

PIFA LEAGUE RULES

(Revised December 2009)

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 in the spring.
 - 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 two leagues (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

11. 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.

12. Team

- c. A Roster will be due from each school 2 weeks before the start of the season. IE (Jan 18 2010)
- d. The Roster will contain the following information for each fencer
 1. First and Last Name
 2. Age
 3. Grade
 4. Home Address
 5. Phone

13. School

- e. Dues will be required of each team participating in the PIFA.
- f. The dues will be required to be turned into the treasurer two weeks prior to the beginning of the season (**Jan 18th 2010**)
- g. The amount of the dues per team (IE Girls and Boys) \$150

Competition

14. Equipment Rules and Regulations

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

15. Incorrect fencer on the strip

- l. 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.
- m. 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.

16. Time outs

- n. Each team will be allotted one 30 second time out per bout. If they are not used during a bout they are forfeited.

17. Black Cards

- o. 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*.
- p. If a bystander (IE someone not currently on the strip) receives a black card that person is to immediately be escorted from the venue.
- q. The fencer is permitted to stay at the venue and compete in subsequent matches pending a decision from a *review board*.

18. Review Board:

- r. 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.
- s. 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 either 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.
- t. 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

19. Competition Schedule

- u. The PIFA Season will last 7 weeks beginning the week of Feb 1st 2010 and ending in a Playoff the week of March 15th 2010.
- v. Competitions may not be scheduled to conflict with any days off of school for a team that has a match at the competition.
- w. 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.
- x. 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
- y. The Schedule for matches will consist of 1 Out of Conference fencing week and 5 in conference fencing weeks.
 - i. Each team in the conference will fence all conference members 2 times.
 - ii. Out of Conference Competition will rotate year to year so that no team will fence the same two teams in the subsequent years.

20. Forfeit:

- z. 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.

21. Playoffs

- aa. 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.

- bb. 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.

22. Voting

- cc. A quorum will be needed to take a vote.
- dd. A quorum will be 70% of membership.
- ee. 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.