

**Agenda**  
**Special Meeting of the**  
**USA Fencing Board of Directors**  
**April 18, 2017**  
**8:00 PM EDT via Teleconference**  
**1-877-885-3221 Passcode: 6869204**

**I. General Information and Organizational Items**

General Announcements

Remarks – Donald Anthony, President

**II. Consent Agenda Items (Don Anthony)**

1. To approve the minutes of the February 21 and March 20, 2017 meetings
2. To approve the financial reports for January and February 2017
3. To accept the RC Ombudsman Report (Appendix A)

**III. Executive Director's Report (Kris Ekeren)**

**IV. Finance Update (Doug Hayler)**

**V. Committee Working Group Update (Lorrie Marcil Holmes and Kris Ekeren)**

**VI. International Championship Exploration Task Force Update (Kris Ekeren)**

**VII. Legal Update (Jim Neale)**

**VIII. Safe Sport Bylaw Change Update (Jim Neale)**

**IX. Old Business (none)**

**X. New Business**

**Proposed Resolution: (Adam Watson)** WHEREAS it is or may become important for members of the Corporation's Board of Directors, Committees, Task Forces and National Office to be aware of potential conflicts of interests in connection with actions to be considered and/or taken by those bodies, it is hereby RESOLVED as follows:

1. Each Conflict of Interest Form (“COIF”) submitted to the Corporation by any person shall be available for review as follows:

(a) All COIFs shall be available for review by each of: (i) each Officer and member of the Board, (ii) each member of the Ethics Committee, (iii) the Corporation’s General Counsel and such other Legal Resource Group members as the General Counsel shall designate, and (iv) the Corporation’s Executive Director and such other National Office personnel as the Executive Director shall designate;

(b) Each COIF submitted by any member of a Committee or Task Force shall be available for review by each member of that Committee or Task Force;

(c) Each COIF submitted by any prospective candidate for any volunteer, consulting or paid position with the Corporation shall be available for review by each member of any Committee charged with nominating candidates for that position.

2. Persons reviewing COIF forms as provided for above shall keep them in confidence and shall not disclose their contents, except (a) to other persons authorized to review them, (b) as reasonably necessary during meetings or other proceedings of the Board or Ethics Committee, or of the relevant Committee or Task Force, or (c) as the Board or Ethics Committee shall, by a vote of its members conducted in accordance with the Bylaws, direct.

3. Notwithstanding Paragraph 2(b) above, persons submitting COIF forms may request that specified portions thereof constituting sensitive personal, financial, or commercial information not be disclosed during open sessions of meetings of the Board. In that event, unless the Ethics Committee or Board shall determine otherwise, Board and Committee meetings concerning those specified COIF portions shall be conducted in executive session. In the event of conflicts in this regard between determinations of the Ethics Committee and Board, the Board’s determinations shall control.

**XI. Discussion and Nomination of board member to serve on the Referees’ Commission Nominating Committee (Don Anthony)**

**XII. Executive Session (Don Anthony)**

**XIII. Adjournment**

## Appendix A

First, I would like to apologize for the tardiness of this report and hope it does not reflect poorly on the hard work being done by the rest of the Ombudsman Committee. We will work to get the report to you in a timely manner in the future.

For the first half of the 2016-2017 season we have a new Ombudsman Committee. The regional representatives are:

- Tasha Poissant
- Bobby Gibbs
- Michael Ross
- Susan Borgos
- Lisa Sapery
- Patrick Webster
- Tim Bookwalter

This is a mix of new people to the Committee and referees who have previously served, but we have maintained a mix with varied regions, weapons, genders and levels. We feel this is important to reach the maximum number of referees possible. We are also still finding our voice as we balance conflicts between a traditional Ombudsman role and our hybrid version. A traditional Ombudsman is truly independent and we are all working referees, so this can lead to a bit of a conflict when we advocate in areas where a traditional Ombudsman would have a more balanced approach. We will continue to work on this as the season progresses. This includes more effective collaboration with the RC before we publish our posts and a more balanced message.

With every “follow” we get on our Facebook page, with every click on our posts we feel we are increasing positive engagement with the RC and to some extent with the National Office. To date we have over 660 likes on our Facebook page, all organic, which means we are up 60 likes over our August meeting, or 10 new likes per month. Without any additional effort, we would like to be over 700 likes by Summer Nationals and to meet our goal of 800 like we are designing a campaign to run before Summer Nationals to make up the difference.

Through the first six events of the season we have had at least one member of the Ombudsman Committee present at every National event and they have made their presence known by attending the morning meeting. At these events, we have met with and counseled over a dozen referees. We have also attended over 20 regional events and while we do not announce our presence at every event, as many do not have meetings, we do counsel referees at these events. Many times, the questions we receive are around advancement as a referee as opposed to specific issues they have with the RC. One issue we consistently must correct is that the Ombudsman Committee is not the first step in a SafeSport investigation. We will give advice, but we are looking to improve operational processes, and resolve differences between the cadre and the RC and the cadre and the National Office.