

Agenda

Annual Meeting of the USA Fencing Board of Directors

September 17-18, 2010 Newark, NJ

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>
Sports Medicine Report	A	4
Veteran's Committee Report	B	6
Sports Science & Technology Report	C	9
Reno Summer Nationals Sport Science Report	D	11
Tournament Committee	E	13
Tournament Formats Task Force Report	F	14

*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.

I. General Information and Organizational Items

General announcements

Remarks – Kalle Weeks, President

Appointment of Parliamentarian

Appointment of Secretary

II. Minutes of the August 18, 2011 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

Motion (Mr. Baker): To approve the minutes of the July 18, 2011 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

III. Minutes of the August 31, 2011 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

Motion (Mr. Baker): To approve the minutes of the July 31, 2011 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

IV. Board Review and Self-Evaluation

V. Finance and Budget

Financial Reports

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

VI. Strategic Plan and Action Plan Review and Adoption

VII. Committee and Task Force Matters

Audit Committee (David Herr)

Olympic Planning Group (Bob Largman)

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

VIII. Committee Appointments

Motion (Mr. Baker): To approve all committee and task force appointments, as distributed at the meeting.

IX. Legal Update (Donald Alperstein)

X. International Update (Sunil Sabharwal)

XI. New Business

Motion (Mr. Baker): To direct that the chair of each Standing and Additional Principal Committee submit or cause to be submitted, not later than 14 days prior to any in-person Annual or Special meeting of the Board of Directors, a report of all committee activities since the last such report and any recommendations to the Board of actions to be taken within, or that impact upon, the area of focus for the committee. An exception to this deadline for a particular meeting can be granted upon request to and approval of the USA Fencing President. Such request should be submitted and approved prior to the deadline.

Rationale:

Principal Committees are those that are integral to the operation of USA Fencing. It is essential that the Board remain informed of activities in the covered areas in a regular, frequent and timely manner. In the past, some committee chairs have failed to submit reports to the Board. Such failure is detrimental both to the decision making process and to the transparency of governance of the Association.

Other New Business

XII. Good and Welfare

1. Schedule of Board calls and meetings

XIII. Adjournment

Motion (Mr. Baker): To adjourn the meeting

Appendix A
Sports Medicine
Peter Harmer

The 2010-11 season marked the 10th anniversary of the institution of the US Fencing Sports Medicine program. During that time it has successfully provided coverage to all domestic USFA national events, Zonal competitions, the Cadet/Junior World C'ships and Senior World C'ships, and has met the increasing requests for support at world cups from various weapons squads. The structure of the program has resulted in its personnel being appointed to accompany USA team members to the last two Olympic Games and it has emerged as a world leader in fencing epidemiology. The US program is the only one in the world with exposure-based injury data and the publication (in the *Clinical Journal of Sports Medicine* in 2008) of the analysis of injury information covering its first 5 years of operation is the largest such study ever completed. With the ending of the Summer Nationals in Reno this year, data from the second half-decade can be analyzed to add to our knowledge base of injury risks in fencing. In addition, the work initiated and developed through the program over the past 6 years on non-broken blade penetrating hand injuries in sabre resulted in the formation of a special working group in February, 2011, authorized by FIE President Usmanov, to address and resolve this issue.

As I have stated in previous reports, the success of our program rests on the professional expertise and commitment to the wellbeing of the USFA family of the members of the Sports Medicine program – for their service over the past season I would like to gratefully acknowledge: Lonnie Sellers (Integrated Manual Therapy, WA), Doug Rank (MarRan Physical Therapy, WA), Brian Russon (Peak Orthopedic and Sports Physical Therapy, WA), Jen Krug (Silverton High School, OR), Jim Wallis (Portland State University, OR), Peter Harmer (Willamette University, OR), Susan Hurst (CA), Jeremy Summers (CA), John Carollo (Theodore Roosevelt High School, TX), Quinn Madden (Robert E. Lee High School, TX), Brian Hardy (UC – Colorado Springs, CO), Kyle Momsen (Gustavus Adolphus College, MN), Kaitlyn Silbaugh (Gustavus Adolphus College, MN), and Jim Gossett (Columbia University, NY). I would also like to provide a special acknowledgement for the support of others with medical expertise who have generously provided their expertise when needed, including Dr. Mark Piasio and Dr. Gregory Harvey but most especially to Annie Mannino.

