

Annual Board Meeting Minutes

USA Fencing Board of Directors

Part II - Sunday, September 10, 2023 at 1:00PM (MT)– Denver, CO

I. Call to Order

Present: Ivan Lee, Donald Alperstein, David Arias, Emily Bian, Peter Burchard, Lauryn DeLuca, Kat Holmes, Darryl Jacobs, Mike Joo, Selina Kaing, Damien Lehfeltdt, Amanda Nguyen, Nzingha Prescod, Abdel Salem, Peter Barton (Parliamentarian).

Absent: Ben Bratton, Aimee Rice.

USA Fencing Staff: Phil Andrews, Kate Reisinger, Tabitha Chamberlin, Amanda Lilly, Glen Hollingsworth, Christina Pachuta

II. Consent Agenda Items (Mr. Lee)

- a. To approve the minutes from the July 4, 2023 meeting attached as [Appendix A](#).
- b. To approve updates to the Member Code of Conduct as attached in [Appendix B](#).
- c. To approve the minutes from the September 8, 2023 meeting to be attached as [Appendix J](#) when available.
- d. To approve the record of e-voting from September 1, 2023 attached as [Appendix K](#).

Second: Darryl Jacobs

Result: Passed by voice vote

III. CEO, Operations & Financial Update (Mr. Andrews, Ms. Chamberlin)

IV. Committee, Resource Teams & AC Updates (as applicable)

- a. Election Committee Report ([Appendix C](#))
- b. Division Resource Group Report ([Appendix D](#))
- c. Nominating Committee Report ([Appendix E](#))
- d. Black Card Review Group Report ([Appendix F](#))
- e. Referees' Commission Report ([Appendix G](#))
- f. International Relations Committee Report ([Appendix H](#))

V. New Business

2020 Olympic Team Recognition

MOTION 1 (Mr. Lehfeldt): To the extent it is within its' jurisdiction and to the extent possible, that Adam Rodney be recognized by USA Fencing as a member of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Team.

Rationale: Due to bureaucratic circumstances largely outside of his control, Adam Rodney was unable to compete in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics as the alternate athlete. While USA Fencing lacks the jurisdiction to credential Mr. Rodney as an Olympian (or OLY), the official records of the NGB should be updated to reflect Mr. Rodney as the alternate in the Tokyo Olympics.

Second: Peter Burchard

Result: Defeated by roll call vote; 7 No, 2 Yes, and 1 Abstention

Approval of the 2023 Financial Policy and Procedures

MOTION 2 (Mr. Lee): That the 2022 Financial Policy and Procedures now updated to the 2023 Financial Policy and Procedures be approved as our USA Fencing policy subject to review by an independent auditor. 2023 Financial Policy and Procedures are attached as [Appendix I](#).

Rationale: Following a review and update by the USA Finance team, minor updates have been made to the Financial Policy & Procedures which requires the formal approval of the Board of Directors. Primarily items addressed include expense requirements, and clarifying the levels at which the CEO and/or the Board of Directors need to be involved or made aware.

Second: David Arias

Result: Passed by voice vote

Youth Competition

MOTION 3 (Mr. Lee): That all Youth-8 competitions conducted under the authority of USA Fencing abide by and apply the field of play rules applicable to Youth-10 competitions conducted at the same divisional, regional, or national level, and that the Athlete Handbook, Operations Manual, Regional Handbook and other applicable documents be revised accordingly.

Rationale: During the 2022-23 season, USA Fencing's Board of Directors approved Youth-8 as a sanctioned but optional regional and divisional event. However, no decision was made at the time regarding what rules would apply in such competitions,

e.g., concerning blade length, uniform requirements, DE bout formats, etc. Certain local and regional organizers have begun scheduling Y-8 events without such guidance. Without the adoption of this resolution, standard Rules of Competition would apply in these youngest of our youth events, including, for example, full length blades and 15 touch DE bouts. After consultation with the US SEMI Committee and the Youth Development Resource Team, the Referees' Commission recommends use of the same rules in this age group as apply to Y-10 competitions, at least as a temporary measure.

Other issues such as age minimums for Y-8 events, whether a points list will be maintained, etc., will be reviewed at a future date.

This motion was drafted by the Board Liaison to the RC as at the 8/19-20/2023 meeting of the Referee Commission in Denver CO, Mr. Donald Alperstein, with the approval of the Referee Commission.

Second: Abdel Salem

Result: Passed by voice vote

Referee Commission Nomination & Election

MOTION 4 (Mr. Lee): That the Referees' Commission Nominating Committee for the Referees' Commission election to be held in 2024 comprise eight individuals and be constituted as follows:

The Referees' Commission Chair if not running for reelection. If the Chair is running for reelection, then a Referees' Commission vice-chair who is not running for re-election, to be chosen by the Referees' Commission members who are not running for re-election. This individual will chair the Referees' Commission Nominating Committee;

One additional vice-chair of the Referees' Commission who is not running for reelection;

Three referees who have worked as referees at least two North American Cup, Summer Nationals and July Challenge, National Junior, Senior or Wheelchair Championship, or international events during the 2022-23 or 2023-24 seasons, to be selected by a vote conducted by the Election Committee among referees who meet that same qualifications;

Two athletes selected by the USA Fencing Athlete Council; and

One member of the Board of Directors selected by the Board of Directors.

Rationale: Section 12.11.b.ii of the Bylaws provides, with regard to the election of the Referees' Commission Chair and Vice-Chairs:

The . . . method for nominating candidates for these positions shall be determined by the Board of Directors consistent with these Bylaws . . .

