

# Minutes

## Special Meeting of the USA Fencing Board of Directors

February 18, 2014 in Portland, OR

**Present:** Nathan Anderson, Don Anthony, Jerry Benson, David Blake, Sam Cheris, Kirsten Crouse, Wes Glon, Mary Griffith, Diana Hoadley, Cody Mattern, Jeff Salmon, Laurie Schiller, Doris Willette

**Absent:** Daria Schneider, Steve Trevor, Felicia Zimmermann

**Guests:** Tanya Brown, Keri Byerts, Kris Ekeren, Melissa Jones, Seth Kelsey, Lee Metcalf, Jim Neale, Phil Reilly, Kate Reisinger, Christy Simmons

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

Oral report by Donald Anthony, President (Appendix A)

### **II. Consent Agenda Items**

**Motion by Mr. Anthony to approve the consent agenda.**

1. To approve the minutes of the December 18, 2013 meeting.
2. To approve the financial report for December 2013.
3. The additions of Gerrie Baumgart and Michael Mergens to the ROC committee.
4. To receive committee reports, as submitted to the Board with the exception of the Nominating Committee and Election Committee Report.

**Second:** Mr. Schiller

**Motion passed.**

### **III. Nominating Committee Report (Appendix B)**

In accordance with the procedures for amending the Bylaws, three proposed amendments by the Nominating Committee have been published on the website.

## **PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 1**

The 2013-2014 Nominating Committee recommends the following amendment to the USFA Bylaws, as amended in September, 2012:

Change the period at the end of Article II, Section 2(g), subsection “ii” to read “; or”, renumber existing subsection “iii” as “iv,” and add the following new subsection iii:

iii. has within the preceding ten years served as the USFA’s national head coach (however denominated) for a fencing discipline contested at the Olympic Games or for which the FIE conducts a Senior Open World Fencing Championship, or has been appointed the head coach of a United States Olympic fencing team, a United States Open World Fencing Championship team or a Pan American Games fencing team.

Rationale: The Elite Coach Director position exists to bring high performance expertise to the Board. As currently specified, only individuals who have been identified as the primary coach of proven high performance athletes qualify for the position. But others, who have administered high performance programs or have been deemed to possess sufficient technical proficiency to be given responsibility for a weapon team at the Olympics or a Senior World Championships, may offer the needed expertise as well. Indeed such individuals may better understand the organizational contribution to competitive success better than does a coach whose main strength is in recruiting or technical training of fencers.

The Committee also noted that the requirements for nomination by petition (25 signatures representing five member clubs) is for many individuals less demanding than the official nomination process.

Because the Board membership categories and nomination procedures are specified in the Bylaws, we recommend that a task force be convened to explore both alternate ways of configuring Board membership, with the mandate that any such recommendations ensure that all constituencies continue to have a voice in the governance of the association, as well as the nomination by petition process.

## **PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 2**

Article IX, Section 3(a) currently requires the Nominating Committee to nominate at least two candidates for the offices of President and Treasurer, thus assuring contested elections for those positions. The Nominating Committee recommends that the requirement be removed from the Bylaws and that the section be amended to read as follows:

a. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one qualified candidates candidate for the office of President and at least one qualified candidates candidate for the office of Treasurer, and shall announce its nominees no later than January 15 of the calendar year in which the elections are to be held by publishing the names of the nominees and any report issued by the Committee on the USFA web site.

Rationale: The Nominating Committee feels that it should be given more flexibility in nominating candidates since there may be cases when only one candidate is deemed worthy to be nominated by the committee while in other cases there may be three or more candidates worthy to be nominated by the committee.

## **PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 3**

Article IX, Section 4(a) requires the Nominating Committee to nominate at least two candidates for each position on the Board of Directors, thus assuring contested elections for those positions. The Nominating Committee recommends that the requirement be removed from the Bylaws and recommends that the section be amended to read as follows:

a. Nominations by the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least as many qualified candidates as there are directors to be selected in each category, and shall announce its nominees no later than January 15 of the calendar year in which the elections are to be held by publishing the names of the nominees and any report issued by the Committee on the USFA web site.

Rationale: The Nominating Committee feels that it should be given more flexibility in nominating candidates since there are cases when only one candidate is deemed worthy to be nominated by the committee for each elected position while in other cases there may be two or more candidates worthy to be nominated by the committee for that elected position.

**Motion by Mr. Blake to accept the Nominating Committee report.**

**Second:** Ms. Crouse

**Motion Passed.**

#### **IV. Election Committee Report (Appendix C)**

In accordance with the procedures for amending the Bylaws, the proposed amendment by the Election Committee has been published on the website.

##### Summary

Article IX, Section 10 discusses the timing of elections. The Election Committee proposes the removal of paragraph 10.c and renumbering of paragraph 10.d as follows:

##### Text of Amendment

Section 10. Timing of Elections. The Election Committee shall establish the dates for balloting in all USFA elections, provided that:

- a. The period during which ballots may be cast shall not be less than two weeks in duration; and
- b. The period for casting ballots for officers and directors shall end no later than June 25; and
- ~~c. In the event a runoff election is required, the period for casting votes shall end no later than July 31; and~~
- d. c. In the event a special election is required, the Election Committee shall establish dates for the nomination of candidates by the Nominating Committee, nomination of candidates by petition and the period during which ballots may be cast that are as expeditious as possible while adhering to the general principles set forth in this Article, provided that strict compliance with time frames and dates stated herein is not required.

##### Rationale

With the elimination of the plurality requirement for election, there are no circumstances under which a runoff election will be necessary. This amendment eliminates the obsolete text that still references a runoff election.

**Motion by Mr. Blake to accepts the reports from the election committee.**

**Second:** Mr. Schiller

**Motion Passed.**

**V. Executive Director's Report**

Oral report provided by Kris Ekeren, Executive Director. (Appendix D)

**VI. Finance Update**

Oral report provided by Sam Cheris, Treasurer.

The finance report shows that Net assets are \$650K better than last year. We are moving in the right direction. The drop in deferred revenue is due to the change in event registration dates. An Operating Reserves plan has been created. The plan is to build the reserves over the next 10 years. The revenue for National Tournaments in January and February is lower than projected. The office staff is working on reducing expenses going forward to make up for the drop in revenue. The going concern has been removed from the audit. This is the first time in about 5 years that the organization has not had a going concern on the audit.

**VII. Vice President Update**

Mr. Anthony reports that we are looking into the right structure for the sports performance task force. Congratulations to Seth Kelsey, Kate Reisinger and the Sports Performance Task Force on the completed coach selection process.

**VIII. Legal Update**

Mr. Neale reports that there is little to report. The majority of the work is Safe Sport issues, some vendor disputes and finalizing the coaches and squad manager contracts.

**IX. Old Business**

**1. TIP Committee Update (Appendix E)**

Christine Simmons, Director of Operations, gave an overview of the 3 year phased plan.  
2014: PBQ (Points Based Qualification) implementation for championships, creation of cadet and Junior ROC's at the regional level and introduction of the tournament in a box.  
2015 and 2016: Launch tournament in a box, increase Cadet and Junior ROC's and PBQ for NAC's.

Mr. Anthony thanked the TIP team for all of the hard work, the time and effort on the TIP plan.

**X. New Business**

**Motion by Mr. Cheris to adopt the recommended rule changes listed in Appendix F.**

Mr. Cheris amends the motion for proposed rule change t.82.3 to remove phrase "to give advice to fencers" and to include an effective date of March 31, 2014 for all changes.

**Second: Mr. Blake**

**Motion by Mr. Glon:** The Board of Directors of USA Fencing reaffirms the importance of a long- term athlete development pipeline and the strategic significance of bonds both with collegiate fencing, domestically, and the international fencing community abroad. To further these aims, we resolve continuing support for working with the NCAA and NCAA programs to assist in fielding teams to the World University Games every two years.

**Second: Mr. Schiller**

**Motion passed.**

**Motion (Mr. Anderson) To Award Points for Canceled Events for Veteran NAC and National Championship Events.**

The Veteran's Committee proposes the following addition to the Athlete's Handbook, Page 12-2, Section 12.5 for Veteran Point Standings:

For Veterans NAC and National Championship Events which are canceled due inadequate number of registered competitors, usually only one competitor having registered, that registered competitor will receive the maximum points which would have been awarded for that event and these points will be included for team selection to the Veteran World Championships.

**Rationale:**

Veteran point events have been canceled and the fencer who had registered had already gone to the personal expense of booking airfare and hotel in anticipation of competing for a Veteran World Championship berth and this fencer deserves the award of the points.

