

Minutes

Special Meeting of the USFA Board of Directors

July 11, 2010 Atlanta, GA

In Attendance:

Bradley Baker, Gerrie Baumgart, William Becker, Mary Beth Bell, Jerry Benson, Daniel Berke, David Blake, Jane Carter, Aaron Clements, David Herr, Sada Jacobson, Susan Jennings, Alan Kuver, Terry Kwan, George Masin, Evan Ranes, Paula Reed, Sunil Sabharwal, Kathryn Schifferle, Laurence Schiller, Mark Stasinios, Soren Thompson, Kalle Weeks, Alexander Wood

Guests:

Donald Alperstein, Nancy Anderson, Donald Anthony, Jr., Carol Buerdsell, Matthew Cox, Greg Dilworth, Alan Geller, Mary Griffith, Craig Harkins, Joshua Killinger, George Kolombatovich, Andrea Lagan, Andrew Lambdin-Abraham, Jane Littman, Sky McCalin, Linda Merritt, Eric Parthen, Jeff Salmon, Corey Sanders, David Sierra, Steve Sobel, Serge Timacheff, Delia Turner

I. Information

A. General Information and Organizational Items:

General announcements

Moment of Silence recognizing the passing of Dean Cetrulo and William Hammond

Remarks by Eric Parthen from the USOC

Appointment of Parliamentarian: Aaron Clements

B. Minutes of the February 14, 2010 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

Motion (Mr. Baker): To approve the minutes of the February 14, 2010 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors (the minutes are distributed separately)

Second: Mr. Herr

Motion Passed.

C. Report of Board Vote Conducted via Mail May 31, 2010

- Passed motion proposed by Mr. Benson to alter the classes of membership and the dues set for each. New membership classes and rates will take effect with the 2010-2011 season. (Please refer to Appendix M for description of modified classes and fee structure)

Motion (Mr. Baker): To approve the above record of the action taken by the Board of Directors via mail vote conducted prior to May 31, 2010.

Second: Ms. Kwan

Motion Passed.

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

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

E. Committee Reports

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

March 17th, 2010

- Adopted the following policies:

March 2010 NAC

Athletes entered in both the Veteran 60 and Veteran 70 individual events or just the Veteran 60 individual events, will remain in those events. Current formats and seeding practices will remain.

Note: Currently V70WE has been cancelled due to lack of entries.

Summer Nationals 2010

Individual age group events at the 2010 Summer Nationals will be: Veteran 40-49, Veteran 50-59, Veteran 60-69 and Veteran 70+. Current qualification, formats and seeding practices will remain.

2010 Veteran 70+ World Championships Team Selection

Due to the late notification of changes to official events at the 2010 World Veterans Championships, Veteran 70+ National Team selection will be based on the point standings to be calculated at the best 2 out of 5 results from the Veteran 60+ and Veteran 70+ events at the 2009 December NAC, 2010 March NAC and Veteran 70+ events at the 2010 Summer Nationals as the 5 event results.

2010-2011 Season

Beginning with the 2010-2011 season: NAC individual Veteran event categories will be changed to: Veteran Combined, Veteran 50-59, Veteran 60-69 and Veteran 70+.

Starting with the 2011 Summer Nationals the veteran individual event categories will be: Veteran 40-49, Veteran 50-59, Veteran 60-69 and Veteran 70+. National Team selection for the Veteran 50-59, Veteran 60-69, and Veteran 70+ will be based on current procedure of best 2 out of 3 results from the 2010-2011 Veteran season tournaments.

March 18th, 2010

- Passed a motion to revise the club membership levels as follows:
 - Basic: \$40/year
 - Standard (includes \$1,000,000 in liability insurance): \$300/year
 - Premier (includes \$2,000,000 in liability insurance): \$500/year

This change is intended to update the pricing structure and make more rational the differences between the various tiers. It was noted that additional new benefits are currently planned for Premier-level club membership.

- Passed a motion to allow Felicia Zimmermann to compete as a member of a team representing Rochester Fencing Club at the 2010 Summer Nationals.

Based upon our reading of the Operations Manual, the Executive Committee believes that no such special permission is required, but has chosen to take this action on the basis of a request to clarify the situation.

- Appointed Paula Reed and Alex Ryjik as co-chairs of the Club Development and Support Committee.

March 22nd, 2010

- Denied the request of a fencer to change club representation.

The request was precipitated by conflict with the management of his former club. The final paragraph of Section 1.3 in the Athlete Handbook explicitly deals with the described situation and states that such conflict "will not be recognized as justification to change club representation."

