



Black Card Report – National/Regional Tournament

Recipient Name: _____

Type: _____ Fencer _____ Non-Fencer

Tournament: _____

Penalty Duration, Level Recommendation (By Referee):

Date: _____ Event (ex. DV1MF): _____

☐ Exclusion for Event

☐ Level 1

Round: _____ Pool _____ DEs

☐ Exclusion for Entire Tournament

☐ Level 2

Required - Note Applicable Rule(s): _____

REFEREE REPORT:

REFEREE CHECKLIST:

- ☐ Notified recipient that he/she has received a Black Card
- ☐ Noted the Black Card on the score sheet
- ☐ If rescinded, rationale for rescission of the black card

HEAD REFEREE REPORT:

HEAD REFEREE CHECKLIST:

- ☐ Reviewed the case with the Referee
- ☐ Informed recipient of the penalty
- ☐ Explained implications of penalty, see full policy on following pages
- ☐ Allowed recipient to review this form, or if no longer in the venue properly noted

BOUT COMMITTEE REPORT:

BOUT COMMITTEE CHECKLIST:

- ☐ Briefed by head referee and referee
- ☐ If Event or Tournament Black, ensure recipient has exited venue after review
- ☐ Informed the TC representative of the tournament

Definitions and Policy Description (Signatures required on following page)

Level 1, Standard Black Card: Standard Black Cards are those issued given for disrespect of referees, staff or other official personnel, unsportsmanlike conduct, throwing of equipment, disruptive behavior, issues of safety and other incidents that are neither administrative nor so extreme or severe as to warrant a Level 2 Black Card. Standard black cards shall be recorded and stored in the USA Fencing National Office database and result in a follow-up email from the USA Fencing National Office (with copies to the Ethics Committee and Black Card Review Group), advising the individual that: 1) the black card has been recorded, 2) the individual has been placed on probation for the remainder of the current season plus 12 months, 3) the black card will be reviewed by National Office Staff and Ethics Committee, and 4) an additional Level 1 Black Card received during the probationary period will trigger a review by the Black Card Review Group, which can determine that the repeated violation warrants a Level 2 Black Card sanction of the individual.

Level 2, Severe Offenses: Level 2 Black Cards are those issued for extreme or severe offenses including but not limited to repeated Level 1 offenses, deliberate physical violence, verbal and verifiable threats, and verifiable cheating. (go to next page)



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Level 2 Black Cards may trigger sanctions that could include, but not be limited to, competitive penalties within the Rules of Competition such as temporary exclusion from tournaments for a period of up to two months. Such sanctions will be determined in the first instance by the Black Card Review Group. The Black Card Review Group shall make its initial determination upon written submissions required from the issuing referee and Head Referee or from the Bout Committee, and from any written response thereto that the carded individual may timely submit. Following the initial determination, the individual who received the card shall have the right to request a hearing, as set forth below. In the event a hearing is requested, the Black Card Review Group shall determine whether any tournament exclusion initially imposed shall be stayed pending the outcome of the hearing. As used herein, “individual” shall refer to the parent or guardian of record of any carded individual who is a minor.

Promptly following a determination of the Black Card Review Group that upholds a Level 2 Black Card, the USA Fencing National Office shall transmit a follow-up email to the carded individual (with copies to the Ethics Committee and Black Card Review Group), advising the individual as follows:

1) The black card has been recorded. 2) If applicable, a sanction has been issued and recorded. The sanction(s) shall be described in detail. 3) The offending individual has been placed on probation for the rest of the current season plus an additional 12 months. 4) Any additional black cards received during the probationary period will trigger (i) the offending individual’s removal from the entirety of the tournament in which the subsequent black card was received and (ii) review by the Black Card Review Group for possible additional sanctions. 5) Failure to abide by any sanctions imposed by the Black Card Review Group shall be considered severe misconduct and the violator shall be referred to the Board of Directors for disciplinary action. 6) The individual may, within 5 business days of receiving the follow-up email, appeal the Group’s initial determination via email to the National Office, Ethics Committee and Black Card Review Group. A hearing will then be conducted before members of the Black Card Review Group who meet the requirements for a disciplinary panel as set forth in the Athlete Handbook. If the individual does not demand a hearing, then he or she shall be deemed to have accepted the initial determination. Any hearing demanded by the individual shall be conducted under the procedures set forth in the Athlete Handbook. Following such hearing, the Black Card Review Group members who conducted the hearing shall issue a final determination, which may adhere to the initial determination or may impose measures either more or less stringent. Any suspension of membership privileges shall be subject to Board review as set forth in the Bylaws. The individual shall have rights of appeal according to the procedures set forth in the Athlete Handbook.

Additional Tracking of Rescinded Black Cards

Black cards given and rescinded will be recorded. The referee issuing the rescinded black card, and the Head Referee for the relevant event must each, separately, submit a written report that sets forth in detail: 1) the reason for the initial Black Card, 2) the rationale for rescission of the black card and 3) any disagreement with such rescission. All such reports shall be stored in the Black Card database and available to be reviewed by the Referees’ Commission, National Office and Ethics Committee.

Referee (print name)

Signature Date

Head Referee (print name)

Signature Date

Bout Committee Chair (print name)

Signature Date

National Only: Tournament Committee Rep (print name)

Signature Date

Recipient (print name)

Signature Date