

## Explanation of 2019-2020 Competition Schedule Listing

Local Capitol Division tournaments are in **larger type and bolded**. Fencers must be age 13 as of January 1, 2020 in order to enter most tournaments. Those under age 13 are restricted to age-group tournaments according to their birth year. Other tournaments are color coded. We often attend competitions in the neighboring divisions, MD Division (dark blue) and VA Division (grey). Note that not all Maryland Division and Virginia Division tournaments have been posted as they have not yet been finalized. Check [AskFRED.net](http://AskFRED.net) (or [References on www.fencer.com](http://www.fencer.com)) often for updates.

**RYC** (light blue) tournaments are Regional Youth Circuits for Youth-10 (born 2009-2012), Youth-12 (born 2007-2010), and Youth-14 (2005-2008). They are run by local organizers, often don't have large number of entries, are great tournaments for youth fencers to start their competitive experience. The events are often mixed, boys and girls, although sometimes medals are awarded separately. Fencers earn regional points when competing in RYCs in their region. We are in Region 6 (includes WV, MD, DE, DC, TN, VA, NC, SC, MS, AL, GA & FL). Competing in a RYC qualifies the Y10 and Y12 fencers for the national tournament (NAC) in March (Detroit, MI) and the National Championships in July (Louisville, KY).

**SYC** (pink) tournaments are Super Youth Circuits for Youth-10 (born 2009-2012), Youth-12 (born 2007-2010), and Youth-14 (2005-2008). They are run by local organizers but are often better organized than RYCs. They often have many more fencers than RYCs because they award national points to the top 40% of the fencers. Fencers travel across the country to compete in SYCs as it is an opportunity to fence in their age group against better fencers and to earn national points which are used for seeding (and bragging) purposes. Boys and girls always fence separately in SYCs; there are no "mixed" gender events. Competing in a SYC qualifies the Y10 and Y12 fencers for the national tournament (NAC) in March (Detroit, MI) and the National Championships in July (Louisville, KY) and the Y14 fencers for the National Championships in July (there is no qualification path for Y14 for the March NAC; anyone in the age group can enter).

There are not too many RYCs and SYCs in the local DC area. If you are a Y10, Y12 or Y14 fencer you should try to compete in the RYC and SYC tournaments in our Region 6. We often have 15 or more students from CCFC at the SYCs.

I also recommend traveling to SYCs outside of our region. If we can get 5 or more fencers to share coaching expenses, then I will travel to the SYCs to coach our fencers. If less than 5 CCFC fencers enter an "away" tournament, it increases the shared coaching expenses. I could still travel to coach, but all the CCFC fencers would have to agree to share the expense.

**RCC** (Regional Cadet Circuit), **RJC** (Regional Junior Circuit), **RJCC** (Regional Junior & Cadet Circuit) (peach) and **SJCC** (orange) tournaments are for cadet (2003-2006) and junior (2000-2006) fencers. There are also **IRC** (International Regional Circuit) tournaments that are new this season. The tournaments are run by local organizers. SJCCs award national points (they are "SYCs for cadet and junior fencers"). The others award only regional points for those fencers competing in their region (we are Region 6). Regional points may qualify fencers to the Cadet and Junior Olympics, if you are in the top 25% of your regions point list. The top 50% of your regions point list qualify to the July Challenge. These tournaments provide opportunities to fence others in your age group. You can compete in RCC, RJC or RJCC tournaments that are not in our region (Region 6) but you will not earn regional points. It might be worthwhile to travel to tournaments in New Jersey or New York for the fencing experience.

**ROC** (brown) tournaments are Regional Open Circuits. One must be at least age 13 as of January 1, 2020 in order to enter a ROC. ROCs are run by local organizers. There are different types of ROCs. Division II (DV2) ROCs are for fencers classified "C" or below and age 13 or above. Division 1A (D1A) ROCs are open to all fencers over age 13. Veteran (Vet) ROCs are for fencers age 40 or above (born 1979 or earlier). ROCs award ROC points. DV2 ROC points and D1A ROC points qualify fencers to the Division III (D and below) National Championships and to the Division II (C and below) National Championships. D1A ROC points qualify fencers to the D1A National Championships. The top 8 in the DV2 ROC

points also qualify to the D1A National Championships. Any fencer in a Vet ROC qualifies to the Veteran National Championships.

ROC tournaments provide opportunities to compete against others of your own ability (in the case of DV2 ROCs), for veteran (over age 40) fencers (Vet ROCs) and in strong, larger tournaments (D1A ROCs). D1A ROCs especially give A and B rated fencers more opportunities to compete since they cannot enter DV2 or DV3 events.

**NAC (green)** tournaments are North American Cups. They are large national tournaments, are well organized, attract fencers from across the country and even other countries (especially Canada). There are different types of NACs. Some are restricted by age (Y10, Y12, Y14, Cadet, Junior, Senior, Veteran, and Veteran Age). Some are restricted by ability level (Division I, Division II, and Division III). Anyone can enter NACs if they are over age 13 and meet the requirements of the type of NAC (age or ability level) with the following exceptions. Division I NACs are restricted to fencers age 13 above and rated C or higher. And Y10 and Y12 fencers must have competed in a RYC or SYC before entering the Y10 or Y12 NAC.

I will be coaching the CCFC fencers at NACs (and some other away and SYC tournaments) depending on the number of CCFC entries. I will give short 10-minute warm-up lessons prior to the start of the events and coach at the side of the strip while you fence. There will be a \$30.00 coaching fee per event entered for each competitor. In addition, CCFC fencers competing in the tournament share an equal portion of the coaches' hotel expense and an equal portion of one-half of the coaches' travel expenses. I will send coaching invoices that are payable to Raymond Finkleman to all the CCFC competitors after the competition.

Many fencing equipment vendors will be at the NACs and you can comparison shop, try things on for size, and I will pass along my coach's discount to those competing at the competition. Note that national tournaments require everyone to have their name stenciled on the back of their fencing jacket. If you plan on purchasing a jacket at the tournament or need stenciling on your jacket, make sure you arrive very early the day before your event so that there is time to have it stenciled.

Fencers need to practice competition the same as they practice other techniques. With more competition experience you have opportunities to be exposed to different styles of opponents, you can develop a better sense of strategy and you may earn a higher letter rating and even national points. You can plan your competition schedule for the season now. You can make hotel reservations now for away tournaments since they can often be cancelled without penalty. Most away tournaments have arranged discount hotel rates for competitors.

Let me know if you have questions. Remember to check [online](#) often throughout the season for additions and changes.

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