



2017-2018

The Regional Recognition
Program
Regional Points and Regional Qualification

Regional Youth Circuit (RYC)
and
Regional Junior Cadet Circuit (RJCC)

Regional Tournaments

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To provide developing athletes from the Y10 through Junior age categories with high quality regional competitive fencing experiences throughout the fencing season while limiting the restraints of time and travel. This will enhance engagement and retention of athletes.
- 2) To maintain a Regional Ranking Points System (RRPS) that provides fencers with a measure of their accomplishment based on placing at age group events within their region.
- 3) To support a Regional Recognition Program to recognize and reward accomplishment at the Regional Tournament level through the RRPS.

End of season awards (patches, recognition in US Fencing Magazine...) will go to highest ranked fencer(s) in each age group / gender per region.

- 4) To create incentive through increased athlete opportunity, interest and participation for more organizers to host RYCs and RJCCs. This will extend the reach of these tournaments thereby growing fencing in underserved areas.
- 5) To provide developmental opportunities for referees, armorers, bout committee members and coaches.
- 6) To serve as a regionally equitable qualifying path for Y10, Y12 and Y14 to the Summer National Championships and the Youth NAC (Y10/Y12 only) and for Cadet and Junior Fencers to the Junior Olympic Championships and July Challenge. As participation grows, the number of qualification spots earned in a particular region will increase.

Regional Points Formula

Using the formula below, USA Fencing sanctioned Regional tournaments (RYC / RJCC) will award points to all participants identified as competitive members from the region in which the event was held *.

$$((\# \text{ entries} - \text{place} + 1) / \# \text{ entries}) \times 100$$

The winner of each Regional event, regardless of size of field, will earn the pre-set maximum point value of 100.

For example: Y12 1st place = 100 pts.

ALL other point allocations will depend on the number of participants.

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 = 64
18 = 32
25 = 4

** Fencers from any Region may participate. Out of region fencers, although they will not earn RRP's, will be counted as part of the overall number of participants when points are calculated and may earn classification increases.*

Important Information

- 1) Every participant from the home region earns points, so competing at a Regional Tournament results in all eligible participants earning regional points.

The best **3 RYC** event results will count towards a youth athlete's regional rank per category

The best **2 RJCC** results will count toward a Cadet/Junior athlete's regional rank per category

- 2) The larger the field, the higher the points earned per placement.
 - For less experienced developing fencers, participation in multiple Regional tournaments within their region will increase their Regional Rank and their competitive experience.
 - For more experienced and skilled developing fencers, participation in multiple Regional tournaments within their region will be an opportunity for them to achieve a high enough overall rank to earn recognition and/or qualification, at the end of the season.
- 3) Strong pool performance is rewarded as there is not a significant break in point awards 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.
- 4) Each region will have a different number of regional qualifiers which is reflective of the depth of participation which varies throughout the USA.
- 5) This system is Regionally Responsive. The National Office will make decisions on event and tournament combinations and locations based on the population needs and the organizational resources from Region to Region.

Regional Points and Qualification

Please refer to the Athletes Handbook Chapter 2 and the Qualification Tables available under Regional Events Information in the USAFencing website for more information specific to qualification paths.

- 1) Regional points will have **no** influence on the National Rolling Points Standings (NRPS). The National Office will maintain separate Regional Ranking Points Standings (RRPS) for each of the 6 regions.
- 2) National points will have **no** effect on Regional Rankings. National points earned at NAC, SYC or Championship Events will NOT trickle down to the regional lists.
- 3) Regional points do **not** trickle down into lower age categories if the fencer is age eligible. Therefore, a fencer who has not fenced in a certain regional category, but is highly regionally ranked in a higher age category, may not win a Regional Recognition Award for a category they did not compete in.
- 4) Qualification **does** trickle down from the Regional lists. Therefore, if a fencer qualifies in a higher age category and is age eligible for a lower one, they will qualify in that category as well.
- 5) Regional Qualification is based on earning enough Regional Points to meet the minimum point threshold for a given category:
 - a. In the Y12 through Junior categories, athletes accumulating the following point totals at any time in the season for which the points count will earn qualification to the category for which they have earned points and for any lower age category for which they remain eligible.
 - Y12**: earn at least 60 regional points for Summer National Championships
 - Y14**: earn at least 150 regional points for Summer National Championships
 - Cadet**: earn at least 65 points for July Challenge, 110 for Junior Olympics
 - Junior**: earn at least 65 points for July Challenge, 110 for Junior Olympics

*Athletes earning the qualification point total minimum will **NOT** be skipped at Divisional Qualifiers. Only athletes listed on the NRPS will be considered “automatic qualifiers” and skipped at a Divisional Qualifier.*

FAQ

1) When are winner of the Regional Recognition Awards determined?

