

Minutes

Annual Meeting of the USFA Board of Directors

September 17, 2006, 9:00 am

Newark, NJ

Attendance: Nancy Anderson, Jon Moss, Greg Dilworth, Beth Bell, Joseph Streb, Alex Wood, Felicia Zimmermann, Paul Soter, Evan Ranes, George Masin, Sam Cheris, Edward Wright, Dave Micahnik, Brad Baker, Derek Cotton, Alan Kuver

Guests: Donald Alperstein, Michael Massik, Stacey Johnson, Carla Mae Richards, Kalle Weeks, Paul Levy, Jeff Bukantz, Barbara Lynch, Sunil Sabharwal, Frank Foley

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

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

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

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

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

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).

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.

I. Information

A. General Information and Organizational Items:

General announcements

- Appointment of Parliamentarian – Motion to appoint Sam Cheris as Parliamentarian. Motion approved

B. Minutes of the July 2, 2006 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

Motion (Ms Merritt): To approve the minutes of the July 2, 2006 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors. Motion approved

C. Reports from Officers and Executive Director: Motion to approve reports from officers and Executive Director.

Discussion: Additional verbal report of FIE meeting in Tunisia from Nancy Anderson who was one of five people invited to attend.

The Executive Director reports that at this time we are in the middle of our annual audit. While everything looks good, we are in period of flux during this time. Three largest expenses are listed in the Executive Director's report. Expenses for the Junior/Cadet Pan American Championships in San Antonio, TX, in August will not be reported in this audit/budget as they took place at the start of the new fiscal year. A number of countries have indicated they would like to participate in the Memphis NAC after the positive experiences in San Antonio. Concerns were expressed about the status of surplus funds from the 2005 Veterans World Championships. The Executive Director will speak to Michael Morgan to see if there is a problem on the expenditures of the sponsor funds; Ed Wright stated that Michael Morgan had no issues with the manner in which the sponsorship funds were used which might have been considered surplus.

The Executive Director gave a brief update on the status of online membership registration demonstrating by print out what the screen will look like. It is expected that on line membership will be available before the end of this year.

Sunil Sabharwal gave a summary of the efforts of the marketing committee. The target date for distribution of the new magazine is December 2006, before the Richmond NAC. The sponsorship package is ready and will be sent to potential sponsors. The Marketing Committee is working with the Tournament Committee for beta testing in Albuquerque, the November NAC, to make events more appealing and media friendly as well as spectator and athlete friendly.

Motion to accept Officer and Executive Director reports: Approved.

D. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee Reports of Action

August 3, 2006

The EC approved the following actions:

- To have a representative of the USFA supervise a new election in the Nevada Division and that the incumbent officers stay in office until new election are completed.
- Send a letter of admonition from USFA to the fencer involved in an incident at the summer nationals that endangered a spectator citing improper behavior and requiring that such behavior must not be repeated.
- That all member clubs must have a unique name that has at least one distinctive word different from another club.
- To accept committee list as amended.(attached)
- To pursue acquisition of Team Handball office space which is adjacent to USFA office space

Motion to approve August 3, 2006 action items. Motion approved.

September 16, 2006

The EC approved the following actions:

- To accept recommendations of the disciplinary panel regarding allegations concerning Alan Blakeborough:
 - letter of admonition concerning compliances with USFA sexual harassment policy;
 - restrictions on holding USFA tournaments for the next two seasons without adequate supervision by a Division Officer from the North Carolina Division
- To constitute a disciplinary panel consisting of John Springgate as Chair, Buzz Hurst, athlete to be named, and Steve Sobel as legal counsel to investigate charges regarding tournaments held in the last 30 days by Alan Blakeborough; and, if appropriate, recommend disciplinary action
- To send a letter to the South Carolina and Tennessee Divisions informing them of actions taken concerning Alan Blakeborough and remind them that they need not sanction tournaments at all clubs
- Validate the results of the Nevada Division supervised election.
- Authorized the Executive Director and chair of the HPC to prepare a grant request to the USFF for Olympic preparation
- Approved changing the dates for qualifying forms due at the National office for Summer Nationals to May 8, 2007 for Division forms and May 15, 2007 for Section forms

Motion to approve September 16, 2006 action items. Motion approved.

