

**Minutes**  
**Special Meeting of the**  
**USA Fencing Board of Directors**  
**November 16, 2016 via Teleconference**

**Present:** Donald Alperstein, Don Anthony, David Arias, Raquel Brown, Sam Cheris, Diana Hoadley, Alan Kidd, Lorrie Marcil-Holmes, Cody Mattern, Jeff Salmon, Laurie Schiller

**Absent:** Daria Schneider

**Guests:** Peter Barton, Bob Bodor, Kris Ekeren, Doug Hayler, Nicole Jomantas, Grant Jones, Melissa Jones, Jim Neale, Kim O'Shea, Kate Reisinger, Christy Simmons, Leslie Winckler

The board voted to accept the recommendation on a disciplinary matter via email vote on September 15, 2016.

The board voted to appoint Sam Cheris as Vice President via email vote on September 26, 2016.

The board voted to approve the creation of the International Championships Exploration (ICE) Task Force with the following members: Michael Aufrichtig, Sam Cheris, Phil Reilly, Greg Massialas, Cody Mattern and Christy Simmons via email vote on October 25, 2016.

**I. General Information and Organizational Items**

General Announcements

**Motion: (Mr. Anthony)** To appoint Peter Barton as Parliamentarian for the remainder of this membership year.

Second Mr. Schiller. Motion passed.

Remarks – Donald Anthony, President (**Appendix A**)

**II. Consent Agenda Items (Mr. Anthony)**

- 1.** To approve the minutes of the September 11, 2016 meeting.

2. To approve the pre-audited financial reports for July 2016.
3. To approve the financial reports for August 2016.
4. To appoint Holly Buechel to the High School Resource Team.
5. To update committee changes due to the following individuals declining their positions: Bradley Baker, Safe Sport Resource Team; Sharon Everson - Paralympic Development Resource Team; Richard Cohen - Hall of Fame Committee
6. To accept minutes from the International Relations Committee, Nominating Committee and Safe Sport Resource Team.

Second Mr. Kidd.

Motion passed with corrections to Sept. 11 minutes.

### **III. Executive Director's Report (Appendix B)**

### **IV. Finance Update**

Mr. Arias:

The financial statements look so much different than when I was previously on the board because of the amount of information that they contain. We will be watching the Budget to Actual for variances throughout the year.

Mr. Hayler:

#### **July Financials**

Last Friday we wrapped up field work on the 2015-16 audit. There was one adjustment that we proposed to the auditors. We are reclassifying \$191,607 in deferred revenues to be recognized as revenue in base funding. Among other things, this will increase the bottom line on the financial statements.

The year-end adjustment to recognize revenue was not calculated correctly. The expenses were calculated from January 1, 2016 to July 31, 2016. The expenses should have been calculated from August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2016. So five months of expense had been left off the original calculation.

All the expenses were recorded correctly. After calculating the expense for the audit period, we did spend all monies associated the USOC Funding so all the funding from the USOC should have been recognized on the financial statements.

The year-to-date July financials in the board packet shows net income of \$168,775 so

after the adjustment is made, net income will be increased by \$191,607. Therefore, July 31, 2016 Net Income will be approximately \$360,382 which is \$260,382 higher than budgeted.

This adjustment has no effect on cash. So Cash + Receivables still exceeds payables by approximately \$545K.

The audit committee did have a call with Greg Papineau, BiggsKofford, yesterday. The goal is to have a draft to us by December 1. Then meet with the audit committee and then have the audit finalized by mid-December.

### **August Financials**

Our YTD net income for August is \$628K versus a budgeted number of \$532K. Timing differences are causing the variance in budgeted income and expenses. These will start to even out in September.

The overall Sports Performance budget does not show a difference, there is a variance in Olympic ticket sales of approximately \$30K due to less than anticipated demand. We will be making adjustments that will be included in the September financial report. We hope to have September financials out by late next week.

Our cash + receivables exceed our payables by approximately \$1,316K.

## **V. Strategic Roadmap Update**

Ms. Ekeren asked that any Board members that have not gotten their top five strategic metrics to Lee Metcalf to please do so. We will work on these initiatives at the February meeting.

## **VI. Legal Update**

We have settled the Keehan lawsuit. The NGB Counsel meeting in Park City was very helpful. Among the items that were discussed was the Center for SafeSport.

