

# Agenda

## Annual Meeting of the USFA Board of Directors

September 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Minneapolis, MN

The Board of Directors meeting is divided into six major phases:

**Information:** Minutes of the previous meeting; officer, director and committee reports; and general announcements.

**Budget:** Approval or disapproval of the budget, requests for major changes in it including staff or executive actions that may involve budget changes.

**Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws (when appropriate)**

**Elections (when appropriate)**

**Unfinished Business**

**New Business**

The latter two categories are what was formerly known as the “Decision Phase” and consist largely of motions before the Board, as well as planning discussions.

Motions before the Board (excluding those directly related to the budget) are divided into three categories:

**SECOND HEARING:** Motions that have had First Hearing at the previous Board meeting; Second Hearing motions must be voted upon as presented, with only minor changes permitted (if a motion requires major changes or fails completely, it must be re-presented as a First Hearing Motion at a subsequent Board meeting).

**URGENT:** Motions that have not had a First Hearing but must be acted upon by the Board for time or other considerations.

**FIRST HEARING:** Motions that are new to the Board, but for which decisions are not urgent. A First Hearing motion may not be voted upon unless the Board moves it to the Urgent category; instead, it is automatically placed in the Second Hearing category at the next meeting unless the sponsor withdraws it.

Every motion must have an individual sponsor identified in the agenda and in attendance at the meeting. The sponsor presents the motion, answers questions, takes notes on suggested changes, and shepherds the motion if it is referred to committee. Committees that are presenting motions must assign a member to fulfill this duty.

## Index of Appendices

<u>Description</u>	<u>Appendices/ Attachments</u>	<u>Page</u>
<b><u>Officer Reports</u></b>		
President's Report – Kalle Weeks		
Vice President's Report – Mark Stasinis		
Vice President's Report – Jerry Benson	A	19
Vice President's Report - Ro Sobalvarro		
Secretary's Report – Bradley Baker	B	20
Treasurer's Report – Greg Dilworth		
Budget vs. Actual		
Budget Report		
Executive Director's Report – Kurt Aichele		
<b><u>Committee Reports and other Appendices</u></b>		
US Fencing Sports Medicine Program	C	21
Hall of Fame Committee	D	24
Paralympic Development Committee	E	25
Resource Development Task Force	F	27
Sports Science & Technology Committee	G	28
Referee Development Task Force	H	31
Regional Open Circuit Advisory Group	I	37
Veteran's Committee	J	38
Technology Planning Task Force	K	40
Tournament Committee	L	41
Fencing Officials Commission	M	43
Proposed Amendments to the Operations Manual from Second Hearing Motion 1	N	45
Proposed Amendments to Second Hearing Motion 1	O	51
Fencing Officials Commission Response to Second Hearing Motion 2	P	52
Proposed Amendments to the Operations Manual from First Hearing Motion 5	Q	53
Proposal for Document Naming Standards	R	63

\*Reports are provided by committee chairs regarding their committee's activities; approval of the submitted reports does not indicate adoption of items within each report.

## **I. Information**

### **A. General Information and Organizational Items:**

General announcements –

Moment of Silence

Appointment of Parliamentarian.

### **B. Minutes of the July 5, 2009 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Motion (Mr. Baker):** To approve the minutes of the July 5, 2009 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors (the minutes are distributed separately)

### **C. Board Education: Kalle Weeks & Terry Kwan**

### **D. Presentation: “Building a Foundation for the Future” - Kurt Aichele**

### **E. Officer and Executive Director Reports: (Please refer to the Index of Appendices)**

**Motion (Mr. Baker):** To receive Officer and Director reports.

### **F. Committee Reports**

1. Executive Committee Reports of Action. The EC took the following actions:

#### **August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

- The EC considered a request to overturn a division's decision not to sanction a charitable event.

Sanctioning authority rests with divisions and sections, as the Operations Manual, in such provisions as Chapter 3 Section 1.C.1 and Chapter 3 Section 2.A. can be read to codify that policy, and the Division Operating Guide (see, e.g., Chapter 1, page 5, first full paragraph) accords. In addition, there is no procedure or precedent for overriding the division's decision regarding a truly local event.

The Committee, therefore, declines to overturn the division's decision. We do, however, commend the local organizer for his decision to hold this event, as it provides an opportunity for the community at large to learn about our sport while contributing to a worthy cause.

#### **August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

- Upon receiving a request for clarification of the policies for organizing tournaments, the Executive Committee reminded a division that it cannot set different qualification standards for entry into the same event based upon an athlete's gender. Specifically, the minimum (or maximum) classification requirement for male and female athletes to enter a specific mixed event cannot be different.

Section 6.2.B of the Operations Manual specifies the conditions under which an event may be restricted by classification. Nothing in the language included allows for varied

entry criteria based upon gender.

- The Executive Committee heard an appeal on behalf of two members to be allowed to simultaneously represent two clubs in competition for the upcoming season. The appeal requested that one club representation be used for all foil competitions entered and a different club representation be used for all epee competitions.

The Executive Committee declined this appeal, noting that there are already mechanisms to allow for an athlete to be affiliated with multiple clubs simultaneously. The appeal cited as the primary reason behind desiring multiple club representation that each club "be eligible to coach" the athletes in question in the respective weapon. There is nothing in the US Fencing rules or policies that would limit a club with which an athlete is affiliated but not representing (or, indeed, not even affiliated with) from providing such coaching.

Section 5.2.B of the Operations Manual states:

“A distinction is made between club “affiliation” and “representation.” A fencer may be affiliated with more than one club but can represent only one of them (except as provided for below) in USFA competitions during each fencing season.”

While Section 5.2.B.1 states in part:

“However, within the same fencing season, no fencer may represent in competition more than one club without special permission of the Board of Directors.”

- Approved the request of USFA General Counsel to authorize the expenditure of an amount, not to exceed \$2000, to compensate a CPA to arbitrate a long-standing dispute between the Golden Gate Fencing Foundation and the Pacific Coast Section over unresolved mutual accounts arising out of arrangements for the organization and conduct of certain sectional competitions. After the arbitrator renders a decision, a determination will be made regarding allocation of the cost.

### **August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

- The Executive Committee, as directed by the Bylaws (Article XII, Section 11.1) has filled the Vice Presidential vacancy that occurred upon the resignation of Roberto Sobalvarro with the interim appointment of Jane Carter. The Committee requests that the Board of Directors confirm her appointment for the balance of the term at their annual meeting in September.

Jane began fencing as a teenager at the Tanner City Fencers Club, and continued to compete at Penn where she was a three-time All-American and a member of the 1986 NCAA Championship team. She fenced internationally on multiple World, Pan American and World University teams, taking the individual gold at the Junior Pan Am Championships in 1987; she was a member of the team winning the Pan Am gold in 1991. She has served the USFA in a variety of capacities, including the Operations Manual Task Force, the Grants Committee, the International Committee/High

Performance Committee (chair, 2004-2006) and, from 1998-2008, was a member of the Executive Committee. She is currently the chair of the Bylaws Review Task Force. Jane coaches at the Tanner City Fencers Club, is an assistant coach at the Dana Hall School, and serves as a referee at collegiate meets in the New England area. She is a program manager at CRFHealth, a software company that supports the pharmaceutical and biotech industry.

**Motion (Mr. Baker):** to approve EC action items.

2. Committee Reports: (Please refer to the Index of Appendices)

**Motion (Mr. Baker):** to receive committee reports.

## **II. Budget Phase**

### **A. Financial Reports:**

Budget vs. Actual report for period ending July 31, 2009.

**Motion (Mr. Dilworth):** To receive the Budget Report as submitted to the Board.

### **B. 2009-2010 Budget Variances**

**Motion (Mr. Dilworth):** To approve variances to the 2009-2010 budget, as submitted to the Board.

## **III. Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws**

### **A. Motion (Mr. Clements):**

To amend the Bylaws of the Association by adding the following section to Article VIII:

Art. VIII, Sec. 23. **Executive Session**. The Board shall hold an executive session during each Annual Meeting at which the Board may review the performance and terms of employment of any member of the Association's professional staff. At either the annual meeting or at any special meeting, the Board may take up a specific matter, including a disciplinary matter, in executive session on a motion supported by two-thirds of the whole membership of the Board. An executive session shall be open only to members of the Board unless the motion seeking the session expressly designates specific, named individuals who may remain present.

**Rationale:** Currently there are matters which come before the Board involving privacy issues, while no specific mechanism or authorization exists providing for such matters to be taken up out of full view of the membership. Colorado nonprofit law does not prohibit executive sessions, and the Bylaws of the United States Olympic Committee expressly include a provision requiring that body's Board of Directors to meet in executive session at least twice per year. USOC Bylaws, Sec. 3.2, Para. 6. There is currently a need for some provision allowing for the Board to meet in executive session while recognizing that such sessions should be extraordinary and limited to specific matters.

**B. Motion (Mr. Clements):**

To amend Art. VIII, Sec. 10 of the Bylaws of the Association as follows:

**Section 10 Quorum.** At any meeting of the Board of Directors a quorum shall be ~~seven~~ ten members present in person. On failure of a quorum a lesser number shall have the power to adjourn to a given time and place. The date, place and time of each meeting shall be designated by the President.

**Rationale:** Colorado Revised Statutes Sec. 7-128-205 expressly provides that a quorum of the board of directors of a nonprofit corporation cannot consist of fewer than one-third of the members of the board. Currently, the Association's Board of Directors includes up to thirty individuals, one-third of which is ten. This amendment conforms the Association's Bylaws to the requirements of Colorado law.

**IV. Elections**

**A. Election of members of the Election Committee.**

Article XIII, Section 5 of the Bylaws reads in part:

Election Committee. The Election Committee shall consist of five members, four elected by the Board of Directors and one elected by the Athlete Advisory Group.

b) The members selected by the Board of Directors shall be elected at its annual meeting. If the Board of Directors fails to elect members at an annual meeting, the Executive Committee is authorized to select the members to serve until the next Annual Meeting.

**V. Vacant Officer Post**

**A. Motion (Mr. Baker):** That the Board appoint Jane Carter to fill the position of Vice President formerly held by Roberto Sobalvarro for the balance of the term.

**VI. Unfinished Business**

**A. Second Hearing**

**1. Motion (Mr. Clements):**

**Second:** Mr. Dilworth

To replace the existing classes of individual memberships with new membership classes having rights, benefits, and privileges as follows:

1. Competitive Members. Competitive members have the right to enter and compete in local, regional, and national-level competitions, and subject to deadlines as to the date of membership or requirements as to the minimum length

of membership, shall have the right to vote or run for office in USFA elections. Competitive members may join for one-year or three-year terms upon payment of dues as determined by the Board of Directors.

2. Professional members. Professional members, particularly including coaches, have the same rights, benefits, and privileges as Competitive members, and additionally receive the benefit of a general liability insurance policy purchased by the Association. In order to become a Professional member, an individual must pay for and successfully complete such background screening as may be required by the Association or by said insurance, and the Executive Director is hereby authorized to implement standards for said background screening.

3. Life members. On payment of dues as determined by the Board of Directors, Life members have the same rights, benefits, and privileges as Competitive members, and may vote in elections of the USFA membership subject to deadlines as to the date of membership. Life members retain these rights, benefits, and privileges for the remainder of their natural lives without the payment of additional dues.

4. Benefactor members. Life members may show their continuing support of the Association by upgrading their membership to Benefactor status. Benefactor memberships are grouped in four levels (Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum), with the dues for each level as determined by the Board of Directors. Benefactor members receive additional benefits, including insignia and devices for wear, a certificate, and additional recognition through the Association's channels of communications.

5. Non-Competitive members. Non-Competitive members enjoy the rights, benefits, and privileges of Competitive members with respect to voting and holding office; however, Non-Competitive members may not enter into sanctioned competitions. The Association will also include access to a major medical/special accident plan at special rates. Non-Competitive members may join for one-year or three-year calendar (rather than fencing season) terms upon payment of dues as determined by the Board of Directors.

6. Non-Competitive Life members. On payment of dues as determined by the Board of Directors, Non-Competitive Life members have the same rights, benefits, and privileges as Non-Competitive members, and retain those rights, benefits, and privileges for the remainder of their natural lives.

7. Associate members. Associate members are those individuals who wish to receive American Fencing magazine, but who do not wish to vote, compete, or hold office in the Association. The Association will also include access to a major medical/special accident plan at special rates.

8. Family memberships. Family memberships include 2 Competitive

memberships and 2 Associate (non-voting) memberships. Additional Competitive members living at the same address may be added on payment of additional dues as determined by the Board of Directors. Family memberships include one subscription to American Fencing magazine.

To implement these changes, Chapter 2 of the Operations Manual is amended as follows in Appendix M.

**Mr. Clements has also provided the text of a proposed amendment to this motion, which is included in this agenda as Appendix N.**

2. **Motion (Mr. Baker):** To adopt rules changes to reflect a change in the target area in foil to include a portion of the lower bib, matching the current rules in effect for FIE competition. The effective date of these rules changes will be August 1, 2009 for all national tournaments and qualifiers to national tournaments. The effective date of these rules changes will be August 1, 2010 for all other competitions at all levels governed by the rules of US Fencing.

**Rationale:** Now that the new target area has actually gone into use internationally it appears significantly less likely that there will be additional near-term modifications to these rules. It is important that US Fencing stay in sync with the rules used in fencing in the rest of the world.

While it is noted that there are significant costs to retrofitting existing equipment, this is a cost which is unavoidable if we wish to remain in conformity with the most recent developments in the sport.

**Second:** Mr. Kuver

**The FOC Response this motion is included in Appendix P**

3. **Motion (Mr. Clements on behalf of the ROC Advisory Group):**

To modify the qualification path for Veteran events at Summer Nationals (as outlined in Section 2.11.6 of the Athlete's Handbook) as follows:

Qualifying Path – Summer National Championships

Fencer must state on entry the competition at which he or she met qualification criteria. Failure to do so will be the basis for rejection of entry. (NAC or points)

VETERAN – must meet age eligibility requirements above AND compete in

- Current season Section Championships OR
- Current season Division qualifying competition for Division II and/or Division III Championships in which only those with a "C" classification or lower (D, E, or U) may compete OR

- Any Regional Open Circuit event during the current season OR
- Any NAC during the current season.

**Rationale:**

Would provide an additional qualification path to the veteran championships, especially useful for A- and B-rated veteran fencers who may not qualify through their divisional qualifiers, as well as increase appeal of ROC tournaments.

**Second:** Mr. Becker

**A proposed amendment to this motion is included along with the ROC Advisory Group Report in Appendix I.**

**4. Motion (Mr. Streb):**

To adopt 100% promotion from pools to direct eliminations in all Veteran USFA National events including NAC's & Summer National Championships.

**Rationale:**

1. The 80% rule was applied to veteran fencers a few years ago in order to replicate the World Championship format. Only a very small percentage of vet fencers compete in the World Championships held annually in September, unlike the other team categories – cadet, junior and senior where there are several world cups open to a range of competitors who can qualify via their point standings. We shouldn't penalize the majority of the veteran fencers for the sake of preparing the four people in each category who are going to attend *one* international competition annually.