**Motion by Mr. Benson to refer back this item to the Veterans Committee to work with Seth to get more information on this matter.**

**Second: Mr. Anderson**

**Motion passed.**

**Motion by Mr. Anderson to allow veteran fencers to compete in two individual events in one day if there are 24 or fewer registered competitors.**

The Veteran's Committee proposes the following addition/change to the Operations Manual for Veteran NAC and National Championship Events:

For individual Veterans Events with 24 or fewer registered competitors, a veteran fencer may compete in two individual events in one day. The competitor must be available to compete at the piste at the call of pools for each event.

**Second: Mr. Blake**

**Motion by Ms. Griffith to refer back to committee for research concerning the impact on software costs.**

**Schiller Seconded**

**Motion passed.**

## **XI. Good and Welfare**

The next in person meeting date is to be determined.

Ms. Ekeren spoke on her goal to move USA Fencing to a high performing NGB. One thing that is important in moving in the right direction is to recognize staff for their work. Thank you to Christine Simmons, Tanya Brown and Seth Kelsey for their work on the TIP project. Great job to Keri Byerts and Melissa Jones for their being diligent in their jobs and for their work in getting the going concern removed.

Mr. Mattern spoke about a bet he made with Mr. Anderson about the issuing of a press release for event promotion which resulted in good for local coverage and great JO event.

There have been 3 new NCAA fencing programs added recently.

## **XII. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn Mr. Benson**

**Second: Mr. Schiller**

**Motion passed.**

**Appendix A  
Presidents Report  
February 12, 2014**

**USA Fencing is off to great start and making major strides as we start the New Year. Our athletes continue to make podium appearances in International Competition and three of our teams, Men's Foil, Men's Sabre and Women's Epee have taken silver medals to start off the season.**

**Our financial affairs have greatly improved and are in the best order they have been in many years. Our external auditor will be removing the "going concern" designation from our current audit. This is the first time in over 6 years that we have received a favorable audit. We are still on track to have to have a zero deficit by the end of the fiscal year. The challenge will be the change of dates for the Senior World Championships into our current fiscal year from the original dates in our 2014-2015 budgets. Our financial team is exploring a number ways to offset this change and we will also explore offsets from new sponsorship opportunities.**

**I want to thank the Nominating Committee for their effort in selecting an excellent slate of candidates for the upcoming election of new Directors. The Committee used our new governance model developed with the input of the USOC and Daugherty Solutions and incorporates the direction of our "Strategic Roadmap". The changes in governance and the "Roadmap" are key components to our favorable audit and relationship with the USOC.**

**USA Fencing is moving toward a more professional and independent Board. This is very different from our Boards of the past, but is a key component for the growth and development of our sport and National Governing Body. The skill sets we needed on the Board in the past are being incorporated into our Volunteer Committee structure and the professional talent we have in our National Office. Our new governance model places the responsibility for all Operational matters in the National Office. The role of the Board is to set Policy, increase our Financial Resources through business contacts, Sponsorship Development and Fundraising and to provide Fiduciary oversight.**

**I want to thank our current Board of Directors for the tremendous effort they have made in moving USA Fencing into the much better position we enjoy today. The Board has laid the foundation for more great things to come our way. If we are diligent, keep our eyes on the prize and manage our affairs prudently with the help of our very professional national office we will accomplish great things in the next few years.**

*Don*

Donald K. Anthony, Jr.

## Appendix B

### REPORT OF THE 2014 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

As required by the Bylaws, the Nominating Committee consisted of the following members:

*Four most recent past presidents who are willing and able to serve*

- Kalle Weeks (2008-2012)
- Nancy Anderson (2004-2008)
- Donald Alperstein (1996-2000)
- Steven Sobel (1992-1996)

*Four individuals selected by the USA Fencing Board of Directors*

- David Arias, Club Owner and former Board of Directors member
- Meredith Delgado, Illinois Division Treasurer
- Tim Morehouse, CEO of Fencing in the Schools
- Stephen Trevor, USA Fencing Independent Director

*Two athletes selected by the athlete council*

- Doris Willette, 2012 Olympian
- Dagmara Wozniak, 2012 Olympian

The Committee conducted its work via conference calls and email correspondence between November 14th, 2013 and January 13th, 2014. Tim Morehouse was elected as the chair of the Committee at its initial meeting, during which the Committee also began its consideration of the steps to be followed by potential nominees and the steps it would take in selecting qualified nominees. During subsequent calls and email exchanges the Committee discussed the roles and responsibilities of board members and the specific requirements of the Bylaws regarding eligibility. The Committee determined the requirements to be fulfilled by potential candidates; these requirements, along with additional information concerning the nomination process were made available to USA Fencing members via email blasts and website postings on November 27th, 2013. The text of these messages is appended at the end of this report.

Applications for nomination were submitted by 18 candidates. The Committee reviewed and evaluated the documents provided by the candidates, and in some cases interviewed candidates by telephone, prior to discussions regarding their nomination decisions.

The Committee put forward the following names for the 2014 USA Fencing Board of Directors' Election on January 15th, 2014:

*Nominees for At-Large Director (two to be elected):*

Aaron Clements  
Lorrie Marcil  
Lee Shelley  
Serge  
Timacheff

*Nominees for Age Group Parent Director (one to be elected):*

Leanne Merchant  
Maria Panyi

*Nominees for Elite Coach Director (one to be elected):*

Michael Aufrichtig

Wes Glon

As have previous Nominating Committees, this Committee has reflected on its work and processes and has several recommendations.

1) The work of this Committee was significantly handicapped by beginning its deliberations in November. The membership was determined at the Board meeting in September, and Committee work should have begun immediately thereafter.

The Committee suggests that Nominating Committee membership be established at the Summer Nationals Board meeting so that its members can commence immediately, including recruiting of potential nominees, without the need to rush to meet the January 15th deadline for nominees. **It should be noted that an identical recommendation was made by the previous Committee charged with selecting nominees for the 2013 election.**

2) The Committee relied on "institutional memory" regarding Committee procedures; a document outlining these procedures would have been helpful. We recommend that the Board ask current members to develop such a document.

3) The current requirement that certain Board members are designated as, for example, the Age Group Parent Director, has been interpreted by some individuals as suggesting that those who are elected in those categories are always to represent those particular interests rather than the interests of the association as a whole. Seeking members who bring specific knowledge or expertise, such as elite athlete performance or marketing, could be a way to strengthen Board membership.

In addition, the Committee found that the definition of the Elite Coach Director is too restrictive and proposes the following amendment to the USA Fencing Bylaws.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 1

The 2013-2014 Nominating Committee recommends the following amendment to the USFA Bylaws, as amended in September, 2012:

Change the period at the end of Article II, Section 2(g), subsection "ii" to read "; or", renumber existing subsection "iii" as "iv," and add the following new subsection iii:

iii. has within the preceding ten years served as the USFA's national head coach (however denominated) for a fencing discipline contested at the Olympic Games or for which the FIE conducts a Senior Open World Fencing Championship, or has been appointed the head coach of a United States Olympic fencing team, a United States Open World Fencing Championship team or a Pan American Games fencing team.

Rationale: The Elite Coach Director position exists to bring high performance expertise to the Board. As currently specified, only individuals who have been identified as the primary coach of proven high performance athletes qualify for the position. But others, who have administered high performance programs or have been deemed to possess sufficient technical proficiency to be given responsibility for a weapon team at the Olympics or a Senior World Championships, may offer the needed expertise as well. Indeed such individuals may better understand the

organizational contribution to competitive success better than does a coach whose main strength is in recruiting or technical training of fencers.

The Committee also noted that the requirements for nomination by petition (25 signatures representing five member clubs) is for many individuals less demanding than the official nomination process.

Because the Board membership categories and nomination procedures are specified in the Bylaws, we recommend that a task force be convened to explore both alternate ways of configuring Board membership, with the mandate that any such recommendations ensure that all constituencies continue to have a voice in the governance of the association, as well as the nomination by petition process.

The Committee also requests that the task force consider for adoption the following Bylaw amendments, as proposed by previous Nominating Committees:

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 2

Article IX, Section 3(a) currently requires the Nominating Committee to nominate at least two candidates for the offices of President and Treasurer, thus assuring contested elections for those positions. The Nominating Committee recommends that the requirement be removed from the Bylaws and that the section be amended to read as follows:

a. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one qualified candidate for the office of President and at least one qualified candidate for the office of Treasurer, and shall announce its nominees no later than January 15 of the calendar year in which the elections are to be held by publishing the names of the nominees and any report issued by the Committee on the USFA web site.

