



Yorkshire

Fencing



Youth League

New fencers and parent guide

ABOUT

What is the Yorkshire Youth League?

Fencing is a competitive sport and to help young fencers learn how to compete, Yorkshire Fencing run a series of tournaments though out the year.

The main aim of the Youth League is to give new young fencers experience and an opportunity to get to grips with the ins and outs of fencing tournaments before venturing further afield and taking on tournaments with a higher standard.

Whilst the league does have rankings, trophies and medals, it is perfect for fencers with no competition experience and for those who have competed before but do not yet have confidence to enter the wider national competitions.

Each year there are around 4 events, some of which are organised by local clubs within Yorkshire and others by the Yorkshire Fencing Committee.

For the latest dates and to enter upcoming competitions visit our website or send an email.



www.yorkshirefencing.org.uk



youth@yorkshirefencing.org.uk



group of under 10 medallists

Speak with your child's coach about when to enter the next competition

GET SET


First competition - what you should know.


So, you have signed your child up for your first competition, what do you do now?


Step 1. Gather your equipment


Check with your club about borrowing equipment to use at the competition and make sure you get it in advance, it is much less stressful if you know you have everything you need. Check the equipment list later in the booklet for a full list.

Step 2. Competition day

 Everyone should eat a good breakfast, fencers and parents. Even when there is food available at the competition, a fencer needs a good store of energy and a parent may not get time to eat while helping their child.


 Plan your journey to arrive at least 40 minutes before the check-in desk closes. Note the advertised check-in time is the latest time you must arrive by.


 Arrive at the competition and follow the signs to the check-in desk. It is important to let the organiser know that you are here.


 Find your coach if they are there and ask them about

warming up. They may suggest waiting for a little and if you are lucky, they will give you a one 2 one blade session as well but there is not always time to do this.

Step 3. The Tournament begins

 Listen for the organiser calling your age group and category. It should be something like, "Under 12 Boys, Piste 4 and 5". This means that all male under 12 fencers should go to piste 4 and 5. A piste is the fencing strip and there will be numbers on the walls indicating where the designated piste is.

 Check with the referee at the pistes announced to see which one you are on. Once you have found your referee and piste, tell him your name and he will want to check some of your equipment. He will almost certainly ask to see your under jacket (called a **plastron**). He is checking the badge shows the plastron is of the correct safety standard.

 Now the fencing begins, wait at the ends of the piste, ready to fence when the referee says it is your turn. You will fence everyone in your group (called a **poule**). Do not leave without asking the referee first; check with the referee that it is okay to do so.

KIT UP

What do I need to bring

Kit for parents

York shire Youth League tournaments are almost always in school sports halls and as such, they are not the most comfortable of places to spend a day. They can be chilly and have minimal seating and it is wise to be prepared. Besides fencing equipment, we recommend folding chairs and warm clothing in cooler months.

Kit for fencer

✂ Essential protective fencing equipment - mask, plastron, jacket, glove, chest protector (optional for boys, essential for girls).

✂ Optional - Breaches and long socks are recommended for all fencers, however, under 10, 12 and 14 may wear strong tracksuit trousers as long as the pockets are completely closed.

✂ Weapons - bring at least 2 foil, sabre, or epees depending on the category entered.

✂ Body wires - bring at least 2 body wires which fit your chosen weapons. (Not all wires are the same)

✂ Spare clothes to go home in, it gets very sweaty!

Food and drink

Check the competition information carefully to see if food and drink will be available. It is always best to be cautious and ensure that you bring enough drinks for the competition and remember fencing is very hot, you will use more water than you imagine.

It is important to eat regularly throughout the competition and there will be breaks to do so. Talk with your coach about what sort of food to bring and also remember to take into account personal preference. High sugar items are not recommended such as sweets, chocolates etc. Better to eat food which is high in energy but slow releasing throughout the day.

Other items

It is a good idea to bring a note book, you can record your scores and anything that you struggle with so that you can ask your coach next time you are training. You may also see details about a competition that you would like to try.



Taking a food break.

FORMAT

What happens at a tournament?

A first tournament can be quite confusing so it is important to listen carefully and ask for help from the information desk if you are stuck.









A competition is split into two main rounds.

1. Groups (called **Poules**) where a group of between 4 and 7 fencers will fence each other and then the results are compiled to create a list of the highest scoring to lowest scoring fencers. Each fight (called a bout) is to five points (**hits**)
2. Knockout (called **Direct Elimination**) in this round, the fencers will fight to between 10 and 15 points depending on age and they will have three periods of either 2 or 3 minutes with 1 minute break for a drink and quick chat with parent or coach. During this round, only the winning fencer goes on to fight again until there is eventually only 1 fencer remaining (the winner).

