



Frequently Asked Questions

*More detailed answers to your questions are available in the Athlete Handbook which is available free to download on our website, or printed from our office for a fee.

General Questions

Q: How can I contact the US Fencing Association?

A: Email: info@usfencing.org
Phone: 719-866-4511
Fax: 719-632-5737

Mailing Address: U.S. Fencing Association
1 Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

Q: Your fax is busy, not working, etc., what should I do?

A: Keep trying. The fax receives an incredible volume of paper around a deadline. Yours is just one among the hundreds that are being sent. If you are entering a tournament, and if you do not wait until the last minute to send your entry, you will be more successful. ***Remember to always request confirmation of receipt by including a confirmation of fax receipt to be faxed back, or by enclosing a self-addressed-stamped postcard to be returned as confirmation of receipt!***

Q: I am having trouble contacting someone in the office.

A: Please leave a message on that person's voice mail. Be patient. Your call will be returned. We have 20,000 USFA members and 9 people working in the office. Please do not call everyone else in the office and leave messages for them also. That will lead to multiple phone calls back to you, after your question has been answered. This is frustrating for you and those returning your calls.

Q: I need to talk to someone in the office, and I cannot reach him or her.

A: The person you are trying to reach may be in a meeting, or away from his or her desk for the moment, or most likely, on the phone with someone else. Please leave a message on that person's voice mail. Be patient. Your call will be returned.

Q: The information on my membership card/data correction form is incorrect.

A: Please either return the data correction form by fax or mail, or contact us at the email address above.

Q: Can I change clubs/divisions mid-season?

A: The US Fencing Operations Manual states the following: *When you renew your membership in the USFA, you must state the Division for the year and the one from which you must qualify to Championship tournaments. Within the same fencing season, no fencer may represent in competition more than one club without special permission of the Board of Directors.*

Q: I have lost my membership card, how do I get a new one?

A: Please contact us at the phone number or email address above. There is a fee of \$10 to replace the card.

Q: How can I get more information on fencing?

A: Please visit us on the web at www.usfencing.org

Q: How can I get more information on fencing in my area?

A: Please visit our website at www.usfencing.org. Under the ***Info for Members*** link you may select ***Clubs and Divisions***, which will give you the option of selecting your state from a map of the USA. You may then visit your Division's website for local schedules and information. Please note that clubs are individually owned and operated and we cannot recommend one club over any another.

Competition Questions

Q: Can I register online?

A: Not yet. We are working on some legal issues involved in online registration. As soon as those issues have been resolved, we will initiate online registration.

Q: How do I sign up for a National tournament?

A: If you do not already have an entry form, download the entry form at our website; fill it out; send it to the USFA National Office with payment. If you are unable to download the entry form, or do not have Internet access, please contact us at the phone number or email address above, and we can fax or mail you an entry form to be filled out and returned.

Q: What about smaller, regional events? Where do I get schedules and results for these?

A: Please visit the website for your Section or Division. Links to these sites may be found on our website, www.usfencing.org.

Q: Did you get my entry?

A: This is a popular question, especially around deadline time. You can answer this question yourself by including a confirmation of fax receipt to be faxed back, or by enclosing a self-addressed-stamped postcard to be returned as confirmation of receipt. When you get that confirmation of receipt; you will know that we have received your entry/application. **Note that our stamped confirmation or confirmation letter for that tournament is the only acceptable proof of receipt. Confirmation letters should be brought to registration at each tournament.**

Q: Do you know the start times for [fill in the blank] tournament?

A: As soon as we know these, they are posted on our website. If they are not posted, we have yet to receive them from the Tournament Committee. Questions about this process may be referred to Tournament Services.

Q: I haven't received my confirmation for [fill in the blank] tournament?

A: Chances are it is in the mail en route to you as you are reading this. If you are concerned that there may have been an error in the process, please contact us at the phone number or email address above. We would be happy to send you another packet via fax or email.

Q: Am I or is my son or daughter eligible for [fill in the blank] tournament?

A: Eligibility requirements for each tournament are clearly printed on the entry forms and in the Athlete Handbook, which is available free to download on our website, or printed from our office for a fee. Further questions about eligibility for international competitions should be referred to Corinne Greenman. Further questions about eligibility for national competitions can be directed to Christine Strong Simmons.

Q: Do I need to qualify to fence in a North American Cup (NAC)?

A: You need to meet the age and eligibility requirements for the tournament that you wish to enter. These requirements may be found on the second page of the NAC entry form.

Q: How can I fence in the Junior Olympics?

A: In order to fence in the JO's you must qualify. Qualification paths are listed in the Athlete Handbook

Q: How can I fence in the Summer Nationals?

A: In order to fence in the Summer Nationals you must qualify. Qualification paths are listed in the Athlete Handbook.

Q: When is the deadline for [fill in the blank] tournament?

A: Tournament deadlines are printed on each entry form as well as posted on our website.

Q: Can I enter the tournament after the deadline?

A: Late entries will be accepted until two weeks prior to the tournament (exact date will be listed on the entry form) with late fees. Late fees are equal to triple the total amount due – event fees **plus** registration fee **times** three. Entries will not be accepted after the final late entry deadline.

Q: Can I petition/appeal to enter [fill in the blank] tournament?

A: Yes, you can petition/appeal to enter USFA championship tournaments with the exception of the Division I Championships (this tournament is by invitation only.) Petition/appeal information is available in the Athlete Handbook.

Q: What is a classification?

A: A classification is a letter from A to E (with A being the highest) that is earned in competition. The classification reflects the skill level of a fencer. A classification includes the letter assigned as well as the year in which it was last earned, for example "A02", which would be an A earned in 2002. Classifications are valid for four years, at which point they revert to the next lowest letter, or unclassified, "U", if the classification has not been re-earned within the four-year period. Cards printed for updated classifications are free of charge.

Q: How can I earn a classification?

A: You can earn a classification at most USFA sanctioned National, Regional, or Local tournaments. USFA sanctioned means that the National Office, a USFA Section, or a USFA Division is conducting the tournament. You can view the event requirements for awarding classifications in the Athlete Handbook.

Q: Why hasn't my classification changed?

A: We haven't received the results from that tournament. The division needs to send us the results for verification, and then we will change it. **We change classifications only when we have official results justifying the change.**

Need more information?

Visit our website www.usfencing.org for the Athlete Handbook, information, forms and more FAQ's!