

BYLAWS
of the
NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION
of the
UNITED STATES FENCING ASSOCIATION

1. Name and Affiliation

1.1 Name

The name of the division shall be the North Carolina Division of the United States Fencing Association (hereinafter referred to as “NCUSFA”).

1.2 Affiliation

NCUSFA is a duly chartered, subordinate constituent body of the United States Fencing Association, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as “USFA”), exercising powers given by, performing duties under, and subject to, the Charter and Bylaws of the USFA, with jurisdiction over the geographic area of the State of North Carolina. NCUSFA, an Affiliate Association of USFA, shall abide by and act in accord with the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Playing Rules and decisions of the Board of Directors of the USFA, and such documents and decisions shall take precedence over and supersede all similar governing documents and/or decisions of the NCUSFA. Further, the NCUSFA (i) shall assist the USFA in the administration and enforcement of the provisions of the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Rule Book and decisions of the Board of Directors of USFA, within and upon its members and/or within its jurisdiction and (ii) agrees to be guided by the core values of the USFA as stated in the policies of the USFA.

1.3 Indemnity:

NCUSFA, an Affiliate Association of the USFA shall indemnify and hold harmless the USFA, the Board of Directors of the USFA and each member thereof, the Executive Committee of the USFA and each member thereof, the councils and committees of the USFA and each member thereof, and all other elected, appointed, employed or volunteer representatives of the USFA from any and all claims, liability, judgments, costs, attorneys’ fees charges and expenses whatsoever, arising from the acts and omissions of NCUSFA, except to the extent (i) that the USFA or its previously described representatives caused such claims, liability, judgments, costs, attorney’s fees, charges or expenses by their own intentional neglect or default or (ii) that such acts or omissions were the direct result of compliance with the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Rule Book, or decisions of the Board of Directors of the USFA. Further, the NCUSFA understands and acknowledges that the USFA and its previously described representatives have assumed such assignment, function, office or capacity upon the express understanding, agreement and condition that they be so indemnified and held harmless to the extent described in this bylaw.

2. Objectives

2.1 Mission Statement

Our mission is to promote the sport of fencing in North Carolina by:

- i) Developing strong sense of community among NCUSFA members and member clubs;
- ii) Facilitating educational opportunities for fencers, referees, coaches, and armorers; and
- iii) Holding quality qualifying events for National tournaments.

2.2 Vision

The vision of the NCUSFA is to raise the standard of North Carolina fencing and fencing events, to raise the standard and quality of tournaments, and to build unity and alliances among NCUSFA clubs.

3. Membership and Dues

3.1 Eligibility:

Any member of the USFA in good standing who is a member of a club within NCUSFA or has a permanent address within North Carolina is eligible for membership in the NCUSFA. All registered members of NCUSFA, as a condition of membership in good standing with NCUSFA, shall also be required to be "Registered Members" in good standing of the USFA. No member of the NCUSFA may be a member of any other division of the USFA.

3.2 Transfer of Membership:

Membership may be transferred into the NCUSFA provided that the transferee is a current valid member of the USFA.

3.3 Voting Right:

Any member in good standing, who, at the time of a membership meeting or other vote, is eighteen (18) years or older at the time of a membership meeting and is a voting member of the USFA (as provided by the Bylaws and rules of the USFA) shall be qualified to vote, subject to the limitation on proxy voting in Section 8.4.

3.4 Dues:

Annual national membership dues shall be in accordance with those prescribed in the Constitution and Bylaws of the USFA for various classifications of membership. The NCUSFA may, upon majority vote of the membership, add an additional fee for dues for Divisional expenses.

4. Officers

The officers of the division shall consist of a Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The term of each officer shall be for one year starting August 1st of the year of their election and ending July 31st of the first year following their election.

4.1 Chairperson

The Chairperson shall be the face of the Division. The Chairperson shall make every reasonable effort to be visible at division sponsored and sanctioned events. The chairperson shall preside over all meetings of the Division and its Executive Committee. The chairperson shall be responsible for filing with the Secretary and the Treasurer of the USFA the annual reports as required by the USFA Bylaws and the standing votes of the USFA Board of Directors. The chairperson shall be ex-officio member of all committees. The chairperson or the chairperson's designee shall be the official divisional representative at all National events and meetings. The chairperson will ensure that the website is kept current, and will determine the best person to keep the website updated; this person may be an officer or a member of the board especially appointed for this purpose.

