

Agenda

Special Meeting of the USFA Board of Directors

February 14th, 2009

The Board of Directors meeting is divided into five major phases:

Information: Minutes of the previous meeting; officer, director and committee reports; and general announcements.

Budget: Approval or disapproval of the budget, requests for major changes in it including staff or executive actions that may involve budget changes.

Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws (when appropriate)

Unfinished Business

New Business

The latter two categories are what was formerly known as the “Decision Phase” and consist largely of motions before the Board, as well as planning discussions.

Motions before the Board (excluding those directly related to the budget) are divided into three categories:

SECOND HEARING: Motions that have had First Hearing at the previous Board meeting; Second Hearing motions must be voted upon as presented, with only minor changes permitted (if a motion requires major changes or fails completely, it must be re-presented as a First Hearing Motion at a subsequent Board meeting).

URGENT: Motions that have not had a First Hearing but must be acted upon by the Board for time or other considerations.

FIRST HEARING: Motions that are new to the Board, but for which decisions are not urgent. A First Hearing motion may not be voted upon unless the Board moves it to the Urgent category; instead, it is automatically placed in the Second Hearing category at the next meeting unless the sponsor withdraws it.

Every motion must have an individual sponsor identified in the agenda and in attendance at the meeting. The sponsor presents the motion, answers questions, takes notes on suggested changes, and shepherds the motion if it is referred to committee. Committees that are presenting motions must assign a member to fulfill this duty.

Index of Appendices

<u>Description</u>	<u>Appendices/ Attachments</u>	<u>Page</u>
<u>Officer Reports</u>		
President's Report – Kalle Weeks	A	15
Vice President's Report – Mark Stasinis	B	17
Vice President's Report – Jerry Benson	C	19
Vice President's Report - Ro Sobalvarro	D	20
Secretary's Report – Bradley Baker	E	21
Treasurer's Report – Greg Dilworth		
Budget vs. Actual		
Budget Report		
Executive Director's Report – Kurt Aichele		
<u>Committee Reports</u>		
Tournament Committee	F	23
Legal Resource Group	G	24
Veteran's Committee	H	25
Wheelchair Task Force	I	28
Hall of Fame Committee	J	29
Sport Science & Technology	K	30
eScout Task Force Plan 2012	L	34
Sports Medicine Committee	M	37
Resource Development Committee	N	39
Parents Committee	O	40
Technology Development Task Force	P	41

*Reports are provided by committee chairs regarding their committee's activities; approval of the submitted reports does not indicate adoption of items within each report.

I. Information

A. General Information and Organizational Items:

General announcements –

Appointment of Parliamentarian.

B. Minutes of the September 20, 2008 Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors

Motion (Mr. Baker): To approve the minutes of the September 20, 2008 Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors (the minutes are attached to this document)

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

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

D. Committee Reports

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

November 2, 2008

- Approved one petition for late entry to NAC B (St. Louis).

November 18, 2008

- Approved appointment of Referee Development Task Force (Mary Mahon (Chair), Gerrie Baumgart, Ed Kaihatsu, Damon Scaggs, Julie Seal).

November 19, 2008

- Approved updated Committee/Task Force list

December 2, 2008

- At the request of our Interim Executive Director, the Executive Committee has authorized her to expand the number of companies from which proposals will be solicited to respond to US Fencing technology needs.
- Committee List modified to reflect a change of the chair of the By-Law Review Task Force from Greg Dilworth to Jane Carter.
- Approved a form of written contract for presentation to Kurt Aichele as Executive Director of US Fencing.

January 6, 2009

- Appointed a panel to investigate alleged misconduct by a coach at an international tournament.
- Approved holding a World Cup (MS/WS/WF) in Dallas, TX, June 19th-22nd, 2009.
- Approved a budget variance of \$11,000 added to the expense column of line 76 (Senior World Cup) and corresponding changes to expenses entries of lines 80 (Total Seniors Programs), 90 (Total International) and 91 (Grand Total), as well as the net figure of all four lines.

January 20, 2008

- Denied one appeal of denial of club representation change request.
- Denied two appeals of denials of petition for qualification to Junior Olympics.

January 30, 2008

- Denied appeal of denial of petition for qualification to Junior Olympics.

February 3, 2008

- Extended the mandate of the Referee Development Task Force through June 1, 2009.
- Denied a request for reimbursement for an unauthorized expense.
- Denied a request for recognition of national points earned by a fencer in contravention of US Fencing eligibility rules.

Motion (Mr. Baker): to approve EC action items.

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

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

II. Budget Phase

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

Budget vs. Actual report for period ending December 31, 2008.

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

III. Unfinished Business

A. Second Hearing

1. **Motion (Mr. Micahnik):** To require the Tournament Committee to modify the promotion criteria in all domestic national competitions as follows:

Number of Entries	Promote
16 or fewer	100%
17, 18, 19	16
20 or more	80%

Second: Mr. Kuver

Rationale: To ensure more “in tournament” bouts for entrants in the events with very small entries. The application of these criteria will diminish and eventually disappear as events become larger. The purpose is to provide motivation to compete in small events despite expensive travel to national events.

The effect on event timetables is minimal, as is the effect on referee requirements.

Tournament Committee Response

The TC feels that the current formats for both the NACs and Summer Nationals appropriately addresses the promotion out of pools and no further adjustments need to be made at this time.

- 2. Motion (Mr. Clements):** To establish a contributory life membership class to be offered to existing fully-paid Life Members, to be known as “Endowment Member.”

An existing fully-paid life member of the Association may become an Endowment Member upon payment of \$1,500.00 to the Association. Endowment Members retain eligibility to vote in USFA elections, but receive additional recognition at USFA events and shall receive credentials including a certificate suitable for framing; a suitably-designed lapel pin, decal, and patch identifying the member as an Endowment Member; and a new membership card identifying the member as an Endowment Member.

Additionally, as an introductory measure, the Executive Director shall be authorized to offer Endowment Membership to the existing roll of life members at a discounted price of not less than \$750.00 for a period of one year following establishment of this class of membership and to offer additional incentive(s) at the discretion of the Executive Director (such as a distinctive jacket or similar gift), but not exceeding \$200 in cost to the Association.

Second: Mr. Dilworth

- 3. Motion (Mr. Streb): QUALIFICATION PATH TO SUMMER NATIONALS THROUGH SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

WHEREAS, the qualification path for Division II fencers to the Summer National Championships through Sectional Championships was previously eliminated, and;

WHEREAS, this has worked a hardship on the organizers of Sectional Championships by reducing the number of fencers and consequently the amount of entry fee revenue;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the prior qualification path for Division II fencers to the Summer National Championships through the Sectional Championships be restored and that the Athlete Handbook, Section 2.11.3, be revised to again state:

DIVISION II

Fencers must have a classification in the weapon of "C", "D", "E" or Unclassified at the time of the qualifying competition AND meet the age requirements as above AND—

- Place in the top 25% of the current season's Division Qualifying competition (see Chapter 2.7.2 for detailed chart) OR
- Qualify for current season's Division I-A National Championships OR
- Qualify for the current season's U-19 National Championships in that weapon OR
- Qualify for the current season's U-16 National Championships in that weapon OR
- Placed in the top 4 at the previous season's Division III National Championships

RATIONALE: Previous board action eliminating the qualification path to the Division II National Championship through the Sectional Championship has decreased attendance for Sectional Championships, and therefore, decreased revenues, making the hosting of the Sectional Championships a greater burden for the organizers. The prior qualification path should be restored. The rationale given for the prior board action eliminating this qualification path was to strengthen Division qualifier events, but there has been no significant impact on Division qualifier events, only a negative impact on Sectional Championship events. An apparent unstated rationale for the prior board action was to reduce the number of fencers qualifying for Division II National Championships; however, assuming *arguendo* there was merit to this unstated rationale, no significant reduction has been achieved in that manner.

