



2015-2016

Super Youth Circuit (SYC)

Guidelines

TOURNAMENT SELECTION CRITERIA

As with any event, there are ideal scenarios USA Fencing looks for in the selection of host cities. While not always necessary for a successful bid, the following elements are examples of how details can truly make a difference.

- Strong record of hosting quality tournaments with multiple events and large numbers of participants.
- City located within a close proximity of a hub airport.
- Having the host hotels within walking distance of the venue for convenience and to alleviate Officials of having to use a shuttle system.
- In addition to the venue concessions, restaurants within walking distance to the competition venue.
- Live event results available for online viewing.
- Local activities in conjunction with the tournament can provide participants with entertainment options in addition to the fencing competition.
- Discounted meal packages or coupons at the hotel during the event for participants.
- Complimentary breakfast (at the hotel or venue) and lunch (at the venue) for all Tournament Officials is ideal.
- Commitment to contact local media (news stations and newspapers) for coverage of the event.
- Host organization and community should have a strong volunteer base from which to draw on for leadership and access to qualified and experienced staff.

VENUE REQUIREMENTS

The fencing venue is a most important element in hosting a successful tournament. It must be available from approximately 6:00 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. Minimum ceiling height of 15 feet.
2. 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 2 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. At least 8 strips must be grounded strips.
3. Provide an adequate amount of space for the referee on the side of each strip, with the scoring box to be placed approximately 3 feet out from the center of the opposite side of the strip. Scoring boxes back to back are the ideal arrangement.

4. Competition area must be well lit with even lighting throughout.
5. Area on or near the fencing floor for Armory, Registration Desk, Officials Lounge, and Trainer. Area on or near the fencing floor for vendor booths is optional.
6. 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.
7. Ample amount of restrooms.
8. The temperature in the competition hall must be between 65° and 75° F.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. An area must be designated and easily accessible to fencers for posting pools, DE tables, and results. Internet access and live results are preferable.
12. Adequate space for fencing bag storage away from the competition floor.
13. Adequate parking and easy access to transportation, especially to the host hotel.
14. Venue food/drink concessions are open throughout the competition. Concessions must include “athlete-friendly” foods (fruit, energy bars, bagels, water, sports drink).
15. Water stations and/or drinking fountains must be available.
16. Meeting space to gather and feed Officials
17. 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.

REGISTRATION

Entry Fees: SYC entry fees consist of a maximum \$30 registration and \$40 for each event entered (**new 2016-2016**). This amount does not include required state and local taxes or the cost to registrants for using online registration via askfred.net. Organizers may set their registration and/or entry fees lower at their own discretion. USA FENCING receives \$5 per participant at each SYC, and is included in the registration fee. Monies must be paid to USA Fencing within 10 days of the tournament. ***Results and classification changes will be made by the National Office once the Program Fee has been paid; membership forms and complete results in an Excel format have been received.***

Late Entry Policy: Within 4 weeks and up to 72 hours preceding the close of registration of the tournament, a triple fee policy is in effect. Within 72 hours preceding the close of registration for the tournament, a \$200 charge on top of the normal late entry fee is required. The late entry policy must be clearly stated in all materials and on all websites for each SYC.

Refund Policy: Tournament Directors 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.

Waiver of Liability: Tournament Directors must include a statement in the waiver that photography, filming, recording or any other form of media of the athlete during the tournament can be used by the host organization and USA Fencing. There should be a check box option for individuals to refuse media coverage of the fencer.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008, ALL TOURNAMENTS DESIGNATED AS SUPER YOUTH CIRCUIT (SYC) EVENTS SHALL BE REQUIRED TO REMIT A PROGRAM SUPPORT FEE OF \$5.00 PER INDIVIDUAL REGISTRANT TO USA FENCING. THIS PAYMENT IS DUE WITH THE RESULTS SUBMISSION TO USA FENCING. CHECK IS PAYABLE TO USA FENCING; CREDIT CARD PAYMENT IS ALSO ACCEPTED. (Board of Directors, September 2008)

TOURNAMENT CHECK-IN

Youth fencers must check-in with their membership card or a letter of good standing. Athletes without proof of membership must fill out all appropriate forms to pay for membership. Payment will be returned if membership can be verified.