Rationale: The Nominating Committee feels that it should be given more flexibility in nominating candidates since there may be cases when only one candidate is deemed worthy to be nominated by the committee while in other cases there may be three or more candidates worthy to be nominated by the committee.

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 3

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a. Nominations by the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least as many qualified candidates as there are directors to be selected in each category, and shall announce its nominees no later than January 15 of the calendar year in which the elections are to be held by publishing the names of the nominees and any report issued by the Committee on the USFA web site.

Rationale: The Nominating Committee feels that it should be given more flexibility in nominating candidates since there are cases when only one candidate is deemed worthy to be nominated by the committee for each elected position while in other cases there may be two or more candidates worthy to be nominated by the committee for that elected position.

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## INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE MEMBERSHIP VIA EMAIL AND WEBSITE POSTINGS

Dear USA Fencing Members,

The Nominating Committee of USA Fencing is giving notice to all members that we are currently seeking candidates for **four** members of the Board of Directors who will serve two-year terms commencing on Sept. 1, 2014. All USA Fencing members are invited to apply for the open positions and/or to suggest potential candidates for consideration by the Nominating Committee.

Per the USA Fencing Bylaws, the Nominating Committee will find and solicit quality applicants and then determine the two most qualified applicants for each position who will then to be nominated and put forth for election by the general membership.

The positions to be filled are two At-Large Directors, one Age Group Parent Director and one Elite Coach Director. The deadline for submitting applications is Monday, Dec. 23, 2013.

All candidates for this election must be current voting members of USA Fencing in good standing. (Those not currently members but seeking to apply must become USA Fencing members before Jan. 16, 2014.)

In addition, candidates must meet the following qualifications:

To be eligible for selection as an **At-Large Director**, one must be a voting member of USA Fencing in good standing.

To be eligible for selection as the **Age Group Parent Director**, an individual must, at the time of selection, be the parent or guardian of a youth, cadet, junior or under-23 fencer and shall have demonstrated sustained dedication to the sport of fencing.

The **Elite Coach Director** candidates must meet one of the following qualifications:

- a. has been identified as his or her primary coach by no fewer than two athletes who stand in the (1) top 24 on the senior point list; (2) top 16 of the junior point list; or (3) top eight of the cadet point list at the conclusion of the USA Fencing National Championships of the most elite level for the year of selection of the Elite Coach Director or for the prior year; and
- b. has been identified as his or her primary coach by an athlete selected to a United States Olympic fencing team, a United States Open World Fencing Championship team or a Pan American Games fencing team within the preceding 10 years.

If you are interested in applying, we suggest you read thoroughly the information provided on the roles, responsibilities and skills that we are seeking in addition to documents on attributes of highly functioning boards.

If you know someone who would make an excellent candidate for any of the open positions and would like the Nominating Committee to consider such individuals, you may send your suggestions with an explanation of why you think that individual or those individuals should be considered for nomination to [Nominations@usfencing.org](mailto:Nominations@usfencing.org).

Additional information can be found below. Also, please click [here](#) to view answers to frequently asked questions.

Sincerely,  
The Nominating Committee

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## **Board Overview**

The roles of board members include, but are not limited to:

1. Shaping a clear direction for the nonprofit through its mission, strategy, and key policies.
2. Ensure that the leadership, resources, and finances in place are commensurate with that vision.
3. Monitoring performance and ensuring prompt corrective action when needed.

The responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

1. Attending and being available for board calls and meetings.
2. Completing necessary work to be prepared for board meetings.
3. Leading and serving on Committees.
4. It is a goal to have 100% board giving. It is highly suggested that Board members personally donate or help directly raise funds for USA Fencing.

We are seeking individuals with exceptional talents in the skills that contribute to an effective governing body such as:

1. Running and developing a business.
2. Fundraising experience.
3. Financial management.
4. Strong network of resources within and outside of the sport.
5. Marketing and public relations.
6. Membership services.
7. Sports performance.

The following link is a helpful resource on the characteristics of highly performing boards and the roles of board members:

<http://beckerassociates.ca/best-practices-what-makes-a-board-of-directors-great/>

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## **Application Process**

To apply for nomination for one of these positions:

Please submit your resume detailing your education, work experience and skills by Dec. 23, 2013.

Along with a cover letter, please answer the following questions. (250 words or less)

1. What position are you applying for and why are you applying?
2. How do you envision your role and responsibilities as a board member for USA Fencing?
3. What do you envision as the top three goals and top three priorities for USA Fencing and why? (Please rank the goals and priorities you've chosen.)
4. What involvement have you had in USA Fencing and/or what involvement have you had in any other organizations that might be relevant to this role?
5. What board experience have you had previously? Please detail major achievements of that board and your direct role in those achievements.
6. In your work or professional experience, what measurable results have you achieved that might be pertinent to you serving on the USA Fencing board and what was your role in achieving those results?
7. Please share any additional information you think would be relevant or you'd like us to know.

In addition, all candidates for a position on the Board of Directors must sign a qualifying affirmation.

Please complete the Board of Directors affirmation (available [here](#)) and submit with your application to [Nominations@Usfencing.org](mailto:Nominations@Usfencing.org).

## Appendix C

### **Election Committee Report to the Board of Directors**

February 2014

Submitted by Dan Berke, Election Committee Chair

The Election Committee recently convened via email to begin our work for the 2014 election. We confirmed the email addresses of all committee members and affirmed everyone's willingness to serve.

The first order of business was to elect a committee chair. Dan Berke was the sole nominee for the position and was elected.

The committee received a notification of petition from David Blake for one of the At-Large Director positions. The National Office has received and validated the collected signatures.

The committee put together a form for collecting petition signatures based on the form David Blake used for his petition. The form was sent to Nicole Jomantas at the National Office for posting on the USFA website's election page. Use of the form is recommended, not required.

In reviewing the USFA Bylaws on the USFA website, we noticed that the copy had not been updated with amendments passed by the Board of Directors on September 30, 2012 and April 17, 2013. We contacted the National Office and the Bylaws have since been updated to reflect these amendments.

With these changes integrated into the document, we discovered a clause which needs to be removed because it no longer applies. The recommended amendment is attached to this report.

In the upcoming months, the committee will select the dates of the election as well as provide instructions on how candidates will submit their campaign materials. We expect have this information ready by the end of March, to coincide with the petition deadline date of April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Sincerely,

USFA Election Committee

Nathan Anderson

Dan Berke

(Chair) Michael

McTigue Nicole

Ross Lauren

Willock

In the following proposal, the language to be deleted is indicated by ~~strikeout~~ and new text is indicated by **boldface**.

**Proposed Amendment to the USFA  
Bylaws Recommended by the Election  
Committee February, 2014**

Summary

Article IX, Section 10 discusses the timing of elections. The Election Committee proposes the removal of paragraph 10.c and renumbering of paragraph 10.d as follows:

Text of Amendment

Section 10. Timing of Elections. The Election Committee shall establish the dates for balloting in all USFA elections, provided that:

e. The period during which ballots may be cast shall not be less than two weeks in duration; and

f. The period for casting ballots for officers and directors shall end no later than June 25; and

g. ~~In the event a runoff election is required, the period for casting votes shall end no later than July 31; and~~

**h. c.** In the event a special election is required, the Election Committee shall establish dates for the nomination of candidates by the Nominating Committee, nomination of candidates by petition and the period during which ballots may be cast that are as expeditious as possible while adhering to the general principles set forth in this Article, provided that strict compliance with time frames and dates stated herein is not required.

Rationale

With the elimination of the plurality requirement for election, there are no circumstances under which a runoff election will be necessary. This amendment eliminates the obsolete text that still references a runoff election.

## Appendix D



To: USA Fencing Board of Directors  
From: Kris Ekeren, Executive Director  
Date: February 10, 2014  
Subject: Executive Director's Report

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Please see the updates on the progress made on USA Fencing's identified business objectives.

### **Optimize Leadership/Operational Effectiveness**

The National Office will continue to work with the Governance Task Force to improve the operational efficiency of the committee structure. The Safe Sport Resource Team, a pilot group, met last week and will begin additional training and work this month.

### **Achieve /Maintain Financial Solvency, Stability & Sustainability**

We have received notification from the auditors that the going concern will be removed from the 2012-13 audit report. This is great news for USA Fencing and a significant step in achieving financial stability. The USOC audit will take place in mid March and we anticipate finalizing the 2012 grant report and successfully completing the 2013 audit.

