

I. General Information and Organizational Items

General announcements

Moment of Silence

Jerry Dunaway

Remarks – Kalle Weeks, President

II. Minutes of the June 9, 2011 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

Motion (Mr. Baker): To approve the minutes of the June 9, 2011 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors (the minutes are distributed separately)

III. Association Status Updates

Executive Director's Report – Greg Dilworth

International Report – Sunil Sabharwal

Pan-Am Youth Championships – Nancy Anderson

ROC Survey – David Sierra

Video Replay – David Blake

Election Results and Recommendations – Gerrie Baumgart

IV. Finance and Budget

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

Motion (Mr. Sabharwal): To approve the 2011-2012 Budget, as submitted to the Board.

V. Committee and Task Force Matters

Motion (Mr. Baker): To receive committee reports, as submitted to the Board.

Motion (Mr. Baker): To amend appointments to the Committees of the Board as indicated on the list distributed at the meeting.

VI. Disciplinary Panel Reports and Recommendations

1. Elite Athlete Panel
2. Texas Spectator Panel
3. Pennsylvania Referee Panel

VII. New Business

1. Motion (Mr. Clements, on behalf of the ROC Advisory Group): Beginning with the 2011-2012 season, in order to provide the ROC Advisory Group or its administrative successors with flexibility to ensure geographic distribution of tournaments and to provide for the orderly expansion of the ROC program into new categories, the ROC Advisory Group (or its administrative successor) is hereby authorized to designate not fewer than six and not more than sixteen tournaments in each ROC category (Open, Division II, Veteran, and any other category which may be later authorized by the Board). In order to be included in the Regional Open Circuit in a given season, a tournament must receive designation as an ROC not later than August 15 of the fencing season.

VIII. Good and Welfare

1. Schedule of Board calls and meetings

IX. Executive Session

Consideration of disciplinary matters

X. Adjournment

Motion (Mr. Baker): To adjourn the meeting

Appendix A Hall of Fame Committee Report

The Hall of Fame Committee accepted the retirement of Richard Cohen. We greatly appreciate the knowledge and thoughtful perspectives that this brilliant Olympian and author from Great Britain brought to our meetings. In his place the HOFCommittee brought in Hall of Famer, Olympian, Olympic Team Captain, Pan Am Games medalist, National Saber champion and organizer of the original Martini & Rossi International tournaments in the United States, Jack Keane.

Our Committee has set forth new principles for the upcoming year with a December 31 deadline for all "proposals" for nomination for the US Fencing Hall of Fame, and a requirement that all proposals be accompanied by a complete biography or/ fencing resume.

In addition, I have been working every night to enhance the Hall of Fame website for which I pay \$200. per month. Spread the word and let's get American fencers viewing the site....

www.usfencinghalloffame.com

The nominees for this election have the benefit of being the first group to reach the total membership for consideration. they are:

Era 1 - Standard Era (-1935)

Leonardo Terrone
Henri Uyttenhove

Era 2 (1936-1975) The Era of Inequality

Larry Anastasi
Ed Ballinger
Carl Borack
Al Morales
Marty Schneider
Skip Shurtz
Jeff Wolfe

Era 3 (1976-present) The Modern Era

Cliff Bayer
Sharon Monplaisir
Jon Normile
Felicia Zimmermann

We look forward to a great Hall of Fame induction ceremony on July 3rd as 5 new inductees will enter the Hall:

Ann Marsh
Tanya Adamovich
Arthur S. Lyon
Stacey Johnson
Delmar Calvert

Andy Shaw
Chairman, US Fencing Hall of Fame Committee

Appendix B
Collegiate/Scholastic Task Force Report
July 2011

Laurence Schiller, Chair, George Janto, Kathy Vail, Greg Schiller, and Rafael Suarez

I) In response to the President's call for mission statements from each USA Fencing committee and task force, the Collegiate/Scholastic Task Force compiled the following:

Mission statement for the USA Fencing Scholastic/Collegiate Committee

Although the number, and success, of our junior fencers has been greatly expanding in the past few years, little has been done in an organized fashion to encourage the creation and growth of scholastic and, especially, collegiate programs. In order to facilitate the growth of such programs the Scholastic/Collegiate Committee will:

- 1) Compile as complete a list of scholastic and collegiate programs (both NCAA and club) with contact information in order to provide USA Fencing with a database of such programs.
- 2) Devise ways to connect these programs together so that they may form a more powerful association to support each other and grow new programs.
- 3) Create a plan to grow scholastic and collegiate programs, including the creation of materials that would help an athletic administration to decide to sponsor a fencing program.