Furthermore, if such a rationale was applied uniformly to all other age categories, the Division 1 Nationals would have to return to a 2-day format as done at World Cups.

2. The national veteran events have traditionally been small competitions. At the last NAC, (March 2009) the largest group was 35 competitors while the average was below 25. There is no logical rationale to cut fencers out of such small events. The veteran 60 women's foil had 11 competitors. If all of these women fence in July 2009, 2.2 of them will not be able to fence in the direct elimination bouts. Dropping 2 fencers does nothing to expedite the competition, nor does it advance the sport in any manner. It only serves to ensure that those two women will think twice about paying tournament fees and taking on the expense of traveling to Summer Nationals again.

At present, there are only three national tournaments available to Veterans fencers. Unlike 14 year-olds, who can fence in upwards of 8 events at any given national tournament, Veterans are restricted by age and event timing

to 1 or 2 competitions. At National Championships, without the veterans combined category, fencers are flying to a venue and booking a hotel for one event. While many have been involved in the sport for decades, equally as many are new to fencing and the USFA. Why should one incur the considerable expense to fence in 4 or 5 pool bouts, only to be eliminated before the direct elimination bouts?

**Second:** Mr. Blake

### **Tournament Committee Response to Motion**

The Tournament Committee recommends that based on the current formats outlined below from the Athlete's Handbook, that no change is warranted at this time.

#### Format (NAC)

- One round of pools
- 100% promoted out of pools
- No repêchage
- DE bout format: 10 touches in two 3-minute segments. In saber, bouts are fenced to 10 touches, with a 1-minute break when the first fencer reaches 5 touches.

#### Format (Championships)

- One round of pools
- 80% promoted out of pools; however, if there are 8 or fewer fencers registered in the event, 100% shall be promoted out of the pools [BOD, September , 2008]
- No repêchage
- DE bout format: 10 touches in two 3-minute segments. In saber, bouts are fenced to 10 touches, with a 1-minute break when the first fencer reaches 5 touches.

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. First Hearing**

#### **1. Motion (Mr. Baker):**

To approve the Committee List as distributed at the Board Meeting

#### **2. Motion (Mr. Clements):**

The Board of Directors hereby delegates its authority to act between meetings of the Board to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall report to the members of the Board a detailed statement of matters in which it acted on behalf of the Board within five business days, including sufficient information on

which the Board could make a decision if such matter had arisen during a meeting of the Board. Except as may be otherwise provided by resolution of the Board, any such actions are subject to ratification by the Board at its next meeting.

### **3. Motion (Mr. Masin):**

Modify Section 5.2.B.1 of the Operations Manual as follows:

A fencer may at any time resign from one club and join another, or join or hold membership in two or more clubs. ~~However, within the same fencing season, no fencer may represent in competition more than one club without special permission of the Board of Directors.~~ The fencer's first stated club affiliation at a USFA competition in each fencing season becomes that fencer's club representation for that season, unless the fencer changes club representation by January 31st or before any team qualifying competition, whichever occurs the earliest. After this deadline, fencers may not change their club representation without special permission of the Board of Directors. In any team competition, fencers can fence only for the club that they last represented before the start of the competition.

#### **Justification**

The revised wording should help clarify three ambiguities in the current wording:

- 1) The current wording first states that at no time in the fencing season can a fencer change club representation without the permission of the BOD but then later states that they can do it before January 31st or the team qualifying competition. The proposed wording makes it clear that the BOD permission is required only after the deadline.
- 2) The current wording implies that the BOD could grant a fencer permission to represent two or more clubs at the same time. The proposed wording clarifies that the BOD can grant only the changing of a fencer's club representation from one club to another.
- 3) In cases where fencers represent more than one club during a fencing season (for example, their school during the scholastic year and then their club later in the season), the current wording does not make it clear that they cannot fence on both their school's team and their club's team if both their school and their club qualify teams (for example, fence for their school's epee team and their club's foil team). The proposed wording clarifies that they can only fence for the team that they last represented.

#### **4. Motion (Mr. Kuver)**

Effective for the 2009-2010 competitive season, Essex County and Clinton County of the Hudson Berkshire Division (New York) be included into the geographical boundaries of the to the Green Mountain Division (Vermont).

##### **Rationale:**

Good of the order. The leadership in both divisions supports these moves.

The counties in question are the top two counties in New York State and border the state of Vermont. Fencers in these counties have a travel time of less than one hour to find competitions and qualifiers in the Green Mountain Division. Similar competitions in the Hudson Berkshire Division (NY) require travel time of between two to three hours or more.

#### **5. Motion (Mr. Dilworth)**

The US Fencing Operations manual will be modified as listed in Appendix O effective on 8/1/2010.

**Rationale:** I believe that most people would agree that recent years have seen an increased amount of divisiveness and difficulty in our US Fencing Divisions. These problems have occurred in every part of the country, from the largest to the smallest Divisions and have taken on a number of forms. This motion is intended to address what is, in my opinion, the structural reason for these problems.

The motion contains a number of changes to the US Fencing Operations Manual and is designed to do the following:

1. Move the primary sanctioning of non-qualifier events from the division level to the Club level.
2. Create an appeals process where, if any tournament is run contrary to the rules contained elsewhere in the Operations Manual the tournament may lose its sanctioned status and where, if the fault is considered to be particularly serious or repetitive, the entity that sanctioned the tournament may be barred from doing so in the future.

I believe that changing the operations manual in this way will lessen the problems our Divisions are having because I believe that the basic root causes of those problems are money and access to fencing opportunities. Fencing tournaments, if sufficiently large and well attended can make a significant amount of money. Therefore it behooves a club to hold as many large tournaments as possible. It is much easier to have a large tournament if there are no other tournaments in your area that compete with you and if you get to have more tournaments. Fencers also want to have a large number of appropriate (in terms of age/skill level/weapon/etc.) tournaments to attend. Fencers are always happier if the

tournament well run and are usually happier if the tournament is relatively big.

Currently, the division's executive committee (and sometimes a delegated tournament committee or sub-group of the division executive committee) is responsible for meeting these challenges. In some cases various groups have taken over the leadership of a division and then sanctioned tournaments to the benefit of certain clubs or groups of people to the detriment (or at least perceived detriment) to other clubs or groups of people. In other divisions, the contestants for influence, fearful or unwilling to share power, are deadlocked. In those places no one interest dominates the others, but nothing gets accomplished. Instead of developing the sport, the divisions are paralyzed and energy is diverted into unproductive, distracting and off-putting personal attacks and infighting. In either situation, instead of fostering our sport, we are driving people away.

I have no doubt that this will cause new problems and that there are a number of both intended and unintended consequences from this fundamental change to our structure. Thus, this motion is designed to take effect on August 1, 2010, over 10 months after it is initially proposed. This is imperative so that everyone will have time to provide input on whether or not the cure is more harmful than the disease, on how this motion may be improved and to prepare should this motion pass.

#### **6. Motion (Mr. Clements):**

To provide for the adequate discharge of the Board of Directors' duties to manage, supervise, and shepherd the resources of the Association, contracts or purchases meeting any of the following conditions must be specifically reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors:

- a. The contract involves the purchase, sale, lease, or encumbrance of real property, or the licensure, purchase, or sale of intellectual property;
- b. The contract, by its terms, purports to impose requirements on the individual members of the Association;
- c. The total value of the contract in the present fiscal year (i.e., the potential monetary obligation incurred by the Association under the contract exclusive of any revenues which may be generated under the contract) exceeds \$25,000.00;
- d. The term of the contract exceeds four years, regardless as to value;
- e. The term of the contract exceeds one year, and either:
  - i. the total value of the contract in any single fiscal year exceeds \$10,000.00; or
  - ii. the total value of the contract in any single fiscal year exceeds ten percent of the budgetary allocation for the relevant spending category in the current fiscal year (i.e., the line-item allocation approved by the Board of Directors in the Association's budget).

Contracts for direct employment by the Association shall be exempt from this requirement, as shall contracts for which provisions are otherwise specifically

provided by resolution of the Board of Directors (including provisions of the Operations Manual and existing policies for reimbursement or payment of volunteers).

The Executive Committee shall have the authority to approve contracts on behalf of the Board of Directors while the Board is in recess. The Executive Committee's approval of any contract falling within the definitions of categories (a) or (b), any contract for employment of the Executive Director, or any contract whose total value exceeds \$200,000.00 is subject to the ratification of the Board of Directors.

In addition to the foregoing requirements, all contracts whose obligations in aggregate or related financial exposure exceed \$100,000.00 must be reviewed, prior to their execution, by the General Counsel or by such other legal counsel as the Executive Committee may approve in specific cases. In addition, any contract that (1) has rights or commitments extending for more than one year; (2) contains defense, indemnification or hold harmless provisions; (3) seeks to limit the amount or types of liability of the other contracting party, its subcontractors, agents, or Association successors; or (4) establishes the choice of law, forum or dispute resolution means must be reviewed by the General Counsel or by such other legal counsel as the Executive Committee may approve in specific cases.

**7. Motion (Mr. Stasinos on behalf of the Tournament Committee):**

The Tournament Committee recommends the addition of Junior club team events to NAC D (January 2010) and Junior Olympics (February 2010), on a trial basis.

**Rationale:** The Tournament Committee believes that addition of club team events to these tournaments would create an opportunity for all our fencers, but specifically those who are currently not on the NRPS, to receive more competitive experience on the National level thus significantly increasing the value of the tournament(s). Club team events may also increase participation within the club to compete at a tournament they may not have considered entering.

The addition of Junior Club Team events would also provide a revenue generating path as already available tournament resources would be used therefore little if any additional expense, other than medals and end of year club team plaque, would be required. Team events would be scheduled later in the day, generally a time where strips and referees become available, and not on the same day as the same individual weapon event. Club team events are also one of the more marketable events we have at our disposal; under the current structure these events are only offered once a year, if approved would expand that marketing opportunity.

Based on Junior Team entries from Nationals 2009:

Total # of Junior Club Teams at Nationals	Entry fee	Potential Tournament Revenue from Junior Club Team Events	Potential Season Revenue Junior Club Teams (NAC D, JO, SN)
134	\$70	\$9,380	\$28,140

If Junior team events are to be added, this could eventually serve as an additional qualification path and/or replace the current structure (through Division).

If the Junior team events prove to be successful, additional team events could be expanded to other levels and tournaments.

**Informational:**

Junior Team Events would continue as outlined in the Athlete’s Handbook at Nationals.

The addition of these club team events is possible as repêchage has been removed as a format at the NACs.

Registration to Venue Process

The registration process would be a slightly stricter approach than what is currently used at Nationals. The Hang-a-Star system, when available, would be able to receive registration; in the meantime, the paper registration method currently in use for National Club Team entry would be used with the following modification:

Registration

1. When club team entry is received by the National Office, club teams would be required to submit 3-4 team member names and captain with the team entry – this would streamline the verification of membership, NRPS and classification. Those fencers who are NCAA fencers would need to self monitor club affiliation and NCAA eligibility.
2. Once information is verified it could be included in the tournament download with the appropriate event code (JTM\_ \_).
3. Team members must all represent one club – this would streamline club affiliation verification for Nationals.
4. Team events would be an open registration process in line with individual entry deadlines. The Tournament Committee recommends that not more than 3 teams per club per weapon be allowed to enter.
5. The team events are purely voluntary and if coaches want their fencers to rest rather than to compete that is a decision between coach and fencer.
6. Seeding information would be based on the same deadlines used for individual events.
  - a. The table could be constituted once the information is verified.
  - b. Tournament Committee will send the National Office the team seeding with names, classification and NRPS to be posted on the

web. This will allow the teams to verify information and contact the National Office with any corrections by a designated date. If teams fail to do so, information stands as presented.

- c. Table would only be reconstituted if the classification and/or NRPS are in error
- d. If a team withdraws, the table stands as constituted.
- e. Higher seeded team would automatically be designated as the “winner of the coin flip” and assigned the 1-2-3 side

At the Venue

- 7. Teams would still be required to check-in with the Bout Committee by a designated time (i.e., 10am the day of the event) to determine fencer order.
- 8. Working with the FOC, the referees designated to work a team event, could be loaded into Engarde, currently the tournament software used for team events at Nationals and allows for automatic referee assignment; referee assignments would be reviewed by the FOC. Working with the BC Chair, start times and strips would also be entered into Engarde and posted.
- 9. At the team start time, both teams and referees would be at their designated strips.
- 10. Format would be direct elimination team matches, fence off for 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- 11. We would follow the one individual/one team event rule that is followed at Nationals. We see little impact as the team events would be scheduled later in the day, as individual events are winding down.
- 12. The Tournament Committee would establish and maintain a club team non-rolling point system to award a trophy to the top club in each weapon at Nationals. This could lead to a perpetual trophy.

Process will be outlined on the USFA web site, Athlete’s Handbook, team entry form and tournament confirmation materials.

**8. Motion (Mr. Stasinov on behalf of the Tournament Committee):**

The Tournament Committee recommends the addition of Veteran club team events to Nationals 2010, on a trial basis to determine potential interest and not deemed a Championship at this time. Veteran club team events have never been held on the National level, the Tournament Committee is uncertain at this time of the potential.

The Tournament Committee also recommends that Division composite teams for Veteran Club Team events be allowed to enter if no club teams have been entered from that Division.

**Rationale:** The Tournament Committee believes that addition of club team events would create an opportunity for all our fencers to receive more competitive experience on the National level thus significantly increasing the value of the tournament(s). Club team events may also increase participation within the club to compete at a tournament they may not have considered entering.

The addition of Veteran Club Team events may also provide a revenue generating path as already available tournament resources would be used therefore little if any additional expense, other than medals, would be required.

Same registration and entry procedures as outlined for Junior Club Team events would be used for Veteran Club Team events.

**9. Motion (Mr. Stasinos on behalf of the Tournament Committee):**

The Tournament Committee recommends a change to the number of club teams allowed to enter at Nationals, beginning 2010. The qualification path as outlined in the Athlete's Handbook would remain intact however the Tournament Committee recommends that no more than 3 teams per club per weapon be allowed to enter at Nationals.

The Tournament Committee also recommends that Division composite teams for Club Team events be allowed to enter if no club teams have been entered from that Division.

**Rationale:** The Tournament Committee believes that the increase of club team events would create an opportunity for all our fencers to receive more competitive experience on the National level thus significantly increasing the value of the tournament(s). Club team events may also increase participation within the club to compete at a tournament they may not have considered entering.

**10. Motion (Mr. Stasinos on behalf of the Tournament Committee):**

The Tournament Committee recommends the following change to Ops Manual.

Chapter 8: Rules Governing National Championships

Add paragraph 5 to Section 1A

1. For individual championship competitions, there must be at least 6 fencers entered by the entry deadline for the competition to be held. Less than 6 fencers will be the basis for cancellation of that competition. For team championship competitions there must be at least 6 teams entered by the entry deadline for the competition to be held; otherwise it will be cancelled.