### **Generate Sustainable Revenue from Internal and External Sources**

The interviews for the Alumni Relations position have been completed and we are discussing the position with the final candidate. Mark Lawrence continues to pursue sponsorship opportunities on behalf of USA Fencing. The Marketing and Communications Committee met recently to provide further feedback to the National Office marketing and sponsorship efforts.

### **Optimize Qualification and Tournament Process**

The TIP Group has completed their initial work and will be presenting the tournament changes to the Board of Directors during the February Board meeting. In addition, we will be announcing the tournament combinations for the 2014-15 season. Staff has begun the process of securing locations for the upcoming season.

### **Grow and Promote the Sport of Fencing**

Member Services is working on a number of projects to assist with Membership growth, particularly in the Club Development area. We will be introducing a club recognition program, implementing a high school letter program based on a successful program developed by the US Equestrian Association, and creating an updated Club in the Box program. In addition, the National Office will be sending out press releases to local newspapers for the top eight finishers at the Junior Olympics event. If successful, we will continue assisting with local press releases for other events.

The initial filming for the mobile coach application took place at the January Virginia Beach NAC. Sports Performance and Development is targeting an April 2014 roll-out date.

### **Improve Sports Performance and Development**

USA Fencing athletes continue to post excellent International results – congratulations to all of our athletes, coaches, and support staff. In addition, all National coaches have been hired and contracts are

being finalized for coaches and squad managers. Staff and National Team coaches and squad managers will meet during the Portland Junior Olympics event.

**Transform Culture of Fencing Leadership and Governance**

The Governance Task Force is making recommendations at the February Board meeting. Staff has provided information as needed.

**Refine Organizational Structure of Fencing in the US**

No additional work has been done with Divisions and Sections Group since the December update. The National Office is currently conducting an election for Northern Ohio division.

If further information is needed, please let me know.

## Appendix E



### Tournament Improvement Working Group:

Mary Griffith	BOD, TC Chair & Bout Committee Chair
Felicia Zimmermann	BOD & Club Owner
Jerry Benson	BOD, Task Force Member, Referee & Club Owner
Jennie Salmon	YDC, Club Owner, Regional Tournaments
Hossam Hassan	Club Owner & SYC
Cody Mattern	Athlete Representative
Aaron Clements	ROC Committee Chair & Referee
Sharon Everson	FOC, Referee & Wheelchair
Greg Massialas	National Coach & Club Owner
Buckie Leach	National Coach
Don Anthony	USA Fencing President
Kris Ekeren	USA Fencing Executive Director
Seth Kelsey	USA Fencing Staff
Kate Reisinger	USA Fencing Staff
Tanya Brown	USA Fencing Staff
Christine S. Simmons	USA Fencing Staff
Lee Metcalf	Meeting Facilitator

**Based on the USA Fencing Strategic Plan, the TIP working group was asked to provide recommendations for the following:**

- *Determine the purpose, planning, design and financial impact of tournaments from the local level to national events*
- *Recommend to the BOD qualifying path changes and/or new qualifying path criteria*
- *Recommend to the BOD changes to the tournament structure from local to national tournaments for 2014 -2016*
- *Develop a comprehensive plan to create consistency in the look and feel of tournaments from the local level to the national level (tournament in a box concept)*

**Objective #1 - Determine the purpose, planning, design and financial impact of tournaments from the local level to national events**

1. Provide development for athletes, officials, coaches
2. Provide a quality competitive experience
3. Opportunities for sponsorship, marketing, branding & publicity
4. Financially support USA Fencing

## Objective #2 - Recommend to the BOD qualifying path changes and/or new qualifying path criteria

### Points Based Qualification for National Championships

#### Summary of Benefits

- PBQ provides a means of managing schedules at national events. We will be able to determine a desirable level of entries and improve competition experience for competitors, coaches and officials.
- Create opportunities for showcasing our events for spectators, sponsors and media.
- PBQ provides an opportunity for *growth* of the regional tournament structure, the sport, and a positive financial impact.
- PBQ makes championship qualification more equitable, allowing fencers who perform at a high-enough level to qualify no matter where they happen to live.
- PBQ establishes the infrastructure to move towards a national numerical ranking system, allowing for a more accurate competition seeding than a classification-based system.
- PBQ provides a mechanism for managing our growth. Instead of revamping our tournament structure every few years as we grow, we need only adjust the percentage or number of competitors who qualify to championships and add additional intermediate regional levels.
- Division Qualifiers remain in place as a qualifying path

#### Summary of Changes to Qualification Path

Level	Change
• Division I	Remove minimum number of points needed
• Division IA	Remove top 8 qualify from ROC; adjust minimum point value
• Division II	Recognize Regional Points; added minimum point value
• Division III	Recognize Regional Division IA and Division II Points
• Cadet	Added Regional Qualifying Path
• Junior	Added Regional Qualifying Path
• Veteran Age Groups	Recognize Regional or National Points
• Youth 10	New – Recognize Regional or National Points
• Youth 12	New – Recognize Regional or National Points
• Youth 14	Recognize Regional Points; removed 1 <sup>st</sup> place RYC path
• Wheelchair	No Change
• Petition Process	Only Medical and study abroad qualify for petitions—multiple paths for qualification exist for all levels

Members of the Hawaii and Alaska Divisions would be treated as automatics but encouraged to attend division/regional/national tournaments where they can and/or hold Division qualifiers.

#### Three year phased Plan:

##### 2014/2015 PBQ is introduced for National Championships and on the Regional/Division levels for:

- Junior Olympics 2015
- Division 1 National Championships 2015
- USA Fencing National Championships 2015

##### 2015/2016 PBQ introduced for North American Cup Tournaments, National Championships and on the Regional/Division levels

- Junior Olympics 2016
- Division 1 National Championships 2016
- USA Fencing National Championships 2016
- North American Cup Tournaments 2015/16

## A. Detail of Changes to Qualification Path

### 1. Division I National Championships

#### A. Eligibility (age, classification, qualification path)

Fencers must be 13 years old by January 1 (see Table 2.5.1 for exceptions) of the current season **AND**

- Be on the current National Senior NRPS<sup>A</sup> at the regular fee entry deadline for these Championships **OR**
- Be in the top 8 of the adjusted\* Junior NRPS at the regular fee entry deadline for these Championships of the current season **OR**
- Be in the top 4 of the adjusted\* Cadet NRPS at the regular fee entry deadline for these Championships of the current season **OR**
- Placed in the top 8 in the previous season Division I-A National Championships **OR**
- Placed in the top 4 in the previous season Division II National Championships **OR**
- In men's epee and women's epee, one of three fencers named by USA Modern Pentathlon. The top three fencers in the USA Modern Pentathlon in men's epee and women's epee will be eligible to compete in the Division I men's epee and women's epee events, respectively, without qualifying by any other means. U.S. Modern Pentathlon fencers **MUST** be USFA members.

\* Age adjusted for the 2015 Division I National Championships: For the Junior NRPS, fencers with birth year of 1995 will be "aged out" i.e., eligible birth year range = 1996-2002. For the Cadet NRPS, fencers with the birth year of 1998 will be "aged out" i.e., eligible birth year range = 1999-2002.

### 2. Division IA

This event offers high-level competition for fencers 13 years and older. This event is offered only at the USA Fencing National Championships; no points are awarded. Division IA National Championships is always at least a Group A3 competition for the purposes of awarding classifications. See Appendix 2.7 for Classification Reference Chart.

#### A. Eligibility (age, classification, qualifying path)

Fencers must be 13 years old before January 1 of the current season or on the Junior NRPS **AND**

- Placed in top 8 at the previous season Division I-A National Championships **OR**
- Placed in top 4 at the previous season Division II National Championships **OR**
- Be on the current season's Division I-A Regional Open Circuit point standings with at least 685 points at the regular fee entry deadline for these Championships
- Be in the Top 8 of the Division II Regional points

### 3. Division II National Championships

#### A. Eligibility (age, classification, qualification path)

Fencers must be 13 years old before January 1 of the current season or on the Junior NRPS. Fencers must have a classification in the weapon of "C", "D", "E" or Unclassified at the time of the qualifying competition **AND** meet age requirements as above **AND**

- Place in the top 25% of the current season's Division Qualifying competition (see updated Table in Appendix 3) [**OR**
  - Qualified for Division 1A, if classification eligible. [BoD, September 2008] **OR**
  - Finish in the top 10% (with a minimum of 4) of a Division II ROC (see Table 2.7.4.2 in Chapter 2.7) [BoD, September 2010]
- Be on the current season's Division II Regional Open Circuit point standings with at least 500 points at the regular fee entry deadline for these Championships

If a fencer meets the classification requirement when his or her application is processed by the USFA, and subsequently earns a higher classification, the fencer retains eligibility for that tournament.

