

# Minutes

## Special Meeting of the USA Fencing Board of Directors

July 2, 2011 Reno, NV

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

Absent: Paula Reed

Guests: Donald Alperstein, Gerrie Baumgart, Jerry Benson, Greg Dilworth, Craig Harkins, John Heil, Andrew Lambdin-Abraham, Jeff Salmon, David Sierra, Steve Sobel, Mark Stasinos

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; receipt of the submitted reports does not indicate adoption of items within each report.

\*\* Report distributed at the meeting and not originally included in the agenda

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

General announcements

Moment of Silence

Jerry Dunaway

Remarks – Kalle Weeks, President

An oral report was provided by Ms. Weeks.

The Annual Membership Meeting was held this morning and was adjourned, lacking a quorum. We need to find ways to have more of our membership participating.

In February, a Strategic Planning session was conducted, leading to the public distribution of a working document of the plan under development. The Board held a follow-up working session in late May. In early August a smaller group will meet to draft time lines and action items. The plan is to distribute the results of that session with an eye towards approving the complete plan in September.

We have temporarily put on hold our efforts towards an Executive Director search. We want to ensure that the selected person is the correct one to carry out the strategic plan.

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

## **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 (distributed separately)

One correction was made to the draft minutes. The draft minutes still included a place-holder for the names of those on the Hall of Fame ballot. The place-holder will be replaced, as originally intended, by the names of those individuals.

**Second:** Schiller

**Motion to approve minutes, as corrected, passed.**

## **III. Association Status Updates**

Executive Director's Report – Greg Dilworth

An oral report was provided by Mr. Dilworth.

The NYC World Cup was held at the New York Athletic Club in June. We learned lessons regarding the size of venue and labor requirements, including that the NYAC, as a union building, required hiring US Fencing Board of Directors 2010-2011 – July 2, 2011 Minutes

union labor for a number of tasks.

In addition, diagrams of the space available were insufficiently accurate and we were forced to adjust layouts on the fly. The NYAC people were fantastic about helping throughout the process of planning and conducting the tournament. The venue not being “a concrete block” made some tasks more difficult.

We have a confirmed date from the FIE and are moving forward with securing a venue for next season but will NOT be going back to Manhattan next season, as costs in NYC are higher than the rest of the country. We have an offer for space from Drew University, which remains in the New York metro area. It would be easier to work there than at our recent locations. If Drew University does not work out, iSol will be used to identify alternatives.

#### International Report – Sunil Sabharwal

An oral report was provided by Mr. Sabharwal.

The most recent FIE EC meeting was held last week in Rome. The EC forwarded proposals to be voted upon at the FIE Congress meeting to December to FIE Commissions for further review and comments. There has been a working group looking at revising timing for foil and sabre. Their current recommendation is not to change any timings in sabre and not to change blockage time in foil. Potential adjustment to the contact time in foil is not a rules question, but a preference question – should foil be contested with or without the flick? No change is recommended at this time.

There is a proposal from Italy to replace cadet worlds with U23 Worlds. The current best guess is that it will not pass in Philadelphia and may be withdrawn prior to the Congress meeting.

The USA has submitted three proposals. Two technical proposals were referred to SEMI. Our other proposal is to increase size of Arbitrage from 10 members to 15 in light of their increased workload. There was mixed reaction on increasing Arbitrage a year prior to the election.

The international calendar was juggled back and forth. We will host Senior Men’s and Women’s Sabre World Cups June 22-24, 2012.

Phoenix will now have Junior Men’s and Women’s Sabre World Cups February 4-5, 2012.

#### Pan-Am Youth Championships – Nancy Anderson

Ms. Anderson was unavailable. A written report was submitted in lieu of her planned presentation.

#### ROC Survey – David Sierra

An oral presentation was made by Mr. Sierra.

#### Video Replay – David Blake

Oral and written reports were provided by Mr. Blake.

#### Election Results and Recommendations – Gerrie Baumgart

Oral and written reports were provided by Ms. Baumgart.

Ms. Weeks expressed thanks to Ms. Baumgart and the election committee. The election process was carried out in a timely fashion which was a testament to the work of the committee, especially in light of the new procedures that were required for this season.

#### **IV. Finance and Budget**

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

**Second:** Mr. Herr

Three items came up for discussion.

Request from the budget and finance committee for departmental breakdown of salaries.

The largest negative variance was membership revenue and a request for greater clarity on this item was requested.

The committee requested an analysis of current liabilities.

