

NVA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Format for 2008

General:

The championships are held annually on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the second weekend in March. Men's and Women's Sabre is fenced on Friday, Foil on Saturday and Epée on Sunday.

There are no separate age categories, but at each weapon medals are awarded for the highest placed competitor aged 40-49, 50-59, 60-69 and 70+.

Eligibility:

The championships are open only to paid up members of the NVA who are eligible to hold a British passport.

Seeding:

Fencers are seeded on the basis of their results in the previous two years' National Championships, with a greater weighting given to the more recent result. Any other relevant data may be taken into account to give as accurate a seeding as possible.

Format:

There is no direct elimination.

All bouts are to five hits or three minutes of fencing time. If the score is equal at time, the bout will continue with unlimited time until a deciding hit is scored.

Up to 19 entrants: poule unique (see appendix for details)

20 or more entrants: three/four rounds of pools.

In the first and second round, pool size is determined as follows:

a) No pool will be smaller than five or larger than six.

b) If numbers permit, pools will all be the same size

Seeding pools will be deemed to have the same number of fencers. A dummy fencer is used to make up any shortfall. A fencer always wins against the dummy with a score that represents the performance of the fencer in the pool. If the fencer has 0 defeats, the score is 5-0. If the fencer has 1 defeat, the score is 5-1 and so on to a maximum of 5-4.

First round of pools: Fencers are seeded on the basis of their results in the previous two years' National Championships, with a greater weighting given to the more recent result. Any other relevant data may be taken into account to give as accurate a seeding as possible.

Second round of pools: Fencers are seeded on the first round results.

Third round of pools: Fencers are seeded on the combined results of the first two rounds.

Positions 13 and below

Fencers seeded 13 and below are assigned to pools of six in seed order, ie 13-18, 19-24, and so on.

If two or more fencers at the boundary between pools have identical indicators, they will barrage to determine who is allocated to which pool. If the barrage does not produce a clear result on victories, indicators will be used. If it is still not determined who is allocated to which pool, then further barrages will take place between the fencers still involved until a ranking order is established.

Final ranking positions 13 and below will be determined by the results of the third round of pools.

Positions 1-12

The top twelve are assigned to two semifinal pools of six according to their ranking at this point (1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12 and 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11), and fence off as normal for pools of six. The top three from each semifinal pool are then allocated to a final pool to fence for positions 1-6. If two or more fencers have identical indicators but cannot all be allocated to the top 6, then they will barrage for promotion. If the barrage does not produce a clear result on victories, indicators will be used. If it is still not determined who is allocated to the top 6, then further barrages will take place between the fencers still involved until a promotion order is established.

Positions 7-12

There will be no further fencing. Fencers will be ranked according to their indicators in the third round. If two or more fencers are equally ranked on all three indicators, then they will be given a joint ranking.

Fourth round of pools

Positions 1-6

Final ranking positions will be determined by the results of the fourth round. The winner of the competition is the winner of this pool. If two or more fencers are equal first on victories, then they will barrage. If the barrage does not produce a clear result on victories, then combined indicators will be calculated for all their bouts in the final pool and barrage. If two or more fencers are equal first on all three indicators, then further barrages will take place between the fencers still involved until a ranking order is established.

If two or more fencers are equally ranked in second or third place on all three indicators, then they will barrage. If the barrage does not produce a clear result on indicators, then combined indicators will be calculated for all their bouts in the final pool and barrage. If two or more fencers are still equally ranked on all three indicators, then further barrages will take place between the fencers still involved until a ranking order is established.

With the exception of positions 1, 2 and 3, joint positions will not be barraged.

Abandon:**a) During the seeding rounds of pools**

The outgoing fencer will be ranked in last place in the tournament. If two or more fencers withdraw, they will be ranked in the last places, in the order of their original seeding.

If a fencer withdraws partway through a pool, the results of any bouts completed by the outgoing fencer will stand. Any incomplete results will be replaced by dummy results, as above.

Any fencer in the pool whose seeding when the pools were drawn up was lower than that of the outgoing fencer will be deemed to have been advantaged by the withdrawal of that fencer. At the end of the second round, the DT will assess whether the effect of any such advantage has been to exclude any fencer from the top twelve. If so, the fencers affected will barrage for promotion. If the barrage does not produce a clear result on victories, indicators will be used. If it is still not determined who is allocated to which pool, then further barrages will take place between the fencers still involved until a promotion order is established.

b) During the final round of pools

If a fencer withdraws after they have been allocated a position in the third or final round of pools, they will be ranked at the bottom position in their pool. If two or more fencers withdraw from the same pool, they will be ranked in the last places in their pool, in the order of their seeding to the final round.

Any results obtained by an outgoing fencer will be deleted from the pool.

Relevance:

The rankings from the National Championships are used to determine selection for representative events.

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