

Minutes Special Meeting of the USFA Board of Directors

July 6, 2008, 7:30 am San Jose, CA

In attendance: Mary Beth Bell, Joseph Streb, George Masin, William Becker, Evan Ranes, William Cracraft, Michael Morgan, David Micahnik, Ro Sobalvarro, Edward Wright, Sam Cheris, Brad Baker, Linda Merritt, Ron Herman, Jerry Benson, Greg Dilworth, Serge Timacheff, Gerrie Baumgart

Guests: Jane Carter, Kalle Weeks, Carla Mae Richards, Donald Alperstein, Michael Massik, Steve Sobel, Frank Foley, Tyler Jacobson, Mark Stasinos, Colin Chock, Jana Dakova, Jane Littman, Tracy Hurley, Ryan Prince, David Sierra, Bruce Gillman, Dan Berke, Michael Tarascio, Andrew Lambdin-Abraham, Kathy Gallagher, Dale Roberts, Alan Kuver, Karen Huntress, David Blake, Aaron Clements, Jo Robert, Cathy Zagunis, George Kolombatovich, Maureen Griffin, Vincent Paragano, Peet Sasaki, Richard Mayo, Charles Astudillo, A Mannino

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: Eric Sollee - (1926-June 30, 2008: Past Head Coach MIT, Assistant Coach, Harvard University. and 40 years at Carroll Center for the Blind)

The Board meeting is chaired by Sam Cheris in the absence of Nancy Anderson, who was unable to attend meeting due to a work conflict.

The results of the election were announced and the newly elected officers are: Kalle Weeks-President; Vice Presidents: Mark Stasinios, Jerry Benson, and Ro Sobalvarro; Secretary - Brad Baker, Treasurer - Greg Dilworth.

Due to the release of information to an internet message board, Gerrie Baumgart submitted an official report to the Secretary to ensure the Minutes reflect accurate information. The actual vote counts for the contested offices were:

Kalle Weeks	893	Tracy Hurley	600
Greg Dilworth	885	Sharol Pestotnik	552
Jerry Benson	858	Bruno Goosens	644
Mark Stasinios	806	Soren Thompson	632
Ro Sobalvarro	784	August Skopik	536

38 ballots were invalidated

Gerrie thanked the Election Committee for their dedicated work sorting and counting ballots. She also thanked George Masin for helping to codify the procedures to anticipate problems ensuring counting ballots would go smoothly.

Appointment of Parliamentarian: Steve Sobel

B. Minutes of the February 17, 2008 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

Motion (Ms Merritt): To approve the minutes of the February 17, 2008 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors (the Minutes are attached to this document) **Accepted**

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

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

Accepted

D. Committee Reports

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

February 16, 2008

- Appointed a panel to investigate the Hite allegations (*this item was inadvertently omitted from the list of EC Action items at the February BOD meeting*)

April 30, 2008

- Adopted a temporary change to Amendment of Article XIII, Section 7(a), Amendment of Article XIII, Section 7(c), and Amendment of Article XIII,

Section 10 of the USFA bylaws.

- Appointed Derek Cotton to negotiate and mediate with the candidates for election in an effort to reduce the weight and volume of required mailings, and thus the anticipated cost of conducting the election.
- Directed the Executive Director to post this Report of Actions on the USFA web site as soon as practical

May 9, 2008

- Approved a limited proposal that any USFA member who is owed \$1,000 + by the USFA may convert \$1,000 of that amount to a lifetime membership (a lifetime membership currently costs \$1,200). If a person is owed less than \$1,000, he/she may pay the difference and "purchase" a lifetime membership. *(This action was taken during an email vote.)*

June 3, 2008

- Directed Greg Dilworth and Derek Cotton to arrange a meeting with Michael Massik with appropriate human and physical resources to be able to prepare a budget for fiscal year 2008-09 for timely distribution in advance of meetings to be held in conjunction with Summer Nationals.
- Approved one petition for Summer Nationals.
- Appointed Jane Carter, Derek Cotton and Carla Mae Richards to determine a job description for the position of Executive Director and report back to the EC by June 10.
- Denied a request for reimbursement until all appropriate forms are submitted.

July 4, 2008

- Dismissed the disciplinary panel formed to investigate allegations regarding Jeff Bukantz as the complaint was withdrawn
- Appointed a new chair of the Hite disciplinary panel
- Formed a disciplinary panel to investigate allegations of sexual harassment by Eric Dew
- Direct Gerrie Baumgart to speak with the Nevada Chair to coordinate being present for the election
- Formed a panel to investigate the actions of Frank Van Dyke of the Pacific Coast Section with regard to the financial activities and accounting for the fiscal years ending July 31 2004 and July 31, 2005
- Authorized Donald Alperstein to settle the action brought by Ed Korfanty⁽¹⁾
- No organizer may make a condition of participation in any sanctioned competition the use of a third party service that gathers personal or financial information unless that service has provided to the USFA independent certification by a nationally recognized organization that it has adequate security
- Extended the life membership offer to July 15, 2008

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

(1) July 31 report from Donald Alperstein: received confirmation today that the Korfanty suit had been dismissed with prejudice and without costs to either party. This means the case is closed, that no judgment was entered, that it cannot be brought again and the neither party will have to pay the other party's expenses or attorney fees. We settled the case on the terms I was given at the EC meeting in San Jose.