Motion to approve committee list as presented. Motion approved. [Attached]

Michael Massik reported on USOC concerns. The Bylaw Committee stated that bylaw changes are in progress. It may be possible to have some changes ready for the 2007 membership meeting.

II. Budget Phase

- A. Financial Reports:** The complete financial reports for the Budget Phase will be mailed to the Board under separate cover in advance of the meeting.

Budget vs. Actual report for period ending June 31, 2006.

Motion (Mr. Cotton): To approve the Budget Report as submitted to the Board. Motion withdrawn.

Discussion: Budget that we reviewed in July is now going through the audit process and the auditors have not finished so there is no report at this time. Once the audit is finished the budget will be sent to the board.

Concern about functionality and accessibility website. Suggestion to have password protected website where confidential information may be easily accessed by members of the Board.

III. Decision Phase

A. Urgent

Motion (Mr. Cheris) The Board empowers the Executive Committee to act on its behalf between meetings.

Rationale: This is a motion that is made at every Annual Meeting that allows the corporation to continue to do business in its traditional manner.

Motion approved.

B. Second Hearing

Motion (Mr. D'Asaro): Fencers should earn points up to the 32 whether they make the Direct Eliminations or not.

Rational: This is not a quality of skill issue. It is an issue of numbers. The only weapon that is affected is Woman's saber. NAC points are given to qualify for Nationals. Currently there are 42 women on the points standing. If they all go to Nationals, here is the breakdown: 60% advance 25; 60% advance 15; only 15 women would get points.

The High Performance Committee (HPC) is the group that is responsible for all matters dealing with team selection, including how national points are awarded. When the Board tries to micromanage without understanding all the ramifications it can create problems. The HPC reviewed the entire point system with athlete reps and coaches. It has discussed how points should be allocated and the appropriate cut off aspects. The HPC is not in favor of such a change in the manner in which points will be awarded.. It did not speak to this particular motion; the HPC will report to the Board with its response to this specific motion. If Women's Sabre is not getting enough entries we need to decide what to do to

encourage Women's Sabre fencing. The HPC is requested to report back to the EC.

Motion: to table this item and refer to the HPC and report back to the EC for action.

Motion approved.

C. First Hearing

1. Disciplinary Panel Report and Action

North Carolina Division (report available at meeting). Previously approved in EC action items.

2. Motion (Mr. Baker): When the relationship between an athlete and a USFA club is dissolved in mid-season by either party, either party may request that the change be reflected in the USFA membership database. Except in extraordinary circumstances, and with approval of the Board, this action would result in the fencer competing unattached for the remainder of the current season.

3. Motion (Mr. Dilworth): That the USFA Board of Directors adopt the September 2005 edition of the USFA rulebook with the following modifications for application in the 2006 season, effective immediately.

Motion: to move to urgent. Motion approved.

Motion: to approve with exceptions: Article m.25.3(h) New and Article t.45.4(c).

Motion approved

Motion (Mr. Dilworth). In all three weapons, each fencer's last name must be legibly printed by hand or machine in capital letters between 8 and 10 cm high: either (1) on the back of the uniform or lamé between the shoulders, or (2) on the front or side of the thigh of the "rear" leg. It may be imprinted on a piece of fabric or lamé material that is firmly sewn to the uniform in such a way that it will not detach during fencing or catch the opponent's point. Fabric attached to the uniform must be the same color as the part of the uniform to which it is attached. Conductive materials must be attached in such a way as to not alter the conductivity of the metallic vest or jacket. NAMES PRINTED ON TAPE ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.

Motion approved.

4. Motion (Mr. Herman on behalf of TC): As a pilot program, the Tournament Committee proposes that a single Senior team tournament be held for each weapon at the 2007 Summer Nationals, and that seeding for the team tournament and the Under 19 Team tournament use national points at the close of entries and participating fencers' classifications earned prior to the summer nationals entry deadline. Further, the Tournament Committee will review the effectiveness of these changes and in light of the review will make a recommendation concerning whether to make these changes permanent. If Division I Championships are held at a time other than at Summer Nationals, a Division I Team Championship would be held at that time.

Motion to move to urgent. Motion approved.

Motion approved

5. **Motion (Mr. Herman):** Effective with Summer Nationals in 2007, and only for Summer Nationals, eliminate the requirement that event registrations starting after 10 am be so designated, when initial schedules are published.

