

# (USFA) RETURN TO FENCING

## HEALTH & SAFETY BEST PRACTICES AUGUST 2020



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### RISK CATEGORIES

These guidelines apply to in-person club activities that take place during Phases 3 and/or 4 as generally defined by the USOPC and are modified slightly here to accommodate fencing-specific concerns.

**PHASE 3** – Public health authorities allow small group activities (for example, less than 10 people) at clubs.

**PHASE 4** – Public health authorities impose no limitations on group size at clubs. This assumes **PHASES 1** and **2** – in which individuals were required to shelter in place and/or clubs were required to remain fully closed – have passed in your club's location.

### GUIDELINES FOR INDIVIDUALS

*Adhere to applicable federal, state and local guidelines before, during and after participating in a tournament or club activity. And:*

#### BEFORE COMPETITION

- Self-monitor and be symptom free for at least 14 days prior to attending any tournament (See USOPC Self-Monitoring Instructions, below).
- Stay home if you have had close sustained contact in last 14 days with anyone who was sick or known or believed to have COVID-19.
- Stay home if you are sick or do not feel well.
- Provide a note from doctor stating that you are cleared to participate in and/or work a fencing competition if you have had a case of COVID-19.
- Wash and sanitize your hands often.
- Wash and sanitize all fencing equipment prior to your arrival at the competition venue. Consult the manufacturer for proper cleaning instructions to avoid possible damage to your equipment.
- Avoid touching your face, eyes or mouth with unclean hands.
- Practice social distancing where appropriate.
- Wear a face mask to reduce exposure to airborne contaminated particles and reduce exposure to others.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your elbow if you cough or sneeze.



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## OVERVIEW

USA Fencing (USFA) has developed these Best Practices for the Resumption of Local Events for tournament organizers, division leaders, administrators, fencers and their families to provide guidance as local events begin to resume across the country. The measures covered in this document have been developed based upon the recommendations given by accredited health authorities, including the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the U.S. **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**.

USFA will resume the sanctioning of local tournaments August 1, 2020, once local and national health authorities have determined it is safe for group gatherings to take place, and clubs are permitted to operate or reopen by local and state laws, regulations, executive orders and other legal mandates regarding COVID-19. **USFA's sanction, and thus its insurance coverage, will apply only to tournaments in areas in which they can be operated legally.** It has been, and will remain, the responsibility of each tournament organizer to stay abreast of and comply with the state, local and other legal requirements governing its own location. USFA cannot, as a practical matter, oversee tournaments' compliance with applicable laws, which vary widely from place to place. Nor is it within our competence to provide legal advice.

The following are recommendations, not mandates. They are based in significant part upon current guidelines promulgated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) and other publicly available resources. The knowledge surrounding COVID-19 is constantly changing and tournament organizers' circumstances may differ depending on their geographic locations, facilities, event participants and other factors. Accordingly, USFA encourages organizers and participants to implement the following measures, to the extent reasonably possible, as minimum precautions.

At present, there is no way to completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19 infection. Additional precautions might be appropriate to the extent indicated by an organizer's specific circumstances. On the other hand, some measures may not be practicable for some tournaments, depending on their specific circumstances. The recommendations in this document are not intended and should not be taken to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment, nor do USFA or any of its divisions assume any liability or responsibility for the efficacy of the recommendations provided herein.