**Motion Passed.**

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

**Second:** Mr. Kuver

There was extensive discussion regarding budgeting, the budgeting process, and differences from prior practice and estimations of future needs, methods, and activities.

**Vote: 7-5 to approve**

**Motion Passed.**

#### **V. Committee and Task Force Matters**

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

**Second:** Mr. Kuver

**Motion Passed.**

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

**Second:** Mr. Rodriguez

One correction to the document was noted:

Membership Growth Task Force: Jeff Salmon should be listed instead of Greg Jones and Alex Ripa.

**Motion Passed.**

## **VI. Disciplinary Panel Reports and Recommendations**

1. Elite Athlete Panel  
Will be addressed at next conference call.
2. Texas Spectator Panel  
Will be addressed at next conference call.
3. Pennsylvania Referee Panel  
To be discussed in Executive Session.

## **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.

**Second:** Mr. Kuver

**Motion Passed.**

## **VIII. Good and Welfare**

1. Schedule of Board calls and meetings  
Next Call: Thursday 8/18 9pm EDT  
Annual Meeting: September 17-18 at location TBD

## **IX. Executive Session**

**A resolution was passed to form a panel to investigate allegations regarding the repayment of entry fees collected in association with a cancelled ROC tournament in 2011-12. Kalle Weeks and Donald Alperstein are authorized to determine the members of the investigatory panel. The panel is to report back to the Board with its findings.**

**A resolution was passed to form a disciplinary panel to investigate allegations arising from an physical altercation between a coach and parent at a national tournament. The panel is to submit a report and recommended sanctions to the Board.**

## **X. Adjournment**

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

**Second:** Mr. Becker

**Motion Passed.**

## **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](http://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](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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 US Fencing Board of Directors 2010-2011 – July 2, 2011 Minutes

significant boost in viewership. Need support from National Office for promotion of videos among membership

### **eScout**

**eScout**, an electronic scouting device, provides strip-side 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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> CAN/AM Veterans Cup in Kingston, ON was considered a success. A date has been set for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Minutes

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

## Appendix G Election Committee Report

USA Fencing entered the electronic election era and our membership cast their ballots electronically with Votenet, a company hired to provide the necessary technology and service. Out of 8,812 eligible voters, 1,518 members voted. This compares to the members election for the bylaws last year when fewer than 400 votes were cast and the last presidential election when 1,493 votes were cast. The cost for this election was \$9,200 which is comparable to previous mail elections. Overall we feel this has been a successful election despite having to create an entirely new method of voting and having had to address a few unforeseen problems along the way.

Two incumbents retained their seats, Laurie Schiller and Brad Baker and new members joined the Board, Jeff Salmon and John Strass. Congratulations and our thanks to the elected Board Members as well as to all the other candidates – Bill Becker, Carl Borack, Alan Geller, Greg Massialas, Carla-Mae Richards and Mark Stasinos.

We, the Election Committee – Gerrie Baumgart (Chair), Dan Berke, David Blake, Greg Chang, and John Springate, experienced the growing pains a new system can conjure. Problems with the By-laws, Membership, computers and the innumerable questions and small hangups that generally occur when a new system is put into play.

In order to expand the number of votes cast, our membership needs to help confirm that their information (email) in the online membership database (Railstation) is accurate. We feel that with the ongoing use of the online membership data base this problem will be reduced.

The By-laws need to be reviewed and revised so they coordinate with more common practices.

The Election Committee will be meeting later this week, at nationals, to discuss the issues we encountered this year and to help prepare for next year's election.

Matters we will be discussing include - Refining the time table, presentation of candidate information and increasing membership awareness of the election.

It was a pleasure for all of us to serve on the election committee this year and we are all willing to serve again next year, with the exception of David Blake as his term will be up as a Board Liaison to the committee.

### Election: USA Fencing 2011 Board of Directors and 2012 Hall of Fame

#### Results by Question

At-Large Directors (two to be elected)

Total Voters:**8812**

Choice	Votes	Percentage of eligible votes
Bill Becker	511	34
Carl Borack	560	36
Alan Geller	562	38
Laurie Schiller	768	50
John Strass	635	42

Club Director (one to be elected)

Total Voters:**8812**

Choice	Votes	Percentage
Greg Massialas	675	44
Jeff Salmon	843	56

Volunteer Staff Director (one to be elected)

Total Voters:**8812**

<b>Choice</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Bradley Baker	639	42
Carla-Mae Richards	617	41
Mark Stasinos	262	17

