

Meeting Minutes

WESTERN PA DIVISION / USA FENCING

Annual Meeting and Election – July 18, 2021

A.) Call meeting to order

- Meeting called to order at 4:43 pm.

B.) Roll call

- Attendees (alphabetical order by last name):

Erik Blank
Lucas Bolton
Harry Hardman
Tomas Nonnenmacher
Sarah Read
Deb Theriault
Storm Walden
Olivia Weiss
Renee Weiss

C.) Adoption of minutes from last Annual Meeting on July 19, 2020

- Minutes from last annual meeting, held July 19, 2020, were adopted at this time.
- **Motion:** to accept Minutes; moved by Olivia Weiss, seconded by Erik Blank.

D.) Reports

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

- As of 7/17/2021, the ending balance of the WPD treasury was \$9,067.79.
- Total income for the 8/1/2020-7/17/2021 period was \$975.00 (Meet fees: \$210.00; USA Fencing dues share rebates: \$765.00.)
- Total expenses for the 8/1/2020-7/17/2021 period had not yet been determined at the time of the Annual Meeting: these will include SafeSport policy partial rebates and any other administrative upkeep fees. Deb Theriault will write checks for these expenses and issue a final financial report by the end of the month.*

- **Motion:** to accept Treasurer's report: moved by Sarah Read, seconded by Olivia Weiss.

2.) Secretary's Report: Renee Weiss provided the Secretary's Report. She summed up membership, club statistics, and ratings awarded within the WPD during the 2020-2021 season.

- WPD Membership statistics:
 - According to the most recent USA Fencing spreadsheet, there are currently 115 members of the WPD, down significantly from the 2019-2020 season total of 333 members.
 - Of these 115, 45 are eligible voting members, down from last season's total of 117 eligible voting members.
- WPD club statistics:
 - There are currently 8 active USA Fencing Clubs in the WPD, down from last season's total of 14.
 - 4 Private Clubs: Corsair, PFC, Steel City, and Tiger
 - 3 High School Clubs: Aquinas, Peters, and USC
 - 1 College Clubs: Pitt
 - Additionally, there is 1 club pending renewal: Grove City College
- Ratings awarded in the WPD during the 2020-2021 season:
 - There were 2 tournaments held in the WPD during the 2020-2021 season that awarded ratings: in those 2 tournaments, there was a total of 3 ratings awarded; all 3 were renewals, and all were in foil
 - All 3 of these ratings (1 D2021 and 2 E2021s) were awarded at the PFC D & Under Mixed Foil held in May
- **Motion:** to accept Secretary's report: moved by Erik Blank, seconded by Deb Theriault.

E.) Year End Review

- Olivia Weiss briefly summed up the 2020-2021 season:
 - PFC held two tournaments: one in May and another in June.
 - These were the only two tournaments held in the Division this season.
 - The WPD Qualifier for the 2021 National Championships (which was a combination JO and Summer National Championships Qualifier) did not have to be held due to relatively low registration.

- The WPD had 5 members fence at the 2021 USA Fencing National Championships in Philadelphia in July across 7 different events: 3 JO events, and 4 SN events.

F.) Bylaw Revision

- Article 3 Section 3 – Section Directorship was removed from the official Bylaws. The removal of this portion of the Bylaws led to the revised numbering of all the other sections of Article 3.
- Article 4 Section 1 – Annual Meeting was revised to designate the time frame of the Annual Meeting as occurring “no later than the end of July of the current year.”
- Article 4 Section 3 – Election Procedures and Policies was revised to state that any final tabulation of votes from the WPD Annual Meeting would be done “no later than August 1st,” in accordance with the revision of the time frame for the Annual Meeting.
- All of these Bylaw changes were agreed upon unanimously.

G.) Elections

- Elections were held for the positions of Chair, 1st Vice Chair, and Treasurer.
- The WPD’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.

H.) Looking Ahead

1.) Schedule for the 2021-2022 season

- **National Schedule**
 - There is no further information yet from USA Fencing on the National Events schedule for the 2021-2022 season.
- **Regional Schedule**
 - Similarly, the Regional calendar for the 2021-2022 season has not yet been posted on the USA Fencing website, and there is no further information currently available on what is planned for those events.

- **Division Schedule**

- PFC had already submitted a sanctioning request for an E & Under in August.
- No other clubs have indicated interest in hosting tournaments yet.
- The Executive Committee is open to receiving sanctioning requests as well as questions or concerns about upcoming tournaments.

2.) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Contact

- The previous WPD DEI contact was Marisa Wexler, who moved out-of-Division. The Executive Committee is putting out feelers for another individual to be in this role.

3.) Background Checks and SafeSport expirations

- Once again, SafeSport training expires at the end of the USA Fencing membership year, on July 31st.
- A SafeSport refresher is required every season for all fencers with a Coach membership or a +Coach or +CheckEd.
- Many members did not complete these requirements this season, but these remain necessary steps in holding any official, supervisory, or coach role at clubs or tournaments.

4.) New membership designations

- Club memberships: the new club membership designations are Premium (participates in USA Fencing insurance program) and Affiliate (no insurance coverage); the fees for these memberships are \$575 and \$50, respectively.
- Individual memberships: Access (includes benefits of the previous Supporting membership, allows fencers to compete at an unlimited number of local sanctioned competitions, including Division qualifiers); fee is \$25 and can be upgraded to Competitive for an additional \$60 at any time.

5.) Olympics 2021 Fencing schedule

- Olympic fencing events take place from July 23rd to August 1st

6.) Open floor for discussion

- There was some discussion about referee retention during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and of assembling a list of WPD referees with additional information such as ratings, club affiliations, and any other relevant details.

I.) Adjournment

- Erik Blank made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Olivia Weiss. Meeting was adjourned at 6:01 pm.

* The final Treasurer's Report for the 2020-2021 season is attached.