

Minutes
Special Meeting of the
USA Fencing Board of Directors
via Teleconference
July 29, 2019 at 7 pm ET

Present: Donald Alperstein, Don Anthony, David Arias, Raquel Brown, Sam Cheris, Alan Kidd, Lorrie Marciel Holmes, Jeff Salmon, Ann Marsh-Senic, Daria Schneider, Adam Watson

Absent: Cliff Bayer, Cody Mattern

Guests: Peter Barton, Bob Bodor, Kris Ekeren, Nicole Jomantas, Doug Hayler, Melissa Jones, Dan Mott, Christy Simmons

I. General Information and Organizational Items

General Announcements

It was a long 9 days in Budapest for Senior World Championships. All of our athletes performed well. Thank you to the athletes, coaches and cadre for everything.

II. Disciplinary Procedures Update (Ms. Ekeren)

Ms. Ekeren provided an update on disciplinary procedures that will be in the Athlete Handbook going forward. The updates were needed to become in compliance with USOPC. The USOPC has confirmed that we are in compliance with the changes that were made.

III. Old Business

Motion: (Mr. Anthony) To amend Article XII, Section 2 pursuant to Article XIV, Section 2 that the following language be added to the United States Fencing Association Bylaws Article XII, Section 2:

Section 2. **Composition.** All individuals serving on committees shall be members of the USFA in good standing, and unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws, may, but need not be, members of the Board of Directors. **All committees that prepare, approve or implement selection of international, Olympic, Paralympic and Pan American Games team members,**

including athletes, coaches, administrators and sport staff shall include no less than 20% Athlete members selected by the Athlete Council and meet the qualifications required by USOC Bylaws Section 8.8, as applicable

To amend Article VII, Section 16 pursuant to Article XIV, Section 2 that the following language be added to the United States Fencing Association Bylaws, Article VII, Section 16:

Section 16. **Disciplinary Powers and Procedures.** Except as otherwise provided in this Section 16 the disciplinary power of the USFA shall be exclusively vested in the Board of Directors, which shall, by a two-thirds vote of the members voting, have the power to suspend, expel, deny continuation of membership or deny readmission to membership of any member whose conduct may be deemed detrimental to the welfare, interests or character of the USFA, provided that at least a majority of the members of the Board of Directors cast an affirmative or negative vote on the question. Any other legal sanction may be imposed by the Board of Directors upon a majority vote or by action of any committee or commission designated by the Board of Directors. Sanctions shall be imposed only after adherence to procedures for the protection of the due process rights of the accused as adopted by the Board of Directors. The procedures to be used with respect to resolving disputes on matters of discipline, grievances, eligibility or participation shall be set forth in the Operations Manual or the Athletes Handbook. **All panels constituted under this section shall include no less than 20% Athlete members.** The imposition of competitive penalties within the Rules of Competition shall not be considered disciplinary action.

To amend Article IV, Section 6 pursuant to Article XIV, Section 2 that the following section and language be added to the United States Fencing Association Bylaws, Article IV:

Section 6. Membership Anti-doping Obligations.

It is the duty of members of the USA Fencing to comply with all anti-doping rules of the FIE, the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), and the USOC including the USADA Protocol for Olympic and Paralympic Movement Testing (USADA Protocol) and all other policies and rules adopted by the FIE, USADA, and the USOC National Anti-Doping Policy. Members agree to submit to drug testing by the FIE and/or USADA or their designees at any time and understand that the use of methods or substances prohibited by the applicable anti-doping rules make them subject to penalties including, but not limited to, disqualification and suspension. If it is determined that a member may have committed a doping violation, the member agrees to submit to the results management authority and processes of USADA, including arbitration under the USADA Protocol, or to the results management authority of the FIE and/or USA Fencing, if

applicable or referred by USADA.

Rationale: USA Fencing is required to be in compliance with the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, the USOC Bylaws and certain USOC policies. The USOC has indicated that USA Fencing should strengthen the bylaws in the areas of athlete representation on and USADA protocol. Please note that in practice, USA Fencing has met or exceeded the athlete representation requirement.

Second Ms. Marcil Holmes
Motion passed.

IV. New Business

Motion (Mr. Arias): to approve the quad budget as presented to the board.

Second Mr. Watson
Motion passed.

V. Good and Welfare

Ms. Ekeren: There are challenges with Women's Foil World Cup that was scheduled to be held in Mexico in the 2019-20 season. They are no longer hosting the event. We have been asked if we can host the event in conjunction with another of our events. We may come to the board and ask for a budget variance in order to host this event when we have more information. If we are unable to host the event it will be held in Cairo. There are concerns with that location.

Good luck to all of our athletes competing at the Pan Am Games.

VI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Mr. Watson
Second Mr. Arias.
No objection was heard.