4.2 Vice-Chairperson of Coaching and Referee Development

The Vice-Chairperson shall in the absence or disability of the Chairperson perform all duties of the Chairperson and any further duties that the chairperson should assign. The Vice-Chairperson shall be responsible for storage and transportation of Division owned the weights, shims, clipboards, and other miscellaneous supplies to and from all division run events. The Vice-Chairperson shall be in charge of scheduling the meetings of the Executive Committee throughout the year. The Vice-Chairperson shall organize one referee clinic, preferably at the beginning of the season, and, to the extent there is sufficient demand, one coaching clinic each season.

4.3 Vice-Chairperson of Youth Development

The Vice-Chairperson shall be in charge of the Junior Olympic Qualifying Tournament Committee. He/she shall also be in charge of organizing RYC events throughout the state and the general promotion of Y-10, Y-12, Y-14, Cadet, and Youth fencing.

4.4 Secretary

The Secretary shall draft minutes for all Executive Committee and Division meetings, and shall ensure that the proceedings of these bodies are available to the membership. The Secretary shall make all initial decisions regarding questions of membership status, rights and privileges, qualification to fence in competitions sanctioned by the USFA, and ratings of competitors (including filing changes to those ratings resulting from Division tournaments as needed).

The Secretary shall receive and disseminate information according to the decisions of the Executive Committee and to maintain the membership records of the division. The Secretary may, with the approval of the Executive Committee, delegate the dissemination of this information to a Communications Committee. The Secretary shall be responsible for submitting sanctioned tournament results from tournaments run in the Division to the USFA.

4.5 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall, with the assistance of the Executive Committee, present a budget for the following fiscal year (August 1-July 31) at the Divisional Annual meeting. Changes made upon the budget shall be presented at the next Annual meeting. The Treasurer shall keep the accounts of the Division, receive all monies 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 period. All disbursements will be made by check from the Divisional checking account or cash provided a signed, itemized receipt is presented. Such disbursements must be supported by receipts stating the nature of the transaction and the payee. No amount above \$250 may be disbursed without Executive Committee approval. No amounts over \$1000 that have not already been approved as part of the budget presented at the annual meeting, may be disbursed without the approval of the Division membership by majority vote, except for costs of hosting divisional events. Said vote may be taken by mail, at a membership meeting or electronically. The Treasurer will provide upon written request of at least ten (10) members of the Division current financial records within one (1) month of the request. The Treasurer shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Chairperson of The Division or other proper authority.

4.6 Past Chairperson

The immediate past Chairperson is an automatic ex-officio member of the Executive Committee and advisor to the Board with a vote on both the Board and Executive Committee.

4.7 Removal of Division Officers

A written petition requesting a removal election signed by 30% of the Division members eligible to vote representing at least three clubs shall be delivered to the Division Secretary, unless the Division Secretary is the target of the removal election in which case it shall be delivered to the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson of the Division. A vote by the membership shall then be conducted as to whether the particular officer should be removed from office. If a majority of the votes cast in a secret ballot favors removal, then the officer shall be deemed removed from office. The election may be held at either an Annual meeting or a special meeting of the Divisional membership, or may be held by mail using the procedures set forth in article 9.

4.8 Term Limits

No person may hold a particular office for more than 3 consecutive years. No person, other than the current immediate past Chairperson, may serve more than 5 consecutive years on the Executive Committee.

5. Management by the Executive Committee

5.1 Composition

The Executive Committee shall be the ultimate governing authority of the division. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers of the Division and any At-Large members who may be appointed by the Executive Committee for their technical expertise. Appointed At-Large members of the Executive Committee cannot make up more than 1/3 of the total size of the Executive Committee. All members of the Executive Committee shall have a vote on the business of the Executive Committee.

5.2 Quorum

A quorum shall consist of one third (1/3) of the voting members of the Executive Committee or 4 members, whichever number is larger.

5.3 Meetings

The Executive Committee shall meet at least four times a year as scheduled by the Vice-Chairperson of coaching and referee development in consultation with the Executive Committee. The first meeting shall be on or before the August Meeting of the Membership. This meeting shall include the proposed schedule for the first half of the year and the proposed budget, to be approved by the Executive Committee and presented to the membership at the August Meeting of the Membership.