II) We then tried to decide on some tasks to implement this statement:

- a. To create 2 sub-committees, one for Collegiate and one for high school.
- b. To ask the National Office to help us in creating a database of programs (one collegiate and one scholastic).
- c. To see how the USFA rules might be modified to allow high school and collegiate tournaments to be nationally sponsored, as opposed to divisionally, and have the capability to award rankings.
- d. To see if we can organize parents in a group to put pressure on schools to create new collegiate and scholastic fencing programs.

III) Unfortunately, the schedules of the Chair and others on the committee have not permitted a meeting, though one is planned for Reno at Summer Nationals, and the personnel changes at the National Office have not permitted us to get going on the database besides some basic collection in parts of the country by committee members. We have a great many ideas of how to proceed but now we are resolved to get moving to a much greater extent that we did during the winter.

We welcome any input from any USA Fencing member as to how they think USA Fencing can help sustain and increase collegiate and scholastic programs.

Laurence D. Schiller
Chair

Appendix C
SPORTS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY REPORT
USFA Board of Directors Meeting – July, 2011
Dr. John Heil

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

The sport science program is focused on developing educational programs, and developing Sport Science as a profit center, as has been done elsewhere in the Olympic family of sports

The longstanding print/magazine format of American Fencing Magazine is now complemented by Tournament Event Live Seminars and Coach/Athlete Interview web-based video products. Going forward the goal is to develop audio products that combine the seminar style instructional content with athlete/coach interviews. These products would be for sale.

Sport Science Seminars

The **Sport Science Seminars** held at National Tournament Events, initially sponsored by fencing.net, are now completely in-house. The operational logistics are very slowly coming into place. We are moving toward the goal of generating profits from these seminars.

A series of 4 seminars is in place for the Reno Summer Nationals. The seminars are structured to include an “Executive Performance” component (applying sport psychology to other performance domains). This is designed to appeal to parents of younger fencers and to veteran fencers. This also reinforces the message of sport as means to development of life skills

Sport Science Videos

A series of four brief **Sport Science Videos** are in development, three of which are complete and posted on *you tube*. Titles and links are below:

Iris Zimmermann: Shattering Fencing Barriers (newly posted)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3cKH3X8PIE>

American Fencing: Olympic Spirit (Posted: December, 2010 -

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5FeKO0TKgVA>

US Olympic Fencing (Posted: January, 2011 - views)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N60_qvEI63E

These offer an insight into the psychology of fencing and the uniqueness of the fencing experience through interviews with top fencers and coaches. In that the videos are intended to appeal to the non-fencer, they serve a marketing and member recruitment function as well.

Fencer as Chess Master & Zen Warrior (Video #4)

The 4th of the videos is intended to blend the instructional content of the seminars with video interviews of athletes and coaches, along with powerpoint style graphics. It develops the metaphors of the fencer as “chess master” and fencer as “zen warrior.”

This will represent the general format of the products that will be developed for sale to the membership. The plan is to develop a set of brief videos (~5 minutes) on selected topics for distribution as a series, complemented by videos with more in-depth treatment of selected topics (~ 30 minutes).

The “US Olympic Fencing” video has also been posted on FencingWebTV (Michael Aufrichtig) with a significant boost in viewership. Need support from National Office for promotion of videos among membership

eScout

eScout, an electronic scouting device, provides stripside tactical information with statistical, descriptive and video capabilities

This project is in the beta stage of development and is usable. While near completion, the project has been dormant since the start of the London quad. Funding promised in the Beijing Quad has not yet been delivered. The software designer requires \$3,500 to complete project (including unreimbursed payment for work done & funds to complete remaining work).