Second: Ms. Bell

Tournament Committee Response

With the Board reinstating the Auto qualification for Summer Nationals Division II to Division III events in September 2008, the TC and the National Office believe that the passage of this motion would significantly increase the workload on the National Office in verifying qualification and processing of entries thus creating an excessive increase in expenses and person hours on the National Office staff.

4. Motion (Mr. Streb): Preparation of Executive Committee Report to Sections, Division, and the Membership:

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the Sections, Divisions, and Members of USFA that USFA is in financial difficulty and that the High Performance Committee has been taken over by USOC;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee of USFA shall immediately prepare a report to the Sections, Divisions, and Members of USFA stating (a) the nature of the past financial problems; (b) the plan for correcting the past financial problems; (c) what correction efforts have been made and what efforts will be undertaken within the next 6 months; (d) what correction efforts will take longer than 6 months, and; (e) how management intends to deal with USOC in light of the takeover of the High Performance Committee and any other potential USOC action with respect to USFA. Further, this Report shall state whether USFA will continue to use the same accountants and auditors as in the past, and if so, the reasons therefore. This Report shall state whether USFA will continue to use the same legal counsel as in the past, and if so, the reasons

therefore. This Report shall be made within 30 days on the basis of the best available information.

Second: Ms. Bell

IV. New Business

A. First Hearing

1. Motion (Mr. Micahnik on behalf of the Veterans Committee):

A 70+ category shall be created in events for veterans, on a trial basis for the 2009 Summer Nationals, and for the 2009-2010 season, in the two NAC events and the 2010 Summer Nationals. Specifically:

Rule 2.11 of the Athlete Handbook shall be amended as follows:

Veteran Combined and V40, V50, V60

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

Eligibility (age, classification) Combined: Must be at least 40 years old as of December 31 of the season.

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

V40: Must be at least 40 years old as of December 31 of the current season, and must not have

reached 50 years old as of the first day of the month in which the Veteran World Championships will be held (typically the September after the Summer National Championships).

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

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

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

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

permanent resident.

Qualifying Path – NAC

There is no qualifying path to compete in the NAC Veterans events.

Fencers must meet age requirements as above.

Qualifying Path – Summer National Championships

Fencer must state on entry the competition at which he or she met qualification criteria. Failure to do so will be the basis for rejection of entry. (NAC or points)

VETERAN – must meet age eligibility requirements above **AND** compete in

- Current season Section Championships **OR**
 - Current season Division qualifying competition for Division II and/or Division III Championships
- in which only those with a “C” classification or lower (D, E, or U) may compete **OR**

- Any NAC during the current season.

Seeding

The following ranked fencers are entitled to a seeded draw ahead of all other domestic fencers. See Chapter 2.10 for further details.

Veteran Combined, NAC Top 16 in Combined Veteran points

Veteran Age Championships, NAC Top 8 in Veteran Age points

Format (NAC)

- One round of pools
- 100% promoted out of pools
- No repêchage
- DE bout format: 10 touches in two 3-minute segments. In saber, bouts are fenced to 10 touches, with a 1-minute break when the first fencer reaches 5 touches.

Format (Championships)

- One round of pools
- 80% promoted out of pools; however, if there are 8 or fewer fencers registered in the event, 100% shall be promoted out of the pools [BOD, September , 2008]
- No repêchage
- DE bout format: 10 touches in two 3-minute segments. In saber, bouts are fenced to 10 touches, with a 1-minute break when the first fencer reaches 5 touches.

The Tournament Committee, Executive Committee and other USFA authorities shall make such amendments to the rules and procedures as are necessary to effectuate this resolution.



Comment:

If this amendment to Rule 2.11 is adopted, it will be necessary to amend the USFA Age Eligibility chart to indicate a fourth category of Veterans of **70 & Older**, designated V70, for those fencers Born 9/2/30 or before. The 60 & Older category should remain as is so those fencers over 70 who wish to compete to participate in the Veterans World Championships may continue to do so.

Additionally, the chart for Priority in Seeding USFA Competitions in Rule 2.10 of the Athlete Handbook shall be amended to indicate the new category for Veterans 70 and older. For the first or first few competitions, however, seeding should be random, because it is anticipated that the number of entries will be so small that seeding will not matter (that is, all the competitors will probably be in one preliminary pool).

The following was written by the Tournament Committee in response to a previous, similar motion. It is included here for convenient reference:

Tournament Committee Response

The Tournament Committee (TC) considered the number of fencers entered into the Veteran 60+ events at NAC C 2007, NAC E 2008, Summer Nationals 2008 and NAC C 2008 and separated those fencers who met the birth year requirement for a Veteran 70+ age category.

NAC C 2007

Veteran 60					
M	M	M	W	W	W
E	F	S	E	F	S
38	25	15	9	6	4

Veteran 70					
M	M	M	W	W	W
E	F	S	E	F	S
5	3	3	1	1	1

NAC E 2008

Veteran 60					
M	M	M	W	W	W
E	F	S	E	F	S
34	22	11	7	6	5

Veteran 70					
M	M	M	W	W	W
E	F	S	E	F	S
6	4	1	2	1	1

SN 2008

Veteran 60					
M	M	M	W	W	W
E	F	S	E	F	S
35	23	15	5	6	4

Veteran 70					
M	M	M	W	W	W
E	F	S	E	F	S
6	7	3	1	1	1

NAC C 2008

Veteran 60					
M	M	M	W	W	W
E	F	S	E	F	S
30	22	9	7	7	7

Veteran 70					
M	M	M	W	W	W
E	F	S	E	F	S
2	2	0	1	0	2

The TC determined that at this time the numbers do not warrant the addition of 6 more events at the NACs and Summer Nationals. The TC will continue to monitor birth years and if at such a time the numbers warrant the addition of events, the TC will work to incorporate the Veteran 70+ events into the NACs and Summer Nationals. The TC asks that the Veteran Committee keeps us apprised if and when Veteran 70+ events will be added on the International level.

2. **Motion (Mr. Stasinis on behalf of the Tournament Committee):** To remove the 10am projection requirement from the NAC and Summer Nationals tournament schedules.

Rationale: The purpose of this motion is to remove the requirement of 10 a.m. projection for check-in times passed by the Board of Directors prior to the 2004-2005 season. This requirement has created anomalies in scheduling process; specifically, the inability to schedule some competitions prior to 10 a.m., even though strips have been available. While we can only estimate the number of entries for each competition when creating the schedules, there have been significant variations in the numbers. Had we been able to determine start times based on actual entries, several of the schedules over the past seasons would have been different from those that were required given the 10 a.m. projections.

Beginning with the 2009-2010 season, the Committee and the National Office will adjust the entry deadlines to be at least 6 weeks out from the tournament, with check-in times being posted approximately 4 weeks prior to the tournament. This change in deadline meets the needs of the membership as well as the tournaments they attend.

3. **Motion (Mr. Stasinis on behalf of the Tournament Committee):** To modify calculations for team seeding beginning with Summer Nationals 2009.

Rationale: The purpose of this motion is to make an adjustment to the points awarded to those individuals on the National Rolling Point Standings. The Tournament Committee believes the adjustment improves the point distribution in developing team seeding.