The foregoing motion addresses the portion of this section that calls for the Board of Directors to establish “the method for nominating candidates” for positions to be filled on the Referees’ Commission. The proposed method of establishing a Referees’ Commission Nominating Committee to vet candidates follows the practices used in previous elections for the positions. The standards for referee representation on the Referees’ Commission Nominating Committee, and for the electors who will choose those representatives, reflect the importance of current high-level experience in filling those positions. (Note that the standards for electors to fill the open positions, as opposed to those for the Referees’ Commission Nominating Committee, is the subject of a separate motion.) The proposed composition of the Referees’ Commission Nominating Committee meets the requirement for athlete representation, provides substantial rank and file input during the nomination process, places two individuals with Referee Commission experience on the committee, and assures Board input in the nominating process.

This motion was drafted by the Board Liaison to the RC as at the 8/19-20/2023 meeting of the Referee Commission in Denver CO, Mr. Donald Alperstein, with the approval of the Referee Commission.

Second: David Arias

Motion to Amend (Ms. Deluca): Two athletes selected by the USA Fencing Athlete Council, one of whom shall be a Parafencer with IWAS classification if no referee so qualifies.

Second: David Arias

Result: Passed by voice vote

Result: Passed by voice vote

MOTION 5 (Mr. Lee): That the eligible voters in the Referees’ Commission election to be held in 2024 shall be those licensed referees who have worked at least as referees at least two North American Cup; Summer Nationals and July Challenge; National Junior, Senior or Wheelchair Championship; or international events during the 2021-22, 2022-23, or 2023-24 seasons.

Rationale: Section 12.11.b.ii provides, in pertinent part:

The Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Referees’ Commission shall be elected by experienced referees. The standards for electors . . . for these positions shall be determined by the Board of Directors consistent with these

Bylaws, and nominees for the positions shall be elected by a vote of the electors that is conducted by the Election Committee.

The foregoing motion addresses the provision of this section that calls upon the Board of Directors to establish “the standards for electors” for Referees’ Commission positions to be filled by the 2024 election (conducted by the Election Committee during the spring or early summer months). The proposed qualifications for electors who will fill the open positions are broader than the qualifications for the Referees’ Commission Nominating Committee as proposed in a companion motion because the Referees’ Commission oversees the entire referee cadre and the active members of that group should have a say in their leadership.

This motion was drafted by the Board Liaison to the RC at the 8/19-20/2023 meeting of the Referee Commission in Denver CO, Mr. Donald Alperstein, with the approval of the Referee Commission.

Second: Peter Burchard

Result: Passed by voice vote

Rule T109

MOTION 6 (Mr. Burchard): To appoint a working group to discuss and recommend the future of rule T109, to report back as soon as possible, but no later than the December 2023 meeting of the USA Fencing Board of Directors. Such a working group to be composed of 1 active FIE Referee, 1 member of the Tournament Committee, 2 Elite Athletes as defined by the USOPC bylaws and appointed by the USA Fencing Athlete Council, 1 current National Coach, the Chair of the Referee Commission, the Vice Chair for Rules & Examinations of the Referee Commission, and the Board of Directors’ RC liaison as follows:

Chair of the Referee Commission: Tasha Martin

Vice Chair of the Referee Commission for Rules & Examinations: As appointed by the Chair of the Referee Commission

The Board of Directors Liaison to the Referee Commission: Ivan Lee

Tournament Commmittee: As appointed by the Chair of the Referee Commission

Active FIE Referee As appointed by the Chair of the Referee Commission

10 Year Athlete 1: As appointed by the USA Fencing Athlete Council

10 Year Athlete 2: As appointed by the USA Fencing Athlete Council

National Coach: As appointed by the Chair of the Referee Commission

Staff Liaison/Staff Support: As appointed by the National Office

Rationale: The Board of Directors voted in its’ 2022-2023 sessions to implement the FIE wording of the T109 rule, replacing the USA Fencing adaptation of this rule. However, in recognizing there is significant work to be done and agreement across all stakeholders to be made about the way the rule is implemented, appointing a group of key stakeholders to

evaluate how we best do this as a sport offers a way forward that can be agreed upon by all.

Second: Lauryn DeLuca

Result: Passed by voice vote with 1 opposed

Motion to Adjourn (Kat Holmes)

Second: Lauryn DeLuca

Result: Passed by voice vote

Reporting Dates of Committees & Resource Groups

Committee/RT	Date of Last Report	Report This Meeting	Board Liaison
Referee Comm.	2/23	Yes	Donald Alperstein
Hall of Fame Comm.	2/23	No	Peter Burchard
Audit Comm.		No	Aimee Rice
Budget Comm.	6/10	No	David Arias
Election Comm.	7/4	Yes	Darryl Jacobs
Nominating Comm.		Yes	Kat Holmes
DEIB Comm.		No	Darryl Jacobs
IR Comm.	6/23	Yes	Sam Cheris
SEMI Comm USA	10/22	No	Donald Alperstein
Tournament Comm	7/4	No	Peter Burchard
Veterans Comm.	7/4	No	Abdel Salem
Club and Member RG		No	David Arias
Division RG	6/23	Yes	Donald Alperstein
Mar/Comm RG		No	Darryl Jacobs
Parafencing RG		No	Abdel Salem
FenceSafe RG		No	Donald Alperstein
Sports Medicine RG		No	Kat Holmes
Youth Development RG	4/23	No	David Arias
Sports Performance RG		No	Lorrie Marcil Holmes
Coaching Advisory RG		No	Ben Bratton
Data Science RG		No	Kat Holmes