



DATE: **February 1, 2007**

TO: Division/Section Chairs and Secretaries

FROM: Christine Strong Simmons, United States Fencing Association

SUBJECT: Qualifying Information for the 2007 Summer National Championships

The forms for reporting the results of Qualifying competitions for the 2007 Summer National Championships are attached. These forms must be used to report the full results of each qualifying competition with all the details requested and returned to the National Office immediately after the qualifying competitions and no later than **May 8, 2007 for Division Qualifying Forms and May 15, 2007 for Section Qualifying Forms (BOD 9/06)**. By submitting the forms promptly we can process the entries from your Division/Section in a timely manner. **Summer Nationals entry forms cannot be processed without the qualifying report forms from the appropriate division/section.**

A list of automatically qualified athletes (based on the Point Standings, the athlete's finish at the 2006 Summer Nationals, participation in an NAC for Veterans and Y10/Y12, or participation in a RYC/SYC for Y10/Y12 fencers) will be posted on the USFA Website and updated monthly. **If a fencer becomes an automatic after the qualifying competition, it does not affect the results of the qualifying competition.** The attached qualifier memo should be distributed to the athletes who qualify for the Summer Nationals Championships. You will also find general tournament information, and excerpts from the Athlete Handbook. Take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the enclosed information (**especially the Division II/III & Team changes from the September USFA Board Meeting**) so you can answer questions from your members. Please contact the National Office if you need any further information or explanation of the qualifying procedures.

There are **NO alternates** for any competition at the USFA Summer Nationals Championship tournament.

Classifications can be awarded at a Division/Section Summer Nationals qualifying competitions and must be noted on the qualifying report form. Cadet and Y14 events must be C1 or greater for a classification to be awarded. (See the attached Classification Chart).

The last day classification changes can be submitted to the USFA National Office is Friday, June 1, 2007 to be reflected in the 2007 Summer Nationals.

The USFA office will verify eligibility, membership, and the accuracy in determining the number of qualifiers in each event.

Organizers for the Division/Section qualifying competition must arrange to have at least one referee with a rating of five or higher at the qualifying tournament. For more information on referee ratings, please visit the FOC website at: www.fencingofficials.org.

An athlete is permitted to fence in the *qualifying competitions of the Division/Section* reflected in his/her current USFA membership only IF:

- 1) The athlete is a U.S. citizen OR permanent resident of the United States and a current competitive member of the USFA **And**
- 2) The athlete's birth year falls in that age bracket **OR**
- 3) **The athlete is on the national rolling point standings in the next younger age bracket.**
 - a. Example: For a fencer, born 1995, to be eligible to fence in the Division's Cadet qualifying competition, the fencer must be listed on the current Youth 14 point standings. Current is defined as the point standings at the time of the qualifying competition.
 - b. Example: For a fencer, born 1995, to be eligible to fence in the Section Junior qualifying competition the fencer must be listed on the current Cadet point standings. Current is defined as the point standings at the time of the qualifying competitions.

SUMMER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Fencers must be U.S. citizens OR permanent residents of the United States and current competitive members of the USFA who **MUST** meet qualification standards specified for each category to enter the USFA Summer Nationals Championships.

Any fencer who is not a citizen or is a permanent resident who has represented another country in the last three years and who has not yet been granted permission to represent the USA is not eligible for any USFA National Championship competition, individual or team, including Division and Section qualifying competitions. A foreign fencer who is in the US on a visa is NOT eligible to fence in any National Championships, individual or team, or associated Division or Section qualifying competitions. On the USFA membership list and membership card a foreign fencer is designated with an asterisk after their first name (*). If you have conflicting information about whether a fencer is foreign, contact the USFA at (719) 866-3609.

Fencers must have a USFA "Competitive Member" card with an expiration date of 7/31/07 or later. Automatic qualifiers will be posted on the USFA Web site and updated monthly.

NRPS stands for National Rolling Point Standings, which can be viewed on the US Fencing website, www.usfencing.org.

In determining the number of qualifiers, the number of competitors is the total number of fencers who competed in the qualifying competition who are eligible to fence in the Championships. Once the number of qualifiers is determined, those who have already qualified to the Championships in that event (athletes determined to be automatic qualifiers) are skipped in determining those who have become qualifiers in that competition. For example, if there are 20 competitors in the qualifying competition, of which four have already qualified for that particular championships event, those four are skipped in determining the five qualifiers from that competition. Example: If the ones who have already qualified are 1st, 3rd, 6th, and 7th, then the qualifiers are those who have placed 2nd, 4th, 5th, 8th and 9th.

