

Fencing

Section 1 Rules United States Fencing Association Rules shall govern all NJSIAA meets.

Section 2 Start of Practice Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 6.

Section 3 Start of Regular Schedule Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 8.

Section 4 End of Season Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 10.

Section 5 Transfers A student who transfers after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date for each sport, regardless of whether the transfer was the result of a bona fide change of residence, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school.

NJSIAA FENCING REGULATIONS FOR ALL COMPETITIONS

Schools not willing or able to comply with all tournament regulations should not enter any competitions.

A High School Fencing Team consists of a minimum of 9 active, dressed, single gender fencers who are enrolled in grade 9 through 12 in the same high school or in an approved cooperative high school. Of the 9 fencers, a minimum of two fencers must be armed, outfitted, and available to fence in each of the three disciplines, saber, foil and epee.

Start of Practice: Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 6; Monday after Thanksgiving (Tryout Period – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before Thanksgiving)

Start of the Regular Competitive Season: Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 8; **Friday, December 17, 2021**

End of Season: Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 10.

Transfers: A student who transfers after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date for each sport, regardless of whether the transfer was the result of a bona fide change of residence, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school

Championship Eligibility: A student competing on an interscholastic fencing team must have been officially entered in their District Championship to be eligible to compete in NJSIAA Championships (Team or Individual). Under extraordinary circumstances a fencer not able to compete in the District Championships may petition NJSIAA to compete in Squad or Team championships (Petitions will be denied to fencers who opt to participate in national, regional, or non-NJSIAA competition in conflict with NJSIAA championships).

1. **NCAA fencing rules along with any NJSIAA modifications shall govern all NJSIAA meets.** Visit <http://www.ncaa.org/championships/national-collegiate-fencing> (Reference Pre-Championships Manual)
2. The host coach is responsible for having a current USA Fencing Rule Book (<https://www.usafencing.org/usa-fencing-rule-book>) on site. These are the rules followed for all NJSIAA sanctioned competitions, subject to changes and additions or deletions mandated by the NJSIAA. (See: Rule #1 above)
3. Where USA Fencing rules state the words “team captain,” this will be the coach or designee (School Board certified).

4. All teams entering a NJSIAA tournament must be accompanied by a certified coach or certified faculty member from their respective school who is directly responsible for the team. Coaches must check-in their fencers and be present for the entire competition.

Equipment and Uniform

1. The wearing of a safety plastron for underarm protection is mandatory.
2. It is mandatory that all female fencers wear breast protection. In foil, a plastron/ under arm protector must be worn OVER any plastic chest protector. The use of FIE homologated padded chest protectors is mandatory for women foilists. If men foilists use hard chest protectors, their protector must also be homologated and padded as per FIE regulation.
3. For the safety of the fencer, no torn or ill-fitting uniforms shall be worn. Sweat pants and jeans will not be permitted.
4. A fencing glove must be worn on the weapon hand, and its cuff must overlap the sleeve of the jacket. A USA Fencing-specification 800 newton sabre glove or over-glove must be worn for all saber competitions.
5. Masks with securely fastened bibs of proper length (10 - 12 cm) and back straps must be worn when fencing.
6. While it is recommended that the new FIE back strap be attached to existing masks, it is mandatory that a second strap be added to the Leon-Paul exchange mask.
7. 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.
8. All lamès must fit in accordance with USA Fencing rules.
9. "S2000" standard sabre blades shall be used.
10. 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.
11. Fencers not complying with equipment and uniform rules will not be allowed to fence until he/she conforms.

COMPETITION RULES

- A. All bouts will be fenced with electrical equipment.
- B. All meets will be contested with scoring machines marked with 2016 timing labels.
- C. Each fencer must have at least two (2) working electrical weapons and two (2) working body cords with him/her at each bout.
- D. For ALL meets (dual meets, District championships, Individual championships) each school MUST bring one complete set of working electrical scoring equipment, including a 50' multiple tap extension cord, weights, shims, and a stopwatch (if necessary) for each foil and/or epee squad

entry. It is the responsibility of the team coach to obtain or borrow said equipment. All equipment must be clearly labeled with the school's name.