Action: Awaiting “GO – NO GO” decision on the project, pending communication with Jim Page.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

USFA EVENT CONSULTATION

Event Consultation-2011 Junior Olympics, Dallas, TX

Sport Psychology & Sport Science Consultation (Report submitted).

EDUCATION & TRIAGE

Ongoing services provided to general membership

Information/Education

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

Intervention/Triage

Direct consultation to coaches, athletes and administrators on Sport Science & Technology topics by phone, email or face-to-face

Referral to local sport science specialists

Publications

American Fencing Magazine

Ongoing articles in *American Fencing Magazine* Sport Science Column

INTERNAL LIAISON

Collaboration with USFA Committees, Officers

Legal information to Donald Alperstein

LIAISON TO PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Contact as appropriate with professional organization

Developing Fencing Special Interest Group via Association for Applied Sport Psychology to increase expertise in fencing among sport psychologists

Contact: Dr. John Heil, Psychological Health * Roanoke; 2727 Electric Rd., Suite 100, Roanoke, VA 24018; Phone-Direct: 540-772-5147; jheil@PsychHealthRoanoke.com

Appendix D
SPORTS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY BUDGET REQUEST 2012
Submitted: June 16, 2011

Dr. John Heil

The sport science program is focused on developing Sport Science as a profit center (as has been done successfully elsewhere in the Olympic family of sports).

The longstanding print/magazine format of American Fencing Magazine is now complemented by Tournament Event Live Seminars and Coach/Athlete Interview web-based video products. Going forward the goal is to develop to develop audio products for sale that combine the seminar style instructional content with athlete/coach interviews. *For more detailed information about the videos and seminar programs, please see the Sport Science Board Report for 2011.*

Proposal

Develop a set of 3 brief videos (~5 minutes) on selected topics for distribution as a series (making total of 4 with one currently underway), complemented by 1 video with more in-depth treatment of selected topics (~ 30 minutes).

Cost

\$5,000.

The fees are to provide direct support to the video producer/director for consultant fees and travel expenses. He is working in collaboration Sport Science & Technology Chair, Dr. John Heil, who has been providing services pro bono.

A more detailed accounting of costs is available.

Revenue Projections

The best model for revenue projections (as well as, pricing and marketing would be other Olympic Sports that have undertaken this type of effort). It is my understanding that USA Cycling and USA Triathlon have been the leaders in this area, but I do not currently have access to the NGBs to get more information.

Fencers have shown the willingness to pay for sport science training, including \$50 for a 90 minute seminar at National Events. The initial foray into video product sales was a *fencing.net* sponsored webinar. Subsequently fencers have paid \$25 for a live unedited voice recording with simple power point as the only visual. Simply put the sale of 200 - \$25 DVDs of the Webinar length video proposed (30 minute duration) would create a break even point.

A true value estimate would also consider the synergistic impact of the seminars and the videos – with one educational format supporting sales in the other.

Rationale

I realize budgets are constrained in final year of quad due to the need to provide extra support for the National Teams. However, this is also the time when there is the greatest interest in the sport and the greatest opportunity to generate revenue – both from active fencers and those who may have their interest captured by the Olympic Games. Consider also, that videos have secondary value for marketing/recruitment of new fencers – the latter of which is an important initiative in the first year of each new quad.

Continuing project allows us to capitalize on momentum developed thus far.

- Over the past year we have had the opportunity to capture on videotape a wealth of fencing history and insight from high level fencers and coaches which will be used in upcoming productions
- In addition to the video footage, we have also catalogued and archived a formidable library of fencing images
- I believe that as we have progressed in producing these videos we have streamlined the production process and become more cost-effective while also raising the bar in terms of production values.

End User Applications

Each of these video formats (short and long duration) may play a distinct role. The brief videos lend themselves easily to a mini-seminar, for instance at the start of a fencing class, with discussion potentially continued by the fencing instructor. Younger fencers might even review these in the car while being driven by parents to fencing class making use of their commute time -- with the plan to discuss this with the coach at the start of class. The lengthier products are suited for more in depth study, for instance with more serious fencers, in training camp settings etc.