Sometimes, age groups or genders are mixed together when numbers in a particular category are low, however, most still have medals awarded for the individual categories.

At the end of the tournament, medals are presented to the 4 finalists. (Gold, Silver and 2 third places Bronze)

How a fencing bout takes place.

-  The referee calls two fencers.
-  The fencers go to each end of the piste and fasten into the electrical system. Ask for help if you do not know how to do this.
-  The fencers attach their weapons to their body wires and then approach the middle of the piste.
-  The referee will direct the fencers to test their weapons and the method for doing so is different for foil, sabre and epee. Ask for help from the referee if you don't know what to do.
-  The fencers return to the engage line and salute the opponent, referee and spectators (if any).
-  The fencer then places his mask on his head and when instructed by the referee he will get into the engage position.
-  The referee will say "engage, ready, fence" and at this point the two fencers begin and continue until a hit lands or the referee says halt. They will repeat this until the required number of points has been reached by one fencer or the time runs out. Remember in the knock-out rounds, there may be breaks for a short drink.
-  The referee will announce the winner and both fencers salute each other and shake hands. They should also thank the referee and shake hands with him too.

RESULTS

Understanding the Score sheets

Fencing score sheets (**poule sheets**) can be a little confusing to understand but this guide will hopefully help.

Here, we have a group of 6 fencers. Each fencer will fence the other and the scores are recorded.

- 1 Each fencer has a number which is used to identify them in the poule.
- 2 A fencer's score is recorded horizontally and the opponent's vertically. The example in yellow: Sam won the fight 5 hits to 0 against John. Sam's score is recorded along

the line in the 3rd box as this is John's number.

- 3 The number of victories are recorded in this column.
- 4 This is the percentage of victories.
- 5 Total Hits made against a fencer's opponents.
- 6 Total hits received by a fencer.
- 7 Difference between the HS (5) and HR (6).
- 8 Position for this group (**poule**) is determined firstly by the number of victories (highest number taking first place)

In the event that 2 or more fencers have the same number of victories as in the case of fencer 2,4 and 6, the position is then calculated by giving the highest place to the fencer with the highest Indicator (7). In this case, Lewis has the highest indicator of 8 and therefore takes second place.

	#	1	2	3	4	5	6	V	V/M	HS	HR	Ind	POS
Sam Fields	1		V5	V5	V5	V5	V5	5	1.00	25	9	16	1
Jason Fips	2	D2		V5	D3	V5	V4	3	0.60	19	18	1	4
John Aldridge	3	D0	D1		D0	D3	D2	0	0.00	6	24	-18	6
Lewis Sampson	4	D4	V5	V5		V5	D2	3	0.60	21	13	8	2
Vernon James	5	D1	D3	V4	D0		D2	1	0.20	10	23	-13	5
Bob Johnson	6	D2	D4	V5	V5	V5		3	0.60	21	15	6	3



WHAT NEXT

Looking for your next challenge?

After taking part in several Youth League events, you may feel that you are looking for the next step. The best thing to do is to speak with your child's coach and see if they are ready.

The first step would naturally be the Yorkshire Youth Championship, it has the same age groups as the league and it is the qualifier for the British Championships (a very high level competition)

However, before entering the British Youth Championships, it is recommended that a child has a greater breadth of experience and this can easily be found in the Leon Paul Junior Series. Have a look at the series website (www.leonpauljuniorseries.co.uk) for details of upcoming events. The closest ones are Durham, Manchester and Nottingham and then many others further afield. The events earlier in the year tend to be better introductory events and as the year progresses, so does the competitiveness with those hosted between September and December being generally the toughest.



England Youth Championships

For more information on upcoming competitions, visit the Yorkshire Fencing website where there is a list of upcoming competitions and those recommended for newer fencers.

Age groups

Not all competition age groups are the same and while it is the norm for the age group to be that of a child on the 1st of January, some competitions run even ages (Under 10, Under 12 Under 14 etc.) and others run odd age groups (Under 9, Under 11, Under 13 etc.). Check your child's age carefully and ensure that you enter the correct age group.

Cadet and Junior events

Once a fencer is quite experienced, your child's coach may suggest that they are ready for cadet or junior events, depending on age. Minimum age for cadets is 11 on 1st January and Juniors is 13 on the 1st January. Very few fencers are ready for cadet or junior events when they only just meet the minimum age requirements as the standard of

these competitions is very high. These competitions are used to determine which fencers will represent Great Britain and the competition is quite fierce.



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