

Yellow Band Foil

Lesson 15

<http://www.fencing.calpoly.edu/>

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Tournament!

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Creating Pools

You will now be asked to take part in a small tournament consisting of pools consisting of other members of your class.

The goal of the pool is to allow a mix of equally matched fencers to bout each other, and using the results of those bouts to seed a Direct Elimination Tableau

Pools are generally created by breaking down a large number of fencers into smaller groups of approximately the same size. The general goal is to generate equal number of pools of 5 or 6 fencers.

In an event with different ranking and/or nationalities/clubs. The fencers are first seeded into the pools by ranking, then by nationality. Efforts should be made to keep the overall ranking and nationalities of the pools similar.

For example, if we held an event with 15 fencers consisting of

4 A ranked fencers (from Teams X,Y,Z,Z),
4 B ranked fencers (from Teams X,X,Y,Z)
4 C ranked fencers (from Teams X,Y,Y,Y)
3 D ranked fencers (from Teams X,Z,Z)

We would want to seed the fencers as follows

Pool 1	Pool 2	Pool 3
A Z	A Z	A X
B X	B X	A Y
B Z	B Y	C Y
C Y	C Y	C X
D X	D Z	D Z

The pools are fenced in “round robin” format, meaning that each fencer in the pool will fence all other fencers in that pool. The order of the bouts is determined by the order set forth in the USFA Manual.

The total number of bouts that will be fenced in a pool can be determined by the formula $(N)(N-1)/2$ where N is the number of fencers in the pool

Bout order, Total Bouts, and Victory % as a function of Pool Size

4 fencers	1-4	2-3	1-3	2-4	3-4	1-2
6 bouts	0=0% 1=16% 2=33% 3=50% 4=66% 5=83% 6=100%					

5 fencers	1-2	3-4	5-1	2-3	5-4	1-3	2-5	4-1	3-5	4-2
10 bouts	0=0% 1=25% 2=50% 3=75% 4=100%									

6 fencers	1-2	4-5	2-3	5-6	3-1	6-4	2-5	1-4	5-3	1-6	4-2	3-6	5-1	3-4	6-2
15 bouts	0=0% 1=20% 2=40% 3=60% 4=80% 5=100%														

7 fencers	1-4	2-5	3-6	7-1	5-4	2-3	6-7	5-1	4-3	6-2	5-7	3-1	4-6	7-2	3-5	1-6	2-4	7-3	6-5	1-2	4-7
21 bouts	0=0% 1=17% 2=33% 3=50% 4=66% 5=84% 6=100%																				

8 fencers	2-3	1-5	7-4	6-8	1-2	3-4	5-6	8-7	4-1	5-2	8-3	6-7	4-2	8-1
	7-5	3-6	2-8	5-4	6-1	3-7	4-8	2-6	3-5	1-7	4-6	8-5	7-2	1-3
28 bouts	0=0% 1=14% 2=29% 3=43% 4=57% 5=71% 6=86% 7=100%													

9 fencers	1-9	2-8	3-7	4-6	1-5	2-9	8-3	7-4	6-5	1-2	9-3	8-4	7-5	6-1	3-2	
	9-4	5-8	7-6	3-1	2-4	5-9	8-6	7-1	4-3	5-2	6-9	8-7	4-1	5-3	6-2	
36 bouts	0=0% 1=11% 2=22% 3=33% 4=44% 5=55% 6=66% 7=77% 8=88% 9=100%															

The size and number of pools are controlled by a number of factors. The total number of fencers present, the total number of strips available, and the total number of flights you wish to use.

The ideal pool size seems to be 6, keeping the number of bouts manageable, while allowing a good number of bouts for each individual fencer to prove their seed. It also allows easy movement to 5 or 7 (still manageable, but a little large) if the total number of fencers is not divisible by 6. Finally, should the bouts be run dry, it ensures you will have 4 judges available at the pool (the 4 fencers not fencing).

For example, a tournament with 20 fencers can be run as 2 pools of 7 and 1 pool of 6 or as 4 pools of 5. If you only have 3 strips available the first alternative is probably the fastest completed since you only need one flight. If you attempt the second alternative of 4 pools of 5, you gain speed since each pool only has 10 bouts vs the 21 of the pools of 7, but you need to run 2 flights of pools so you lose the time you might have gained.