TABLE 2-2: NUMBER OF QUALIFIERS FOR SUMMER NATIONALS CHAMPIONSHIPS

# Competitors	1	2	3-12	13-16	17-20	21-24	25-28	29-32	33-36	37-40	41-44	45-48
# Qualifiers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

(BOD, 10/03)

An athlete is permitted to fence in their Division or Section Qualifying competitions for Summer Nationals IF:

- The athlete's birth year falls within the corresponding age bracket and/or classification **OR**
- The athlete is on the national rolling point standings in the next younger age bracket

**DIVISION I-A
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Fencers must be born no later than **1993 AND**

- Place in the top 25% (with a minimum of 8) at the 2007 Senior Section Championships **OR**
- Placed in top 8 at the 2006 Division I-A National Championship **OR**
- Placed in top 4 at the 2006 Division II National Championships **OR**
- Be the current 2007 Under – 19 Section Champion

**UNDER-19
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Fencers must be born between 1988 and 1994** **AND**

- Place in the top 25% at the 2007 Under-19 Section Championships **OR**
- Be on the Junior (Under –19) point standings as of May 1, 2007 **OR**
- Be in the top 16 of the Cadet (Under – 16) point standings as of May 1, 2007

**DIVISION II
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Fencers must have a classification in the weapon of "C", "D", "E", or Unclassified at the time of the qualifying competition **AND** born no later than **1993 AND**

- Place in the top 25% of the 2007 Division Qualifying competition (BOD, 9/06)
- Qualifying Criteria Changed From 2006 Championships *

**DIVISION III
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Fencers must have a classification in the weapon of "D", "E", or Unclassified at the time of the qualifying competition **AND** have been born no later than **1993 AND**

- Place in the top 25% of the total number of "D", "E" or "U" fencers competing in the 2007 Division's Division II Qualifying competition (when Division II and Division III qualifying competition is held together) **OR**
- If separate Division III qualifying competition is held by the Division, then the top 25% of the field will qualify for Division III National Championships
- Qualifying Criteria Changed From 2006 Championships *

**UNDER-16
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Fencers must be born between 1991 and 1994** **AND**

- Be on the Under-16 point standings as of May 1, 2007 **OR**
- Place in the top 25% of the Division's U – 16 qualifying competition **OR**
- By Board action, any fencer who has qualified for the Under-19 National Championships becomes an automatic qualifier for the Under-16 Championships (BOD, 10/04) **OR**
- Be in the Top 8 of the Youth 14 point standings as of May 1, 2007

**YOUTH 14
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Fencers must have been born between 1992 and 1995** **AND**

- Be on the Youth 14 point standings as of May 1, 2007 **OR**
- Place in the top 25% of the Division Youth 14 Qualifying competition **OR**
- By Board action, any fencer who has qualified for the Under-19 National Championships becomes an automatic qualifier for the Under-14 Championships (BOD, 10/04)

YOUTH 12 OPEN Fencers born between 1994 and 1997 **AND**

- Fenced in one Regional Youth Circuit or one Super Youth Circuit in the 2006-2007 season in the age and weapon category (categories) in which the athlete requests entry acceptance **OR**
- Be on the Youth 12 point standings as of May 1, 2007
- * Fencer must state on the Summer Nationals Entry Form the competition(s) at which he or she fulfilled the requirement. Failure to do so will be basis for rejection of the entry. *

YOUTH 10 OPEN Fencers born between 1996 and 1999 **AND**

- Fenced in one Regional Youth Circuit or one Super Youth Circuit in the 2006 -2007 season in the age and weapon category (categories) in which the athlete requests entry acceptance **OR**
- Be on the Youth 10 point standings as of May 1, 2007
- * Fencer must state on the Summer Nationals Entry Form the competition(s) at which he or she fulfilled the requirement. Failure to do so will be basis for rejection of the entry. *

VETERAN

Any current competitive member born 1966 or earlier who has competed in

- 2007 Section Championships **OR**
- 2007 Division qualifying competition for Division II and/or Division III Championships {only those with a "C" classification or lower (D, E, or U) may compete} **OR**
- Any NAC During the 2006-2007 season
- * Fencer must state on the entry the competition by which he or she complied with qualification criteria and which Veteran Event/Age Group they are entering. *

TEAM
CHAMPIONSHIPS

# Clubs	2	3	4 to 5	6 to 10	More than 10
#of Qualifiers	2	3	4	5	6

- Based on the number of different USFA Member Clubs represented at each of the 2007 Division's Senior Team and U19 Team qualifying competitions. There are no Composite Teams allowed at the Qualifier or Summer Nationals.
- Members of the Senior Team must be born no later than 1993 (no classification requirement)
- Members of the U19 Team must be born between 1988 and 1994
- There are no Composite Teams at the Summer National Championships.