The second meeting shall be on or before the 3rd weekend in October. This meeting shall include a vote on the proposed schedule for the second half of the year.

The third meeting shall be on or before the 4th weekend in February. This meeting shall include a proposed slate of candidates suggested by the nominating committee.

The fourth meeting shall be on or before the 4th weekend of June. This meeting shall include a discussion of the division's aims in the upcoming year for consideration of the budget committee in preparation of the following year's budget. New members of the Executive Committee who shall be serving in the next year shall be welcome to attend this meeting, but they shall not have a vote nor shall they count towards a quorum.

Meetings may also be called upon the written request of 4 voting members of the Committee. All members must receive at least two weeks prior notice of all Executive Committee meetings.

Additional business of the Executive Committee may be conducted either by teleconference or by email, as seen fit by the Executive Committee, provided a quorum is established for all votes on additional business.

5.4 Removal of Members of the Executive Committee

Any member of the Executive Committee (other than officers, for whom provision is made in 4.6) who fails to perform his duties may be removed from the Committee by the following procedures:

(a) Written notification of the causes for removal must be provided to each member of Executive Committee.

(b) At any meeting at which the removal of a member (officers excluded) will be contemplated, at least three-fourths of the total voting membership of the Committee must be present.

(c) A member so charged has the right to appear at the meeting and present arguments against removal, but may not vote on this question.

(d) At least two-thirds of the members present must vote for removal for it to take effect.

5.5 Replacement of Members of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee may replace a member who has resigned, has been removed by the foregoing procedure, removed by the USFA, or fill a vacancy due the lack of a candidate for a position using the following method:

(a) At any Executive Committee meeting where a new member is to be voted upon, at least three-quarters of the voting members remaining must be present.

(b) The proposed new member must be approved by a two-thirds vote.

6. Standing Committees

The Executive Committee may delegate certain of its powers to committees but it shall at all times retain authority over their action. In addition to the committees set forth below, the Executive Committee, by resolution duly adopted, may designate such other committees as it may deem appropriate. The Executive Committee shall appoint all committees. All committees shall regularly report to the Executive committee.

6.1 Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee's mandate shall be to find candidates among the Division membership who will be willing to donate their time in the service of the Division.

The Executive Committee shall appoint the Nominating Committee. It shall consist of not less than three members. No two members of the Nominating Committee may be members of the same club. The Executive Committee shall appoint members of the Nominating Committee who are based in centers of fencing population in the division. The Executive Committee shall endeavor to include representatives of several fencing constituencies on the Nominating Committee. The Executive Committee shall empanel the Nominating Committee on or before November 30st. If the Executive Committee fails to appoint the Nominating Committee by November 30st, the Chairperson shall appoint the Nominating Committee, following the aforementioned guidelines and restrictions, by December 31st.

The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for the timely selection of a slate of candidates for the Officers of the Division. The Nominating Committee shall endeavor to nominate at least two candidates for every vacancy.

The Nominating Committee shall meet on or before January 31st of the current competitive year. The Nominating Committee shall submit its slate of candidates to the Executive Committee for approval no less than 45 days before the date of the Election. The slate of candidates shall be made available to the Membership at least a month prior to the Elections.

6.2 Tournament Governance Committee

The Tournament Governance Committee shall consist of at least three members named by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall ensure that the members of the Tournament Governance Committee have a thorough understanding of the rules and regulations of the USFA. The Tournament Governance Committee shall be empanelled during the first Executive Committee meeting.

The Tournament Governance Committee shall establish such rules and policies as are necessary or reasonable to ensure all events sanctioned by the Division are run in accordance with the rules and regulations of the USFA.

The Tournament Governance Committee shall have oversight over the governance of tournaments sanctioned by the NCUSFA. In the event of an observed infraction at a sanctioned tournament, the Tournament Governance Committee shall investigate the incident and recommend any corrective action necessary to the Executive Committee. This corrective action may include, but is not limited to: a warning to a club or individual(s), a probationary period for a club or individual(s), or, in extreme situations, a refusal to sanction future events involving a club or individual(s).

