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USFA

# BY-LAWS OF THE MICHIGAN DIVISION

## ARTICLE I NAME AND AFFILIATION

The name of the Division shall be the MICHIGAN DIVISION OF THE UNITED STATES FENCING ASSOCIATION, INC.

THE MICHIGAN DIVISION shall hereinafter be referred to as "THE DIVISION" or "MIDiv" and the UNITED STATES FENCING ASSOCIATION, INC., shall hereinafter be referred to as the "USFA"

MIDiv is a duly chartered, subordinate, constituent body of the USFA, exercising powers given by, performing duties directed under, and subject to, the Charter and By-Laws of the USFA, with the jurisdiction over the geographic area of the State of Michigan. The former WESTERN MICHIGAN DIVISION of the UNITED STATES FENCING ASSOCIATION is encompassed under the auspices of MIDiv as of January 1, 1993 until such time as it is able to come to it's self-regulation over the western portion of the state.

## ARTICLE II OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the DIVISION shall be:

1. the encouragement of the art and sport of fencing to people of all ages
2. the holding of local tournaments and competitions in the art and sport of fencing
3. the promotion of participation in State, Sectional, National, and International competitions sponsored by the USFA or the FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE D'ESCRIME.
4. such other purposes promulgated in the By-Laws of the USFA or by the Executive Committee of the DIVISION.

## ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

### SECTION I-ELIGIBILITY

Any person residing within the State of Michigan, or belonging to a fencing club located within the state, or belonging to a Varsity collegiate fencing team or fencing club of a university or college within the state, and who is not a member of another division of the USFA, shall be eligible for membership in THE DIVISION.

### SECTION II-CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

Classes of membership and requirements for membership shall be as set forth in the By-Laws of the USFA.

### SECTION III- ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP

Applicants who qualify under SECTION I of this article shall be admitted to membership upon payment of the required dues.

### SECTION IV-DISCIPLINE, SUSPENSION, AND EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

The disciplinary powers of the Executive Committee shall be limited to the

competitive penalties of expulsion or exclusion from tournaments. All other discipline shall be referred to the National Board of Directors.

#### SECTION V- ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE AND HOLD OFFICE

All members who have paid their dues as specified in these By-Laws, on or before February 1st of each fiscal year, and who have attained their 18th birthday, as of that date also, shall have a right to vote on all matters which may be voted upon by the Corporation pursuant to these By-laws, and shall have the right to hold any and all offices to which they might be elected or appointed, provided they are amateurs as defined by the USFA. The date of admission to membership is determined according to Article V of the OPERATIONS MANUAL of the USFA, 1993 edition or according to the current USFA ruling on Fees, Dues and Arrears.

### **ARTICLE IV-OFFICERS**

The officers of the DIVISION shall consist of a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. All officers shall take office on the first day of August next following their election, and shall hold office until the following July cede, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. the duties of each office are as follows:

#### SECTION 1- CHAIR

The Chair shall preside at all meetings of THE DIVISION and its' Executive Committee, and perform such duties as usually pertain to that office and are not inconsistent with these By-Laws and those duties assigned by the Executive Committee. The Chair has the responsibility for filing with the National Secretary and treasurer of the USFA the annual reports called for under the By-Laws and standing votes of the Board of Directors of the USFA. The preparation of these reports may be delegated to the Secretary and treasurer of the DIVISION.

#### SECTION 2-VICE CHAIR

The Vice-Chair, in the absence of the Chair, shall perform the duties of the Chair, and those duties assigned him/her by the Chair or other proper authority.

#### SECTION 3-SECRETARY

The Secretary shall conduct all official correspondence; keep a record of the meetings of THE DIVISION; issue notices to members of all meetings; and perform such duties as may be assigned by the Chair of THE DIVISION or other proper authority.

#### SECTION 4-TREASURER

The Treasurer shall keep the accounts of THE DIVISION; receive all dues, fees, and monies for THE DIVISION; pay all bills approved by the Executive Committee and preserve all vouchers for such disbursements. The Treasurer shall, at the annual meeting of THE DIVISION, submit a report of the financial transactions of the preceding year. The Treasurer shall keep all funds of THE DIVISION in such accounts as the Executive Committee may prescribe. Nominal disbursements may be made from a petty cash fund under such regulations and controls as may be prescribed by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall perform such other duties as may be proscribed by the Chair or other proper authority.

### SECTION 5-COMBINED OFFICES

The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined for any year upon majority vote of the members of THE DIVISION voting in person or by valid proxy at the annual meeting. In the event of such a vote, the candidates for the office of Secretary and Treasurer, nominated pursuant to Article VII of these By-Laws shall be deemed candidates to the combined office. The individual holding the combined office shall have the voting privileges of a single member of the Executive Committee.

### SECTION 6-OTHER OFFICERS

The Chair, with the approval of the Executive Committee, may appoint individuals to assist the officers with their respective duties, but these persons shall not be executive Committee members, and shall serve entirely upon the pleasure of the Chair.

## **ARTICLE V-MANAGEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### SECTION 1-COMPOSITION

The management of THE DIVISION shall be vested in an Executive Committee consisting of the Officers of THE DIVISION and such additional directors as THE DIVISION may be entitled to elect according to the USFA By-Laws. The Executive Committee shall determine the conditions and restrictions governing the qualifications, entries, and conduct of all competitions within their jurisdiction. Vacancy of a Divisional office or the position of Additional Director shall be filled within 30 days after the vacancy occurs by a two thirds(2/3) majority vote of the remaining members of the Executive Committee. Such appointee shall have full voting power. Should a second vacancy occur between the annual meetings, the Chair should call a Special Meeting within 30 days for the purpose of conducting elections of members to fill both the office previously filled by appointment and the second vacancy.

