

# Minutes

## Special Meeting of the USA Fencing Board of Directors

May 12, 2011 via Teleconference

**Present:** Bradley Baker, Bill Becker, David Blake, Aaron Clements, Alan Kuver, Mario Rodriguez, Sunil Sabharwal, Laurie Schiller, Wes Glon, Kalle Weeks, Alex Wood

**Absent:** David Herr, Terry Kwan, Paula Reed, Soren Thompson

**Guests:** Donald Alperstein, Dan Berke, Greg Dilworth, Mark Goldstein

### **I. General Information and Organizational Items**

General announcements

Remarks – Kalle Weeks, President

Ms. Weeks noted that Nzingha Prescod was named USOC Female Athlete of the Month and that the current issue of Chicago Magazine ran an article describing Mr. Schiller as “the most successful college coach you’ve never heard of.”

A reminder was given to Board members to make reservations to Minneapolis, if they have not already done so. Thus far there have been a large number of submissions for the All-Academic team. The deadline was extended to May 13 in response to a request from a home-school parent.

Ms. Weeks noted that Mr. Clements, as previously appointed, will serve as parliamentarian.

### **II. Minutes of the April 21, 2011 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Motion (Mr. Baker):** To approve the minutes of the April 21, 2011 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors (distributed separately)

**Second:** Dr. Schiller

**Motion Passed.**

### **III. Finance and Budget**

#### **Financial Reports** (Greg Dilworth and Sunil Sabharwal)

##### **Audit Report**

An oral report was provided by Mr. Dilworth.

The final version of audit report has been received and will be posted to the website shortly. This process took longer than expected, largely due to staff transitions both in our office and in our auditor's office.

April 30 financial statements have been distributed to the Board. We're still in reasonably good shape and anticipate finishing the year close to budget. A number of positive variances were pointed out, notably the State of Texas grant offsetting some costs for Junior Olympics in Dallas. We plan to use the Dallas grant money to pay off our outstanding note. The intention is to pay off old debt to tournament officials before the end of this fiscal year.

Some questions about the budget report were then addressed:

Line 17 – The problem has been corrected.

JOs – Registration fees were \$20k under budget because people dropped out. Venue, hotel and decorator costs were all over what had been budgeted.

NAC E – More of a surplus than anticipated. Corrections since the report was generated will bring the surplus to around \$16k instead of \$30k – in line with budget.

International office administration – Revenue in this line is largely United Airlines ViK (\$40k) Sport Science is expected to come in around budget.

December NAC – A \$7k bill arrived in April. LOC and late expense reports account for other changes. Similar occurrences affected the NAC C line.

Next year's budget will be incredibly tight due to Olympic expenses.

The office staff is considering asking that the NAC event fee be raised from \$70 to \$75 for next season. We will be talking to Board members to get the sense of the Board.

Weapon squad funding is likely to move around a bit due to recent performance and estimates of potential for future success. Overall squad spending is likely to go down as the money moves into Olympic Preparation line.

A request was made by a member of the Board for time to be allocated during the strategic planning weekend for a tutorial on reading budget reports.

**IV. Motion (Mr. Baker):** To adopt the Financial Policies and Procedures Manual (distributed separately).

**Second:** Mr. Becker

**Motion Passed.**

The manual will be posted to the website shortly.

**Motion (Mr. Blake):** That all prior and inconsistent resolutions of the Board of Directors concerning matters addressed in the Financial Policies and Procedures manual are deemed superseded by the adoption of the Financial Policies and Procedures manual and of no further force and effect.

**Second:** Mr. Becker

**Motion Passed.**

**V. Updates from the Executive Director (Greg Dilworth)**

An oral report was provided by Mr. Dilworth.

Membership continues to slowly expand. During the last several weeks, considerable time in the membership department has been spent answering questions about Summer Nationals and All-Academic team awards. We have signed a contract with VoteNet for conducting Board elections for this year only. Voting will start on May 27.

Summer Nationals registration is continuing to proceed. The close of normal registration was 3 days ago. A huge number of paper entries were received over the weekend and on Monday. Expect a full and accurate count of entries to be available by the start of next week. The Office will send out a message asking members to delay calling regarding entry status.

NYC World Cup is scheduled for June 24-26. Thanks were extended again to Soren Thompson and Michael Aufrichtig of NYAC for all their help. The staff is continuing to work on preparing for the tournament.

We have 3 events during early July: Summer Nationals (July 1-10), Zonal Championships (July 4-9), and FIE administrative conference (July 8-10).

We have a signed term sheet with Nike to provide a sponsorship agreement. Nike will provide a certain quantity of shoes and apparel over next 18 months (through Dec 2012). USA Fencing will be allowed to purchase additional discounted clothing. We are currently working with Nike on strategy and design and anticipate things going well for future. Nike has requested to start a viral campaign featuring Mariel, starting tomorrow, to announce the agreement. The term sheet is contingent on Board approval. The Board should expect to see a long-form contract by next Board meeting.

Christine Simmons has been replaced as Director of Membership. The new person (Kris) has a fair amount of fund raising and grant writing experience and will start May 31.