All corrective action must be voted on by the Executive Committee. A representative of the club or individual(s) accused of the infraction shall be invited to give evidence to the Executive Committee and to examine evidence presented against the individual or club. The observer who witnessed the infraction shall be required to give evidence to the Executive Committee. The

Executive Committee may also call further witnesses. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee shall be necessary to enact any corrective action.

6.3 Scheduling Committee

6.3.1 Composition. The Scheduling Committee shall consist of at least three members named by the Executive Committee. The Scheduling Committee shall represent at least three different clubs. The Executive Committee shall endeavor to appoint members of the Scheduling Committee who represent different fencing constituencies of the Division.

6.3.2 Responsibilities. The Scheduling Committee shall create and recommend to the Executive Committee a schedule of sanctioned events. The recommended schedule for a year shall be presented to the Executive Committee in two parts. The first part, consisting of events from September 1st to December 31st of the current year shall be presented to the Executive Committee prior to the August meeting of the Executive Committee. The second part, consisting of events from January 1st to August 31st of the following year shall be presented to the Executive Committee at the October meeting of the Executive Committee.

In approving an event to be scheduled, the Scheduling Committee shall not recommend for sanctioning any event where there is not a reasonable expectation that the event shall be run according to the rules and standards as promulgated by the Tournament Governance Committee.

The Scheduling Committee shall endeavor to serve the many diverse fencing constituencies (NCAA, youth, etc.) and regions of the Division as possible in the events they recommend for sanctioning. The Scheduling Committee shall attempt to minimize conflicting events. The Scheduling Committee shall have as its standard: Quality and Diversity, not quantity.

6.3.3 Submission Deadlines. Clubs or individuals wishing to host a tournament sanctioned by the division shall submit their requests for September 1st through December 31st of the current year by August 1st of the current year. Clubs or individuals wishing to host a tournament sanctioned by the division shall submit their requests for January 1st through August 31st of the following year by October 1st of the current year.

For the purpose of scheduling 2-day (or longer) events, if the proposed schedule of the event is such that part of the event would occur on August 31st and the other part on September 1st, then such event shall be submitted to the Scheduling Committee as if the entire event occurred in August.

If, in any given fencing season, the schedule or locations of national or regional events (excluding regional youth circuit events) for events occurring before December 31st have not been published or finalized by the USFA before August 1st, then the Executive Committee may, in its discretion, extend the August deadline for scheduling requests and the schedule for approving such requests in order to allow requestors a reasonable opportunity to avoid conflicts between their requested events and such national and regional events. The Executive Committee may modify the October deadlines to allow the same opportunity if the schedule or locations of national events for events occurring after December 31st has not been published or finalized by the USFA before October 1st.

Clubs or individuals wishing to host an event during a period for which the schedule has already been approved by the Executive Committee and promulgated to the division must present their request to the Scheduling Committee at least 4 weeks prior to the proposed date for their event. Upon the fulfillment of the aforementioned requirements, the Scheduling Committee shall evaluate the late tournament proposal and in the event that it promotes the standards of the Scheduling Committee, the Scheduling Committee shall make a good faith effort to recommend to the Executive Committee for approval all events that do not conflict with an already scheduled event.

6.4 Junior Olympic Qualifying Tournament Committee

The Junior Olympic Qualifying Tournament Committee shall be responsible for organizing and, with the assistance of the Executive Committee, running the Divisional Qualifying Tournament for the National Junior Olympics Competition.

The Junior Olympic Qualifying Tournament Committee (“JO Committee”) shall consist of at least three members appointed by the Executive Committee. The members of the JO Committee shall include a Chairperson (The Vice-Chairperson for Youth Development), a Referee Assigner, and a Head Armorer. In addition, the Executive Committee may, in its discretion, appoint a Public Relations Liaison. The members of the JO Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee with these roles in mind. The Executive Committee shall attempt to promote continuity between the current year’s JO Committee and the previous year’s JO Committee by appointing members of the previous year’s JO Committee to this year’s JO Committee, as it sees fit. The JO Committee shall be empanelled during the August Executive Committee meeting.