In addition to the usual demands of service at all of the NAC and National events, in the 2010-11 season, the program met the increased requests from weapons squads and covered 9 world cups as well as three ROC/regional events. As usual, the excellent support the program received from the national office staff was invaluable to our ability to complete our assignments. A special thanks for the years of building our program go to Christie Simmons. Our appreciation and best wishes are inadequate parting gifts for all she has done. We would also like to acknowledge the work of J.R. Bourne and Tanya Brown in smooth transition from Christie's departure. Additionally, for support of our international assignments, I would like to express my thanks to Cathy Zagunis and Andrea Lagan.

The Sports Medicine program has continued to educate the USFA members on matters of injury prevention and treatment through the Sports Medicine Q&A in each issue of *American Fencing*. In addition, I have been the primary contributor to the Sports Medicine column in *Escrime*. At the request of members of the Athlete Protection Task Force, I also developed a revised policy on the use of massage with USA team members.

The appointment of David Sach as High Performance Director has provided stability to planning for sports medicine support for our athletes during international events. For the 2011-2012 season, the program will cover 23 world cups/Grand Prix (up from 9 during the '10-'11 season). We believe this is a significant step forward in establishing an integrated and comprehensive support mechanism for US fencers. Mr. Sach has also addressed the concerns over staffing at the Senior World C'ships noted in last year's report will be allow better event planning and utilization of personnel in the future.

It is clear that the Sports Medicine program has established itself as a model for US NGB and a world leader in fencing injury research while continuing to grow to meet the needs of all of the constituents of the US Fencing family. The expanding scope of responsibilities, especially related to coverage of world cups, has placed pressure on our resources (personnel time; funding) and the challenge for the future is to appropriately match our resources to the needs of US fencers.

Yours sincerely,

Peter A. Harmer, Ph.D., MPH., ATC., FACSM
Chief Medical Officer
Email: pharmer@willamette.edu

Appendix B
Veterans Committee
Drew Ridge

1) There was a meeting for veterans in Reno during the Summer Nationals. The minutes of that meeting form the foundation of this report:

Veterans Meeting July 9 2011

Present members of the committee: Drew Ridge and Delia Turner

Introductions

Drew Ridge introduced Greg Dilworth and David Sach. Brad Baker was also in attendance.

Announcements:

Drew announced the Arnold Schwarzenegger Games

Discussions:

Respect for the veteran competitors.

Veterans deserve a little more respect than they have been getting. The Cynthia Carter Cup for the highest point standing has not been engraved in two years, for instance.

On a continuum between "fence for fun" and "World competitors," we should be recognized by the USFA for World competition. In recent history veteran competitors have brought in more world medals than many of the other team members.

Many things can be done for free or for little cost to increase visibility of the vets, such as posting the pictures of the veteran world championship team on the website.

Sponsorship issues are also important. Blue Gauntlet has promised to give a tester to every member of this year's team. Although the deal has not yet been inked, Nike will be providing shoes and outerwear. These are small steps toward a larger goal. When the team members have been identified Leon Paul will probably provide a discount for purchases – according to a meeting between Drew and Ben Paul.

Informational issues:

Drew would like to be able to contact the members of the veteran community through the USFencing database, but they apparently do not have a way to "narrowcast" some of these announcements.

Drew was contacted re events scheduling, particularly with respect to the veteran women's sabre team. If there is a gap of more than a day between team and individual event, it is difficult to free up the time from work for many competitors. We asked USFA staff and board members in attention to advise the national office that this is a source of concern, because they make up the schedule.

One suggestion was scheduling team the same day as the individual events for the very small women's veteran events. The minimum is six teams in order to hold the event.

