

BYLAWS OF THE GEORGIA DIVISION OF USA FENCING

Article I Name and Affiliation

The name of the Division shall be the Georgia Division of the United States Fencing Association.

The Division shall hereinafter be referred to as “THE DIVISION”, and the United States Fencing Association shall be referred to as the “USA Fencing.” THE DIVISION is a duly chartered, subordinate, and constituent body of the USA Fencing, exercising powers given by, performing duties directed under, and subject to the **Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and Policies of USA Fencing**, with jurisdiction over the following areas: the State of Georgia.

Article II Objectives

The purposes and objectives of THE DIVISION are:

1. To promote, develop, and encourage the sport of fencing.
2. To provide local competitions and tournaments
3. To assist fencers to reach their full potential.
4. To aid and assist USA Fencing in all its objectives and purposes.

Article III Membership, Dues, and Competitions

SECTION 1. Any person residing within the boundaries of THE DIVISION, or belonging to a fencing club or representing a school within the same area shall be eligible for membership in THE DIVISION. No member of THE DIVISION may be a member of any other division of USA Fencing.

SECTION 2. Classes of membership: Membership shall be the same as that designated from time to time by USA Fencing in Article IV, Sections 1-5 of the USA Fencing Bylaws.

SECTION 3. Membership may be transferred into THE DIVISION, provided that the transferee has a current valid membership in, and receives the approval of, USA Fencing.

SECTION 4. Any member in good standing who is entitled to vote in elections of the USA Fencing is entitled to vote in elections conducted by THE DIVISION.

SECTION 5. Annual dues shall be determined by USA Fencing. THE DIVISION may charge an additional fee for participation in Divisional activities.

SECTION 6. The divisional Executive Committee shall prepare the sanctioned fencing competition schedule and shall determine, in accordance with the rules and policies of USA Fencing, the conditions and restrictions governing the qualifications for, entry into, and conduct of all competitions under its jurisdiction.

SECTION 7. All persons entering a tournament sanctioned by THE DIVISION must be current members of USA Fencing. The bout committee at each such tournament will have the proper materials to enroll a non-member into USA Fencing at time of registration. A check returned for insufficient funds will result in a warning to the fencer. A failure to make the check good, or a second occurrence during the season, will result in that fencer being placed on a “cash only” status. With the exception of disciplinary penalties associated with competitions, all other matters pertaining to the discipline of a member of THE DIVISION shall be referred to the Board of Directors of the USA Fencing for appropriate action.

SECTION 8. The Executive Committee may allow Registered Clubs within THE DIVISION to host Division sanctioned tournaments, but it shall approve the conditions, qualifications and restrictions of all privately and/or club sponsored tournaments before sanctioning such events. In case the stipulated conditions are not being adhered to, the Executive Committee may withdraw its sanction from the event, either before or after, and announce that withdrawal to THE DIVISION and USA Fencing.

Article IV Officers and Duties

The officers of THE DIVISION shall be a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Tournament Chair. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined, in accordance with the USA Fencing bylaws. All officers shall take office at 12:01AM on August 1st and hold office until 12:00 midnight on the following July 31st, or until their successors are elected and qualified.

The duties of officers shall be as follows:

SECTION 1. CHAIR – The Chair shall preside at all meetings of THE DIVISION and/or its Executive Committee, and perform such duties as usually pertain to that office and are not inconsistent with these bylaws. The Chair has the responsibility for ensuring that all reports required by USA Fencing are filed in a timely manner. The preparation of these reports may be

delegated to the Secretary and Treasurer of THE DIVISION. The Chair may, from time to time, assign officers and other members of the Executive Committee to chair standing or ad hoc committees. The Chair shall be an ex officio member of all committees. The Chair is responsible for the custody and maintenance of all equipment owned by THE DIVISION. The Chair shall organize the Division Summer National Qualifier. The Chair shall serve as a liaison to USA Fencing, or delegate the duty as deemed necessary.

SECTION 2. VICE-CHAIR – The Vice-Chair shall, should the Chair be unable to perform his/her duties, perform the duties of the Chair. Otherwise, the Vice-Chair shall perform such duties as the Chair may assign. The Vice-Chair shall act as the liaison for referee communications in ways benefitting referee development. The Vice-Chair shall organize the Division Junior Olympics Qualifier.