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

Motion (Ms. Merritt): to accept committee reports: Accepted ⁽²⁾

⁽²⁾ Addenda to HPC Report on Cadre Members

II. Budget Phase

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

Budget vs. Actual report for period ending June 30, 2008.

Motion (Mr. Dilworth): To accept the budget report as amended (to transfer the senior world championships budget line of \$100,000 to the bottom line since there is no Senior World Championships in the next fiscal year, Aug. 1 2008 – July 31, 2009. Accepted

Greg Dilworth discusses and answers questions regarding the budget in the absence of Derek Cotton. In addition, Greg explained that officials and others currently owed out of pocket reimbursements will be compensated before those owed honorariums.

Edward Wright verbally presented the report of the Audit Committee and answered questions. A concern is raised that the organization is being financially driven without a check and balance situation; important to ensure this is a consideration for the new administration.

Motion: to accept the Audit Committee report. Accepted

III. Decision Phase

A. Urgent

1. Motion (Ms. Merritt): To elect seven United States Fencing Foundation (USFF) trustees for the next four years in the following categories (memo attached):

- Two officers of the USFA – President-elect Kalle Weeks recommends Mr. Dilworth and Mr. Baker from the new Board
- Five members of the USFA who cannot be elected officers, one of whom must be a past officer of the USFA.

Steve Sobel gave a brief history of the formation of the USFF in 1986. Resumes are distributed to Board members who are requested to vote for two officers and up to five non-officers. Carla Mae Richards and Jane Carter are appointed as tellers.

Elected to the USFF are:

Greg Dilworth

Brad Baker

Steve Sobel

Edward Wright

Stephen Trevor
Robert Dow
Sam Cheris

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 at which classifications can be earned are described in Chapter 6.*"

Defeated.

The Youth Committee will be implementing a detailed process for appeals by Divisions and/or Sections on RYC and Super RYC proposed dates of such youth tournaments to be held in their respective areas. That appeal process will be on the website within two weeks.

2. **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.

This motion was tabled from the February meeting. As Mr. Rodgers is not here this motion is tabled until the September meeting

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

Motion is withdrawn.

- 4. Motion (Mr. Masin):** Investment firms 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.

Approved

- 5. 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 ore teams.~~

Defeated

- 6. 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.

This item is tabled until the September BOD meeting.

C. First Hearing

- 1. Motion (Mr. Micahnik on behalf of the Veterans Committee):** Beginning with Summer Nationals 2009, for Veterans events, the 80% promotion rule be eliminated if the field consists of eight or fewer fencers.

Second: Edward Wright

Rational: Several events in the women's 60+ category have had 5 or 6 entrants, but the 80% rule eliminated one of them. Wheelchair events typically have a

small number of entries and there is no cutoff. If the proposal for 70+ fencers is adopted, small fields are anticipated at first.

This requires amendment to Rule 2.11.6 in the 2007 -2008 Athlete Handbook as follows:

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.

HOWEVER, if the 70+ motion that follows is adopted, this rule change is incorporated there.

2. **Motion (Mr. Micahnik on behalf of the Veterans Committee):** A 70+ category shall be created in veterans events, on a trial basis for the 2009-2010 season, in the two NAC events and the 2010 Summer Nationals. The Tournament Committee, Executive Committee and other USFA authorities shall make such amendments to the rules and procedures as are necessary to effectuate this resolution.

Second: Mike Morgan

Rational: The purpose of this motion is to introduce the 70+ category in a way to determine whether there are enough fencers to merit a separate event for 70+. If there are at least 8 fencers in any particular event (current statistics suggest that there may be more than 8 70+ fencers in Men's Epee), then that group shall compete only with 70+ fencers and medals awarded to the top 8 just as in other age category events. It is hoped that increased numbers of 70+ fencers throughout the world will lead to a 70+ set of events at the FIE Veterans World Championships.

Among other changes, this would require an amendment to Rule 2.11.6 of the Athlete Handbook. The statistics concerning the numbers of 70+ fencers should be reviewed by the Veterans Committee and the Tournament Committee and a recommendation made to the Board of Directors at the September 2010 meeting to continue or eliminate this category.

2.11.6. Veteran Combined and V40, V50, V60, V70

There are 5 categories of veteran events: Combined (ages 40 and above), V40 (ages 40-49), V50 (ages 50-59), ~~and~~ V60 (ages 60 – 69 and above) and V70 (ages 70 and above). At veteran competitions at NAC tournaments, Combined, V50, and V60 are held. V40, V50, and V60 events are held at the Summer National Championships. The V70 fencers shall compete within the V60 events in the format set forth below. Points are awarded for these competitions. See Chapters 3 and 4 for more details on how points are awarded and calculated.