## **VII. End-of-Year Giving Update**

Mr. Jones gave an oral report about Giving Tuesday which will take place on Nov. 29. Last year we focused on a single narrative and received good results. This year we will highlight an upcoming fencer, Sylvie Binder. She has a great story and is an ambassador.

Social campaigns began on November 15 to actively promote Giving Tuesday.

## **VIII. Center for Safe Sport Update**

Ms. O'Shea provided an oral update on the status of the Center for SafeSport.

## **IX. FIE Congress and International Update**

Mr. Anthony provide d an update on FIE Congress in Moscow. Elections will be held during the Congress. This will be a very interesting Congress because there are 140 countries represented, and there is a large number of people running for commissions and councils. We are bringing a strong delegation and are arriving early to work on promoting our candidates.

We are looking at the ICE team to explore the US hosting events and the feasibility of us hosting.

Question to Mr. Anthony: Who is going to the FIE Congress?

Mr. Anthony: Don Anthony, Sam Cheris, Iana Dakova, Jeremy Summers, Ted Li, Stacey Johnson, Greg Massialas and Carl Borack.

## **X. Old Business**

**Motion: (Mr. Schiller)** To approve the recommendation of the US SEMI Committee that USA Fencing will not adopt the 2nd mask strap rule (m.25.7.f) adopted by the FIE at last year's Congress. However, if a fencer is using a mask with the 2<sup>nd</sup> strap, they must use it as designed, i.e., around the neck behind the head of the fencer. This rule is effective immediately.

Second Mr. Mattern.

Motion passed.

**Motion: (Mr. Anthony)** To amend Article XII, Section 7.B.3 of the USFA Bylaws pursuant to Article XIV, Section 2 to change the name from the FOC (Fencing Officials' Commission) to Referees' Commission.

Second Mr. Schiller.

Motion passed.

**Motion: (Mr. Mattern)** To amend Article VII and VIII of the USFA Bylaws pursuant to Article XIV, Section 2 to comply with the change from three (3) to two (2) Athlete Directors to the Board of Directors. Revise Article VII, Section 2.b and 3.b of the USFA Bylaws. In addition, revise Article VIII to reflect recommended changes to the USFA Athletes' Advisory Council.

## **ARTICLE VII BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

a. Athlete Directors. There shall be three (3) Athlete Directors through August 31, 2016 and two (2) Athlete Directors beginning September 1, 2016. All Athlete Directors shall be voting members of the USFA in good standing who meet the qualifications set forth in this Subsection.

i. Beginning September 1, 2016 the two (2) Athlete Directors will be (1) USOC Athletes Advisory Council Representative; (2) USOC Athletes Advisory Council Alternate.

Athlete Directors shall be selected according to the methods established by the Athlete Council.

### Section 3. **Terms of Directors.**

b. Athlete Directors. Athlete Directors shall be seated for one Quadrennium, or until replaced, whichever is later. For purposes of these Bylaws, a Quadrennium is deemed to start on January 1 of the year following the year in which the summer Olympic and Paralympic Games is scheduled to be held, and end on December 31 of the year in which the next edition of the summer Olympic and Paralympic Games is scheduled to be held.

## **ARTICLE VIII ATHLETE COUNCIL**

Section 1. **Athlete Council.** The Athlete Council shall establish procedures for the selection of athletes to positions in the USFA that are reserved for athletes; shall advise the President and the Board of Directors with respect to issues of concern to athletes; and shall undertake such projects as the Athlete Council shall determine to be in the interest of USFA athletes and as are assigned to it by the USFA.

Section 2. **Terms, Classification and Qualification.** The Athlete Council shall comprise of nine athletes as follows:

a. Term: Members of the Athlete Council shall be selected following the selection of the USOC Athlete Advisory Council Representative and Alternate. . Members of the Athlete Council shall be seated for one Quadrennium, or until replaced, whichever is later. For purposes of these Bylaws, a Quadrennium is deemed to start on January 1 of the year following the year in which the summer Olympic and Paralympic Games is scheduled to be held, and end on December 31 of the year in which the next edition of the summer Olympic and Paralympic Games is scheduled to be held.

b. Classification of Members. Members of the

Athlete Council shall fall into the following categories:

i. USOC Athlete Advisory Council Representative and Alternate.