Some have lobbied for a minimum cumulative age total for veterans teams – mirroring the European system. Introducing additional barriers to forming teams, however, does not sound like a good idea now, since we have trouble fielding enough teams to hold competitions.

Delia made an appeal to the community to stay in contact with DD Nicolau, who suffered a fall from a horse earlier this year and was seriously injured. .

Porec Veteran Worlds:

FIE Compliance: Drew walked through the procedures for team members, including FIE compliant equipment. It is up to competitors to ensure that all their equipment is compliant, and that they have made sure that they have the country colors on the leg and last name and USA stenciled on the back.

FIE Rules: Three stages of noncombativity : no touch in one minute, 2nd no blade contact, 3rd fencers outside fencing distance No time limit. The FIE un-broke it just enough so they can enforce.

Medical compliance - They may or may not test for drugs. There are a surprising number of things we take as veterans that may be prohibited. Check the USADA website to make sure your medications are accepted.

Support: The team needs support at an administrative level; captains, chief of delegation, armorer and referees. Greg Dilworth stated that an armorer and referees would be provided. David Sach will go to Porec as well.

Summer Nationals:

Josh Runyan asked whether there could be a veteran combined event at National Championships. This is not a simple issue, because it would probably replace V40-49 as an event at Nationals. Adding another event is unlikely. Vet 40+ would probably not be fenced on the same day as the age-specific events without hurting one category or another. If the Vet combined is fenced on a different day from the age-specific events, that may have an adverse impact on people who fence more than one weapon. Greg Dilworth will pass on the request.

Josh also asked about seeding for national events. We hold the World Veteran points over and use that for seeding. A veteran moving into an age group event is seeded lower than he or she would be if performance in the prior year were taken into account..

Also, seeding for team events is based on performance in the combined events. There was some discussion of seeding in national events. It's a worthwhile issue to continue discussing, as well as the concept of "fencing down" into lower age groups and whether that should be encouraged.

Committee Procedures:

After the meeting adjourned Josh suggested that the moderators ask for a show of hands at upcoming meetings, rather than simply gathering a “sense of the room.”

It is important to remember that the Veteran Committee recommendations are advisor to the Board. Hence, providing our input to Board members and to USFA staff (who were present) is highly desirable

--Delia Turner

2) The members of the 2011 Veteran World Championship Team are:

V50WF	V50WS	V50WE	V50MF	V50MS	V50ME
Jeannette Starks-Faulkner	Jane Eyre	Elizabeth Kocab	Joseph Biebel	Joshua Runyan	Walter Dragonetti
Michelle Verhave	Heidi Runyan	Amy Fortune	Edward Kaihatsu	Dmitri Kopylov	Rick Watrall
Anne-Marie Walters	Lydia Mazorol	Valerie Asher	Jonathan Zelkowski	Will Milne	Charles Schneider
Suzanne Brown Marx	Jeannine Bender	Mary Huang	Philippe Bennett	Ted Smith	Sean Ameli
V60WF	V60WS	V60WE	V60MF	V60MS	V60ME
Joanne Stevens	Delia Turner	Diane Kallus	Jan Patterson	David Suess	John Ridge
Muriel Cawthorn	Ellen O'Leary	Patricia Bedrosian	Neal White	Ray Sexton III	Jere Bothelio
Madelon Rosenfeld	Diane Hiatt	Anna Estrada	Ray Sexton III	Philip Sbarbaro	James Flint
Patricia Bedrosian	Muriel Evans	Kathryn Rubin	Ronald King	Wang Yung	Robert Cochrane Jr.
V70WF	V70WS	V70WE	V70MF	V70MS	V70ME
Bettie Graham	Una Jackson	Bettie Graham	James Adams	John Terninko	James Adams
Judith Evans			Fritz Chang	James Adams	Kazimieras Campe
Catherine Maier			David Kosow	Victor Bianchini	Mark Henry
Una Jackson				David Kosow	Alexander Kocsy

David Sach will serve as the Chief of Delegation
 Robert Cochrane will serve as one of the captains.
 The second captain has not yet been named.