Appendix E

Veterans Committee Report

There will be a meeting for veterans on the evening of Saturday, 9 July in Reno. The agenda has not been finalized, but in the past most attention during the meeting at Nationals has been directed toward the Veterans World Championships. In Detroit, more than 90 percent of those at the veterans meeting had represented the USA at a World Championship. David Sach plans to attend.

Veterans would appreciate the opportunity to participate in domestic training camps offered under USFA auspices.

Will sponsorship extended by other commercial entities (such as Nike) include the veterans? Blue Gauntlet has offered to provide each member of the Veteran's team with a "test box."

The 1st CAN/AM Veterans Cup in Kingston, ON was considered a success. A date has been set for the 2nd annual 2012 CAN/AM Veterans Cup. They are looking at May 12, 13th at a venue in Kingston to be announced later. They are looking at a similar line-up with M&W Individual Foil taking place Saturday morning ~8.00 am and M & W Individual Sabre starting ~11.00 am. Team Foil and Sabre will follow in the early afternoon going into the early evening. M & W Individual epee will take place Sunday morning ~ 8.00 am followed by team. The Gala Dinner with medal presentation will take place early Sunday evening ~ 5.00 – 6.00 pm. They are looking at historic Fort Frontenac as a potential banquet facility. More information will follow.

The K-Town Veterans Challenge will take place the weekend of November 26th-27th, 2011 at a venue TBA.

The tournaments will be listed on Ask Fred.

The Men's Epee Veteran Pre-World Championship Camp will be held in Bordeaux during the last week of August. Reduced fees for the top four fencers will be directed toward the Men's Epee Program.

The 2nd Ohrid Cup for Veterans will be held in Macedonia during the first week of September. Information is attached.

Respectfully,

John A. "Drew" Ridge

Appendix F

Youth Development Committee

At the request of the Board of Directors, I will outline the steps the Youth Development Committee took to select SYC bids for the 2011-2012 season:

1. Iris Zimmermann and Jennie Salmon recused themselves from the selection process as they were submitting bid applications on behalf of their respective clubs. They were excluded from any subsequent communications regarding SYC selection.
2. Jacqueline Leahy was added to the committee as an Athlete Rep, to compensate for Iris' exclusion from this process. (Iris will continue to act in an advisory capacity for the YDC after the SYC selection process is completed.)
3. Per the USFA's requirements, bid applications and associated fees had to be submitted to the National Office by May 2, 2011 to be eligible for consideration.
4. As the National Office (NO) provided the bid applications to me as Chair, I forwarded them to the YDC members (excluding Iris and Jennie). On May 3, I requested that the NO provide me with a complete list of all SYC bids received. The list supplied was comprised of 16 applications. After review, I further requested the NO forward all those applications I noted that had not been previously forwarded.
5. The YDC was mandated to complete the selection process and announce the designated events by May 31, 2011. The decision making process involved independent review by each committee members and two 2-hour long conference calls to allow for group assessment and consensus.
6. The criteria laid out in the bid packets were used to qualitatively evaluate bids.
7. The YDC created a spreadsheet to track and compare each applicant's requirements outlined in the bid packet.
8. The YDC ensured there was a quorum on both teleconferences, and all submissions were subjected to a formal vote.
9. In addition to those bids designated, the YDC issued two conditional approvals, requiring that applicants provide additional information confirming referee lists or revising the schedule of events.
10. After the initial selection process was completed, the YDC decided it was imperative to address the fact that no applications were received from Southern or Northern California. In the interests of youth fencers from that highly populous region, the YDC agreed re-open the bidding until July 7, 2011 for California SYCs.
11. The YDC provided this information to the NO (Greg Dilworth) and to the President (Kalle Weeks) on Friday, May 27, 2011, so that the announcement of designations could be posted before the Memorial Day weekend.
12. After selections were announced, Bill Becker of Arizona contacted me requesting specific reasons why his bid was not chosen. I informed him that the RYC had not received his submission. Upon subsequent follow up, the NO acknowledged that they inadvertently neglected to forward the bid, which had been received on a timely basis and in accordance with all the requirements. I requested a thorough review to determine if any other bids had not been forwarded to us, and was reassured that we had all 17 applications. The Arizona application was forwarded to the SYC for review, and a subsequent conference call was scheduled for the following Tuesday, May 31st.
13. The YDC conditionally approved the Arizona bid, pending revision of the event schedule.
14. All rejected bids will receive an email response from the YDC thanking them for their submission and explaining any deficiencies so that the tournament organizer knows what to address in future bids. Please note: several bids considered acceptable were rejected in favor others within the same region that were rated superior.
15. After initial approval and posting of dates, a member of the SYC made a option to allow Mission Fencing and Prise De Fer to resubmit bids with alternate dates due to the conflicting revised NAC schedule, and to allow UNH to resubmit a bid with an alternate date, as the bid was acceptable based on