SECTION 3. SECRETARY – The Secretary shall conduct all official correspondence, issue timely notice to all members of meetings of THE DIVISION, keep the minutes of all meetings of THE DIVISION and/or its Executive Committee, prepare and submit, when due, all reports as required by USA Fencing, and any other like duties that may be assigned by the Chair or the Executive Committee.

SECTION 4. TREASURER – The Treasurer, in consultation with the Executive Committee, shall present a budget for the following fiscal year (August 1st to July 31st) at the Annual Meeting of THE DIVISION. Changes made upon the budget shall be presented at the next general meeting of THE DIVISION. The Treasurer shall keep the accounts of THE DIVISION; receive all monies, fees & dues; pay all bills approved by the Executive Committee, and preserve all vouchers for such disbursements. The Treasurer shall, at the Annual Meeting of THE DIVISION, submit a report of the financial transactions of the preceding period. All disbursements shall be made from the Divisional checking account. Such disbursements must be supported by receipts stating the nature of the transaction and the payee. All funds of THE DIVISION shall be maintained in a federally insured account, checking and savings, under the name of THE DIVISION. The Treasurer will provide, upon written request of at least ten voting members of THE DIVISION, current financial records within one month of such request. The Treasurer shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Chair of the DIVISION or other proper authority.

SECTION 5. If needed, the offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined for any year by a majority of those voting, in person or by proxy, at the Annual Meeting.

SECTION 6: Tournament Committee Chair. Establishes and maintains the Divisional schedule including all required Division-sponsored and Division-sanctioned tournaments. Assists in the

reporting of the classification changes and officials' report of Division-sponsored tournaments to the Secretary. Collect all fees assessed by the Executive Committee from Division-sponsored or Division-sanctioned tournaments and remit such fees to the Treasurer.

SECTION 7: Directors: There shall be two additional directors, elected at large at the Divisional Annual Meeting. They shall have voting rights and shall perform such duties as directed by the executive committee.

SECTION 8. Officers of THE DIVISION may be removed for cause upon the petition of one or more voting members of THE DIVISION. The Board of Directors of the USA Fencing may prescribe procedures for removal that provide the accused officer with notice of the asserted grounds for removal and due process during removal proceedings. If the Board of Directors or the Bylaws of the US Fencing fail to adopt such procedures, the US Fencing Board of Directors may remove an officer of THE DIVISION if it finds there is cause for such removal; after notice to the accused officer and a hearing or other appropriate proceeding in which that officer was accorded due process rights.

SECTION 9. Officers and other elected members of the Executive Committee may be recalled through the following procedure: (a) A petition submitted to the Executive Committee, signed by at least 10% of the eligible voters in THE DIVISION, eligible voters being defined by the US Fencing guidelines, requesting a Special Membership Meeting to be held for the sole purpose of holding a recall vote. (b) At that meeting, two-thirds of those voting either in person or by proxy approve such recall. (c) Time, place and notification requirements of such a meeting shall be determined as set forth in ART.VI, Sec.2 of these bylaws.

Article V

Management by the Executive Committee

SECTION 1. Composition: The management of THE DIVISION shall be vested in an Executive Committee consisting of the officers of THE DIVISION, and such other members who have been elected at the Annual Meeting. No one may hold office and/or be a member of the Executive Committee unless he or she is a current voting member of THE DIVISION. Members of THE DIVISION in good standing, with special expertise, may be appointed by the Chair as advisors to the Executive Committee, but these individuals will not have voting privileges.

SECTION 2. Quorum: A quorum shall consist of one-third of the voting membership of the Committee or 4 members, whichever number is larger. No voting by proxy is permitted.

SECTION 3. Meetings: Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held on a regular basis at a time and place designated by the Chair. Meetings may also be called upon the written request of 4 voting members of the Committee. All members must receive at least 48 hours prior notice of all Executive Committee meetings. If all members of the Committee have access to the Internet, then certain specific questions or proposals may be voted upon electronically. All balloting must be copied to every member of the Committee, and the Secretary must keep a printed copy of the vote for the Division records.

SECTION 4. Member Removal: Any member of the Executive Committee (other than officers, for whom provision is made in ART. IV, Sec. 9 above) who fails to perform his or her duties may be removed from the Committee by the following procedures: (a) Written notification of the causes for removal must be provided to each and every member of the Executive Committee. (b) At any meeting at which the removal of a member (officers excluded) will be contemplated, at least three-fourths of the total voting membership of the Committee must be present. (c) A member so charged has the right to appear at the meeting and present arguments against removal, but may not vote on this question. (d) At least three-fourths of the members present must vote for removal for it to take effect.

