

Minutes
Meeting of the Veteran Committee
USA Fencing
December 8, 2017
Portland, OR

I. The Chair called the meeting to order promptly at 6 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: Bill Walker (Chair), Vic Bianchini, Rinaldo Campana, David Hitchcock, Leslie Marx, Judith Offerle, Drew Ridge, Rita Comes (ex-Officio), Brandon Dyett (Staff Liaison)

Absent: Jim Adams, Bill Becker, Philippe Bennett, Paul Levy, Ann Marsh-Senic (Board Liaison)

Guests: Don Anthony (President, USA Fencing), Kris Ekeren (Executive Director, USA Fencing), Melody Lowman, Valerie Asher, Anne-Marie Walters, Jennette Starks-Faulkner, Lynette Whitt, Paolo Damiani, Jennifer Niemeyer, Jane Eyre, Wang Yung, Carol Campana, Ellen O'Leary

III. New Business

- a. Brandon Dyett was introduced as the new staff liaison to the committee.
- b. A sub-committee was formed to study and recommend a more formal process to select Veteran *Fencer of the Year* and *Lifetime Achievement* award winners in the future. Member of this sub-committee are as follows: Vic Bianchini (Chair), Jim Adams, Leslie Marx, Drew Ridge, Jane Eyre. Initial round of suggestions due to the committee by the end of January.
- c. There was a discussion regarding selection of the Team Captain and Chef de Mission for the Veteran World Championships. Brandon was tasked to research the process established by USA Fencing to select individuals for these roles, and to report back to the committee.

At the 2017 Veteran Worlds, the responsibilities for these individuals were as follows:

Chef de Mission (Rita Comes) used her role as an FIE Veteran Committee member to talk with the DT and event leaders to advocate for the U.S. Team, including future Vet Worlds in the USA, challenges over rules and event feedback. The Chef de Mission also assisted with team logistics.

Team Captain (USA Fencing Staff) focused on team logistics, including registration, apparel, hotel room block reservation, team dinner coordination, reserving USA location in the venue, armorer/sports med/referee travel and in-venue assistance.

Team Event Captains (One per weapon squad, men's foil team, women's foil team, etc.) These individuals sat in the team box for the event, participated in age category order selection and decided substitutions. Last year we let the team athletes nominate/elect their captain, which seemed to work well.

- d. There was a discussion regarding potential changes and improvement to U.S. veteran fencing, including the establishment of a fourth North American Cup event, changes to the selection criteria for the Veteran World Championships (i.e., Div I points, international points and what impact a fourth NAC would have) and changes to bout formats (15 vice 10 touches for DE bouts). Other items for consideration in the poll were talks of a 5-year competitive increment instead of 10. The sense of the group was that gaining input from a wider audience would be appropriate before entertaining any changes of this magnitude. It was suggested that an online questionnaire/survey would be an effective tool to poll the veteran community on these and other issues. A sub-committee was established to draft a questionnaire/survey and present it to the committee by 1/31/18 for review and approval. Members of this sub-committee include: Valerie Asher (Chair), Drew Ridge, Judith Offerle and Bill Walker with Brandon Dyett serving as the staff liaison.
- e. A discussion ensued regarding total Veteran participation in USA Fencing. Kris Ekeren stated that the data should be available in the USA Fencing membership database. Brandon Dyett was tasked with providing the following information.
 - a. How many members of USA Fencing are 40 years of age or over?
 - b. How many fencers have competed in each age group (V40, V50, V60, V70 and V80) at the National level over the last three seasons?
- f. There was a discussion of participation in international veterans fencing events (other than the Pan American and World Championships). Rita Comes offered to help aggregate a list of these opportunities, and Brandon Dyett will work with the National Office to ensure they are published on the USA Fencing website.
- g. Bill Walker discussed a new program for the veteran community (and others) to support an endowment for each of the six senior weapon teams (men's and women's epee, foil, and saber). More information will be forthcoming from the National Office on this program soon.

IV. Old Business – none.

- a. Vet teams composition for the NACs [now at the Summer Nationals], with discussion regarding minimum ages and alternative formats.

V. Without objection the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.