

# Agenda Special Meeting of the USFA Board of Directors

February 17, 2008, 7:30 am Charlotte, NC

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 or disapproval 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.

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\*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 – Sherry Posthumus

Appointment of Parliamentarian.

### **B. Minutes of the September 16, 2007 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Motion (Ms Merritt):** To approve the minutes of the September 16, 2007 Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors (the minutes are attached to this document)

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

**Motion (Ms. Merritt):** to approve Officer and Director reports.

### **D. Committee Reports**

#### 1. Executive Committee Reports of Action

##### **January 4, 2008**

The EC approved the following actions:

- Denied appeal by Caitlin Thompson and Emma Barratta (see attached report)

##### **January 10, 2008**

- Approved the nominations to the Election Committee (Dan McCormick, Charlie Schneider, Kathleen Pathi, Eric Hanson)
- Approved the formation of a disciplinary panel to investigate the allegations and make their recommendations for subsequent actions regarding Mr. Hite of Texas
- Approved notification to the membership of the nominating committee report as required by bylaws will be made by mail in a manner determined by the national office
- Denied appeal of fencer for Junior Olympics

**Motion (Ms. Merritt):** to approve EC action items.

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

**Motion (Ms. Merritt):** to approve committee reports:

## 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 January 31, 2008.

**Motion (Mr. Cotton):** To accept the Budget Report as submitted to the Board.

## III. Decision Phase

### A. Urgent

1. **Motion (Mr. Micahnik):** To grant Honorary Life Membership in the United States Fencing Association to Barbara Campi Lynch, in recognition of her long and valuable service to the sport of fencing and to the USFA.

The rationale for this motion will be presented at the meeting. For all those who know this lady and what she has done over the years, approval will be obvious. The vote should be by acclamation.

2. **Motion (Mr. Cheris):** To determine whether a disciplinary panel should be established to review and/or investigate a complaint against Jeff Bukantz. See attached document

### B. Second Hearing

1. **Motion (Mr. Cracraft):** To amend Chapter 3, Section C, Paragraph (1) of the 2006 USFA Operations Manual as follows (changes and/or additions in italics):

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. *The Executive Committees of Divisions and Sections, the USFA Youth Committee, or the USFA Tournament Committee. For a local competition or a Regional Youth Circuit competition to be sanctioned, it must be approved by the Executive Committee of the Division wherein it is located. Section senior and junior championships are sanctioned by the Section Executive Committee. Super Youth Circuit Competitions are sanctioned by the USFA Youth Committee. National tournaments are sanctioned by the USFA Board of Directors, acting on the recommendations of the Tournament Committee. Only sanctioned competitions are to be posted on the cognizant organization's schedule and website, or listed in the annual USFA Athlete's Handbook. The specific categories of competitions of competitions at which classifications can be earned are described in Chapter 6.*"

**Rationale:** As this section is currently written, a Regional Youth Coordinator is given the authority, as an individual, to sanction USFA tournaments; this is an authority that not even the president of the USFA has. RYC tournaments are often organized by individual clubs, and in a number of cases, have been set-up, approved and run without the local Division even being consulted. It is not unusual that the RYC might not live within 200 miles of a Division, and therefore have very little knowledge of the capability of the host club to run a quality tournament; knowledge that the

Division's Executive Committee will have. Requiring that the Division sanction the tournament will remove that risk. It must be acknowledged that there will be instances when political rivalries within a division could lead to situations where a capable organization is denied sanctioning by the currently elected EC. However, it is also believed that this small risk is far preferable to the liability that the USFA could incur from an uninformed RYC giving USFA sanction to a low-quality and unsafe tournament.

On the other hand, Super Youth Regionals are major tournaments organized and usually conducted directly by members of the Youth Committee, which is therefore in a position to oversee and control the quality of the event. Moreover, like every other type of tournament in the USFA (with the present exception of the RYCs), these SYCs are reviewed and sanctioned by a committee, rather than a single individual.

2. **Motion (Mr. Dilworth):** At each board meeting the USFA National Office is required to prepare and distribute with the budget report a statement of the sources and uses of cash, by month, for the period from the previous board meeting (actual figures) to the period of the next board meeting (pro-forma). Further, at the meeting where the budget is approved the USFA National Office is required to submit an anticipated statement of the sources and uses of cash, by month, for the same period as that covered by the budget.

