

POLICIES OF THE GEORGIA DIVISION, US FENCING ASSOCIATION

1. The Georgia Division of the United States Fencing Association (hereinafter "Division" and "USFA") shall be operated under the purposes and goals as defined in Division's Bylaws.
2. Division shall abide by the following core values of USFA:
 - A. Sportsmanship
Foremost of all values is to learn a sense of fair play. Become humble in victory, gracious in defeat. We will foster friendship with teammates and opponents alike.
 - B. Respect for the Individual.
Treat all others as you expect to be treated.
 - C. Integrity
We seek to foster honesty and fair play beyond mere strict interpretations of the rules and regulations of the game.
 - D. Pursuit of Excellence at the Individual, Team and Organization Levels
Each member of the organization, whether player, volunteer or staff, should seek to perform each aspect of the game to the highest level of his or her ability.
 - E. Enjoyment
It is important for the fencing experience to be fun, satisfying and rewarding for the participant.
 - F. Loyalty
We aspire to teach loyalty to the ideals and fellow members of the sport of fencing.
 - G. Teamwork
We value the strength of learning to work together. The use of teamwork is reinforced and rewarded by success in the fencing experience.
3. Equipment

Division owns 4 sets of scoring equipment, plus weights and shims, available to any USFA-member club located within Division's jurisdiction, for the purposes of holding a tournament. Any club may request use of this equipment by:

 - A. Submitting a written request to the Tournament Committee Chair that they wish to use the equipment. Such request shall include the name of the club, the dates of use, the purpose of use, and the name of the person responsible for the equipment.
 - B. Depositing \$100 with the Tournament Committee Chair and signing a loaner agreement. Such agreement shall include a detailed list of the equipment to be borrowed, the dates the equipment is needed and the signature of the person responsible for the equipment.
 - C. Returning the equipment to the Tournament Committee Chair, or delivering it to another club at the direction of the Tournament Committee Chair.

- D. Upon receipt of the equipment in good working order, or notification from another club that the equipment has been received in good working order, the Tournament Committee Chair will return the \$100 deposit to the club.
- E. Should the equipment not be returned in good working order, the equipment will be repaired using the monies from the club's deposit. Any excess deposit will then be returned to the club.
- F. Failure to return the equipment in a timely fashion will include, but is not limited to, immediate suspension of club membership in good standing in the Division until such time as the equipment is returned.

4. Tournaments

- A. It is in the Division members' best interest to centralize and control the divisional tournament calendar for the mutual benefit of all its members.
- B. Clubs in and of themselves cannot hold a USFA tournament; they can only host Divisional tournaments on behalf of the Division.
- C. As the clubs hosting the meets are acting on behalf of the Division itself, all agree to abide by common conventions in doing so; these are outlined below.
- D. No divisional fencer will ever be faced with having to choose between two different events at different venues within the Division in the same weapon on the same weekend.
- E. Changes to the season's schedule (once set) can be made, but it is strongly suggested that a four-week notification be given to the Tournament Director and approval obtained.

F. Scheduling

1. The Tournament Director prepares a calendar showing all the weekends available in the season: noted on it for the committee's edification are the USFA's calendar, Regional RYC's, Sectional Championships, SAT weekends, holidays, and as many of the major tournaments of neighboring divisions which are supported by our division's fencers as possible.
2. The JO Qualifiers and USFA National Divisional Qualifier, and the Divisional Championship dates are set. These dates are determined by the Board of the Georgia Division, usually at a meeting immediately prior to that of the Tournament Committee. Other dates of overriding divisional priority such as referee clinics may also be set at this time.
3. Bidding by clubs for dates are begun – this is done in rounds, with each club bidding on a single date per round (a weekend is considered as a single date). Bids should include the actual events being offered in each tournament. Conflicts in dates bid are dealt with via arbitration on a "per round" basis.

4. Rounds continue, on a one-tournament-per-round basis, using arbitration to solve date conflicts, until all clubs are done bidding or all available dates are full (whichever comes first).
5. It is the Tournament Director's job to monitor this progress, checking for equitable distribution of the tournaments by geographics, age, and weapon distribution, seeing if clubs will add events in case there is a too-large time span between youth events, for example, or asking clubs to swap dates if there is too large a gap in geographic distribution of the meets.
6. At the end, the Tournament Committee votes in the annual schedule. All clubs pay their tournament sanction fee before leaving the meeting.
7. The Tournament Director forwards the schedule to the Chair for approval and adoption; the Chair may want additional input from the Board or Executive Committee on this. The Chair then forwards the schedule to the Webmaster and Secretary for posting and distribution.

G. Hosting JO Qualifiers, USFA National Divisional Qualifier, Georgia Division Championships

Any club hosting one of the three Georgia Division-sponsored tournaments shall be entitled to 60% of the net proceeds of such tournament. "Net proceeds" is defined as income less necessary expenses. The cost (travel, per diem) of an armourer at such tournaments shall not figure into the "necessary expenses" and shall be solely borne by the Division.

H. Conventions for Holding Divisional Meets

1. No less than four weeks from the first event, all clubs must provide proof of USFA membership and insurance (whether obtained through the USFA or an independent source) to the Tournament Director.
2. Failure to enforce USFA safety rules (including mask check) will result in the suspension of sanctioning of future events until the Tournament Director is satisfied that the issue has been resolved.
3. All strips will be of legal size; all scoring boxes will be equipped with the latest USFA timing chips.
4. A mask check is mandatory. All safety rules of the USFA will be enforced (underarm protectors, full-length socks, breast protection, etc.).
5. Every effort will be made to maintain the published schedule.
6. Every effort will be made to secure competent referees in numbers needed to guarantee efficient running of the tournament. Over-reliance on refereeing from the pools is especially discouraged.
7. Proof of USFA membership is required of all participants.

8. All results (including USFA membership numbers of all participants) will be forwarded to the Division Secretary within three calendar days of the end of the tournament for purposes of forwarding the results to the USFA. (The USFA accepts results only from Division Secretaries.) Posting of all results, from the pools through the Direct Elimination rounds shall be posted publicly, either on the Georgia Division website or on AskFred.net.

- I. Sanction Fee

1. The Executive Committee has established a tournament sanction fee of \$10 per tournament. Such fee shall be paid by each club hosting a tournament at the annual Tournament Committee meeting.
2. Any club cancelling a tournament no later than 30 days prior to the posted date shall be entitled to a refund. Any club failing to notify the Tournament Director of the cancellation of a tournament at least 30 days prior to the posted date of the tournament shall be liable for such sanction fee, at the discretion of the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director shall notify the Treasurer regarding refunds.
3. Any club taking a vacated date shall immediately remit the tournament sanction fee to the Treasurer. The Treasurer will notify the Division Secretary of the receipt of such fees. The Secretary will not submit any ratings changes to the USFA or post any results in the Division's official publication or on the Division's official website until notified of the receipt of such fees.

4. Miscellaneous

- A. Within 30 days of a Board or Annual Membership meeting, the Secretary shall circulate minutes of such meeting to the Board, make any necessary corrections, and as soon as a consensus of approval is obtained, shall cause the minutes to be posted on the Georgia Division website.