

FENCING RULES

Adopted at a General Meeting, May 18, 1904

FOILS

Foil competition shall be conducted by three or more judges (one of whom may 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, except when the total number of entries for finals exceeds seven, in which case semifinals shall be held. The contestants shall be divided by lot into sections of from four to six each, and the two highest men in each section shall meet in the finals.

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 final award without consulting his fellow judges, taking into account the general bearing of the competitors, the number and value of the touches and the general form shown in defence and attack.

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.

When 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 of the weapon.

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 judge **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 clean white fencing jackets. The jacket of each competitor must be covered with chamois within lines described where touches count. (see rule 5)

Contestants shall fence within a marked space of twenty feet long and thirty-six inches wide, with a mark plainly indicating the middle.

When a contestant oversteps the limits a judge shall stop the bout and each judge shall award a touch to the opponent of the man overstepping these limits, and the director shall start the contestants again, in the middle of the marked space.

Should a competitor seek to evade the point of the attacking weapon by movements inconsistent with good form (such as corps-a-corps, ducking or dodging) the judges may award a touch to his opponent.

Foil blades shall not exceed thirty-four inches in length. Contestants should acknowledge all touches in an audible voice. A persistent failure to do so is an offense against form and shall be considered by the judges in making the final award.

DUELLING SWORDS.

1. Duelling sword competitions shall be conducted by three or more 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 one touch. 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 contestant 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 receiving the lowest number of touches shall be declared the winner, the next lowest 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 is valid.

If both contestants are touched simultaneously, the judges shall declare a touch against each man. If however, it is clear to the majority of the judges that one touch is PERCEPTIBLY ahead of the other, the touch shall be considered good.

The diameter of the bell-guard shall not exceed five and a quarter, (5 ¼), and the blade shall not be more than thirty-four (34) inches long.

Each competitor shall wear a dark fencing suit and a dark glove.

SABRE

Competitions with sabres shall be held before a jury of three or more judges, one of whom may act as Director. Sabre blades shall not exceed 33 inches in length; shall not be less than 5/8 inches in width at the base, tapering to half an inch at the point.

Each bout with sabres shall last for four minutes, contestants changing positions at the end of a two minute period. The Directors shall place the contestants on guard. Contestants shall cross blades in the middle of the strip, and at the word of command, shall step back one pace before beginning the assault. Each judge shall make his award without consulting his fellow judges, taking into account the general bearing of the competitors, the number and value of touches, and the general form shown in defense and attack.

The man attacked must parry, and each judge may award two touches to that contestant whose attack is met with a counter attack without parry, thus causing a double touch.

A cut or thrust on any part of the body above the hip shall count.

Contestants shall touch blades and retreat one step after each touch, whether valid or not.

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

When more than three teams compete, all fencing with the same weapons, they shall be drawn in pairs. Team No. 1 meeting No. 2 and the winner shall meet the winner of the contest between Teams No. 3 and 4, etc. No team shall be entitled to more than one bye.

Before all competitions the judges shall inspect the weapons and costumes of all contestants, and disqualify those whose equipment violates any of the rules.

DEF. A Novice is a fencer who has never won a prize in any open competition.

A junior is a fencer who has neither won a first prize in an open competition, save in a novice class, nor a place in national championship.

ADMISSION TO ALL A.F.L.A. CONTESTS FREE TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE.

W. Scott O'Connor, Secretary
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