National Pt. Standing	Current Additional Pts.	Recommended
1	132	132
2	131	131
3	130	130
4	129	129
5	128	128
6	127	127
7	126	126
8	125	125
9	124	124
10	123	123
11	122	122
12	121	121
13	120	120
14	119	119
15	118	118
16	117	117
17	116	116
18	115	115
19	114	114
20	113	113
21	112	112
22	111	111
23	110	110
24	109	109
25	108	108
26	107	107
27	106	106
28	105	105
29	104	104
30	103	103
31	102	102
32	101	101
33	50	91
34	50	90
35	50	89
36	50	88
37	50	87
38	50	86
39	50	85
40	50	84
41	50	83
42	50	82
43	50	81
44	50	80

45	50	79
46	50	78
47	50	77
48	50	76
49	50	75
50	50	74
51	50	73
52	50	72
53	50	71
54	50	70
55	50	69
56	50	68
57	50	67
58	50	66
59	50	65
60	50	64
61	50	63
62	50	62
63	50	61
64	50	60
65	50	50
66	50	49
67	50	48
68	50	47
69	50	46
70	50	45
71	50	44
72	50	43
73	50	42
74	50	41
75	50	40
76	50	39
77	50	38
78	50	37
79	50	36
80	50	35

4. Motion (Mr. Berke):

Beginning with the 2009-2010 USFA season, additional exemptions will be made to the rule requiring competitors to be age 13 or older to compete in senior events. This will be reflected in Section 2.5 (“Eligibility to Compete”) of the Athlete’s Handbook as follows:

Old text:

For any USFA competition that is not specific to an age group, the fencer must be at least 13 years old as of January 1 of the current fencing season. The fencing season is the same as the membership year, August 1 through the following July 31. ~~The exception to this rule is that a fencer who is on the Junior national rolling point standings (NRPS) at the entry deadline for the competition and is younger than 13 as of January 1 of the current fencing season will be allowed to compete in the USFA competitions not specific to an age group.~~

New text:

For any USFA competition that is not specific to an age group, the fencer must be at least 13 years old as of January 1 of the current fencing season. The fencing season is the same as the membership year, August 1 through the following July 31. **An exception to this rule will be granted to fencers that meet at least one of the following criteria:**

- 1. The fencer is on the National Junior point standings in that weapon.**
- 2. The fencer is on the National Cadet point standings in that weapon.**
- 3. The fencer is ranked in the top 32 of the National Youth-14 point standings in that weapon.**
- 4. The fencer has earned a classification of “D” or higher and is at least 12 years old as of January 1 of the current fencing season.**

Related text that mentions the 13-year-old age limit in Section 2.3 (“Types of Competitions”) and Section 2.11 (“Specific Events - Division I”, “Specific Events -Division IA”, and “Specific Events - Division II & Division III”) also must be modified to reflect this change. It is recommended that these Sections refer the reader to Section 2.5 rather than reprinting the detailed list of exceptions.

Rationale:

As awareness and subsequent enforcement of the 13-year-old minimum age has grown, many capable youth fencers are not eligible to compete with adults. These fencers may only compete in youth events which, in many parts of the nation, are not strong events. Denying these fencers the ability to compete with more experienced adults significantly limits their access to meaningful competition and development as fencers.

The current rule allows an exception for talented youth fencers that have earned Junior points. This exception acknowledges that strong youth fencers are perfectly capable of fencing with adults. However, this sets the bar too high and denies many otherwise capable fencers the same opportunity.

The intent of this motion is to expand the number of fencers that may receive this exception by acknowledging that there are other avenues to demonstrate

proficiency other than by earning Junior points. Allowing 12-year-olds that have earned a “D” classification is a reasonable compromise, since it requires a top-placing result in events classified C1 or better. This is not as wide-ranging a situation as it sounds – based on current membership roles, it would qualify approximately 20 additional fencers this season.

The inclusion of the “D” classification criteria raises the “value” of youth events, which may lead to better turnout, even in areas that traditionally do not draw as many competitors.

5. **Motion (Mr. Baker):** To adopt rules changes to reflect a change in the target area in foil to include a portion of the lower bib, matching the current rules in effect for FIE competition. The effective date of these rules changes will be August 1, 2009 for all national tournaments and qualifiers to national tournaments. The effective date of these rules changes will be August 1, 2010 for all other competitions at all levels governed by the rules of US Fencing.

Rationale: Now that the new target area has actually gone into use internationally it appears significantly less likely that there will be additional near-term modifications to these rules. It is important that US Fencing stay in sync with the rules used in fencing in the rest of the world.

While it is noted that there are significant costs to retrofitting existing equipment, this is a cost which is unavoidable if we wish to remain in conformity with the most recent developments in the sport.

B. Disciplinary Hearings:

1. Review and consider the report and recommendations of panel formed to investigate alleged misconduct of Eric Dew.
2. Review and consider the report and recommendations of panel formed to investigate alleged misconduct of Matthew Hite.
3. Review and consider the report and recommendations of panel formed to investigate alleged misconduct of Frank van Dyke.

V. Good and Welfare

1. The next Special Meeting of the Board of Directors – July

Appendix A
Kalle Weeks
President's Report

The focus of the officers and the EC since September has primarily been on matters requiring immediate attention. We conducted a successful search for a new Executive Director, culminating in the hiring of Kurt Aichele, who joined the staff on December 15th. As is the case at the beginning of each quad, we put forward candidates for various FIE offices and conducted an international campaign to enlist support for their candidacy from other federations. Sunil Sabharwal was elected to the Executive Committee, Derek Cotton to the Arbitrage Commission, Sam Chervis to the Legal Commission, and Dan DeChaine to SEMI.

Closer to home we established committees and task forces, which, as you will see from their reports, have moved forward at different paces. Of particular note is the work of the Resource Development Committee, which has set forth ambitious yet practical plans to enhance our finances as well as our visibility. The Referee Development Task Force has set forth a variety of ways to address how we enhance our referee corps, and will continue to refine its findings to create a comprehensive program. Still in the organizational phase is the Parent Advisory Group, which is working on its mission statement and exploring various potential projects.

With the support of the board and a small group of dedicated volunteers, the National Open Circuit, a new category of events, has been established. And with the appointment of Courtney Winninger as the Youth Development Manager at the National Office, support for this aspect of our program is significantly enhanced; the 2009-2010 SYC bid packets are available on the web, and decisions about these events will be made early in the spring.

Our relationship with the USOC has been positive; we have addressed a variety of financial issues and continue to maintain open and cordial communications with these colleagues. Our coaches have developed plans to build on our Olympic successes, even in the face of increased costs and smaller resources.

There are significant tasks ahead for us: continuing to manage our finances responsibly, bylaws reform and strategic planning, as well as ensuring that our tournaments and other activities move forward productively and efficiently. And we must do so within the national and international financial context. Some of our members have lost their jobs, others are doing the work of two—or three—in downsized businesses. For many this means less discretionary income, less time to volunteer.

We have begun to see what the financial situation means for us in our tournament numbers: for the first time entries have decreased across the board at our NACs and JOs, starting in November, 2009. In the past, entries moved up and down, often in response to the venue location, and in percentages that hovered in the single digits. What we are experiencing now is both a more consistent pattern and is in some cases much larger in scope. Entries were down 22% from last year for NAC C, and are down 17% for JOs (as of 1/28). We have responded to these downturns by decreasing our tournament staffing levels, but venue costs are set by contract, so tournaments that in the past were breaking even or making money may well come in over budget. As we plan for future we will have to consider how best to work with reduced

entries and therefore with reduced income.

Even as we face these challenges, there is much to celebrate; our cadet and junior fencers have had impressive results in Europe already this season, and our senior fencers are poised for success as well. Our membership numbers are stable or increasing, with, for example, a 27% increase in 3-year coach memberships, and a 30% increase in Junior 3-year memberships. We have reservoirs of talent and energy that are beginning to be tapped to continue to realize fencing's potential; bigger and better things are on the horizon as we move ahead as a sport and as an organization.

Appendix B
Mark Stasinos
Vice-Presidents Report
January 8, 2009

The Referee Task force was created and given assignment in November to examine other Sports and Federations in their development of the grassroots to elite referees. The Task Force was chaired by Mary Mahon, with additional members of the group, Gerrie Baumgart, Julie Seal, Damon Scaggs and Ed Kaihatsu. The final report of information was to be presented on January 20, 2009 to the EC and it's findings then to be passed on to the Fencing Officials Commission. I am hopeful the final report will be available for review at the Board of Directors Meeting this summer. This is what their mission was to accomplish:

Referee Development Task Force.

