

Agenda
Special Meeting of the
USA Fencing Board of Directors
via Teleconference
April 30, 2019 at 7 pm ET
1-877-885-3221 Passcode: 6869204

I. General Information and Organizational Items

General Announcements

Remarks – Donald Anthony, President

II. Consent Agenda Items (Mr. Anthony)

1. To approve the minutes of the February 19, 2019 meetings.
2. To approve the financial reports for January and February 2019.
3. To receive the Ethics Committee (**Appendix A**) and Election Committee minutes (**Appendix B**).
4. To create a task force to explore esport opportunities and provide a report to the Board of Directors. The National Office will create an announcement to encourage interested members to submit an application to serve on the task force.

III. Executive Director's Report (Kris Ekeren)

IV. Finance Update (Doug Hayler)

V. Legal Update (Jim Neale)

VI. Good and Welfare

VII. Recess to Executive Session

VIII. Executive Session

IX. Adjournment

Appendix A

Name: Ethics Committee

Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2019

Members Present: Raquel Brown, Maya Lawrence, Cody Mattern, Elvira Orly, Lew Siegel

Board Liaison: Lorrie Marcil Holmes

Staff Liaison: Melissa Jones, Suzie Riewald

Guests: Sam Cheris, Kris Ekeren

1. Ethics Committee Purview: discussion to start the meeting about the scope of the Ethics Committee as items on the agenda seem to relate more to behavioral as opposed to Ethical concerns.

Read in part, the following Ethics Committee Charter:

The Ethics Committee shall promote and help sustain a culture of ethical conduct throughout the USFA. The Ethics Committee shall review all USFA codes of conduct, conflict of interest regulations and disclosures, and other policies and reports addressing prescribed and recommended standards of behavior of USFA members, contractors and employees. The Ethics Committee may recommend to the appropriate promulgating authority proposals for adoption, revision and improvement of codes and policies concerning ethical conduct of persons associated with the USFA. The Ethics Committee shall prescribe standards and forms for the disclosure of actual, apparent and potential conflicts of interest, and shall not less frequently than annually review such disclosures and make a report thereof to the Board of Directors. The Ethics Committee shall address inquiries regarding the applicability, compliance or non-compliance with promulgated ethical standards, shall review complaints alleging ethical violations that are referred to it by the National Office or Board of Directors or undertaken on its own initiative, and shall refer to the Board of Directors any recommendations for commencement of disciplinary proceedings that the Ethics Committee deems appropriate.

Some felt the non-SafeSport, behavioral, Code of Conduct concerns should be handled by Ethics Committee but not unanimous. Board needs to decide who handles these issues and how. If not Ethics, then who? National Office will get clarification from Board as to the scope of the Ethics committee.

Elected to table the Complaint received by the National Office as there was not agreement that such complaints should be handled by this Committee. We will review the complaint at the next meeting, if deemed appropriate

2. Black Card Policy

Sub-Committee of Cody, Maya and Sam will take a closer look at Black Card Policy and present a recommendation. The discussion was to have all Black Cards reviewed by the Ethics Committee or a sub-committee to decide if a closer review of the Black Card is warranted. A 2nd Black Card would call for a mandatory review.

Discussion as to whether potential consequences need to be outlined in the policy or is it too difficult to list all possible consequences given the uniqueness of situations surrounding individual Black Cards.

3. Codes of Conduct Update
 - a. Parties in Disciplinary hearings – letters on website
 - b. Spectator – approved by BOD: Coach, Athlete – going to BOD for approval.
4. Ethics Cases – Review and discussion
 - a. RB – tabled until agreement reached as to scope of Ethics Committee
5. Conflict of Interest – discussion that USA Fencing needs guidelines as to what constitutes a Conflict of interest; members are not disclosing conflicts so guidelines are needed. Cody offered to provide a sample for review.

Action Items

- Clarification from BOD as to roles and responsibilities of Ethics Committee
- COC to Board for approval
- Black Card Policy Sub-Committee to refine policy proposal
- Conflict of Interest – guidelines needed that define and describe what constitutes a COI.

Appendix B
USA Fencing Election Committee Minutes
Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2019
2 p.m. Mountain Time

Present: Susan Belanich, Dan Berke, Sam Cheri, Michael McTigue, Nicole Jomantas (Staff Liaison)

I. Election of Committee Chairperson

- A. Berke volunteered for the position of chairperson after several years having previously held the role. Motion made by Berke to name Berke chair. Motion seconded by Cheri. Motion passed.

II. Petition Process

- A. Bylaws state that petitions must be received by the National Office before April 1. Last package / postal delivery prior to April 1 is scheduled for Friday, March 29. Therefore, petitions must be received in the National Office prior to the close of business (5 p.m. MDT on Friday, March 29).
- B. Call for Petitions will be written by Jomantas and sent to the committee for review. Call for Petitions will be posted on the USA Fencing website and promoted via social media. Berke will update the petition form.

III. Establishment of Election Dates and Timeline

- A. Length of Election: 21 Days
- B. Dates: May 1-22
- C. Date for Receipt of Candidate Materials: April 22
- D. Date for Posting of Candidate Materials: April 26

IV. Election Advertisement Policies

- A. Candidates will have the opportunity to purchase a maximum of two eblast advertisements for dissemination to eligible voters.

V. Other Business

- A. Hall of Fame Election will follow the same timeline as the Board Election

USA Fencing Election Committee Minutes
Monday, April 1, 2019
10:10 a.m. Mountain Time

Present: Susan Belanich, Dan Berke, Sam Chervis, Michael McTigue, Nicole Jomantas (Staff Liaison)

- I. Jomantas reported that there were no petitions received at the National Office for the At-Large Director positions.
- II. Berke will send an e-mail to the candidates (Donald Alperstein, Michael Aufrichtig and Ann Marsh Senic) detailing the election schedule, deadlines and protocol. All candidates must submit a bio and photo by Monday, April 22.
- III. Candidate bios and photos will be posted on USAFencing.org by April 26 with a corresponding link to the election page on the USA Fencing homepage.
- IV. Test ballots will be sent by Jomantas to the Election Committee during the week of April 22-26 with the election to begin on May 1 and conclude on May 22.
- V. The committee will determine whether an additional meeting is needed prior to the election. If no such meeting is necessary, an after-action meeting will be held following the conclusion of the election.
- VI. Berke motioned to adjourn, Belanich seconded. Motion passed.