

Agenda

Special Meeting of the USA Fencing Board of Directors

April 14, 2016 via Teleconference 7:00 PM ET
1-877-885-3221 Passcode: 6869204

I. General Information and Organizational Items

General Announcements

Remarks – Donald Anthony, President

II. FOC Reorganization Update (Soren Thompson)

III. Consent Agenda Items (Mr. Anthony)

1. To approve the minutes of the February 15, 2016 meeting.
2. To approve the financial reports for January and February 2016.
3. To accept the Election Committee Report (**Appendix A**) from February 2016 and March 2016.

IV. Executive Director's Report (Kris Ekeren)

V. Finance Update (Sam Cheris)

VI. Legal Update (Jim Neale)

VII. New Business

Motion: (Mr. Cheris) To approve increasing the USA Fencing credit card limit with Great Western Bank from \$250K to \$350K. Great Western Bank will take a security interest in USA Fencing's assets in the amount of \$450K.

Rationale: The increase will help USA Fencing handle operating costs being paid by credit card and is available based on the improved financial status of the organization. USA Fencing pays off its credit card balance in full each month. It does not pay in installments.

Motion: (Mr. Blake) To change the name of The Equipment Technology Committee (ETC), a current and active Committee of the Board, to The Electronic Signaling Equipment and Installations Commission of United States Fencing Association, to be abbreviated to the US SEMI or the SEMI of USA Fencing.

Rationale: The current name of the Equipment Technology Committee is uninformative and unrecognizable by the membership, officials, and associated community. We believe that a more recognizable name will help with communication between the committee and the community as a whole. Simply put: everyone will have a much easier time knowing who to address their armory related questions to. It will also more easily distinguish us from the Integrated Technology Group that is responsible for the more computer oriented tasks.

As such, we would like to adopt an already widely familiar name by changing the committee name to the US SEMI Committee. The term SEMI committee is already a respected and recognized name for the equipment control and material rules authorities the world over. Even within the currently adopted USA Fencing rule book the term SEMI of the FIE is used in reference to the international material rules regulatory board. It is also common practice in other countries to use the designation of SEMI for their armory governance bodies.

Motion: (Mr. Blake): To adopt the new FIE Sabre timing rules for all sanctioned USA Fencing events effective on August 1, 2016 to coincide with the start of the new season. The new rule is: After a hit has been registered, a subsequent hit made by the other fencer will only be registered if it occurs within a maximum of 170 ms (\pm 10 ms) (previously 120ms).

Rationale: USA Fencing will adopt the new timing rules to be in alignment with the FIE rules starting with the 2016-17 season. The rule is being approved and announced now to provide time for clubs and local events to prepare for the change.

Motion: (Ms. Marcil Holmes): To adopt the 2016-17 Committee and Resource Teams recommendations provided by the Committee Working Group (**Appendix B**).

Rationale: The Committee Working Group has evaluated the operational efficiency of the 2015-16 committee structure and made updates to assist the organization with the strategic business objectives and metrics.

VIII. Good and Welfare

IX. Recess to Executive Session

X. Executive Session

XI. Adjournment

Appendix A

Election Committee Report to the Board of Directors

February 2016

Submitted by Dan Berke, Election Committee Chair

The Election Committee held a conference call on January 20th to review our work for the 2016 election. The first order of business was to elect a committee chair. Dan Berke was the sole nominee for the position and was elected.

The committee briefly reviewed the eligibility and petition requirements for the officer positions, which differ slightly from those for At Large director positions. One requirement for officer position petitions is to get signatures from at least 2% of the voting membership. As of February 1, 2016 (the eligibility date for participating in the election), the voting membership was 8,592 people, making the 2% requirement 172 members.

Working with the National Office, a page was added to the USFA website about the election (under About > Board of Directors > 2016 Election.) The page lists the nominees selected by the Nominating Committee, as well as the pertinent sections from the Bylaws detailing the petition process. Suggested petition forms for collecting signatures are posted, as well as the email and mailing addresses to be used to submit petition notifications (by email) and paper signature forms (US mail).

To date, the committee has received a single inquiry from a potential petitioner for the position of President. We have confirmed that he meets the eligibility requirements for the position.

In the upcoming months, the committee will set the dates of the election as well as provide instructions on how candidates can submit their campaign materials. We expect to have this information ready by the end of March, to coincide with the petition deadline date of March 31.