ELITE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

DIVISION I
CHAMPIONSHIPS

Fencers must be born no later than 1993 **AND**

- Be on the National Senior point standings on May 1, 2007 **OR**
- Be in the top 8 of the Junior (U-19) point standings on May 1, 2007 **OR**
- Be in the top 4 of the Cadet (U-16) point standings on May 1, 2007 **OR**
- Placed in the top 8 in the 2006 Division I-A National Championships **OR**
- Placed in the top 4 in the 2006 Division II National Championships **OR**
- In men's epee and women's epee – be one of three athletes named by the U.S. Modern Pentathlon Association

WHEELCHAIR: **Open Event for Wheelchair Athletes**

USFA CLASSIFICATION REFERENCE CHART

COMPETITION	MINIMUM COMPETITORS	CLASSIFIED FENCERS REQUIRED	CLASSIFIED FENCERS MUST FINISH	CLASSIFICATIONS AWARDED
GROUP E1	6	NONE	N/A	1 → E
GROUP D1	15	NONE	N/A	1 → D 2-4 → E
GROUP C1	15	2 C's & 2 D's & 2 E's (or higher)	2 C's & 2 D's (or higher) in top 8	1 → C 2-4 → D 5-8 → E
GROUP C2	25	4 D's & 4 E's (or higher)	4 D's (or higher) in top 8	1 → C 2-4 → D 5-8 → E
GROUP C3	64	24 D's & 12 E's (or higher)	4 D's in top 8 & 4 E's (or higher) in top 12	1-4 → C 5-8 → D 9-16 → E
GROUP B1	15	2 B's & 2 C's & 2 D's (or higher)	2 B's & 2 C's (or higher) in top 8	1 → B 2-4 → C 5-6 → D 7-8 → E
GROUP B2	25	2 B's & 2 C's & 2 D's (or higher)	2 B's & 2 C's (or higher) in top 8	1 → B 2-4 → C 5-8 → D 9-12 → E
GROUP B3	64	24 C's & 12 D's (or higher)	4 C's in top 8 & 4 D's (or higher) in top 12	1-4 → B 5-8 → C 9-16 → D 17-32 → E
GROUP A1	15	2 A's & 2 B's & 2 C's (or higher)	2 A's & 2 B's (or higher) in top 8	1 → A 2-4 → B 5-6 → C 7-8 → D
GROUP A2	25	2 A's & 2 B's & 2 C's (or higher)	2 A's & 2 B's (or higher) in top 8	1 → A 2-4 → B 5-8 → C 9-10 → D 11-12 → E
GROUP A3	64	24 B's & 12 C's (or higher)	4 B's in top 8 & 4 C's (or higher) in top 12	1-4 → A 5-8 → B 9-16 → C 17-24 → D 25-32 → E
GROUP A4	64	12 A's & 12 B's & 12 C's (or higher)	4 A's in top 8 & 4 B's (or higher) in top 12	1-8 → A 9-16 → B 17-24 → C 25-32 → D 33-48 → E

Division I NAC and National Championships are always Group A4 competitions.

Division I-A National Championships are always at least Group A3 competitions.

Division II NAC and National Championships are always at least Group B3 competitions.

Division III NAC and National Championships are always at least Group C3 competitions.

Changes in classifications are allowed at USFA sanctioned individual competition restricted to Veterans and to Junior fencers: Division, Section and Regional Youth and Cadet competitions must meet or exceed criteria for C1 to award changes in classification. (BOD, July '02, July 03)

United States Fencing Association National Championship Appeal Procedure

In exceptional cases, subject to approval by the USFA Executive Committee, a member of the USFA in good standing may be permitted to qualify to the Junior Nationals Championships or Summer National Championships by appeal. No petition may contravene the results of a qualifying competition – a fencer who has fenced in the competition without withdrawing due to valid medical reasons cannot then petition to disregard or override those results.

The following criteria and procedures are applicable to filing an appeal.

- An appeal may be filed by a fencer who qualified (by means of competition or appeal) to that same competition in the prior season or whose competitive record during the current fencing season indicates a strong possibility that (s)he would have qualified had (s)he been able to compete in the qualifying competition **but:**
 1. Was unable to compete in the qualifying competitions this season, **OR**
 2. Did compete and had to withdraw because of a disabling injury or illness.

(Note: Mere attendance at an out-of-town school during the qualifying competition shall not constitute inability to compete.)

All appeals must be made in writing to the Director of National Events, USFA National Office, 1 Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5774. Such appeals **are to be filed within five business days** following the competition at which the petitioner could have qualified.