**[Secretary's Note: Kris Ekeren]**

Tournament software RFP status: Tanya Brown has been working on Summer Nationals preparation, so there has been a delay in processing reviewer comments. Eight responses are in-hand, with a ninth expected shortly. A report to the Board is expected Monday or Tuesday. Analysis will be continued and we will negotiate contract from there. We are a little behind schedule, but hope to catch up.

## **VI. Legal Update (Donald Alperstein)**

An oral report was provided by Mr. Alperstein

There have been two projects in which he has been most involved:

- Nike term sheet.
- We have made a demand on TeamIP to pay the balance of our settlement amount. We have filed a complaint in Denver District Court, suing them.

Three disciplinary panels are currently working:

- The elite athlete panel has had a hearing and the panel is in the process of preparing a report.
- Referee in Pennsylvania: The panel is working. A notification letter has gone out.
- Texas panel: No progress to report.

Sam Cheris and Donald Alperstein are scheduled to meet next week to discuss the matter of the two clubs to be investigated.

## **VII. Search Planning Group Update (Kalle Weeks)**

An oral report was provided by Ms. Weeks.

The group has been holding weekly conference calls. Recently the committee heard the results of calls made by Kalle to search firms regarding bringing on an outside firm. They have also discussed salary ranges and modifications and additions to job description. Next week two of those firms will join the conference call. The Board should expect definitive suggestions of how best to proceed shortly. There will need to be some flexibility, accounting for the difficulty in conducting a search for NGB head, given Olympic year scheduling issues.

## **VIII. Election Committee Report (David Blake)**

An oral report was provided by Mr. Blake.

All candidate statements and photos have been received. It is expected that they will all be up on website by the beginning of next week. Voting is scheduled to open on May 27.

An email blast will be sent out from USA Fencing before voting opens. Another by VoteNet announcing the opening. A second email will go out a week later. A third will be sent 2 days before the close of voting.

Hall of Fame voting will take place as part of same ballot as the election.

**IX. Motion (Mr. Wood, seconded by Dr. Schiller):** When an individual pays for a one-day membership, the initial fee can be applied towards a higher class of membership in the same season.

**This motion was tabled during the April 21, 2011 meeting.**

**Motion (Mr. Kuver): to remove motion from table.**

**Second:** Dr. Schiller

**Motion to remove from table Passed.**

One of the reasons it was tabled was to investigate difficulties in implementation. Cost of

implementation is estimated at \$500-600 in fees to Railstation.

**Motion amended to add “Effective August 1, 2011.” to the end of the motion.** [friendly amendment]

**Motion amended to specify “for the first time” after “membership.”** [friendly amendment]

**Motion, as amended, Passed.**

*When an individual pays for a one-day membership for the first time, the initial fee can be applied towards a higher class of membership in the same season. Effective August 1, 2011.*

**X. Motion (Mr. Blake):** If a USA athlete seeks to change his or her affiliation to another nationality, the USFA will waive its rights under the FIE three-year rule if and only if during the season in which the change is requested that athlete has (a) not represented the USA in international competition and (b) not competed in a USA National Championship.

**Second:** Mr. Baker

Concerns were expressed about potential effects this could have on foreign countries if we punish their nationals who have dual citizenship.

**Motion amended to remove (b) clause.** [friendly amendment]

**Motion, as amended, Passed.**

*If a USA athlete seeks to change his or her affiliation to another nationality, the USFA will waive its rights under the FIE three-year rule if and only if during the season in which the change is requested that athlete has not represented the USA in international competition.*

**XI. Motion (Mr. Clements):** To provide for modification of the qualifying paths for National Championship events for the 2011-2012 season as follows:

2.11.7.2 Veteran – V40, V50, V60, V70 – USA Fencing National Championships

...

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 Regional Open Circuit event during the current season **OR**
- Any NAC during the current season.

**Second:** Mr. Blake

**Motion Passed.**

**XII. Motion (Mr. Kuver):** That the proposed selection process and selection criteria of the Youth Development Committee annually be submitted to the Board for review, commentary and guidance prior to evaluation of submitted tournament host bids to ensure that the intentions of the Board are being carried out.

**Motion Withdrawn, with the request that the chair of the SYC provide information concerning the 2011 venue selection process to the Board.**

**XIII. Motion (Mr. Kuver):** That the proposed selection process and selection criteria of the ROC Advisory Group annually be submitted to the Board for review, commentary and guidance prior to evaluation of submitted tournament host bids to ensure that the intentions of the Board are being carried out.

**Motion Withdrawn with the request that the ROC chair of the provide information concerning the 2011 venue selection process to the Board..**

#### **XIV. Appeal of National Office Decision**

The Board has been asked to hear an appeal of a decision made by National Office staff. A request for a waiver of existing policies regarding club membership was declined and that decision is being appealed. The appeal request is attached as Appendix A.

**Motion (Dr. Schiller): To deny Ms. Harmann’s appeal.**

**Second:** Mr. Clements

**Motion Passed.**

**XV. Adjournment**

**Motion (Mr. Baker):** To adjourn the meeting.

**Second:** Mr. Clements

**Motion Passed.**