In addition, at each board meeting the USFA National Office must present a list of accounts payable that are aged more than 30 days from the date of presentation of the relevant invoice or report.

Finally, at each board meeting the USFA National Office must present to the board for its approval a list of all variances from the approved budget, both revenues and expenses, which exceeded in the past or are anticipated to exceed the lesser of \$10,000 or 10% of the budgeted item. Any expense that does not fall under the current budget must also be presented for approval to the board.

This motion will take effect beginning at the Board meeting subsequent to the adoption of this motion.

**Rationale:** In the past, it was not unusual for the board to pass a budget knowing that there was going to be a deficit at the end of the year. The last several years have seen the financial position of the USFA improve significantly, with budgets generally anticipating a break even position. This is an extremely positive development.

However, there have been a number of occasions over the last several years when payments from the national office to members of the USFA for reimbursement of expenses or payment of honoraria have been delayed by a significant amount of time as a result of "cash flow" problems. Also, as was highlighted at the 2007 Summer Nationals board meeting, the current processes for financial oversight of the corporation are either non-existent or are not being consistently followed.

Requiring the national office to undertake the preparation of the enclosed statements along with the current budget reports will make it possible for the board to have adequate financial oversight of the USFA. In addition, requiring the preparation of the above reports will make it less likely that problems will occur in the first place. Should it become clear that there will be an issue at some specific time in the future,

either as a result of an unanticipated variance or a cash flow shortage; the board could take measures to solve that issue. Finally, if there are simply problems of timing that require the USFA to delay payment of expenses or honoraria, the National Office could inform people that this is going to occur, allowing people to plan

**3. Motion (Mr. Dilworth):** The USFA shall establish a Budget & Finance Committee with the make-up and duties described below:

There shall be four members of the Budget & Finance Committee. The Chairperson of the committee will be the elected Treasurer of the USFA. One other member of the Committee shall be appointed by the President of the USFA with ratification by the full Board of Directors. One member of the Committee shall be elected from the body of the Board of Directors at each annual meeting (in the fall, prior to the beginning of the season). This member must not be one of the six elected USFA officers and may not be a Presidential appointment to the Board. The final member of the Committee shall be selected by the Athlete Advisory Group. None of the members of the Budget & Finance Committee may be members of the Audit Committee (if one is established in a separate motion).

The duties of the Committee and the USFA National Office in relation to it shall be the following:

- The USFA National Office is required to send all required financial reports to the members of the Budget & Finance Committee at least two calendar weeks prior to each board meeting. Should questions arise from these reports the USFA National Office shall attempt to answer those questions prior to the Board meeting.
- The Budget & Finance Committee, along with the President and the National Office, shall be responsible for the development of an annual budget, taking into account the strategic goals of the organization and the priorities as set by the Board. This budget is to be presented to the full Board of Directors for a vote prior to the beginning of each season.
- The Budget & Finance Committee, independent of the President and the National Office, is required to approve the budget by simple majority prior to it being presented to the full Board of Directors.
- At each Board of Directors meeting the Budget & Finance Committee is required to report on the financial health of the corporation, highlighting any significant financial issues that have arisen between Board meetings and also raising any concerns about potential future issues.
- At each Board of Directors meeting the Budget & Finance Committee will review all variances from the approved budget, both revenues and expenses, which exceeded in the past or are anticipated to exceed the lesser of \$10,000 or 10 percent of the budgeted item. Any expense that does not fall under the current budget must also be presented to the board for its approval.

The Board of Directors may assign additional duties to the Budget & Finance Committee as it sees fit.

Should this motion be adopted by the board at a meeting other than the fall meeting,

prior to the beginning of the season, the members from the BOD will be elected immediately following the Second Hearing item phase of the agenda. The presidential appointment shall be determined within one month of that meeting and may be ratified by the Executive Committee acting in lieu of the board. The athlete advisory group should determine their member as expeditiously as possible. These members will serve until the next annual meeting of the BOD.

