

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS...

*The following has been extracted and consolidated for your convenience. Please consult the official USFA Rule Book and/or USFA Operations Manual for exact wording.

1. Right to Compete

- a. *Cite rule*

2. Right to request an Observer

If an athlete feels that his/her referee has consistently made erroneous decisions, the athlete, without delay of the bout or the competition, has the right to ask an F.O.C. representative to appoint an observer of the referee. The observer, however, does not have the right to make or overturn calls that are not in the rulebook.

3. Right to Appeal/Protest

- a. *If an athlete believes that his/her referee has misapplied a rule, the athlete may protest to the tournament Bout Committee. However, the athlete may not protest anything that is a matter of opinion.*
- b. *Let it be noted that the athlete loses the right to appeal/protest if any of the following has occurred:*
 - i. *The bout has recommenced from the point of violation;*
 - ii. *The athlete has signed the score sheet;*
 - iii. *The athlete has unplugged from the strip.*
- c. *Let it be noted that if the appeal/protest is not upheld, the referee must give the protesting athlete a yellow card for an "unjustified appeal."*
- d. *Let it be noted that if the appeal/protest is not upheld, and the referee does not apply the rule of "unjustified appeal," the opposing athlete reserves the right to request that the "unjustified appeal" be enforced.*

4. Right to a Swift Appeal/Protest

- a. *Upon an athlete's request for an appeal/protest, the referee must contact the tournament Bout Committee immediately.*

5. Right to a Ten (10) Minute Injury Break Rule Change: Injury break is 5 minutes!!

- a. *If an athlete sustains a legitimate injury as determined by medical personnel, the athlete may take a maximum of ten (10) minutes to recover. You might want to put something in here about the accumulation of the injury break time*

6. Right to Ten (10) Minutes between Direct Elimination Bouts (Rest between 5-touch bouts is 3 min)

- a. *If an athlete has completed a direct elimination bout, the athlete may take a maximum of ten (10) minutes to rest before their next direct elimination bout.*

7. Right to Know the Score

- a. *If an athlete requests the score, the referee must provide both athletes with the score; the athlete may not, however, stop the bout to ask the score.*

8. Right to Know the Time

- a. *If the athlete requests the time, the referee must provide both athletes with the time; the athlete may not, however, stop the bout to ask the time.*

9. Right to Have Equipment Tested

- a. *If an athlete requests to have his/her equipment tested, the referee must test the athlete's equipment. Let it be noted that if the athlete tests his or her own equipment, or if fencing begins, the athlete waives the right to protest faulty equipment.*