Following the successful completion of the Junior Olympic Qualifying Tournament, the JO Committee shall begin planning the following year’s Junior Olympic Qualifying Tournament. The JO Committee should determine prospective locations and dates for the following year’s Junior Olympic Qualifying Tournament. With approval of the Executive Committee, the JO Committee shall make whatever reservations and or deposits may be necessary for the following year’s Junior Olympic Qualifying Tournament.

The JO Committee shall create and maintain a Best Practices document to be passed on to future year’s JO Committees in order that past mistakes may be avoided and past successes, repeated.

6.5 Nationals Qualifying Tournament Committee

The National Qualifier Tournament Committee shall be responsible for organizing and, with the assistance of the Executive Committee, running the Youth, Divisions II and III Qualifying Tournaments for the USFA Summer Nationals Competition. This committee may be split into subcommittees, if the qualifying events are split onto separate weekends and/or venues.

The National Qualifier Tournament Committee shall consist of at least three members appointed by the Executive Committee. The members shall include a Chairperson, a Referee Assigner, and a Head Armorer. In addition, the Executive Committee may, in its discretion, appoint a Public Relations Liaison. The members of this Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee with these roles in mind. The Executive Committee shall attempt to promote

continuity between the current and previous year's Committee. The National Qualifier Committee shall be empanelled during the August Executive Committee meeting.

Following the successful completion of the National Qualifying Tournament, the Committee shall begin planning the following year's National Qualifying Tournament. The Committee should determine prospective locations and dates for the following year's events. With approval of the Executive Committee, the Committee shall make whatever reservations and or deposits may be necessary for the following year's tournament(s).

The Committee shall create and maintain a Best Practices document to be passed on to future year's Committees in order that past mistakes may be avoided and past successes, repeated.

6.6 Development Committee

The Development Committee shall be responsible, under the direction of the Executive Committee, for organizing and publicizing workshops, clinics, and seminars for referees, coaches, teachers, and armorers.

The mission of the Development Committee is to develop the support staff of the Division in order to provide a higher quality fencing experience in NC.

The Development Committee shall consist of not less than 4 members appointed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall make every effort to include referees, armorers, coaches, and fencing parents on the Development Committee. The Vice-Chairperson of Coaching and Referee Development shall serve as the chair of this committee.

7. Meetings of the Membership

There will be a minimum of two meetings per year that are open to all NCUSFA members at which time any action(s) or policy(s) adopted or requested to be adopted by the Executive Committee shall be reported to the membership.

The first will be called by August 31st and will have as a primary purpose the distribution of the schedule for the first half of the year and the announcement of the dates and locations of the Junior Olympic Qualifiers and the qualifiers for USFA Summer Nationals.

The official Annual Meeting of the Division will be held prior to June 1 for the purpose of electing the following year's officers.

Nominations for officers will be solicited from the membership in advance of the meeting by the Nominating Committee. Nominations may also be made in writing to the Chairperson 35 days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Division.

Other Division business will be conducted at these meetings as needed. Members shall be given notice of this meeting at least 30 days in advance. To achieve a quorum, the meeting must (a) consist of twenty-five (25) voting members present in person or by proxy, and (b) include representation in person or by proxy of at least 3 clubs. Members of the Executive Committee must be elected at the Annual Meeting.

8. Elections

8.1 Eligibility:

To be eligible to be an executive officer, individuals must be 18 years or older as of February 1 of the membership year and must be a verifiable member in good standing of the NCUSFA as of February 1 of the membership year.

8.2 Nominations:

Candidates for all offices established under these Bylaws may be nominated as provided in Section 6.1, or may be nominated from the floor at the Annual Meeting of the NCUSFA.

8.3 Election Process:

Elections shall be held at the Spring Annual Meeting of the NCUSFA. Current NCUSFA members in good standing over the age of 18 are voting members of the NCUSFA. Each registered member of NCUSFA shall be entitled to one vote in the process adopted by NCUSFA for the election of its Executive Committee. The process adopted by NCUSFA for the election of its Executive Committee shall be based upon the premise that each registered member of NCUSFA shall be entitled to one vote. The manner of any voting by proxy shall be stated in these Bylaws and shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Committee of USFA.

