

## U. S. JUNIOR OLYMPIC PROGRAMS FOR 1971-1972

by Rev. Lawrence Calhoun

(Ed. Note: This is the second part of a two part article begun in our previous issue. The Rev. Calhoun is U.S. Junior Olympic Chairman and his scheme for the classification and development of young U.S. fencers has been adopted by the AFLA. The U.S. National Junior Olympic Championships will be held for the first time this Spring, as a part of the U.S. Junior Olympic program. Readers are referred to the article elsewhere in this issue which sets forth the procedures for this championship.)

In the first part of this article we covered the general concepts of classification of U.S. Junior fencers into age group categories and the holding of regional and national junior championships. In this part we will explain in detail the method of classification and ranking of these fencers.

**National Ranking System For Junior Fencers:**  
Most Under 19 tournaments do not have a ranking system for the fencers, and in major regional or sectional meets, outside fencers are unknown in ability. The following system will provide immediate recognition of a fencer's ability.

1. **Age Classifications:** Under 14 - 1A, 1B, 1C; 14-15 - 2A, 2B, 2C; 16-19 - 3A, 3B, 3C.

2. **If a meet has 2-3 strips of 5, 6, 7.** Meet is a "C" classification (Group III), with "C" to the winner only.

**If a meet has 4-7 strips of 5, 6, 7.** Meet is a "B" classification with "B" to the winner, and "C" to the 2nd and 3rd places. (Group II)

**If a meet has 8 or more strips of 5, 6, 7.** Meet is an "A" classification (Group I). An "A" to the winner, "B" to 2nd and 3rd, and "C" to all other finalists.

The rationale for these numbers is to begin the classification system. The process will follow the approved rules for the AFLA regarding classification of new fencers (adults) where possible. This would require a few years to establish enough rated fencers, and of course many leave the young level for the adult level.

3. The numbers (1-2-3) indicate the age

level of classification and/or level of competition and size of the meet. As a fencer advances to another level, he may obtain a patch to commemorate the event. If a boy or girl competes on the adult level, he/she may obtain a standard adult A, B, or C if the occasion arises, **for practical purposes, any fencer receiving an adult classification will be an automatic "3A" at the Under 19 level.** This is essential for the seeding of this fencer who has achieved recognition at a higher level, and it still puts it within the system.

### 4. Rationale:

- The numbers allow various divisions to begin the classification system. The eventual hope is that larger divisions will have enough rated fencers within the group to use the normal procedures for rankings.
- The number indicates the age level when classification was received, and does not change unless the fencer advances through tournament competition, even though he may age a year or more.
- The letter tells the approximate number and quality of the competition. As a fencer advances to a higher classification, he can obtain a new, relevant patch.
- If the fencer competes in adult tournaments, he automatically receives his "A" and is entitled to retain this "3A" at all subsequent Junior Olympic meets. This "3A" has no value **as such** at adult tournaments, except that it helps to seed the fencer above mere novices. If the 3A fencer is a "C" or better on the adult level, he uses that designation for an adult meet.
- This rating system is fair to all fencers, in all weapons, and it is especially useful in seeding for large tournaments, local, regional, sectional and national.
- The system contains the flexibility to be used in small divisions where

high level fencers are rare, and also in larger divisions for better seeding.

g. A district advantage for this system is that except for the number in front of the letter A, B, C, the rules are the same for all, adults and juniors. This makes for uniformity.

### Junior Olympic Patches

To go with this ranking system, a new series of patches will be available to the fencers at a minimal cost. For those who receive a ranking, the appropriate patch will be available. For other finalists who do not obtain a ranking, the current Junior Olympic patches can be used.

A boy or girl who achieves an adult ranking, can obtain the appropriate gold, silver or bronze star and put it on his patch.

### Point System for Junior Olympic Fencers

1. AFLA Junior Olympic tournaments (age-group, all weapons)

#### Final of 6

1st.—15 points  
2nd.—9 points  
3rd.—6 points

#### Final of 8

1st.—15 points  
2nd.—11 points  
3rd.—8 points

4th.—3 points  
5th.—2 points  
6th.—1 point

4th.—6 points  
5th.—4 points  
6th.—3 points  
7th.—2 points  
8th.—1 point

2. State Championships (High school meets—Divisional championships, bc 19 and Adult).

Final of 6	Final of 8	Super-I
1st.—15 points	1st.—20 points	1st.—3
2nd.—9 points	2nd.—14 points	2nd.—
3rd.—6 points	3rd.—9 points	3rd.—1
4th.—5 points	4th.—7 points	4th.—5
5th.—3 points	5th.—5 points	5th.—7
6th.—1 point	6th.—3 points	6th.—5
	7th.—2 points	7th.—3
	8th.—1 point	8th.—1

3. AFLA Opens, Unclassified, meets.

#### Classified

Pool of 6 as I above  
Pool of 8 as II c  
Pool of 8 as II c

#### Unclassified

Pool of 6 as I above  
Pool of 8 as I above

4. Any other approved meets that are restricted, etc. 6 points for first, down one point for sixth place.

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