Brad Baker and Amgad Badawi will attend the Championships as referees.
 The armorer has not yet been named.

3) The Veteran Team members have been included in the “Nike” contract. They will receive shoes and warm-ups.

4) Drew Ridge attended a “tournament summit” in Colorado Springs on the weekend of August 13-14, representing the Veteran Committee. Soren Thompson participated in his capacity as Athletes’ Representative to the Board, and was a powerful advocate for all fencers. There was a spirited discussion (and some debate) which included, but was not limited to: the seeding system, analysis of qualifying paths, tournament eligibility, and the role of ROCs.

Respectfully,

John A “Drew” Ridge
 3 September, 2011

Appendix C
Sport Science & Technology
Dr. John Heil

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Sport Science Seminars

A series of 4 seminars was held at Reno Summer Nationals – on 4 different topics, one seminar per day for 4 days.

Day 1- Attendance=0

Day 2- Attendance=7

Day 3- Attendance=2

Day 4- Attendance=34+ (33 paid; 1 National Team member- No charge; Others arrived late with no mechanism for collecting fees).

Unfortunately, there was no advance marketing which resulted in poor attendance. Two “email blast” announcements were distributed -- the first one, the day of the first seminar; and, the second one in advance of the day 4 seminar, with excellent attendance the final day.

Anecdotal comments following seminar (available on request), repeat attendance, and request for follow-up individually or in group setting suggests seminars are well received and a viable program

Plan next seminars at Junior Olympics 2012. Need to improve marketing. Per Greg Dilworth I will initiate the planning for marketing. Will also discuss system to evaluate seminars

Sport Science Videos

There is a 4th video now completed concluding the series. Titles and links are below:

Fencer...Chess Master-Zen Warrior (Posted: August, 2011)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZfYPLWQqmQ&feature=youtu.be>

Iris Zimmermann: Shattering Fencing Barriers (Posted: June, 2011)

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

American Fencing: Olympic Spirit (Posted: December, 2011)

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

US Olympic Fencing (Posted: January, 2011)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N60_qvEl63E

eScout

eScout, an electronic scouting device, provides strip-side tactical information with statistical, descriptive and video capabilities

USA Fencing has declined to develop this technology further and has given full rights to John Heil.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

USFA EVENT CONSULTATION

Event Consultation-2011 Summer Nationals, Reno, NV

Sport Psychology & Sport Science Consultation (Report also attached). Requests for individual consultation while at event are documented – and identify presence of a sport psychologist at event as an asset for the

membership.

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. Seminars at local clubs

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

No action

LIAISON TO PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Contact as appropriate with professional organization

Fencing Special Interest Group to meet at Association for Applied Sport Psychology Conference. With goal of increasing local access to sport psychology for fencers and clubs.

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

Appendix D
Reno Summer Nationals 2011
Sport Science Report
July 1-5, 2011

Dr John Heil
Chair, Sport Science & Technology

Sport Science Seminar Program – Sponsored by USA Fencing

Sport Science Seminar Series – 4 seminars each on a different topic on 4 consecutive days:

Day 1- Attendance=0

Day 2- Attendance=7

Day 3- Attendance=2

Day 4- Attendance=34+ (33 paid (1 at reduced rate); 1 National Team member- No charge; Others arrived late with no mechanism for collecting fees)

Seminar Assessment

Attendance continues to suggest that seminar program is viable; Reinforced by repeat participants; Afternoon time slot appears to be preferable

Have distributed Seminar Evaluation form to assess satisfaction and seek suggestions for improvement; Initial unsolicited feedback is favorable.

Estimated Revenue:

Day 1= \$0

Day 2= \$350 (7 participants; 1 indicated he would mail check to National office)

Day 3= \$100

Day 4 = \$1610 (one participant only paid \$10; National Team member at no charge)

Estimated Total= \$2060 (Revenue split 50% USA Fencing; 50% John Heil).

