

# **Meeting Minutes**

## **WESTERN PA DIVISION / USA FENCING**

### **Annual Meeting and Election – July 20, 2025**

#### **A.) Call meeting to order**

- Meeting called to order at 4:05 pm.

#### **B.) Roll call**

- Attendees (alphabetical order by last name):

Erik Blank  
Mark Burkardt  
Iana Dakova  
Harry Hardman  
Mintas Ivaska  
Andy Liu  
Adam Marthens  
Akhilesh Nareddy  
Sarah Read  
Olivia Weiss  
Renee Weiss

#### **C.) Adoption of minutes from last Annual Meeting on July 20, 2024**

- Minutes from last annual meeting, held July 20, 2024, were adopted at this time.
- **Motion:** to accept Minutes; moved by Olivia Weiss, seconded by Adam Marthens.

#### **D.) Reports**

##### **1.) Treasurer's report:** Harry Hardman provided the interim Treasurer's Report.

- As of 7/20/2025, the ending balance of the WPD bank account was \$5,572.60.
- Total income for the 8/1/2024-7/20/2025 period was \$2,179.70 (Meet fees: \$922.70; USA Fencing dues share rebates: \$1,077.00; other: \$180.00)
- Total expenses for the 8/1/2024-7/20/2025 period were \$3,162.13. (SafeSport policy partial rebates: \$360.00; storage facility rental: \$1,646.66;

moving expense: \$125.66; venue rental: \$90.00; operating and administrative: \$919.85; referee expenses: \$19.96)

- The expenses for storage facility rental were discussed: the storage expenses will be reduced going forward as only one rental unit is needed for equipment storage rather than two.
- **Motion:** to accept Treasurer's report: moved by Erik Blank, seconded by Olivia Weiss

**2.) Secretary's Report:** Renee Weiss provided the Secretary's Report. She summed up tournaments held and ratings awarded in the Division during the 2024-2025 season.

- There were 13 sanctioned tournaments during the 2024-2025 season, as well as the JO Qualifier and the SN Qualifier:
  - PFC: Season Kickoff 9/15
  - WPD: Fight Strong! 9/21
  - PFC: Fall Into a New Rating 10/13
  - (PFC: Halloween Spookathon 10/27)
  - IUP: Crimson Cornucopia 11/9
  - PFC: Fall Fiesta 11/17
  - WPD: JO Qualifier 12/14
  - PFC: Winter Invitational 12/15
  - IUP: Valentine's Duel 2/16
  - Corsair: Irish City Open 9 and Unrated Foil 3/22-23
  - Tiger: D & Under 2025 3/29
  - (CMU: Tartan Scrimmage 2025 3/30)
  - (PFC: Pick-Up Team Foil and Y12 4/6)
  - IUP: Spring Sword Showdown 4/12
  - (CMU: Holy Grail 4/19)
  - Corsair: Friday Night Foil Unrated 4/25
  - WPD: SN Qualifier 4/26
  - WPD: Lil Yinzers Youth and Junior Tournament 5/17-18
  - Corsair: Jubilee D & Under 5/25
  - (PFC: End of the School Year Youth Foil Celebration 6/1)
- In addition, there was CMU's Holy Grail, as well as 3 unsanctioned youth tournaments at PFC, a pick-up team foil event at PFC, and a scrimmage at CMU.
- The 2025 Junior Olympics were held in Charlotte, NC in February. The WPD had 6 fencers qualify through the Division Qualifier in six different events.

- The 2025 Summer Nationals were held in Milwaukee, WI this summer. The WPD had 9 fencers qualify through the Division Qualifier in eleven different events.
- Ratings awarded in the WPD during the 2024-2025 season:
  - Across the 13 sanctioned tournaments held in the WPD during the 2024-2025 season, there was a total of 30 ratings awarded.
  - Foil: 16 Es, 3 Ds; Epee: 8 Es, 3 Ds
- **Motion:** to accept Secretary's report: moved by Adam Marthens, seconded by Sarah Read.

**E.) Year End Review:** Olivia Weiss briefly summed up memberships and clubs in the WPD for the 2024-2025 season:

- WPD Membership statistics:
  - According to the most recent USA Fencing membership spreadsheet, there are currently 380 members of the WPD, an increase from last season's 366 members.
  - Approximately 260 members are under the age of 18.
  - The gender breakdown of members is approximately 3 men for every 2 women (232 to 148).
  - Approximately 120 members are eligible to vote.
  - These are approximations from data available through the member lookup and information from earlier in the season, as USA Fencing did not respond to repeated requests for membership information.
- WPD Club statistics:
  - There are currently 9 active clubs with USA Fencing Club Memberships in the WPD.

## **F.) Elections**

- Elections were held for the positions of Chair, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, and Treasurer.
- The Nominating Committee's Recommended Candidates were Olivia Weiss as Chair, Sarah Read as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, and Harry Hardman as Treasurer.
- The final election results were as follows: Olivia Weiss as Chair, Sarah Read as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, and Harry Hardman as Treasurer.
- The current Executive Committee includes Erik Blank as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair and Renee Weiss as Secretary.

## **G.) Looking Ahead: 2025-2026 Season and Open Discussion**

### **1.) Club Representatives**

- Each USA Fencing member Club, in good standing in the Division, if not already represented by an officer of the Executive Committee, is entitled to representation on the Committee.
- Akhilesh Nareddy, from University of Pittsburgh Fencing Club, volunteered as his club's representative.

## **2.) WPD website**

- Potential updates to the WPD website ([westernpadivision.org](http://westernpadivision.org)) were discussed, such as the inclusion of a calendar feature and a tournament staff database.

## **3.) Fundraising / Outreach**

- Various ideas were brought up about how to bring in more funds for the WPD's finances, such as a fencing "garage sale," a 5K, and possible sponsorships.
- Other ideas about potential clinics to benefit existing WPD members or demonstrations to bring in new members were mentioned, as well as the desire to increase the WPD's media presence.

## **4.) Tournament Planning meetings**

- In accordance with the Division Operating Guide, the Executive Committee will hold an Executive Committee meeting directly after this meeting to set the Division calendar for the first half of the season.
- Clubs should indicate their interest in having tournaments by emailing the Division with the tournament sanctioning form found on the website.
- The Executive Committee also accepts sanctioning requests for available dates on a rolling basis.

## **H.) Adjournment of General Meeting**

- Olivia Weiss made the motion to adjourn the general meeting, seconded by Harry Hardman and Erik Blank. Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.