

# Agenda

## Special Meeting of the USA Fencing Board of Directors

August 27, 2020 at 7:00 pm ET  
Via Teleconference  
1-877-805-0965 Passcode: 2478629

### **I. Call to Order**

General Announcements

Remarks – Donald Anthony, President

Conflict of Interest announcement.

### **II. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Initiative Update (Mr. Dyett & Ms. Hamilton)**

### **III. Consent Agenda Items (Mr. Anthony)**

1. To approve the minutes from the July 23, 2020 meeting.
2. To approve the June 2020 financial reports.
3. To accept the Budget Committee minutes (**Appendix A**), Referees' Commission reports (**Appendix B**), Tournament Committee (**Appendix C**) and US SEMI Committee (**Appendix D**) minutes.

### **IV. New Business**

Proposed amendments to the USA Fencing Bylaws.

**Motion (Mr. Alperstein):** The first proposal is for the adoption of Amended and Restated Bylaws, generally updating, clarifying, reformatting and making certain other substantial and ministerial changes to the whole of USA Fencing's bylaws.

Please click on the following links to review the proposed Amended and Restated Bylaws:

[Clean Copy](#)

[Comparison Copy](#)

In addition, the following changes are proposed for specific sections, to be separately voted on by the Board of Directors:

**Motion (Mr. Alperstein):** Proposed change to Article IX, Section 11:

Change the title of the section to “Ranked Preferential Voting”

Add the following to the text of that section:

In elections by the membership to fill positions in the USFA conducted after July 31, 2020, the Election Committee shall provide a method of ranked preferential voting, and the candidate (if only one is to be elected) or candidates (if more than one is to be elected) receiving the greatest preference shall be elected.

**Motion (Mr. Alperstein):** Proposed change to Article VI, Section 6.2.b:

Replace the current language with the following:

Terms Limited. The number of consecutive terms to which an individual may be elected to the office of President or Treasurer shall be two. This limitation shall apply to all terms of office commencing after September 1, 2020.

**Motion (Mr. Alperstein):** Proposed change to Article VII, Section 3:

Add a new subsection that reads as follows:

Terms Limited. An individual may serve as an Athlete Director, Independent Director or At-Large Director for no more than eight (8) consecutive years. This limitation shall apply to all terms of Directors commencing after September 1, 2020.

## **V. Old Business**

**Motion (Mr. Alperstein):** To take from the table the 7/7/19 motion to amend the materials rule concerning adding a second different safety system to the mask.

Background: At the 7/7/19 board meeting in Columbus, Ohio, Mr. Alperstein made a motion (which was seconded by Mr. Watson) to amend the material rules to add a second different safety system to the mask (e.g, a second strap). A subsequent motion (which was seconded and passed) laid the first motion on the table "for one year and referred the issue to the RC and SEMI commissions for more data and to report back no later than the deadline for agenda items for the Summer Nationals meeting in 2020 and to request any data the FIE has on the rule." Here is the text of the motion being taken from the table:

To amend the material rules as follows:

**M25.7. e:**

**e) The bib of the mask must be made with cloth resistant to 1600 Newtons.**

**Replace with “350 Newtons”**

**M25.7. f:**

~~f) The mask must contain a horizontal safety strap at the rear of the mask, with the two ends of the strap firmly affixed to the two sides of the mask. This strap may be elastic or of any other material that may be approved by the S.E.M.I. Commission.~~

**Replace with:**

**f) The mask must contain two different safety systems at the rear of the mask, with the two ends of the straps of the systems firmly affixed to the two sides of the mask. These straps must meet the following requirements approved by the S.E.M.I. Commission:**

**Mask with metallic tongue**

- The central band (strap) should not be less than 45 mm wide.**
- The strap must be positioned low enough across the rear of the cervical region that the position of the strap on the head ensures that the mask cannot slide off.**
- The band must be in solid material: when stretched the material should not sustain permanent plastic deformation and should quickly return to its original shape and size**
- The fastening system must be doubled: it must be closed with a double security system (this means that the Velcro™ must be attached at least twice).**
- The Velcro™ must have a minimum breaking strain of 750 N/cm**
- The tags to which the strap is attached by Velcro must be secured to each side of the mask with the same breaking strain.**

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**Mask without metallic tongue**

- The position of the main strap must be low enough to ensure that the mask cannot slide off; the correct distance should be decided by the manufacturer (typically, 25/30 mm).**
- The strap must incorporate 3 fixing points.**
- The use of a magnetic strap, when present, remains mandatory.**