April 29th, 2010

- Added Carla-Mae Richards to the Tournament Committee.
- Established a task force to review policies and procedures applicable to persons in positions of authority regarding their relationships with members under their charge. The task force is to report to the Board of Directors no later than at the annual meeting in September, 2010.

The USFA needs to consider potential liability and identify and address its responsibility for the safety of its members.

- Accepted FIE invitation to hold a Junior Women's Sabre World Cup in Arizona in January, 2011.

May 20th, 2010

- Denied the request of parents representing athletes from a non-member club to be allowed to enter teams to Summer Nationals.

The organization does not meet the requirements to join as a member club of US Fencing. Without being a member club the organization is not permitted to enter teams into events at Summer Nationals. There have been on-going discussions over several months between the USFA leadership and the organization's principals about the steps necessary to meet the requirements to become a member-club. The organization has, nonetheless, failed to resolve the problems.

- Accepted the request of two fencers to be allowed to enter an event at Summer Nationals after irregularities at their divisional qualifier.

May 27th, 2010

- Denied request of an athlete to change club representation.

Athlete had represented a non-USFA-member club previously during the current competitive season. Additional information that might have supported the request for a change was not provided with the petition.

June 3rd, 2010

- Approved a budget variance of up to \$1,500 to support expenses necessary to cover an in-person meeting of the ROC Advisory Group in Dallas, TX in June, 2010.
- Denied two requests for athletes to be allowed to submit late entries to the Summer National Championships.

June 6th, 2010

- Denied request of an athlete to be allowed to submit a late entry to the Summer National Championships.

June 17th, 2010

- Approved motion to establish a National Team Oversight Committee.

Rationale and description provided separately.

July 8th, 2010

- For the 2010-2011 season, cadet, junior and senior NAC events for men's epee and women's epee will be fenced with repêchage from the round of 32 to the round of 8.

The change was approved based on the request of the National Coaches in Men's Epee and Women's Epee.

- The Executive Committee terminated the employment of Kurt Aichele as Executive Director, effective July 9, 2010.
- The Executive Committee appointed Greg Dilworth as interim Executive Director effective July 9, 2010, whereupon he requested and was granted a leave of absence from his role as Treasurer.

Motion (Mr. Baker): to approve EC Action Items.

Motion (Mr. Clements): To divide motion to consider the first item from July 8th separately.

Second: Mr. Becker

Motion to Divide Passed.

Motion (Mrs. Baumgart): To approve all EC items other than the first item from July 8th.

Second: Mr. Schiller

Motion Passed.

Motion (Mr. Baker): To approve first item from July 8th.

Motion Passed.

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

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

II. Budget Phase

A. Financial Reports:

Budget vs. Actual report for period ending May 31, 2010.

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

Second: Mr. Becker

Motion Passed.

B. 2010-2011 Budget

Motion (Mr. Dilworth): To approve the 2010-2011 Budget, as submitted to the Board.

Second: Mr. Becker

Motion Passed.

III. Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws

A. Motion (Mr. Clements; Seconded by Mr. Baker; Referred to Bylaws Review Task Force):

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

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

Motion withdrawn with concurrence of second.

B. Motion (Mr. Clements; Seconded by Mr. Masin; Referred to Bylaws Review Task Force):

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

Section 10 Quorum. At any meeting of the Board of Directors, the number of members present in person constituting a quorum shall be the greater of one-third of the members in office or seven members present in person. On failure of a quorum a lesser number shall have the power to adjourn to a given time and place. The date, place and time of each meeting shall be designated by the President.

Motion withdrawn with concurrence of second.

IV. Elections

The following people received nominations for positions on the Board:

Elite Coach Director:

Wes Glon

Club Director:

Alex Ryjik

Alan Kuver

Paula Reed (declines nomination)

Age Group Parent Director:

Alan Geller

Paula Reed

Volunteer Staff Director:

Bradley Baker

Mark Stasinis (declines nomination)

Gerrie Baumgart

Motion (Mr. Clements): That the second candidate in each election serve as an alternate in case the elected member declines to serve or is ineligible to serve.

Second: Mr. Blake

Motion Passed.

The following nominees were elected to their respective positions: Glon, Kuver, Reed, and Baker.

Motion (Mr. Clements): To destroy ballots from Board member elections.

Second: Mr. Baker

Motion Passed.

Election to replace Treasurer on an interim basis.

Nominations: Sunil Sabharwal

Mr. Sabharwal, as the sole nominee, was elected.