USA Fencing is working towards an age verification process. This season, parents 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@usfencing.org:

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

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 DOB 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/RYC event or divisional qualifier and tournament organizers can submit a spreadsheet w/ the verification information to the USFA 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 Leslie Winckler (l.winckler@usfencing.org) at the National Office. It's best to request 3-5 business days in advance of when the list is needed.

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.
Plastrons (underarm protectors):	Standard fencing plastron; required with every uniform
Chest Protector:	Required for females
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 Y10 competitions the maximum blade length permitted 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 lames, 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 Guidelines Manual, USA Fencing Athlete Handbook and USA Fencing Operations Manual onsite.

Note: At least 2 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 1 participant listed will not result in the athlete fulfilling the qualification requirement. In Y14 events, 3 fencers must compete in order for points to be awarded thereby qualifying those who earn points for qualification to the Y14 National Championships.

Open Entry: SYCs are National Qualifiers and therefore no caps can be made on any SYC event within any registration period. Once all registration is closed, organizers are no longer required to accept entries.

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 use pools of six or seven whenever possible. In events with fewer than 11 entrants, the BC may elect to have two rounds of pools followed by 100% promoted to a DE tableau. There is no fence-off for third place

For Y14 events, pools of 6 or 7 (whenever possible, equal pools sizes should be used) with 100% of the fencers promoted to a DE tableau.

For Y10, direct elimination bouts are 10 touch bouts (2-3 minute periods with a 1 minute break between) with the first period ending after 3 minutes **or** when the score reaches 5 touches on one side, **whichever comes first**. During the 1 minute breaks, ONE person, designated by the fencer (a team-mate, coach, or parent), may be on the strip with the fencer.

For Y12 and Y14 events, DE bouts are 15 touch bouts (3- 3 minute periods with a 1 minute break between). During the 1 minute breaks, ONE person, designated by the fencer (a team-mate, coach, or parent), may be on the strip with the fencer.

Combining Events:

Due to the fact that SYCs are national point events and serve as qualifying paths to national tournaments, no events at an SYC may be combined regardless of number of entrants. Please refer to the Athlete Handbook for more information on points.

Seeding: Seeding shall be based on the following order:

1. Current national rolling point standings according to age group and weapon.
2. Letter ranking with year classification
3. Athletes with neither of the above are seeded on a random basis after the athletes who are seeded by the preceding factors.

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.

Tournament Software: USA Fencing strongly recommends using software programs XSeed, Fencing Time, Point Control, or EnGarde to run the tournament. Fencing Time v3.02 or later provides an Excel results export that is accepted by the National Office. The LOC and BC should be familiar with the chosen software prior to the SYC.

SCHEDULING

A **complete** projected schedule of events is to be submitted with each SYC bid. Schedules should be designed with consideration given to the projected number of participants in relation to the available strips. 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.

POINTS & CLASSIFICATION

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. For example, if there are 17 fencers in an event, 40% of 17 is 6.8. Only the top 6 finishers, not the top 7 finishers, earn points. Athletes finishing in the top 40% of their event at an SYC earn National Ranking points in that category. In Y12 and Y14 this qualifies athletes to compete at the Summer National Championships for the season in which they earned national points. For Y10, athletes qualify to compete at the Summer National Championships by participating in an RYC or SYC tournament within the competitive season. 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. (New 2015-2016)**

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.

<http://www.usfencing.org/page/show/698401-classification-chart>

Points, classifications and qualification are not finalized until complete results, membership forms and program service fee are received by the National Office. Forms must be received within 10 business days of the completion of an SYC tournament for results to be accepted for points and qualification. All SYCs must be run using electrical scoring equipment.

EVENT STAFF

A single person may not fill more than one main staffing role at an SYC.

Bout Committee: 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@usfencing.org) if you need assistance in hiring qualified BC staff.

Officials: A member of USA Fencing Officials Commission (FOC) or an approved delegate must be designated to serve as FOC at the event. Mary Mahon (meldarius@aol.com) may be contacted to request a list of certified officials and their contact information; information is also posted at <http://www.fencingofficials.org/>.