The Pool Sheet

The first portion of the pool sheet is a grid. Put each fencers name down the first left hand column, usually in the form "Last Name, First Initial"

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Grant, D								
Steinbeck, K								
MacLeod, D								
Cochran, W								
McDonald, E								

Now knowing the proper number of fencers, we consult the proper bout order section

5 fencers	1-2 3-4 5-1 2-3 5-4 1-3 2-5 4-1 3-5 4-2
10 bouts	0 =0% 1=25% 2=50% 3=75% 4=100%

Conduct the bouts in the order listed, first is 1-2 Grant vs. Steinbeck, first. Then 3-4 (MacLeod vs. Cochran), and so on. It is good form to circle the bout number about to be fenced, and to cross off the bout when completed.

If you are the scorekeeper, or director without a scorekeeper always announce the bouts using the form "Now fencing 1-2 Grant-Steinbeck, On deck 3-4 MacLeod-Cochran". The on deck call makes sure the next fencers bouting will begin preparing themselves so there is no delay.

Note that the first fencer called (in this case Grant, places themselves on the directors Right **unless** the bout is against two offhanded individuals (one left, one right) If two offhanded individuals bout, regardless of the call order, the left handed fencer always places themselves to the directors left, and the right handed to the directors right

Continue marking with tallies indicating touches until the bout is over (usually 5 touches)

When complete, write a V (victory) and the roman numeral of touches scored for the victor, and a D (defeat) and the roman numeral of touches scored for the defeated. NOTE! Pool bouts MAY end with a victor score of less than 5 due to bouts ending after 4 minutes!

In this example Steinbeck wins 5 to Grants 3.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Grant, D		$\frac{ }{D3}$						
Steinbeck, K	$\frac{ }{V5}$							
MacLeod, D								
Cochran, W								
McDonald, E								

Continue this process, next bouting 3-4 MacLeod and Cochran, and so forth until the entire sheet is completed.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	V#	V%	TS	TR	IND	Q/E
Grant, D		$\frac{ }{D3}$	$\frac{///}{V5}$	$\frac{///}{V5}$	$\frac{ }{D3}$									
Steinbeck, K	$\frac{///}{V5}$		$\frac{ }{D2}$	$\frac{///}{V5}$	$\frac{ }{D4}$									
MacLeod, D	$\frac{ }{D2}$	$\frac{///}{V5}$		$\frac{ }{D2}$	$\frac{ }{D2}$									
Cochran, W	$\frac{ }{D4}$	$\frac{ }{D1}$	$\frac{///}{V5}$		$\frac{ }{D1}$									
McDonald, E	$\frac{ }{V4}$	$\frac{///}{V5}$	$\frac{///}{V5}$	$\frac{///}{V5}$										

Now for each competitor calculate the number of victories by simply horizontally reading across their name and adding that number. For Grant, 2 victories.

Now convert to a percentage by dividing victories (2) by the number of bouts fenced (4) for 50% or .5

Next Calculate touches SCORED by reading horizontally across their name (Grant 3+5+5+3 =16)

Next Touches Received by reading DOWN their column (Grant, Column 1 5+2+4+4 = 15)

Finally their Indicator is their Touches Scored - Touches Received (Grant 16-15 = +1) NOTE! Indicator may be negative!

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Grant, D		$\frac{ }{D3}$	$\frac{///}{V5}$	$\frac{///}{V5}$	$\frac{ }{D3}$			
Steinbeck, K	$\frac{///}{V5}$		$\frac{ }{D2}$	$\frac{///}{V5}$	$\frac{ }{D4}$			
MacLeod, D	$\frac{ }{D2}$	$\frac{///}{V5}$		$\frac{ }{D1}$	$\frac{ }{D2}$			
Cochran, W	$\frac{ }{D4}$	$\frac{ }{D1}$	$\frac{///}{V5}$		$\frac{ }{D1}$			
McDonald, E	$\frac{ }{V4}$	$\frac{///}{V5}$	$\frac{///}{V5}$	$\frac{///}{V5}$				

V#	V%
2	.5
2	.5
1	.25
1	.25
4	1.0

TS	TR	IND	Q/E
16	15	+1	
16	14	+2	
10	17	-7	
11	16	-5	
19	10	+9	

Make sure your indicators sum to zero by adding them down the column (1+2-7-5+9 = 0)

You may now Rank the fencers in this pool, or combining several pools by

- 1) Victory %
- 2) Indicator
- 3) Touches Scored

So, 1st McDonald (only one with 1.0 victory %), 2nd Steinbeck (.5 with an indicator or +1 which is greater than Grants +1), 3rd Grant (.5/+1), 4th Cochran (.25/-5 -5 is greater than -7) and finally MacLeod (.25/-7)