Prior to the start of the meeting a drawing of lots between the two Independent Directors was conducted. Donald Alperstein, as General Legal Council prepared two sealed envelopes each with a card enclosed. One of the cards was marked with a "1" and the other card was marked with a "2." The sealed envelopes were then selected by the two Independent Directors to

determine which would serve a one-year term and which would serve a two-year term. Kalle Weeks announced the results of this drawing of lots: Mr. Herr will serve a two-year term, while Ms. Kwan will serve a one-year term.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Second Hearing

1. Motion (Mr. Streb; Seconded by Mr. Blake):

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

Motion (Mr. Wood): To amend the motion to provide for 100% promotion at Veterans Championships events of 24 or fewer entries and 80% promotion at Championships events with 25 or more entries.

Second: Mr. Blake

(Motion was tabled and referred to the Tournament Committee and Veterans Committee prior to a vote being taken on the motion to amend)

Motion (Mr. Schiller): To suspend Board rules to allow consideration of motion without movant present.

Second: Mr. Becker

Motion Passed.

Motion to Amend amended to read:

To amend the motion to provide for 100% promotion at Veterans Championships events of 32 or fewer entries and 80% promotion, with a minimum of 32, at Champions events with 33 or more entries.

Motion to Amend Passed.

Motion, as amended, Defeated.

2. Motion (Mr. Clements; Seconded by Mr. Blake):

To amend Chapter 6, Section 4 of the Operations Manual by adding a new Paragraph 7:

7. In the event that the issuance of a penalty of exclusion from a competition would result in a reduction of the rating of a competition (either through the reduction in the number of fencers or through the reduction of rated fencers finishing at the appropriate levels of competition) or the number of qualifications awarded at qualifier events (through the reduction in the number of qualifiers awarded based on applying the appropriate percentage, e.g. 25%), the Tournament Committee may examine the circumstances of the exclusion, including through statements of the tournament organizer, officer(s) of the sanctioning body, and/or the official issuing the exclusion. Upon this examination, the Tournament Committee may award classifications and/or qualifications to the non-excluded fencers as if the excluded fencer had completed the tournament if, in its judgment, such result would be equitable. The Tournament Committee may establish a fee for this review not to exceed \$100, to be divided amongst the party/parties requesting examination.

Motion Defeated.

3. Motion (Mr. Masin; Seconded by Mr. Becker):

Team Event Proposal

Eliminate the Divisional qualifying competitions for the Senior and Junior team events at the Summer Nationals. Teams would still be required to submit their entries at the time of close of entries for the individual events of the same competition. The team entry would still not have to specify the names of the fencers on those teams. Clubs would be allowed to enter up to three teams. At the time the teams submit their registration at the competition, the fencers on the teams must meet the following criteria.

Senior Team

One member of each team must be a fencer who is registered to fence in the Division I Championship in the same weapon in that year. The second, third, and fourth members of the team must be fencers who are registered to fence in either the Division I, the Under-19, the Division I-A, or the Division II Championship in the same weapon in that year.

Junior Team

Two members of each team must be fencers who are registered to fence in either the Under-19 or the Division I Championship in the same weapon in that year. The third and fourth members of the team must be fencers who are registered to fence in either the Under-19, Under-17, Division I, Division I-A, Division II, or Division III Championship in the same weapon in that year. (Age requirements would, of course, still apply.)

| | | Current Year's | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| | | Division I | Division I-A | Division II | Division III | Under-19 | Under-17 |
| Senior Team Members | 1 | Y | | | | | |
| | 2 | Y | Y | Y | | Y | |
| | 3 | Y | Y | Y | | Y | |
| | 4 | Y | Y | Y | | Y | |
| Junior Team Members | 1 | Y | | | | Y | |
| | 2 | Y | | | | Y | |
| | 3 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| | 4 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |

Motion Defeated.

4. Motion (Mr. Baker; Seconded by Mr. Dilworth):

That the National Office be directed to establish a mechanism for the answering and distribution of policy questions and answers from and to the membership. Any member may submit to the National Office a question on US Fencing policies. The question will be forwarded to the appropriate group with oversight responsibility (e.g. FOC, TC, or YDC). The cognizant committee, commission, or group is tasked with supplying the National Office with an official response, suitable for public distribution, within two weeks. The question and answer from each such query will be posted in designated area of the US Fencing website.

Motion Passed.

5. Motion (Mr. Berke; Seconded by Mr. Clements):

Beginning with the 2010-2011 season, all non-championship team events held at the national level will have no club or division affiliation requirements. Any three or four fencers that are age- and classification-eligible for the event will be permitted to enter a team.