Eligibility (age, classification)

Combined: Must be at least 40 years old as of December 31 of the season.

Age eligibility for the separate age categories is governed by the FIE's rules for the Veteran World Championships (specifically V50 and V60 and V70).

V40: Must be at least 40 years old as of December 31 of the current season, and

must not have reached 50 years old as of the first day of the month in which the Veteran World Championships will be held (typically the September after the Summer National Championships).

V50: Must be at least 50 years old and no older than 59 years old as of the first day of the month in which the next Veteran World Championships will be held (typically the September after the Summer National Championships).

V60: Must be at least 60 years old as of the first day of the month in which the Veteran World Championships will be held (typically the September after the Summer National Championships).

V70: Must be at least 70 years old as of the first day of the month in which the Veteran World Championships will be held (typically the September after the Summer National Championships).

For the Summer National Championships, fencers must be a US Citizen or permanent resident.

Qualifying Path – NAC

There is no qualifying path to compete in the NAC Veterans events. Fencers must meet age requirements as above.

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.

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 NAC during the current season.

Seeding

The following ranked fencers are entitled to a seeded draw ahead of all other domestic fencers. See Chapter 2.10.1 for further details.

Veteran Combined, NAC Top 16 in Combined Veteran points

Veteran Age Championships, NAC Top 8 in Veteran Age points

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 entered in the event, 100% shall be promoted out of the 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.

If there are 8 or more V70 fencers in any event, there shall be a separate event for them, with pools and 100% advancing to the DE bouts in a NAC tournament and 80% advancing to the DE bouts at the National Championships. However, if there are fewer than 8 V70 fencers, they shall compete within the V60 event in a unique pool, or if such a pool is too small, it will be completed with other V60 fencers. Medals will be awarded to the V70 fencers according to their ranking based on their bouts with the other V70 fencers in this pool. The V60 event shall continue to have 100% promoted out of pools to the DE tableau in the NAC tournaments and 80% in the Championships (as long as there are more than 8 competitors in the event).

IV. Good and Welfare

1. The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors – TENTATIVE date is September 20, 2008
2. Award from the USOC is presented to Michael Marx for developmental coach of the year. Nat Goodhartz and Michael Pederson were selected as National Coaches of the Year
3. Mr. Streb expresses his concerns and would like a plan of how we will address current issues and put out something to the membership
4. Kalle Weeks thanks the current Board for their past service
5. Mary Beth Bell thanks the EC for their service for the past four years
6. David Micahnik thanks Kalle for her service as chair of the TC for the great strides they have achieved over the past few years

APPENDIX A
Vice-President's Report
Sam Cheris

Please review the reports of the HPC and FOC

APPENDIX B
Secretary's Report
Linda Merritt

The agenda and minutes will serve as my report.

APPENDIX C
Vice President
Edward Wright

Veterans Committee

Rinaldo Campana, Chair of the Veterans Committee, has engaged veteran fencers in active conversations and discussion on a range of subjects. Among them were an additional age groupings (70+) for Veterans at NACs and Summer Nationals, and exploring additional overseas fencing opportunities in Curaçao, and Sydney, Australia. The Committee has been in communication with the Tournament Committee concerning the potential for a new age grouping, and will have an action item for the EC to consider.

Other details will be included in the Chairman's report.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee was established by board vote at the Junior Olympics in February 2008. Subsequently I was named chair, and the rest of the committee was composed of John Strass (CPA), Evan Ranes, and Rob Stull (Athlete Rep). The Committee has reviewed the FY2007 Audit and the end of the month financial statements for March and April. In addition, we composed a joint statement (with The Budget and Finance Committee) about the financial health of the USFA. A more recent up-date to the earlier statement has been developed.

The Audit Committee has received and reviewed the financial records in an accounting software program called Quickbooks. The data contained transaction details from 2005 through 2008. Based upon our analysis, we have developed a memorandum for the EC and Board which outlined some trends, and included recommendations about corrective actions the USFA should consider.

APPENDIX D
Vice President
Ro Sobalvarro

The reports from the Tournament Committee, Sports Science Committee and Youth Committee serve as the main body of my report.

I would like to thank all those who served on committees over the past four years. It has been a privilege to work with them. In particular I would like to thank Maureen Griffen for taking on the difficult task of chairing the Youth Committee. The National Youth Program, despite the occasional controversy, has become an enormous success. Youth fencers are our fastest growing membership group. The program I envisioned four years ago has been realized in a large part because of Maureen's hard work, tenacity and dedicated advocacy for young athletes. Kelly Williams held the position at the beginning of the quad and suffered through the difficulties of creating and changing the structures that continue to evolve as the program goes forward. Andrea Lagan developed the original web site and was a strong advocate for the program. Ms. Griffen has seen the program through a period of rapid expansion that is still progressing. I hope that as we move into the next quadrennial this program continues to expand and greater numbers of young athletes move into our sport, beginning the long road that leads to the highest levels of achievement. Those of us who have worked on this program are proud of what we have accomplished and we look forward to the continued development of the program. Great thanks to all who worked so hard.