### 4. Division III National Championships

#### A. Eligibility (age, classification, qualification path)

Fencers must be 13 years old before January 1 of the current season or on the Junior NRPS. Fencers must have a classification in the weapon of "D", "E" or Unclassified at the time of the qualifying competition **AND** meet age requirements as above **AND**

- Place in the top 25% (see updated Table in Appendix 3) of the total number of "D", "E" or "U" fencers competing in the current season Division's Division II Qualifying competition (when Division II and Division III qualifying competition held together; See Appendix 2.7 for more details) **OR**
  - If separate Division III qualifying competition held by Division, then top 25% of the field will qualify for Division III National Championships [BOD September 2006] **OR**
- Be on the current season's Division I-A or II Regional Open Circuit point standings, if classification eligible, at the regular fee

entry deadline for these Championships **OR**

- ☐ Qualified for Division II, if classification eligible. [BOD, September 2008].

If a fencer meets the classification requirement when his or her application is processed by the USFA, and subsequently earns a higher classification, the fencer retains eligibility for that tournament.

## 5. Junior Olympic Fencing Championships - Juniors

### A. Eligibility (age, classification, qualification)

Subject to the exceptions in Table 2.5.1, Fencers must be at least 13 years old by January 1 of the current season. Fencers younger than that must, as of the regular fee entry deadline, be on the Cadet point standings to be eligible for Junior events or on the Y14 point standings to be eligible for Cadet events. There are no classification requirements. Fencers must meet age requirements as above and be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Junior Fencers must meet age eligibility above **AND BE**

- ☐ Be on the Junior NRPS<sup>A</sup> at the regular fee entry deadline for these Championships **OR**
- ☐ Be in the top 32 of the Junior Regional Circuit point standings at the regular fee entry deadline for these Championships **OR**
  - ☐ in the top 16 of the Cadet NRPS at the regular fee entry deadline for these Championships **OR**
  - ☐ in the top 25% (see updated Table in Appendix 3) in their Division's Junior J.O. qualifying competition

## 6. Junior Olympic Fencing Championships – Cadets

Cadet Fencers must meet age eligibility above **AND BE**

- ☐ Be on the Cadet NRPS<sup>A</sup> at the regular fee entry deadline for these Championships **OR**
- ☐ Be in the top 32 of the Cadet Regional Circuit point standings at the regular fee entry deadline for these Championships **OR**
  - ☐ Be in the top 8 of the Youth 14 NRPS at the regular fee entry deadline for these Championships **OR**
  - ☐ in the top 25% (see updated Table in Appendix 3) in their Division's Cadet J.O. qualifying competition **OR**
  - ☐ Qualified for the Junior JO Championships [BOD, October 2004].

## 7. Youth 10 Championships – New path

Fencers must meet age eligibility above **AND**

- ☐ Be on Y10 Regional Youth point standings at the regular fee entry deadline for these Championships **OR**
- ☐ Be on Y10 national point standings at the regular fee entry deadline for these Championships

## 8. Youth 12 Championships – New path

Fencers must meet age eligibility above **AND**

- ☐ Be in the top 50% of your region's Y12 Regional Youth point standings at the regular fee entry deadline for these Championships **OR**
- ☐ Be on Y12 national point standings at the regular fee entry deadline for these Championships **OR**
- ☐ Be in the top 8 of the Y10 national point standings at the regular fee entry deadline for these Championships **OR**
- ☐ Be in top 4 of your region's Regional Y10 point standings at the regular fee entry deadline for these Championships (number will be based on the size of the Region)

## 9. Youth 14 Championships

### A. Qualifying Path

Fencers must meet age eligibility above **AND**

- ☐ Be on the Y14 national point standings at the regular fee entry deadline for these Championships **OR**
- ☐ Be in the top 25 % of your region's Regional Y14 point standings at the regular fee entry deadline for these Championships **OR**
- ☐ Be in the top 16 of the Y12 national point standings at the regular fee entry deadline for these Championships **OR**
- ☐ Be in top 8 of your region's Regional Y12 point standings at the regular fee entry deadline for these Championships (number will be based on the size of the Region)
  
- ☐ Place in the top 25% (see updated Table 2.7.4.1 in Appendix 3) of the fencer's Division's Youth 14 qualifying competition held in the current season

## 10. Veteran Age Group Championships

### A. Eligibility (age, classification)

Age eligibility for the separate age categories is governed by the FIE rules for the Veteran World Championships.

### Qualifying Path

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. For the USA Fencing National Championships, fencers must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

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

- ☐ Current season Division qualifying competition for Division II and/or Division III Championships in which only those with a “C” classification or lower (D, E, or U) may compete **OR**
- ☐ Any Regional Open Circuit event during the current season **OR**
- ☐ Any NAC during the current season.
- ☐ Be on the Veteran Age Group NRPS at the regular fee entry deadline for these championships
- ☐ Be on the Veteran Combined Regional point standings at the regular fee entry deadline for these championships

## 11. Wheelchair Championships – No Change

### Objective #3 – Introduction of Junior & Cadet Regional events

#### Starting with the 2014-2015 season:

- The Junior & Cadet Regional events will be modeled after the SYC/ROC structure
- These events may be stand-alone tournaments or an addition to existing ROC events
- Oversight: added to the ROC Committee responsibilities
- Provide 10-12 Junior/Cadet Regional tournaments between August and beginning of January. Tournaments will be designated through an open bid process to provide equitable selection and competitive opportunities across the country
- Circuits could be held on same dates in different parts of country
  - Process already in place with SYC and ROC structure
  - Program Service Fee would apply (\$5 per registrant)
    - Increased services from the National Office to include Facebook updates on the Regional events and results links posted on the USA Fencing website
  - National Office would maintain point structure

#### Implementation of Junior & Cadet Regional tournaments:

##### Regional Junior/Cadet Circuit (RJCC)

The Regional Junior/Cadet Circuit (RJCC) point standings are calculated according to the following guidelines:

In each RJCC category (Junior and Cadet), points will be awarded to the top 40% of fencers in each respective event at each of the following tournaments, using the same schedule of points as that used for placement in Division I events without repêchage:

- Any sanctioned tournament designated as a Regional Junior/Cadet Circuit tournament; OR
- Any North American Cup tournament; OR
- USA Fencing National Championships.

For purposes of determining a fencer's RJCC points list placement, the fencer's best three results from current season tournaments will be used to determine a fencer's eligibility for Junior Olympic Fencing Championships.

### Three Year Phased Plan

#### 2014/2015 new ROC event is introduced at the Regional level

- 10 – 12 New Cadet & Junior ROC's added

#### 2015/2016 additional Cadet & Junior ROC's added to the Regional level

- Additional Cadet & Junior ROC's added based on success of program

### Division and ROC Qualifying % Table

#### Current – 25% rounded up – NO CHANGE

**Table 2.7.4.1 Number of Qualifiers for Junior Olympic Fencing Championships and USA Fencing National Championships from Division Qualifying Competitions (25% rule)**

# Competitors	1	2	3-12	13-16	17-20	21-24	25-28	29-32	33-36	37-40	41-44	45-48
# Qualifiers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

[BOD, October 2003]

**Table 2.7.4.2 Number of Qualifiers for USA Fencing National Championships from DV2 ROC Competitions (10% rule)**

# Competitors	1-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-80	81-90	91-100	101-110	111-120	121-130	131-140	141-150
# Qualifiers	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

### Objective #4 – Tournament in a Box

- Develop a comprehensive plan to create consistency in the look and feel of tournaments from the local level to the national level (tournament in a box concept)
  - Standardized Banners with USA Fencing logos that travel
  - Availability of strips, pod signs and other look and feel elements to be available to regional events
  - Information on how to negotiate venue and hotel contracts and multi-year agreements with cities
  - Examples of marketing /media materials including assistance with press releases, medals etc. that can be used for tournaments
  - National Office will update Facebook for Regional/Division events
  - National Office will add provided results links to the website for real time results information

### Three Year Phased Plan

#### 2014/2015 development of tournament in a box with marketing elements

- Pilot program begins in one region and includes a set of pod flags, medal stand and USA Fencing banner

