

Meeting Minutes
WESTERN PA DIVISION / USA FENCING
Annual Meeting and Election – July 19, 2026

A.) Call meeting to order

- Meeting called to order at 4:06 pm.

B.) Roll call

- Attendees (alphabetical order by last name):

Erik Blank
Andy Goldberg
Harry Hardman
Andy Liu
Yangyang Liu
Adam Marthens
Akhilesh Nareddy
Sarah Read
Logan Walters
Olivia Weiss
Renee Weiss

C.) Adoption of minutes from last Annual Meeting on July 20, 2025

- Minutes from last annual meeting, held July 20, 2025, were adopted at this time.
- **Motion:** to accept Minutes; moved by Erik Blank, seconded by Olivia Weiss.

D.) Reports

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

- As of 7/19/2026, the ending balance of the WPD bank account was \$5,224.77.
- Total income for the 8/1/2025-7/19/2026 period was \$945.00 (Meet fees: \$200.00; USA Fencing dues share rebates: \$426.00; other: \$319.00)
- Total expenses for the 8/1/2025-7/19/2026 period were \$1,292.83. (Storage facility rental: \$1,249.65; operating and administrative: \$43.18) SafeSport policy partial rebates of \$240 still need to be distributed for this season.

- **Motion:** to accept Treasurer's report: moved by Renee Weiss, seconded by Erik Blank

2.) Secretary's Report: Renee Weiss provided the Secretary's Report. She summed up tournaments held and ratings awarded in the Division during the 2025-2026 season.

- There were 11 sanctioned tournaments during the 2025-2026 season, as well as the JO Qualifier and the SN Qualifier:
 - PFC: Season Kickoff 9/13-14
 - Corsair: Scallywag! E & Under and Youth 9/20-21
 - IUP: Dread Pirate Roberts C & Under 9/27
 - PFC: Fall Into a New Rating 10/11
 - Corsair: Fencing Flea Market & Unrated Foil 10/25
 - (PFC: Halloween Youth Foil 11/2)
 - WPD: JO Qualifier 11/2
 - Pitt: Panther Open '25 11/18
 - IUP: Crimson Cup Open 11/22
 - PFC: Winter Invitational 12/13-14
 - IUP: After Valentine's Duel 2/15
 - (PFC: Youth Challenge 2/28)
 - Corsair: Murphy's Irish City Open 10 3/21-22
 - (Pitt/CMU Scrimmage 3/28)
 - (CMU: Holy Grail 4/19)
 - WPD: SN Qualifier 4/25
 - PFC: Start of Summer Foil Scrimmage 5/30-31
- In addition, there was CMU's Holy Grail, as well as 2 unsanctioned youth
- tournaments at PFC and a Pitt/CMU scrimmage.
- The 2026 Junior Olympics were held in Kansas City, MO. The WPD had 5 fencers qualify through the Division Qualifier in five events.
- The 2026 Summer Nationals were held in Portland, OR this summer. The WPD had 6 fencers qualify through the Division Qualifier in five events.
- Ratings awarded in the WPD during the 2025-2026 season:
 - Across the 11 sanctioned tournaments held in the WPD during the 2025-2026 season, there was a total of 26 ratings awarded.
 - Foil: 13 E, 2 D, 1 C; Epee: 3 E, 4 D, 1 C, 1 A; Saber: 1 E
- **Motion:** to accept Secretary's report: moved by Olivia Weiss, seconded by Adam Marthens.

E.) Year End Review: Olivia Weiss briefly summed up memberships, clubs, and fencer retention in the WPD for the 2025-2026 season.

F.) Elections

- Elections were held for the positions of 2nd Vice Chair and Secretary.
- The Nominating Committee (consisting of Guy Beresteanu, Andy Goldberg, and Mark Burkhardt) recommended the following Candidates: Erik Blank as 2nd Vice Chair and Renee Weiss as Secretary.
- The final election results were as follows: 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 Harry Hardman as Treasurer.

G.) Looking Ahead: 2026-2027 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.
- Logan Walters, from University of Pittsburgh Fencing Club, volunteered as his club's representative.

2.) WPD website

- Potential updates to the WPD website (westernpadivision.org) were discussed, including providing more links and resources for armory and referee development.
- Adam Marthens offered to contribute resources consisting of written instruction/video for simple armory repairs and support.

3.) Fundraising / Outreach

- The WPD fencing "garage sale" held in the fall was successful financially and as an equipment resource for incoming fencers. Plans were discussed to hold this event on a recurring basis

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

- Erik Blank made the motion to adjourn the general meeting, seconded by Olivia Weiss. Meeting was adjourned at 4:37 pm.