APPENDIX E
Tournament
Kalle Gerriz

Contracts for all but two venues for the 2008-2009 season are in place; the national office is awaiting signatures on those two. As contracts have been signed, venue information has been posted on the USFA website. Work continues on venue selection for 2009-2010 and beyond.

The committee approved the appointment of Bill Becker to serve on the High Performance Committee task force looking into adding team competitions to NAC, JO, and Summer Nationals tournaments.

Our recommendations concerning enhancing the types of medals and/or other commemorative items to be offered at our tournaments has been submitted; concerns regarding costs have meant that there has been no further action on this matter.

APPENDIX F

FOC

Bill Oliver

Since our February, 2008 report, the FOC has successfully fulfilled its mandate to assign referees to the required domestic and international events.

1) General FOC Information

Our referee numbers are continuing to drop. At the start of the season, we posted 252 active referees with a 4 rating or higher. While exact numbers are difficult at this point in the season, it is apparent from our efforts to hire referees for the Summer Nationals that we have significantly fewer referees to draw from. This due, in no small measure, to the continuing demands of refereeing at a National level, month after month, which take their toll on our referees, their families, and jobs.

It is also due to the lack of referee payments from the USFA, so far this season. We do not have accurate numbers, at the time of this writing, but it seems apparent that many of our top referees are owed for three and even four events, in some cases amounting to several thousands of dollars.

Athlete participation at World Cups, NAC's, SYC's and RYC's, not to mention local and regional competitions is, however, still rising. Consequently, the demand for referees is also rising. We anticipate that the continued success of the US team in Beijing will fuel additional

2) Referee Issues

The concern that the FOC expressed in our last report has become distress. We are seeing many referees who are unwilling to work our competitions, citing financial hardship.

As the financial situation of the USFA appears not to be improving anytime soon, the situation distress of our referees will continue to grow.

The Life Membership offer from the Executive Committee has been well received by many of our top referees. As of this writing, it appears that over 30 referees have taken advantage of the offer, thereby alleviating the USFA of \$30,000 in outstanding debt, and espousing their commitment to our organization

3) International Assignments

Due to the continuing success of our athletes, the attendance at World Cups has skyrocketed at all levels. subsequently, we are mandated by the FIE to provide referees at more World Cups than ever. In the 2007 – 2008 season we assigned a significant number of referees to international events. The exact number is not known, as of this writing.

4) Referee Development

Our referee development program is enjoying continued success

The peer review/mentoring program also continues to be very popular with our referees, resulting in noticeable gains in referee confidence, consistency, and over all performance.

5) Communication

The FOC has revitalized the Coaches Liaison position, providing a consistent venue for communications between coaches and referees. Coaches are encouraged to fill out feedback

forms at competitions with suggestions and criticisms for the FOC. It is our intention to track this data, and use it to inform our referee training policies in the future.

The FOC wishes to express its gratitude to Peet Sasaki for his continuing efforts in programming and maintaining the Referee Database and its interface. We also express gratitude to Bruce Gillman, who has taken on the ever more gargantuan task of entering all of the referee information into the database, both new ratings and changes.

The 2007 – 2008 season has been a very challenging and yet, successful season. We are looking forward to continued success, on into the Olympic Games!

APPENDIX G
High Performance
Stacey Johnson

The HPC has met by teleconference during the spring due to financial constraints. The last HPC meeting was on April 21, 9 – 11 p.m.

Outcomes of April 21 Meeting:

Voting Members Present: Stacey Johnson, Chair; Sam Cheris, Vice President; Jim Carpenter, High Performance Director; Yury Gelman, Carla-Mae Richards, Donna Stone, Felicia Zimmermann. Yury Gelman joined after the start of the call.

Others: Jeff Bukantz, National Team Captain; Ed Korfanty, Coach(for initial part of the meeting); Andrea Lagan, USFA Staff.

Bob Largman was not able to attend the teleconference meeting as he was just returning from the Beijing test event.

The purpose of the meeting was to select the cadre for the fencing team at the Olympic Games and to prioritize the selections.

Stacey reviewed the history of the position of Team Captain and discussions with USOC staff persons. Stacey had also spoken with Bob Largman about the USOC meetings he attended in Beijing. At those meetings and with specific USOC staff persons Bob spoke strongly in behalf of the need of the Team Captain at the Olympic Games.

Jim Page noted that the USOC sees the Team Captain as duplicating the roles of a Team Leader and a coach and thus no need to have a separate position.

Felicia pointed out that she had recently received an email from the USOC that stated that due to shortage of credentials for the entire Olympic team, the USOC would release coaches of their credentials as soon as the event for which they are coaching is done and those coaches would be removed from the team and instructed to return home. The USOC is apparently desperately in need of credentials for coaches of sports being held in the second half of the Games. The USOC is receiving fewer credentials and tickets than obtained at previous Games.