Hall of Fame - The Standard Era (early American fencing –1935) - One to be elected

Total Voters:**8812**

<b>Choice</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Leonardo Terrone	410	44
Henri Uyttenhove	520	56

Hall of Fame - The Era of Inequality (1936-1975) - Four to be elected

Total Voters:**8812**

<b>Choice</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Larry Anastasi	330	11
Ed Ballinger	713	23
Carl Borack	554	18
Al Morales	379	12
Martin Schneider	305	10
Sewall "Skip" Shurtz	425	14
Jeff Wolfe	357	12

Hall of Fame - The Modern Era (1976-present) - Two to be elected

Total Voters:**8812**

<b>Choice</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Cliff Bayer	450	21
Sharon Monplaisir	483	23
Jon Normile	350	17
Felicia Zimmermann	818	39

**Appendix H**  
**Replay System Report**  
**David Blake**

This season I have been involved with the introduction of replay into our national tournaments. This started with a call from Nicholas Mayer from Fencing Replay just before the September Board of Directors meeting. In October, the Board voted to purchase 4 systems to be used at national tournaments, with the intention of using them at the Sabre World Cup and Zonal Championships (saving around \$20,000 in rental fees). These systems were purchased in time to be used for the October NAC.

Initially, there were technical difficulties including hardware compatibility problems and operator error. Compatibility problems were addressed by the vendor and since JO's I have been setting up and maintaining the systems at our tournaments. As referees have more exposure to the equipment, operator error has been greatly reduced.

At the Portland NAC, the system was evaluated by Dan DeChaine for the FIE and has since been homologated (as Dan points out, the first piece of fencing equipment to be evaluated by the FIE at a US National tournament).

At the New York Sabre World Cup the systems were used with very few issues, most notably one system after near constant use for 12 hours overheated and had to be swapped out (unfortunately this was during the webcast final). This problem has been addressed.

For this Summer Nationals we will have all five systems for the first 3 days and the last day. Zonals will use 4 systems leaving one for the Summer Nationals Finals Strip.

Through this process, Fencing Replay has been very responsive and involved in solving problems (even checking in by email from a world cup in Europe). They are currently working on a version of the system which includes sound.

Going forward, we need to look at adding to the number of systems we own, and work on how to adjust our tournament practices to allow the best use of the systems and provide the most coverage and exposure to all of our athletes and referees. The use of replay has been a great help to our fencers, coaches and referees this season and we should be making every attempt to use replay for all events as early as possible. Other things we would like to offer in the future, include making the small portion recorded for replay available for purchase by members and collecting the entire bout for live streaming output and purchase by the members.

**Appendix I**  
**Pan-American Youth Championships Report**  
**Nancy Anderson**

The second Pan American Youth Fencing Championships was a success for the US delegation from every point of view. Notification of the event was provided much earlier than last year, resulting in greater participation of fencers in every age category. Last year we had 14 participants; this year we had over 40.

There was some confusion about the eligibility/selection process for our athletes. At the end of JOs, it was determined that this was to be a “fun for all” tournament and anyone wishing to take part would be eligible, within the parameters given for each age category. Later it was decided that eligibility would be based on point ranking following the Youth NAC in April. There was also a very tight entry deadline for our fencers (that was later postponed for a week), making it difficult for families to decide whether their young athletes could plan on participating or not.

Many of the parents and athletes wanted to have a “uniform” that would identify them as a US fencer. This was not available from any of our apparel suppliers. However, I was able to find that an outfit in tiny Goldthwaite, TX was willing to step up to the plate with just two weeks’ notice, and 70 jackets with a unique logo for this tournament were made available in all requested sizes (for athletes, coaches, and family members) for under \$50 each. It was a bit of a challenge packing them all into three large suitcases, but it was done. The charge for a third piece of luggage is usually \$200, but by creating an “official letter,” I was able to have that fee waived and, happily, all jackets arrived in Ixtapa in time to be distributed appropriately.

The results of each competition speak for themselves and Karen Kuhlman is to be commended for making sure that they were transmitted to Nicole Jomantas immediately upon completion of each event for publication on the US Fencing website (and thanks to Nicole for getting them posted quickly, even over the weekend!). The medal count for our young athletes was remarkable and earned the US the top spot in country performance, followed closely by Mexico and then Chile.