Recommendations:

Continue seminar program. Continue to rotate seminar topics (from current master list of 12)

Improve marketing and develop online registration option

Program Development

-Meetings with Greg Dilworth on sport science planning

-Meeting with Peter Harmer re coordinating sport science and sports medicine

-Meeting with Terry Kwan, Wes Glon & Lawrence Schiller re Sport Science programs

-Meeting with Wayne Johnson re tactile adaptation to scoring system to facilitate referee performance

Other Activities

-Attend Board of Directors Meeting

-Meeting with Andy Shaw re coordinating efforts of Fencing Museum & Sport Science Video Project

-Meeting with Alex Wood re service on Board of Directors of Virginia State Games

Consultation - Individual (Coach/Athlete/Parent/Cadre)

Athlete#1 (MA) Mental training

Athlete#2 (XX) Psychological training materials

Coach#1 (PA) Sport psychology seminar program

Coach#2 (CA) Sport science programs

Coach#3 (CA) Sport psychology concepts; Personal goals

US Fencing Board of Directors 2011-2012 – September 17-18, 2011 Agenda

Coach#4 (CA) Technology development
Coach#5 (VA) Team building
Coach#6 (OR) Sport psychology training; Athlete performance
Coach#7 (NY) Biofeedback technology
Coach#8 (NY) Athlete performance
Coach#9 (NY) Technology development
Parent#1 (NJ) Athlete performance
Parent#2 (OR) Athlete performance

Reporting on individual Consultation is vague in order to preserve privacy. It is included to offer an understanding of the function of sport psychology and sport science at competitions. Consultation with athletes typically includes service delivery (discussion of personal concerns, sport performance issues or sport science related matters). Consultation with coaches and cadre may be service oriented (as above), or alternately focused on discussion relevant to sport performance, or team and organizational dynamics. Identification is by state of residence.

Appendix E
Tournament Committee
Mary Griffith

BC Staffing for 2011-2012. BC staff assignments have been made for both the October and November NACs. Invitations for the remaining NACs of the season will be sent out by the end of September.

Several experienced staff are unavailable for this season, particularly on the computer side. This is partly normal attrition due to job and family demands and partly due to unhappiness with current BC working conditions. We currently have a pool of about 25 regular staff and half a dozen new and potential trainees, barely enough to staff the full season.

For 2011-2012, therefore, we are scheduling 10-12 BC staff for each tournament, up from the 8-10 staff we used last season. This will relieve some of the stress on tournament staff and will allow more cross-training among existing staff in addition to training new staff..

BC Recruiting & Development. We now have a formal committee, the BC Recruiting and Development Group, consisting of experienced BC staff, working on a formal structure for BC staff recruiting, training, and evaluating. We are currently developing an overall timeline and considering BC rating levels and the skills that should be expected at each level.

Tournament Committee Function Redux. The TC (still) needs guidance from the Board on its purpose and function, since the description in the 2006 Ops Manual is outdated. Without a clear definition of our job—what our responsibilities are, what authority we have, and how we are to be held accountable—we cannot do that job effectively.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Griffith
Chair, Tournament Committee

Appendix F
Tournament Formats Task Force
Bradley Baker

The Tournament Formats Task Force was established in November, 2009, and given the following assignment:

Examine the acceptable formats and variations used for Divisional Tournaments, for the expressed interest of benefiting the fencers in the Division and earning of classifications.

Explore the possibility of expanding the types of acceptable formats to be used and define or outline their structure for the benefit of the competition and competitors.

Since that time, the task force has been unable to make significant progress on this task.

Key Points:

- We continue to feel that the structure for local tournament formats needs expansion and clarification
- Despite several attempts, we have been unable to sustain momentum on the project as each of us is pulled onto other priorities
- It has become clear that this is likely to continue to happen with the group, as currently constituted

It is the recommendation of the Task Force that our group be dissolved, although with the possibility that a new group with a similar mission could be assembled at some point in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradley Baker
Chair, Tournament Formats Task Force