### SECTION 2 -QUORUM

A quorum shall consist of one-third (1/3) of the members of the Executive Committee or three (3) members, whichever is greater.

### SECTION 3-MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

meetings shall be held at such a time and place as shall be designated by the Chair, and shall be called upon the written request of three(3) or more members of the committee. All members shall be given not less than forty-eight(48) hours prior notice of all meetings. Proxy ballots are not permitted at Executive Committee meetings, and decisions shall be by majority vote only of all the Executive Committee members present. If present, the Chair shall vote also. Each member has only one vote.

## **ARTICLE VI-COMMITTEES**

The Chair of THE DIVISION shall appoint such committees and committee chairs as he/she sees fit.

## **ARTICLE VII-MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERS**

### **SECTION 1-ANNUAL MEETING**

An annual meeting of all the members of MIDiv shall be held each year prior to the month of September, at a date, time, and place designated by the Chair to conduct the election of officers and other such business as necessary. Written notice of the date, time, and place of the annual meeting shall be given to all members not less than fifteen (15) days in advance of such a meeting. The notice shall contain a statement of the offices to be filled at such a meeting and of any proposed amendments to the By-Laws to be voted upon at such a meeting.

### **SECTION 2-SPECIAL MEETINGS**

Special meetings may be called at any time and place by the Chair, and shall also be called by the Chair within thirty (30) days of the receipt of a written request of not less than twenty-five (25) members of THE DIVISION. All members shall be given at least ten (10) days prior written notice of all special meetings, which notice shall include a statement of the business to be transacted at that meeting. No other business shall be transacted at a special meeting.

### **SECTION 3-QUORUM**

A quorum shall consist of not less than twenty-five (25) members of MIDiv present in person or voting by proxy, and a majority vote of those present shall control, except as herein otherwise provided.

### **SECTION 4-PROXIES**

All proxies shall be in writing and shall be received by the Secretary of MIDiv not less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting. A proxy shall be considered a POWER OF ATTORNEY for the meeting indicated and allows the holder to vote the proxy on all matters brought before the meeting.

### **SECTION 5-PROTOCOL**

All meetings shall be conducted according to ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER.

## **ARTICLE VII-ELECTIONS**

### **SECTION 1-NOMINATIONS**

A Nominating Committee appointed by the Chair shall present a slate of one (1) candidate for each office to be filled. This slate shall appear in the notice of the meeting. Alternate slates supported by the petition of ten (10) members of MIDiv shall also appear in the notice to the members. Candidates for all officers established under these By-Laws may also be nominated from the floor at the annual meeting of MIDiv.

### **SECTION 2-VOTING PROCEDURES**

If only one (1) nomination is made for any office, the Secretary of THE DIVISION shall cast a unanimous ballot at the annual meeting. Voting for the candidates for such contested office shall be either in person or by written proxy, and the candidate receiving the majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected. Written ballots shall be used. In the event that three (3) or more candidates are nominated for office, and no candidate receives a majority vote, a run-off election shall be conducted between the two (2) candidates receiving the largest number of cast

votes, and the winner declared elected. If however, the voting of such run-off election shall result in a tie, than a lot is cast and the winner of that declared elected. In the event that two (2) candidates for any office in the voting shall result in a tie, then lots shall be cast and the winner declared elected.

#### SECTION 3-ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Any member of MIDiv in good standing may submit his/her vote for the election of officers and any other business contained in the written notice of the meeting, in writing to the Secretary of MIDiv no less than seventy-two(72) hours prior to the meeting at which officers are to be elected.

### **ARTICLE IX- FEES, DUES, AND ARREARS**

#### SECTION 1

All initiation dues and fees shall be as prescribed in the By-Laws of the USFA.

#### SECTION 2

Dues shall be payable on August 1st of each year, and no member who has failed to pay their dues shall be eligible to compete in any competition sponsored by MIDiv or to represent MIDiv in any competition of the USFA or FIE.

### **ARTICLE X- BY-LAWS, RULES, AND POLICIES OF THE USFA, INC.**

All By-Laws, rules, regulations, and matters of policy concerning the conduct of competitions as set forth in the FENCING RULES and OPERATIONS MANUAL of THE UNITED STATES FENCING ASSOCIATION, INC. are hereby incorporated as part of these By-Laws without any action by the Executive Committee or members of MIDiv.

### **ARTICLE XI- AMENDMENTS**

These By-Laws may be amended at any annual meeting of the members or at a special meeting of the members called for that purpose. An amendment receiving a two-thirds(2/3) majority vote of all votes cast by the members voting either in person or by valid, written proxy shall be deemed adopted.

### **ARTICLE XII- OTHER MATTERS**

All other matters not covered by these By-Laws shall follow the current National USFA By-laws.

Adopted- April 14, 1973 by the **MICHIGAN DIVISION OF THE AMATEUR  
FENCER'S LEAGUE OF AMERICA**  
Revised- June 1, 1975  
Revised- June 11, 1977  
Revised- June 28, 1994