**For USA Fencing competitions the retrofit of existing masks, including FIE masks, to the new design is allowed, subject to verification by Equipment Check (approval of the Head Technician).**

**Appendix A 2.2**

**4.3 Bibs: (p.177)**

~~The bib of the mask must be made with cloth resistant to 1600 Newton, to be tested by the methods described in 3.1, below~~

**Replace with “350 Newtons”**

**4.5 Test and Certificates: (p.178)**

**DELETE 4.5**

**Implementation: FIE homologated masks used in National events will be required to conform to the amended rules no later than 1 Aug 2020; all masks used in National events will be required to conform to the amended rules no later than 1 Aug 2021; all masks used in any USA Fencing event will be required to conform to the amended rules no later than 1 Aug 2022.**

- VI. Chief Executive Officer Update (Ms. Ekeren)**
- VII. American Development Model (ADM) Update (Ms. Simmons)**
- VIII. Events Update (Mr. Mott)**
- IX. Finance Update (Ms. Jones)**
- X. Legal Update (Mr. Neale)**
- XI. Good & Welfare**
- XII. Recess to Executive Session**
- XIII. Executive Session**
- XI. Adjournment**

## Appendix A

**Name:** Budget Committee

**Meeting Minutes – Date** 6/26/2020

**Members Present:** Adam Watson, David Arias, Gerek Meinhardt

**Staff Liaison:** Douglas Hayler

Due to the COVID -19 situation in the United States the budget committee met to discuss revising the board approved 2020-21 budget.

The committee agreed that there are a lot of unknowns which makes it difficult to come up with a solid budget. There was agreement that this budget is going to be very fluid and need to be monitored and updated throughout the year.

The budget revision has a couple scenarios at this time. There was one budget that reduced the size of the all the NAC's. In the other scenario, there were no events being held in October, November or December and the remaining events being reduced.

The budget committee requests more detailed information to be included in the marketing portion of the budget narrative.

The call concluded with the agreement to review the more detailed marketing narrative on 6/30/2020 call.

**Name:** Budget Committee

**Meeting Minutes – Date** 6/26/2020

**Members Present:** Adam Watson, David Arias, Gerek Meinhardt

**Staff Liaison:** Douglas Hayler

The budget committee discussed the updated narrative and had some very general comments about the budget revision.

Since this is a revision to the approved budget. It was determined that there was no need to have a formal vote to approve the revision.

**Name:** Budget Committee

**Meeting Minutes – Date** 8/04/2020

**Members Present:** David Arias, Jake Hoyle

**Members Absent:** Adam Watson

**Staff Liaison:** Doug Hayler

**Guests:** Melissa Jones, Kris Ekeren

An email was sent out to the budget committee thanking Gerek Meinhardt for his service to the budget committee and welcoming Jake Hoyle as the newest member of the budget committee.

Melissa Jones and Kris Ekeren were invited to join the call due to Doug Hayler's announcement that he would be leaving USA Fencing.

The latest revision to the budget included a reduction in membership revenues. In the first revision, membership had been reduced by 25% and the decision was made to reduce the membership budget by 30%.

It was also note that there is a strong possibility that USA Fencing will be required to pay back USOPC funds (approximately \$190K) because we cannot meet the performance plan requirements without events. The USOPC has not made a decision on rolling the Olympic funding to 2021.

The status of the USA Fencing office space was discussed.

## **Appendix B**

### **REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FROM THE REFEREES' COMMISSION 8/21/20**

The Referees' Commission (RC) has had a trying year as all tournament activity came to a halt because of COVID-19. I have attached the reports of 4 of the 5 sub-committees to this summary.

As Chair of the RC I have handled formal allegations of breaches of the Code of Ethics by referees. One was brought by a referee concerning the conduct of another referee regarding that person's behavior on the strip. The person's behavior was inappropriate – the referee kicked/ threw a weapon to remove it when it was placed in the referee's officiating zone. After a mediation session, a private letter of admonition was issued. Other issues were resolved by discussion with the parties involved.

The Ombudsman Group has over 930 followers on its Facebook page. An average of 369 people was reached by each post, a significant decrease from the prior year. There have been fewer issues with the administration of the referee corps, especially regarding rooming, pay and working hours. There has been no activity since the shut-down. Two members of the Group have been present at each National event and have counseled over 60 referees. They have also attended more than 30 regional events. The major issue has been sexual harassment, which consumed 70% of the Committee's time. The duration of National events remains a concern and may impact the number of quality referees willing to work these events. Lack of clear understanding of the Safe Sport procedure remains high.