Jim Carpenter reported that the USFA has been granted five primary credentials and three secondary credentials. Those with the primary credentials would be staying with the official team in the Olympic Village and all costs are covered by the USOC. Those with secondary credentials would be staying at the USOC training center with costs for room and food as well as travel and any apparel package will be paid by the USFA.

A person with either credential would have access to the field of play at the venue and the training sites. Those with secondary credentials would not have free access to the Village. For those persons to go to the Village there needs to be a day pass requested for that person for each day that the person needs access to the team at the Village.

VENUE DAY PASSES: These are temporary credentials that allow a person to access field of play, competition venue, for that day. Apparently in Beijing an inordinate amount of day passes are being distributed to the bureaucracy of the Chinese government and thus more limited than in the past. Bob Largman has reported that there is a new venue person at the fencing venue who has stated that there would not be any Day Passes available at the fencing competitions.

After much further deliberation the HPC originally recommended nine slots but through email and letter correspondence the following was ultimately forward to the USOC for credentials requests:

PRIMARY CREDENTIALS (5)

Primary (5) – Ao Credential

Team Captain—Jeffrey Bukantz, Team Captain, 2004 Olympic Fencing Team
Team Leader – Robert Largman, Team Leader, 2000, 2004 Olympic Fencing Team
Women’s Saber Coach – Edward Korfanty, National Women’s Sabre Coach
Men’s Saber Coach – Yury Gelman, National Men’s Sabre Coach
Women’s Foil Coach—Michael Pederson, National Women’s Foil Coach

Secondary(3) – Ax Credential (formerly Fx credential)

Armorer – Ron Herman, National Team Armorer, 2004 Olympic Fencing Team
Women’s Saber Individual Coach – Arkady Burdan, Coach of 2004 Bronze Medalist Fencer
Men’s Foil Individual Coach – Gregory Massialas

WHAT USOC FINALLY AGREED TO PROVIDE:

Primary (5) – Ao Credential

Team Leader – Robert Largman, Team Leader, 2000, 2004 Olympic Fencing Team
Women’s Saber Coach – Edward Korfanty, National Women’s Sabre Coach – 2004 Olympic Fencing Team
Men’s Saber Coach – Yury Gelman, National Men’s Sabre Coach – 2004 Olympic Fencing Team
Women’s Foil Coach—Michael Pederson, National Women’s Foil Coach
Armorer – Ron Herman, National Team Armorer, 2004 Olympic Fencing Team

Secondary (3) – Ax Credential (formerly Fx credential)

Team Captain—Jeffrey Bukantz, Team Captain, 2004 Olympic Fencing Team
Women’s Saber Individual Coach – Arkady Burdan, Coach of 2004 Bronze Medalist Fencer
Men’s Foil Individual Coach – Gregory Massialas

TEAM MEMBERS – 2008 OLYMPIC FENCING TEAM

Women's Foil: Emily Cross, Erinn Smart, Hannah Thomson; Replacement Athlete= Doris Willette

Women's Epee: Kelley Hurley; Training Partner, Courtney Hurley

Women's Sabre: Sada Jacobson, Rebecca Ward, Mariel Zagunis; Replacement Athlete = Dagmara Wozniak

Men's Epee: Seth Kelsey; Training Partner - Cody Mattern

Men's Foil: Gerek Meinhardt; Training Partner – Minuto Martino (Italian Junior Fencer)

Men's Sabre: Timothy Morehouse, Jason Rogers, Keeth Smart; Replacement Athlete – James Williams.

SCHEDULE OF COMPETITIONS AT OLYMPIC GAMES WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

August 9	Women's Sabre Individual
August 10	Men's Epee Individual
August 11	Women's Foil Individual
August 12	Men's Sabre Individual
August 13	Men's Foil Individual, Women's Epee Individual
August 14	Women's Sabre Team
August 15	Men's Epee Team
August 16	Women's Foil Team
August 17	Men's Sabre Team

REPORT FROM AAC MEETING CONCERNING THE GAMES

Felicia Zimmermann summarized concerns expressed at meetings of the USOC AAC.

- Pollution is a significant issue in Beijing and the USOC will be distributing face masks for use during person's stay in Beijing.
- Heat and humidity is a big problem at the Games. It is suggested that pre Olympic training be done outside of China but in a place with similar weather conditions. Seoul and Singapore were two cities that were recommended as having similar weather conditions.
- Code of Conduct – The USOC will have a more stringent Code of Conduct than ever before and will be enforcing that Code of Conduct. It has stated explicitly that there will be no tolerance for political statements. There will be specific guidelines for publication of blogs on the internet. Posting of pictures taken of athletes at a competition venue is NOT allowed.
- All persons in Beijing, including official members of Olympic teams are subject to Chinese Law.
- Each athlete normally gets two tickets to his or her event (s). Since China organizing committee did not give full complement of tickets to the USOC there may be instances when even these complimentary tickets are not available.