This Task Force has as its purpose the gathering of information to present to the Executive Committee and the Fencing Officials Commission to assist the FOC in better serving the referees and their development on all levels.

Rationale:

There has been a lack of understanding amongst our officials regarding the process of development and advancement in our ratings system. The need for consistent communication and mentoring is a must; in addition we need to explore how to do this more effectively both regionally and nationally. Some of the questions that need to be explored are:

1. How do other International Federations and National Governing Bodies deal with the promotion and demotion of their referees?
2. What other systems are there that have mentoring programs and how do they operate?
3. What measures can be recommended to make clear the processes and procedures for referee advancement?
4. What recommendations can be made regarding the process of reducing individual's ratings?
5. What is the best way to deal with the critiques and criticism of referees' performance?

The task force will focus on these questions and any others that may arise as a result of their research.

The Task Force will consist of 5 individuals:

Mary Mahon: Chairman of the Task Force

Gerrie Baumgart: Chairman of Grassroots Development, FOC

Damon Scaggs: Member FOC

Ed Kaihatsu

Julie Seal

The Task Force will begin November 20th, 2008 and report to the Executive Committee with their findings and recommendations by January 20th 2009

Mark Stasinos, Vice President

The development and advancement of referee's is high a high priority for me during this Quad. Gerrie Baumgart is the Chair for the Grass Roots Development Committee and has begun the process of distributing new seminar and testing materials for examiners. With Derek Cotton's election to the FIE Arbitrage, he resigned as chair of the Elite Referee Development Committee

for the FOC. Mr. Cheris will be selecting a new chair for the Elite Referee Development. The remaining FOC business will be presented in Sam Cheris' report for the FOC.

The Tournament Committee is working on a number of projects at this time. I will ask you to refer to the TC Report to the BOD. I would just like to acknowledge the commitment and seriousness that Tanya Brown and her group have demonstrated since their appointments in September and their commitment to improving our National Tournaments and Championships. In addition, I am confident that outlines for formalized training programs will soon be in place before next season for the development of additional bout committee personal and technicians for regional and national events.

There has been no action or business to date taken or submitted by the Divisions and Sections Resource Group.

Appendix C
Vice President Report, Jerry Benson
Board of Directors Meeting, February 14, 2009

I will start with the area with which I am having difficulties, or in other words, the area with which I am not having the success I would like. I have been unable to find a working Chair for the Club Development and Support Task Force. This, in my opinion, is one of our most important groups, and one that could have a direct effect on our success in the future. Given the current economic situation, our clubs need more support and help than ever before. We started the year right after Beijing with most clubs showing a positive growth in membership. Across the nation, many were reporting a 15-20% increase. In talking to other club owners, I have found that this growth has stopped or at least slowed down. Many clubs did use the information and help provided on the web site and initially obtained some very positive results. However, these results appear to be fading. We have a good group of members on the committee, but we need a Chair who can spend the time and energy directing their efforts and goals. We have been looking for volunteers from the ranks of current club owners, but many now seem to not have the time to volunteer. I hope to be able to suggest a new name to the President before this meeting.

The Paralympic Development Resource Group has been very active, and I will let its report speak for the efforts and hard work of its members. Our Resource Development Committee lost one of its key members due to health reasons but has been able to recover and move on. Although you may have not heard a lot from this Committee, it has been meeting frequently and working very hard and to have programs and suggestions ready for the incoming Executive Director. The Resource Development Committee is now ready to hit the ground running and soon hopes to be able to start programs that will show some results. Again, I refer you to the Chair's report for the particulars. Sports Medicine is working to develop our current staff and to recruit more volunteer staff to be able to address our needs both domestically and internationally. The Chair of the Sports Science Technology Task Force has meet with several coaches and with the design team to try to get a working product to our coaches using e-scout as soon as possible. Please refer to the Chair's report. Finally, the Hall of Fame Committee is getting ready for the annual election and installation of new members into our Hall of Fame at Summer Nationals

As a member of the EC, I am very excited about the hiring of our new Executive Director, Kurt Aichele. He has impressed me in a very short time. The demands of this job were going to be immediate with no time to settle in or prepare. Kurt has somehow found a way to hit the ground running. I have also found him very open to ideas and he is willing to listen to suggestions. I refer you to his report. I hope we all give him as much support as possible and that, if we are asked to help, we do not hesitate to volunteer to do our part. Although we have been able to stop the "bleeding", we are still not out of the hospital yet. Much cooperation, understanding, patience, and hard work are still needed before we totally recover.

With Respect,

Jerry Benson

Appendix D
Vice President's report
Ro Sobalvarro

The first half of this year has been challenging and rewarding as we have begun to restructure high performance and move the national youth program into the next phase.

The high performance group, comprised of the National Coaches and the interim Director of High Performance, developed and submitted the High Performance Plan (HPP) to the USOC in October. The quad plan used in determining funding levels for elite athlete programs was well received.

The funding level for this year, while still below what was requested, was somewhat greater than the 2005 level that was anticipated. However the tight budgets are a problem for our international programs and discussions are on going as to how the amounts can be used to best move us towards our goals in 2012.

The hiring process has begun for a new Director of High Performance.

The youth program had a rocky beginning with late scheduling of SYCs and some vacancies among the regional coordinators. Currently, the SYC calendar has been completed and posted, bid are being sought for next seasons SYCs, and a revamped job description for the regional coordinators is being finalized. Submitted bids will be reviewed by a group outside the Youth Committee and a final calendar will be in place for '09 – '10 season by May.

Courtney Winninger has been hired as youth program manager at the National Office to help handle the continued growth of youth fencing. Ms Winninger will work with the committee to implement policies, handle daily operations, allow for better communication with parents and coaches, and further expand the opportunities for youth athletes.

Appendix E
Secretary's Report
Bradley Baker

Three new task forces were created in late September that currently report to the Secretary. All got started somewhat slowly and have progressed at variable rates since then. The most active has been the Technology Planning Task Force, which is working in coordination with the National Office and several standing committees to help identify the needs of the Association in the realm of technology over both the short- and long-term.

An RFP has been sent out to a number of identified potential bidders for the creation of a new technology infrastructure. Responses to the RFP have been received and are currently undergoing a process of review. It is anticipated that significant new systems will be coming online in time for the start of the 2009-2010 membership year. More importantly than short-term fixes, the new infrastructure is being designed from the beginning with long-term needs in mind and should provide a platform which can be expanded and extended to fulfill future requirements, both identifiable and unknown.

This is a significant undertaking, which should provide considerable benefits to the organization both internally and in interactions with the membership and external relationships.

I'd also like to take time to bring attention to a number of new and on-going activities which aren't officially a part of US Fencing, which nevertheless are contributing to the growth and development of our sport. Much of the good that takes place in the fencing community is caused by the efforts of individuals working on their own simply to make something good happen.

Recent examples of this include the "10,000 Fencers" effort being led by Tim Morehouse and Jason Rogers – and the associated email blasts and blog postings by Tim – and Dan Kellner's "Sofa Employed" blog. 10,000 Fencers (<http://www.tenthousandfencers.com/>) is a campaign to introduce the sport to 10,000 new people. Tim Morehouse has also been sending out frequent email messages and chronicling his training and competition activities since Beijing. On Sofa Employed (<http://www.sofaemployed.com/>), Dan Kellner has been fielding a wide variety of questions related to many aspects of fencing from the elementary to what goes through the mind of an Olympian during competition. These efforts from current and recent Olympians and National Team members provide an unusual and invaluable resource and look into what goes into being at the very pinnacle of our sport.

