

PIFA LEAGUE RULES

(Revised NOV 2011)

Structural

1. The purpose of this fencing league is to help the youth of the Pittsburgh area develop as student-athletes by fostering the ideals of teamwork, school spirit and fair play through the promotion of interscholastic competition in the sport of fencing.
2. The league is a group of high school fencing clubs/teams not directly affiliated with any other fencing body.
3. USFA rules of the competition year will be adhered to with the exceptions in the document below
4. A Match consists of nine individual round-robin bouts, between two teams.
 - a. A team will consist of 3 starting fencers and 1 alternate fencer
 - b. A winner is declared as soon as one team has achieved five victories
 - c. From the team a captain and assistant captain are to be assigned.
 - d. Alternates may replace only 1 fencer from the original team who then may return to the match at a later time only in place of the alternate.
 - e. In the event that the Match is decided before 9 bouts have been fenced the remaining bouts are to be finished.
 - 1 These bouts will permit free substitution from anyone listed on the roster.
 - 2 These bouts will not be counted towards Playoff Seeding
5. During a season there will be three categories of competition.
 - a. Men's Foil
 - i. A men's team must have at least 2 men in its lineup
 - ii. May have women in its lineup
 1. any bout fenced with a woman should be allowed to continue but will be counted as a forfeit
 - b. Women's Foil

- i. A women's team must have at least 2 women in its lineup
 - ii. May have men in its lineup
 1. any bout fenced with a man should be allowed to continue but will be counted as a forfeit
 - c. Mixed Epee
 - i. Epee teams must have at least one fencer of each sex in the starting lineup, and no substitutions may be made until the fourth bout of a mixed epee match.
6. All teams will fence on a predetermined amount of regular-season match dates.
 - a. All matches are to be fenced on weekday evenings.
 - i. Teams will fence the other teams in a conference an agreed upon number of times.
7. At the end of the regular season, the top team in each of the league(s) (boys'/girls') will earn the league title and its accompanying trophy.
8. All matches will be conducted using electric scoring equipment provided by the host team and/or other teams in the league (at the host team's request).
 - a. Should additional scoring equipment be required, it will be rented from the Western PA Division of the USFA at the current rental rate for member clubs.
9. Each team shall submit a roster of all the active competitive fencers in their clubs.
 - a. All fencers on a team's roster must be enrolled in the school whose teams they are fencing for.
 - b. Any bouts fenced by a fencer who is not on a team's roster will automatically be forfeited
 - c. The roster will be due 1 week before the first official match date set for that club
 - i. Any roster changes will be due 1 week before each competition or on the match date preceding the match date where the change would take place.
 - ii. if a team does not submit any roster changes in time for a competition the most recent roster will be used
10. All fencing teams must ensure that the school officially recognizes their organization.

Eligibility

1. Student

- a. All participants must be enrolled with in the school or live in the district in which they will compete.
- b. All participants in the PIFA may not turn 19 before Jan 1 of a competition year.

2. Team

- a. A Roster will be due from each school 2 weeks before the start of the season. IE **(Dec 20th 2011)**
- b. The Roster will contain the following information for each fencer
 1. First and Last Name
 2. Age
 3. Grade
 4. Home Address
 5. Phone

3. School

- a. Dues will be required of each team participating in the PIFA.
- b. The dues will be required to be turned into the treasurer two weeks prior to the beginning of the season (**Dec 9th 2011**)
- c. The amount of the dues per team (IE Girls and Boys) \$150

Competition

4. Equipment Rules and Regulations

- a. All fencing matches will be fenced using standard USFA scoring machines.
- b. Fencers will be required to adhere to standard USFA safety equipment guidelines
- c. The following equipment will not be required
 - i. Knickers (All skin will be required to be covered by clothing worn)
- d. The following Armory test procedures will be omitted
 - i. Weight Testing
 - ii. Mask Testing
 - iii. Body cord testing before matches

5. Incorrect fencer on the strip

- a. In the event that a fencer has begun a bout in which they are not to compete in, this bout will be restarted with the correct fencers placed on the strip. The team which placed the incorrect fencer on the strip will receive a yellow card.
- b. If it is revealed once another bout has begun fencing that a fencer has completed a bout in which they were not to have competed in that team will forfeit the bout.

6. Tie Breaker

- a. In the event of a tie each team may choose one fencer from their team on the score sheet to compete in a single touch One minute round.
 - i. Priority will be given to the last team to win a bout.

7. Time outs & Communications

- a. Each team will be allotted one 30 second time out per bout.
 - i. If the time out is not used during a bout they it is forfeited
 - ii. Only a single representative may communicate with the fencer on the strip during a time out. The representative may be a coach teammate or other person selected by the team.

