

# Amateur Fencers League OF AMERICA.

## FENCING RULES.

ADOPTED OCTOBER 14th, 1891.

1. The competition shall be conducted by three judges for each bout, whose decision shall be final, and without appeal.

2. The English language only shall be spoken by the judges during the competition.

3. At the command of any of the judges, contestants must take the first position and lower their weapons.

4. Each contestant shall fence a bout with every other contestant.

5. Each bout shall be for an aggregate of five (5) touches, each touch to count one point.

6. The judges may award to each contestant in each bout a maximum of  $\frac{5}{100}$  of a point for defense,  $\frac{5}{100}$  of a point for attack, and  $\frac{10}{100}$  of a point for general good form, or any part thereof. This method of judging is based upon the idea that the contest is intended as an exhibition of skill as well as the securing of touches. The award shall be determined by the average of the points thus allowed by the judges.

7. Touches shall count only when made upon the body, within the limits bounded by the collar of the fencing jacket, the median line, the hip, and a



line drawn from the hip to the posterior limit of the armpit, around the front of the arm and along the crest of the shoulder to the collar.

8. Whenever a touch is made outside the limits, and it is evident to the judges that it would have been good if the adversary had not made an illegal movement, it shall count.

9. A touch is of no value when the point is twisted on to the body after the slap of the foil.

10. A touch, whether fair or foul, stops the riposte.

11. The competitor attacked must take the parry; stop thrusts to count in favor of giver, provided he be not touched himself. If both be touched simultaneously, the count shall be credited to the one who lunged. If both lunged, neither counts.

12. The judges must stop a corps-à-corps as soon as made.

13. A disarmament is of no value. A touch *immediately* following a disarmament counts.

14. Each contestant shall fence with the same hand throughout the bout.

15. The contestant scoring the highest aggregate of points shall be declared the winner, the next highest second, and so on.

16. A point scored from a thrust started with the elbow behind the body (jab thrusts) shall not count.

17. Each competitor shall wear a dark fencing jacket, so that white chalk marks can be easily seen.

18. Contestants shall fence within a marked space not more than 20 feet long and 36 inches wide. Should any part of a contestant's foot extend beyond the boundary line, a point shall be deducted from his final score for each offense.

19. Foil blades shall not be more than 34 inches in length.



## DUELING SWORD.

The dueling sword competition shall be governed by the same rules as the foil competition, with the exceptions that a touch on any part of the adversary counts and the limitation of space shall not hold. The diameter of the bell guard shall not exceed 5 inches, and the blade shall not be more than 34 inches long.

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## SABRE.

The sabre competition shall be governed by the same rules as the foil competition, except that a cut or thrust on any part of the body above the hip shall count.

Sabre blades shall not be more than 33 inches long.



## Rules Governing Competitions.

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1. A Championship meeting shall be held annually, at such time and place as may be designated by the Executive Committee of the A. F. L. A.
2. Division meetings shall be held at such time and place as may be designated by the Division Committee. Each Division shall hold a meeting at least one month prior to the National Championship, which shall be considered a preliminary to the Championship meeting.
3. No fencer shall be eligible to enter the National Championship (except as provided in Rule 4 following) unless he shall have attained a score of at least 50 per cent. of the possible number of points to be obtained at such preliminary meeting.
4. All fencers that have averaged 50 per cent. or over at the finals of the preceding year shall be privileged to fence for Championship honors without qualifying in the preliminaries.
6. The judges and scorers shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and a record kept of all fencers scoring 50 per cent. and over at Championship meetings.
7. At the Division contests (preliminaries), the judges and scorers shall be appointed by the Division Committee, and a list of all fencers qualifying in the preliminaries, properly endorsed by the Division Committee, shall be transmitted to the Secretary of the League within ten days after such meeting.
8. If the number of entries in any preliminary shall exceed twelve, the contest shall rest as soon as each competitor shall have fenced twelve bouts. The individual scores shall then be made up, and every competitor whose score shall reach 50% of the possible number of points, shall be then declared eligible to enter in the finals.

Added Nov 28  
1891