Other well-known examples have existed for considerably longer periods of time. Peet Sasaki's askFRED (<http://www.askfred.net>) has gained wide-spread use in nearly every division in the country as a convenient location for posting tournaments and, more recently, clinics. Fencing.net (<http://www.fencing.net>), operated by Craig Harkins, continues to expand and offers a wide variety of information and services, most notably a widely-read forum with thousands of members from around the world.

Not directly related to US Fencing activities, but covering our sport, is the very new (less than

three weeks old) College Fencing 360 (<http://www.collegefencing360.com>), written by Pete LaFleur, a former Assistant Sports Information Director at Notre Dame. CF360 examines the world of collegiate fencing, focusing primarily on NCAA varsity competition. As a new site, the format is slightly in flux, but it's already clear that it will provide a valuable resource for those looking for information on this particular corner of our world. I have high hopes for what CF360 will become and how it can help raise awareness of fencing to a significantly wider audience than would otherwise be possible.

While askFRED and Fencing.net have morphed into commercial enterprises, all of these are examples of how individuals working to fill a perceived need have helped to improve things for us all. We have hundreds of dedicated and involved volunteers working within the US Fencing structure, but we also have many people working on their own initiative. Both are essential to the improvement and development of fencing in this country.

Continued growth in our sport relies on the efforts of many people working both collectively and independently. Activities official and unofficial can provide significant contributions. There are many places inside the Association's organization where we are looking for help from the undeniable skills and experiences of our membership. There are at least as many places outside of our official structures where the application of a bit of effort can yield considerable returns.

Appendix F
Tournament Committee Report
Tanya Brown

As of the writing of this report, three NACs have been completed serving 4,999 competitors which is down 4% from this time last season; for the most part it appears that the competitors have continued to find the tournaments to be a positive experience; however some concerns have been raised. Among these are the same weapon events happening on the same day throughout the season, the posting of check-in times prior to number of fencers being known, thus affecting the way the tournaments are run, and the overall tournament schedules.

These concerns were discussed at the Tournament Committee's meeting in December. The Committee decided to move to an AM/PM projection for the remainder of the 2008-2009 season with posting of check-in times approximately one week after the first entry deadline (for Junior Olympics and Summer Nationals the check-in time schedule may be posted 2-3 weeks after the first entry deadline).

Beginning with the 2009-2010 season, the Committee and the National Office will adjust the entry deadlines to be at least 6 weeks out from the tournament, with check-in times being posted approximately 4 weeks prior to the tournament. This change in deadline meets the needs of the membership as well as the tournaments they attend. The Committee will also be revisiting the Scheduling Criteria and the tournament schedule review process.

The Committee has formed a Tournament Technology subgroup whose primary task will be to look at and advance tournament technology and create a greener environment.

During this quad the Committee plans on looking at our tournament structure, the classification system, formalized Bout Committee training process, and other enhancements to our tournaments.

Appendix G
LEGAL RESOURCE GROUP REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Donald W. Alperstein, General Counsel
January, 2009

Since the last meeting of the Board, the LRG has been actively engaged in the following tasks:

1. Negotiating and drafting the Executive Director employment agreement;
2. Drafting, in conjunction with staff, National Coach Contract extensions;
3. Reviewing and advising staff on a number of third party contracts;
4. Overseeing multiple disciplinary proceedings;
5. Providing ongoing and special attention to the continuing problems of the several divisions and sections on matters of elections, governance and fiduciary responsibility, including financial accountability;
6. Assisting with the formulation and drafting of various codes and policies for international teams and cadre;
7. Advising staff with regard to requests for information from participants in ongoing litigation between members of the USFA to which the USFA is not a party;
8. Coordinating with staff, the administration, the FOC and the Technical Committee to formulate a response to a fencer's inquiry based on religious tenets;
9. Addressing questions concerning the propriety of certain expenditures and the request for reimbursement thereof;
10. Monitoring and participating in ongoing litigation with a former USFA licensee/vendor;
11. Mediating a financial dispute between an USFA subdivision and a member club;
12. Coordinating the investigation of allegations of financial, ethical and contractual improprieties against a member/contractor; and
13. Advising numerous individuals, committees, divisions and other USFA interests regarding Bylaw provisions, athlete rights and responsibilities and procedural matters for the preparation and presentation of motions and routine legal inquiries.

To the best of counsel's knowledge, there are no immediate threats of additional litigation against the organization, although we have handled several matters in which members or their representatives, including attorneys, have mentioned litigation as an option for redressing real or perceived grievances.

At present, the Legal Resources Group is within its budget and, barring the unexpected, will continue to be so.

As always, I wish to express my great appreciation for the efforts and assistance of Steve Sobel, John Springgate, Aaron Clements and Sam Cheris for their donations of time and expertise. Their contributions are considerable and given *gratis* at significant personal inconvenience and cost. These special individuals deserve public recognition and the USFA's thanks.

Appendix H Veteran's Committee Report

A Veterans Fencers' Meeting was held on Saturday, December 13, 2008, in the Officials Lounge at the Broadmoor Hall, at the Colorado Springs, Colorado NAC, which was attended by approximately 40 veteran fencers and Mr. Brad Baker, Secretary, USFA. The attendees were informed that the USFA Board of Directors did not accept the motion to modify rule 2.11.6 in the 2007-2008 Athlete Handbook, as proposed by Judge Paul Levy to introduce a separate 70+ category at NAC and National Championships. Judge Levy had previously explained to the Chair of the Veterans Committee that the Board would not support his proposed method, which would have the 70+ fencers in a unique pool. The reason is that would skew the seeding for the 60+ event in that a 70+ fencer would get a high seed for only fencing 70 year-old fencers, while the rest had to fence all those from 60 through 69.

The overall strategy for the Veterans Committee which had been previously advocated was that we need to provide an avenue of competition for the 70+ fencers that would eventually convince the FIE to create a separate event at the World Championships.

An appropriate alternative was recommended to hold a separate event for 70+ fencers, as long as there were at least 3 competitors, on the same day as the 60+ events. The 70+ fencers could decide to fence in either competitions or just one; if he or she was concerned that the 70+ events would hurt their chances for the 60+ events or that he or she had no interest in the 60+ events.

The veteran fencers present unanimously agreed to have Judge Levy attend the USFA Board of Directors meeting to sponsor the recommended motion in Albuquerque and argue in its favor.

Mr. Philip Gerring has submitted his resignation from the USFA Veterans Committee. This means that there are currently four vacancies on the Veteran Committee and it is critical that the USFA appoint a diverse group of new members willing to serve in this capacity. The Veteran fencers attending the meeting overwhelmingly supported the idea that Judge Paul Levy replace Mr. Gerring on the Veteran Committee because of his vast fencing experience on a national and international level as the former chair of the Veteran Committee. It was also suggested that an additional lady be selected to become a part of the Veterans Committee. The USFA was requested to expeditiously move forward in the appointment of individuals to replace the needed members of the Veteran Committee.

The Veteran Committee wants to express how pleased and proud that the US Veteran Fencing Community is with the results achieved by the US Team, which won a total of 9 medals at the 2008 World Championships in Limoges, France. The Championships had over 400 athletes, 35 national teams, constituting the largest Veterans Fencing World Championships ever held since its inception. The Veteran Committee would like to express its thanks to Mr. Scott Harkey for volunteering his services as the team's armorer. In addition, the Veteran Committee recognizes the support of Mr. Brad Baker, who agreed to referee at the World Championships on very short notice. Without Ms. Jeanna Mendoza's continued hard work on behalf of the team members our efforts could have been realized in Limoges, France. Many Thanks.

The Moscow Veterans Fencing World Championships, which will take place September 23-27, 2009 – will require a more substantial cadre of volunteers that will constitute the Official Cadre

of the US Veterans Team to ensure complete and effective support of the team members. It is recommended that the team has a Chief of Mission, a Captain, a Doctor, a Coach, a Trainer and Armorer. Numerous issues were raised at the Limoges Veterans Fencing World Championships that required the specific attention and expertise of all of the aforementioned positions, including translation responsibilities. These issues will be multiplied as a result of the lack of adequate Russian language skills available for the team.

