

Agenda

Special Meeting of the USA Fencing Board of Directors

December 15, 2011 via Teleconference

I. General Information and Organizational Items

General announcements

Remarks – Kalle Weeks, President

II. Minutes of the November 17, 2011 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

Motion (Mr. Baker): To approve the minutes of the November 17, 2011 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors.

III. Report of Action of the November 29, 2011 Emergency Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

Motion (Mr. Baker): To approve the report of action of the November 29, 2011 Emergency Special Meeting of the Board of Directors.

IV. Executive Director's Report (Greg Dilworth)

V. Finance and Budget (Sunil Sabharwal)

Financial Reports

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

VI. International Update (Sunil Sabharwal)

VII. Legal Update (Donald Alperstein)

VIII. Committee and Task Force Matters

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

Motion (Mr. Baker): To approve the appointment of Susan Jennings to the Tournament Oversight Committee.

IX. New Business

A. Vacancy on the Board of Directors

B. Motion(Mr. Thompson): To direct the National Office to make a budget variance in order to compensate the 2011 Women's Sabre World Championship team for the bronze medal result they achieved at the World Championships: \$1,150 to Ms. Muhammad and Ms. Wozniak and \$4,000 to Ms. Schneider.

Rationale: The 2010-2011 Athlete Handbook provides guidelines for athlete compensation based on results. Funding can be awarded in the form of a stipend based on world ranking or a performance award at a championship event. For 2011, those weapons that are not scheduled to have a team event in London 2012 have different criteria for receiving funding. As the Handbook is written (section 13.7 USOC Operation Gold Awards) the Women Sabre athletes were not eligible to receive a performance award for their bronze medal team result at 2011 Team World Championships. Instead they were eligible for and received a \$2850 performance award for winning their team event at 2011 Pan American Games. However, this award is smaller (\$2850 vs. \$4000) and only three athletes are eligible to receive the Pan American Games award instead of four athletes at World Championships. This difference has caused Ms. Schneider to receive no performance award despite helping the team to a significant achievement at the 2011 World Championships and has resulted in Ms. Muhammad and Ms. Wozniak receiving smaller awards. This motion corrects an issue that is unfair to these athletes who accomplished such a meaningful result and who were not compensated accordingly. More importantly, this motion provides recognition for these athletes as they train for the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio where there will be a team event.

C. Motion(Mr. Blake): To instruct the tournament committee that the National Anthem be played in the morning of each day of our National tournaments (to include NAC, JOs, Div 1 Nationals, Summer Nationals).

Rationale: A number of people have spoken to me about the fact that this is not consistently done in the past few years. This year for example it was not done in Richmond and Kansas City but was done in Austin and at USA vs the World. In the absence of someone provided by the LOC, it should be saved on the tournament computers (if it is not already) I also have a copy in my computer bag on a CD if needed. It can be played on one of the computers with the mic held next to the speaker. Although for some people this is not an important step there are many who do feel this is important and are left feeling disappointed when it is not played.

X. Strategic Plan Update

XI. Good and Welfare

XII. Executive Session to consider personnel, disciplinary and membership status matters

XIII. Adjournment

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

Appendix A
Equipment Technology Committee Report
Ron Herman

Equipment Supplier for the 2012-2016 Quadrennial:

Absolute Fencings bid to become the equipment supplier for the next Quadrennial has been accepted. Some changes to the proposal remain to be finalized, and a detailed contract drafted, but we feel that the proposal from AF will best serve the interests of the USFA.

We will be going into the next four years with all new equipment, which will not only enhance the look and feel of the tournaments but provide increased reliability of the tournament equipment as well.

Equipment availability for ROC and SYC events:

As a result of the increased availability of equipment resulting from the new equipment contract, which will free up many of the aluminum strips currently in use, we hope to be able to offer to regional organizers rental tournament equipment.

Our current thinking is that the equipment would be offered in 2 strip increments. One of our shipping containers, containing 2 strips, 2 machines with the necessary reels, cords, stands, etc., would constitute one unit. Organizers could specify how many units they would require and the equipment would be shipped to their designated location and returned after each competition.

Once again, the details concerning costs, contracts, responsible parties, etc., need to be finalized after discussion between Board and Staff, but implementation of a program like this should be straightforward.

Non-conforming Epee grips:

In response to complaints received after NAC A & B that some fencers were using Epees that were either longer than the allowable maximum or had been modified by bending or taping so that they no longer were compliant the rules, the staff in Kansas City undertook to test all French grip epees at control.

Contrary to expectations this did not materially affect the length of the control process: we finished at 8:30 and 8:15 respectively the first two days.

After the first two days control we had identified 15 weapons that were longer than the rules allowed, 3 that had had their pommels taped to the extent that it was our judgment that the result constituted a non-conforming orthopedic grip, and 2 that had their handles canted beyond acceptable limits (the bends were within limits but resulted in handles that were too long.

In all cases but one the variance in length was ½ inch or less and was the result of mismatched handle/pommel combinations, multiple lock washers, or canted handles whose bend, while permissible by itself, pushed the end of the pommel past the allowable 20cm limit.

While no doubt conferring a small advantage to the user, we feel that the non-conformity we found was an inadvertent result of mixing parts and that there was no attempt by any of the owners of the equipment tested to deliberately gain an advantage with a modified weapon. The fact that the only time these tests are routinely performed are at World Championships and IOC events means that the question of length (as with all the other physical characteristics of a weapon) are never addressed, and fencers buy standard parts and assume that they will assemble into a compliant weapon.

Anecdotal evidence from the previous NACs indicated that there are some severely out-of-spec weapons in use, but none were presented to control. It seems unlikely that a deliberately modified (illegal) weapon would be presented for inspection at an announced control. We will continue to test at Team Selection events for the season, and review the results at seasons end.

Head Technicians Tournament Report:

I am including the Head technicians report for NAC B for your information, and will include the reports for each event as they occur from this point forward; the report for NAC A will be included with that from NAC C for the next Board teleconference.