- The significant aspect of these Games is that they are being run by bureaucrats and not by people with Games experiences.

Closing Comments:

Since the last official meeting of the HPC, the events occurring during the week of June 23-27 have included the High Performance area now being managed by the USOC. I have been told that Jim Page has been appointed in this temporary role. No formal notification was provided to me of these changes, only media reports and reports from members of the Olympic Team have provided me any information of these activities. The HPC has been severely hampered in its role, particularly since the October September of 2007 meeting in Chicago, where both Sam Cheris and I reported financial problems/issues to the Executive Committee. Those issues obviously were never resolved and continued to present extreme difficulties to the HPC. Without the ability to have sound financial information and good communication, the HPC clearly has been impacted in its capacity to perform.

I do want to take this final report to thank the HPC for their work during this quad and particularly for their service during the time period I was asked to serve as Chair. The HPC had strong committee member service and both Sam Cheris and Carla-Mae Richards provided very strong support to me personally in these closing months after my personal situation changed in March with a new job at the College where I serve. I am very grateful to the Committee and grateful to their perseverance.

I feel strongly that we have an outstanding 2008 Olympic Team-- the athletes, coaches and cadres truly are brilliant. I believe in the warrior spirit of our Olympic Team and in their ability to succeed at these Games. I wish our athletes the very best in their preparation and quest for medals in Beijing.

APPENDIX H

Veteran

Rinaldo A. Campana

A Veterans Fencers' Meeting was held on March 8, 2008, at the NAC in Rosemont, Illinois, which was attended by more than 60 fencers and Mr. Edward Wright, Vice President, USFA. Mr. Rinaldo A. Campana, Chairperson, Veteran Committee provided an overview of the revised Veteran Fund Raising Strategy that was developed after coordination in part with Circone and Associates, Columbus, Ohio, the firm that has been retained by the USFA to provide consulting support for USFA potential marketing opportunities and numerous contacts with veteran fencers throughout the United States. The Veteran Committee members' perspective of this plan was not favorably received because it was the majority opinion that all fund raising should be based at a national level and not the local or the divisional level. Continued inroads are being made to establish a USFA Veteran Fencing sponsoring role with a major pharmaceutical company.

Judge Paul Levy briefed the attendees concerning his proposal to have the Veteran 70 fencers compete within the Veteran 60 event in a unique pool, wherein medals would be awarded to the Veteran 70 fencers according to their ranking based upon their bouts with the other Veteran 70 fencers in this unique pool. The Veteran 60 event will continue to have 100% promoted out of pools to the DE tableau in the NAC tournaments and 80% in the Championships (as long as there are more than 8 competitors in the event). All of the participants at the meeting overwhelming supported his proposal. This proposal was also supported by a vote of the members of the Veterans Committee.

Mr. Ray Sexton and Ms. Diane Kallus resigned their positions as members of the Veterans Committee and the new President of the USFA will have the opportunity to nominate two new members to serve on the Veteran Committee. The USFA Veterans will be recognizing their contributions to Veteran fencing at the Veteran Dinner in San Jose, California.

As a result of information developed by Ms. Nancy Anderson, President, USFA many veteran fencers successfully participated in the friendly international competition, Coupe Curacao. This is but the first step in identifying other competitions that should be offered to veteran fencers without regard to qualifying for these events.

The next World Veteran's Fencing Championships in Limoges, France will take place October 2-5, 2008.

The committee and all veterans thank Mr. Ed Wright and Ms. Corinne Greenman for their assistance and support throughout the year. We will miss Ms. Greenman's dedicated service.

DRAFT

APPENDIX I
Sport Science, Safety and Technology Committee
Dr. John Heil

Quadrennium Report

For sport science, the quad began on an exceptionally upbeat note. The programs from the Athens Quad were the most extensive and systematic to date, reflecting the momentum that had been built over prior quads. Like the rest of the US Fencing, we were excited by the results at the Olympic Games, and the promise of the future. The Team Game project had been implemented (with favorable results with the Men's Epee Team), a plan for developing a scouting technology program was being investigated, and a fledging strength and conditioning program was underway. Sport psychology had flourished, providing elite athlete consulting -- and based on this experience had continued to develop sport specific training materials for the general membership. A Sport Science Website was promised to make the growing body of sport science materials more readily accessible (although this did not materialize).