- E. The length of bouts shall ordinarily be three (3) minutes of "fencing time," with no "one minute" warning.
- F. Each bout will be fenced in USA Fencing regulation time. 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.

PENALTIES

1. Any school failing to provide the required functioning scoring equipment defined in Rule #D above, may be disqualified at the Tournament Director's discretion if the missing equipment causes a delay in conducting the tournament.
2. The failure of a foil or epee squad to be able to provide the appropriate weight, shims, and stopwatch (if necessary) will result in a squad yellow card. Any subsequent issuing of a yellow card to an individual fencer of that squad will result in a red card against that fencer.
3. A school or individual arriving after the close of check-in can be disqualified from the competition immediately, at the Tournament Director's discretion
4. Any bout fenced with an ineligible fencer (i.e. a fencer not on the Team Roster submitted to the District Bout Committee at check-in) will be voided, and any victory awarded to the opponent.
5. Fencers should only fence in their pools in their designated position (e.g. "A" strip, "B" strip, or "C" strip). No credit will be given for any bout fenced in the wrong position as presented to the district/ squad Bout committee at check-in. Fencing in the wrong position will result in a 0-0 defeat for the offending fencer. Any subsequent violation will result in that squad's elimination from the tournament, and the subsequent loss of any win-loss records for both the squad and its individual members. The bout order will be fenced C-C, B-B, A-A.
6. Score sheets are official once they are signed by a squad-designated responsible party and upon the subsequent submission of the white copy of the score sheet to the Bout Committee. NO score changes will be made after the submission of the white copy to the Bout Committee. The yellow copy of the score sheet is given to the winning squad, the pink copy to the losing squad.
7. Any school or contestant who fails to appear for the State Championships (Team or Individual) after having qualified at the District championships will be subject to appropriate penalties enforced by the NJSIAA and further can be barred from participation in all NJSIAA sponsored Championships, at all levels (i.e. the District and State Championships) the following year, unless extraordinary circumstances caused such unforeseen withdrawal. A fencer and /or his team who opts to participate in national, regional, or other non-NJSIAA competition in conflict with the NJSIAA championships, including postponements, is subject to this penalty. Competition in a non-NJSIAA competition does not constitute extraordinary circumstances.
8. Black card policy/disqualification. Any Student-Athlete or coach disqualified by the official present before, during or after an interscholastic event for unsportsmanlike and/or flagrant verbal or physical misconduct will be disqualified from the next two (2) regularly scheduled varsity meets or State-designated tournaments in the interim at any level, in addition to any other

penalties which the NJSIAA or a league/conference may assess. Once a coach/player has been disqualified NO appeals will be honored from the player, coach, official or any other party. Disqualification is a judgement call and officials must be certain the misconduct in question warrants disqualification. All complaints against an official must be directed to the official's State governing body and the NJSIAA. The following is provided for reference. If there is any discrepancy between this and the NJSIAA Rules and Regulations, the latter document shall prevail.

9. The NJSIAA will impose a late fee if an entry forms are received after the published due date or sent to the wrong address.

COACHES

Only one (1) Board-approved coach for each squad will be credentialed. Tournament Directors/referees will disqualify any school that is accompanied by someone in a coaching capacity who is not properly certified in accordance with NJSIAA regulations and appointed by their respective Board of Education. A properly appointed coach will thereafter be subject to the Rules and Regulation -- Rule 2, Section 11 – Out-of-Season Practice. If a substitute coach is used, written authority from the school's Principal must be presented.

OFFICIATING

Direct all inquiries regarding refereeing to marilyn.bellantoni@gmail.com

No person who is directly or indirectly associated with a school should act as an official in the same bout in which a participant from the school is competing.

All officials must be registered with the NJSIAA via ZebraWeb to be eligible to officiate ANY level of high school contests the NJSIAA governs. All officials must register for each sport each year.