While our athletes certainly deserve the greatest recognition for their performances on the strip and their camaraderie off the strip both with our own fencers and those from other countries, the support group of families and coaches also merit special acknowledgment. There was an active fan club at every competition and every athlete enjoyed full applause for every touch scored. There were also many eager photographers and two of the parents have taken on making a collection for a scrapbook on Facebook, available to all. One need only see the concentration during competition and the smiles throughout to confirm a wonderful experience.

**Venue:** Unlike last year (when fencing was held in covered outdoor tennis courts), this year there was an air-conditioned venue at a Convention Center located within the hotel complex. There was ample space for each strip, even though two strips were added the second day to accommodate the large entries for some competitions. Initially, there were five trips (including a raised strip for finals) and two warm-up strips. The plans for next year are for 8-10 competition strips, a raised strip for finals and 2-4 warm-up strips, depending on the overall size of the venue (which is yet to be decided).

**Hotel:** The Meliá Azul Ixtapa is a luxury, all-inclusive resort complex with several restaurants, swimming pools, activity centers (miniature golf, a children’s water park, spas, etc.). Guests were also able to take advantage of various other activities and many of our families did so, as can be witnessed on the Facebook scrapbook. Hotel staff was extremely helpful, polite, and attentive.

**Competitions:** With the exception of the second day when the Opening Ceremony took place, events started on time or close to it. However, given the limitation of strips and of referees (only the US and Mexico had the required number of referees), many competitions ran very long and, on the second and third days, went past

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midnight. By that hour, all restaurants and room service had closed, which was very problematic. Thanks to the foresight of some of our parents, granola bars and earlier forays for food made the late hours (barely) tolerable. The organizers were certainly aware of this problem since the people running the competition and refereeing were also affected. We've been assured that next year will not have this problem, both because of a greater number of strips and due to prior planning for availability of food.

The organizers were determined that this tournament offer, not only competitive experience, but also serve to train the youngest athletes of the Americas in proper protocol throughout the events. The finalists, dressed in full fencing uniforms and country jackets (it was great to be able to identify the country they represented – especially ours!), were introduced on the raised strip as their names were called (carefully shepherded by a delightful designated 'master of ceremonies'), shook hands with their fellow finalists and referees and faced the spectators while photos were taken, until they were called off in an orderly parade. Equal attention was given to the award ceremonies: parade in and stand behind the appropriate award platform; step up when called; stand tall (zipped up uniforms or jackets, no hands in pockets); shake hands with the presenter, then bow to receive your medal; face your flag (national flags were behind each medalist) when a national anthem is played, showing proper respect (our athletes had their hands over their hearts for our national anthem); pose together for pictures; step off the award podium in an orderly manner; celebrate!.

**Formats:** During the Technical Congress held the evening before competition began, there was much discussion about formats for the various age groups. A strong case was made for the Y10 format to have three minute pool bouts to a maximum of 4 touches, followed by Direct Elimination bouts of a duration of three two minute encounters to a maximum of 10 touches. This format is apparently practiced in some of the Pan American countries for this age group (e.g., Brazil, some of the Mexican states) and, although Attilio Tass argued well that two minutes is too short a time for a fencer of any age to size up the opponent and the format would be confusing to those who had never experienced it, it was approved by a majority of those present. For the Y12 and Y14 competitors, pool bouts were four minutes to five touches and the direct elimination was three four-minute encounters to a maximum of 15 touches –also confusing for many of our fencers used to fencing the best two out of three 5-touch encounters. But everyone adjusted and many medals were to be had by US fencers.

**Referees:** Our referees, Attilio Tass and Will Becker, are to be especially commended for their excellence and tirelessness. Throughout each day they were both used every moment during every competition in every weapon. And they never complained or failed to appear when called. Attilio is well known by most of the Pan American delegations and is highly respected. For Will, it was his first experience with these countries. He did a remarkable job throughout and will surely be welcomed at any future Pan American or other international tournament.

**Coaches:** Our athletes were able to enjoy a great variety of coaches. Some were their coaches from their own clubs; others agreed to take on additional fencers they knew; in some cases, parents were genuinely their children's coaches; in other cases, parents served as very enthusiastic and helpful coaches; in other cases... oh, well. All coaches were identified by red vests given out at the start of each competition. In the Y10 events, they were allowed to coach throughout the competitions, as long as they didn't interfere with the actual fencing. It was felt that these youngest fencers would benefit from the assistance of coaches helping them to hook up, advising them during breaks, etc. In the Y12 and Y14 events, no coaches were allowed within the fencing area during the pools, but could step up and advise their athletes during the minute breaks in the DEs. During gatherings that I and/or Karen held at 6:00 p.m., it was emphasized that when two US fencers were facing each other in a bout, there would no coaching for either athlete, although parents certainly cheered on their own children. This expectation was generally adhered to.

