TO: ATHLETIC DIRECTORS AND FENCING COACHES

FROM: Larry White, Executive Director; Jack DuBois, Assistant Director

DATE: December 2019

RE: BOYS AND GIRLS FENCING GUIDELINES

1. THE USA FENCING RULES SHALL GOVERN ALL NJSIAA MEETS WITH THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS:

   a. **Modified flechig is permitted.** Crossover rule: During foil and epee between the command of “fence” and the end of the action, a fencer is allowed to cross their feet/legs moving forward once per fencing phrase and/or in the commission/manifestation of a touch. Consecutive crossovers are forbidden and penalized as a first group offense (ie yellow/red/red) and any touch scored by the offending fencer is annulled (NO running attacks). Follow through after the touch is scored with subsequent steps the fencer is allowed to safely leave the strip. This rule is applied similarly to “touch while falling.” If a person is falling during an attack, his/her action which lands is annulled. If a person is falling during an attack is parried, then his/her opponent must land a valid riposte, provided is starts prior to the “halt.” Special note: This new rule is not to be confused with any rule currently used for saber. It does not have the same application.

   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. The opposing team may also confer during this time out. Additionally, 30-second team time-outs will be permitted between rounds.

   e. “$2000” standard sabre blades shall be used.

   f. All dual meets will be contested with scoring machines with 2016 timing labels.

   g. 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.

   h. It is recommended that all male fencers wear athletic supporters with cups.

   i. The host coach is responsible for having a current USA Fencing rule book and these rules available at all matches. These are the rules followed for all NJSIAA sanctioned competitions.

   j. Where USA Fencing rules state the words “team captain,” this will be the coach or designee (school board certified).

   k. Multiple Meet: Is more than one dual meet involving more than two teams at one site on the same date.

2. USA FENCING 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. In foil, plastron/underarm protector must be OVER any plastic chest protector. THE FIE HOMOLOGATED PADDED CHEST PROTECTORS MUST BE USED BY WOMEN FOILISTS IF MEN FOILISTS USE HARD PROTECTORS, THEY ALSO MUST BE FIE HOMOLOGATED.

      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. THE 800 NEWTON SABER GLOVE IS REQUIRED FOR ALL FENCERS

      v. Masks with securely fastened bibs of proper length (10 - 12 cm) and back straps must be worn when fencing.

      vi. While it is recommended that the new FIE back strap be implemented, it is mandatory that a second strap be used with the Leon-Paul exchange mask.
vii. 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.
viii. All lamès must fit in accordance with USFA rules.

The New FIE mandated chest protectors for foil will be adopted for the 2019-2020 season.

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 bouts of each match have to be fought in the following order: 1-4 2-5 3-6 2-4 3-5 1-6 3-4 1-5 2-6. The visiting team will be given the "4-5-6" 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.
g. Dual Meet: A three-weapon meet between two teams, each having three fencers in each of the three weapons for a total of nine fencers. Each of the fencers of one weapon squad will meet each of the fencers of the other weapon squad in one bout, for a total of nine bouts. A dual meet conducted on one strip unless otherwise agreed upon by the coaches. The order of fencing is three bouts sabre, three bouts foil and three bouts épée until all 27 bouts are fenced. The same procedure is followed for each weapon squad for a total of 27 bouts.
h. Bout Commenced Out of Order: If a bout is fenced out of order, it should be moved to the proper place in the bout order. If a bout is started but not completed when the error is detected, the bout shall be completed and moved to the proper place in the order. For example, if the bout is supposed to be 3-5 but 1-5 fences by mistake, you put the result in where the 1-5 bout is supposed to be, and then go back and fence 3-5.

4. GENERAL REGULATIONS

a. THE HOME TEAM:
   i. Shall provide fencing strips dimensionally compliant with USFA rules including a 1 or 2 meter run off space.
   ii. Shall provide a timer, electrical scoring equipment, and a first-aid kit, set up and ready for use.
   iii. Weights and shims are the responsibility of the home team.
   iv. Shall call the names of competitors and those “on deck” at the beginning of each bout.
   v. 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 paid by the home team.

b. THE VISITING TEAM:
   i. Shall bring a complete set of electrical scoring equipment (i.e. 1 scoring machine, 2 reels, 2 floor cables, 1 50 foot extension cord, 1 socket splitter or power strip) for each team (for either girls or boys 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.

b. 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.