

SAFC Ladder Tournament – Rules



VER: 2025/07

OVERVIEW

FOIL AND EPEE LADDERS

- Each weapon will have a separate ladder, reset every 3-month period. E.g. Jan – Mar, April – Jun, etc. Winners are announced quarterly at the end of each period.
- There is no prize, just the honour of winning. A list of previous winners will be kept for bragging rights.
- Fencers who fence both weapons may fence on both ladders should they wish but must make themselves available to fence both on each fencing night.

I CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL!

HOW TO ISSUE A CHALLENGE

Challenges should be issued directly to your opponent on the night. Results should be logged immediately on the scoreboard before any further bouts occur.

ADVANCING

1. Challenge the next person above your place in the ranking who is present that night.
2. Win and take the place of the defender in the ranking, passing other fencers ranked between them, if applicable. Move any fencers in-between down one place each.
3. Lose your challenge, both fencers remain at the same rank – no change.
4. If no-one above you is present, no bout occurs. Do not move to top spot this way. However, if any fencers are not present for 2+ weeks (4 sessions), you may overtake them. Any disputes on when someone was last present, the Captain can check the attendance logs.

CHALLENGE RULES

- Fencers may only challenge the next person above them who is present that night. Generally, this may be someone just one or two places above, but if fewer fencers are in it could be the top spot! If no-one above you is present, no bout occurs.

- You may only challenge upwards **ONCE PER FENCING NIGHT**. More ladder bouts may occur as you defend your place, however.
- Defending fencers may not choose to refuse a challenge.
- You may only issue or accept one challenge at a time. No waitlists. Challenges are all on a first-come first-served basis.
- Immediate rematches are not allowed on the same night.

BOUT RULES

- All ladder bouts are first to 15 points, or 9 minutes (with two 1 min breaks allowed).
- In the event of a tie, priority is decided and 1 minute is given. Next hit wins, or if time runs out the fencer with priority wins.

RANKING

INITIAL SEEDING

Seeding will be made at Club Captain's discretion for the first ladder. Thereafter, seeding is calculated by reversing the prior period's results (excluding any inactive fencers who will remain at the bottom in alphabetical order).

NEW PARTICIPANTS

New participants should contact the Club Captain if they wish to be added to the Ladder Tournament. New fencers will be added to the bottom of the ladder for that quarter.

INACTIVE FENCERS

Fencers in the tournament must commit to regular participation. To be considered active, fencers must be regularly present and actively participating in the ladder at least once per month. Inactive fencers re-joining the ladder must start at the bottom.

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN...

Toward the end of a quarter, what happens if a top 3 fencer is absent?

- If a NO.1 PLACED fencer is not around during the last week of a quarterly period, NO.2 will have the opportunity to claim the ladder win, OR; gracefully refuse the challenge and allow the absent fencer the win. If NO.2 is away, this honour is passed to NO.3 and so forth.
- There is no right or wrong here, but if it genuinely known that that a top fencer is away or ill etc, the honourable thing to do would be to leave them with the win. If however one suspects the absence is a method of shying away from a final challenge, the option exists to take their spot.