#### 2015/2016 implementation of tournament in a for all regions

- Regional program to include set of pod flags, medal stand, banner, strip rental and other determined marketing elements

The recommendations listed above have been endorsed by the Board of Directors, the TIP Working Group and the National Office and will be implemented beginning with the 2014/2015 season.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

1. My son is in the Y10 age group and I don't understand how he can qualify for the National Championship.
  - Your son will need attend a Regional Youth Circuit or Super Youth Circuit tournament to fence in either a National Championship or a North American Cup. Points are awarded to all participants at an RYC and 40% of the competitive field at an SYC and/or NAC.
2. Why are you adding Cadet and Junior competitions on the regional level?
  - The Cadet & Junior age groups are underserved currently on the regional level which is why we have added events for these age groups to provide additional competition opportunities.
3. I noticed that Y12 fencers will have to place in the top 50% on their region point standings (or on the National Point Standings) to go on to the National Championship. Why have you changed this qualifying path?
  - The 2015 National Championship will include both Y10 & Y12. In the past, these two age groups attended the summer tournament however their events were considered an NAC and not a Championship. All youth age groups have a specific qualifying path to participate at the National Championship.
4. At an Y14 RYC, if I finish first will I still be considered qualified for the National Championships?
  - Given the recognition of the Y14 Regional points as part of the qualification path allowing more individuals to potentially qualify, the RYC 1<sup>st</sup> place path was removed.
5. Are there any changes to the events or percentage that can qualify from a Division Qualifier?
  - You can still attend the Division Qualifier and if you place in the top 25%, and you meet the other National Championship criteria, you will be qualified for the summer National Championship.
6. Why will you be adding Points Based Qualifying to NAC in 2015/16?
  - USA Fencing National Events have been growing and that is great news. PBQ provides a means of managing schedules at national events. We will be able to determine a desirable level of entries and improve competition experience for competitors, coaches and officials.
7. I'm not sure I understand the "Tournament in a Box" concept. Are you going to mandate that local, Division and Regional event will be required to have a specific layout etc.?
  - No, the National Office will not mandate a specific layout or carpet color but rather we will provide USA Fencing banners, pod signs and other elements so that our tournaments are similarly branded.

For additional information, please email [nationalevents@usfencing.org](mailto:nationalevents@usfencing.org)

## Appendix F

### Summary of rules changes

#### Recommended implementation immediately unless otherwise specified

- t.15.2 Clarification of who should apply penalties for practicing without equipment
- t.20.2 Simple corps a corps will no longer be a penalty
- t.21.3 Clarification about passing the opponent
- t.26.1 Clarification that a foot must be completely off the strip to be considered off
- t.32.4 Applies only to use of wireless equipment
- t.39 Clarification that the Head Referee assists with referee assignment
- t.45.1 A fencer must come to strip with an extra mask-cord in foil and saber
- t.54.1.c Valid touches registered off the valid target regarding m.27 & m.28
- t.56.4 Beats on the lower third of the blade in foil will be considered parries
- t.70.3 Clarification of blows struck with the guard
- t.71 Saber target changes to reflect current manufacturing of lames
- t.82 Insulting an official is an immediate black card
- t.87.3.b Throwing a mask is a black card
- t.87.4.a Non-combativity criteria no longer includes blade contact
- t.90 In team events, only the team captain can lodge protests
- t.92 Coaches may be by the strip during direct elimination matches
- t.95.4 Appeals are no longer required to be accompanied by a guaranty
- t.106 Wording clarification about exclusion
- t.120 Amending the table of penalties to reflect the rules

All changes to Organizational Rules – recommend changing for consistency's sake but none will affect USA Fencing competitions since the Operations Manual is the relevant document for USA Fencing.

- m.27.3 Clarifying mask cord length tolerances
- m.28.1 The lame must cover the target in foil when in the on-guard position
- m.34.1 Matching language to t.71

Annex A Random quality control of equipment by SEMI

Annex A Transparent masks are banned in all weapons – recommend adopting March 1 or 1 month after approved, whichever is longer, in order to allow fencers to purchase equipment that complies.

Annex A Non-maraging steel blades are prohibited in FIE competitions – will not impact US Fencing tournaments, recommend adoption for consistency

### **9) DECEMBER 2013: DECISIONS AT THE 2013 CONGRESS. APPLICATION 1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2013 OR THE APPROPRIATE SUBSEQUENT COMPETITION UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

**t.15.2** – *Add to the end of the Article the following text:*

The Supervisor of the competition or a member of the Directoire Technique must penalize any person not respecting this rule with a yellow card, followed by a black card in case of a repeated infringement.

**t.20.2**

*DELETE the Article and **RENUMBER** 2.20.3 as t.20.2.*

**t.21.3** – *REPLACE the Article with:*

When a fencer goes **completely past** his opponent during a bout, the Referee must

immediately call 'Halt!' and replace the competitors in the positions which they occupied before the passing took place.

**t.22.2** – *REPLACE the first paragraph with:*

At foil and sabre, it is forbidden to **protect** the target area or to **substitute** another part of the body for the target area by covering it (cf. t.114, t.116, t.120); any hit scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

**t.26.1** – *REPLACE the first paragraph with:*

When a competitor **crosses one of the lateral boundaries** of the piste with **one or both feet completely off the piste**, the Referee must immediately call 'Halt!'.

**t.32.4** – *Add to the end of Article t.32 the following t.32.4:*

When wireless apparatus is used, no hits registered after the end of fencing time will be awarded, even if a lamp is showing on the wireless apparatus.

**t.37.3**

For each quarter of the table, 4 referees are assigned by drawing lots from among at least 4 to 5 referees, to referee the bouts in the order of the table. They must be of a different nationality from that of any of the fencers participating in that quarter of the table.

Then, the 4 video-consultants will be assigned by drawing lots among at least 4 to 5 referees.

**t.37.5**

For the final of 4, the Refereeing Delegates, immediately after the end of the direct elimination tables, select 4 referees by lot from among at least 4 to 5 referees, who must be of a different nationality from any of the fencers.

15 minutes before the final, the Refereeing Delegates will draw lots to assign the referees for all the bouts for the two semi-finals, in the following order: 1st semifinal, 2nd semi-final.

As soon as the two semi-finals are over, the Refereeing Delegates will establish a list of 4-5 referees and draw lots to assign the referee and the video-consultant for the final, as well as (at the OG) the referee and the video-consultant of the bout for the 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

**.39** – *REPLACE the Article with:*

Rules described in t.37 and t.38 above are applied by the Directoire Technique, assisted for the finals by the official FIE Refereeing delegate.

**t.45.1** – *ADD to the 2<sup>nd</sup> item ('with only one regulation bodywire; or' a new item:-*

with only one regulation mask wire; or

**t.54.1.c):**

*DELETE this paragraph.*

**t.56.4** ADD this Article after t.56.3, as follows:-

**t.56.4.**

- Attacks by beats on the blade:

a) In an attack by beating on the blade, this attack is correctly carried out and retains its priority when the beat is made on the foible of the opponent's blade, i.e. the two-thirds of the blade furthest from the guard.

b) in an attack by beating on the blade, when the beat is made on the forte of the

opponent's blade, i.e. the one-third of the blade nearest the guard, the attack is badly executed and the beat gives the opponent the right to an immediate riposte.

t.70.3, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence, REPLACE 'Any hits caused by hitting with the guard ....' with:-

Any hits registered by hitting with the guard....

.71, 2<sup>nd</sup> para. REPLACE with:-

The **target** comprises any part of the body above a horizontal line drawn between the tops of the hip bones and then horizontally round the fencer's trunk

t.82.3 – REPLACE the Article with:

3 a) Everybody taking part in or present at a fencing competition **must remain orderly and must not disturb the smooth running** of the competition. During bouts no one is allowed to go near the pistes, ~~to give advice to the fencers,~~ to **criticise the Referee** or the judges or to attempt to influence them in any way. Even the **team captain** must remain in the space assigned to him and he may only intervene in the situations and in the manner provided for in Article **t.90** of the Rules. The Referee must stop immediately any activity which disturbs the smooth running of the bout which he is refereeing (cf. **t.96.1–3**).

b) Any person who, for any reason, threatens or insults an official commits an offence of the 4<sup>th</sup> group and is penalised according to article t.119.

t.87.2– REPLACE the words after 'with violence' with the following:

All bouts must preserve the **character of a courteous and frank encounter**. All **irregular actions** (flèche attack which finishes with a collision jostling the opponent, disorderly fencing, irregular movements on the piste, hits achieved with violence, **blows struck with the guard**, hits made during or after a fall) or **anti-sporting behaviour** are strictly forbidden (cf. t.114–t.120). Should such an offence occur, any hit scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

t.87.3– RENUMBER as t.87.3.a) and ADD a new t.87.3.b) as follows:

b) During or after a bout, even if the fencer has already left the piste, any act against the spirit of sportsmanship such as violently or dangerously throwing one's mask (or any other piece of equipment) will be penalised as specified in article t.119 (cf. t.82.1, 2 and 3).

t.87.4.2 – DELETE 'absence of blade contact or' from the last sentence.