Motion to move to urgent. Motion approved.

Discussion: We have seen from past tournaments that the entry numbers fluctuate dramatically and last summer there were a number of occasions when there were unused strips. There is no easy solution to this problem. Because of the size of the fields and the large number of events at the Summer Nationals, it is critical that times be established after the entries are processed. In that way the tournament can be operated more efficiently and in a more timely fashion.

Motion to call the question. Motion approved.

Motion approved.

6. **Motion (Mr. Herman):** That Youth 14 fencers who qualify for Cadet events at JOs and Summer Nationals also qualify for Youth 14 competitions.

Motion: to move to urgent. Motion approved.

Discussion: One of the goals of the USFA is achieving international results. The athletes need to compete more, not less, and ensure that they can compete in their own peer group as well as an older group. It is important to have the athlete qualify for each category by competition and not by automatic pathways.

Motion: to call the question. Motion approved.

Motion approved.

6. **Motion (Mr. Herman):** That beginning with Summer Nationals in 2007, all fencers must qualify in their divisions to fence in Division II and Division III National Championships competitions; no automatic qualification paths will exist for Division II or Division III.

Motion to move to urgent. Motion approved.

Discussion: There are too many other ways fencers can qualify for Division II and Division III, which does not rely on how the fencer is competing currently. Again it is a question of lessening the number of competitions at a time when it is important for the athlete to compete as much as possible to gain experience and improve the skills required in the sport.

Motion to call the question. Motion defeated.

Motion to recall the question. Motion approved.

Six for, six against, President votes in favor. Motion approved.

8. **Motion (Mr. Herman):** That the USFA Classification Reference Chart be amended to make it possible for those finishing in 9th and 10th place at a Group A1 tournament to earn an E classification.

Rationale: While E classifications are indicated for all other Groups, they are missing for Group A1, as seen below:

GROUP A1	15	' 2 A's & ' 2 B's & ' 2 C's (or higher)	' 2 A's & ' 2 B's (or higher) in top 8	1 → A 2-4 → B 5-6 → C 7-8 → D
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There is no rationale for this omission, and the change should be made to make all groups consistent in the awarding of classifications.

Discussion: The reason that this group does not include anything beyond 8th place is that it would then award classifications to more than half the field. When the extensive changes were made to the Rating chart several years ago, it had been decided that it was not in the best interest of the purpose of “earning” a classification

Motion: to move to urgent. Motion denied.

- 9. Motion (Mr. Moss, Mr. Dilworth):** Effective at NAC B (November 2006) and thereafter, all strips at national USFA events are initially required to have FIE standard scoring machines equipped with visible bout timing and scoring.

Motion to move to urgent. Motion approved.

Discussion: EC recommends we try but cost and logistics make it difficult to enforce. Question about when this could realistically take effect. Two problems: making sure we get them out of box (problem at last Nationals) and we can't ensure that every referee will use them. Representatives of the FOC state that is their issue and they will enforce.

Motion: to call the question. Motion approved.

Motion: to approve as amended. Motion approved

- 10. Motion (Mr. Moss, Mr. Dilworth):** At national tournaments, the second call for a missing fencer at the beginning of a pool or direct elimination bout will be announced over the public address system. If the fencer fails to report to the referee at the assigned strip within one minute of that call, that fencer will be called a third time at the assigned strip and if the fencer does not report **immediately**, that fencer will be excluded.

Motion to move to urgent. Motion approved

Motion to call the question. Motion approved.

Motion: to approve as amended. Motion approved.

- 12. Motion (Mr. Kuver):** The National office shall post on an accessible website the seeding of each tournament at an NAC or National Championships 12 days prior to the start of the tournament. This allows for a review and correction of any seeding issues before the tournament. Corrections would be emailed to the tournament officer responsible and updated. On the Tuesday prior to the start of the event the seeding will be closed and not changed.

Rationale: To avoid delays on tournament days due to seeding. This would relieve one of burdens on the people running the tournament on the day of the tournament. Seeding must be physically done at some time, if it is done early it would allow for

review and correction. When it is left to the day of it allows for mistakes causing reseeding and delays. IF this is adopted there will be a learning curve to get athletes to check the website, however seeding once it is closed must never be changed.

Referred to Tournament Committee

- 13. Motion (Mr. Kuver):** National point standings shall include the division and club of each fencer.