Both Youth and Cadet/Junior Regional Recognition, the winners are determined by the list as of the deadline for Regular Registration for the age category's National Championship. For Youth this is Summer Nationals and for Cadet/Junior it is the Junior Olympics.

Youth Regional Rankings will be maintained on a yearly basis from August 1 of the competitive year to the deadline for the Summer National Championships.

Cadet and Junior rankings are maintained on a rolling basis because they are used to determine qualifiers for both the Junior Olympics and the July Challenge. Regional Award winners will be determined after the regular fee registration deadline for the Junior Olympics each year prior to the age out removal.

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

Yes, fencers can compete at any Regional Tournament. If they compete out of 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. Out of region fencers may earn new classifications at any regional event. A fencer can **ONLY** qualify from or win the Regional Recognition Award for the Region in which the division they represent is located.

3) How many results count?

Given the current number and concentration of RYC's in each of the 6 regions, it was determined 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, it was determined 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 at the National Office.

**4) Is there flexibility in the event combinations at these Regional Tournaments?
For Example: Can there be single weapon RYCs?**

Yes, in order to be responsive to each Region's needs different tournament combinations are allowable. It is up to the National Office to determine if this is appropriate for their region. Some possible tournament combinations are*:

- Single weapon RJCC
- Single category RJCC (junior only/cadet only)
- Single weapon RYC
- RJCC combined with an ROC or RYC
- Team events added to an RJCC or an RYC

*Single category RYCs are not approved; nor are single gender tournaments.

5) How many Regional tournaments can a single location hold?

Ordinarily, a single location/venue may hold up to **2 Regional tournaments** in a given season. The YDC, TC and National Office recognize that 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, denseness of the competitive fencing population and the resources available in that Region. *The National Office has the discretion to award more than 2 Regional Tournaments to a given location if they see that this is necessary to meet the needs of the fencers in the region. ie. Regional Responsiveness*

6) How will the point system handle mixed events?

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

RJCC events may not mix gender.

RYCs in less populated areas may be mixed gender 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.

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

7) What if there is a tie for a Regional Points winner 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.

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 and earn regional points and classifications. Foreign fencers may NOT win an overall Regional Point Award, nor can they compete at the Junior Olympic Championships or the Summer National Championships.

Foreign fencers who meet the minimum point threshold for the Junior and/or Cadet events for the July Challenge will qualify via this path as it is not a National Championship

9) Will National Point Holders (NPHs) be skipped and the next eligible, non-national point holder qualify?

No. Only fencers who meet the minimum point threshold will earn regional qualification. Foreign fencers on the regional points list will not effect who qualifies.

The TC and the National Office carefully took into consideration when reviewing pertinent data that some of the fencers in the qualifying group will be NPHs. The minimum point thresholds assigned were data based and included consideration of these NPHs placing in the qualifying group.

Data will be monitored season to season to ensure the regional qualification threshold is inclusive of non-NPHs.

10) How will the RRPS be managed?

The RRPS will be managed by the Regional Manager at the National Office. When an approved RYC or RJCC is completed and the organizer has submitted the full results, any classification changes, the Event officials report, new membership applications and payment to the USA Fencing Regional Manager, Leslie Hirsch (l.hirsch@usfencing.org), the RRPS for that Region will be updated to reflect the results.

Remember, Youth Regional Rankings will be maintained on a yearly basis. Cadet and Junior Regional Rankings will be maintained on a rolling basis since they identify qualifiers for both the Junior Olympic Championships and the July Challenge.

Current Regional Point Standings are in the USA Fencing website at <https://member.usfencing.org/search/regionalPointsList>

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

Regional Coordinators contact information and the Regional Map can be found [usfencing.org](https://www.usfencing.org)

- Scroll over Events
- Select either RYC, RJCC, ROC
- Click on Regional Coordinators

Regional Coordinators provide oversight and support for these tournaments. They should be contacted in reference to regional tournaments.

Further support and assessment of these tournaments is ongoing by the National Office.