



USA
FENCING

2020-21
Regional Open Circuit (ROC)
Requirements
Division IA/ Division II/Veteran

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TOURNAMENT SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS:

Criteria the National Office considers when determining hosts for ROC tournaments:

- ROCs must occur between August 1, 2020-April 26, 2021
- Size, quality, and safety of venue
- Safety and security plans for the tournament
- 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, SJCC, ROC and/or RJCC tournaments or NACs. Please take note of the national and regional tournament schedule when selecting dates for ROC events.
- Availability of qualified SafeSport compliant staff
- Viability of schedule submitted in relation to tournament resources, number of events and projected numbers. (for larger ROCs, the National Office may request the submission of a strip management plan)
- ROC 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](#) document on the USA Fencing website.

BIDDING ORGANIZERS:

- For the 2020-21 season, tournament organizers are to complete the online ROC Bid Application and submit a \$75 bid processing fee by January 2, 2020. Bids submitted containing all required information will be reviewed by the National Office and put into consideration for final approval. RJCC/RJC/RCC/RYC events to be combined with a ROC MUST be submitted by January 2, 2020.
- All bidding ROC organizers agree to have read the [Bidding Organizer Information Packet](#) document available on the website and this **ROC Requirements** document. These serve as reference and support resources for all regional organizers.
- Approved ROCs will be posted the USA Fencing [regional calendar](#). Only approved ROCs will be considered for qualification purposes.
- Approved ROC organizers have access to one free email blast advertising their tournament to the membership. Contact Deanna Doughton at 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) 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. Safe and secure venue
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 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 four strips must be grounded strips. Organizers may request a relaxation of the four grounded strip requirements in the **venue considerations** portion of the online bid submission. Decisions to adjust this requirement will be regionally responsive.

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 three 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, vendor and trainer.
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. 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 is to be submitted with each ROC bid. Schedules 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 categories within the same weapon 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: Division IA WE and Division II WE should not be held on the same day.

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.

ROC tournament organizers may submit bids for Div IA, Div II or veterans only or combine ROC categories. ROCs may be combined with RJCC or RYC tournaments if there is a need in a given region. Organizers bidding for additional events outside the ROC must also ensure additional cross over events are separated.

Organizers requesting to combine ROCs with RYC or RJCC tournaments or other non-regional events may be asked to 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 the Tournament Committee (tc@usafencing.org) if you need assistance in hiring qualified BC staff.

Referees: Contact your [Regional Coordinator](#) or contact the Referees' Commission if you need assistance in hiring referees. Information is also posted on the [Referees' Commission website](#). The Referees' Commission (RC) may hold testing and/or clinics in conjunction with the ROC 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).

Medical: The Local Organizing Committee is required 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: The ROC entry fees consist of a maximum \$30 registration and \$45 for each event entered. **Registration for all 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. Submission of a request for fee exemption is not a guarantee of acceptance.

USA Fencing receives \$6 per participant sanction fee at each ROC, and is included in the registration fee. All required tournament documents must be submitted through the online portal within **72 hours** of the tournament. Classification changes and regional points updates will be through the online system once the tournament has been finalized 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. The late entry policy must be clearly stated in all materials and on all websites for each ROC.

Refund Policy: Organizers may implement their own refund policies for their ROC 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 ROC. The organizer withdraws the athlete and clicks "Refund" to have the event fee refunded. Registration fees are non-refundable unless the event/tournament is cancelled. If the registration fee needs to be refunded due to cancellation, please email 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, 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 a ROC, RJCC, RYC or SYC without approval, shall refund all monies paid by registered tournament entrants, including fees associated with non-ROC, non-RJCC, non-RYC or non-SYC events. If such cancellation is made unreasonably and/or on short notice, 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. In no event will USA Fencing 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 current USA Fencing membership, International Competitive License or they can pay the \$10 fee to fence in regional events only. Athletes

registering as walk-ins without proof of USA Fencing membership must complete registration and payment for a USA Fencing Competitive, International Competitive License membership or pay the \$10 fee.

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 no later than 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 be verified.

ELIGIBILITY:

All Fencers must be current Competitive/International members of USA Fencing in good standing to compete in ROC events. Please refer to the Age Classification Chart for birth year requirements and exceptions on the USA Fencing website.

