

FENCING RULES

Adopted at a General Meeting,
May 22, 1899

Foil competition shall be conducted by three, five or seven judges (one of whom shall act as director) for each bout, who shall be experienced Amateur Fencers, selected from different clubs, if possible, and whose decision shall be final and without appeal. There shall also be a timer, who shall time the bouts in accordance with rule three.

Each contestant shall fence a bout with every other contestant.

Each bout shall consist of four minutes actual fencing, and contestants shall change positions after two minutes.

Contestants shall come on guard, in the middle of the space, at the command of a judge.

Each judge shall make his award without consulting his fellow judges. The majority vote of the judges shall decide the winner of the bout, to whom shall be given one point.

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 part of the boundary lines shall count.

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.

A touch whether fair or foul invalidates the riposte.

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

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.

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

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

Competitors shall wear white fencing jackets. The jacket of each competitor must be covered with chamois or buckskin within lines described where touches count. (see rule 5)

Contestants shall fence within a marked space twenty feet long and thirty-six inches wide, with a mark plainly indicating the middle. When a contestant oversteps these limits a judge shall stop the bout; and the director shall start the contestants again in the middle of the marked space.

Foil blades shall not exceed 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 as 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.

SABRE

1. A bout shall be for a total of seven touches, each touch to count one point. In addition, the judges may award any part of three points for form, to each contestant.

Sabre blades shall not be more than thirty-three inches long.

The jury shall have the power to prohibit the use of any unusual guard, which may give a competitor an advantage over his adversary.

SINGLE STICKS

Rules for single sticks shall be the same as for sabres with the exception that no touch nor cut below the knee shall

count. There shall be no limitation as to floor space. The length of the stick shall not exceed forty inches from peg-hole to top.

RULES GOVERNING COMPETITION

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 60 per cent. of the possible number of points to be obtained at such a meeting.

A medal man of preceding years shall be privileged to fence for championship honors without qualifying in the preliminaries, provided he has not been defeated at any intervening championship.

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.

No National Competition shall be held with less than five judges.

A junior is a fencer who has never won a prize in a competition open to more than one organization.

W. Scott O'Connor, Sec'y
53 Broadway, New York
January 15, 1900