

Meeting Minutes
WESTERN PA DIVISION / USA FENCING
Annual Meeting and Election – July 19, 2020

A.) Call meeting to order

- Meeting called to order at 2:12 pm.

B.) Roll call

- Attendees (alphabetical order by last name):

Krystle Bates
Erik Blank
Lucas Bolton
John Carroll
Joe Cascio
Amber Davis
Casey Doyle
Harry Hardman
Ken Mai
Leah McCord
Mike Opferman
Sarah Read
Dave Theriault
Deb Theriault
Storm Walden
Joanna Weiss
Olivia Weiss
Renee Weiss

C.) Adoption of minutes from last Annual Meeting on July 20, 2019

- Minutes from last annual meeting, held July 20, 2019, were adopted at this time.
- **Motion:** to accept Minutes; moved by Sarah Read, seconded by Olivia Weiss.

D.) Reports

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

- As of 7/12/20, the ending balance of the WPD Treasury was \$8,409.14. The bank balance was \$8,409.14, with no outstanding checks.
- Total income for the 8/1/2019 - 7/12/2020 period was \$502.00 (Meet fees: \$355.00; USA Fencing dues share rebates: \$147.00.)
- The US Fencing dues rebate amount of \$147.00 only included rebates from the 3rd and 4th quarters of the 2018-2019 season; no rebates for the 1st and 2nd quarters of the 2019-2020 season have been received yet from USA Fencing.
- Total expenses so far for the 8/1/19 - 7/12/20 period were \$989.21. (Tournament expenses: \$159.21; Equipment purchase of 2 Favero 0-5 scoring machine: \$1650.00.)
- 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 Olivia Weiss.

2.) Secretary's Report: Renee Weiss provided the Secretary's Report. She summed up membership and club statistics within the WPD during the 2019-2020 season, as well as the ratings that were awarded between September 2019 and March 2020.

- WPD Membership statistics:
 - According to the most recent USA Fencing spreadsheet, there are currently 333 members of the WPD.
 - There are 117 eligible voting members, and 158 members under the age of 18.
 - There are 122 women, and 211 men.
 - There are 225 members with memberships that are considered "competitive", allowing competition in USA Fencing sanctioned events: Coach, Competitive, Collegiate Competitive, Life, and Life Installment memberships.
 - There are 108 members with memberships that are considered "non-competitive", that do not allow competition in USA Fencing sanctioned events: Non Competitive, High School Competitive, and Supporting memberships.
 - 270 members of the WPD have some club affiliation, while 63 do not.

- WPD club statistics:
 - There are currently 14 active USA Fencing Clubs in the WPD.
 - 5 Private Clubs: Corsair, North Hills, PFC, Steel City, and Tiger
 - 4 High School Clubs: Aquinas, Peters, Shadyside, and USC
 - 5 College Clubs: CMU, Pitt, Allegheny College, Grove City, and IUP
- Ratings awarded in the WPD during the 2019-2020 season:
 - There were 9 tournaments held in the WPD during the truncated 2019-2020 season: in those 9 tournaments, there were a total of 16 ratings awarded; 12 new, 4 renewals.
 - There were 7 new Foil ratings: 1 C, 2 D's, 4 E's; 3 renewals: 1 D 2 E's
 - There were 3 new Epee ratings: 1 A, 2 E's
 - There were 2 new Saber ratings: 2 E's; 1 renewal: 1 E
 - Of the 16 ratings awarded, 3 of them were to out of division fencers.
 - A total of 4 of the Foil ratings were in Women's Foil events.
- **Motion:** to accept Secretary's report: moved by Deborah Theriault, seconded by Erik Blank.

E.) Year End Review

- Olivia Weiss summed up the 2019-2020 season.

F.) Elections

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

G.) Looking Ahead

1.) USA Fencing outlook for the 2020-2021 season

- **Guidelines for reopening**
- **National Schedule**
- **Regional Schedule**
- **Division Schedule**

2.) Division/Club dialogue

3.) SafeSport refresher

4.) WPD Bylaw amendments and Policy revisions

5.) Zoom platform

6.) Open floor for discussion

H. Adjournment

- Olivia Weiss made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Erik Blank. Meeting was adjourned at 3:56 pm.

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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.