Through the first year I was able to travel domestically and internationally which enabled me to build and maintain relationships with athletes and coaches, and to have access to decision makers in the sport, which is necessary to move other projects forward. (The role and function of sport psychology and sport science consulting has previously been described in detail). The team game project, designed to understand and capitalize on the differences between individual and team competition, continued to maintain momentum. Recognizing the need for athlete profiling to assist fencers with tactical preparation, a technology development program, eScout was proposed. This project was to be proprietary to fencing, with the hopes that it would eventually generate revenue for the sport science programs. By the start of the second year international travel was eliminated with an unfortunate loss of contact with athletes and coaches, and with a decrease in the use of psychological services. Psychological consulting is contingent on "being there" – as often athletes need to choose a particular moment when ready to address issues, often at a competition. Whenever present at an event, psychological services were used amply used, as reports reflect. In the second year initial funding was provided to develop a simple visual outline of eScout. Unfortunately, funding lagged for the software development putting the project behind schedule. The start of the 3rd year saw momentum re-established with funding provided to develop eScout, and a "pro bono" nutrition consulting program with world renowned "Athletes Performance Institute." A monthly nutrition newsletter was implemented and consulting provided at selected events. By the end of the 3rd year, and into the fourth, I encountered a continuing series of communication problems with the national office and leadership in the sport – unreturned phone calls email and the like – which inhibited progress of all programs. However, I continued to push forward with eScout development and other programs (e.g., articles in American Fencing, seminars at regional clubs, presentations at USFCA conferences). Plans for eScout were expanded to reflect specific requests by coaches (e.g., create video layback capability) improving the project but slowing overall progress.

Then I was stunned to be told in January 2008, that no money had been budgeted for the year for the sport science programs I had been developing. As a consequence things began to spin down at the time in the quad when they most need to accelerate. Unfortunately, the development of eScout has been delayed repeatedly – due to a combination of budget and related travel constraints (limiting opportunity to present eScout directly to coaches for fine tuning and initial

training) and poor organizational support. While funding was available for sport science over the length of the quad, much of this was provided without input or oversight from the Sport Science Committee. As a result the yield of return on investment for funding was limited needlessly. For sport science programs to be successful a programmatic approach is necessary which entails coordinating efforts among the weapon squads, linking funding to strategic coaching-sport science goals, and developments of milestones that ensure accountability among stakeholders. A hallmark of our sport science programs has been attention to spin down benefit to the general membership from funding provided to elite athlete programs -- which should be continued as well

In the end the quad was a disappointing one. Viable programs developed over prior quads withered, and hundreds of hours of my personal time devoted to program development (much of which has been provided based on poorly articulated assumptions) failed to yield optimal outcomes.

Nevertheless, progress was made. Hundreds of hours of seminars and consultation time were provided to athletes, coaches and parents. There was substantial addition to the fencing specific sport science literature including extensive technical reports on Mental training, Stress in Officiating and the Team Competition.

While damaged, the sport science programs are poised to continue.

DRAFT

Quadrennium Report

The USFA Sports Medicine program has continued to provide high quality care to all of the USFA family, at both domestic and international events, under the categories of: acute injury evaluation and treatment, prevention and rehabilitation education, community service, professional development, and research. In addition to the coverage of all USFA national events, the highlights of the past 4 years have included:

- a) the appointment of Doug Rank, PT, ATC, to the USOC Sports Medicine cadre, with principal responsibility for fencing. One of the foundational goals of the USFA program was to provide professional/international experience for members with an eye to their selection for USOC teams so that USFA athletes will have dedicated, familiar healthcare providers at USOC competitions, particularly the Olympic Games. The program has met this goal for the two Olympic Games (Athens, Beijing) that have come to pass since the formation of the USFA program in 2001. We expect this successful aspect of the program to continue for London 2012.
- b) additional funding for sports medicine support for World Cup assignments during the 2007-8 season was made available. Although three teams were assigned funds (women's sabre, women's foil and men's sabre), only women's sabre took advantage of the opportunity. The Sports Medicine program was able to successfully staff all of the team's requests throughout the season and feedback from the team indicates this was a valuable and much appreciated support service in their quest for Beijing. Staffing was also provided for the Zonal Qualifying event in Montreal in 2007, and the Team World C'ships in Beijing and the Zonal C'ships in Mexico in 2008, in addition to the usual annual staffing of the Cadet/Junior and Senior World C'ships throughout the quadrennium.
- c) beyond the direct care responsibilities of the program, additional successes were evident from the research and education components. Publication of a 5-year study on competition-related time-loss injuries in the *Clinical Journal of Sports Medicine* has firmly established the USFA program as a world leader in fencing epidemiology. The data in this paper have already been used by several USFA clubs to either protect existing programs or justify new ones in the face of closure threats from school administrators (in-school and after school programs) or insurance companies. In addition, USFA research data indicating the low rate of time-loss injuries in fencing across all age groups have been published in *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise*, and a paper on the clinical aspects of fencing medicine is currently slated for publication in *Current Sports Medicine Reports* in September, 2008.

USFA research on unusual injury patterns in sabre (particularly penetrating hand injuries) was the centerpiece of a joint meeting of the FIE Medical and SEMI Commissions in Switzerland in 2007. The issue was first presented to the FIE president in 2005 but was summarily dismissed and, subsequently, directed to the SEMI. Unfortunately the accumulating data failed to produce a meaningful response from the SEMI Commission and these injuries continue. Greater awareness of these problem, as well as general fencing epidemiology, has been achieved through USFA presentations at the Medical Symposiums of the 2005 (Leipzig) and 2006 (Turin) World Championships, and the 1st International Congress in Science and Technology in Fencing held in Barcelona, February, 2008.

