

USA Fencing Division Officer Meetings Notes

USA Fencing and the Division Resource Team held two meetings with various Division Officers during the Dallas National Championship & July Challenge. Thank you to the Division Officers and Resource Team members that made time to attend these meetings and participate in some great discussions. Below is a summary of the meetings.

We began both meetings with a brief description of the USA Fencing Division Resource Team and their role is working with Divisions and the National Office. The Resource team and the National Office will work with Divisions to resolve issues, serve as a resource and is charged with providing better and more frequent communication with Division Officers.

The Resource Team shared some of the website improvements that include a new Divisions web page that shows Division Bylaws, website and email contact on one page. In addition, the resource documents are currently being updated.

There was some discussion regarding the Division Officer survey that was sent out in May 2016. There were a few that participated in the survey that were concerned that the Divisions were going away and the Resource Team and the National Office responded that was not the case and that the survey was a way to gauge how we can improve service to Divisions.

The Division Standards document on the website was mentioned by the Team and the Officers were asked to provide feedback so that this document can be improved and expanded.

There was conversation around how to hold Division tournaments that are profitable and how to increase the revenue for small Divisions. The Virginia Division holds Regional and Division events and they have made a profit or in some cases broke even on events. This Division also owned equipment that can be utilized by clubs in that Division. Fundraising events for the Division was also mentioned as another way to increase profits.

One significant concern brought to the Division Resource Team is that Divisions don't consistently get answers to their questions and often there is urgency to the question. The group discussed various ways this can be improved that included an FAQ for Division Officer Questions; a blog just for Division Officers; a live chat mechanism in the future.

Periodically there are personality or club conflicts within a Division and the group discussed how to address those issues. Some Divisions ask that all clubs work together in order for each to receive a sanctioned tournament and that seems to work.

A Division Officer asked if it was better to incorporate or to just remain as an unincorporated administrative unit under USA Fencing. The pros and cons of incorporation were discussed including the various taxes that are due and that each State has their own process for incorporation.