**Rationale:** No minimum number is stated in the Operations Manual and so there have been decisions made regarding what was acceptable or not. It is important to specify a minimum number specifically for any National Championships individual and team competition.

The qualifying competitions have a stated minimum of 3. We could have a number of 8 for the individual championships events to ensure a minimum number of bouts are held for one to gain a title of Champion. One could further argue that the number should be even greater to ensure two rounds of competition so that the person truly merits the new title. The exception to this rule at this time would be the wheelchair competitions and Veteran events as passed by the Board of Directors, September 2008.

**B. Disciplinary Hearings:**

1. Review and consider the report and recommendations of panel formed January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

**VIII. Good and Welfare**

1. The next Special Meeting of the Board of Directors – February
2. Proposal for Naming Standards for Files – See Appendix P
3. Bylaws Review

**Appendix A**  
**Vice President's Report**  
Jerry Benson

I will like to refer most of my report to the reports of my committees; Wheelchair Development, Resource Development, Sport Science, Hall of Fame, Historian, and Sports Medicine. It is easy to see these Committee and Task Force chairs have been very busy. These committees have some of the best-qualified and experienced people in the nation on them. We are extremely lucky to have such dedicated and knowledgeable people working for the betterment of US Fencing and its members. It is at this level that things are done and new programs and success is seen. Wonderful things are happening, real changes are taking place as these, and other Committee chairs and members are working toward the vision of the Board and our members. Please thank them the next time you see them!

I do have great news to share since our last meeting. Alex Ryjik has recently agreed to Chair the Club Development and Resource Committee. As I mentioned in my last report I felt this was one of the more important groups for the direct future growth of US Fencing. Alex is a successful club owner and businessman. He owns and operates one of the largest private successful clubs in the US. Therefore, he has the experience and background we needed. Just as important, he is ready to develop real national level programs to help current fencing clubs become even more successful and to help more new clubs to be started across the US. Alex understands business procedures and concepts. He will be setting up a communication system first with current club owners and potential club owners to ask them what they feel they need to become successful. I am not just talking about a couple of advertising or demo ideas that worked for someone hundreds of mile away in a different market. I am talking about building a business on sound business principals that will last and be financially successful no matter where you are what type of club you have. Look for some good thing coming in the near future.

Again, I thank my Committee Chairs for all their hard work and dedication. I am excited about what the future will contain.

With Respect,

Jerry Benson, Vice President.  
US Fencing

**Appendix B**  
**Secretary's Report**  
**Bradley Baker**

Since my last report in July, the most noteworthy event within my area of responsibility has been the continued development of the Online Membership System by Hang-a-Star. That process is described in the report of the Technology Planning Task Force in a later appendix.

I would like to commend the various members of the TPTF: David Sierra, Greg Jones, Dan McCormick, Scott Rostal, David Sapery, and NaRaye Williams. Collectively they have put in a tremendous amount of time, effort, and expertise to try to ensure that the system will meet the needs of the Association and the members over both the short and long term. Dan Berke, while not a member of the Task Force, has also contributed a huge number of hours testing the system and documenting places where there are errors of varying significance or potential improvements to be made.

Another change that has taken place since our last meeting is the amount of information typically provided alongside Action Item reports from the Executive Committee to the Board when the Committee is acting on the Board's behalf during our bi-weekly conference calls. We had received feedback from several Board members requesting a higher level of detail be included than had been typical in the past. While the exact format is still somewhat in flux, reports for the past month have attempted to include such additional information, as well as citations of applicable policies or rules, when appropriate.

Multiple Board members have provided positive feedback on this change and it is anticipated that it will continue.

The agenda for this meeting was significantly more complicated and lengthy than those in the recent past. The pattern of submission of reports and motions at or beyond the stated deadlines continues to complicate the task of preparing these materials for the Board. It is essential for good governance that Board members and the general membership have access to information relevant to the discussions and decisions to be undertaken in a timely manner. This can only happen if reports and other materials are submitted suitably.

Some committee chairs consistently provide well-formatted reports well ahead of when they are due. I would like to commend their example to the rest. Committee reports contained in this agenda are in close to chronological order by receipt date.

**Appendix C**  
**USFA Sports Medicine Program Report**

Board of Directors Meeting  
September 2009

Peter A. Harmer, Ph.D., MPH., ATC. FACSM  
Chief Medical Officer  
(503-370-6470)  
email: pharmer@willamette.edu

The close of summer nationals marked the 9<sup>th</sup> year of operation for the USFA Sports Medicine Program. During the past season, the following staff in the program have covered all of the NAC, Junior Olympics and summer nationals, as well as additional world cup events for women's sabre, the Cadet/Junior World Championships and regional competitions.

John Carollo (San Antonio School District, TX); Jim Gossett (Columbia University, NY); Brian Hardy (University of Colorado – Colorado Springs, CO); Peter Harmer (Willamette University, OR); Susan Hurst (Kaiser Permanente, CA); Jen Krug (Corban College, OR); Brian Russon (Russon Physical Therapy, WA); Quinn Madden (San Antonio School District, TX); Kristin Mainz (University of Colorado – Colorado Springs, CO); Kyle Momsen (Gustavus Adolphus College, MN); Nick Tobianski (MI); Doug Rank (MarRan Physical Therapy, WA); Lonnie Sellers (Integrated Manual Therapy, WA); Jim Wallis (Portland State University)

In addition, we are very grateful for the ad hoc assistance of members of the USFA with particular expertise in medicine and healthcare who have generously volunteered their time at various competitions when needed. I would particularly like to recognize the following: Mark Piasio, MD; Greg Harvey, MD; Ray Sexton, OD; Annie Mannino, RN. The Program is well-served by their willingness to give freely of their time and expertise.

I would also like to recognize the significant contributions of members of the national office to the Program domestically: Christine Strong Simmons and Ashley Razo, and internationally: Andrea Lagan.

For the 2009 World Championships in Turkey, the staff will be John Carollo. Due to budget restrictions, no assistant position has been assigned.

As noted in my report in January of this year, there are several issues of concern associated with the Program and I pointed out some steps we have been taking, or wish to take, to resolve these. One of the first was lack of communication between the BOD and myself and an apparent lack of understanding about the structure and purpose of the Program within the BOD and among some athletes, coaches and general membership. As I did not receive any response to my proposal to make a presentation to the BOD to help clarify these points, I have included in this report two diagrams from a presentation I was invited to give about the Program at the American College of Sports Medicine – Northwest Annual Meeting in 2008, that illustrate these issues. The first indicates the independent and interrelated purposes of the Program and the second is a

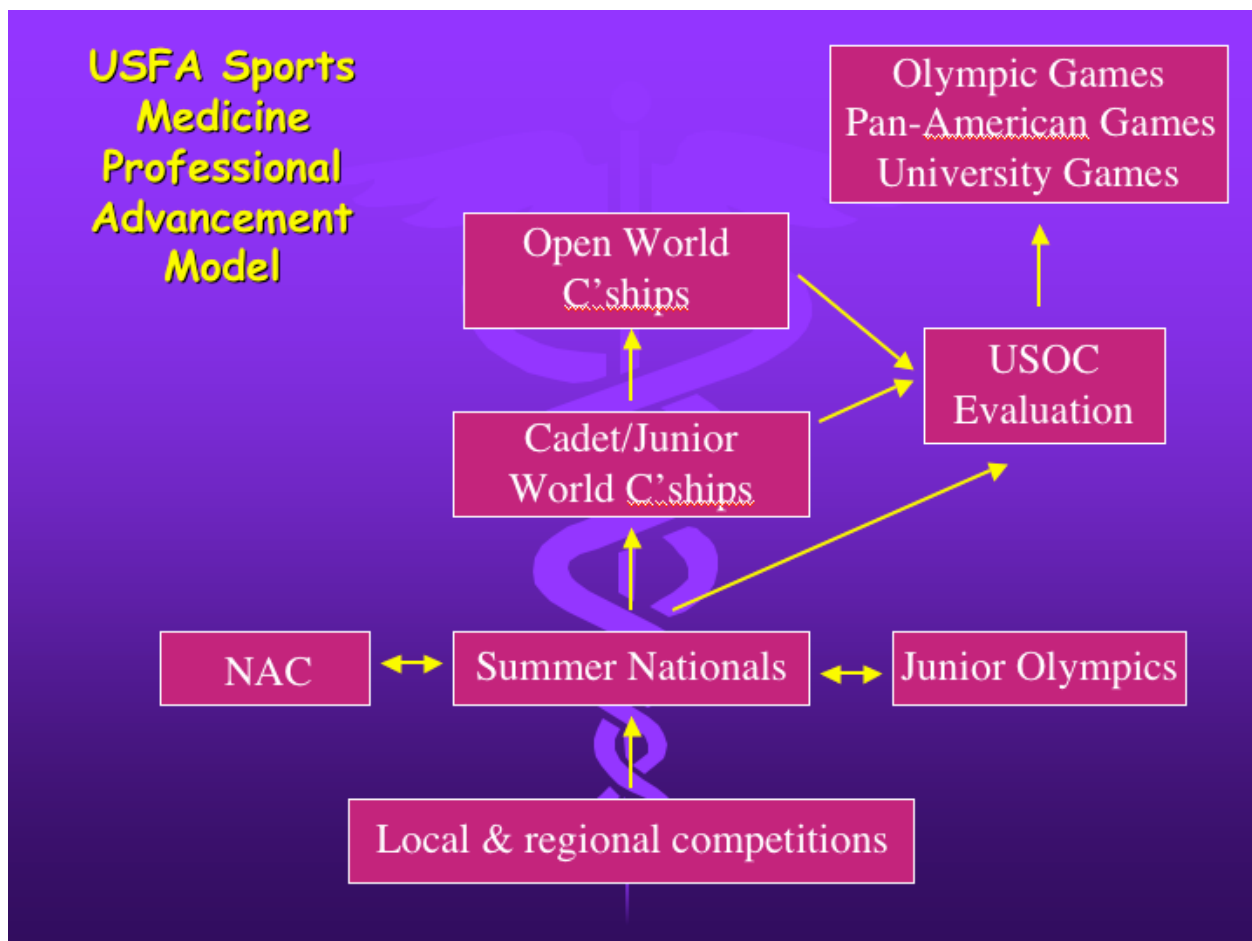
flowchart demonstrating the progression, in terms of service and evaluation, for Program members to move to international assignments, including selection for the Olympic Games. This model has worked well as, since the Program was instituted in 2000, we have had our designated staff selected by the US Olympic Committee for each subsequent Olympics (Lonnie Sellers for Athens in 2004 and Doug Rank for Beijing in 2008).

The four (4) purposes of the Program shown in the first figure below are: community service (providing first aid and healthcare education and referral to all attendees, including spectators and officials, at USFA events at which we are present); clinical practice (providing acute injury care, prevention and rehabilitation information, and referral for participants in USFA events); research (developing injury data to quantify the risk associated with participating in fencing competitions and to identify risk factors that may be ameliorated for the well being of competitors); and professional development (providing opportunities for Program members to improve their clinical skills related to fencing and pathways for them to acquire more responsibilities and experiences, including taking the lead at national events and, eventually, internationally assignments).



The advancement model shown below is mostly self-explanatory. However, two points need to

be made: a) selection to a USOC team (Olympic Games, Pan-American Games or World University Games) is made by the USOC with recommendations coming from the relevant NGB. In addition to the NGB recommendation, any potential staffer must go through at least one, 2-week evaluation at one of the Olympic Training Centers. Candidates who are successful at this first level may then be assigned to additional evaluation assignments. This process is long and, for some of our Program members, very expensive due to lost wages while attending the evaluation camps and USOC assignments. Based on commitment to the Program (number of national events covered), experience (international assignments) and athlete and cadre feedback, one Program member is designated as the lead for senior national team for the quadrennium, with the purpose of supporting his/her selection to work with the fencing team by the USOC for the subsequent Olympic Games. If anyone has questions about this process, I would be glad to discuss them.



The issue of a web presence on the USFA website, also mentioned in the January, 2009, report has not yet been addressed by the BOD either.

Finally, as the number of requests for assistance from the Sports Medicine Program increase (we have already scheduled coverage for one ROC and a Sectional Championships, as well as a large regional tournament; additionally, we expect to continue to support the requests from the women's sabre team for assistance at world cups), we are continuing to look for new members to join the group. As always, our goal is provide the best care options for all USFA members. With the new Olympic quadrennium underway, I anticipate continuing enhancements in the program.

Please free to contact me at your convenience if there are any questions or need for clarification.

### **Appendix D Hall of Fame Committee**

The 2009 Hall of Fame induction was a success in a true sense as Serge Timacheff was there to memorialize the event with photographs and a video tape and we had the largest turnout in years despite charging for admission the USFA requires due to the enormous fees charged by our "host" hotels. The inductees were as follows:

- Gilbert Rosiere
- Jose Velarde
- Sherry Posthumus
- Henry Harutunian
- Arkady Burdan

We announced the congressional electoral result where 61 votes were cast for the following fencers to be inducted in Atlanta in 2010:

- Ella Hattan
- Hugh Alessandroni
- Aldo Nadi
- Robert Blum
- Joseph Elliott
- Father Lawrence Calhoun
- Yuri Gelman

Andy Shaw  
Chairman, US Fencing Hall of Fame Committee

**Appendix E**  
**PARALYMPIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**aka WHEELCHAIR TASK FORCE**  
**September 2009**

The Task Force was re-created in 2008 with the primary goal of increasing the sport of wheelchair fencing within the United States.

Our first competition of the prior season was the Atlanta NAC. The participation of 16 chair fencers was a record, especially considering this was a post-Paralympic year where most of our top athletes were taking time-off. A mixed gender pool format with separate gender DEs guaranteed the women that they would have ample bouting time.

Atlanta also provided us with a chance to have a day camp for most of our new athletes. Coaches Les Stawicki, Gary van der Wege, Michael Dasaro and Julio Diaz were able to work with many athletes. Dr. Don Defabio also assisted and was brought in to classify the many new athletes as well as provide classification training to medical staff showing interest in learning the system.

Gary van der Wege, Jerry and Susan Benson prepared a clinic in conjunction with the Endeavor Games in Edmond, Oklahoma. Seven developmental athletes participated in a very productive camp. It also provided us with visibility to the hundreds of other athletes there for the various other disabled sports as well as US Paralympic staff.

The Summer Nationals was also very successful in attendance. There was disappointment that for various reasons, we were unable to hold a camp on the day prior to competitions and the National Coach was not present to see new athletes. An athlete meeting revealed the need to try and structure events and camps around geographical areas that could be 'drivable'. As a result, many athletes were in favor of participating in the chair events on the schedule for the Rose Condon ROC in Shreveport, LA in lieu of a camp in Louisville the same month.

A day camp to be run by Les Stawicki is scheduled for the Friday prior to the Rose Condon Memorial Tournament. We look for good participation in this event, and also set the stage for large able-body tournaments adding chair events.

