

## U.S. JUNIOR OLYMPIC PROGRAM FOR 1971

by Rev. Lawrence Calhoun

(Ed. Note: The Rev. Calhoun is National Junior Olympic Development Chairman for the AFLA. This article is Part 1 of a two part exposition which will provide guidelines for our junior development program.)

The program outlined below is meant to increase the fencing at the Junior Olympic level. Several states have begun age-group competitions, and the Illinois program has become the pilot program.

### Expansion of Fencing into age-groups:

Each division will be required to host at least one age-group, four weapon meet during the season, **even if it is not scheduled at this time.** Sabre and epee will not be age-grouped until they expand further. Boy's and girl's foil is age-grouped. The ages are **Under 14, 14-15, and 16-19** (see rule 579 for age clarification). If only one meet is held, the winners in foil are determined by having a super-final round where the Under 14 champion, the 1-2-3, 14-15 medalists and the 1-2-3-4, 16-19 medalists compete in an 8 man **super-final.** If more than one tournament is held, then the point system at the end of this article is used (the Under 19 fencers can earn points by competing in adult meets and placing in the finals). The Junior Olympic Chairman of each division should enforce this program.

### U.S. Junior Olympic Tournament

This tournament is a trial, and its success will determine the possibility of a larger, separate, and more representative Junior Olympic Championship which would also be the qualifying meet for the Under 20 World Games in 1973. Since there will be no qualifying tournament prior to this meet (such as a Sectional Championship, which occurs in May), the tournament will be a restricted one **this year only.** It is intended to expand the meet in 1973 to be representative of all age-groups equally. Any other plans would require a meet of 1200 plus fencers. Limiting the entrants to only winners of each age group would mean 424

fencers, which is still impossible this year. This meet will enter a maximum field of 212 (exclusive of local divisional additions as allowed in the rules.)

The first annual Junior Olympic Championships will be held at Notre Dame High School, Niles, Illinois on April 7-8-9, 1972. The following entrants will qualify: the divisional winners of epee and sabre, and the winners of the super-finals in boy's and girl's foil (i.e., a maximum of 4 competitors from each division—based on a single tournament or the fencers with the highest points in each weapon where more than one J.O. meet is held). Specific details will be mailed to all divisional chairmen later. Where possible, the entrants will be divided up into age-group pools to retain some semblance of the original tournament.

### Awards

1. Medals to 1-2-3 in Epee and Sabre.
2. Medals to 1-2-3 in Under 14 and 14-15 (where possible). Medals to 1-2-3-4-16-19 boy's and girl's foil.
3. If age groups are possible, Under 14 champion, 1-2-3 winners of the 14-15 and the 1-2-3-4 winners in the 16-19 will compete in an 8 boy (girl) **super-final** to determine the overall champion. All finalists will receive appropriate trophies, and the overall boy and girl winner will receive a travelling trophy for the 1972-73 year.
4. All Champions will qualify directly to the National Championships in Boston, 1972.
5. It is planned that all competitors will be housed in homes during the time of the meet. When the division indicates the qualifiers, each fencer will send in his entry blank. A parent in the Chicago area will write the fencer and obtain his or her travel plans and arrange to meet. The fencer will stay with the people for 1-2-3 days and be returned to his mode of travel. This reduces the expense of the trip and

insures proper supervision for the younger fencers.

6. Those who do not qualify here can still enter a Sectional championship and try for the Nationals.
7. Divisions will use their qualifying meet and the point system to select fencers for this tournament and the Sectionals as well.

### Summary

The overall program proposes to upgrade the level of fencing and make it possible to seed fencers around the U.S. The U.S.J.O. Championships is a step to choosing the best possible teams from the greatest possible numbers. The Russians use a pyramid system and it works. We believe that this is the start of a strong U.S. youth fencing pyramid.



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## FENCING AT THE F.

by DeWitt Tash

On Saturday, Sept. 18, two exhibitions were presented at the States Exposition, one of the largest in the country, in West Springfield,

Five fencers from the Springfield Fencing Club demonstrated before a bined audience of about three hundred

Gail Beaman and Mary Jeanne members of the Connecticut Division spirited display of foil fencing. The from Keene State College, New Hampshire where they major in Physical Education and sabre were ably fenced by R. Selle and Lloyd Farr, while DeWitt acted as commentator.

Special recognition must be given Brian Cormier, Director of Physical Education at the Springfield Y, whose enthusiasm for the sport and public relations efforts have done much to promote fencing in our area.