All officials must have paid the appropriate registration fees based on their current level. All NJSIAA payments must be paid through ZebraWeb, which includes both the registration and the background check fees.

All officials must consent to a yearly background check and pay the background check fee. The background check is required yearly and includes all NJSIAA sponsored HS sports. Inactive officials are not required to have background checks.

All background checks will expire in June on the day of the last NJSIAA event regardless of when your background check was submitted.

All registered NJSIAA officials are considered independent contractors and not employees of the NJSIAA.

NJSIAA DUAL MEET REGULATIONS

Dual meet: A three-weapon meet between two HS teams, each having three (3) fencers in each of the three weapons for a total of nine competitive fencers. Each of the fencers of a weapon squad will meet each of the fencers of the same weapon squad of the competitive school in one bout, for a total of nine (9) bouts per weapon. A gender-specific dual meet must be conducted on one strip unless otherwise agreed upon by both head coaches.

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

Quad Meet: Three (3) separate competitions at one site on the same date. (4 schools)

1. A meet shall consist of three (3) foil, three (3) saber, and three (3) epee bouts. Any variation must be by mutual consent of the coaches involved
2. No fencer may fence more than one weapon in the same competition. In multiple/quad meets fencers can switch weapons, between, but not during, a dual meet.
3. The order of bouts in a meet shall be three (3) saber, 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 can only be made by the home AD with the agreement of the opposing coach(s). Only changes in rotation due to time constraints or of safety considerations are acceptable.
4. 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.
5. **Substitutions.** A substitute may only substitute for one fencer, in one weapon, in one position, but the original substituted fencer may be re-inserted in the match in his/her original position in the following round.
6. **Injury withdrawal and replacement.** In the case of a bona fide injury, a substitution must be made immediately, and the injured fencer shall not be eligible to return for the remainder of the competition (however note: that each dual meet and interscholastic squad encounter is considered a separate competition). If the bout has already commenced, the substitute will assume the score and the bout will be fenced to completion. The result will be credited to the substitute, and not the original fencer. If the team is unable to provide a substitute, the bout is over. If the opponent is ahead at that time, the final score will be what it was at the time of the withdrawal and shall count towards each athlete's individual record. In all other cases, the score of the bout shall be V0/D0, and any such forfeit victories shall not count towards either athlete's individual record but the victory will be credited to the Team with the remaining, available fencer. Any bout unable to be fenced because neither team has an available athlete shall not count towards either team's score.
7. **Timeouts.** Each team is allowed thirty (30)-second time outs, 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 (counted against the 30 limit) will be permitted between rounds.
8. **Double substitution.** When the winning 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.

9. **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 has not been 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.

THE HOME TEAM:

1. Shall provide fencing strips dimensionally compliant with USA Fencing rules including a 1.5 meter run off space on each end of the strip.
2. Shall provide a timer (if necessary), electrical scoring equipment, reels properly connected and a first-aid kit, set up and ready for use. Weights and shims are the responsibility of the home team.
3. Shall call the names of competitors and those “on deck” at the beginning of each bout.
4. 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.
5. Shall contract one (1) referee for each gender at all varsity meets. Expenses for officials shall be paid by the home team.

THE VISITING TEAM:

1. Shall bring a complete set of electrical scoring equipment (per Competition Rules, pg 6, rule D) It is the responsibility of the team coach to obtain or borrow said equipment. All equipment must be clearly labeled with the school’s name.
2. Shall provide a scorer to check score sheets with the home team scorer.
3. Shall have twenty (20) minutes of warm-up time prior to the beginning of the meet.

EACH TEAM:

1. Shall have its fencers “on deck,” ready, and waiting at the strip for their turn.
2. 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. Team rosters are available for download into Fencing Time for NJ High Schools at <http://bit.ly/SantCetr>.

POST-DUAL MEET RESULTS REPORTING

Per NJSIAA requirement, all schools must report dual meet scores within 24 hours to www.njschoolsports.com . If you encounter any problems, please contact hssupport@njadvancemedia.com