

## Article VII

Section 16. **Disciplinary Powers and Procedures.** Except as otherwise provided in this Section 16 ~~T~~the disciplinary power of the USFA shall be exclusively vested in the Board of Directors, which shall, by a two-thirds vote of the members voting, have the power to suspend, expel, deny continuation of membership or deny readmission to membership of any member whose conduct may be deemed detrimental to the welfare, interests or character of the USFA, provided that at least a majority of the members of the Board of Directors cast an affirmative or negative vote on the question. Any other legal sanction may be imposed by the Board of Directors upon a majority vote or by action of any committee or commission designated by the Board of Directors. Sanctions shall be imposed only after adherence to procedures for the protection of the due process rights of the accused as adopted by the Board of Directors. The procedures to be used with respect to resolving disputes on matters of discipline, grievances, eligibility or participation shall be set forth in the Operations Manual or the Athletes Handbook. The imposition of competitive penalties within the Rules of Competition shall not be considered disciplinary action.

- a. As a member National Governing Body of the United States Olympic Committee (“USOC”), the USFA is required to adhere to the safe sport rules and regulations of the USOC. The USOC has promulgated its SafeSport Code for the US Olympic and Paralympic Movement, which includes certain Practices and Procedures and Supplementary Rules, appended thereto (the “Code”). Effective immediately, the Code, as now constituted and as may be amended from time to time, shall supersede and replace the current USA Fencing SafeSport Policy, which shall be modified to conform to the Code. The USFA shall continue to maintain a SafeSport page on its website, and that page shall contain links to current versions of (i) the Code and (ii) USFA’s SafeSport Policy

USOC Bylaw Section 8.7(l) provides that, as a condition of membership in the USOC, each NGB shall comply with the policies and procedures of the independent organization designated by the USOC to investigate and resolve safe sport violations. The USOC has designated the US Center for Safe Sport (“Center”) as that organization. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these Bylaws, the Center shall have full disciplinary authority, including but not limited to the power to suspend, expel, deny continuation of membership or deny readmission to membership, in all matters (i) that the Code commits

to the Center's exclusive authority, or (ii) that the Code commits to the Center's discretionary authority and that USFA's Executive Director shall, in his or her discretion and with the approval of USFA's General Counsel refer to the Center, and the Center shall accept for disposition.

As a condition of membership in the USFA and of participation in any competition, event or activity sanctioned by the USFA or its member organizations, each USFA member (including parents and legal guardians of members under age 18) agrees to comply with and be bound by the safe sport rules, policies and procedures set forth in the Code and to submit, without reservation or condition, to the jurisdiction of the Center for the resolution of any alleged Code violations that may fall within its exclusive authority or become subject to its discretionary authority. Each such person further agrees that any sanctions imposed by the Center shall extend to his or her participation in all NGB competitions, events and activities and may be posted publicly along with information regarding the misconduct involved.