Sincerely,
USFA Election Committee
Dan Berke (Chair)
Michael McTigue
Nicole Ross
Lauren Wunderlich
Donald Alperstein

USA Fencing Election Committee

Meeting Minutes – Friday, March 18, 2016

Members Present: Donald Alperstein, Dan Berke (Chair), Michael McTigue, Nicole Ross

Members Absent: Lauren Wunderlich(traveling for competition)

Staff Liaison: Kris Ekeren

Guests: Nancy Anderson

- Dan opened the call with an update on the petition process. The National Office has received and verified David Blake's petition for the At-Large position. The committee anticipates additional petitions to be received prior to the April 1, 2016 deadline.
- Dan discussed the utilizing the same guidelines as last year for candidate statements and photos. The group agreed with using the same information. Dan will prepare information and have it ready to send out once all candidates are confirmed. The information will be due to the committee no later than Monday, May 2, 2016 with the deadline to post on the USA Fencing website by May 6, 2016.
- The committee discussed using the same guidelines for the Hall of Fame nominees. In addition, Dan suggested having the committee share the prepared bio with candidates prior to posting on the website and ballot. Kris will follow up with the Hall of Fame committee and copy Dan.
- Dan inquired about the possibility of placing an ad in the upcoming magazine. Kris will check with Nicole Jomantas on deadlines and report back to the committee.
- The committee discussed the pros and cons of dates for the election, coming to an agreement on the following timeline:
 - Voting – Monday, May 16 – Friday, June 10, 2016
 - Candidate notification – Saturday, June 11, 2016 between noon – 1 pm MT; candidates will be asked in advance to provide information on where they may be contacted during the notification time period and to make themselves available for the call.
 - Results announcement to membership – Saturday, June 11 at 1 pm MT
- The group agreed on the following email notifications from Votenet:
 - May 15, June 1, and June 10
 - Nicole Ross recommended utilizing social media including instagram and facebook to encourage all constituent groups to vote.
 - The National Office will include information about the election in general membership e-blasts and social media.
- Donald asked if the Election Committee meeting information has been posted on the website as required by the bylaws. Kris responded that the meeting information and call-in information is posted on the website as soon as the meeting date and time has been confirmed.
- Dan tentatively set the date for the next meeting: Tuesday, April 5th at 3 pm ET. Kris will check with Lauren Wunderlich on her availability before posting the information on the website.

Updates following the meeting:

- Nicole Jomantas has asked that the election ad be sent to her no later than Monday, March 28, 2016 to be included in the next magazine issue.

Appendix B



To: USA Fencing Board of Directors

From: Kris Ekeren, Executive Director

Date: April 6, 2016

Subject: Recommendation for 2016-17 Committee and Resource Teams

The Committee Working Group (CWG) has conducted a recent review on the operational effectiveness of USA Fencing's committee and resource teams. The group includes David Blake, Lorrie Marcil Holmes and Kris Ekeren. Based on the feedback and discussion, the CWG is recommending the following structure for 2016-17:

Board Support

- Legal Resource Group
- Background Screen Review Group
- Parliamentarian
- Historian

Standing Board Committees

Standing Committee: a committee that is created by USA Fencing bylaws; cannot be created or disbanded except by amendment of the bylaws

- Audit
- Budget
- Election
- Nominating
- Ethics

Additional Principal Committees/Commissions

Principal Committee: includes standing committees and additional committees as the BOD designates as sufficiently integral to the operation of the USA Fencing.

Commission: type of committee of the BOD that is charged with operational responsibility but that is not required to include Athlete representation.

- Fencing Officials Commission
- Tournament
 - Youth Development Committee
- Veterans

Committees of the Board

Committee of the Board: a committee that is not a standing committee.

- Compensation

- *U.S. SEMI (Equipment Tech; name change)*
- Hall of Fame
- International Relations

Resource Teams

Resource Team: not defined in bylaws; teams that are formed to assist the National Office with operations.

- Club and Member Services
- *Collegiate Programs (shift from Task Force)*
- Division
- High School Resource Team
- IT
- Marketing and Communications
- Paralympic Development
- Safe Sport
- Sport Development
- Sports Medicine
- Sports Performance

The CWG also discussed the following updates for the 2017-18 membership year:

- Updated committee charters by April 14, 2016.
- Updated applications available by April 18, 2016.
- Include Conflict of Interest form with application.
- Request that returning committee members complete abbreviated application to have information and conflict of interest form on file.
- Announcement of committee application process posted week of April 18th; applications accepted through June 1st.
- Initial review of committee applications – June board meeting.
- Notification of committee members completed immediately after approval at September board meeting.
- National Office will host volunteer webinar/training for new volunteers.
- All committees and resource teams will complete their first meeting prior to October 31, 2016.