Armorers: The services of a minimum of two experienced Armorers or Technicians are necessary. The Armorers are responsible for conducting equipment check. Also, it is critical to have enough working electrical equipment (2 extra sets beyond what the number being used).

Medical: The LOC is obligated to provide one Athletic Trainer on site during all hours of competition and be equipped with proper medical supplies including ice.

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.

Post SYC - be sure to complete the SYC After Action Report which can be found at:

<http://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/2KaFa6BspcVN2bUEcT0gf3f1>

AWARDS

An Awards Ceremony is required for each event with the top eight (in events with a starting field of eight or more) or the top three (in events with a starting field fewer than eight) being recognized. Appropriate awards are medals, plaques or trophies, or t-shirts. There need not be a fence-off for third place

Results should be posted in a public forum by the Tournament Organizer within 1 day of the completion of the tournament.

ELIGIBILITY

Fencers must be current competitive members of USA Fencing and in good standing to compete in SYC events. USA Fencing new membership paperwork needs to be available at the door for walk-up registration.

Please refer to the Age Classification Chart for birth year requirements.

<http://www.usfencing.org/page/show/698393-age-and-classification-eligibility>

HOSPITALITY

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

Each SYC may have a member of USA Fencing staff, Youth Development Committee, or 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 FOC and the representative from USA Fencing Staff/ Youth Development Committee if applicable. The LOC provides honoraria for Officials, Armorers, and the BC.

POST-EVENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Submit the following items **no later than 10 business days following the tournament.** **Failure to submit full results and payment within 10 business days will result in the de-sanctioning of the SYC. The National Office MUST be contacted within the 10 day period if there is a hardship and a request for an extension must be made:**

- Email complete Results Report which should include any Classification Changes in an Excel format to Leslie Winckler (l.winckler@usfencing.org). Fencing Time v3.02 or later provides this report.
- Send your referee report to Mary Mahon (meldarius@aol.com) Please include referee emails/phone numbers in your report.
- Send your BC staff report to the Tournament Committee (tc@usfencing.org) Please include BC emails/phone numbers in your report
- SYC After-Action Report; the USFA will send the tournament organizer a link to complete online
- SYC Tournament Surveys; the USFA will send out an online survey to all participants requesting their feedback. The survey remains open for 2 weeks; summary of responses will be sent to the tournament organizer and the YDC.
- A check made out to the United States Fencing Association for \$5.00 per registrant indicating which SYC. Please submit the check with the SYC Program Support Fee Form. To pay by credit card contact Melissa Jones (M.jones@usfencing.org) Any new Membership Forms with payment
- Photos and/or video of the tournament to be showcased on USA Fencing website to increase awareness of Youth Programs; send to Nicole Jomantas (n.jomantas@usfencing.org)

USA Fencing
4065 Sinton Road, Suite 140
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
information@usfencing.org



USA Fencing
2015-2016 Super Youth Circuit Program Support Fee

Implemented by the Board of Directors effective October 1, 2008, all tournaments designated as Super Youth Circuits (SYC) shall be required to remit a Program Support Fee of \$5.00 per individual registrant to USA Fencing National Office. Complete results and program service fee must be submitted to the National Office before classification, qualification or national points will be recognized.

Tournament Title: _____

Contact Name: _____

City, State: _____

Host Club: _____

Tournament Date(s): _____

USA FENCING Youth Region: _____

Total Number of Participants: _____ X \$5.00 = Total Amount: _____

Method of Payment:

Check or Money Order Enclosed

Payable to the USA Fencing • \$25 charge for returned checks

Check/Money Order Number: _____ Name/Club on Check: _____

Credit Card (Debit cards accepted with a Visa or MasterCard Logo only)

VISA MasterCard AMEX Discover

Name on Card: _____

Billing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Cardholder Signature_____

Please email, fax or mail this form with payment information within **10 business days** following your tournament to:

USA Fencing
Attn: Finance Department
4065 Sinton Road, Suite 140
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
finance@usfencing.org
(719) 325-8998