**Rationale:** The USFA used to have a budget director (Irwin Bernstein most recently) who would essentially perform the duties listed above. Since Irwin's passing, we have settled this entire responsibility upon the shoulders of the Executive Director and his staff. The purpose of this motion is to provide assistance to the Executive Director in the preparation and maintenance of the budget and to improve communication about financial matters between the National Office, the Board, and the membership at large.

**4. Motion (Mr. Dilworth):** The USFA shall establish an Audit Committee with the make-up and duties described below:

There shall be 4 members of the Audit Committee. The Chairperson of the Committee will be a member of the Executive Committee of the USFA who has financial acumen and an understanding of the auditing process. One other member of the Committee shall be appointed by the President of the USFA with ratification by the full Board of Directors. This person may not be a member of the Executive Committee. One member of the Committee shall be elected from the body of the Board of Directors at each annual meeting (in the fall, prior to the beginning of the season). This member must not be one of the 6 elected USFA officers and may not be a Presidential appointment to the Board. The final member of the Committee shall be selected by the Athlete Advisory Group.

The duties of the Committee and the USFA National Office in relation to it shall be the following:

- Any member of the Audit Committee shall, upon request, be provided with access to all books and records of the USFA.
- The USFA National Office is required to send all required financial reports to the members of the Audit Committee at least two calendar weeks prior to each board meeting. Should questions arise from these reports the USFA National Office shall attempt to answer those questions prior to the Board meeting.
- The USFA National Office is required to provide copies of all required regulatory financial filings to the Audit Committee at least two weeks prior to their filing with the necessary regulator. The relevant regulators will include, but not be limited to, the US Olympic Committee and the US Internal Revenue Service.
- The Audit Committee is required to hold a vote on each regulatory filing, with a majority being required to allow the filing to proceed.
- Should a filing not be approved by the Audit Committee, the President will be notified immediately by the Chairperson of the Audit Committee. The President will call a meeting of the Executive Committee to determine necessary actions to allay the concerns that caused the filing to be rejected. Ultimately, the Executive

Committee may, through a two-thirds super-majority vote, decide to allow filings to proceed without the approval of the Audit Committee.

- The Audit Committee shall meet with staff and the independent CPA, as well as meet in executive session, solely with outside auditors, both during the audit process and in order to review the draft audit before the presentation of the audit to the Board by both the outside auditors and the audit committee chair.

The Board of Directors may assign additional duties to the Audit Committee as it sees fit.

Should this motion be adopted by the board at a meeting other than the fall meeting, prior to the beginning of the season, the members from the BOD will be elected immediately following the Second Hearing item phase of the agenda. The presidential appointment shall be determined within 1 month of that meeting and may be ratified by the Executive Committee acting in lieu of the board. The athlete advisory group should determine their member as expeditiously as possible. These members will serve until the next annual meeting of the BOD.

**Rationale:** All publicly traded companies and most 501 (c) (3) organizations have an Audit Committee made up of members of the Board of Directors. These Audit Committees fulfill duties similar to the above, ensuring that the company remains in compliance with required laws and ensuring that the funds of the shareholders are being used appropriately. As the USFA grows in size and complexity it is necessary to put more formal structures in place, treating the USFA as a more fully realized business.

The Audit Committee is designed to be separate from and independent of the budgeting and finance processes and, unlike the Budget & Finance Committee does not have the authority to actually suggest budgets or variances. It is strictly designed ensure that we are correctly accounting for our revenues and expenses, are maintaining accurate books, and are reporting accurate data both internally and externally.

- 5. Motion (Mr. Herman on behalf of the TC):** that a single senior team championship tournament be held at all future Summer Nationals; if Division 1 championships are held at a time other than at Summer Nationals, a Division 1 team championship will be held at that time.

The Tournament Committee recommends that seeding for all Summer Nationals team events and Division 1 team events be based upon participating fencers' national points and classifications.

**Rationale:** At the September, 2006 Board of Director's meeting the following motion was adopted:

As a pilot program, the Tournament Committee proposes that a single team tournament be held for each weapon at the 2007 Summer Nationals, and that seeding for those tournaments and the Under 19 Team tournament be seeded using national points and participating fencers' classifications. 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.

The rationale for the previous motion included the following observations.

