

Proposal to Split the Socal Division

Due to the socal division having no permanent venue in which to conduct division qualifiers, combined with the geography and traffic patterns of the Southern California region and the relatively large diverse membership, it has become exceedingly difficult to conduct business as a cohesive division in which to address the best interests of the fencing community. There are other regions with even larger geographic sizes but it is not just the square footage of the area but the travel time needed to commute that makes it difficult to find volunteers to organize and run the division.

This proposal is for the division to be split into two new divisions, the Los Angeles and San Fernando Valley Divisions. The fencing clubs in Santa Barbara, Malibu, and outlying areas would be given the option of either joining one of the two new divisions or joining the current existing divisions of Central Coast, Orange Coast or San Bernardino.

The division's equipment and funds would be split roughly per member based on the number of members for the 2007-08 season.

Membership Size:

The Socal Division currently has large qualifiers. For example, at the 2008 JO's Jr. Men's epee qualifier, there were 51 fencers. Although other divisions are just as large, many have a permanent venue in which to host qualifiers and store equipment. In the Los Angeles area, due to the high price of real estate, it is difficult to find affordable large venues. Since venues big enough to hold all the qualifying events are unavailable, the overall number of days, to conduct qualifiers has risen to 8 days over 4 - 6 weekends. Having the events over so many days and weekends has become increasingly difficult to find volunteers willing to transport equipment and run these events.

Geographic Size:

The Socal Division understands that there are divisions with both a larger membership and/or a larger geographic area. The United States is a big country with each region having its own particular issues.

Rather than comparing Socal Division to other regions with large membership numbers such as New Jersey or New York or comparing to large geographic areas such as Arizona the following is a comparison to other divisions in the Pacific Coast section.

Splitting up the socal division would even out the number of members in the section, facilitate a more cohesive division by making it easier to find volunteers to run the required qualifiers and overall improve fencing opportunities for the fencing community.

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2006-2007 Membership Numbers:

Division	Members	Clubs
Central California	399	11
Hawaii	86	4
Mountain Valley	219	7
Nevada	314	5
North Coast	50	4
Northern California	630	21
Orange Coast	147	5
San Bernardino	116	7
San Diego	338	8
Socal	838	29