Rationale: More information is a good thing.

Discussion: The point standings are separate from the membership data base without any link to that data. The fulfillment of the request will be quite cumbersome.

For the purposes of motions 14-22, “National Tournament” shall mean National Championships, Junior Olympics, and all levels of NAC.

“Tournament Administrator” shall mean any person at a National Tournament who is a member of or is acting at the behest of the Bout Committee, Organizing Committee, or Technical Committee, and the FOC Representatives.

“Tournament Customer” shall mean any fencer, referee, coach, vendor, parent, and other USFA member who has a direct or indirect interest in the operation of the tournament.

- 14. Motion (Mr. Soter):** Regional Youth Circuits (RYC) and Super Youth Circuits (SYC) shall be deemed to be national tournaments authorized by the USFA that do not need to be sanctioned by the Divisions in which they are held. However, RYC’s and SYC’s shall not be deemed to be “National Tournaments” for other purposes unless specifically so designated by the Board of Directors. Referred to Division/Sections Committee, Youth Committee and Tournament Committee.

Motion to move to urgent. Motion denied.

Rationale: The Bylaws currently provide for exclusive Division jurisdiction to sanction, or to refuse to sanction, any tournament held within the geographical boundaries of the Division. The Bylaws do not address whether this principle applies to RYC’s and SYC’s, as the RYC-SYC system has developed since the last revisions to the Bylaws. This has led to occasional frictions between the Divisions’ interests in maintaining their exclusive geographical jurisdiction, and the Youth Committee’s interest in administering the RYC’s and SYC’s, even if a particular Division does not wish to cooperate.

- 15. Motion (Mr. Soter):** At each National Tournament, the Tournament Committee shall designate one person who shall be the final authority on decisions involving the running of the tournament on each day. This Day Captain shall be responsible for coordination of all decisions that involve multiple events; multiple functions (e.g., Bout Committee-Technical-FOC liaison), and for the contents of the Tournament Decision Log.

Rationale: The inability of tournament customers to identify a single person responsible for a decision is a source of ongoing and increasing frustration for those customers. In any successful business operation, the buck must stop somewhere. This motion, together with the subsequent motion establishes a mechanism for allocating responsibility and providing consistency and continuity within the operation of a single tournament. This rule shall apply to RYC's and SYC.

TC is going to address this issue which arose due to a change of key personnel at the Summer Nationals. Referred to Tournament Committee.

- 16. Motion (Mr. Soter):** At every National Tournament, the Day Captain shall create, maintain, and publicly post a decision log for each day of each National Tournaments. This decision log should include all of the ground rules, accommodations to circumstances, and other decisions that may be relevant to subsequent' days' events.

Rationale: At every tournament, decisions are made by tournament administrators that affect the ongoing running of the tournament. For multi-day events, tournament administrators sometimes make contrary or conflicting decisions on subsequent days, or fail to implement decisions previously made. This is not necessarily inappropriate, but should be conscious, informed, and publicized. This motion will direct National Tournament administrators to record all such decisions so that they can either be applied consistently, or changed judiciously, with notice to tournament customers. This rule shall apply to RYC's and SYCs.

Referred to Tournament Committee.

- 17. Motion (Mr. Soter):** when a black card is issued at a National Tournament, the following procedure shall be implemented by the Day Captain:

There shall be an immediate cooling-off period of one hour. During the one-hour cooling-off period, the Day Captain shall assemble an Initial Hearing Panel (IHP) composed of one referee, one Tournament Administrator, and one Tournament Customer. At the end of the one-hour cooling-off period, the IHP shall convene in an isolated, quiet location. If the person to whom the black card is issued does not attend the Initial Hearing, the black card shall stand, without prejudice to further proceedings. If the referee or Tournament Administrator who issued the black card does not attend the Initial Hearing, the black card shall be rescinded with prejudice. The IHP shall seek to mediate and, if necessary, to initially adjudicate the appropriateness of the issuance of the black card. The IHP shall have the authority to interview witnesses and review other evidence, and to (1) confirm the issuance of the black card; (2) modify the black card either upward or downward; (3) rescind the black card; or (4) issue (an)other black card(s). The IHP may, but need not, refer the matter for further investigation or disciplinary proceedings as to either the recipient or issuer of the black card. This rule shall apply to RYC's and SYC's.

