

1893 RULE BOOK

FOIL

1. The competition shall be conducted by a jury of 3 or 5 experienced fencers for each bout, who shall select a referee from among their number, and 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. Each judge, without consulting with his fellow judges, may award to each contestant in the bout a maximum 50/100 of a point for defence, 50/100 of a point for attack, and 50/100 of a point for general good form, or any part thereof. The award shall be determined by the average of the points thus allowed by the judges. 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.
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. A touch on any of the boundary lines shall count.
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 illegitimate movement, it shall count. An illegitimate movement is one by which the adversary seeks to avoid a touch within the limits prescribed by purposely presenting some other part of his body to the point.

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 invalidates the riposte.
11. The competitor attacked should parry: if a stop thrust be made it shall only count in favor of the giver, provided it be perceptibly in advance of the touch made by the attacking party.
12. The judges must stop a corps-a-corps as soon 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 suit, so that white chalk marks can be easily seen.
18. Contestants shall fence within a marked space twenty feet long and thirty-six inches wide. Should any part of a contestant's foot extend beyond the boundary line, 50/100 point shall be deducted from his final score for each offence. When a contestant oversteps a boundary line, the judges shall stop the bout and start the contestants again in the middle of the marked space.
19. Foil blades shall not be more than 34 inches in length.

RULES GOVERNING COMPETITIONS May 2, 1893

1. A Championship meeting shall be held annually, and 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 55 per cent, of the possible number of points to be obtained at such a preliminary meeting.
4. Medal men only of the preceding year shall be privileged to fence for championship honors without qualifying in the preliminaries.
5. The judges and scorers shall be appointed by the Executive Committee, and a record kept of all fencers at Championship meetings.
6. 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 of such meeting.
7. A contestant may claim a point, but shall not be allowed to enter into other conversation during the bout.