When a separate Division I National Championships was established a few years ago, it was decided that it would have its own team championships specified as the Division I National Team Championships - actually it was intended to be the original National Team Championships. In order to continue team championship competitions at the Summer National Championships, a new category was approved, the Open Team Championships. Because the purpose of a National Team Championships is to determine the best team in each weapon, it is proposed once again to combine both the Division I Team Championships and the Open Team Championships at Summer Nationals. There would then be one National Team Championships, composed of teams representing member clubs of the US Fencing Association. 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. This would not be the case for this pilot program, however, as the Division I championships will be held at Summer Nationals. An additional advantage of this approach will be the enhancement of team unity and team spirit for our clubs across the country.

The Board approved a motion creating a single team in 2002, and a single tournament was held at Summer Nationals in 2003. The Board reversed this decision at its meeting in October, 2003. Separate tournaments were held in 2005 and 2006.

In addition, the Tournament Committee recommends changing the seeding process. Team seeding has been based on actual results from competitions held at Summer Nationals prior to the team competitions. The proposed change, using team members' national points and classifications, has several advantages. Clubs will be better able to select their teams, knowing that their team seeding will not be dependent on the team members' standings at Summer Nationals. They will be able to do so well in advance of the tournament, which also will permit seeding to be completed and posted earlier. In addition, there will be more flexibility in scheduling of team competitions, as they will not require the results of other competitions for seeding purposes.

Scheduling and seeding for teams at the 2007 Summer Nationals was carried out as specified in the motion. Scheduling, as anticipated, was facilitated, as there was no longer a need to hold the team championships after other competitions. In addition, seedings were received without comment by the teams, and were ultimately validated in that teams that had high seeds tended to finish well; and, those with lower seeds were eliminated earlier in the competition. In one instance the final team standings exactly replicated the initial seeding.

**6. Motion (Mr. Ranes):** to modify *Chapter 6, Section 3: Awarding of Classifications, USFA Operations Manual, 2006 Edition from:*

3. A fencer qualifies for a "B" classification by fencing in the final round of four as a member of a team that wins a Division I National Team Championships.
4. A fencer qualifies for a "C" classification by fencing in the final four as a member of a Team that places second or third in the Division I US National Team Championships.

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

3. A fencer qualifies for a “B” classification by fencing in the final round of four as a member of a team that wins the *USFA National Team Championships if 6 or more teams competed in that Team Championships.*
4. A fencer qualifies for a “C” classification by fencing in the final four as a member of a Team that places second or third in the *USFA National Team Championships if 6 or more teams competed in that Team Championships.*

**Rationale:** For future National Championships it is proposed that all national team championships be it Division I, Senior/Open or Under-19 be considered for similar classification changes. It can be shown that the Under-19 National Team Championships are equivalent in strength as the Division I and/or the Senior/Open Team Championships thus the reason for simply stating that any National Team Championships would be eligible for classification changes.

In addition, to ensure reasonable strength of such championships that there be a minimum of six teams competing in any one National Team Championships competition for classification changes to be considered.

- 7 Motion (Mr. Rodgers):** to amend the Operations Manual, Chapter 3, Section 4, to add Mixed Wheelchair events. The added section would read:

*Mixed Wheelchair*

*A mixed wheelchair competition is a competition in which members, both able-bodied and disabled may compete. Mixed wheelchair competitions are not permitted in competitions used to determine qualifiers to the National Championships competitions. In a mixed wheelchair competition an able-bodied fencer who drew a wheelchair fencer would fence the wheelchair fencer on a wheelchair piste, able-bodied fencers would fence other able-bodied fencers in the normal manner. It is the responsibility of the wheelchair fencer desiring to fence in a mixed wheelchair event to ensure that the proper wheelchair fencing piste is available for use. Classifications can be earned at mixed wheelchair competitions, simply comparing the classifications of all fencers relative to the rules for earning a new classifications. See Chapter 6.*

**Rationale:** The number of wheelchair fencers in the country is small. New fencers currently have no opportunity to gain tournament experience before attending a national or international event. This motion would enable organizers who wish to have a mixed event with wheelchair fencers to do so. Thus enabling the wheelchair fencers to gain the necessary tournament experience at a local and club level before moving up to national and international level competitions. It will also enable fencers of all abilities to gain experience against different styles of fencing.