ii. Weapon Representatives. Six members of the Athlete Council shall be selected to represent each of the six internationally recognized weapon and gender categories. Such members shall be selected by the top-32 point holders for each category as indicated by the Rolling Point Standings as of December 1 in the year preceding the start of the term.

iii. Wheelchair Representative. One Wheelchair Representative shall be selected by all wheelchair fencers on the Rolling Point Standings as of December 1 in the year preceding the start of the term.

iv. Should a member of the Athlete Advisory Council be elected to serve as a member of the USOC AAC Leadership group, that member shall become an ex-officio member of the Athlete Advisory Council.

v. Council.

c. Qualification to Serve: All members of the Athlete Council shall (1) have been ranked in the top 32 of the USFA Senior Rolling Point Standings at the conclusion of the USFA Division I National Championships in the year preceding the start of the term; or (2) shall satisfy the criteria set forth in Sections 8.8.2(c)(1) of the Bylaws of the United States Olympic Committee; or (3) shall within the ten (10) years preceding election, represented the United States in the Paralympic Games, or an IPC-recognized World Championship in events on the Paralympic Games program.

Section 3. **Vacancies.** Vacancies in the membership of the Athlete Council that arise for any reason other than the expiration of member's term shall be filled by a vote of the remaining members of the Athlete Council. Such selection shall assure compliance with the requirements set forth in Section 2(b & c) of this Article. Individuals selected to fill vacant positions shall serve the remainder of the term to which they are elected.

Rationale: These recommendations are based on discussion with the current athlete board reps.

**Motion: (Mr. Mattern)** To amend: i. Beginning September 1, 2016 the two (2) Athlete

Directors will be (1) USOC Athletes Advisory Council Representative; (2) USOC Athletes Advisory Council Alternate.

Athlete Directors shall be selected according to the methods established by the Athlete Council.

Should an Athlete Director be elected to serve as a member of the USOC AAC Leadership group, that member shall be appointed as a Vice President of the Board of Directors after meeting the qualifications of written affirmation.

i. USOC Athlete Advisory Weapon Representatives (6). An athlete shall be selected to represent each of the six internationally recognized weapon and gender categories. Such members shall be selected by the top-32 current point holders for each such category as indicated by the Rolling Point Standings as of December 1 in the year preceding the start of the term.

Second Mr. Schiller.

Motion (Mr. Mattern) To lay on the table until the February meeting after review and revision.

Second Mr. Alperstein.

Motion passed.

## **XI. New Business**

**Motion: (Mr. Anthony)** to appoint the following individuals to the 2016-2020 US Fencing Foundation:

At Large Members: Sam Cheris, Robert Dow, Stacey Johnson, Steve Sobel, Robert Zagunis

USA Fencing Board Members: Don Anthony, Raquel Brown

Second Mr. Kidd.

Motion passed.

## **XII. Good and Welfare**

Next meeting will be in person at Junior Olympics in Kansas City.

Regional Events update - Ms. Winckler gave an oral report on the 2017-18 season bid process overview. SYC and ROC bids will open on Nov. 21, 2016. The deadline is January 10, 2017 with winning bids announced on February 28, 2017. RJCC and RYC bid packet will be published in mid-December with bids being accepted from January

10, 2017 through March 21, 2017. The winning bids will be announced on May 21, 2017. The National Office will assemble a support review panel that consist of office staff, an independent contractor who has strong history in the sport and running events, four (4) members who are not responsible for running any regional events in 2017-18.

### **XIII. Summary of Actions Taken during Executive Session**

The board voted to approve the red light background appeal from a professional member.

The board received an update on the Keehan settlement.

The board voted to allow Ms. Ekeren to work with Mr. Neale on a contract.

### **XIV. Adjournment**



## **Appendix A**

President's Letter  
November 16, 2016

This is the first letter I have written for the magazine since the USA Fencing elections in June. I want to thank the membership for re-electing me for a second 4 year term and I look forward to working with you, the Board and National Office Staff in taking the organization to new heights.

I write this letter as we are coming off a great performance by our Team in the Rio Olympic Games. We are so very proud of our great athletes and how they represent Team USA. The new season is already in full swing and our athletes are off to a great start. We have had numerous podium finishes at the Cadet, Junior and Senior World Cup level with Race Imboden, Miles Chamley-Watson, Daryl Homer, and Anna Van Brummen along with Nicole Ross and the Men's and Women's Foil Teams with back to back Medal's at the senior level and the list goes on and on.