all criteria except the winter date. The YDC is awaiting resubmitted bids. The intent of the SYC is to select one bid from among the three bids, assuming all three are qualified bids.

Conclusions/Lessons learned with respect to the SYC designation process:

First – The Board, National Office and previous YDC did not provide clear guidelines for the current YDC. While I do not think the Board should be getting into the level of detail listed below, I do want the Board’s acknowledgement that the following are items that the YDC needs to decide, without second-guessing and interference. You will see below that we request additional input from other groups to help with these decisions, but I do not feel the input should come from the Board, who should be driving high level, strategic planning, not delving into operational decisions at the following level of detail:

- o Minimum/maximum number of SYC selections
- o Scheduling SYCs in multiple locations on the same weekends
- o YDC’s active solicitation of bids from clubs in underserved populous regions
- o Designation of more than one acceptable bid in highly populous regions
- o Equitably addressing the needs and perceptions of underserved less populous regions
- o Establishing reasonable guidelines for minimum numbers and ratings of referees, strips, etc

Second - 17 bids were submitted for review. The YDC had less than one month to do effective due diligence (in fact, several packets were received by committee members with less than one week before the May 31st announcement deadline). There were no independent qualitative follow up reports on prior SYCs available, so our information was limited to the contents of the bid packets, anecdotal reports or personal experiences. The YDC was staffed by volunteers who were committed to acting in the best interest of youth fencers through a fair and equitable process. However, given the poorly designed process and inadequate set of procedures we inherited, no one felt satisfied. The need for radical restructuring and a complete policy overhaul is overwhelming.

Third - in order for the YDC to begin the real work of analysis, assessment and restructuring of youth tournaments, we as a committee request your support and mandate. Second guessing or micro-management undermines our ability to work effectively. I ask that you keep in mind we are trying to create a system that will best serve the needs of US Fencing's vast demographic base; not necessarily in the interests of a select, but vocal minority. Our recommendation is to add a representative of the national coaches, TC and FOC to the YDC in an advisory capacity, in order for us to ensure the restructuring will incorporate these groups’ best practices and will ensure youth development dovetails with elite athlete development plans.

Finally, please note - In my capacity as Chair, I neglected to keep the Board Liaison, Wes Glon, informed of our selections. Historically, I had been used to communicating directly with Kalle, which accounts for my US Fencing Board of Directors 2010-2011 – July 2, 2011 Agenda

failure to copy Wes. Additionally, as VP, I had not been consulted by the previous YDC Chair with respect to its operation, and therefore had no expectation of the necessity to include Wes. Regrettably, I put Wes in the position of having to defend the YDC's actions without any knowledge of the process. For that, I apologize. I ask the Board's guidance/instruction as to the roles, responsibilities, expectations and level of involvement of the Board Liaison into the functioning of the YDC.

Thank you for allowing me to serve the USFA in the capacity of YDC Chair. I sincerely hope that if allowed to continue serving in this capacity, you will accept the suggestions above, and allow the YDC to begin the important work ahead.

Please let me know if there is anything else I can provide.

Best regards,

Jane P. Carter
Chair, Youth Development Committee