- b. A coach or member of a team communicate with the referee in a respectful manner

8. Black Cards

- a. If a fencer receives a black card they are removed from the match. That bout as well as all unfenced bouts for that match are *forfeited*.
- b. If a by stander (IE someone not currently on the strip) receives a black card that person is to immediately be escorted from the venue.
- c. The fencer is permitted to stay at the venue and compete in subsequent matches pending a decision from a *review board*.

9. Review Board:

- a. A Review Board is a caucus with a representative of each team participating in a venue.
 - i. This representative ideally would be a coach and cannot be a student.
- b. Each team has one vote, and a simple majority of these votes decides any given issue.
 - i. Any Rule changes that are voted upon by a Review Board must be submitted to a PIFA officer before the beginning of the next week.
 - ii. This issue will then be tabled for vote in the next years rule book.
 - iii. If the decision of the board is contested by a grievance from the other Conference's board a vote will be taken from all teams to make a temporary rule change.
 - 1. This vote will be a simple majority vote. This rule will then last until the next year where a formal vote will be taken.
- c. In the event that the issue is a black card the team whose fencer drew the black card is excluded from the board.
 - i. In the event of a tie vote the recipient of a black card is treated as a by stander who received a black card

Scheduling and Administrative

10. Competition Schedule

- a. The PIFA Season will last 8 weeks beginning the week of Jan 1st 2012 and ending in a Playoff the week of Feb 21st 2012.
- b. Competitions may not be scheduled to conflict with any days off of school for a team that has a match at the competition.
- c. Each team is to be given the opportunity to host a competition at home.
 - i. Any team has the right to relinquish their hosting rights at which point any other team can host that event.
- d. In the event of a Snow day or other unscheduled day off of school,
 - i. A hosting school will need to reschedule the match for within one week or work with another team to do so at another venue.
 - ii. A competing but non hosting team will need to make up the matches at subsequent events
- e. The Schedule for matches will consist of 2 Out of Conference fencing weeks and 5 in conference fencing weeks.
 - i. Each team in the conference will fence all conference members 2 times.
 1. In the even of a single conference every team will fence all the other teams once. Thus disregarding the rule 10.e.i as well as 10.e.ii
 - ii. Out of Conference Competition will rotate year to year so that no team will not fence the all of the teams in the subsequent years.

11. Forfeit:

- a. A Forfeit is a win for the opposing team. This bout will be scored as a 5x0 bout. This causes the score modifier to be a +5.

12. Playoffs and Trophies

- a. The Playoffs will have the 4 highest rated teams from each conference
 - i. Rankings in a conference will be determined first by team victories, then by the Win Loss modifier of bouts from the matches and finally by total bouts won. In the event there is a tie a coin flip shall be used.
- b. The Playoffs will be done to find a conference champion. This Champion will then compete against the other conference champion.
 - i. The teams rated 2nd and 3rd will compete in a match to reach the conference final and the teams rated 1st and 4th will compete in a match to reach the conference final.
 - ii. The winner of the conference final will be the conference champion and receive the reflecting trophy
- c. The Match between the two Conference Champions will be refereed by 3 refs
 - i. The most skilled ref as selected by the hosting team will act as referee
 - ii. The other two will act as Hand and Foot judges
- d. In addition to conference champion a trophy will be award for the best combined record of both a schools girls and boys team. (Please Note that Oakland Catholic and Central Catholic will be considered on school for this trophy)
 - i. The school with the highest combined total wins of girls and boys teams win this trophy
 1. The Conference and Inter-Conference matches count towards the total wins(IE not playoffs wins)
 2. In the event of a tie no trophy will be awarded
 3. The trophy will be returned at the start of the next season..
- e. Each Conference will have a Boys and Girls MVP
 - i. The Fencer with the highest win percentage wins the MVP for their conference
 1. A fencer must compete in at least 2 times the total number of matches in the season subtracted from 2 times the number the number of matches scheduled on the busiest competition day of fencing to be eligible for the MVP.

- a. For Example there are 7 matches and the most any one team fences in a single night is twice so the minimum number of bouts to be fenced to be eligible for the MVP would be 10 ($7*2-2*2$)
2. The win percentages and the minimum bouts fenced will only consist of regular season fencing, no playoff stats will be counted
3. This will be awarded at the Playoffs
4. In the event of a Tie both fencers will receive the MVP

13. Voting

- a. A quorum will be needed to take a vote.
- b. A quorum will be 70% of membership.
- c. Once a quorum is achieved a vote can be taken.
 - i. Any vote must have a majority of total membership.
 - ii. In the event of a tie vote the President casts a deciding vote.

14. Officer Elections

- a. At the first organization meeting of each year a new officers need to be elected
 - i. . This election does not require a quorum
 - ii. Members who are not present maybe elected to a position
 - iii. A Majority of members attending the meeting is needed to elect a new member