

Tournament FAQ

The following is an FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) about tournaments:

Q: Why should fencers compete in tournaments?

A: Tournaments help fencers in several ways:

- 1). They may allow a fencer to gauge his/her skills against other fencers against whom they have not had a chance to compete.
- 2). They allow a fencer to “try out” the skills they have been practicing in a head-to-head competition.
- 3). They may allow a fencer to earn “points” for themselves and for the club. The Georgia Fencing Division (www.gafencing.org) tracks these points and publishes them.
- 4). Doing well against larger groups of fencers, or against “rated” fencers, may earn a fencer their USFA “rating”.
- 5). Some tournaments are qualifiers for larger events like the USFA summer nationals or the Junior Olympics.

Q: How do I find out about tournaments?

A: Ask FRED (Fencing Results and Events Database). You go to askfred.net. Select the “Upcoming Tournaments” pulldown from the main menu, and click on “Browse Tournaments”. Then change the “All Divisions” pulldown to select the “Georgia” division. Click on “Find Tournaments”. The list of currently scheduled tournaments will appear. You can click the smaller links to see what Events are being held, who’s registered, etc.

Q: How do I register for a tournament?

A: Again, just ask FRED. You can select the “checkmark” link and fill in the information to pre-register. Actual registration takes place at the tournament, where payment is expected and any paperwork is due (liability forms, etc.). The amount of payment, any paperwork required, etc. is usually in the “More Information” link (lowercase “i”).

Q: This is my first tournament, what can I expect?

A: See “What to Expect at a Tournament” in separate attachment

Q: Do I need to join USFA?

A: Yes, if this is a USFA sanctioned tournament. You will need to be an active member of the US Fencing Association to be allowed to participate in registered fencing tournaments. Usually, you can join at your first tournament. However, online signup for USFA is now available through the USFA website (<http://usfencing.org/>). The cost for the 2010-2011 season is \$60 for a competitive membership, but there are many different pricing options.

Q: What do I need to bring to a tournament?

A: You must have:

- All your protective clothing - jacket, knickers, shoes (sneakers are acceptable), knee-length socks, glove, mask, lame (if foil or saber), plastron (underarm

- protector), hard plastic chest protector (female), athletic cup (male, recommended, not mandatory) – all must be in good repair (no holes)
- At least two working weapons and two body cords

You may also want to bring:

- Water/sports drinks
- Light snack (protein bars, etc.)
- Camera, video camera, etc. – (please no flash photography while people are fencing)
- Something to keep you busy during the “down time”

Q: How long does a tournament take?

A: This can vary greatly. A single event with 30 fencers, on 5 strips may take as little as 3 hours or as long as 6, depending on how far you go through the DE bracket. Large pools can also increase the time it takes. More strips/referees decrease the time it takes.