We are constantly looking for ways to balance domestic and international events and development. Athletes only have a limited amount of time and money and must weigh the benefits of World Cup participation and/or domestic events and camps. We must constantly defer questions on international events and qualification paths for the 2010 World Championships to the High Performance Group. We sincerely hope that the 2010 Worlds does not become a last minute problem to address.

Having a budget for the upcoming season will help tremendously. We plan to bring coaches into developmental regions for more camps. We are targeting new programs in Arizona and Florida and hope to see some new programs develop in the mid-west and north-east. We plan to return to the Endeavor Games again with a bigger program.

We look to offer financial incentives such as an Essay Contest and Domestic Performance Awards that can offer reimbursements of certain expenses to winners.

We will be able to provide quality brochures and information (DVDs) to fencers and coaches as we look to grow markets.

Coaching development continues to be an issue and we look to return to the Coaches College program and develop programs with the USFCA.

We still believe that an allowable mixed able-body/wheelchair tournament format for ratings, will be a tremendous boost to our growth and development and must work to achieve this goal.

Respectfully submitted August 16, 2009,

Gary M. van der Wege  
Chair

Appendix F  
**USFA RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE  
REPORT – BOD MEETING 9/19/09**

Following the BOD meeting at nationals the **Resource Development Task Force** has been serving as a support group to the national office as they develop a long term strategic plan for marketing and operating the USFA through 2012 and forward.

Our group has provided advice, planning, insight and review for two draft plans that will be presented to the Board as follows:

**1. Interim USFA Communications Plan**

The **Resource Development Task Force (RDTF)** initially defined the need and then assisted the national office in creating an interim communications strategy for both internal communications and external PR.

This interim plan will ultimately be integrated into the USFA's long term strategic plan, however, it has been deemed by the national office and agreed upon by the **RDTF** that certain critical functions must be identified and strategies implemented immediately, to assure proper communications during the strategic planning process, to enhance the transparency of the new national leadership and as a contingency in the unlikely case of a PR emergency.

This interim plan focuses primarily on internal communication, however, it includes the utilization of a USOC-provided staff member for 5 hours per week of outbound PR.

**2. USFA Business Development Plan**

The **RDTF** defined many needs and priorities for the USFA in our 85-page report of January 2009. The national office, under the direction of the new Executive Director Kurt Aichle, has taken these seriously and used the **RDTF** report as a foundation from which to develop critical planning. Based upon the **RDTF** report, it was decided that the first project must be to generate a Business Development Plan; so that the USFA can identify the financial and staffing resources needed to focus on critical issues identified. Working with the national office our team has been called upon to review drafts, make suggestions and comments, and monitor not only the direction and scope of the project, but the USFA's ability to execute the initiatives.

The **RDTF** will continue to work with the national office on an ongoing basis to provide oversight, support and additional resources from our experienced group.

**Appendix G**  
**SPORTS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY REPORT**  
USFA Board of Directors Meeting – September 2009  
**Dr. John Heil**

**PROGRAMS & SERVICES**  
June-Sept. 2009

**STRATEGIC INITIATIVES (to start 2009-2010)**

**Sport Science Seminars at NAC events**

Seminars are a collaboration between US Fencing and Fencing.net.

Travel and ground support is provided by fencing.net with US Fencing to provide hotel and meeting rooms -- with on-site sport science consulting and program development to benefit USFA membership (in addition to benefit of seminars).

This service delivery model was tested successfully in the 2008-2009 season.

Cost = \$2,200 for 4 NACs/Training Camps

[(4 nights, shared room=\$240) & (3 days seminar room= \$300) = \$550/event --- (x4 = \$2,200)]

**Sport Science Network**

Develop a sport science network, and provide support and guidance to its members with the goal of enhancing access to sport psychology and sport science for fencing clubs and individual athletes and coaches. This will be done through development of a Special Interest Group (SIG) in conjunction with the Association for Applied Sport Psychology (the leading professional sport psychology organization).

**Sports Medicine Continuing Education Training**

Seminars for Event Medical staff at NACs to help meet professional continuing education requirement. Will also make available to local Sport Science Network members.

**Fencing Sport Science Videos**

Develop 3 sport science videos (5-7 minutes each) on select topics in sport psychology.

Videos will be based on seminar presentation by sport psychologists/scientists, and interviews with coaches and athletes.

Videos will be posted on “You Tube” providing easy access to membership with added benefit of reach to broader audience, using media delivery format popular with existing and potential new developmental fencers, with benefit of free hosting.

This is consistent with the long standing sport science program goal of providing fencing specific sport science information for members. Complements and creates synergies with existing sport science content delivery formats (American Fencing Magazine articles; Seminars at NACs; Book/Training Manual etc.)

Cost = \$3,300 [(Production to finished product =\$2,500) & (Consultant travel costs to attend seminar/capture video=\$800)]

## **CONTINUING PROGRAMS**

### **eSCOUT (Electronic Scouting Project)**

An electronic scouting tool intended to enhance competitiveness of US Fencers by providing tactical information including: Statistical, Descriptive and Video.

Designed for use on PDA (handheld) device allowing strip side information retrieval (and real time strip side scoring). Personal Computer version provides enhanced display, data analytic and storage capacity

#### **Recent Developments**

Beta testing continues with existing users

User Manual is now available to assist existing and potential users; User agreement developed

Have recruited a second group interested in beta testing

#### **Project Value Added - *eScout is an investment***

As an in-house proprietary technology there is the possibility of eventual sale of data and/or technology to end users such as coaches, athletes, referees, researchers, broadcast media etc.

Proprietary status of software program allows virtually open ended use by select members of the organization at minimal cost

Potential to partner with other NGBs to develop similar technology generating additional revenue stream for US Fencing Sport Science

## **USFA EVENT CONSULTATION**

### **Sport Psychology & Sport Science Consultation**

2009 Summer Nationals, DFW, TX (Report pending).

Travel and ground costs funded by fencing.net with room costs funded by US Fencing.

## **EDUCATION & TRIAGE**

Ongoing services provided to general membership

### **Information/Education**

Provision of materials to coaches, athletes and administrators on Sport Science & Technology topics upon request.

### **Intervention/Triage**

*Direct consultation to coaches, athletes and administrators on Sport Science & Technology*

*topics by phone, email or face-to-face*

Referral to local sport science specialists

### **Publications**

#### **American Fencing Magazine**

Ongoing articles in *American Fencing Magazine* Sport Science Column

### **LIAISON TO PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Contact as appropriate with professional organization

Recent activities: Coordinating use of sport science services from USOC; Recruiting of members for Sport Science Network; Search for authors for American Fencing Magazine articles.

*Contact:* Dr. John Heil, Psychological Health \* Roanoke

2727 Electric Rd., Suite 100, Roanoke, VA 24018

Phone-Direct: 540-772-5147

[jheil@PsychHealthRoanoke.com](mailto:jheil@PsychHealthRoanoke.com)

USFBoardSpSciSept09jheil;8/15;/09;8/22/0;8/23/09

**Appendix H**  
**Referee Development Task Force – Submission II**  
August 25, 2009

Task force members:

- Mark Stasin ([mdakstas@aol.com](mailto:mdakstas@aol.com)) – Sponsor and coordinator. Vice President of the USFA. Member of the FOC.
- Mary Ellen Mahon – ([meldarius@aol.com](mailto:meldarius@aol.com)) – Chair of the task force. Internationally rated referee.
- Damon Scaggs – ([damon@inebraska.com](mailto:damon@inebraska.com)) – Task force member. Member of the FOC.
- Edward Kaihatsu – ([ekaihatsu@aol.com](mailto:ekaihatsu@aol.com)) – Task force member. Internationally rated referee. Fencing coach of Northwestern University.
- Gerrie Baumgart – ([gfbaumgart@aol.com](mailto:gfbaumgart@aol.com)) – Task force member. Former Olympic referee. Member of the FOC.
- Julie Seal – ([Julie@utahfencing.org](mailto:Julie@utahfencing.org)) – Task force member. Former international competitor. Professional fencing coach.

Contributors:

- Factor Four Photography: Jose Sierra and Tara Schumacher ([jose@josesierra.com](mailto:jose@josesierra.com); [tara@factor4photo.com](mailto:tara@factor4photo.com)) – Professional photographers and videographers Fort Lauderdale, FL.
- Nikki Bramley: ([nikki\\_bramley@yahoo.com](mailto:nikki_bramley@yahoo.com)) – Professional videographer Boston, MA.
- Mitchell Lane: ([mdlane@alumni.clemson.edu](mailto:mdlane@alumni.clemson.edu)) – Former member of the USFA’s Technology Task Force. Creator and administrator of fencing website 14meters.com.
- Greg Jones: ([gregj@raincityfencing.com](mailto:gregj@raincityfencing.com)) – Owner and coach of Rain City Fencing Center Seattle, WA. Avid fencing photographer.
- Marty Young: ([marty@breakingorbit.com](mailto:marty@breakingorbit.com)) – Assistant webmaster for United States Fencing Coaches association website. Creator of the online test format for coaches of the USFCA.
- Hector Cruz-Lopez: ([coach@bocablades.com](mailto:coach@bocablades.com)) – National armorer for the USFA.
- Linda Merritt and the organizers of the Pomme de Terre – ([merritt55@verizon.net](mailto:merritt55@verizon.net)) – Former national tournament committee member. Manager of the Boston Fencing Club.
- Debbie Walker and the organizers of the Sunshine State Games – ([dwalker@aol.com](mailto:dwalker@aol.com)) – Chair of the Florida Gateway Division.

As we had hoped, these last eight months have been extremely productive ones for the Referee Development Task Force. Most notably, we’ve had the good fortune since forming the Task Force a year ago of running across a good deal of like-minded individuals in the organization who have very useful talents relevant to the specific tasks we want to accomplish.

All the contributors listed above (save for just one) are or were fencers who have such a passion for the sport that they were more than eager to lend their ideas, creative energies, and labor into the materials of this second submission. We are grateful for their contributions, and hope to have evolving relationships with them as we move forward with our endeavors.

Again, our continued thanks go to our federation's president Kalle Weeks for her unwavering support of the Task Force. Also many thanks go to those influential members of our sport who have given the Task Force a platform from which to operate and have our ideas heard. Much gratitude goes to our current Fencing Officials Commission chairman Sam Cheris for recently flying the chair of the Referee Development Task Force to the 2009 FOC meeting to present some of the ideas contained in this submission to the commission's members. Last but not least, a debt of gratitude goes to our sponsor Mark Stasinis for his continued inspiration, and behind-the-scenes work that has been so important in this phase of the Task Force's efforts. So it's onward and upward for the Referee Development Task Force, and it is with increased eagerness and gratitude that we respectfully make our second submission.

Mary Ellen Mahon

The inspiration for forming the Task Force came out of many factors. Among the many were the following:

1. There are a lot of inconsistencies in the fundamental applications of rules and the interpretation of right-of-way in our referee ranks. If a stable set of informational tools can be provided for our referees, these inconsistencies can be greatly reduced. This will avoid frustrating our athletes and coaches, and continue to push the success of fencing at a national and international level.
2. In analyzing the root cause of these inconsistencies, it was recognized that they are not entirely the fault of our referees. Frustration levels in our referees have risen dramatically in recent years. Our referees *want* to improve their skills, but there seems to be a universal confusion as to what they can do to improve themselves. Many of our referees are out there “without a compass” at times, guessing their way through rules applications and right-of-way calls. It is up to us to give them the direction they need.
3. It was also noted that there are not a lot of teaching tools available for our Certified Referee Instructors who are in the field creating new referees. Currently, the CRI’s have a basic outline, the rule book, and their own experiences...but not much else to bring with them when they go to teach a seminar. We need to provide our “educators”, our CRI’s with the materials they need so that when one of their newly minted referees come to us for a trial run at a national tournament, they come at least as “diamonds in the rough” and not the lumps of coal they sometimes are as poorly taught beginners.

There were many ideas that came out of the “brainstorming” and information gathering period of the first Task Force submission of January 2009. Of the many, the group decided to address what we considered to be the areas most in need of immediate improvement. We were able to lean heavily on the talents within our organization in attacking the following areas:

### **I / Visual aids for training**

Any educator will tell you that visual aids are an incredibly valuable teaching tool. A relevant example of this is the effectiveness of the Rosetta Stone language software. This learning tool is heavily based on graphics and visuals, which has been proven to speed the rate of learning exponentially.

As applied to the sport of fencing, any visual representation of a concept we can provide for training purposes will undoubtedly improve comprehension and in turn application of taught concepts.

Of course all of these visual aids would of course have to be updated at specified intervals so as to stay current with rules changes and evolutions in right-of-way interpretations.

A system would have to be implemented that would mimic the document system of a typical government regulated lab (which several Task Force Members have intimate familiarity with). There would be revision levels and implementation dates to help with version tracking so that

only the correct and current versions of these training tools are used.

The two visual aid devices the Task Force worked with are photographs (which were organized into a PowerPoint presentation), and video.

- 1) PowerPoint A compilation of photographs was made into a PowerPoint presentation that includes 53 pictures of everything from equipment violations, to rules infractions, to “environmental” or strip problems. Titled What’s wrong with this picture?, this presentation has already been used in two seminars given by Certified Referee Instructor Mary Mahon with great success. It is the goal of the Task Force to continue to add to this “library” by involving such notable professional photographers such as Serge Timacheff and others.
- 2) Video One of the starting points for the Referee Development Task Force was information gathering from other Olympic sports. We spoke with the referee coordinators of several comparable sports to include tennis, tae kwon do, wrestling, and gymnastics. The common thread among these sports that is not in practice with US Fencing is the use of video as a training and testing tool. Video was used the most extensively in the “combat sports” (like ours) where it is so critical that a referee be able to parse rapid and complex actions.

Video training is nothing new to the world of fencing - it is already in use by our FIE examiners. It is the goal of the Referee Development Task Force to have video used not just for high level international referee training, but for grass-roots domestic development as well.

Rather than attempt to sift through thousands of hours of fencing video footage in search of specific actions, the Task Force elected to compile a list of the most commonly missed calls, or incorrectly managed situations that are seen at the beginner to intermediate level of refereeing of competitive fencing. These actions were written down in “script” form, arrangements were made at two separate tournaments with the organizers, videographers were hired, and athletes with a gift for acting were procured to help. A total of 40 actions were taped to cover all three weapons, rules infractions, and right-of-way situations. As this project evolves, this video will ultimately include both basic and advanced versions to target the novice and intermediate referee cadre respectively. The “beginners” video would focus mostly on basic right-of-way actions and penalties, while the “advanced” videos content would include things such as complex blade sequences and those difficult to see tempo actions.

This videotaping project of the Task Force has by far and away received the most attention and interest, and plans have already been made to corroborate with some of our elite coaches and their athletes to expand rapidly on this in the upcoming season.