Financially USA Fencing is off to a good start this year. Our outside Auditors were just wrapping up last week and the audit appears to have gone well. We may also have ended the 2015-2016 year in an even better financial position than initially forecast. The 2017-2018 budget season is kicking off and we expect to have a draft budget by early next year.

USA Fencing conducted a "Post Rio Olympic Celebration Tour" to recognize our athletes and the tremendous success we had at the games. The tour went well and it was the first time for this type of event. The tour went through five cities starting in the Bay Area and culminating at the NAC in Detroit. There were multiple dimensions to the tour beginning with Public Demonstrations in high visibility locations, Club Sessions where the athletes shared their experiences at the Games and brunch, lunch and dinner events for donors and supporters. This was a first time effort and laid the foundation for these types of events in the future.

The NAC season is off to a rapid start with Detroit and Milwaukee already behind us. The events have gone well. Milwaukee was challenging due to the sheer size of the event with the addition of the youth events added as a result of the incident at the Summer Nationals in Dallas.

Internationally we are preparing for the FIE Congress in Moscow over the Thanksgiving Weekend. We have a strong contingent running for election to both Commission and Councils. We are sending a number of candidates to Moscow to help work the political system to get as many of our representatives elected as possible.

A new task force was recently put in place to explore the potential for hosting major international events, Junior and Cadet, Veteran and Senior World Championships in the next few years. The objective for hosting events will be to leverage them to increase visibility for fencing and building participation domestically.

Sincerely,  
Donald K. Anthony, Jr.  
President and Board Chairman

## Appendix B



To: USA Fencing Board of Directors

From: Kris Ekeren, Executive Director

Date: November 4, 2016

Subject: Executive Director's Report

---

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

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

Many of the committees and resource teams have already met in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the membership year and have begun their work. The Nominating Committee, chaired by Jimmy Moody, announced that applications for the upcoming board election are due on November 28, 2016.

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

The National Office staff has been working with our auditors to review the 2015-16 fiscal year. Based on preliminary information, the audit has gone well. The auditors will be reaching out to the Audit Committee to discuss the process and their findings in the near future. Through the first few months of the fiscal year, we are continuing to monitor the budget closely so that we can remain on track. In addition, Doug and Melissa have begun the budget process for 2017-18.

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

The priority for the marketing team has been to review sponsorship prospects for the 2016-2020 quad and we anticipate making announcements on the partnerships in late 2016. For the next seven weeks, we will be focused on end of year giving which will kick-off with Giving Tuesday on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Information on the weapon specific endowment has been sent out to past national team members.

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

Staff will provide an update to the board on upcoming plans for regional events, including evaluations and scheduling. We will also be evaluating the pilot tournament projects in early 2017. The National Office will be putting together a working group made up of staff and volunteers on tournament on tournament structure and recommendations.

The International Championships Exploration (ICE) task force was appointed by President Don Anthony and approved by the BOD. The group is tasked with reviewing opportunities for hosting international championships in the United States and making recommendations to the BOD.

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

The Celebrate Rio tour wrapped up in Detroit and was successful on many levels. After evaluating the tour, we have several ideas to improve the events in the future. We are also exploring the option to do more tours or promotional events in addition to the Olympic celebrations.

Although the number of fencing clubs participating in national fencing weekend was not as large as we had hoped, the events were successful and we have been able to record ~5,000 introductory lessons at the local level since September 2016.

The high school memberships continue to pick up and we are confident that with continued nurturing and attention, the program will flourish.

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

The Sports Performance department has completed a quad review and is working closely with SPRT, national coaches and athletes to build and sustain our competitive excellence. The recent international results have been impressive and I want to congratulate all of the athletes, their coaches and support teams.

Improving our Paralympic program is also a priority and we anticipate introducing a plan to SPRT in the next two months.

#### **Transform Culture of Fencing Leadership and Governance**

At the September board meeting, board and staff agreed that the organization's culture continues to be very important. We will be discussing the action steps at the February in-person meeting.

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

Work continues on the organizational structure with an emphasis on regional events and the division resource team.