International Fencers:

International fencers may compete in ROCs regionally and at NACs. They must be members of USA Fencing with either an International Competitive License or pay the per regional tournament waiver fee of \$10. However, they are not eligible to compete at the Junior Olympics, Division I Championships or National Championships. International athletes are not eligible for the Regional Recognition Program.

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 here 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:	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
Names on Uniforms:	Not required at ROCs

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.

RULES OF COMPETITION:

ROC events are run in accordance with USA Fencing rules and formats. Each Tournament Director should have a copy of the current USA Fencing Rulebook, ROC Requirements and the USA Fencing Athlete Handbook.

Open Entry: ROCs award **regional points** which lead to Qualification to the USA Fencing National Championships and therefore no caps can be made on any ROC event within any registration period. Once all 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 and classification eligible may compete in any ROC regardless of region, with a current USA Fencing membership.

Tournament Format: The format for all RJCC 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. Pools of less than six should be avoided if 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.

There is no fence-off for third place.

All ROC tournaments must run using standard electrical scoring equipment.

Combining Events:

No event at an ROC may be combined regardless of number of entrants.

Seeding: Seeding shall be based on the following order:

Div IA:

1. Current Senior National Rolling Point Standings, regardless of classification
2. Classification and year
3. Athletes with neither of the above are seeded on a random basis after the athletes who are seeded by the preceding factors.

Div II

1. Classification and year
2. 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.

The current seeding file is available at 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 these 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.

REGIONAL POINTS, QUALIFICATION & CLASSIFICATION:

Regional Points:

- ROC Competitions award regional points to the top 40%, rounding up, in the field.
- Up to the best three results in a given category will be combined to determine a fencer's regional rank each season.
- Athletes may earn points at ROCs in any region.
- There is **NO** trickle down for points at the regional level. Points earned in a ROC tournament only appear in the category in which they were earned. (For example: Div IA do NOT trickle down to Div II).
- There **IS** trickle down for QUALIFICATION between Div IA and Div II/Div III. Therefore, if a fencer qualifies in Div IA and is age and classification eligible for Div II (Div III), they earn qualification in that category as well.

Qualification:

The ROC tournament serves as one qualifying path for Div IA, Div II, Div III and veteran USA Fencing National Championships. 40% (rounding up) of the competitive field will earn regional points. Earning regional points results in qualification to the event at the National Championships in which the points were earned and any lower category event the athlete is classification eligible for at the time of qualifying result.

For Division II: Athletes who are classification eligible when they complete registration and subsequently earn an A or B classification before the ROC event occurs, **may** compete in the ROC Division II event, but **may not** qualify for the Division II or III National Championships if they finish within the qualifying group (top 40%) as they are not classification eligible at that time.

Conversely, an athlete who competes as classification eligible and qualifies for the Division II or III National Championships but subsequently earns an A, B or C (Div 3), classification post-qualification but before registering for Championships, will remain eligible to compete at the National Championships in that event.

For more information on ROC qualification paths, refer to the Athlete Handbook and the Qualification Table available under the “Qualification” tab at on the Regional Events page.

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

Classifications:

Please refer to the Classification Chart for more information. Classifications are not finalized until complete results, membership applications, referee report and other required documents are uploaded in the tournament portal and approved by the National Office. All must be uploaded within 72 hours of the completion of an ROC tournament for results to be accepted for points 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 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.

REGIONAL RECOGNITION:

The **Regional Ranking Point System** (RRPS) is in place to recognize participation and accomplishment of developing athletes at the regional level. At the end of the 2020-21 regular season, the top three fencers of each age category (Div IA/Div II/veteran nationwide) and gender in each of the six regions will be awarded regional winner patches by USA Fencing. If there is a tie for any of the three places, all fencers will earn awards.

Rankings will be managed by the National Office and available for viewing on the [USA Fencing Platform](#). These rankings are regional only and ARE NOT RELATED IN ANY WAY TO THE NATIONAL ROLLING POINT STANDINGS.

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 ROC tournament are encouraged.

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

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 and the referee report are not uploaded 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 ROC **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).

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