## **II/ Continuing education and recertification**

An area that US Fencing is lacking in when compared to other sports is the “maintenance” of our existing referee cadre and their skill levels. Once a referee passes the test and is given a rating, there is little in the way of formal skills checks that our referees submit to. Although it is the exception and not the rule, situations do arise when our referees commit judgment errors that stem from a lack of current knowledge or interpretation. The simplest solution to this problem is

to have our referees take an exam similar to our current Referee Exam at scheduled intervals.

- 1) Online testing Another common theme the Referee Development Task Force saw with the other sports we spoke with was that many sports utilize online certification exams. The use of the internet as a testing tool isn't novel to fencing; it is already being used within the United States Fencing Coaches Organization. There is a much greater need for this technology within the FOC as compared to the coach's organization because there are *exponentially* more people in fencing aspiring to be rated referees over those who are aspiring to be certified coaches.

The advantages of having our Referee Test converted to an online format include:

- The ability for the tester to take the exam when they are ready – not when an examiner or a Certified Referee Instructor happens to be available to proctor
- The online format allows for retaking the exam should the tester fail a section – and in my experience it is rare that they pass all areas of the test on the first try.
- Results are available immediately for both the tester and the administrator(s) – no more waiting for the CRI to grade the test
- It will take the burden of test proctoring off of the CRI's so that they can use their seminar time teaching and not proctoring a group test
- It would serve as a nominal cash building tool – at least enough to maintain all that is needed for the continuance of the project to include the maintenance of the website, the revision of materials like the PowerPoint and the video, and whatever small administrative fees there would be

Marty Young of the Northern California Division of the USFA was contacted for her expertise in online teaching software tools. She is a paid consultant to the USFA, and the current administrator of the USFCA online test. Marty is using a web-based program called "Moodle" which is primarily an educational software tool that has among its many capacities online testing. Many adult education colleges like the University of Phoenix base entire web courses on such software.

The following is a quick list of benefits to using the Moodle program that would be applicable to fencing.

- a) The software has the ability to randomize the test out of a "bank" of questions. An administrator could set up a pool of 200 questions for a test that has only 100 questions, and the Moodle program would randomize not only the questions but their order as well so that each test is "unique"
- b) A *time limit* can be imposed on the entire test, or on sections of the test to create a window for completing the general section for example in 30 minutes, and weapon specific sections in 20 minutes. The alternative to a time limit device is a *time recording device* which imposes no limit, but records and reports how long the tester took answering each section and the test in total. This way, an exam that was completed in 60 minutes would be seen as "acceptable" compared to one that took 5 hours to complete.

- c) Moodle can be connected with any of the major merchant transaction programs such as PayPal. As a guiding example, the USFCA charges per exam attempt at a rate of \$25.00 for moniteur, and \$50.00 for prevost. We could either offer the exam at a nominal fee for the first attempt and then raise fees for retakes to encourage studying, or the inverse.
- d) Exam activity can be monitored one of two ways through Moodle:
  - Either a set of administrators to the site (logically being CRI's, examiners and FOC members) can login and check testing recent activities **OR**
  - Email notifications can be sent out at set intervals to all site administrators letting them know that Mary Mahon of Florida's Gold Coast Division passed the General and Foil Section of the Referee Exam on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009
- e) The program can be further modified to export passing results into a database that would include all relevant information on the tester (filled out at the set-up profile and payment stage), and which sections of the exam they passed. A future project off of this could be the connection of these results to our referee database to indicate that Mark Stasinios attended a seminar at the 2009 Summer Nationals, passed the general, foil, and sabre sections of the online test, and was just recently observed an given a 7 by Sharon Everson at the Div 2/3 two weeks ago.

My huge thanks go out to Mitchell Lane for putting a sample of this together *to include video clips* as test questions. As a former member of our technology task force, and founder of the site 14meters.com – he was solely responsible for the demo that is available for viewing at:

<http://foc.14meters.com>

To enter the test program, use the word **test** for both the login / username and the password.

2) Referee Recertification Every *single* sport we talked to for the first Referee Development Task Force submission had some sort of system for the continued education of its referees. All of these sports placed heavy emphasis on making sure its referees were current with the rules, were still crisp in their abilities to make calls, and were still actively contributing members of their sport. Several of the sports used recertification exams as a tool in this process. This is where we can get double the value of having an online version of the test, using it not only for new referee ratings, but the reinstatement of existing referee ratings.

This form of “continuing education” for our referees would serve multiple purposes:

- a) Every two years every referee would need to go online and take a recertification exam. It is a timed exam and open book and free for the first time. If the referee fails the exam or times out then they would possibly need to pay an online fee and retest. (The fee goes to the FOC budget or designed line item for FOC use.)
- b) This would give members of the FOC an accurate list of active referees by their testing activity within a two-year time period. If a particular referee does not recertify themselves via the online exam for a contiguous two year period, they will be placed on the “inactive list”. Only by taking the exam can an “inactivated” referee be placed back on the “active” list.

- c) This would allow us to have updated information on each referee: name, address, phone, division, section and e-mail address.
- d) It would be a stipulation that no referee could be hired for NAC's, Championships or international tournaments unless they were on the "active" list.
- e) This would aide in keeping all referees current with rule changes and right-of-way interpretations.
- f) It will provide a current list of 5,6,7,8,9 level referee's that need development through regional tournaments.
- g) If a referee does not elect to retest in a 4 year period they can be dropped from all referee lists, both "active" and "inactive". They would be able to reapply or petition for reinstatement, and given the opportunity to recertify themselves via the online test.

**Appendix I**  
**Regional Open Circuit Advisory Group Report**  
Mary Griffith, Chair

Organization of the 2009-2010 ROC season is progressing well. As of late August, seven of the eight tournaments for this season are listed on the newly updated FRED ROC website ([usfaroc.askfred.net](http://usfaroc.askfred.net)) and accepting entries. We have set up a ROC-organizer Google group, to enable ROC tournament organizers to share advice and experience. The National Office has also set up an ROC blog, which allows us to post reminders of ROC entry deadlines and other updates directly to the USFA website front page.

Veteran fencers, as well as several ROC tournament organizers, have expressed considerable interest in adding veteran events to the ROC schedule. Don Anthony has worked with the Arnold Classic in Columbus, Ohio, to add a six-weapon veteran tournament to the March 2010 Classic as a test event for the ROC veteran category. We are also proposing to formally add up to four six-weapon veteran tournaments to the 2010-2011 ROC season, though we expect they will be scheduled in conjunction with Open or Division II/III ROC events.

We currently plan to have our bid packet for 2010-2011 and beyond created by the end of 2009, and plan to institute a continuous bid process to allow tournament organizers to use venues with long booking periods. Work continues on our best practices/ops manual and other aid for ROC organizers.

---

Proposed amendment to Second Hearing Motion 3:

That starting with the 2009-2010 season, up to four six-weapon veteran tournaments be added to the ROC schedule.

Rationale: Would provide an additional qualification path to the veteran championships, especially useful for A- and B-rated veteran fencers who may not qualify through their divisional qualifiers, as well as increase appeal of ROC tournaments.

Since the July Board meeting, we have learned that there is considerable interest among both veteran fencers and ROC tournament organizers in adding veteran events to the ROC circuit, and therefore believe it appropriate to formally add veteran events beginning with the 2010-2011 season rather than waiting another year or more. We anticipate that the veteran events would be held in conjunction with either Open or Division II/III tournaments. The veteran events could attract more competitors to the tournaments, since veteran fencers could compete in more events and might find the travel and expense more worthwhile, and would give them additional competitive opportunities.

## **Appendix J**

### **Veteran's Committee Report**

A Veterans Fencers' Meeting was held on July 10, 2009 at the Gaylord Texan Convention Center Grapevine, Texas, which was attended by more than 100 fencers. Mr. Rinaldo A. Campana, Chairperson, Veterans Committee advised that Mr. Joseph S. Streb, Chairman, Great Lakes Section, USFA was asked by Ms. Diane Reckling, Chair, Westchester - Rockland Division, USFA to present to the USFA Board a motion to adopt 100% promotion for Veterans at the National Championships. In September of 2008, the wording of the motion was not specific to Veterans, and was not approved by the Board. The revised 100% promotion of the participants in Veteran events was presented to the Board and it was referred to the Tournament Committee of the USFA for review and comment back to the Board for consideration at the September Board Meeting.

Ms. Reckling noted that it is critical that the Veteran fencers let the members of the Tournament Committee and USFA Officers know of their desire to have the 100% promotion motion approved by the Board. She indicated that the fact that the Board referred the motion for review and recommendation to the Tournament Committee did not necessarily mean that the motion was not going to be approved by the Board in September. After extensive discussion a unanimous vote was taken to support the adoption of the 100% promotion motion. Ms. Reckling also asked that the Veteran Committee develop a strategy to ensure that this motion will be adopted through the formation of a Sub-Committee, which she would form with the participation of Veteran fencers. Mr. Campana agreed that this would be an excellent way to proceed.

Mark Stasinos, Vice president, USFA sent a memorandum to Rinaldo Campana requesting comments from the Veteran fencers to consider in 2010-2011 season expanding Veterans fencing to 4 Regional Tournaments to be placed in the West, Central, East and South. These Regional Tournaments would give Veterans more opportunities to compete. This also could expand the selection for members of the US Veteran Team, for the World Championships, from 3 currently, with the best 2 out of 3 results being counted for team selection, to 5, with the best of 3 or 4 results for team selection, depending upon what the Veteran fencing community would prefer. This memorandum has been posted on the USFA Veteran web site for your review and comments to Mark Stasinos at [mdstasinos@mac.com](mailto:mdstasinos@mac.com). This proposal was supported by the attendees with a desire for additional details.

The next World Veteran's Fencing Championships in Moscow, Russia will take place September 23-27, 2009.

With regards to the Veterans Fencing World Championships in Moscow, Russia, Mr. Campana announced that Mr. Dan DeChaine, was going to be the U.S. Team Armorer, thanks to the financial sponsorship of Scott Harkey of Sword Master.

U.S. Team Coaches that volunteered their services will be:

Vladimir Nazlymov, Fencing Coach, Ohio State  
Iryna Dolgikh, Fencing Coach, Cornell  
Vitali Nazlymov, Saber Coach, NIH Fencing Club

The Team Physician will be Dr. Blakely.

The Co-Captains will be Jim Adams and Jude Offerle.

Rinaldo A. Campana will be the Head of Delegation for the team.

USFA has dedicated staff to assist fencers participating in the Moscow event: Mr. Mike Pederson, Director of High Performance and Ms. Jeanna Mendoza, Technical Programs Director and Ms. Andrea Lagan, National Tournament Organizer, who will take care of the Team's logistics.

This is the first time we have a complete team cadre to support the team, which has the potential to be the strongest team we have ever had.

Ms. Teri Holt, Director of Finance and Business Services, USFA advised Mr. Campana, that the USFA Veterans Designated Fund had a total of \$2725.00, as of 6/29/09. He emphasized the importance of raising additional funds, which are tax deductible to expand activities in support of the expansion of Veterans fencing throughout the United States. He asked Veteran fencers to do their part by donating as much as they can. He has also asked the USFA to post a donation form on the USFA Veterans web site.

Respectfully submitted,

Rinaldo A. Campana  
Chair

August 31, 2009

**Appendix K**  
**Technology Planning Task Force**  
**David Sierra, Chair**

One of the most critical aspects of restructuring that the USFA faces is the modernizing of our Information Technology capabilities. With this in mind, the Technology Planning Task Force was constituted at last year's Annual Board of Director's meeting. The mandate of the TPTF, as expressed at that meeting, was to lead efforts in developing a new membership database and online registration and results system for use by the national office, and to provide guidance in the development of new tournament management software. The members of the TPTF are highly experienced software engineers, developers and technology planners from various different realms of the information technology industry and academia, who also have a long history of association with the USFA as athletes, coaches, referees, tournament managers and club operators.

The first phase of the TPTF operations have been mostly centered on assisting the National Office with the development of the new USFA membership database. When the new Executive Director was hired, he chose to take direct, primary responsibility for the development of this project, and the TPTF stepped down from having a leadership role to providing advice and information, as well as assisting in testing and evaluation of the new system as it is coming on line. As most people are aware, Hang-A-Star was selected by the Executive Director as the lead vendor to develop a information technology solution for the USFA, encompassing membership, online registration and results. This system will be expected to interface seamlessly with the existing AskFRED service provided by Acetylyne Solutions that is used by the overwhelming majority of Divisional and Sectional tournaments, as well as RYC's, SYC's and ROC tournaments. Briefly, the status of that project is as follows.

As of this report, phase one of the membership database is still not yet ready to go live, although it may be so by the time of the Board of Director's meeting on September 19th. Phase one consists of individual and family memberships, and phase two is club membership resources. A number of things have contributed to the delay in rolling out the system, including the fairly complex database construction that is being developed. However, the TPTF has received assurance from the Executive Director that the system will not be brought live until the major bugs identified in the TPTF's testing have been resolved. To the best of the TPTF's knowledge, no specific target date for rollout has been assigned. In addition, the TPTF suggests the Executive Director to indicate to the Board of Directors what specific financial penalties Hang-A-Star will be paying for its having missed the rollout date specified in the contract.

With regards to the development of new tournament management software the TPTF has been made aware of the fact that the Tournament Committee intends to begin limited testing of several systems at several NAC's this fall. While initial testing is a good step towards getting familiar with new software, more comprehensive-organizational wide planning regarding the ultimate capabilities of the new system needs to take place in parallel. A partial list of capabilities that need to be considered includes: streamlined on-site check-in processes, display of information (LCD screens, kiosks), publication of live results on-line, integration with scoring apparatuses and capabilities to enable custom workflows specific to the BC, FOC and other

tournament officials. The TPTF has the technology expertise and experience with the needs of the fencing community to function as the project manager that consolidates the needs of the various stakeholders (tournament officials, National Office, athletes, coaches, spectators) and produce a cohesive system plan to address all of those needs. We hope to be tasked with this role by the leadership of the association to fulfill this role.

In order to facilitate its operations during the next season, the TPTF would like to ask for a clear mandate, sphere of operations and set of responsibilities with regard to the new membership database, tournament management software and any other tasks the Association requires of it.

Finally, the TPTF would like to thank Dan Berke for serving as a special consultant to the TPTF and acting as the point of contact to the National Office and Hang-A-Star during the testing and implementation of the new system.

**Appendix L  
Tournament Committee Report  
Tanya Brown, Chair**

	<b>07.08 Entered</b>	<b>07.08 CheckedIn</b>	<b>08.09 Entered</b>	<b>08.09 CheckedIn</b>	<b>Entered Difference</b>	<b>Entered %Change</b>	<b>CheckedIn Difference</b>	<b>CheckedIn %Change</b>
NAC A	1,666	1,579	1,945	1,845	279	17%	266	17%
NAC B	2,376	2,257	2,168	2,061	-208	-9%	-196	-9%
NAC C	1,525	1,372	1,190	1,093	-335	-22%	-279	-20%
NAC D	1,864	1,727	1,730	1,648	-134	-7%	-79	-5%
JO	2,261	2,175	1,882	1,921	-379	-17%	-254	-12%
NAC E	2,013	1,811	1,782	1,623	-231	-11%	-188	-10%
NAC F	1,884	1,769	1,622	1,508	-262	-14%	-261	-15%
Nationals	5,720	5,386	5,874	5,662	154	3%	276	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,309</b>	<b>18,076</b>	<b>18,193</b>	<b>17,361</b>	<b>-1,116</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>-715</b>	<b>-4%</b>
Junior Teams	159	158	142	134	-17	-11%	-24	-112%
Senior Teams	186	173	187	172	1	1%	-1	-1%
<b>NtIs Total Teams</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>-16</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>-8%</b>

Tournament scheduling has been returned to the Tournament Committee; per the High Performance Director and National Coaches there will be no repêchage this season. Formats as outlined in the Athlete's Handbook remain as written at the writing of this report.