In addition, a wide variety of topics have been presented for the general membership through the Sports Medicine Q&A column in *American Fencing* magazine over the last four years. The

Sports Medicine program has also provided numerous private consultations on health and medical concerns to individual members, including assistance with doping regulations and testing problems.

New items:

Despite the success of the USFA Sports Medicine program, there are several issues/concerns that need to be addressed to ensure the continued delivery of quality healthcare:

a) to build on the advances that have been made in clarifying and standardizing funding for the Sports Medicine staff for international events, particularly the world championships. It should be noted that the Sports Medicine Program has never had discretionary funding of any kind but has worked within the parameters dictated by the USFA management of international events.

b) to develop a physician advisory board to work with and provide input for the program

c) to continue to expand both the number and geographical diversity of the members of the Program.

In closing I would like to thank all members of the USFA Sports Medicine program without whose selfless dedication none of the gains noted above would be possible: Lonnie Sellers, Doug Rank, Nick Tobianski, John Carollo, Marli Carollo, Quinn Madden, Deena Kilpatrick, Kyle Momsen, Brian Russon, Jacon Chun, Jim Gossett, Jim Wallis, Maria Duthie and Susan Hurst. In addition, I would like to recognize the various experienced medical professionals who make themselves available on an ad hoc basis for consultations at various events, especially Dr. Mark Piasio and Dr. Greg Harvey. We are particularly grateful to Dr. James Robbins of ProlianceSurgeons, Redmond, WA, for his generous donation (via Doug Rank) of \$1,000 toward equipment hardware for the program.

The epidemiological work of the group would not have been possible without the on-going and conscientious efforts of Tanya Brown, Al Franz, and Sheryl Eberhardt. Dr. John Heil has provided outstanding leadership of the Sports Science Committee, ensuring close cooperation with Sports Medicine for the benefit of all USFA athletes. Finally, within the USFA office, the unwavering support of Christine Strong-Simmons, Ashley Razo and Andrea Lagan have made this program possible.

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

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

APPENDIX J

Youth

Maureen Griffin

Update

- The Youth Development Committee has a website (www.usfaryc.org) where all news and competition information is posted. A complete listing of this season's Regional Youth Circuits and Super Youth Circuits are posted with links to individual websites and results where available.
- Many of the youth competitions used "Ask Fred" for online registration or competition announcement information. There are issues for both the YDC and the "Ask Fred" administrators to clarify and align if "Ask Fred" is used for RYC's and SYC's in the future.
- An overview of the Regional Youth Circuit events and explanations of RYC's, SYC's and Regions are posted on the website. The Regional Youth Coordinator "job description" is posted on the website. Regional Youth Circuit Procedures, including responsibilities of organizers, were revised and published on the website.
- The 2007-2008 Super Youth Circuit competitions began in January and continued through April 2008. The YDC chair has a file of emails received from parents, coaches and youth fencers. The overwhelming majority of these comments are expressions of thanks to organizers and US Fencing for providing such age appropriate competitions for youth fencers.
- Birth year verification was done at the SYC's again this season. This has dramatically cut the number of youth fencers whose birth years need to be verified at the 2008 Summer Nationals. The YDC and US Fencing National Staff members who have worked with the YDC during the season see the program as a success. The YDC would like to thank Ashley Razo, Christine Strong-Simmons, Dana Brown, and Nancy Brown for their help with the birth year verification pilot program.

2008-2009 Planning

- The YDC will consult with Coordinators about redefining the regions for 2008-2009 to better serve youth fencers. This is not an urgent concern as youth fencers are in no way limited to fencing RYC's only within their geographical region.
- The Committee has created an RYC request form that hosts/organizers will be required to submit to Coordinators before having a youth competition designated as an RYC. This form requires the approval of the host division's elected officers.
- The bid packet for Super Youth Circuits for the 2008-2009 season will be uploaded to the youth website after the 2008 Summer Nationals. The deadline for submitting bids to hold a Super Youth Circuit to the YDC will be August 1, 2008
- The YDC has received 5 Letters of Interest for 2008-2009 Super Youth Circuits as of June 30, 2008. The deadline for submitting bids to hold a Super Youth Circuit to the YDC will be August 1, 2008
- The Committee is working on a project to create and implement a participation point ranking system for RYC's and evaluate it at the end of the 2008-2009 season. The committee is creating an "exit survey" for parents, fencers, referees, coaches, and volunteers to submit online at the website after each SYC.
- We are continuing to explore ways to partner US Youth Fencing with the Positive Coaching Alliance (www.positivecoach.org) to provide further youth coaching education and resources to the Regional Youth Coordinators and youth coaches throughout the U.S.