- 8 Motion (Mr. Dilworth):** to adopt the FIE rules listed below:

**m.5**

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**Equipment and Checking of Weapons**

- 5. a)** At foil and épée, only traditional or homologated pointes d'arrêt are accepted.

No other kind of pointe d'arrêt, notably new ones that are not homologated, will be accepted at the weapon control.

In order to make the identification easier, please note that a traditional pointe d'arrêt has two screws to fix the tip of the pointe d'arrêt to the base, the whole is in metal and there is no plastic in the base.

To make the checking of weapons easier and allow the complete observation of the tip and its base, foil fencers are requested to present their foils with bare points not covered with adhesive tape over the first 15cm.

**b)** In order that the registering of hits by the contact of the point on the opponent be correctly registered by the scoring device, the pointes d'arrêt must be clean. The electrical resistance measured in ohms must not exceed the limit of two ohms (m.5.4.a).

**c)** The blades, the guards at épée and foil and the guard at saber must be totally of metal. Apart from at sabre where the part of the guard next to the pommel is insulated (insulating sheath), their exteriors must not be covered by any material (plastic or other).

The guard may not feature any advertising. This is also the case for the insulated part of the sabre guard.

**d)** Any fencer or other person who tries to register hits in a way that does not comply with the rules, either with the weapon or by manipulating the scoring device, will be excluded from the competition or from the competition zone and, after identification, will be liable to further penalty.

#### **Authorised designs**

**m.45.** Only electrical apparatus designed with **wires connecting** the fencers to the central apparatus and registering hits by light signals with auxiliary sound signals are authorised, except for apparatus without wires using encoded waves authorised by the SEMI. This **excludes other apparatus based on wireless waves** and those which register sound signals only.

*Fencing material used at an official FIE competition and featuring the FIE emblem must, without exception, have obtained a certificate of homologation delivered by the FIE SEMI commission to the manufacturer concerned, certifying that his fencing material complies with FIE Rules.*

*The following is the material that manufacturers must submit to the SEMI Commission, subsequent to a request in writing for homologation and the authority to mark with the FIE emblem: apparatuses for the signaling of hits, blades, foil and épée points, masks, jackets and breeches, protective plastrons.*

*To obtain the FIE homologation of a piste, the manufacturer concerned must contact the SEMI and submit a file requesting homologation, including all technical characteristics, and a sample of the piste (30 cm wide x 40 cm long). If the analysis is positive, the SEMI will issue a homologation certificate authorising the manufacturer to mark the piste (from the date of the delivery of the certificate) with the FIE emblem.*

*For the homologation file of their fencing material to be completed, manufacturers must answer any SEMI requests for information regarding the homologation.*

*When the SEMI commission has received the file requesting homologation, including the manufacturer's samples and the reports of the different tests tests (from the*

*institutes CRITT, Denkendorf and IFTH for clothing, under-plastrons and masks; and CRITT, Sofranel and Visti for blades), if the analysis is positive they will issue a homologation certificate authorizing the manufacturer to mark his future production (from the date of the delivery of the certificate) with the FIE emblem.*

*The SEMI must be informed of any modification whatsoever that has the effect of causing a non-conformity to the samples provided for the original homologation. Obviously the manufacturer must wait for written confirmation of the SEMI Commission's agreement to the proposed modification before launching the new production.*

*The FIE emblem is a registered trademark. The fact that a piece of equipment carries the FIE emblem attests that the latter has been manufactured in accordance with the prescriptions of the Safety Norms and the Rules of the FIE.*

#### 2.1.2. TRANSPARENT MASKS

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#### **4. Homologation of transparent masks and test methods**

Before being put on sale and used, all transparent visor masks must be approved and homologated by the SEMI.

##### **4.1. Homologation**

To obtain FIE homologation, the manufacturer must send his masks to one of the following three institutes: In Germany "Denkendorf"; in France CRITT or IFTH. The institute will conduct penetration resistance tests on the metal mesh and the visor in accordance with the CEN norms (e.g. Norm EN 13567).

If the test results are positive, the constructor must send two examples of the mask to be homologated, together with the Institute's certificate, to the headquarters of the SEMI in Lisbon, for the violent-shock tests.