**Athletes:** All of our athletes were polite, charming and full of sportsmanship. Many new friendships were forged, not just among themselves but with athletes from other countries. The youngest fencers were especially

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delightful and so proud to be part of Team USA. Whether they continue with this sport or move on to other activities, this trip will surely be memorable for many years to come. I'm confident that, in time, we will see many of these young people 'strut our colors' in major international competition.

**Parents:** We were blessed with a wonderful "flock" of supportive, flexible, helpful parents and other family members. When one of our fencers was short on equipment, parents were quick to come up with the necessary item(s) from their children in the particular weapon but not fencing that event.

**Karen Kuhlman:** Karen managed the all the financial aspects of referee fees, jacket purchases, etc. prior to the tournament. She also collected all the entry fees from early arrivals so they could be submitted at the May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting; on following days, she made sure everyone understood check-in and payment procedures at the Bout Committee (Directorio Técnico). Because of frequent messages and information updates from Karen and myself in the weeks before the championship, fencers, coaches and families felt comfortable that Karen and I were both working together to take care of them and, once on site, came to whichever of us was handiest to resolve whatever issues might come up (lost luggage, etc.). While she was available at the venue several times during the days of competition, she also spent time keeping up with office emails and other work in her room. As the only official US Fencing staff on site, I felt it appropriate that she receive the overall trophy for the US (appropriately, a carved wooden swordfish!); I'm sure it will find a good home at the National Office.

**Non-fencing activities:** No doubt, there will be commentary that this event was simply a "tourist jaunt" for fencing families. I must emphasize that the priority for everyone on competition days was the fencing experience—a low-stress, happy, fun-loving time for our newest and youngest athletes and their fans. Competition was fierce on the strip, but it also confirmed the fun of the sport and that is what will keep these fencers coming back. Was it also a fun family vacation? Absolutely!! That is what it was supposed to be. There was good food and drink, a beach, swimming pools, a water park for younger sibling, visits with Fred Flintstone, Barney and Dino (who sometimes presented the awards), musical shows, and theater, all included in the price of the rooms. Also available was swimming with dolphins, snorkeling, diving, fishing, boating, a trip to a nearby island, and other adventures. Even when the USFA had an NAC at Disneyland (yes, the USFA also held a major tournament at a resort), the variety of fun and fencing was not as available or relatively inexpensive.

**Plans for next year:** While the tournament this year was a big improvement over last year (the venue was air-conditioned!), the organizers were aware that more can be done to make it an even greater experience next year. Airfares to Ixtapa from the US and other cities in the Americas were quite high; more strips and referees are needed, the schedule needs to be planned to ensure reasonable finish times for all competitions, etc. Other host cities are being contemplated, as well as ways to have special airfares should the tournament take place again in Ixtapa. Stay tuned!

### **Recommendations:**

- Participation should be open to all US fencers within their age group. While there is certainly a desire to win, the other aspects of camaraderie and love of our sport go far beyond that and bode well for the future. Once eligibility for participation is determined, it should not be changed.
- For many of our athletes, this is their first venture into international competition. They have not yet reached the level of a "national team," but they are proud to represent their country and their sport. I would recommend that each team to this Pan American Youth Fencing Championship have its own warm-up (at least a jacket) with its own logo. It is unique and a source of pride for all athletes participating in this tournament, as well as their coaches and family members. National team warm-ups should be available only to those who have earned them.

- Careful thought should be given if US Fencing might contemplate bidding for this championship. The all-inclusive aspect has been established: hotel, all meals, accessible venue, additional activities included, etc. The US offers limited possibilities for a venue of this sort.
- Selection of cadre staff for this event does not follow the requirements for most other international tournaments. For a majority of participants (especially athletes and families), this is a first experience in the international arena; therefore more ‘hands-on’ interaction is needed. In this case, the combination of a National Office staff person and a volunteer experienced with the event and with the language and cultures involved in the championship proved to be very effective and, hopefully, reduced the cost of staff time. This should be considered for future Pan American Youth Fencing Championships.
- Including a media person would be a good investment. There are many “candid moments” that help promote interest in our sport and its future growth; they need to be recorded.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Anderson

Volunteer

Vice-President, Pan American Fencing Confederation