Rationale: Most black cards are the result of momentary emotional excesses by either the recipient or the issuer of the black card. The resources devoted by the USFA and

its members subsequent to the issuance of a black card are often disproportional to the incident that precipitated the black card. A brief cooling-off period followed by a speedy mediation/resolution proceeding would resolve most black card-related issues with an appropriate level of informality and resource efficiency.

Referred to Fencing Officials Commission and Tournament Committee.

- 18. Motion (Mr. Soter):** The Tournament Committee is directed to draft and submit to the Board, no later than June 1, 2007, a procedure for the filing, investigation, and resolution of complaints by tournament customers against National Tournaments Administrators.

Rationale: There is currently no mechanism for ongoing responsibility or accountability of any person involved in the operation of a National Tournament once the tournament has ended. This is not true of Tournament Customers. This motion will establish parity of treatment between Tournament Customers and tournament Administration.

- 19. Motion (Mr. Soter):** At all National Tournaments, all scoring machines used shall have scoring and timing displays; provided, however, that Day Captain may authorize exceptions to this rule, which exceptions must be recorded and explained in the Tournament Decision Log for each day in which non-conforming scoring machines are used. This rule shall not apply to RYC's and SYC's.

Motion withdrawn. This issue has been addressed by a motion made earlier in the meeting.

- 20. Motion (Mr. Soter):** The Tournament Committee is directed to research and report to the Board, no later than June 1, 2007, on improved methods for posting or otherwise notifying Tournament Customers of the seeding, pools, and tableaux at National Tournaments. Refer to TC has agreed to do this.

Rationale: Next to the lack of on-line entries, the manner of posting of the seeding, pools, and tableaux at National Tournaments may be the number one irritant to Tournament Customers. Postings are done in paper form on pages with tiny type, often with two simultaneous events jammed together, often only in one location in a venue. The inevitably resulting scums around the postings raise the general irritation level, occasionally result in fencers being late to strips, and are generally viewed, rightly or wrongly, as an example of the contempt in which the Tournament Administrators hold Tournament Customers. In the 21st Century there is no reason why this crucial part of tournament administration cannot be conducted in a more efficient, customer-friendly manner.

- 21. Motion (Mr. Soter):** The Board of Directors meetings shall not be held on the same calendar day as any National Tournament events. This rule shall not apply to any Special Meeting of the Board called to consider a single matter.

Rationale: The National Tournaments have become too big, long, and hard to permit the Board to squeeze its meetings in on the same day as a National Tournament. Many Board members have active roles as Tournament Administrators and

Tournament customers; those who do not, should, or should be out on the floor watching the business operate. Therefore, Board meetings should be scheduled on the afternoon before or the morning after National Tournaments. This rule need not necessarily apply to true special meetings.

Discussion: Does the organization still need to have three meetings a year? Perhaps the time has come to have semi-annual meetings with each meeting held at a time other than at a national tournament. Another option is to add a day before or after the Summer National Championships and the Junior Olympic Championships. Is this right time for annual meeting or should it be before the season starts?

Executive Committee will discuss this issue.

22. Motion (Mr. Soter): The Board of Directors adopts the following statement of the philosophy of the USFA: Every USFA employee, representative, and volunteer, at every level, shall evaluate every proposed action – or inaction – in light of three questions:

Question #1: Will this help us win? This means, is the proposed action likely to make it easier or harder, more likely or less likely, for our fencers to bring home medals? It may be that the effects of this test are debatable in any particular instance, but they should be considered, first and foremost.

Question #2: Will this serve the membership? We need to Remember, without the membership, the USFA has no reason to exist. We need to support and deliver appropriate service to the membership, or we have no reason to be here. The membership does not exist because of the USFA: the USFA exists because of its membership.

Question #3: Is this the best way to accomplish what we are trying to do? The conventional wisdom is that fencers, as a group, are pretty intelligent. I do not know of anyone in the USFA who would dispute that premise. Yet every USFA member knows that the USFA does stupid things. This seems to come from not thinking through the consequences of proposals or decisions, and not actively trying to consider what we are trying to accomplish and working backwards to find the best way to do that. Doing so is a habit we all need to cultivate.

Rationale:

Question #1: Will this help us win? This means, is the proposed action likely to make it easier or harder, more likely or less likely, for our fencers to bring home medals? It may be that the effects of this test are debatable in any particular instance, but they should be considered, first and foremost.