The Heads of Delegations meeting, October 4, 2008 at the World Championships in Limoges, France, which was requested by the delegations to be Chaired by the USFA Chair of the USFA Veteran Committee resulted in some key recommendations to the FIE, which was represented at the meeting by Mr. Max Geuter. There were issues that are important to the veteran fencing community in the United States that should be addressed by the USFA in the future, in that it was unanimously agreed that:

Future organizers of a World Championship must ensure that expenses for the event must be covered by the published FIE rate for entry fees to Veterans Fencing World Championships should be obligatory.

The FIE be approached for a derogation regarding referees in that active and respected ex FIE listed referees, who have due to being over 60 years been removed from the FIE referees lists, be allowed to referee in the World Veterans Championships until the age of 65 if they have continued to be active for one year prior to their 60th birthday.

The FIE be approached for a derogation, or a change of rules, so that the use of transparent masks should not be obligatory in Veterans World championships. The point should be made that there is no TV presence at the championships and that excessive costs are incurred participants who have to meet all of their own expenses with many of pension able age.

It was agreed that the use of conductive bibs at foil should be adopted in line with FIE timescale.

The use of wireless scoring and video review should not be the rule for veteran world championships and that the FIE be approached for a derogation.

It was recommended to have a team championship alongside the individual World Championships. It was generally accepted with the suggestion that this be initiated in a gradual way, to be able to assess its effect on the organizers and the level of participation.

It was agreed that a pilot event be added to the championships program, as was done with Women's Saber, as soon as possible.

The team event should be based on 9 bouts per match, not relay. The teams should consist of 3 persons per team with a minimum age per person of 50 years and an aggregate age to be determined. The question of team; whether members must have entered the individual event was not resolved and needs clarification.

The FIA consider that there be an expansion of the number of veteran fencing categories at the Veteran World Championships to be more in sync with the veteran competitions held in different European countries that have the 70 + category. In addition, consideration should be given to the

formation of a veteran masters category for fencers over 30 and veterans 40 +.

The Veteran Fencing World Championships organizers must ensure that the website publish all information in the three official FIE languages; French Spanish and English.
All information and communication at the Championships be translated for all participants in the official FIE languages.

The organizers must ensure that their website is being properly managed to enable participants to communicate with organizing officials.

The Veterans Committee received information that there should be a change in the Veteran NAC association with Division II and III NAC because it would subject the veteran fencers to referees that were still in a training cycle. Mr. Brad Baker, Secretary of the USFA indicated that the USFA has done everything possible to enhance the quality level of officials in USFA competitions. Everyone in attendance at the Veterans Meeting in Colorado Springs expressed their pleasure with the caliber of officials in Colorado Springs NAC. It was noted that the percentage of the officials scheduled to participate in the March NAC (Vet and Div II and III) would be in training. This does not mean that there will not be highly qualified officials that will handle the finals within each event. It was noted that this be brought to the attention of the USFA Tournament Committee. Mr. Campana agreed to again set out for the USFA the concerns raised by the Veterans Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Rinaldo A. Campana
Chair

January 31, 2009

Appendix I
Wheelchair Task Force
Report to the Board of Directors
January 2009

The task force for wheelchair fencing was created anew in the fall of 2008. Task force members include: Gary van der Wege (chair), Sean Shumate, Dennis Aspy, Jon Moss, Michael Dasaro Jr., Terry Harkey and Ginny Boydston , with Les Stawicki and Christine Simmons as advisors.

With the simple charge of ‘increase wheelchair fencing in the US’, we have set forth the following mission statement:

Whereas there is a need and desire to provide access to the sport of fencing to the disabled community, it shall be the goal of the WHEELCHAIR FENCING TASK FORCE of the USFA to do the following:

Increase the number of grass root and competitive wheelchair fencers in the US.

Help further the development of coaching for wheelchair fencers in the US.

Increase communication among all persons with an interest in wheelchair fencing.

Provide more training and competitions for wheelchair fencers.

Create and/or utilize human, monetary, equipment and facility resources to achieve these goals.

With no budget or funding available at this point, we felt our primary emphasis was to create a database of both athletes and coaches, and institute a regularly scheduled newsletter to keep everyone informed and stimulate communication. The first *Sit and Fight* Newsletter went out in December.

With Mario Rodriguez acting as web master, a new website was launched. *wheelchairfencer.org* is now online and in the process of being linked to both the USFA and other sites.

It is disheartening that US Paralympics has decided to not provide any funding to our program, so we are asking that complete governance of our program be changed to that of the USFA. We understand that the current financial constraints may make things difficult, but also look forward to the potential of new outside resources.

Our competition focus will be on having a good turn-out for the Atlanta NAC and Summer Nationals, and are also looking to create more regional events including combined AB and chair competition formats. There is a dire need of training camps for both athletes and coaches.

We will continue to seek creative new ways to market our program to both the potential athlete and coach. We humbly believe even the smallest amount of funding will be put to good use and is sorely needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary M van der Wege

Appendix J
Hall of Fame Committee

The Hall of Fame committee is currently considering 23 suggested nominees. 13 of those suggestions came from the USFA membership who are not part of the HOF committee. We believe that the Hall of Fame website (<http://usfencinghalloffame.com/>) is responsible for allowing more USFA members to be a part of the process. In addition to those 23, we are considering a number of formerly nominated individuals who failed to get enough votes for election to the HOF. We will decide if any of these individuals should be re-submitted to Congress this year.

Sincerely,

Andy Shaw
Chairman, Hall of Fame committee

Appendix K
SPORTS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY REPORT
USFA Board of Directors Meeting – February 2009
Dr. John Heil
PROGRAMS & SERVICES
September 2008- January 2009

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Technology

eScout (Electronic Scouting Project)

An electronic scouting tool intended to enhance competitiveness of US Fencers by providing tactical information including: “Statistical” (data files- e.g., Match/Bout Stats); “Descriptive” (word file, e.g. athlete books) and “Video” (video files - Video Book).

Designed for use on PDA (handheld) allowing stripside information retrieval (and real time stripside scoring)

Personal Computer version provides enhanced display, data analytic and storage capacity

Recent Developments

From September to December continued development by John Heil (US Fencing), project leader; Bobga Danjuma (LiviaSoft) software designer; and, Mike Leigh (USOTC) sport technology specialist

Demo and critique for USOTC Technology staff in December 09 (in conjunction with Colorado Springs NAC) with continued conceptual and logistical support.

Demo of eScout for coaches and administrators at Colorado Springs NAC with release for initial use and continued beta testing to Zoltan Dudas, Ed Kaihatsu, Michael Marx/Darius Wei.

(Additional release to coaches are pending.)

Access to program has been provided to the Technology Task Force

eScout Value estimates

Estimate of investment

Actual expenditures + estimate of “pro bono” consulting time = \$50,000

-Software design costs (Danjuma) ~\$13,000

-Project manager time (Heil) ~\$25,000 (~1,000 hours @ \$25/hr)

-USOTC sport technology consultant time (Leigh) ~\$3,000 (~125 hours @ 25/hr.)