The Tournament Committee has developed a plan to begin testing different tournament software programs beginning with the October NAC; the current plan will be to implement whatever program is chosen with the 2010-11 season. The Tournament Committee's goal with tournament technology is to become as paperless as possible; this transition will move us towards an environment of monitors scrolling information replacing paper posting in the venue, the scoring machines linked directly to the tournament software for result entry, an automated card reader system at registration for check-in and online real time result updates. The Tournament Committee does not anticipate implementing many of these changes until the start of the next quad.

One of Tournament Committee's sub-groups, led by Evan Ranes, is looking into a new classification system. In the coming months the various proposed systems will be made available for the membership to review and monitor as results are fed into each system to see how they work. The current plan for implementation of the new system will begin with the new quad.

**Appendix M**  
**FOC Report**  
**08/31/09**

The FOC met August 22-23 for its Annual Meeting. All members, except Sharon Everson and Gerrie Baumgart were in attendance. Their absences were excused. Mary Mahon was a guest presenter as the Chair of the Referee Development Task Force and Tanya Brown was a guest presenter as chair of the Tournament Committee.

The FOC elected Sam Cheris as Chair, Charlie Washburn as Vice-Chair and Damon Scaggs as Secretary.

The FOC reviewed the effect of the financial problems of the USFA on the international assignments of the FOC. For international events, it appears that the FOC spent less FOC budget. At the same time the FOC was restricted from sending referees to events requiring the USFA to send no referee and just pay the fine or sending referees who were willing to go for just the fine amount and funding the rest from their personal funds. It would also appear that the \$10,000 raised by Bill Becker for use in funding the sending of referees to international events was not spent. The budget for 2009-10 was cut from the \$80,000 in last year's budget to \$60,000 in this year's budget. It was noted that the income flow from athletes' user fees was significantly lower than that projected in last year's budget. We don't know the reason for the income deficit. The FOC will review with the high performance group, the required referees and seek their input regarding the referees to be used. The FOC will continue to make its selection of referees based on quality and development issues and utilizing the input from our FIE Arbitrage Commission member. The FOC will continue to use a variety of means to keep within its budget: (i) designate fully-funded US referees; (ii) pay 500 Euro fees to foreign organizers in lieu of sending a referee; (iii) offer the same 500 Euros as a subsidy to US referees, with the referee absorbing the remainder of the cost; or (iv) secure additional funding from outside sources, earmarked for certain competitions or squads and then select additional referees paid for by that funding.

The FOC once again reviewed the rule change adopted by the FIE relating to the conductive bib. Please see the attached annex regarding the recommendation of the FOC to the EC and Board of Directors.

The 2008-09 committees were selected:

Domestic Assignment – **Sharon Everson**, Iana Dakova, Mary Frye & Bill Oliver

International Assignment – **Sam Cheris**, Francisco Marin (saber), Derek Cotton (Foil) and Peter Burchard (epee)

Communications – **Peter Burchard** & Charlie Washburn

Rules – **Bill Oliver**, Mary Frye, Ariana Klinkov & Damon Scaggs

Domestic Referee Development – Grassroots, Referee Certification and Re-certification - **Gerrie Baumgart**, Iana Dakova, Ariana Klinkov and Mary Mahon

- National Referees – **Bill Oliver**, Iana Dakova & Ariana Klinkov

International Referee Development – **Francisco Martin**, Derek Cotton & Atilio Tass  
Tournament Committee Coordination – **Gerrie Baumgart**  
Wheel Chair – **Jon Moss**, Gerrie Baumgart & Sharon Everson  
Awards - **Damon Scaggs** & Jon Moss  
Coaches Liaison – **Atilio Tass**  
Ethics – **Jon Moss**, Peter Burchard & Mary Frye

The domestic development committees would develop an architecture for the development of referees containing levels of seminars and a refined examination which would lead to on-line examinations. Draft examination would be distributed to the entire FOC by 10/15/09 for comment. Mary Mahon made a presentation on the development and use of Online Exams, Online Continuing Education and Online Evaluations.

Tanya Brown gave a presentation about the changes for the next two seasons in the schedules and events to be handled by the FOC as well as the need for the development of assigners for the ROC events in 2010-11. The FOC selected a group of individuals who will be invited to learn assignment protocol during this season to create a cadre of assigners for the ROCs.

The list of Certified Referee Instructors and Examiners was reviewed and approved.  
NAC – FOC Representative assignments were made.

A Push list for referees was developed and will be communicated to the referees selected. It was determined that referees seeking to be candidates for the FIE examination would be required to have at least a '3' rating, plus the unanimous approval of the International Referee Development Committee.

The FOC proceeded to review the ratings of the referee corps. Changes will be communicated to referees and be posted on the internet.

The interim meeting of the FOC will be held on the Sunday evening of the JOs and the annual meeting will be held on 8/21-22; site to be determined.

**Appendix N**  
**Proposed Amendments to Operations Manual from Second Hearing Motion 1**

## **Chapter 2: USFA Membership<sup>1</sup>**

### **Section 1: Rights of Membership**

The USFA Board of Directors has established specific categories of memberships to differentiate ~~age groups and~~ those who are eligible to compete, those who coach, and those who support the sport. The USFA Board of Directors determines the rights and regulations associated with each category of membership. ~~All individual members, except the Associate class of membership, may participate in competitions held under the auspices of the USFA.~~

This participation is subject to the limitations specified in the USFA Bylaws as well as regulations and limitations approved by the Board of Directors with respect to particular categories of members or types of competitions. These limitations are published in the *USFA Operations Manual* and the *USFA Athlete Handbook that describes, in detail, criteria for national tournaments*.

A member of a class which has voting rights is not entitled to vote in USFA elections or participate in competitions until USFA Membership Services has received and processed the member's dues and fees. Payment of dues to a Division Secretary or other duly appointed agent renders a fencer eligible only to fence in local competitions sanctioned by the Division where the dues were paid. Once the membership has been satisfactorily processed, the individual will receive a membership card.

#### **A. Voting Privileges [Article Ix, Section 6, 2001 USFA Bylaws]**

All Competitive, Life, Non-Competitive, Professional, and Benefactor ~~individual~~ members in good standing, including those Competitive members associated with those holding a Family membership, who have paid their dues (membership processed and fee collected), as specified by the Board of Directors, on or before February 1st of each membership year and who have attained their 18th birthday as of that date shall have the right to vote on all matters that may be voted on by the USFA and its member Divisions. In addition these members may hold any office to which they may be elected or appointed. A person is considered a member when the USFA National office satisfactorily processes the membership application and associated fees. Members whose applications are incomplete, e.g., missing required signatures, will not be considered in good standing until all information has been completed, signatures have been obtained and fees have been collected.

Members must inform the USFA Director of Membership Services of their date of birth, if not noted on their membership application, on or before February 1st of the current membership year or stated in writing that they have, or will attain their 18th birthday as of that date to be eligible to vote in any USFA election.

#### **B. International License**

Competitive members (including Life and Professional members) of the USFA can apply for an FIE License in order to compete in international competitions. See the *Athlete Handbook* for rules governing application for an FIE License and entry procedures for FIE World Cup competitions. Members of the USFA may not compete in any international team competitions

representing the United States without specific approval of the committee designated by the Board to select members of international teams or by the National coach who has been given the authority to field teams at international competitions.

### C. New Members

A new member whose individual one-year dues are paid between April 1 and July 31 shall be entitled to membership through the next membership year without the payment of additional dues. A person who has not been a member of the USFA for the past five years will be treated as a new member in establishing the expiration date of membership.

## Section 2: Categories of Membership

~~Except for Associate and Non-Competitive members, t~~The membership year commences on August 1 and ends on the following July 31. All dues are payable in full on application for membership and thereafter when the next membership year begins, or when one's membership expires, whichever is later. See Appendix A for dues structure. ~~For each individual membership category Competitive and Non-Competitive members, one~~ can pay for one year or three years of membership. ~~If one's status for a category changes, e.g., age change creates a different status during the three year period, the change will be recorded in the system and a new membership card issued. If one does not receive the new card, notify the Director of Membership Services.~~

### A. Individual Memberships

1) Honorary Membership: Open to any person who shall have rendered distinguished service to the cause of fencing. A candidate shall be elected an Honorary Member of the Corporation by the Board of Directors of the Corporation upon a two-thirds vote of those present at any meeting. Honorary Members shall have all the rights and privileges of Life Members.

2) Competitive Membership: Open to all persons upon payment of the dues for the membership year as specified herein.

3) Professional Membership: Open to all persons who wish to be credentialed as a coach at sanctioned tournaments. Professional members must successfully complete a background check at the member's own expense.

4) Non-Competitive Membership: Open to all persons upon payment of the dues for the membership year as specified herein. Associate members shall have all the rights and privileges of Competitive membership, subject to the limitation that they shall not be eligible to fence in USFA or international competitions.

~~2) Senior Membership: Open to all persons who will attain 20 years of age as of January 1 following the beginning of the membership year upon payment of the dues for the membership year as specified herein. There are three types of Senior Membership: Senior, Coach and Veteran. Persons over 20 years of age are Senior members unless they fall within the definition of coach or veteran.~~

~~3) Coach category: Those coaches who are competing and are coaching and notify the USFA that they are coaches who are competing.~~

~~4) Veteran category: Those competitors who are 40 years or will become at least 40 years of age as of January 1 of the current fencing season.~~

~~5) Junior Membership: Open to all persons who will be younger than 20 years of age as of January 1 following the beginning of the membership year upon payment of the dues for the membership year as specified herein~~

~~6) The three year Junior membership is valid for the period in which the member meets the age~~

criteria, after which the membership is changed to Senior.

~~7) Associate Membership: Open to all persons upon payment of the dues for the membership year as specified herein. Associate members shall have all the rights and privileges of Senior membership, subject to the limitation that they shall not be eligible to fence in USFA or international competitions.~~

~~8) Associate Coach: category for those coaching or teaching fencers and no longer competing in USFA or FIE competitions~~

~~9) Associate Parent: category for parents of any fencer who are interested in receiving regular communications—email newsletters, American Fencing magazine, special notices—about the activities of the organization and its affiliates. Associate Parent category also provides the parent the opportunity to vote on the affairs of the USFA and the Division in which the child or children are competing.~~

~~10) 5) Life Membership: Open to all persons upon payment of the Life membership fee specified herein. Life members shall have all the rights and privileges of Competitive Senior members, but shall be exempt from the obligation of paying dues subsequent to the payment or waiving of the Life membership fee. Life members seeking the benefits of Professional membership may do so upon payment for and completion of a background check and upon payment of a fee as set by the Board of Directors to cover insurance premium costs.~~

~~6) Non-Competitive Life Membership: Open to all persons upon payment of the Non-Competitive Life membership fee specified herein. Non-Competitive Life members shall have all the rights and privileges of Non-Competitive members, but shall be exempt from the obligation of paying dues subsequent to the payment of the Non-Competitive Life membership fee.~~

~~11) 6) Olympians/Paralympians: Any athlete member of an Olympic Fencing Team or Paralympic Fencing Team is granted Life membership from the USFA. [BOD, 2/05]~~

~~12) 7) Supporting Life Membership: Open to all persons upon payment of one-tenth the dues for Life membership at the time of enrollment. Upon payment of supporting membership dues for ten consecutive years at the same rate as at the time of enrollment, the membership will be automatically converted to Life membership. [BOD, 2/04] *The purpose of this category is to allow individuals to become Life members by spreading the cost of the Life membership fee over a period of ten years.*~~

~~8) Benefactor Membership: Open as a membership upgrade to all Life members upon payment of dues specified herein. Benefactor memberships are grouped into four tiers, with dues for each tier designated in Table 1. Dues paid towards one tier may be credited against the dues required for the next tier.~~

~~9) Associate Membership: Open to all persons on payment of specified dues, but having the limitations that Associate members may not compete, vote, nor hold office in the Association. Associate members receive *American Fencing* magazine and other periodicals and electronic communications from the Association.~~

~~A-10) Family Membership: Open to ~~a maximum of four~~ members of the same family all at the same address. For the basic dues specified herein, two family members may be designated as Competitive members and two family members may be designated as Associate members. Additional family members may be designated as Competitive members upon payment of additional dues as specified by the Board of Directors, and for which no more than two will be granted competitive membership status with the remaining two granted Associate membership status. For this category of membership only one member of the family will receive a copy of the *American Fencing* magazine.~~

~~B-11) Club Membership: Open to any organization which (i) actively promotes or offers~~

instruction in or provides facilities for engaging in the sport of fencing, (ii) has met its obligation with respect to the payment of dues for the membership year as specified.

• To be eligible for Club membership in the USFA, a club must meet the following criteria:

- 1) The owners and/or principal officers of the club ~~or fencing Division of such club~~ must be members of the USFA.
- 2) All members of the coaching staff, be they paid, volunteer or other similar status, must be members of the USFA.
- 3) Each Member Club must have a minimum of ten members of the USFA, at the time of the submission of the application, who have declared that club as their club. *[BOD September, 1999]*
- 4) The name of the club must be distinctive from that of all then existing club members, as determined by the Executive Director.

a. **Motion:** *that all member clubs have a unique name that has at least one distinctive word different from another club. Motion approved. [EC meeting, July 2006]*

An organization whose application for club membership is accepted has the option to request liability insurance coverage available through the USFA for an additional fee. Refer to the USFA club membership application for current insurance rates.

~~C.~~ 12) Corporate (formerly Business) Membership: Open to any corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship or other business entity which has an interest in supporting the development and growth of fencing in the United States upon the payment of the dues for the membership year as specified herein. Vendors wishing to purchase booth space at National USFA tournaments must be Corporate members of the USFA.

~~D. The Subscription category allows individuals or organizations who do not seek membership in the USFA to receive the quarterly fencing magazine, *American Fencing* and regular releases of the *E-Newsletter*.~~

**TABLE 1: SCHEDULE OF MEMBERSHIP FEES [This table replaces the table currently in the Operations Manual]**

CLASS OF MEMBERSHIP	DUES (Annual except for those marked *)	3 YEAR MEMBERSHIP
Competitive	\$60	\$140
Professional	\$100	N/A
Non-Competitive	\$40	\$100
Life	\$1,200*	N/A
Non-Competitive Life	\$800*	N/A
Benefactor		N/A
Bronze Tier	\$1,500*	
Silver Tier	\$5,000*	
Gold Tier	\$10,000*	
Platinum Tier	\$25,000*	
Associate	\$25 (domestic) \$37 (foreign)	N/A
Family	\$110	N/A
Additional Members	\$50	
Club	\$60	N/A
Corporate	\$500	N/A

The Board of Directors establishes the schedule of annual dues of the USFA. Table 1 specifies the fees for each category of membership approved by the Board ~~February 2004~~ July 2009.

