

# **FENCING RULES ADOPTED**

## **MARCH 12, 1895**

### **FOILS**

Foil competitions shall be conducted by three or five judges for each bout who shall be experienced Amateur Fencers, selected from different clubs, if possible, and whose decision shall be final and without appeal.

Each contestant shall fence a bout with every other contestant.

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

Any judge upon seeing a touch shall stop the bout, and thereupon a vote shall be taken. A touch shall be awarded only upon the agreement of a majority of the judges.

Neither the judges nor the contestants shall discuss the touches made or claimed, nor shall any comment be made upon them.

Foil tips shall be chalked merely to aid the judges in arriving at a decision; a chalk mark is not conclusive evidence of a touch.

Each judge shall make a record of the touches as they are made, and at the close of the bout may award to each contestant three points, or any fraction thereof, for general good form, he shall then sign his record and hand it to the Scorer. The judges shall not disclose to one another their awards.

The Score shall be the average of the points thus awarded. 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.

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 the body to the point of the weapon.

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

A touch whether fair or foul invalidates the riposte.

After a touch, fair or foul, the contestants shall come back to guard in the middle of the marked space.

The competitor attacked should parry; if a stop thrust be made it shall only count in favor of the giver, provided he be not touched at all.

The Judges must stop a corps-a-corps as soon as made.

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

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

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

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

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

Contestants shall fence within a marked space twenty feet long and thirty-six inches wide, with a mark plainly indicating the centre. Should any part of the contestants foot extend beyond the boundary line, one-half of a 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.

Foil blades shall not be more than thirty-four inches in length.

## DUELLING SWORDS

Duelling sword competitions shall be conducted by three or five judges for each bout, who shall be experienced Amateur Fencers, selected from different clubs, if possible, and whose decision shall be final and without appeal.

Each contestant shall fence a bout with every other contestant for an aggregate of three touches. Each touch shall count one point.

A judge, upon seeing a touch, shall stop the bout, and thereupon a vote shall be taken. A touch shall be awarded only upon the agreement of a majority of the judges.

Neither judges nor contestants shall discuss the touches made or claimed, nor shall any comment be made upon them.

Sword tips shall be chalked merely to aid the judges in arriving at a decision; a chalk mark is not conclusive evidence of a touch.

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

A touch on any part of the adversary counts.

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

If both contestants are touched by simultaneous lunges, the judges shall deduct one-quarter of a point for each offence from each contestant.

The diameter of the bell-guard shall not exceed five inches, and the blade shall not be more than thirty-four inches long. Each competitor shall wear a dark fencing suit and dark gloves.

## SABRES

Sabre competitions shall be governed by the same rules as the foil competitions, except that a cut or thrust on any part of the body above the hip shall count, and the limitation of space shall not hold, nor shall the dark fencing suit be obligatory.

Sabre blades shall not be more than thirty-three inches long, nor less than one-half inch wide at the heel and tapering to not less than three-eighths of an inch at the tip.

## RULES GOVERNING COMPETITIONS

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.

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 two weeks prior to

the National Championship, which shall be considered a preliminary to the Championship Meeting.

No fencer shall be eligible to enter the National Championship (except as provided in Rule 4 following), unless he shall have attained a score in foils, swords, and sabres, of at least 55 percent, of the possible number of points to be obtained at such meeting.

Medal men only of the preceding year shall be privileged to fence for championship honors without qualifying in the preliminaries.

The judges and scorers shall be appointed by the Executive Committee, and a record kept of all fencers at Championship meetings.

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 seven days after such meeting.