-Additional Consultant time (Largman, Snider, Soter & varied meetings with coaches) ~\$5,000 (200 hours @ 25/hr)

-Travel costs which allowed project development incurred as part of sport science service delivery over the last 2 quads (\$4,000)

Cost of comparable PDA technology (Other sport, e.g., Baseball)

80 total units x 124.95/unit = \$10,000 (= current cash investment)

Cost of providing 10 units to each of 6 weapon squads (60) and 20 total units to sport science committee, referee/officials, technology task force, and media relations

“Reference”Products

Digital Scout

Digital Scout (for Baseball) = \$249.95

Digital Scout (for Football) = \$499.95

Digital Scout (for Basketball, Softball, Soccer, Volleyball, Hockey) = \$149.95

Approved by USA Baseball, USA Softball, ASA Softball, Little League Baseball, AAU USA

Turbostats

Turbostats ScoreKeeper (for Baseball & Softball) = \$99.95/unit

Turbostats ScoreKeeper (for Basketball) = \$124.95/unit

Project Value Added

eScout is not just a cost but also an investment

As an in-house proprietary technology there is the possibility of generating an income stream by eventual sale of data and/or technology to end users such as coaches, athletes, referees, researchers, broadcast media etc.

Proprietary status of software program allows virtually open ended use by members of the organization at minimal cost

Because of the general applicability of this technology to other martial arts, components of the software design can be transferred at cost savings to other NGBs and allow fast tracking of development of similar technology. Using eScout for Fencing as a base, it will save an estimated 35%-40% development time when transferring to other combat sports.

The mobility of eScout allows extension of USOC EoP (Eye on Performance) in-house technology to varied competitive settings, and as such is a complementary technology

The role of statistics in sport is growing and well established in high revenue sports. The window of opportunity to be a leader in this technology is open to US Fencing. Sooner or later the use of statistics will become a mainstream element of sport science across sports. It is to the advantage of US Fencing to lead the way here

Project Status

Additional funding needed to continue program development (see attached proposal)

Nutrition

Have renewed relationship with the Athlete Performance Group (High profile elite athlete training centers located throughout USA- headquartered in Phoenix, AZ) to provide nutrition based articles in American Fencing Magazine. There is a possibility of expanding this consulting relationship.

Strength & Conditioning and Injury Prevention Programs

Pilot program being developed at Twin Cities Fencing Center – status unknown at this time

Sport Psychology

Team Game Project Report Technical Report by John Heil & Paul Soter is near ready for release.

This report focuses on team fencing and presents results of the Team Game Project initiated in the Athens Quad and continued into the early period of the Beijing Quad before going dormant due to funding and administrative constraints

USFA EVENT CONSULTATION

Sport Psychology & Sport Science Consultation

2008 NAC, Colorado Springs (Report submitted.) Partially self-funded - \$512.

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 Medicine and Science 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

Pending articles on nutrition and sport statistics

Fencing.net

Contribute series of three articles on sport psychology in the Olympic Games to supplement comprehensive Olympics coverage provided by fencing.net

Beijings Games; Psychology of the team game

Contact: Dr. John Heil, Psychological Health * Roanoke

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Phone-Direct: 540-772-5147

jheil@PsychHealthRoanoke.com

Technical Reports/Information Archive

Heil, J., Buford, B., Chirby, B, Gore, K. (2007). US Fencing Referee Study of Stress & Coping. United States Fencing Association Technical Report No. 2007-01. Colorado Springs, CO: United States Olympic Training Center.

Heil, J. & Gregory, J. (2004). Modern Pentathlon Mental Training Protocol. United States Fencing Association Technical Report (No. 2004-01). Colorado Springs, CO: United States Olympic Training Center.

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Heil, J., Hartman, D., Robinson, G., & Teegarden, L. (2000). Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder: Identification and Management in Athletes. United States Fencing Association Technical Report (No. 2000-01). Colorado Springs, CO: United States Olympic Training Center.

Heil, J. & Soter, P. (2003). Stripside Coaching . United States Fencing Association Technical Report (No. 2003-01). Colorado Springs, CO: United States Olympic Training Center
A proprietary document available for limited distribution to coaches while awaiting posting to a secure web site.

Heil, J. & Zealand, C. (2001). Psychological Skills Training Manual. United States Fencing Association Technical Report (No. 2001-01). Colorado Springs, CO: United States Olympic Training Center.
Previously distributed as electronic book to Clubs as part of membership fee for 2005

"Psychological Preparation of the Fencer" by Tyshler & Midler – Translation of Soviet text on Sport Psychology with annotated guide prepared by Dr. Steve Hesky

Copies available at USOTC Information Resource Center

Appendix L
eScout Task Force Plan 2012
Revision & update of report previously submitted
Dr. John Heil

eScout Description

An electronic scouting tool intended to enhance competitiveness of US Fencers by providing tactical information regarding competitors.

Holds 3 sources of information: “Statistical” (data files- e.g., Match/Bout Stats); “Descriptive” (word file, e.g. athlete books) and “Video” (video files - Video Book).

Designed for use on PDA (handheld) and PC devices.

The PDA application allows stripside information retrieval (and real time stripside scoring

The PC application mimics the PDA version with enhanced display, data analytic and storage capacity

Other potential applications include: broadcast information resource, referee training, research applications (e.g., trainee and master official can simultaneously code bouts and compare for accuracy and uniformity).

Brief History

Development began as an outgrowth of the Sport Psychology Team Game Project (lead by Heil & Soter) with the goal of speeding competitive development by enhancing tactical preparation.

When review of existing sport performance technologies revealed no suitable commercial product, a decision was made to explore direct product development. In consultation from Mike Leigh of USOC Sport Performance - Technology (and with additional assistance by a US Fencing start-up committee), Heil investigated hardware and software options – and identified the PDA as the most viable option when considering cost and versatility (in particular, stripside use). After a hiatus, funding was provided by US Fencing to hire a software designer, Bobga Danjuma. Danjuma and Heil worked collaboratively on product development through alpha testing to release candidate status, with continued consultation from Leigh of the USOC.

Coaches Korfanty, Pederson & Soter identified coding schemes for their respective weapons. Korfanty requested additional development of video playback capability (eScoutV), which was initiated following approval by Michael Massik.

Project Status

eScout PDA – “Ready for Use” with initial release to a select group of coaches

eScout PC – “In development” - Initial version will mimic PDA with similar screen layouts (to facilitate ease of transition), with simultaneous viewing of statistical, word and video files. PC will also provide greater ease of navigation. The PC design is compatible with off-the-shelf statistical programs allowing extensive unique data analysis.

Recommended Task Force Personnel – Skill Sets

Project Manger

Software designer – Bobga Danjuma is under contract through completion of first edition

Statistics specialist

National Coach

IT Specialist/Systems Engineer

Security/Legal specialist
Video storage & editing specialist

Goals

2008-2009 Season

Complete initial version of all systems on PDA and PC, and field test with Task Force leading/assisting coaches and other end users

Initiate development of centralized information storage and retrieval

Development of unified bout coding strategies (by National Coaches) to optimize uniformity in coding

Modify application for use on varied hand held devices like iPhone and BlackBerry (adjusting layout for varied screen ratios), allowing end-users to rely on personally owned devices reduces long term costs and training time.

Latter 2008-2009 to early 2009-2010 Season

Update eScout PDA and PC functions (edition 2) based on testing and use during 2008-2009 season

2009-2010 Season

Implement use by select coaches independently with Task Force providing support

Implementation of centralized long term data management system

2010-2012 Seasons

Implement use by more extensive group of coaches with goal of mainstreaming use of tactical and other statistical information to enhance competitiveness for London Olympic Games.

Plan

User training, field testing and beta testing (by coaches, end-users); and uniform coding strategy (by national coaches or coaching group) and product development oversight (by Task Force) at 3 NAC events, spaced throughout the year - recommend Colorado Springs NAC (done with partial self-funding), Atlanta NAC (or other mid-season event) & Summer Nationals.

Rationale

Product development requires face-to-face time from stakeholders, and opportunity to test in an appropriate environment.

Participating parties: are naturally clustered for competitive events (reducing costs and scheduling issues), may be funded to events on other budgets lines (reducing costs), able to field test in an appropriate environment, and generate enthusiasm for the Project among the general membership (helping justify spending and perhaps assisting in fund raising)

Costs – First Year

Training & Field Testing

Travel to meetings and field testing – 3 events (*at standard cost for tournament service staff-consult with National Office for cost projection*) for project manager and others at discretion of Executive Board.