.90.1 – REPLACE the Article with:

1 In team events, only the team captain has the right to approach the Referee and/or the Directoire Technique, in order to decide with them any technical matters, or to register protests. **The procedure for claims is set out in articles t. 122 and t.123.**

.92.1 – REPLACE the Articles with:

1 During the direct elimination of the individual events, the fencer's **coach, medical staff and technicians** are not allowed to remain near their fencers; **the coaches** are allowed to be inside the competition area in a place indicated by the organizers.

t.95.4 – DELETE this Article.

t.106.1 – REPLACE the Article with:

1 **Exclusion from a competition** may also be imposed for a disciplinary offence (failure to appear on the piste as required, weapons not in accordance with the rules, reprehensible attitude towards an official, etc.).

## **t.120**

- **ADD a new note to the Article heading**

This table is intended to be a convenient summary: it is not a substitute for the full texts of the articles concerned, which should be consulted in any case of doubt

**-DELETE point 1.2**

**-1.7 ADD an asterisk (\*)**

**- 1.10 REPLACE reference 70.6 by 70.5**

**-ADD a new line 1.19**

Entering the Piste Enclosure without the Referee's permission + t.92.6

**-2.5 ADD an asterisk (\*)**

**3.1 and 3.4: ADD in the left hand box for articles t.120.3.1 and t.120.3.4 :**

In the most serious cases, the referee may award a black card immediately (t.118.4).

**-ADD a new line 3.5 as follows in the 'YELLOW/BLACK' section:**

Warming up or training without wearing fencing clothing and equipment which conforms with the FIE regulations (t. 15.2).

**-ADD a new line 3.6 as follows in the 'YELLOW/BLACK' section:**

Anti-sporting behaviour (t. 87.2)

**-ADD to the 'EXPLANATIONS 'after \*, as follows:**

+ **Special YELLOW CARD** for the whole team and valid for the whole team match. If, during the same match, a fencer commits an offence of the 1st group, the Referee penalises with a **RED CARD** each time.

**o.14 – o15.3.b) – REPLACE these Articles with:**

**IMPLEMENTATION: 2014-15 SEASON**

**o.14. The order of bouts in the pools is as follows:**

1. Pool of seven	2. Pool of six
1-4 5-1 3-5	1-2 5-4 6-4
2-5 4-3 1-6	4-3 1-6 2-3
3-6 6-2 2-4	6-5 3-5 1-4
7-1 5-7 7-3	3-1 4-2 5-2
5-4 3-1 6-5	2-6 5-1 3-6
2-3 4-6 1-2	
6-7 7-2 4-7	

**o.15. When there are several fencers from the same country in a pool:**

1. If they **do not form the majority** of the competitors in the pool, they must fence off the bouts between themselves before meeting competitors of another nationality.

2. If they **form the majority** of the competitors in the pool, the Directoire Technique may establish a special order of bouts, departing as little as possible from the principle laid down in (a) above, in order to obviate excessive fatigue or delays for the competitors who form the minority in the pool.

3. Examples of the **order of fencers of the same nationality** in a pool of six:

- a) When a pool contains, among its six fencers,
  - **two fencers of the same nationality A**, or
  - **two fencers of the same nationality A and two of the same**

**nationality B**

— **two fencers of the same nationality A, two of the same nationality B, and two of the same nationality C,**

the fencers' names are placed on the pool sheet in such a way that those of the same nationality fence each other in their first bout and the order of bouts of a pool of six is that shown in Article o.14 above.

- b) When a pool contains among its six fencers,
- **three fencers of the same nationality A,** or
  - **three fencers of the same nationality A and two fencers of the same nationality B,** or
  - **three fencers of the same nationality A and three fencers of the same nationality B,** the order will be as follows:

1-2 6-4 4-2  
4-5 2-5 3-6  
2-3 1-4 5-1  
5-6 5-3 3-4  
3-1 1-6 6-2

the fencers' names are placed on the pool sheet in the following way:

- the fencers of nationality A are given numbers 1, 2 and 3;
- the fencers of nationality B are given numbers 4 and 5 or 4, 5 and 6.

**o.27.2 – ADD a second sentence the Article and renumber as follows:-**

**o.27 The final**

1. The final, which is by direct elimination, **will preferably** consist of 4 fencers.
2. **The finals of men's and women's same weapons should preferably be held on the same day.**

**o.31.2 – REPLACE the Article with:**

2. The day before the competition, the organisers must publish **and send to the FIE** the pools **and relevant schedules**, as well as the list of exempt fencers, at the latest at 3:00 p.m. (local time). To do so, they must download the entry file from the FIE web site at the latest the day before the competition. **No addition may be made to the pools already published, unless they come from pools starting at the same time (cf. o. 12.1).**

**o.43.2-4 – REPLACE these Articles with:**

**(IMPLEMENTATION RE JUNIOR WORLD CUP: 2014-15 SEASON)**

2. At the **Junior and Open World Championships** the teams will occupy the places in the table according to the **most recent official team ranking of the FIE**. The teams that are not classified will occupy the last places in the table, and will be separated by drawing of lots.
3. **At the Open World Championships, all places in the table up to 16th place** will be fought for. From 17th place onwards teams will be classified, within each round of the table, according to their initial place in the table.

4. At the **Junior World Championships** the **first sixteen places** will be fought for. From **seventeenth** place onwards teams will be classified, within each round of the table, according to their initial place in the table.

**Title – B. Preceding o.45: change to:**

## **WORLD CUP JUNIOR AND OPEN TEAM COMPETITIONS**

**o.45 – REPLACE the Article with:**

**(IMPLEMENTATION RE JUNIOR WORLD CUP: 2014-15 SEASON)**

Apart from the following aspects, the competition is run in accordance with rules laid down for the team events in the **Junior and Open World Championships** respectively.

**o.54 – REPLACE the Article TITLE with:**

**(IMPLEMENTATION RE JUNIOR WORLD CUP: 2014-15 SEASON)**

**Entries by name for Senior and Junior World Cup competitions, Grand Prix competitions, Satellite competitions, Junior and Open World Cup team competitions and Zonal senior and junior Championships.**

**o.54. 2 – REPLACE the Article with:**

### **2. Withdrawal of a fencer or team**

**After the closing dead-line for entries, no named fencer or team may be withdrawn, except for reasons of injury or force majeure: the national federation must inform the FIE and the organisers.**

**o.54. 4 – REPLACE the Article with:**

### **4. Addition of a fencer or a team after the dead-line**

**a) However, until the Tuesday preceding the competition (midnight, Lausanne time), one or more fencers and/or a team may be added by their national federation, after payment to the FIE of a penalty (cf o.86, table of financial penalties and fines) for each additional fencer.**

To do this, the national federation must send to the FIE (by fax or e-mail) a request for the additional **fencer(s) and/or team and a written commitment to pay the penalty within 15 days.**

**b) From the Wednesday preceding the competition and until 12 am (local time) the day preceding the competition, one or more fencers and/or a team may be added by national federations after payment to the FIE of a higher penalty (cf. article o.86, table of financial penalties and fines) for each additional fencer.**

To do this, the national federation must send to the FIE (by fax or e-mail) a request for the additional **fencer(s) and/or team and a written commitment to pay the penalty within 15 days.**

**o.55. 5 – REPLACE the Article (APPLICATION 1st MARCH, 2014) with:**

5. All participants in an official competition of the FIE who are under the age of majority in the country in which such competition is being held must either:
- 1) be accompanied by a person who is a parent or guardian of the participant or who has **been delegated, on a form valid in the country of the competition**, from a parent or guardian of such participant to act on behalf of

the participant regarding health-related issues; or 2) have such power of attorney issued to a person who has achieved his/her majority and who will be at the competition site during the competition and has agreed to accept the responsibility delineated in such power

**o.62 – REPLACE the Article with:**

For questions concerning the rules **during FIE competitions (including the World Championships and the Olympic Games)**, the Refereeing Commission delegate(s) alone are competent to **judge a referee's decisions from the beginning to the end of the bout**.

