

Agenda
Emergency Meeting of the
USA Fencing Board of Directors
via Teleconference and In-person – Charlotte, NC
January 6, 2019 at 7 pm ET
1-877-885-3221 Passcode: 6869204

I. General Information and Organizational Items

1. General Announcements
2. Remarks – Donald Anthony, President

II. New Business

1. Safe Sport Policy Discussion
2. **MOTION (Mr. Alperstein as liaison to the Referees' Commission):** To delegate to the Referees' Commission the Board's authority to adopt and implement changes to USA Fencing's Rules of Competition for the limited purpose of recognizing for domestic purposes the changes in the FIE rule regarding "Unwillingness to Fight" (t.124) adopted by the FIE at the December 2018 Congress. Said delegation shall authorize and require the Referees' Commission to conform the language of the rule to USA Fencing's terminology and practices and to prescribe the procedures to be followed in the rule's domestic application. In the absence of a Board Determination to the contrary, the rule will be implemented on a date or dates determined by the Referee's Commission after it is satisfied the revised rule has been adapted to USA Fencing's terminology and practices, and that it can be implemented in a manner compatible with the FIE's interpretations to the extent possible in light of such adaptations.

RATIONALE: At the December 2018 Congress, the FIE adopted sweeping changes to the rule governing "unwillingness to fight," also known as "non-combativity." The revisions substantially change the format, approach and complexity of the rule, and result in multiple ambiguities and uncertainties about its application. Attached are the text of the rule as adopted by Congress; an annotated version sent by the Referees' Commission to the FIE, with the FIE CEO's responses; and an email from one of the epee national coaches that further evidences the considerable uncertainty and confusion surrounding the rule. The national coaches for women's foil and men's and women's epee have requested that the rule go into effect in time

for the Junior Olympics and be in effect for all local regional and national competitions effective February 15, 2019. Certain aspects of the FIE rule cannot be implemented by USA Fencing, for example the provision that awards a victory to the higher ranked fencer if both competitors receive a P-black card, and therefore the Referees' Commission will have to modify that section and any others that are similarly problematic. The Referee's Commission continues to pursue official FIE answers to the open questions and has been assured that the FIE will soon release a FAQ regarding the rule, and in the meantime is considering necessary changes required by circumstances unique to USA Fencing. This process will give the Referee Commission information and perspective needed to devise a workable USA Fencing version of the rule utilizing the expertise of the Commission's chair and Rules Committee.

III. Recess to Executive Session

IV. Executive Session

V. Adjournment