Reimbursement of additional costs (lodging, per diem) for coaches, task force members who must extend their stay.

Product Purchase

Purchase of ~ 3-4 PDAs (~\$800 -1,200) for Task Force members. Task Force members may own suitable devices and not require purchase (especially if alternate screen ratios versions are available)

Product Development

Costs for development of eScoutVideo application (\$3,200) was promised by Michael Massik but has not been escrowed as requested

Costs for developing eScout on alternate screen ratio (e.g., for use on “smart” phones). Will request bid from Danjuma; possibly could be provided by Tack Force member

Appendix M
USFA Sports Medicine Report

Board of Directors Meeting
February 2009

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The first part of the 2008-2009 season has seen the USFA Sports Medicine program continue its work in providing quality healthcare to the USFA family. To date, coverage has been provided for NAC A-D under the national program format, and staffing has been arranged for the women's sabre world cups in London and France from January 30-Feb. 8, 2009. The latter coverage is a continuation of the additional care the program provided to weapons squads during the last season as funding was available. We anticipate continuing this service through the remainder of the current Olympic quadrennium.

For the 2009 Cadet/Junior World C'ships in Northern Ireland, the staff will be Nick Tobianski (lead sports medicine staff) and Brian Hardy (assistant).

Additionally, the Sports Medicine Program has continued to offer individual advice on injury and rehabilitation issues to USFA members as requests arise, and has maintained its education program through the Sports Medicine Q&A in each issue of *American Fencing*. Research activities have also been continuing – the results of a study on sex and weapon variations in types and location of time-loss injuries in national competitions will be presented at the American College of Sports Medicine Annual Conference in May, 2009, and a chapter on fencing injuries will be included in the book *Epidemiology of Injury in Olympic Sports*, a volume in the IOC *Encyclopaedia of Sports Medicine* series, scheduled for publication later in 2009.

Although the overall the program is running very well, particularly thanks to the support of Christine Strong Simmons on the domestic front and Andrea Lagan for international events, there are several issues that need improvement:

a) Communication between aspects of the USFA administration and the Sports Medicine program. It has been particularly frustrating and disappointing to learn recently that despite the operation of the program with the national team for almost 20 years, and the domestic program for 9 years, that members of the BOD and others are unaware of the structure and scope of the program. In the past few years I have sent detailed information about these things to a succession of administrators but there does not seem to have been any passing of the information forward. As a result, I have been left out of discussions relevant to the smooth running of the program and/or important aspects for improving its service to the USFA, including evaluations of staff assigned for international events. It is vitally important that lines of communication between the BOD, HPC and other relevant bodies in the Association and myself as supervisor of the Sports Medicine program be improved.

Proposal: to bring the BOD up-to-speed on the history, current structure, and goals of the program, I would like to make a presentation to the Board at a (near) future meeting.

b) a portal on the USFA website. This has been an on-going project for several years, lead by John Heil as Chair of Sports Sciences, which has gone through a number of false starts. Although we have been close (with a beta site developed thanks for Andrea Lagan), there has been no consistent support from within the USFA to finalize this project (e.g., on-going designer, webmaster).

c) Issues presented to the BOD in the report for July, 2008:

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

ii) to continue to expand both the number and geographical diversity of the members of the Program (note; we have already been active on this point with 5 new members recruited since the July report – 3 females (OR, WA, CO) and 2 males (OR, CO)).

As we move further into the new Olympic quadrennium, I anticipate continuing enhancements in the program, especially in response to improved communication within the USFA administrative structures.

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

Appendix N

Resource Development Committee

Initial Report

January 09, 2009

Executive Summary

This report is the initial work of a team of dedicated volunteers who believe that finally fencing's time has come. Over the course of the past three months, this committee has met numerous times; it has contributed through written work and small projects, and stays committed to supporting the ongoing effort to build a future for fencing.

We offer the attached report and information as foundational material and preliminary resource for strategic planning. In addition to the written material contributed by the current committee members, this report includes two reports that were previously submitted to the USFA, one from Joseph Sasek, and one from Circone & Associates.

In the short term our team has also accomplished the following:

- Established a Club Resource Kit on the USFA website with significant seed resources including: photos, press release templates, marketing booklet and banner link.
- Coordinated and supported the execution of the first ever USFA Team Calendar, from which the USFA will earn \$3 per calendar sale.
- Developed a draft PR plan designed to provide Press Releases to all local newspapers following each NAC for the top eight in each event.

With the new Executive Director on board, we see our role is to offer advice, planning and implementation support for the following top priorities:

1. Create a plan to assist the national office and the Executive Committee in ways to develop better communication and internal marketing.
2. Develop a marketing and fundraising plan for the upcoming World Cup, Training Camp and USFA Summer Nationals to be held in Dallas during June and July.

In addition, the Resource Development Committee stands ready to offer support for the upcoming strategic planning process.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn Schifferle, Chair
(Complete report will be made available separately)

Appendix O

USFA Parents Committee

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Mission: The mission of the USFA Parents Committee is to support the development of US fencing by making available to athlete families information, guidance, and experiential knowledge concerning current USFA rules, conventions, and services.

Goals:

- To promote a deeper understanding of the fencing experience for athlete families at all levels of proficiency.
- To enhance fencing participation through the sharing of successful athlete family management techniques and activities.
- To encourage good will, cooperation, and support among athlete families.

Objectives:

- To create a USFA Parents' Handbook of relevant rules and their applications by the 2009 - 2010 membership year.
- To create a USFA Parents' FAQ presence on the Internet.
- To offer personal assistance and guidance to athlete families at USFA tournaments when Parent Committee members are in attendance and available.

Appendix P
Technology Development Task Force
David Sierra

The Technology Development Task Force came together for the first time in early December 2008, when we were first contacted as a whole by the USFA Secretary, the officer under whose oversight we serve. Almost at the same time, the National Office staff released an RFP with the intention of securing a vendor to do begin the process of modernizing the data management and workflows of the national office. This RFP was put together entirely by the National Office, without the input of the TDTF, who was identified by the Board of Directors and Executive Committee as a resource to be utilized in development of a modern information technology infrastructure for the organization. After being asked to review the RFP, the TDTF had a number of substantial concerns regarding the product that would be delivered, if built to the specifications outlined. Working in close coordination with the new Executive Director, the TDTF prepared a set of modifications and expansions to fine-tune the needs and requirements. Much of the TDTF's input and guidance was in the form of ensuring that the system that were selected that the staff included the capability to interface well with the other components of the organization, possessed the flexibility and development potential that the USFA will need in the future, and served the actual needs of the entire organization.

The system that will be deployed, must, as a start, have the capability to track all membership data, take online registrations for NAC's, download data to a tournament software package and upload the results from that event back, calculate point standings from uploaded results, track the usage and history of officials (BC, referee and armoury), allow non-national office event organizers to verify membership, classification, and qualifier status, and a number of other capabilities for the different components of the organization.

The original RFP included a requirement for a new tournament management software system. The TDTF and the new ED felt that was outside what should be the primary focus of the current project, and that part was dropped. However, the addendum specified development of an interface for communication with tournament management software, both current and future. This interface will be in a modern format data exchange format (XML, SOAP, REST or whatever works best for the selected vendors back-end system) as well as possess the capability to interface with the current national tournament software system, XSEED, through CSV files, albeit with all the limited capabilities and restrictions inherent with such a format.

As of this submission, the TDTF is helping to review the responses to the RFP addendum, and will be making a recommendation to the Executive Director regarding selection of a vendor. A more extensive report, concerning the specific recommendations of the TDTF, as well as the evaluation criteria and the development and rollout timeline the selected vendor will be expected to follow, as well as a detailing of the evaluations and suggested modifications to the RFP will be made available at the Board of Directors meeting.