

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DIVISION

OFFICIAL POLICIES

I. USFA Preeminence & Values

The Southern California Division, an Affiliate Association of USFA, shall abide by and act in accord with the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Playing Rules and decisions of the Board of Directors of the USFA, and such documents and decisions shall take precedence over and supersede all similar governing documents and/or decisions of the Southern California Division. Further, the Southern California Division (i) shall assist USFA in the administration and enforcement of the provisions of the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Rule Book and decisions of the Board of Directors of USFA, within and upon its members and/or within its jurisdiction and (ii) agrees to be guided by the following core values of the USFA:

Sportsmanship

Foremost of all values is to learn a sense of fair play. Become humble in victory, gracious in defeat. We will foster friendship with teammates and opponents alike.

Respect for the Individual

Treat all others as you expect to be treated.

Integrity

We seek to foster honesty and fair play beyond mere strict interpretation of the rules and regulations of the game.

Pursuant of Excellence at the Individual, Team and Organizational Levels.

Each member of the organization, whether player, volunteer or staff, should seek to perform each aspect of the game to the highest level of his or her ability.

Enjoyment

It is important for the fencing experience to be fun, satisfying, and rewarding for the participant

Loyalty

We aspire to teach loyalty to the ideals and fellow members of the sport of fencing.

Teamwork

We value the strength of learning to work together. The use of teamwork is reinforced and rewarded by success in the fencing experience.

II. Additional Principles

The Southern California Division hereby understands and agrees that the organization, structure, policy, bylaws and/or operation of the Southern California Division shall reflect, and shall not violate, the following principles:

Membership

All registered members of the Southern California Division, as a condition of membership in good standing with the Southern California Division, shall also be required to be “Registered Members” in good standing of the USFA.

Government

The government and authority of the Southern California Division shall be vested in a Board of Directors composed of at least three representatives, as determined by the Southern California Division, selected through an annual democratic election process. A majority of the board must always be composed of representatives selected by such election process. The officers of the Southern California Division, selected by the registered teams or the Board of Directors, shall include at least a president, vice president and secretary-treasurer. It is recommended that the terms of directors and officers be staggered.

Voting

Each registered member of the Southern California Division shall be entitled to one vote in the process adopted by the Southern California Division for the election of its Board of Directors. The process adopted by the Southern California Division for the election of its Board of Directors shall be based upon the premise that each registered member of the Southern California Division shall be entitled to one vote. The manner of determining a registered team, and the manner of any voting by proxy, shall be stated in writing and shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Committee of USFA.

Annual Meetings

Any action(s) or policy(s) adopted or requested to be adopted by the Board of Directors or the officers of the Southern California Division shall be reported to its membership, or their duly authorized representatives, at least once each year at a meeting called for such purpose, with notice and agenda of such meeting being given to all members of the Southern California Division no less than fifteen (15) days in advance of the holding of the meeting, which meeting shall be open to all members of the Southern California Division.

Financial Reports Due and Assessments

The Southern California Division shall provide to the Executive Director of USFA an annual financial report of operations, and all dues and assessments by the Southern California Division shall be reasonable in relation to the programs it offers to its members.

Publication of Constitution and Bylaws

The Southern California Division shall annually distribute to its members, copies of its constitution, bylaws and other governing documents, and all amendments thereto. Copies shall also be available upon request.

Equal Opportunity/ Automatic Suspension of Athletes Without a Hearing

The Southern California Division must provide an equal competitive opportunity taking into account ability, physical size and other athletic criteria, to amateur athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials to participate, consistent with the requirements of the Amateur Sports Act of 1978, as amended, in amateur athletic competition without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, resolution of grievances of its members, including fair notice and opportunity for a hearing to any amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official before declaring such individual ineligible to participate.

Insurance

The Southern California Division agrees, at all times throughout the term of this Agreement, to be covered by the general liability insurance policy maintained by USFA. USFA shall inform the Southern California Division of the limits of that policy, and of the changes to those limits which may be made by USFA at its sole prerogative. The Southern California Division retains the right to obtain whatever additional insurance coverage it may desire, at its own expense, but agrees to name USFA as an additional insured thereof. By purchasing and maintaining the aforementioned and general liability insurance policy, USFA does not assume, and indeed disclaims, any liability for any actions or omissions of the Southern California Division.

The Southern California Division agrees to use reasonable efforts to purchase, acquire or provide and maintain in full force and effect at all times, directors and officers liability insurance, and (to the extent such insurance is not obtained through USFA) name USFA as an additional insured there under.

501 (c)(3) Status

The Southern California Division shall at all times during the term of this Agreement maintain its tax exempt status under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and shall cooperate with USFA in the event that USFA and the Southern California Division

deem it advisable for the Southern California Division to be included in a group exemption letter.

Abuse

The Southern California Division shall adopt policies prohibiting sexual and physical abuse that meet certain minimum criteria established by USFA (subject to any contrary requirements contained in state or local law applicable to the Southern California Division).