At competitions where there is no Refereeing Commission delegate, it is the Supervisor who fulfils this function.

The Supervisor settles any **other** disputes that might arise in Category A and Grand Prix competitions.

It is the responsibility of the Bureau of the FIE or of its designated representative to settle any **other** disputes which arise at World Championships

**o.70.4 – REPLACE the Article with:**

**Neutral referees: At least two international referees**, from countries outside the region of the Games, appointed by the Executive Committee of the FIE **at the proposal of the Refereeing Commission**.

**o.75 – REPLACE the Article with:**

**(IMPLEMENTATION RE JUNIOR WORLD CUP: 2014-15 SEASON)**

The title “World Cup Competition” applies to the following competitions:

- The individual competitions of the Open World Cup and the Grand Prix competitions
- The competitions of the Junior World Cup
- The competitions of the **Junior and Open Team World Cup**

**o.81.2, application 2013-2014 season**

For Open A-grade, **Grand Prix and World Cup team competitions, 8 referees**, proposed by the Refereeing Commission, will be designated by the Executive Committee **and delegations will not have to provide any referees**. The additional referees required (not less than 5) will be provided by the organising committee. All the **referees will be at the expense of the organisers who in return will keep the entry fees**.

**o.82. 1-2 – REPLACE the Articles with:**

**(IMPLEMENTATION RE JUNIOR WORLD CUP: 2014-15 SEASON)**

**1 Application**

**Junior and Open Team World Cup** competitions take place at the three weapons, both male and female.

**2 Principles**

**a)** The **Open Team World Cup** tournament is composed of a maximum of five **integral competitions** (through to the first place) spread, if possible, across all continents. Points will be allocated at the end of each competition.

The **Junior Team World Cup** tournament is composed of four **integral competitions** and points will be allocated at the end of each competition.

**o.84.1 – REPLACE the Article with:**

**(IMPLEMENTATION RE JUNIOR WORLD CUP: 2014-15 SEASON)**

**1 Official team ranking of the FIE**

**a) Principle**

The official **Open** team ranking of the FIE takes into account a team's best four results in the **Open** Team World Cup competitions, irrespective of continent, plus the Open World Championships or the Olympic Games and the Zonal Championships.

The official **Junior** team ranking of the FIE takes into account a team's four results in the Team Junior World Cup competitions, irrespective of continent, plus the junior team World Championships and the junior team Zonal Championships.

**o.84.3 – REPLACE the Article with:**

**(IMPLEMENTATION RE JUNIOR WORLD CUP: 2014-15 SEASON)**

**3 Honours**

**The winner** (first ranked team) of each official **Junior and Open** team ranking of the FIE will be announced at the end of the World Championships or Olympic Games.

**o.86– REPLACE the Article with:**

**NOTE: CONGRESS VOTED TO SHOW ONLY EUROS**

**o.86 TABLE OF FINANCIAL PENALTIES AND FINES**

***1) Delete all CHF values throughout the table. Fines are to be quoted in euros only.***

***2) Modify the 2<sup>nd</sup> category as follows:***

Entry to other FIE competitions after closing date, <b>until the Tuesday preceding the competition</b>	<b>o.54.4 a)</b>	150 euros per entry	With the entry	FIE	By the National Federation
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***3) Introduce a new category after the 2<sup>nd</sup> category as follows:***

Entry to other FIE competitions after closing date, from the Wednesday and until the day (12 am local time) preceding the competition	<b>o.54.4 b)</b>	250 euros per entry	With the entry	FIE	By the National Federation
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**m.27.3 – ADD to the end of this Article the following:**

In the case of a coiled wire, the maximum length of the free cable must not exceed 25 cm in length with a tolerance of +/- 5 cm.

**m.28.1 – MODIFY the first sentence of this Article to read as follows:**

The conductive surface of the conductive over-jacket which is worn over the protective jacket must cover the valid target of the fencer (cf t.47) entirely and without omission when in the on-guard position.

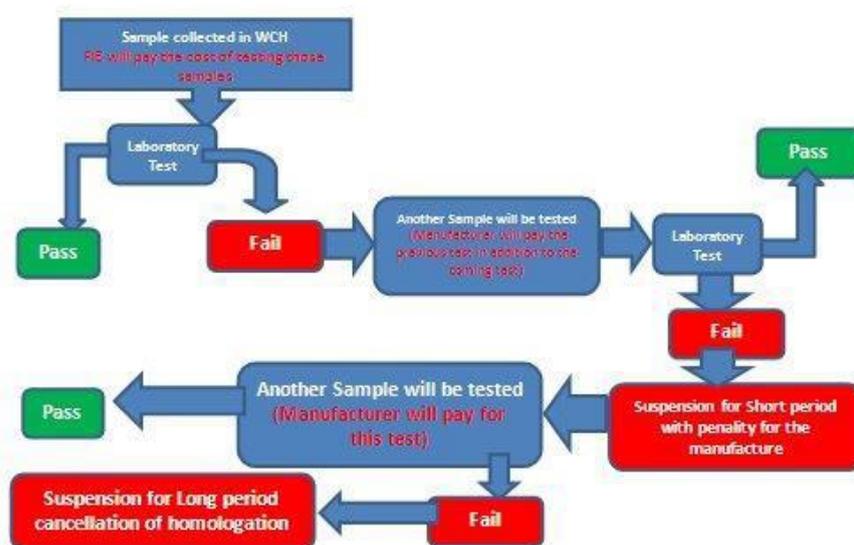
**m.34.1– MODIFY the first sentence of the Article as follows:**

The fencer must wear, over his jacket, a **conductive over-jacket**, the conductive surface of which must cover entirely and without omission the valid surface of the body above a horizontal line which, when the fencer is on guard, joins, round the fencer's trunk, the tops of the two hip bones.

**ANNEXE A TO BOOK M, PAGE 54 OF CURRENT (WEB) EDITION, at end of Homologation process system ('modifications have not been submitted for a new homologation', ADD:-**

**Random quality control of Fencing equipment**

Whenever it deems necessary, the FIE SEMI Commission may obtain a random sample of any specific item of fencing equipment available on the market. Having obtained the equipment, the SEMI will submit it to technical analysis for quality control purposes. Should there be any doubt as to the quality of the item, the SEMI may send it directly to an agreed independent institute for testing; tests will be carried out in accordance with the existing FIE material rules and with CE/EC standards. Should the tests reveal any non-conformity or any lowering of quality level, the SEMI will take appropriate action, which may involve the application of a penalty. In extreme cases, the manufacturer may lose a previously awarded FIE homologation.



**Occasional check**

The SEMI alone may:-

- carry out occasional checks on blades (three blades);
- at World Championships, obtain a selection of blades bearing the official FIE guarantee stamp;
- have the blades tested at the approved laboratories, distributing the work evenly between them.

Should the blades fail the tests, the manufacturers will pay for the blades and for the costs of the tests, their homologation will be annulled and the manufacturer will have to submit ten further blades for a new homologation process. There will be no certificate issued for the occasional check.

**ANNEXE A 1.3.2 of book m. DELETE the following from the end of the Article**

~~The FIE has accepted the use of non-Maraging steel of the following types for the manufacture of épée blades:  
— 45Si7, 45Si Cr Mo, 45 XH2 MFA.~~

~~Blades made with these steels must, obviously, comply with the cycles of resistance to fatigue established by the SEMI.~~

Replace with the following:

Application: Non-maraging steel épée blades will no longer be accepted for homologation after 01.01.2014 and non-maraging steel épée blades already homologated will not be accepted in FIE competitions from 31.12.2015.

ANNEXE A 1.6.9 of book m.

-MODIFY TITLE TO

*'Fatigue resistance test of Blades (by bending etc)'*

-REPLACE first paragraph with:-

In order to examine the behavior of blades during normal fencing activity, the blades to be tested must undergo a test of their resistance to metal fatigue with a special apparatus, either mechanical or pneumatic, homologated by the FIE SEMI Commission.

ANNEXE A 2.1.2.1 of book m.

REPLACE after 'Currently only composite masks have been accepted by the FIE' with the following:

The wearing of the transparent mask is **forbidden** at all weapons and in all FIE competitions.

**Veteran World Championships**

The wearing of the transparent mask is **forbidden** at the Veterans World championships, at all three weapons.