

United States Fencing Association National Championship Appeal Procedure

Appeal Information:

APPEAL PROCESS (Excerpts from USA Operations Manual, Chap. V, Section 8)

PART ONE

In exceptional cases, subject to specific approval by the USFA Executive Committee, a member of the USFA in good standing may be permitted to qualify to one or more competitions at the Junior Olympic Fencing Championships or the Summer National Championships by appeal. There is no appeal process for qualifying for competitions at the Division I National Championships. The procedures for applying for qualification by appeal are as follows:

- 1 Appeals may be filed by fencers who were qualifiers (by means of competition or appeal) to that same event (i.e., foil, épée, or sabre) in the prior season or whose competitive record during the current fencing season indicates a strong possibility that they would have qualified had they been able to compete in the qualifying competition but:
 - a Were unable to compete in local qualifying events this season,
OR
 - b Did compete and had to withdraw because of a disabling injury or illness.

(Mere attendance at an out-of-town school at the time of the qualifying event shall not constitute inability to compete.)

NOTE 1: If a fencer is injured or becomes ill during the qualifying competition the fencer should withdraw rather than continue fencing and fail to qualify because of the injury or illness. Appeals are automatically denied for those who fenced the whole qualifying competition and then appeal on the basis they were not feeling well or were hurt. In a medical withdrawal appeal a note of explanation and/or verification of medical withdrawal from the Bout Committee Chair of the qualifying competition must accompany the appeal.

PART TWO

- 2 All appeals must be made in writing to the USFA/Director of National

Events:

1 Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5774

Or by Fax: (719) 632-5737

Or by email: christine.simmons@usfencing.org

The appeal must be **received within five business days** following the competition at which the petitioner would have qualified, and in no case later than the entry deadline for the Championships. The appeal must be accompanied by:

- a A non-refundable filing fee of \$30 made payable to the USFA.
- b) A statement of specific details as to the dates, reason for absence, and other pertinent facts. Any medical reasons must be substantiated by written confirmation from a physician.
- c A summary of fencer's significant competitive results during the past year. Results in previous National Championships (JO Championships where applicable) and recent North American Cup competitions should especially be noted.
- d Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope, fax back sheet or email address for reply to the appeal.

Appeals Decisions will be based upon the validity of the reasons for absence or withdrawal and the probability of the fencer having qualified through competition, based on results achieved in other events.

The submission of an appeal does not constitute an entry into the Championships; the fencer who is appealing is advised to send in a timely entry, noting the competitions for which the fencer is submitting an appeal. If the appeal is denied, the fees related to the competitions for which there was an appeal would be refunded in full.

Appeal Checklist

(Additional documentation may be requested by the USFA)

- ❑ **Non-refundable petition fee of \$30.00**
- ❑ **Letter from the athlete outlining the reason for the appeal with a summary of significant competition results during the last year**
- ❑ **Letter from a Physician if the petition is for medical reasons**
- ❑ **Letter from the Bout Committee Chair if a medical withdrawal occurred during the qualifier**
- ❑ **A self-addressed stamped envelope, 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.