If this result is also positive, the SEMI will issue the homologation certificate to the manufacturer, and the mask may be put on sale and used at official FIE competitions.

*The installation of a clock and a system for showing the score are both obligatory for the homologation of scoring apparatus; they must be visible to the spectators.*

### **C. First Hearing**

- 1. Motion (Mr. Masin):** The US Fencing Association request that the US Fencing Foundation offer Charitable Remainder Annuity Trusts (CRAT).

**Rationale:** Charitable Remainder Annuity Trusts are widely used today by non-profit organizations that qualify as section 501(c)(3) organizations under the US tax code. They enable individuals to make contributions in support of charitable organizations and get a lifetime income in exchange for the donation.

A CRAT can benefit both the person making the contribution and the organization receiving the contribution. The donor benefits in three ways:

- the donor does not have to pay capital gains tax on the appreciated value of the donation,
- a portion of each distribution is tax free, and
- the donor can deduct a portion of the donation from their current taxes.

Say, for example, that a person bought some stock for \$10,000 many years ago and that stock has now appreciated to \$100,000 but pays little or no dividends. If the person sold the stock to invest the money for additional income, he or she would have to pay capital gains tax on the \$90,000 appreciation in value and could only invest what was left after paying that tax.

If, instead, the person donated the stock to the USFF, the person would receive distributions based on the full \$100,000. The person making the donation gets not only a greater income but also a charitable deduction in the year of the contribution. Usually either one or two people can be designated as the beneficiaries of the distributions. The amount of the distributions and the size of the charitable deduction depend on the age of the beneficiaries. Also, since the distribution is an annuity, a portion of the distribution is tax free since it is considered a return of capital.

For example, the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC, has a CRAT program and gives the following illustration: “A gift of \$30,000 to establish an annuity for a 75-year-old would generate \$2,130 per year for life. For each of the first 12 years, \$1,257 of the annuity would be tax-free income. The donor would also qualify for a charitable income tax deduction of \$14,425 in the year of the gift.” Their program offers the following annuity rates for one beneficiary:

Age	Rate	Age	Rate
65	6.0%	80	8.0%
70	6.5%	85	9.5%
75	7.1%	90+	11.3%

The easiest way for the USFF to administer a CRAT might be to contract with a life insurance company to pay the beneficiaries. The USFF would then only have to take ownership of the contribution, sell it, and use part of the proceeds to purchase an annuity from the life insurance company. The difference between the proceeds of the sale and the cost of the annuity would immediately be added to the USFF endowment. The USFF would not be burdened with the administration of the annuity at all. Also, the USFF would not have to worry about losing money because the beneficiaries outlive the amount of the donation.

2. **Motion (Mr. Masin):** The investment firm of T. Rowe Price has set up a Program for Charitable Giving that allows individuals to make tax deductible contributions each year to a donor-managed fund and then make distributions from that fund to support charitable organizations. This enables individuals to financially support charitable organizations while still maintaining some control over the timing and amount of the support. The USFA should investigate whether such a program (or others like it that might be offered by other investment firms) should be publicized to our membership.

**Rationale:** Such programs may be of interest to individuals who:

1. Want to make a small, regular, contributions to support fencing rather than one

- large one.
2. Want a larger charitable deduction than would be available under a CRAT.
  3. Want more control over how and when their contribution is used.

For more information about T. Rowe Price's program, see the web site <http://www.programforgiving.org/>

**3. Motion (Mr. Masin):** Modify section V.9.B of the Operations Manual as follows:

B. Teams shall represent a club which is a club member of the USFA no later than the time of the qualifying event. No club may qualify more than one team even though the rules of the qualifying competition may permit a club to enter two or more teams.