If no more than one (1) nomination is made for any office, the Secretary of the NCUSFA shall cast a unanimous ballot at the Annual Meeting for the candidate nominated. If two (2) or more nominations are made for any office, 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 any office, and no candidate receives a majority vote, a run-off election shall be conducted between the two candidates receiving the most ballots on the first round, and the winner shall be declared elected. If the voting in either a regular or run-off election for any office results in a tie, a lot shall be cast, and the winner declared elected. All ballots shall be secret.

8.4 Proxies:

Members in good standing may vote by proxy for election of Executive Committee members. Those members may give their proxy to any other member in good standing of the NCUSFA. All proxies shall be in writing and shall be submitted for verification to the Secretary of the NCUSFA not less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the Annual Meeting. The person designated in the proxy must attend the Annual Meeting in order to exercise the proxy. The Chairperson may also exercise proxies.

9. Electronic Attendance at Meetings and Elections; Electronic Notices

Any meeting of the Executive Committee or of any other Committee required or permitted by these Bylaws may, in the discretion of the chair of such meeting, allow for telephonic or other remote attendance. If such attendance is permitted by the chair for a meeting, then at the beginning of the meeting, the chair shall ensure that each person attending remotely or telephonically is capable of hearing the proceedings and that each person attending is capable of hearing each other person attending. Any person attending a meeting electronically or remotely

shall be entitled to vote at such meeting to the same extent as he/she would be permitted if attending in person.

Notices required or permitted by these Bylaws may be delivered by electronic mail or via other electronic means. An individual shall be deemed to have received a notice if it is sent to the email address on file with the USFA or to the email address previously given by such person to the NCUSFA. Notices of meetings may also be made by posting a notice of the meeting on the NCUSFA website at least thirty (30) days before the date of the meeting. Notices of proposals to change these Bylaws may be made in the same manner as notices of meetings.

10. Financial Reports, Dues, and Assessments

NCUSFA shall provide to the Executive Director of USFA an annual financial report of operations, and all dues and assessments by NCUSFA shall be reasonable in relation to the programs it offers to its members.

11. Publication of Constitution and Bylaws

NCUSFA shall distribute a copy of its Constitution, these Bylaws, and other governing documents and all amendments thereto to any member upon request. A copy shall also be available on the Division web site.

12. Equal Opportunity/Automatic Suspension of Athletes without a Hearing

NCUSFA shall provide an equal competitive opportunity taking into account ability, physical size, and other athletic criteria, to amateur athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials to participate, consistent with the requirements of the Amateur Sports Act of 1978, as amended, in amateur athletic competition without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, resolution of grievances of its members, including fair notice and opportunity for a hearing to any amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official before declaring such individual ineligible to participate.

13. Insurance

13.1 General Insurance

NCUSFA agrees, at all times throughout the term of this Agreement, to be covered by the general liability insurance policy maintained by USFA. USFA shall inform NCUSFA of the limits of that policy, and of the changes to those limits which may be made by USFA at its sole prerogative. NCUSFA retains the right to obtain whatever additional insurance coverage it may desire, at its own expense, but agrees to name USFA as an additional insured thereof. By purchasing and maintaining the aforementioned and general liability insurance policy, USFA does not assume, and indeed disclaims, any liability for any actions or omissions of NCUSFA.

13.2 Directors and Officers Insurance

NCUSFA agrees to use reasonable efforts to purchase, acquire or provide and maintain in full force and effect at all times, directors and officers liability insurance, and (to the extent such insurance is not obtained through USFA) name USFA as an additional insured there under.

14. 501 (c)(3) Status

NCUSFA shall at all times during the term of this Agreement maintain its tax exempt status under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and shall cooperate with USFA in the event that USFA and NCUSFA deem it advisable for NCUSFA to be included in a group exemption letter.

15. Abuse

NCUSFA shall adopt policies prohibiting sexual and physical abuse that meet the criteria established by USFA (subject to any contrary requirements contained in state or local law applicable to NCUSFA). The NCUSFA shall comply with all policies of the USFA applicable to divisions of the USFA including, to the extent applicable, the USFA's SafeSport policy and the code of ethics and harassment policy of the United States Olympic Committee.

16. Amendments

Amendments to these Bylaws will be by a simple majority of those present and voting at a membership meeting. Proposals to change these Bylaws will be presented to the eligible voters in writing at least 30 days in advance of the vote.

17. Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern NCUSFA in all cases.