

# Charter of the Southwest Sectional Circuit Cup

*The Southwest Sectional Circuit Cup (SSCC) is a collective effort of the member Divisions of the Southwest Section, USFA. Its purpose is to promote increased participation among all levels of fencers in tournaments outside their home Divisions, to provide elite athletes with serious fencing at Regional competitions, to increase the size and strength of tournaments throughout the Section, to better prepare fencers for competition on the National level, and to promote fencing in general across the Section.*

## **Section I. Management of the SSCC**

*Article 1.01* The SSCC Commission, composed of seven Directors, will oversee operation and management of the Southwest Sectional Circuit Cup (SSCC). All directors must be at least 18 years of age when they assume office, reside within the boundaries of the Southwest Section, maintain USFA membership throughout their term of office and take office immediately upon election.

*Article 1.02* Six directors will be selected from the members of the Section by the Southwest Section Executive Committee.

(a) Each year by September 1<sup>st</sup> the Southwest Section Executive Committee will select two Directors to serve on the SSCC. Directors will serve three-year terms; taking office September 2<sup>nd</sup> in the year they are selected to September 1<sup>st</sup> of the end of their term unless a replacement has not been selected by the EC in which case their term will be extended until replaced. Non-full term vacancies will be selected by the SWS EC to fill the remainder of the term of office.

1) The SWS EC will appoint all six Directors the first year, designating which will serve for three years, which for two years and which for one year.

(b) The composition of the SSCC Commission will reflect the geographic diversity of the Divisions that participate in the SSCC. No more than two Directors appointed by the Southwest Section Executive Committee may be from the same division. At least four Divisions must be represented on the Commission at all times.

*Article 1.03* The SSCC Athlete Advisory Group will serve as an advisory group to the SSCC Commission, and elect one member to serve as full voting Director of the SSCC Commission. The SSCC Athlete Advisory Group will be composed of athletes appointed by their respective Divisions. Each Division that has ratified the SSCC Charter for that season may appoint up to two athletes (one male and one female) to the SSCC Athlete Advisory Group by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Athletes must be at least 18 year of age, reside within the boundaries of the Division by which they are appointed and maintain USFA membership throughout their term of service. The Athlete Director will serve until replaced by the Athlete Advisory Group.

*Article 1.04* The immediate past Managing Director of the SSCC Commission, if not currently serving in another capacity on the Commission, will be an *ex-officio* (non-voting) Director of the SSCC Commission.

*Article 1.05* Any Commissioner may resign at any time, provided that any resignation must be in writing, and will be effective on delivery to the Southwest Section Chairperson unless the resignation provides for a later effective date. Any member of the SSCC Commission may be removed from Office by a two-thirds vote of those voting members present at a Special Meeting of the Southwest Section or the Annual General Meeting. The members of the SSCC Commission are responsible to the Executive Committee of the Southwest Section and may be removed from Office by a two-thirds vote of the Southwest Section Executive Committee if such an action is found to be in the best interests of the SSCC or of the athletes of the Southwest Section.

*Article 1.06* The SSCC Commission will be solely responsible for the management of the SSCC. The SSCC Commission will publish yearly by September 1<sup>st</sup> an Operations Manual detailing the organizational structure of the SSCC Commission, protocols for designation of SSCC tournaments, tournament organization and operations, and protocols for point standings and awards in each weapon. The Operations Manual may be amended in mid-season as operational circumstances dictate.

*Article 1.07* No Commissioner shall receive a salary or other compensation in their capacity as a Commissioner, except a return for expenses incurred for the benefit of the organization and only to the extent provided for in the adopted SSCC budget.

## **Section II. Ratification of the SSCC Charter**

*Article 2.01* The Charter of the Southwest Section Circuit Cup will take effect when ratified by 4 divisions of the Southwest Section that have SSCC events designated for the 2006-2007 season. Ratification will be by majority vote of the Executive Committee of the Division. The Divisions that ratify the charter by the initial deadline set by the Southwest Section EC will be considered the initial members of the SSCC. Other Divisions may join the SSCC under the protocols outlined in Section IV.

*Article 2.02* Each year, by September 1<sup>st</sup>, the Executive Committee of each member division will re-ratify the Charter. At least four divisions must re-ratify the Charter each year in order to continue the SSCC. Divisions ratifying the SSCC charter each year agree to grant sanction as official USFA events to proposed SSCC events within their jurisdiction and designate representatives to the Athlete Advisory Group. Failure to ratify the Charter or sanction a proposed SSCC event within its jurisdiction by a member division will be equivalent to withdrawing from the SSCC.

## **Section III. Divisional Operations under the SSCC Charter**

*Article 3.01* Only divisions that have ratified the Charter of the SSCC will have designated SSCC events within their jurisdiction.

*Article 3.02* Each Division ratifying the SSCC Charter commits to following the tournament designation process as directed by the SSCC Commission. The SSCC Commission will communicate in a timely manner to the Divisions the deadline for tournament designations.

*Article 3.03* An LOC which is not itself Division will be responsible for having the tournament sanctioned by the appropriate Division and have the Division contact the SSCC Commission confirming the sanctioning. Until confirmed as a sanctioned official USFA event, the tournament will be listed as ‘proposed.’

*Article 3.04* Divisions ratifying the SSCC Charter agree not to sanction as official USFA events Senior/Open/DivIA (or equivalent), Division II (or equivalent), Division III (or equivalent), Veteran or Youth-14 events the same weekend as an SSCC event with an event in that weapon, where Men’s/Women’s/Mixed Epee is one weapon, Men’s/Women’s/Mixed Foil is one weapon and Men’s/Women’s/Mixed Sabre is one weapon. Unrated (or equivalent), Youth-10 and Youth-12 events are explicitly permitted.

## **Section IV. Addition of New Divisions**

*Article 4.01* Divisions that are components of the Southwest Section, USFA, but are not currently members of the SSCC, may be added to the SSCC by applying to the SSCC Commission by December 1<sup>st</sup> of the preceding season.

*Article 4.02* Divisions applying to become members must ratify the SSCC Charter, and have their membership ratified by a majority of the current member Divisions of the SSCC.

## **Section V. Future Modifications to the SSCC Charter**

*Article 5.01* The General Membership of the Southwest Section at the Annual Meeting, upon a two-thirds majority vote of those present, may propose amendments or modifications to this

charter, to be submitted to the member Divisions for ratification. Proposed amendments or modifications to the SSCC Charter from the General Membership must be submitted in a manner identical to amendments to the Southwest Section Bylaws.

*Article 5.02* The Southwest Section Executive Committee upon a two-thirds majority vote, may propose amendments or modifications to this Charter, to be submitted to the member divisions for ratification. Proposed amendments or modifications to the SSCC Charter from the Executive Committee must be submitted by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Article 5.03* If ratified by two-thirds of the member Divisions of the SSCC by September 1<sup>st</sup>, the proposed amendments or modifications shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of this Charter.