

**Subject:** JO Qualification Updates

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Organizers,

With the changes to Junior Olympics this season, I wanted to highlight some new points that may pertain to you.

- Junior Olympics will be in January for the remainder of the Quad.
- 2026 Junior Olympics: Jan 9-12, 2026 – Kansas City, MO
  - Regular fee deadline: **November 5, 2025**
  - Adjusted qualification window: **Dec 11, 2024-Dec 10, 2025**
    - *All regionals taking place after Dec 10, 2025, will not contribute to qualification for the 2026 Junior Olympics.*
- Age-out for Juniors and Cadets will take place immediately after the February NAC, not Junior Olympics
- **Mixed Age Eligibility for Regionals:** To bridge the gap between the old schedule and the new one, there will be a **mixed age eligibility period for regional events** after the qualification window closes:
  - Regional events **up to Dec. 10, 2025** will follow the current season's age eligibility rules (often referred to as **Schedule A**).
  - Regional events **from Dec. 11, 2025 until the Feb 2026 NAC** will use a **mixed age schedule**. This means these regionals will be open to fencers who are age-eligible under either the current season (Schedule A) **or** the new season (Schedule B) for **Junior and Cadet** categories. In practical terms, for those couple of months, fencers can compete in whichever age groups they're eligible for under either schedule.
  - Regional events **after the Feb 2026 NAC** will then follow the new season's age eligibility rules (**Schedule B** only). After the February NAC, everyone will be on the new birth year schedule going forward.
- The regional point qualification threshold for the 2026 Junior Olympics has been raised from 110 points to **120 points**.

These updates were communicated to all our Junior and Cadet fencers this morning and will be posted on our website shortly. We are working on getting the Mixed Age Eligibility function up and running for the tournaments being hosted Dec 11-Feb 12. If anyone reaches out before that functionality is in place, they can be manually registered, or you can send them directly to me. Right now, all regional tournaments in that window are set to the A schedule.

To view the full email that went out to fencers this morning, you can click [here](#).

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Best,



**Shannon Daugherty**

Regional Events Manager

USA Fencing