- Relief from this deadline will be granted only when the specific qualifying competition is held less than two weeks prior to the entry deadline. Under no circumstances will petitions be accepted if received after the entry deadline for the Championships.

The appeal must be accompanied by:

1. A non-refundable fee of \$40.00, payable to the USFA.
2. A written statement that gives the specific details of the dates, reason for absence or withdrawal, and other pertinent facts. Written notice from the attending physician and/or statement from the Bout Committee must substantiate any medical reasons if the medical reason required withdrawal from the qualifying competition.
3. A summary of the fencer's significant competitive results during the past year. In particular, results in previous National Championships and recent North American Cup competitions should be noted.
4. Evidence that a copy of the petition has been submitted to the Chair or Secretary of the Division or Section that hosted the qualifying competition. If the basis for the petition does not correspond with information available to the Division or Section officer, then the USFA expects the officer to so notify the national office in writing. =

5. A completed entry form for the competition with the correct registration and entry fees. If the petition is not approved, these fees associated with the entry will be refunded.
6. A fax back sheet for reply to the appeal if athlete does not have a current e-mail address; otherwise responses to the appeal will be made by e-mail.

Petitions that do not meet these requirements will not be considered.

Decisions on petitions will be based upon the validity of reasons given for absence or withdrawal and the probability that the fencer would have qualified had (s)he competed in the qualifying competition to its conclusion, based on results achieved in other competitions.

If a fencer is permitted to enter a National Championship competition by this appeal procedure, the fencer's entry will in no way affect the number of qualifiers from the Division or Section involved.

Appeal Checklist

(Additional documentation may be requested by the USFA)

- Non-refundable petition fee of \$40.00**
- Letter from the athlete outlining the reason for the appeal with a summary of significant competition results during the last year**
- Copy of the letter sent to a Division/Section Officer notifying them of the Appeal**
- Letter from a physician if the petition is for medical reasons (*if needed*)**
- Letter from the Bout Committee Chair if a medical withdrawal occurred during the qualifier (*if needed*)**
- Email address or fax back sheet for reply to the appeal**
- Appeal submitted within five business days of the qualifier**
- Championship Entry form and payment**

If your petition is incomplete, it will be returned to you unprocessed. Summer Nationals Petitions are processed in 3-5 weeks.

**United States Fencing Association
Summer National Championships
Athlete Information Packet**



- HOTEL:** For All USFA Hotel Reservations:
Contact Tournament Housing Services (THS)
The Official Housing Company of US Fencing
Reservations by Phone: 888-536-TEAM (8326)
Reservations Online: www.thsweb.com
- VENUE:** Miami Beach Convention Center Hall C
1901 Convention Center Drive
Miami Beach, FL 33139
- RENTAL CAR:** Avis Car Rental
(AWD) B740999
- AIRLINE RESERVATIONS:** United Olympic Desk - (800) 841-0460
Polk Majestic Travel- (866) 481-2209
- ENTRY FORM / Information:** www.usfencing.org

Date: _____

Name: _____

Division/Section of Fencer: _____

Congratulations, you have qualified for the USFA Summer National Championships in Miami Beach, Florida for the following events:

In order to participate in the Summer National Championships, you must fill out and send the separate Summer National Entry Form to the USFA National Events office. If the entry form is not available at this tournament, you may obtain an entry form through the U.S. Fencing office: by phone at (719) 866-4511, by email christine.simmons@usfencing.org or ashley.razo@usfencing.org, or download from the U.S. Fencing website: www.usfencing.org.

This form does not constitute notification to the USFA of your qualification status. Send in your Entry Form.

Congratulations and good luck.

Verified By: _____
Bout Committee

NOTE: All qualifying forms are checked for accuracy in determining the number of qualifiers and who are the qualifiers. If a discrepancy is discovered the Division/Section will be notified by the USFA Office. The Division/Section will then notify the fencers involved.

The regular fee Summer Nationals entry deadline is May 18, 2007. Late entries will be accepted from May 19, 2007 - June 1, 2007, **with a payment of triple the regular fees.** No entries accepted after June 1, 2007, under any circumstances.

The final day to submit classification changes that will be reflected at the Summer Nationals is Friday, June 1, 2007. Classification changes received after that day will be documented but will not be usable at the Summer Nationals.

The 2007 USFA Summer National Championships will be held June 29 – July 8, 2007 at the Miami Beach Convention Center in Florida.

You must be a US citizen or permanent resident who is eligible to represent the United States at international competitions. If you have represented another country in international competitions and have not received approval from the FIE to represent the United States, you are NOT eligible to fence in any USFA National Championships.