**Rationale:** Team results have become very important internationally. We no longer qualify teams automatically to the Olympics. We must increase the opportunities for our fencers to compete in team events so that they get the necessary experience in fencing in team situations. This lack of experience has been apparent in almost all Senior and Junior World Championships where the US teams have, with depressing consistency, usually finished below where they were seeded based on their individual results. As an example, at the last Senior World Championships in St. Petersburg, the women's epee team was the only one of the six teams to finish at or above its seeding:

	<b>Seeding</b>	<b>Placement</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>ME</b>	9	17	-8
<b>MF</b>	8	14	-6
<b>MS</b>	10	11	-1
<b>WE</b>	13	9	+4
<b>WF</b>	7	10	-3
<b>WS</b>	1	7	-6

The lack of success in team events impacts not only our chances of qualifying for the team events at the Olympics but also individual events because qualifying a team automatically qualifies three fencers for the individual events. If we do not qualify a team, we have to hope to qualify fencers to the individual event through world rankings or zonal qualifying. That usually means qualifying at most one fencer.

Our junior fencers have limited opportunity to fence in strong team events since a club will usually use its strongest (i.e., senior) fencers at the open team event at the Nationals. Increasing the number of teams will increase to possibility that young fencers will participate in the stronger team event.

The number of entries in the divisional team qualifying events will grow, increasing revenue for the division and competitive opportunities for the members. The number of entries in the National Championship team events will grow, increasing revenue for the organizers and competitive opportunities for the members.

It should be noted that the burden of team events at the National Championships is less than that of the individual events. Because the team events are run as direct elimination right from the start, the number of competitors in team events is reduced by 50% every hour (or less for sabre) which is much greater than the rate of reduction for individual events. The impact of the team events at the National level can also be minimized by changing the way they're organized and scheduled. For example, the top eight seeded teams get a bye into the round of 16, the other teams fence off for the remaining eight spots in the table late in the evening before when both referees and strips are plentiful.

- 4. Motion (Mr. Baker):** that the USFA national office shall coordinate with Acetylene Solutions LLC, operator of the fencing tournament website askFRED.net, to transfer certain fencer and national points data on a weekly basis. To ensure the privacy and security of members' information, the USFA shall work with Acetylene Solutions to establish an agreement regarding the use and safeguarding of the data transferred. To protect the NCAA eligibility of the USFA's collegiate competitive members, The USFA shall work with Acetylene Solutions to establish policies and practices regarding the display of those members' USFA club affiliations.

**Rationale:** The askFRED.net website is used in all areas of the US to organize tournaments large and small, and has made significant contributions to the growth of the sport. In the 2006-2007 season, approximately 90 qualifying events to the 2007 national championships were hosted using askFRED.net, including those of 9 out of 10 USFA sections. The most important limitation of the FRED system is the fact that all fencer ratings, ages, club affiliations and division affiliations that it stores are user-reported, and therefore completely unofficial. Because of this, tournament organizers cannot rely on them for precise seeding and eligibility for competition, and must individually verify each fencer's information against data from the USFA; a time-consuming, laborious, and error prone process.

There are two main obstacles to sharing this data:

1. The threat to the privacy of USFA members, and
2. The threat to collegiate fencers' NCAA eligibility that could result from their USFA club affiliation being publicized.

There are many ways these could be addressed. The solution for member privacy is simple: exclude member's contact and other personal information, since askFRED.net does not need it. NCAA eligibility can be protected in many ways, such as hiding club affiliation for specific fencers on the askFRED.net website, or even hiding it for all fencers between certain ages.

Sharing the USFA fencer data with askFRED.net would greatly increase the efficiency and accuracy with which tournaments can be run, prevent many errors in reporting earned ratings and championship qualifiers, and greatly improve the general competition experience for members.

- 5. Motion (Ms. Baumgart):** That, beginning with Summer Nationals in 2008, all fencers who have qualified for Division II will automatically be granted qualifier status in Division III if they are classification-eligible and all fencers who have

qualified for Division IA will automatically be granted qualifier status in Division II if they are classification-eligible.

Rationale: This motion partially rolls back changes made in September 2006. The rationale for that change was that athletes should be required to compete in their division-level qualifiers to gain entry to the National Championships at the Division II and III levels. While removing the various age-group paths (cadet or junior qualification) accomplished this goal, much of the "trickle-down" qualification took place from events already at the divisional level. These paths should be restored.

The action taken by the Board in September 2006 was unnecessarily broad and had consequences far in excess of those anticipated by many of the members who voted for the change. This motion restores the qualification paths to those described during the discussion phase last fall.

#### **IV. Good and Welfare**

- 1. The next Meeting of the Board of Directors**