tournaments** in a given season. In some regions there may be a need for single organizers or locations to hold more than 2 Regional Tournaments due to lack of bids overall and the resources available in that Region. On the other hand, it is not reasonable for a single organizer or location to create a monopoly or saturate the market giving a clear advantage to fencers in their immediate area. *The RC and Regional Manager / NO may award more than 2 Regional Tournaments to a given location if they determine that this is necessary to meet the needs of the fencers in that region. ie. Regional Responsiveness*

5) **How will the point system handle mixed events?**

RJCC events may not be mixed.

RYCs in less populated areas may be mixed when less than 5 fencers in a given gender participate. When results are submitted to the National Office, boys and girls will be separated onto the appropriate list. Points will be awarded as they are in a non-mixed event. **For example:** Taking second in a mixed event awards second place points to the fencer, even if they were the highest finisher of their gender.

Under **no** circumstance may age categories be mixed.

It is suggested to avoid mixed gender events whenever possible although any RYC or RJCC event must have at least 2 competitors to be counted for RRPS and to fulfill any qualification standards.

6) **What if there is a tie for Regional Points Recognition at the end of the season?**

If there is a tie at the end of the season for a Regional Points Award then both/all fencers who have tied will receive recognition for their accomplishment.

7) What if the % qualifying number is not a whole number....like 25.3?

The number of qualifiers will be the nearest whole number, rounding up in all cases. So if it is 25.3 than 26 fencers will qualify. If there is a tie for 26th, than all athletes holding that ranking will qualify.

8) Can foreign fencers participate in regional tournaments? Can they qualify via this path?

Foreign fencers may compete at any Regional Tournament for which they are age eligible. Foreign fencers may NOT win an overall Regional Point Award, nor can they compete at the Junior Olympic Championships or the Summer National Championships.

When the qualifying % is determined from the RRPS lists, foreign fencers who fall into the qualifying % for a National Championship event will be skipped and qualification will be awarded to the next eligible athlete.

Foreign fencers who fall into the qualifying percentage for the Junior and/or Cadet events for the July Challenge will qualify via this path.

9) Will National Point Holders (NPHs) who are in the Qualifying % at the end of the season be skipped and the next eligible, non- national point holder qualify?

No. Besides skipping foreign fencers, only fencers who are in the qualifying % will earn regional qualification. The TC and the YDC carefully took into consideration when reviewing pertinent data that some of the fencers in the qualifying group will be NPHs.

Data will be monitored season to season to ensure the regional % qualification path is inclusive non-NPHs. The percentage qualification system can therefore be responsive to the patterns of growth of the sport and the overall tournament participation regionally and nationally.

10) How will the RRPS be managed?

The RRPS will be managed by the Regional Manager at the National Office. After an RYC or RJCC bid (<http://www.usfencing.org/page/show/780402-usa-fencing-regional-bid-packet>) has been approved, Regional Organizers must post their registration and results on <http://www.askfred.net>. When an approved RYC or RJCC is completed and the organizer has submitted the full results, any classification changes and payment to the USA Fencing Regional Manager, Leslie Winckler (l.winckler@usfencing.org), the RRPS for that Region will be updated

to reflect the results based on verified current competitive members. If an organizer fails to submit full results and payment to the National Office within 10 business days of their Regional tournament, RRPS will not be awarded as well as the qualification requirements will not be met.

Youth Regional Rankings will be maintained on a yearly basis.
Cadet and Junior Regional Rankings will be maintained on a rolling basis.

11) What Region am I in and who is my Regional Coordinator?

Regional Coordinators contact information and the Regional Map can be found at:
<http://www.usfencing.org/rycregionalcoordinators>

At this time, the Regional Coordinators review and approve RYC bids and offer oversight and support for these tournaments. They should be contacted in reference to RYC tournaments.

The YDC reviews, approves and ranks RJCCs to be assigned in the overall calendar.

Support and assessment of these tournaments is ongoing by the YDC, TC and the NO. Questions concerning specific RJCCs should be referred to the Regional Manager, Leslie Winckler: l.winckler@usfencing.org.

12) Who should I contact with questions concerning the RRPS and Percentage Qualification?

If you have questions regarding the Regional Ranking Points System and the Regional Percentage Qualification Pathways, please contact YDC Chair, Jennie Salmon: jennie@missionfencing.com or the TC : tc@usfencing.org