

How Can I Keep Score?

Part 1 - Pools

After the fencers are grouped by weapon, they are seeded into pools (smaller groups of fencers) by their classifications. Fencers earn classifications in competitions and could be rated an "A" (the highest) through "E." All fencers begin as "U" – unclassified (the lowest). Seeding is randomized within each classification. Each person fences all the others in that pool. The score is kept on a special sheet (see below) and points awarded for each touch (score). The bouts are 3 minutes long. By the end of the bout each fencer will have from 0-5 points. We'll use three young ladies for our example. Sally, Mary and Della are fencing a very small pool. Della fences Sally first. Sally wins 5-2. We put a 5 and a V for victory on the 3rd number (Della) on Sally's row. On Della's row, we put a 2 in the first column.

Name	#	1	2	3	V	TS	TR	IND	Place
Sally	1			5/V					
Mary	2								
Della	3	2							

It sometimes helps to say, "One is fencing three, (marking 5/V in the 1st row – 3rd column) and then go to the other fencer's row and say, "Three is fencing one," (marking 2 in the 3rd row 1st column.) Many scorekeepers put a horizontal or diagonal line in the boxes of the two fencers they are scoring.

Name	#	1	2	3	V	TS	TR	IND	Place
Sally	1		/	5/V					
Mary	2	/							
Della	3	2/							

Now Mary will fence Sally. We put the line in the number boxes of those fencers (1 fencing 2, and 2 fencing 1). As the bout progresses, you can tick each point in the appropriate box. Time runs out and the score is Sally 3, Mary 4. Sally loses to Mary.

Name	#	1	2	3	V	TS	TR	IND	Place
Sally	1		3/	5/V					
Mary	2	4/V							
Della	3	2/							

We record the 4 for Mary and put a V beside it, because even though she did not reach 5 points, she still won the bout. This is very important because you may not remember it was a victory when adding the final results unless you indicate it this way.

Name	#	1	2	3	V	TS	TR	IND	Place
Sally	1		3/	5/V					
Mary	2	4/V		4					
Della	3	2/	5/V						

Now the last bout is between Mary and Della. Della was able to squeak by in a 5-4 victory. We indicate that on the sheet, and while the fencers relax, we figure the stats for our pool.

First, we count the number of victories across for each fencer. We figure a percentage by the number of bouts fenced into the number of wins. Sally fenced 2 bouts and won 1 – that is a 50% victory. The computer or the bout person will assign that percentage on their paperwork.

Name	#	1	2	3	V	TS	TR	IND	Place
Sally	1		3/	5/V	1				
Mary	2	4/V		4	1				
Della	3	2/	5/V		1				

Next, we count the number of touches each fencer (row) scored so we add up each touch on the horizontal lines and record that in the TS box.

Name	#	1	2	3	V	TS	TR	IND	Place
Sally	1		3/	5/V	1	8			
Mary	2	4/V		4	1	8			
Della	3	2/	5/V		1	7			

Next, we are going to record the number of touches that our fencers received. Count each fencer's number down and record that in the TR box.

Name	#	1	2	3	V	TS	TR	IND	Place
Sally	1		3/	5/V	1	8	6		
Mary	2	4/V		4	1	8	8		
Della	3	2/	5/V		1	7	9		

Now we are going to subtract the TS and the TR and record the number in the IND box. This is the fencer's indicator which tells their send/receive ratio. Sally scored 8 touches and only received 6, so she is on the positive side by 2. Mary had 8 each so her indicator is 0. Della scored 7, but received 9 hits, so she is in the negative by 2.

Name	#	1	2	3	V	TS	TR	IND	Place
Sally	1		3/	5/V	1	8	6	+2	
Mary	2	4/V		4	1	8	8	0	
Della	3	2/	5/V		1	7	9	-2	

Finally, we assign place in the pool (this is NOT place in the event, only in this pool). Since all the girls won a bout, the first method of % of victories can't be used. We move next to indicators. Sally has the highest indicator, therefore she will receive first place in the pool; Della next, and Mary last. Fencers are to sign off on their score sheets. If you only keep score for your fencer, it will still help them to know what they

Name	#	1	2	3	V	TS	TR	IND	Place
Sally	1		3/	5/V	1	8	6	+2	1
Mary	2	4/V		4	1	8	8	0	2
Della	3	2/	5/V		1	7	9	-2	3

should see when they check their score before they sign off on it. Please remember by signing the score sheet the fencer is agreeing that all the information is correct. Once it is signed and turned into the bout committee – **THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO WAY TO DISPUTE REVERSED SCORES, WRONG SCORES OR MISTAKES IN MATH!!** It is a good idea for fencers to glance at the score sheet after each bout to make sure the score was recorded correctly

