

**NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

**Route 130, P.O. Box 487**

**Robbinsville, N.J. 08691**

**TO:** ATHLETIC DIRECTORS AND FENCING COACHES

**FROM:** Steven J. Timko, Executive Director

**DATE:** December 2009

**RE: BOYS AND GIRLS FENCING GUIDELINES**

**1. THE UNITED STATES FENCING ASSOCIATION (USFA) RULES SHALL GOVERN ALL NJSIAA MEETS WITH THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS:**

- a. **NO fleching is permitted.** A flech is defined as "the crossing of the plane of the front heel by any portion of the rear foot in an offensive situation, regardless of its relationship to any touch."
- b. The length of bouts shall be ordinarily three (3) minutes of "fencing time," with no minute warning.
- c. If at the end of regulation time the score is tied, priority will be determined by a coin toss. ("heads" - fencer on the right, "tails" - fencer on the left), or by the priority function on the scoring machine. One (1) more minute of fencing time is allowed for the scoring of a singleton touch. If no touch is scored in the additional minute, the fencer with priority is declared the winner.
- d. Each team is allowed the thirty (30) second time out with a maximum of 15 for the entire meet, during which interplay between fencer and a coach (or designated person who is not acting as a judge) takes place after the referee has called a "halt" and before play has resumed. Mutual time outs are not permitted. Additionally, 30-second team time-outs will be permitted between rounds.
- e. "S2000" standard sabre blades shall be used.
- f. 500 gram weights will be used for all varsity and tournament foil bouts. 750 gram weights and epee shims will be used for all varsity and tournament epee bouts.
- g. It is recommended that all male fencers wear athletic supporters with cups.

**2. USFA RULES RE-EMPHASIZED**

**a. Safety Rules**

- i. The wearing of a safety plastron for underarm protection is mandatory.
- ii. All female fencers must wear breast protection.
- iii. For the safety of the fencer, no torn or ill-fitting uniforms shall be worn. Sweat pants and jeans will not be permitted.
- iv. Gloves must be worn, and they must overlap the sleeve of the jacket of the weapon hand. USFA specification sabre gloves or over-gloves must be worn for sabre.
- v. Masks with securely fastened bibs of proper length (10 - 12 cm) and backstraps must be worn when fencing.
- vi. All fencers' legs and feet must be covered. Each fencer must cover her/his legs with knee-length socks and her/his feet with sneakers or fencing shoes in good condition.
- vii. All lamès must fit in accordance with USFA rules.

**NOTE: ANY FENCER NOT COMPLYING WITH THE ABOVE RULES SHALL NOT BE ALLOWED TO FENCE UNTIL HE/SHE CONFORMS WITH THE RULES.**

**3. DUAL MEET REGULATIONS**

- a. A meet shall consist of three (3) foil, three (3) sabre, and three (3) epee bouts. Any variation must be by mutual consent and stated in the contract.
- b. No fencer may fence more than one weapon in the same meet.
- c. The order of bouts in a meet shall be three (3) sabre, three (3) foil and three (3) epee, to be repeated three (3) times for a total of twenty-seven (27) bouts. Changes from the above procedure may only be made by the site/home management in the interest of safety.
- d. The visiting team will be given the "1-2-3" straight order of bouts and the home team will follow the "1-2-3" rotation of bouts.
- e. A substitute may only substitute for one fencer, in one weapon, in one position, but the original fencer may be replaced in the match in the same position in the next round.

- f. When either team has established its fourteenth (14th) victory, a substitute may replace two (2) but not three (3) fencers (in the same weapon only) provided the substitute does not meet the same opponent twice. The visiting team has the priority of double substitution.

#### **4. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

- a. **THE HOME TEAM:**

- i. Shall provide fencing strips dimensionally compliant with USFA rules.
- ii. Shall provide a timer, electrical scoring equipment, and a first-aid kit, set up and ready for use. Weights and shims are the responsibility of the home team.
- iii. Shall call the names of competitors and those “on deck” at the beginning of each bout.
- iv. Shall have the score sheets totaled and completed at the end of a meet, and have copies signed by both coaches and the referee. Each school is responsible for maintaining its own records.
- v. Shall contract one (1) referee for each varsity meet. Expenses for officials shall be borne by the home team.

- b. **THE VISITING TEAM:**

- i. Shall bring a complete set of electrical scoring equipment (i.e. scoring machine, reels, floor cables) for each team.
- ii. Shall provide a scorer to check score sheets with the home team scorer.
- iii. Shall have twenty (20) minutes of warm-up time prior to the beginning of the meet.

- c. **EACH TEAM:**

- i. Shall have its fencers “on deck,” ready, and waiting at the strip for their turn.
- ii. Line-ups shall be provided to the official scorer ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled starting time. This shall be accomplished without prior knowledge of opponent’s line-up.