SECTION 5. Member Replacement: The Executive Committee may replace a member who has resigned, has been removed by the foregoing procedure, or removed by USA Fencing using the following method: (a) At any Executive Committee meeting where a new member is to be voted upon, at least three-quarters of the voting members remaining must be present. (b) The proposed new member must be approved by a three-fourths vote.

Article VI

Meetings of the Membership

SECTION 1. The Annual Meeting of THE DIVISION shall be held in conjunction with the Summer National Qualifier. The date, time, and place of the meeting shall be designated by the Chair, but notification must be communicated to all members of THE DIVISION so as to be received at least 15 days prior to the meeting. Officers and members of the Executive Committee for the next year will be elected at this meeting. All members of the Executive Committee take and leave office concurrent with the terms of the officers of THE DIVISION.

SECTION 2. Special meeting of the membership may be called at any time and place by the Chair, and shall be called by the Chair upon written request of not less than 10% of the eligible voters of THE DIVISION.

SECTION 3. A quorum shall consist of 10 voting members in person or by proxy, and a majority of those present shall control, except as herein otherwise provided.

SECTION 4. In the case of an act of God such as but not limited to natural disasters, and pandemics or rules of government that make it dangerous or impossible to hold a meeting in person; the use of video/telephonic conferencing systems can be substituted for in person attendance to divisional or called meetings of the division. A decision by a quorum of the executive committee will be used to make this decision. Any person attending through a conferencing system, having been a verified USA Fencing member with voting rights, will have all nominating and voting privileges as if attending in person. As well, they will be counted towards the quorum of voting members.

SECTION 5. No less than 3 days prior to a meeting, any member of the division may request the use of video conferencing to attend a divisional or called meeting. The request must include the reason for the inability to attend in person. Consideration for travel time, illness of self or family are examples that should be considered. If this request is made all proxies by said person will become void for that meeting. Any person attending through a conferencing system, having been verified as a USA Fencing member with voting rights, will have all nominating and voting privileges as if attending in person. As well, they will be counted towards the quorum of voting members.

Article VII Elections

SECTION 1. Candidates for all voting positions on the Executive Committee (including officers) shall be nominated from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

SECTION 2. Members eligible to vote and in good standing may give their proxy to any other member of THE DIVISION who is eligible to vote and in good standing. All proxies shall be in writing and must be submitted for verification to the Secretary at least 72 hours in advance of the Meeting. All proxy votes attempted to be submitted past the 72 hour notice will not be held valid. The person designated in the proxy must be in attendance at the Meeting in order to exercise it. THE DIVISION proxy form can be requested from the Secretary, or can be accessed via the DIVISION website.

SECTION 3. If not more than one nomination is made for a position, the Secretary of THE DIVISION shall cast a unanimous ballot for that candidate. If two or more candidates are nominated for a position, then a vote will be taken by a written ballot, in person or by proxy, and the candidate receiving a majority of the votes will be elected. If no candidate receives a majority, then a run-off election (again by written ballot) between the two candidates with the highest vote totals will be immediately conducted. If neither candidate can still achieve a majority, or the result of the runoff election should end in a tie, then a lot shall be cast and the winner elected.

SECTION 4. If Article VI, Section 4 has been found to be necessary; all proxies previously submitted under Article VII section 2 will be honored in person or through conferencing.

Article VIII

Jurisdiction of the USFA

All rules, regulations, and policies set forth in the Bylaws of USA Fencing, the Rules of Competition, the USA Fencing Operations Manual, or actions of the USA Fencing Board of Directors are hereby incorporated into these bylaws without action by the Executive Committee or the membership of THE DIVISION. In the event of conflict between these bylaws and the bylaws, rules and policies of USA Fencing, the latter shall take precedence and the former shall be considered amended accordingly.

Article IX

Amendments

These bylaws of the Georgia Division may be amended at the Annual Meeting of THE DIVISION, or at any special meeting of the membership called by the Chair for that purpose. Any proposed change to these bylaws must be included in the mailed notification of time and place of the Meeting. An amendment receiving a majority of the votes cast, either in person or by proxy, shall be deemed adopted, subject to the provisions of ART. VIII.

