

## **POLICIES OF THE GEORGIA DIVISION OF USA FENCING**

The Georgia Division of USA Fencing (hereinafter “Division”) shall be operated under the purposes and goals as defined in the Division’s Bylaws (Bylaws of the Georgia Division of USA Fencing).

The policies stated within this document serve to guide the Division’s membership towards a better understanding the Division’s rules, procedures, and programs.

The Division shall abide by USA Fencing’s core values as follows:

- 1. Excellence**
- 2. Respect**
- 3. Teamwork**
- 4. Inclusion**
- 5. Passion**

The Division shall abide by USA Fencing’s mission statement:

***“To grow and promote the sport of fencing in the United States, honor its rich traditions, and achieve sustained competitive international excellence.”***

The Division’s purpose (as stated in Article II of the Bylaws) includes the following:

- 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.**

As such, the policies stated within this document are in line with the Division’s purpose.

The classifications for the policies shall fall into the following categories:

- 1. Tournaments**
- 2. Referee Development**

## **Tournaments**

Tournaments are a central point to carrying out the Division's duties to its membership. Not only does it foster the core values, competition serves as one of the main avenues to sustain the competitive spirit of the sport.

Tournament policies can be further broken down into subcategories:

1. Tournament Scheduling
2. Tournament Operations
3. Tournament Hosting
4. Tournament Fees

### Tournament Scheduling

It is in the Division's best interests to centralize and agree to a set divisional tournament calendar to provide an efficient resource for the membership. No divisional fencer will ever have to choose between two or more different events at different venues within the Division in the same weapon category on the same weekend. This works in the whole membership body's best interests.

The tournament scheduling process is as follows:

1. The Tournament Committee Chair will prepare a calendar that shows all the weekends available in the season. The calendar will have marked on it any Region 6 events (RYC, RJCC, ROC, SYC), SAT/ACT weekends, holidays, and the major tournaments of neighboring divisions that the Georgia Division membership has supported in the past.
2. The Junior Olympics (JO) Qualifiers, USA Fencing National Divisional Qualifier, and the Divisional Championship are then set. These dates are predetermined by the Board of the Georgia Division, usually at a meeting prior to the Tournament Committee meeting. Any referee clinics that would take precedence over divisional tournaments can also be set at this time.
3. Bidding by clubs for dates are done in this round. The process for bidding is as follows:
  - a. Each club bids on a single date in rounds. A weekend is considered a single date for the intents and purposes of this bidding. Each bid includes the events offered during each tournament. Conflicts in dates and scheduling will be dealt in arbitration through the Tournament Committee Chair's guidance.
  - b. The clubs continue bidding in the aforementioned "rounds" style. The bidding continues until all the clubs' bids are satisfied or the dates are filled, whichever comes first. Once again, any date conflicts are to be solved using arbitration under the guidance of the Tournament Committee Chair.

- c. The Tournament Committee Chair will monitor the bidding process, making sure that there is an equitable distribution of the tournaments by geography, age, and weapon distribution. For example, the Tournament Committee Chair may ask clubs to add events if there is a large gap in time between youth events or ask clubs to swap dates if there is too large of a gap in the geographic distribution between tournaments. The Tournament Committee then votes on the finalized tournament calendar and schedule. Each club will be required to pay the tournament sanctioning fee during this time.
- d. After the Tournament Chair approves the adoption of the tournament calendar and schedule, the Chair will then forward the schedule to the Webmaster and Secretary for distribution to the Division.

### Tournament Operations

The conventions for operating divisional tournaments are as follows:

1. Between the release of the Division's Tournament calendar and schedule and four weeks from the first event, all clubs must provide proof of USA Fencing membership and insurance (whether obtained from USA Fencing or an independent source) to the Tournament Committee Chair.
2. Failure to enforce USA Fencing safety rules and standards (including the mask check) will result in the suspension of the sanctioned status of future divisional events run and operated by that club until the Tournament Committee Chair is satisfied that issue has been resolved.
3. All strips must be of legal size: at least 1.2 meters wide and 14 meters long, with adequate runoff for regional events. Strips must conform to FIE rules regarding, length, width, and placement of the scoreboard for national events, when applicable. An official diagram can be found on the USA Fencing website in the Operations Manual.
4. A mask check is mandatory and all USA Fencing safety rules will be enforced. This includes maintaining the presence and usage of underarm protectors, full-length socks, chest protection, etc.
5. Every effort will be made to maintain the published schedule.
6. Every effort will be made to secure competent referees in the numbers needed to ensure efficient running of the tournament.
7. Proof of USA Fencing membership is required of every participant.
8. A means to register new USA Fencing members should be present at each tournament.
9. The Classification Change report and the Officials report including USA Fencing membership numbers of all fencers and referees listed, as well as SafeSport and Background Check information for referees shall be completed, signed and forwarded to the Division Secretary within three (3) calendar days of the end of the tournament. The Division Secretary will then forward the reports of the tournament to USA Fencing. All

results, from pools through the direct elimination rounds, shall be posted publicly, on AskFred.net.

### Tournament Hosting

Any club hosting one of the three Georgia-Division sponsored tournaments (JO Qualifiers, USA Fencing National Qualifiers, and Georgia Division Championships) shall be entitled to 60% of the net proceeds of such tournament. Net proceeds is defined as income less necessary expenses. The cost of an armorer, including travel and per diem, shall not figure into the “necessary expenses” and shall be solely borne by the Division.

### Tournament Fees

The tournament sanctioning fee is as follows:

1. The Executive Board has established a tournament sanctioning fee of \$10 per tournament. This fee shall be paid by each club intending to host a tournament at the annual Tournament Committee meeting.
2. Any club cancelling a tournament no later than thirty (30) days prior to the posted date shall be entitled to a refund. Any club failing to notify the Tournament Director of the cancellation at least 30 days prior to the posted date of the tournament shall be liable for the tournament fee and may be refused a refund at the Tournament Director’s discretion. The Tournament Director will notify the Division Treasurer of any refunds.
3. Any club occupying a vacated date (due to cancellation) must immediately remit the tournament sanctioning fee of \$10 to the Treasurer. The Treasurer will then notify the Division Secretary of the receipt of such fees. The Secretary will hold the submission of all results of the tournament (including ratings changes) to USA Fencing and will refrain from posting any results in the Division’s official publication venues until notified of the receipt of such fees.

## **Referee Development**

In the interest of the development of a more competent referee base, the Division will host a Referee Seminar. This seminar will be limited to 10 eligible referees and will focus on the bettering in quality of refereeing services provided at Georgia Division events.

The seminar will differ from a typical referee clinic in that

1. No referee ratings will be awarded at the seminar
2. The seminar will be more interactive in that there will be no paperwork or lectures, only direct observation and feedback.

The structure of the seminar is as follows:

1. Up to 10 eligible referees will attend the one-day seminar.
2. The seminar fee will be \$30 per attending referee. This covers the cost of the Observer.
3. Clubs will be asked to volunteer fencers for the use of the seminars. The volunteering fencers are guaranteed a lunch provided by the Division as well as ample fencing time.
4. Referees will be observed by the Observer as the volunteer fencers are engaged in bouts.
5. The Observer will provide direct feedback to the referees about their refereeing. The advice and improvements will be tailored to real life situations that arise in bouts that typically cause confusion to the average referee.
6. Lunch will be provided by the Division.

The referees in attendance will be able to take the knowledge gained from the seminar and implement the newly learned skills at coming Division events and improve the experience for all Division members.