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Part 2 – Direct Elimination

After the results are tabulated from the pools, a new seeding will be posted that will express how the fencers are actually fencing today, as opposed to their classification status. This next phase is called direct elimination (or d.e.) and if you lose, you are eliminated (out). Look at the seeding for the d.e. phase, and see how many fencers there are. Tableaus (tables) are figured on multiples of 8 (i.e. 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, 256). If there are 9 people, you are working in a table of 16. If there are more than 16, the table is 32; more than 32 = 64; and if there are 118 fencers, you are working in a table of 128. Meanwhile, your fencer will take the strip with a pre-arranged fencer number according to the tableau. If there are 19 fencers (table of 32) and your fencer is 16th, this is the formula to figure who will be the opponent – add one to your fencer number and subtract from the table number. In this example, add 1 to 16 (17) and subtract from 32 which leave 15. Your fencer's opponent is 15th seed. If your fencer were 10th, (+1=11; 32-11=23) he would fence #23. But there are only 19 fencers! Congratulations, he has a "bye" which means the fencer is automatically promoted to the next round

For our purposes, let's say we have 15 fencers, the table is 16 and one person gets a bye. which in our example would take that fencer into the round of 8. In our pools, #1 seed, Sally, got a bye. Mary and Della have to fence to get into the round of 8. Mary fences Emily in this example. Sally is fencing another girl at the same time. Below is a general idea of what a d.e. slip looks like. D.E. bouts are 15 touch bouts with 3 periods of 3 minutes separated by 1 minute rest periods. The slip has 29 spaces in the event the score goes to 14-15. For each touch, a mark is made in a separate block.

NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Mary																													
Emily																													

After the referee calls the fencers together and checks their equipment, the bout begins. Mary scores a touch right away.

NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Mary	1																												
Emily																													

It was a good plan and she tries it again and succeeds again.

NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Mary	1	2																											
Emily																													

Why stop a good plan? Mary tries again, but her opponent is ready for her this time and she does not get the touch, but Emily does!

NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Mary	1	2																											
Emily			1																										

With the score now 2/1 in favor of Mary, Emily gets busy and scores 3 touches in a row and they have a rest period.

NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Mary	1	2																											
Emily			1	2	3	4																							

Mary comes back with 4 in a row. As you can see, the score is easily read by looking at the last number in each row. Mary 6, Emily 4.

NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Mary	1	2					3	4	5	6																			
Emily			1	2	3	4																							

In the end, the score will be recorded at the end with a V and D for victory and defeat. See the final results below.

NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
Mary	1	2					3	4	5	6	7		8	9		10	11	12	13		14	15							15	V
Emily			1	2	3	4						5		6				7		8	9								9	D

Once again, it is absolutely critical that the fencer make sure the information on the sheet they are verifying with their signature is correct and the victory is by their name if they won! You would not believe how many times both fencers and referee sign off on a reversed score! If it makes it to the bout committee that way, it is likely not going to be corrected unless it is caught before it is entered into the computer. After that, it makes no difference. The score will stand the way it was signed.

The tableau progresses until it is down to the final two fencers which is the bout for the gold medal.

This is merely a simple overview. As you might imagine, there are many nuances that have not been mentioned. Also, if your fencer is in a national "cadet" (under 17) or "junior" (under 20) event, there may be a double elimination beginning at the table of 32 or 16 depending on the size of the event. Double elimination means you may lose one and still keep fencing, so please make sure that your fencer is completely finished before you leave.

This information was presented to help you enjoy the sport by being engaged and assisting your fencer by providing valuable tournament statistics and journaling. If you start early enough, you can keep a running account of exactly how many bouts are fenced in competition each month or season. Many fencers keep data on who they have fenced, the outcome of the bout, information about what was effective (or not) on that fencer, left or right handed, known weaknesses, etc.

Hopefully, this will get you off to a great start. You will find there are many ways to aid your fencer besides being the ever faithful water bearer (or Gatorade bearer as the case may be!) Find ways to help your fencer maximize his enjoyment in the greatest sport around.

Tournament _____ Date _____

Pool _____ Strip _____ Referee _____

Name	#	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	V	TS	TR	IND	Place
	1	1													
	2		2												
	3			3											
	4				4										
	5					5									
	6						6								
	7							7							
	8								8						
	9									9					

ROUND	NAMES	Fencer A (referee's right)	1 st Period	2 nd Period	3 rd Period
		Fencer B (referee's left)			
256					
128					
64					
32					
16					
8					
4					
2					