

**Meeting Minutes**  
**WESTERN PA DIVISION / USA FENCING**  
**Annual Meeting and Election – July 20, 2019**

**A.) Call meeting to order**

- Meeting called to order at 3:10 pm.

**B.) Roll call**

- Attendees (alphabetical order by last name):

Erik Blank  
Lucas Bolton  
Adam Marthens  
Missy Masters  
Leah McCord  
Julie Poletta  
Sarah Read  
Dave Theriault  
Deb Theriault  
Storm Walden  
Olivia Weiss  
Renee Weiss  
Daniel Zoelle

**C.) Adoption of minutes from last Annual Meeting on July 15, 2018**

- Minutes from last annual meeting, held July 15, 2018, were adopted at this time.
- **Motion:** to accept Minutes; moved by Sarah Read, seconded by Adam Marthens.

**D.) Reports**

**1.) Treasurer's report:** Deb Theriault provided the Treasurer's Report.

- As of 7/20/19, the ending balance of the WPD Treasury was \$10,139.04. The bank balance was \$10,139.04, with no outstanding checks.
- Total income for the 8/1/2018 - 7/20/2019 period was \$3,268.00 (meet fees: \$2,260.00; US Fencing dues share rebates: \$708.00; donations: \$300.00).
- The US Fencing dues rebate amount included \$126.00 from the end of the 2017-2018 season and \$582.00 from the beginning of the 2018-2019 season.

- Total expenses for the 8/1/18 - 7/20/19 period were \$1,884.93 (FOC clinic: \$600; Tournament expense: \$1,284.93)
- Deb Theriault commented that, looking back on the finances for several years, the 2018-2019 season had significant income from tournaments, with the HS tournament generating the most income. This was the first time the income exceeded the expenses in years.
- Some minor additional expenses for the 2018-2019 season have not yet been submitted/reimbursed (annual meeting expenses, miscellaneous meet fees, SafeSport partial rebates); Deb Theriault will write checks for these expenses after the conclusion of this meeting and issue a final report by the end of the month.
- **Motion:** to accept Treasurer's report: moved by Eric Blank, seconded by Sarah Read.

## 2.) Year-end review

- Olivia Weiss presented data from the 2018-2019 season:
  - Tournaments: Seventeen tournaments were held in the WPD this season, showing consistent tournament growth over the last several seasons. There have been more tournaments, more entries, more varieties of entries, and more clubs hosting tournaments.
  - This season the WPD held its initial High School nationally sanctioned tournament. High School tournaments throughout US Fencing have been doing well, and Bob Bodor, from the National Office, was pleased to hear that the initial WPD Black and Gold HS Invitational went successfully.

## E.) Elections

- Elections were held for the positions of Chair, 1st Vice Chair, and Treasurer.
- The WPD Nominating Committee's Recommended candidates were Olivia Weiss as Chair, Sarah Read as 1st Vice Chair, and Deb Theriault as Treasurer.
- The election results were unanimous: Olivia Weiss as chair, Sarah Read as 1st Vice Chair, and Deb Theriault as Treasurer.
- The current Executive Committee includes Erik Blank as 2nd Vice Chair and Renee Weiss as Secretary.

## F.) Old Business

### 1.) Membership statistics

- Olivia Weiss stated that more than half of the members in the division are under 18, and that youth development in the division is essential.
- Adam Marthens discussed the youth fencers he works with and the children's classes that he teaches, and suggested the possibility of having an introductory competition for young fencers.

## **2.) Safe Sport policy and reimbursement**

- The WPD rebate policy for Safe Sport expenses was once again addressed for revision, as +CheckEd or +Coach only costs \$20, the reimbursement can be cut down from \$35.
- **Motion:** to cut the rebate down from \$35 to \$25; moved by Olivia Weiss; seconded by Deb Theriault.

## **G.) New Business**

### **1.) Calendar and proposed competitions/clinics**

- 2019-2020 events being planned:
  - Division competitions (Fight Strong! scheduled for September 28th & 29th, JO qualifiers scheduled for November 24th; Summer National qualifiers scheduled for March 1st; Black and Gold High School tournament scheduled for February 22nd)
  - Regional tournaments (Tiger RYC scheduled for October 19th)
  - Local club competitions (projected Corsair dates, PFC dates, IUP dates were discussed)
  - Out-of-Division tournaments (that could potentially impact WPD events) were discussed
- The possibility of scheduling a ref clinic for this season with Iana Dakova was mentioned; possible dates will be determined later in the summer.

### **2.) Club communication and contact info**

- Olivia Weiss once again brought up the need to foster greater club communication. In order to host regional events that draw consistent numbers, clubs will need to work together as well as work with the WPD when submitting a bid.
- Erik Blank brought up the need for a dedicated referee list, commenting that the information available through the AskFred database lacks clarity and accuracy, and is not always up to date.

### **3.) Division officer meeting at Summer Nationals**

- Olivia Weiss reported on the Division Officer meeting. Divisions were encouraged to increase their support of their referees and younger members. Deb Theriault suggested targeted clinics for supporting the division's beginning referees and/or referees who wanted a refresher. Storm Walden inquired if the National Office could assist the Division with aggregating data on lists of available referees in our area.
- Current SafeSport policies were also discussed, with the need for open conversation being emphasized. USA Fencing plans on sending its members more informational emails at the beginning of the 2019-2020 season.

### **4.) Division equipment usage**

- During the 2018-2019 season, due to the increase in tournaments, the Division equipment (reels, floor cords, Favero scoring machines) was used with greater frequency.
- One of the Favero 0-5 machines incurred damages; inquiries are being made as to the costs of repair vs replacement.
- Since there was additional income during the 2018-2019 season, Olivia Weiss suggested the Division might use funds to purchase two new Favero 0-5 machines and rotate usage.

### **5.) FencingTime demonstration**

- Erik Blank presented a FencingTime demonstration to show how remote monitors can be used in a venue to display real-time scores and results during a competition.
- Adam Marthens asked if the Division could link their FencingTime software to FencingTime Live. Renee Weiss confirmed that this could be achieved with the use of a second monitor and access to Wi-Fi or a hotspot device.

### **6.) Referee/Bout committee payment rates**

- Lucas Bolton reported the need for individual clubs to be clear and open about their payment rates for referees and bout committee.
- Adam Marthens suggested encouraging/requiring host clubs to tell referees their payment rates when hiring them.
- Other points that could assist in determining fees for refs and bout committee were: the distinction between a half day and a full day of

labor; referee usage reports generated by FencingTime; and whether reimbursement was being provided for travel expenses (gas/mileage or a flat fee.)

- Olivia Weiss recommended that the Division institute new tournament operating guidelines and disseminate that information to clubs.
- Sarah Read inquired about the possibility of sending out a survey to the referees for their specific feedback.

### **7.) Tournament fee cut**

- The 2018-2019 season generated more income for the Division than it incurred expenses: this topic was tabled until next season.

### **8.) New passivity/P-card rule**

- Olivia Weiss distributed handouts with information about the rule change.

### **9. Open floor for discussion**

- Dave Theriault asked if the Division had any plans for purchasing a wireless scoring machine system. Olivia Weiss and Erik Blank both expressed that while they have their place for demonstrations and practices, the utility and reliability of reels would likely continue to best serve the division for the time being.

## **H. Adjournment**

- Adam Marthens made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Olivia Weiss. Meeting was adjourned at 4:43 pm.