### Section 3: Definition of Division Membership

A fencer must identify to which Division the member will belong. A fencer may be a member of the Division:

- In which the fencer resides; OR
- In which the fencer's club is located, OR
- In which the fencer is a resident student at a school (i.e., not a day student).

The Division for the member becomes the place from which the member can qualify for the Junior Olympic Fencing Championships and the associated qualifying competitions for the Summer National Championships. The Section in which the Division is located is the Section in which the member can compete to qualify for the relevant Summer National Championships competitions.

A fencer may change Division membership if the fencer moves to a place that is located in another Division. Such change will affect the Division and/or Section from which the fencer can then qualify for any National Championship tournament. A fencer, who resides at a school located in another Division, must decide when submitting the membership application whether to represent the Division where his/her home (residence) is located or the Division where his/her school is located. Once the choice is made it cannot be changed in that fencing season.

Persons who have paid for a three-year membership must notify the Director of Membership Services if the Division should be changed at the start of each season. Without such notification the Division will remain the same.

If a member reports a change of address, the member must notify the Director of Membership Services if the Division needs to be changed.

### Section 4: Benefits of Membership

Membership in the USFA includes the following benefits:

- Subscription to *American Fencing* magazine, published four times a year.
- Athlete Accident Insurance, is a secondary insurance policy that covers individuals only when participating in authorized USFA activities. (Contact USFA Membership Services for policy specifics).
- Coaches Liability Insurance; contact USFA Membership Services for details.  
*"U. S. Fencing Association (USFA) offers general liability coverage for member coaches at no additional cost. This coverage is extended to all USFA sanctioned and non-sanctioned fencing events/activities. This coverage is provided as an added benefit of coach membership through USFA." [BOD Agenda, Sept. 2005]*
- Voting privileges: Members 18 and over as of Feb. 1 of the membership year who have provided their date of birth, have the right to vote on USFA issues and in USFA elections.
- Competitive members may compete in USFA sanctioned competitions if they meet conditions of specific competition.
- Discounts on Travel and Fencing Equipment.
- USFA Membership Card: Recognition as a member of U.S. Fencing and gateway to worldwide fencing.
- Club Memberships:
  - Eligible to enroll in the liability insurance program offered through the USFA
  - Eligible to enter team qualifying competitions for National Team Championships
  - Subscription to *American Fencing*
  - Free Link on USFA website

- Corporate membership:
  - Advertising discount in magazine
  - Free link on USFA website
  - Eligibility for vendor space at national tournaments
  - Magazine
  - Mailing labels at special rates
  - Advertising opportunities in tournament mailings

### **Section 5: Dues Sharing (*BOD, July 1997*)**

The USFA shall each year allocate \$3 of each member's dues to the Division specified by the member and \$1 of each member's dues to the Section in which that Division is located. The USFA shall pay Divisions and Sections their share of dues on a quarterly basis as long as each is current in filing past and present financial reports with the USFA and in filing Officers' reports for all previous membership years. Until all those reports have been filed, the Division or Section's share of the dues will be held by the USFA. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the Life Membership fee and Supporting Life Membership fee shall be paid by the USFA to the Division to which the member belongs and five percent (5%) of the Life Membership fee shall be paid by the USFA to the Section to which the member belongs. That portion of dues not allocated for Divisions or Sections shall be deposited to the national account of the USFA for general USFA purposes.

### **Official Policy [*BOD, 9/95*]**

- a) Checks will be issued only to those Divisions and Sections that have filed the required financial report (from the Division/Section Treasurer) *and* Division/Section reports indicating current officers. If the Divisions/Sections have not filed the required reports, the funds due will be held in escrow until such time as the reports are current.
- b) Checks will be issued every three months according to the following schedule:
  - 1) November, December, January will be issued approximately February 15
  - 2) February, March, April will be issued approximately May 15
  - 3) May, June, July will be issued approximately August 15
  - 4) August, September, October will be issued approximately November 15
- c) Escrowed funds will be paid upon receipt of delinquent reports. On August 15, all funds held in escrow will be released providing that the conditions in Item (a) above have been met.
- d) Checks are valid for 90 days. There will be a \$15 charge to reissue checks that are no longer valid.

### **Section 6: Arrears**

A member is not entitled to vote in USFA elections or participate in competitions until the USFA has received and processed the member's dues and fees. Payment of dues to a Division Secretary or other duly appointed agent renders a fencer eligible to fence in local competitions. When the USFA National Office has processed the membership application and the accompanying payment of dues, the fencer will be recognized as a member. No person will be eligible to vote in USFA affairs unless the person's dues for the membership year in which the person seeks the right to vote are processed by the USFA Membership Services by February 1 of that membership year. [*Article IX, Section 6, 2001 USFA Bylaws*]

**Appendix O**  
**Proposed Motion to Amend Second Hearing Motion 1**

**Motion (Mr. Clements):**

To divide the existing motion regarding membership as amended to restructure the existing membership structure into two questions, one related to restructuring and/or renaming existing membership classes, and the second related to the creation of additional categories of contributory life memberships, and to amend the second portion of the question as follows:

To establish classes of contributory life membership to be offered to existing fully-paid Life Members as follows:

An existing fully-paid Life Member of the Association may become a contributory Life Member in one of several classes upon payment of additional voluntary dues to the Association as set forth herein. Contributory Life Members retain eligibility to vote in USFA elections, but receive additional recognition at USFA events and shall receive credentials identifying the member's status and class of contributory Life Membership including such items as a certificate suitable for framing; a suitably-designed lapel pin, decal, and patch; and a new membership card.

Additionally, as an introductory measure, the Executive Director shall be authorized to offer contributory Life Memberships to the existing roll of Life Members at a discounted price of not less than one-half of the dues for each class of contributory Life Membership for a period of one year following establishment of these classes of membership and to offer additional incentive(s) at the discretion of the Executive Director (such as a distinctive jacket or similar gift), but not exceeding \$200 in cost to the Association.

The total dues and incremental dues for each class of contributory Life Membership shall be as follows:

Class	Total Dues (in addition to Life Membership)	Incremental Dues
Endowment Member	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Patron Member	\$5,000.00	\$3,000.00
Benefactor Member	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00

**Appendix P**  
**Fencing Officials Commission Response to Second Hearing Motion 2**

As of the beginning of last season, the FIE has begun requiring foil fencers to wear a special mask with several inches of lame material sewn to the lower edge, thus making the valid target extend up to the prominences of the clavicles, as required by the FIE rules (Seniors – 2008-09; Juniors 2009-10).

The new FIE approved mask cannot currently be retrofitted or repaired, and will be fairly expensive. Further, there is no indication that these masks will not be subject to grounding of the mesh to the valid target, causing valid lights on the non-conductive bib and mesh.

Within the USFA there also appears to be concern with the safety issue of focusing our athlete's attention on the relatively sensitive neck and throat area.

The High Performance Director has not seen a change in offensive or defensive coaching methodology because of the additional target area.

After evaluating this mask in international competition last season, the Rules Committee of the FOC has determined that there has been minimal impact on fencing bouts with the addition of this extended target. In entire World Cup competitions, very few points were scored on this area.

Given the expense that would be required of our already taxed athletes (and their families), the relatively limited impact on scoring, and no change in the fencers' tactics, it is the recommendation of the FOC that the USFA not adopt the FIE rule requiring lame material on the foil bib.

Sincerely,

Bill Oliver  
Chair FOC Rules Committee

Sam Cheris  
Chair, FOC

**Appendix Q**  
**Proposed Amendments to Operations Manual from First Hearing Motion 5**

**NEW WORDING [indicated by italics and underline]**

**Chapter 2: USFA Membership.** Section 1: Rights of Membership. (Second Paragraph):

... Payment of dues to a Division Secretary or other duly appointed agent renders a fencer eligible only to fence in local sanctioned competitions ~~sanctioned by~~ in the Division where the dues were paid. Once the membership has been satisfactorily processed, the individual will receive a membership card.

**Chapter 3: USFA Competitions.**

**B. *Authorized/Sanctioned Competitions***

**A. Definition**

Webster's Concise English Dictionary defines sanction as: "official permission or approval." A USFA sanctioned competition refers to competitions that have been authorized ~~by USFA designated representatives who are responsible for the operation and conduct of official competitions (e.g. the USFA or one of its Divisions or Sections),~~ as set forth below in Section 1C of this Chapter and are held in accordance with the *Rules of Competition* and related modifications as specified in the current USFA Operations Manual.

...

**B. Competitor Status**

- 1) Current competitive members of the USFA may participate in competitions ~~scheduled by or under the auspices of the USFA Board of Directors or its authorized representatives: e.g., Division officers, Section officers, Regional Youth Coordinators, etc.~~ as set forth below in Section 1C of this chapter. Foreign fencers may fence in USFA competitions (non-qualifying competitions) by showing proof of membership in another fencing federation or a current season FIE License. Foreign fencers whose entry has been sent by the fencer's fencing federation do not need to show any other proof of membership.

...

**C. Competition Requirements**

- 1) ~~Competitive members of the USFA can earn classifications at competitions that have been sanctioned by recognized entities under the jurisdiction of the USFA Board of Directors: e.g., Officers of Divisions or Sections, Regional Youth Coordinators or the Tournament Committee. For a competition to be considered sanctioned it must be~~

~~included in the Division or Section official schedule mailed to the members and/or posted on the corresponding web site or, in the case of Regional Youth Circuit tournaments or National tournaments, published in the annual Athlete Handbook and/or posted on the Youth Committee web site, www.usfaryc.org, and the USFA web site, www.usfencing.org, respectively. The specific categories of competitions at which classifications may be earned are described in Chapter 6.~~

- 1) Competitions may be held under the jurisdiction of any of the following:
  - a) A USFA member club in good standing at the time the tournament is held
  - b) The officers of a USFA Division
  - c) The officers of a USFA Section
  - d) The Regional Youth Coordinators
  - e) The USFA Youth Committee
  - f) The USFA Regional Open Circuit Advisory Group
  - g) The USFA Tournament Committee
- 2) Sanctioned competitions must be ~~organized and conducted by persons appointed by the appropriate USFA governing group, e.g., Divisions, Sections, Tournament Committee, Youth Committee, etc.~~ The competitions must be conducted in accordance with current USFA rules of competition as described in the *USFA Rules Book* and the *Operations Manual*. These competitions must be open to current USFA competitive members who meet the stated restrictions of the competitions, such as age category or the type of competition, e.g., Class “C” or Division II or similar restrictions, or as an Open with only minimum age restriction.
- 3) Sanctioned tournaments or competitions are those published by an acceptable USFA official (~~Division, Section, Regional Youth Circuit or National USFA~~) means of communication ~~in print, electronic media via email and/or official web site~~. Any deviation from published information about the sanctioned competitions – either in manner of operation or splitting or combining to increase the number of classifications to be earned can be the basis for withdrawal of the sanction and thus nullify award of classifications. The following are considered to be acceptable means of communication:
  - a. Communication in print must be sent at least to all members of the Division of the hosting organization (in the case that a club or the Division is the host) or to all members of the Section (in the case that a Section is the host).
  - b. Communications via website must be posted on a generally accepted forum for competitions defined to at least include the official website of the Division or Section of the hosting organization (except as outlined below). Other web locations widely accepted by the fencing community within the Division of the hosting organization are also acceptable. Disputes about what is considered to be “widely accepted” will follow the dispute procedure outlined below in Section 7 of this chapter.

- c. Communication of Regional Youth Circuit, Super Youth Circuit, Regional Open Circuit or National tournaments will be published in the annual Athlete Handbook and/or on the USFA web site, www.usfencing.org.
- d. Communications must include the information outlined below in Section 3A of this chapter.
- e. Communications must be postmarked/posted at least 30 days prior to the close of registration of the first event listed for the tournament.

...

## C. Responsibilities

### Member Clubs

Member Clubs may conduct sanctioned tournaments or competitions at a location which must have proper insurance coverage for the event. The club must ensure that such competitions are conducted in accordance with the current USFA Rules of Competition and operating procedures.

The Member Club must hold Club Membership under Chapter 2, Section 2B of this Manual.

The Member Club must NOT have been restricted from holding sanctioned competitions by the US Fencing Board of Directors or by a body delegated the responsibility to administer these restrictions by the Board of Directors.

### Division

~~Division competitions are the responsibility of the Division officers and its Executive Committee. Only those competitions published in the official Division schedule, whether by newsletter mailed to Division members or posted on the Division website, and which are conducted under the authority of the Division, are deemed to be sanctioned by the Division and may be considered for a rating whereby fencers may earn a classification, all other conditions specified in this Manual being satisfied.~~

Divisions are responsible for scheduling and conducting the Division qualifying tournaments at which fencers can qualify for specific individual competitions for the Junior Olympic Fencing Championships and for individual and team competitions at the Summer National Championships. The qualifying paths are described in Chapter 8.

~~The official published schedule is one that is printed and mailed to the members of the Division and/or posted on the official web site of the Division or its Section. At the beginning of each fencing season the Division should mail to its members of the current and prior season a postcard with its web site address and date when the schedule of competitions will be posted on its web site. In this way the Division keeps its members informed of the status of the schedule without extra mailings and in a way that all the competitors can access schedule details. It is recommended that the Division mail a printed version of the schedule to the clubs in its area with a note specifying that its web site will post changes to and details of the scheduled competitions. Members who can receive email messages should notify the Division of their current email address.~~

Divisions may, under their auspices, sanction competitions within their territorial boundaries that are organized by current USFA member clubs, individuals or other organizations who

must have proper insurance coverage for the event, and for which the Division ensures that such competitions are conducted in accordance with the current USFA *Rules of Competition* and operating procedures. ~~These competitions must be included in the official schedule of Division competitions to be considered “sanctioned” competitions.~~

~~It is a common practice that Divisions will list other competitions that are not “sanctioned” by the Division but rather are to inform its members of other competitive opportunities. The Division and/or Section should indicate which competitions or tournaments are not held under their authority, and therefore are not sanctioned.~~

(Renumber below as appropriate)...

**D. *Scheduling of Competitions***

*Member Clubs*, Division and Section

The USFA fencing season officially begins on August 1 and ends July 31. *Member Clubs*, Divisions and Sections should adhere to the guidelines specified here.

~~The Division and Section~~ *Schedules* must include the information described in the following paragraphs.