Question #2: Will this serve the membership? We need to remember that without the membership, the USAF has no reason to exist. We need to support and deliver appropriate service to the membership, or we have no reason to be here. The membership does not exist because of the USFA: the USFA exists because of its membership.

Question #3: Is this the best way to accomplish what we are trying to do? The conventional wisdom is that fencers, as a group, are pretty intelligent. No one in the USFA would dispute that premise, at least not publicly. Yet every USFA member knows that the USFA does stupid things. This seems to come from not thinking through the consequences of proposals or decisions, and not actively trying to consider what we are trying to accomplish and working backwards to find the best way to do that. Doing so is a habit we all need to cultivate.

Business school texts define an “organization” as “a group of people who have come together to pursue a common goal.” Viewed in this light, it is often hard to view the USFA as a true “organization.” We seem to have a number of inconsistent, often conflicting views of what the USFA’s common goals should be. Likewise, we in the USFA are often at odds because we pursue projects, ends, or agendas that are not in concert with other USFA members. This leads to frequent conflicts, which are resolved, if at all, only after much time, energy, and often, money have been needlessly expended. Time, energy and money are extremely limited USFA resources. Even more important, fencers’ time, energy and money are extremely limited resources.

The USFA is by its nature a bipartite organization. On the one hand, it is the U.S. Olympic Committee-affiliated national governing body for the sport of fencing in the United States. The USOC is interested in winning international medals. Period. That is the USOC goal to which the USFA has subscribed through its affiliation with the USOC. On the other hand, the USFA is a membership organization. Its members pay dues and entry fees, and therefore believe, quite reasonably, that they are entitled to receive attentive, respectful service from the USFA in return. Just as the USFA is obligated to work to further its goal of international results, it has an obligation to its membership, without which it has no reason at all to exist. No fencers, no fencing, no fencing medals.

These questions may seem a simple, even simplistic, way to evaluate USFA actions and proposals. But there is hardly a USFA member who cannot recite a litany of examples of grievance stemming from instances where the principles articulated in these questions were not followed. It would be helpful if the USFA were to articulate a guiding philosophy to help to avoid or alleviate at least some of these unnecessary conflicts. Adopting this statement of philosophy will not make the USFA perfect, but it will make the USFA better.

Suggestion to add this to strategic plan to USFA. Michael Massik will work with Paul.

23. Motion (Mr. Streb):

TELEVISION PRODUCTION OF COLUMBUS NAC EVENT(S)

NOW COMES, JOSEPH S. STREB, member of the Board Of Directors of the United States Fencing Association, (“nc.” “USFA”) and hereby moves for adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the January NAC Div.I/Junior events for 2007 and 2008 are scheduled

for Columbus, Ohio, and;

WHEREAS, the Columbus Ohio Division and local organizers are interested in undertaking to produce a television program regarding said fencing event(s);

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Director of USFA on behalf of USFA shall enter into a contract with the local organizer(s) of the January NAC Div. I/Junior events to be held in Columbus, Ohio for the purpose of granting rights to produce a television program regarding the event(s), and USFA shall contribute at least \$ _____ toward the project.

Rationale: For the sport of fencing to achieve its proper place in the world of sports and sports marketing, fencing needs to be televised in a fashion likely to be attractive to consumers. The local organizers of the upcoming Columbus NAC events propose to use the events, primarily the 2008 event, to produce a television program about fencing. It is in the best interests of USFA and sport of fencing to participate by granting necessary licenses and by providing financial support. Of course, additional fund raising may be necessary in order to complete the project. In direct contrast to marketing committee.

Referred to Marketing Committee and Agency working with USFA and Marketing Committee.

IV. New Business:

Motion (Mr. Micahnik): to require the Tournament Committee to modify the promotion criteria in all domestic national competition as follows:

Number of Entries	Promote
16 or fewer	100%
17, 18, 19	16
20 or more	80%

Rationale: Ensure more “in tournament” bouts for entrants in small entry events. These criteria will diminish and eventually disappear as events become larger.. Motivation and reward for expensive travel to national events.

Referred to Tournament Committee.

V. Good and Welfare

1. Noted and congratulated the accomplishments of athletes at the 2006 Veterans World Championships.

Date of Next Meeting: TBA