Motion Passed.

VI. New Business

A. First Hearing

1. Motion (Mr. Stasinos, on behalf of the Fencing Officials Commission):

That the US Fencing Rulebook be modified as indicated in Appendix K. The modified rules will go into effect as of August 1, 2010.

Second: Mr. Kuver

Motion (Mr. Herr): To move motion to urgent status.

Second: Mr. Becker

Motion to move to urgent Passed.

Motion Passed.

2. Motion (Mr. Baker):

To amend the Athlete Handbook as follows:

In 2.11, under Team Events, delete the first two bullet items under Summer Nationals.

~~• Clubs qualify based on the number of different USFA Member Clubs represented at each of the Division's Senior Team, and Under 19 Team qualifying competitions (See chart below). OR~~

| | | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|-----|------|-----|
| # Clubs | 2 | 3 | 4-5 | 6-10 | >10 |
| # Qualifiers | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

~~• Be a USFA member club that placed in the top 4 at the previous season's National Team Championships in that category of team championships~~

Second: Mr. Kuver

Motion (Mr. Schiller): To move motion to urgent status.

Second: Mr. Herr

Motion to move to urgent Passed.

Motion Passed.

3. Motion (Mr. Baker):

To have SYC points enter Y10/Y12/Y14 NRPS calculations upon being earned and expire 12 months later.

This change is not intended to alter the current policy of counting only a fencer's single best SYC result towards his or her point total.

Motion Withdrawn.

4. Motion (Mr. Baker):

To amend the Athlete Handbook as follows:

In 2.11, under Youth 14/12/10, insert the following text between the existing fifth and sixth bullet points for Youth-14 Summer National Championships Qualifying Paths:

- Win the Youth-14 event at any current season RYC **OR**

Motion Withdrawn.

5. Motion (Mr. Baker):

The National Office is directed to send out a letter on a monthly basis to each tournament official specifying all outstanding reimbursements and owed honoraria entered in the Association's financial system. Such letters should also include an update specifying the most recent national event for which payments in each category (out-of-pocket reimbursement and honoraria/per diem payments) has been made.

These letters should be sent via either snail mail or email within the first five business days of each month, starting with the first month after this motion is adopted.

Second: Mr. Clements

6. Motion (Mr. Berke):

At the July 11, 2010 Board of Directors meeting, to honor the birthdays of Mark Stasinis (July 10th) and Dan Berke (July 11th), there will be cake.

Second: Mr. Becker

Motion (Mr. Schiller): To move motion to urgent status.

Second: Mrs. Reed

Motion to move to urgent Passed.

Motion Passed.

7. Motion (Mr. Kuver):

Direct that the Chair of the Youth Development Committee, by written report state the factors considered in determining the Bid winners for the 2010-2011 Super Youth Cup calendar at the Jul, 2010, special meeting of the USFA Board of Directors. Specifically addressing acknowledged concerns that criteria not enumerated in the bid packet, i.e., to only use non fencing club venues and to reduce the number of over all Super Youth Cups, were used in reaching their decisions.

Motion Withdrawn.

8. Motion (Mr. Kuver):

Direct the Youth Development Committee to reopen bidding for the Super Youth Cup calendar for the 2010-2011 season.

Second: Mr. Blake

Motion (Mr. Kuver): To move motion to urgent status.

Second: Mr. Blake

Motion to move to urgent Passed (tie-breaking vote cast by President).

Motion amended to read:

Direct the Youth Development Committee to reopen bidding for the Super Youth Cup calendar for the 2010-2011 season. Add at least three more SYC tournaments. Decision to be announced before the September Board meeting.

Motion (Mr. Benson): To reconsider motion to move to urgent status.

Second: Mrs. Bell

Motion to consider Passed.

Motion referred to the Youth Development Committee.

9. Motion (Mr. Berke):

For the 2010-2011 season, the USFA will impose a non-refundable \$25 fee per individual (not team) registrant at all national events (NACs, Junior Olympics, and Summer Nationals). This fee will be listed separately and labeled "Volunteer Staff Debt Reduction Surcharge." All monies collected from this fee will be applied directly to the volunteer staff honorarium debt.

This fee will automatically expire at the end of the 2010-2011 USFA season, unless the Board of Directors explicitly renews it for future seasons.

Motion Fails for lack of a Second.

VII. Good and Welfare

1. The next Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors – September 10th to September 12th.
2. Roll of Honor distributed.
3. Mention of a new Task Force on athlete welfare.