- 1) ...
- 5) Any special regulations or conditions governing the competitions and/or the venue must be specified.
  - a. At the beginning of each season (and not later than October 1) each Section and Division must publish dates of team and individual competitions, including competitions from which fencers can qualify to enter competitions at the Junior Olympic Fencing Championships and/or competitions at the Summer National Championships. The official published schedule is one that is mailed to the members and/or posted on the official web site of the Division/Section.
  - b. In determining dates of competitions and/or tournaments, every effort should be made to avoid scheduling qualifying competitions on the same weekend as the national tournaments, i.e., the North American Circuit (NAC) tournaments.
  - c. Similarly, divisions should strive to avoid, to the extent possible, scheduling Youth14 qualifying competitions to the Summer Nationals on the same weekend as a Super Regional Youth Circuit tournament.
  - d. Division and Sections must give at least four weeks' notice of qualifying competitions to National Championships: Junior Olympics and Summer Nationals.

Each type of competition or tournament must be explicitly described in the schedule published by an authorized agent of the USFA: i.e., *Member Club*, Division, Section, Regional Youth Coordinator or the USFA. Some examples of competitions that might be held are given below. Competitions at a tournament are gender specific unless the schedule states that the competition will be mixed. The description given in the published schedule of any tournament must specify gender and the weapon which will be fenced.

All tournaments at which fencers can earn qualification to any USFA National Championship competition must be gender specific, i.e., mixed competitions are NOT permitted in any qualifying competition<sup>1</sup>. In all other cases, if a *sanctioning entity* ~~Division~~ has determined that a mixed competition will be held if less than a certain number of fencers enter a competition, then that must be so stated: what that minimum number is, below which the competition will combine both the men and women's events in that weapon. Classifications can be earned in a mixed competition – see paragraph D below.

The schedule must indicate the possibility that a single gender competition could become a mixed competition if numbers so dictate or if participants express a desire for it to become mixed. Under no circumstances can a qualifying competition be a mixed competition<sup>1</sup>.

E. *Types of Tournaments*

**Open**

...

**Closed**

A closed competition is a USFA competition in which eligibility is limited on the basis of sectional or division membership. *Only Divisions or Sections may host tournaments that are limited on this basis and then they may only be restricted to members of the hosting Division or Section as appropriate.* In a closed competition athletes must meet the minimum age requirement of 13 years old as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the season or be on the National Junior Point Standings.

...

Removal of Sanctioning Status for a Tournament/Competition and Loss of Ability to Sanction Future Events

*Should a sanctioned tournament or competition be held that violates the procedures outlined in this Manual the tournament's sanctioned status may be removed after being held using the procedures outlined in this Section.*

**Standing to Dispute a Tournament/Competition's Sanctioned Status**

*The sanctioned status of a tournament or competition held under the authority of the President of the USFA and the Board of Directors which has delegated the responsibility to the Tournament Committee and the Executive Director may only be disputed by a member of the US Fencing Board of Directors.*

*The sanctioned status of a tournament or competition held under the authority of a Regional Youth Coordinator and/or the USFA Youth Committee may only be disputed by a member of the US Fencing Board of Directors.*

*The sanctioned status of a tournament or competition held under the authority of the USFA*

---

<sup>1</sup> A specific exemption has been provided for the Regional Youth competitions in that for 6 or fewer entries in a competition, the competition can become a mixed competition for that age category.

Regional Open Advisory Group may only be disputed by a member of the US Fencing Board of Directors.

The sanctioned status of a Qualifying Competition held under the authority of a Division or Section may only be disputed by (1) a member of the US Fencing Board of Directors or (2) a member of the Division (in the case of a Division Qualifying Competition) or Section (in the case of a Section Qualifying Competition) Executive committee from the Division or Section actually holding the event.

The sanctioned status of any other tournament or competition may be disputed by any of the following:

- 1) A member of the US Fencing Board of Directors;
- 2) A member of the Division Executive Committee from the Division in which the competition or tournament was held;
- 3) Any member of the USFA from the Section in which the competition or tournament was held.

### **Adjudicating Body**

Disputes brought by a member of the USFA from the Section in which the competition or tournament was held will be heard by the relevant Division Executive Committee.

Disputes brought by members of the US Fencing Board of Directors, as members of a Section Executive Committee or as members of a Division Executive Committee will be heard by the US Fencing Board of Directors or by a body delegated by the Board to hear disputes.

Individuals who are members of the Division Executive Committee or the US Fencing Board of Directors may choose to act only as members of the relevant section in the cases where they have the choice to act in either capacity.

### **Timing and Method of Disputes**

All disputes must be submitted in writing no more than 30 days following the end of the relevant event. The postmark or shipping date will determine if the time period was met.

### **Dispute Procedure**

Interested parties adjudicating a dispute must recuse themselves from the discussion and any vote held. Interested parties are defined as any of the following:

- 1) A member of any entity which collected entry fees from the event in dispute.
- 2) A member of any entity (generally a member club) of which the person making the dispute is also a member (not including the USFA as a whole or any of its Divisions or Sections).

1. Disputes involving tournaments or competitions from Member Clubs must be sent to the appropriate Division's Secretary or President at the address delineated on the most recent Division mailing or on the Division's website accompanied by a check or money

order for \$25. If the dispute is upheld the monies will be reimbursed. If the dispute is not upheld the funds will be forfeit.

Upon receipt of the dispute, a copy shall be provided to the Member Club's representative by the Division's Secretary or President no later than 10 days after the postmark or shipping date of the dispute. This written notification will be sent to the address of record of the Member Club. The Division's representative may redact information from the written dispute if it is deemed appropriate to do so. Any response from the Member Club must be postmarked or shipped no later than 10 days after the postmark or shipping date on their written notification.

Divisions are responsible for convening a meeting of their executive committee within 30 days of the postmark or shipping date of the submitted dispute. The written submissions of the disputing party and any response from the Member Club should, along with any other information the Division Executive Committee deems relevant, be taken into account. The Division's executive committee may make any of the following rulings:

1. The dispute is not upheld. The tournament retains its sanctioned status. The dispute deposit is forfeit. Both the member club and the disputant must be sent the result in writing. This result must be postmarked or shipped no later than 10 days after the meeting.
2. The dispute is upheld. The dispute deposit must be refunded. If the dispute is upheld the following may be the result:
  - i. The problem was sufficiently minor to allow the results of the tournament to stand as a sanctioned event. A written warning must be issued to the Member Club's representative with the problems identified. This is a ONE TIME EXCEPTION. Any dispute of a similar nature submitted a second time may not be considered minor and must result in one of the following actions. Both the member club and the disputant must be sent the result in writing. This result must be postmarked or shipped no later than 10 days after the meeting.
  - ii. The problem was significant and invalidates the tournament's sanctioned status. Any ratings earned will be cancelled. No further action on the part of the Division need be taken. Both the member club and the disputant must be sent the result in writing. This result must be postmarked or shipped no later than 10 days after the meeting.
  - iii. The problem was extremely significant. The tournament's sanctioned status is invalidated. Any ratings earned will be cancelled. In addition, the Division recommends that further action be taken and that the Member Club's ability to conduct tournaments should be suspended for a period of time. In this case the Division must send both the dispute and any response from the Member Club to the US Fencing National Office along with the findings of the Division executive committee with a recommendation for further sanction and the reason for this recommendation. Both the member club and the disputant must be sent the result in writing along with the recommendation for further action. This result must be postmarked or shipped no later than 10 days after the meeting.

3. Either the Member Club or the Disputant may appeal the decision of the Division Executive Committee by following the procedure set forth below.
2. Disputes involving any other sanctioned tournament or competition or appeals of the decisions of Division Executive Committees must be sent to the US Fencing national office by mail at the US Fencing National Office accompanied by a check or money order for \$100. If the dispute is upheld the monies will be reimbursed. If the dispute is not upheld the funds will be forfeit.

Upon receipt of the dispute or appeal, copies shall be provided to all relevant parties including the Member Club's representative, the disputant, and the Division's/Section's Secretary or President as appropriate no later than 10 days after the postmark or shipping date of the dispute. This written notification will be sent to the address of record of the Member Club, disputant and/or Division/Section. The US Fencing National Office may redact information from the written dispute if it is deemed appropriate to do so. Any response from the Member Club, disputant and/or Division/Section must be postmarked or shipped no later than 10 days after the postmark or shipping date on their written notification.

US Fencing is responsible for convening a meeting of the body appointed (hereby known as the Tournament Dispute Group or TDG) by the US Fencing Board of Directors within 45 days of the postmark or shipping date of the submitted dispute/appeal. Any information deemed relevant may be taken into account. The TDG may make any of the following rulings:

- a. The dispute is not upheld. Either (a) the tournament retains its sanctioned status, if this is the body of first hearing,(b) no further sanction is deemed appropriate, in the case of a referral for additional sanction by a Division Executive Committee, or(c) the appeal is denied. The dispute deposit (if any) is forfeit. The member club, disputant, and/or Division/Section as appropriate must be sent the result in writing. This result must be postmarked or shipped no later than 10 days after the meeting.
- b. The dispute/appeal is upheld. The dispute deposit (if any) must be refunded. In the case where the TDG is the body of first hearing disputes upheld result in the following:
  - i. The problem was sufficiently minor to allow the results of the competition or tournament to stand including any ratings or points earned and any qualification to further events. The TDG may require the sanctioning authority to comply with specific procedures the next time a competition or tournament is held. Failure to adhere to these requirements at a subsequent competition or tournament will automatically result in the loss of sanctioning and will move to item ii of this section of the Operations Manual.
  - ii. The problem was significant and should invalidate the tournament's sanctioned status. The findings of the TDG must be referred to the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee for a determination of next steps and what will happen to any points/ratings/qualifications earned.
  - iii. The decision of the TDG may be appealed to the full Board of Directors by either the disputant or the respondent. In this case, there is a \$250 deposit and the procedures will be as outlined below in section D2c below.

- In the case where the TDG rules that a decision of a Division Executive Committee must be overturned any of the repercussions listed above in this section of the Operations Manual D1 may be applied. In addition, the TDG may refer the case to the Board of Directors as outlined in section D2c below.
- c. The Board of Directors has responsibility for the following:
- i. To determine next steps in the case of a significant problem where the TDG was the body of first hearing. In this case the TDG should provide a recommendation as to how to solve the problem and must vote on any dispute that was received by the TDG more than 30 days prior to the meeting of the Board.
  - ii. To act as a final appellant body in the case where a dispute by the TDG is appealed. Any remedy listed above or below. The Board may overturn any decision made by the TDG or apply additional remedy it deems appropriate.
  - iii. In the case where the TDG recommends that a Member Club be denied the ability to sanction tournaments for a period of time the Board may determine whether or not to remove this privilege and for what period of time, may issue a warning that repeat offenses will be so decided or may decline to penalize the member club further.

## **Chapter 4: Tournament Management**

...

*Jury of Appeal*

...

### **Composition**

#### 1. *Member Club or Division*

The Jury of Appeal at a *member club* or divisional competition shall be composed of all current members of the Board of Directors...

## Section 5: Crisis Management Group (formerly "Act of God" Committee)

### B. Sections, ~~and~~ Divisions, and *Member Club*

Sectional, ~~and~~ Divisional, and *member club* competitions and/or tournaments may be cancelled, delayed, rescheduled or reformatted by the decision of a group composed of the BC chair, the organizing committee and all members of the Sectional or Divisional Executive Committee who are present at the competition...

## **Chapter 6: Classification System**

...

*Types of Competitions for Ratings*

...

## **Restricted**

...

**MIXED:** A Division *or club* may schedule competitions open to both men and women...

~~The Division's Schedules~~ shall specify the conditions under which competitions will change from gender specific to mixed competition.

### *Administration of Classification*

1. ... To avoid questions with respect to individual fencers, each ~~Division, through its Executive Committee or other designated officer or committee,~~ *Sanctioning body* should certify all classification changes (both major and minor) to the National Office...

...

6. Classifications can be earned only in regularly scheduled competitions run by the USFA, its Sections, its Divisions, *its member clubs*, or through official regional youth tournaments *or regional open circuits*. Classifications can only be awarded if adequate notice of the competition has been given to the members of the organizing body ~~via such means as a published schedule on the Division's web site, newsletter, or notices sent to all USFA clubs within the Division or Section as outlined in Chapter 3, Section 1, C, 3.~~ Classifications can be earned in competitions sanctioned by a body of the USFA but not run by that body (e.g., State Games) only after the sanctioning body has determined that the competition has been run in such a manner as to justify the awarding of classifications.

...

### **Notes to Table 2: USFA Classification Reference Chart**

Changes in classifications are allowed at USFA sanctioned individual competition restricted to Veterans and to Junior fencers: *Member Club*, Division, Section and Regional Youth and Cadet competitions must meet or exceed criteria for C1 to award changes in classification. (BOD, July '02, July 03).

## **Chapter 7: Competition Procedures**

### *Seeding*

...

#### Division and Regional Competitions

... Since those rankings reflect performance of the fencers among themselves, those may be more meaningful in seeding Division *or member club* competitions if the participants in the competition are just members of the Division...

In *Member Club*, Division and Sectional competitions, seeding can use the national rolling point standings within each classification or it can use just the classification, letter and year, for seeding.

## Formats

### General

...

If the *Member Club or Division* sees a need for additional direct elimination bouts then it can add repêchage to its format in the direct elimination round, whether at complete tableau of 32 or of 16...

Whatever format the *Member Club Division or Region* decides to use, it must be announced and posted before the start of the competition.

## Appendix R Proposal for Document Naming Standards

### Recommendation for Document Naming Standards

Documents distributed by email should follow the naming convention of:

XXX YYYY-MM-DD N V.pdf

#### Where:

XXX – Three character code of the group for which the document is intended. For example:

BOD – Board of Directors

EXC – Executive Committee

ELC – Elections Committee

AAG – Athletes Advisory Group

FOC – Fencing Officials Commission

RDT – Referee Development Task Force

BLC – Bylaws Committee

etc.

YYYY-MM-DD – The date associated with the document. For documents prepared in advance of a meeting, like

an agenda, the date would be the anticipated date of the meeting, not the date the document itself was prepared. For documents resulting from a meeting, the date would be the date the meeting took place.

If there

is no possibility that the group will have two meetings in a month, the day part of the date can be omitted.

N – A brief description of the nature of the document.

V – An optional version number only if more than one version of the document is generated.

#### Examples:

**BOD 2009-07 Agenda 1.pdf** – The first version of the agenda for the July, 2009, BOD meeting.

**BOD 2009-07 Agenda 2.pdf** – The second version of the agenda for the July, 2009, BOD meeting.

**BOD 2009-07 Minutes.pdf** – The minutes of the July, 2009, BOD meeting.

**BOD 2009-07 SportMed Report.pdf** – The report of the Sports Medicine Committee to the July BOD.

**BLC 2009-07 QandA.pdf** – Questions and Answers distributed by the Bylaws Committee in July.

**EXC 2009-11-03 Actions.pdf** – The actions taken by the Executive Committee on November 3, 2009.

**EXC 2009-11-21 Actions.pdf** – The actions taken by the Executive Committee on November 21, 2009.