The Domestic Development Committee has added several new Certified Referee Instructors and Observers (CRIs and CROs). The Committee had launched a new IT-based solution for CRIs and CROs to perform evaluations and provide feedback. Free Certified Referee Seminars were added into the NAC schedule (two 4-hour sessions on Saturday and Sunday evenings). Updated study tools have been finalized. Since the second week of March, new online based referee seminars have been launched using tools like Zoom and Google Hangouts. Over 200 people have taken advantage of these seminars. Feed-back surveys for seminars are being used to improve their quality. A series on live online discussion has been piloted in Region 2 and will be expanded. The Committee is partnering with Side by Side Sports to begin an 8-week live and video webinar series (30-60-minute segments) on the sport from the referee's perspective and how to become a referee.

The Rules Committee has updated the Rule Book to account for changes put in place by the FIE at their December 2019 Congress, and it is now current. During the first half of the season the Committee answered all questions regarding the new rules and mask issues. Since March there have been only 5 additional questions. The administration of the exam has been stabilized. The Committee has added three weapon-specific athlete reps to work with the existing Committee members.

The International Assignments and Development Committee provided referees until the cancellation of events in March. It is currently working on the assignment of referees to events in the new season, pending the re-commencement of international competitive events. The Committee has worked with Kat Holmes to add weapon-specific athlete reps to work with the assignment sub-committees.

The Domestic Assignment Committee (DAC) has assigned each member of the DAC to hire for one national event per season. The hiring for all five NACs and JO's had been completed before the shut-down. Even the March NAC had been completely hired-up, reversing the problems of prior seasons. A new hiring process with a merger of the Referee data base and the new USA Fencing member data base has greatly enhanced the process. Coordination with Dan Berke and Brandon Rochelle will make sure that the event schedule aligns with referee availability in each weapon. DAC has also created a usage summary report for review by the entire RC to assist in determining ratings increase at RC annual meetings.

As this is my last report, I wish to thank USA Fencing for appointing me to be Chair of the reorganized Referees' Commission for the past four years. I believe this new group has shown itself to be more accountable, responsive and effective than its predecessor and will serve the needs of the referees, fencers and the remaining members of USA Fencing for years to come.

I wish to thank all of the current Committee chairs for their work and dedication to the referees and the sport of fencing and to thank our Board liaisons for their advice and counsel during my time as chair of the Commission.

I now pass the mantle of office to Tasha Poissant, the newly elected chair of the RC and wish her the best of luck in the coming quad. I will be happy to provide her any counsel she desires.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Cheris  
Chair, Referees' Commission

## Ombudsman Report

For the 2019-2020 season our Ombudsman Committee is comprised of the following regional members:

- Derek Cotton
- Tasha Poissant
- Bobby Gibbs
- Michael Ross
- Susan Borgos
- Lisa Sapery
- Ivan Lee
- Patrick Webster
- Tim Bookwalter

This is a mix people, we have maintained the varied regions, weapons, genders and levels. We feel this is important to reach the maximum number of referees possible.

With every “follow” we get on our Facebook page, with every click on our posts; we feel we are increasing the positive engagement with the RC and to some extent with the National Office. To date we have over 930 followers on our Facebook page, all organic, which means we are up 130 likes over the same time in 2019, or 12 new likes per month. This increase is consistent with previous years and shows that our message is reaching our audience. This number is also significant as it indicates that we are potentially followed by every active national level referee, even as we add new names to the list. We also know our reach has extended internationally and we are setting the tone for referee relations in other fencing federations. The statistics for our reach indicate some interesting things:

1. We average 369 people reached for each post. This is down from previous years when USA Fencing had more issues with the administration of our referee corp. We have seen the number of complaints regarding rooming, pay and working hours decrease over the last three years, which aligns with the more limited reach of some of our posts.
2. When we augment posts from USA Fencing regarding changes in times for NAC our reach doubles the average, which means more than just working referees at a specific event are reached by our posts



All Posts Published							Create Post		
							Reach: Organic / Paid	Post Clicks	Reactions, Comments & Shares
Published	Post	Type	Targeting	Reach	Engagement	Promote			
12/27/2019 3:13 PM	Please find the full text from the following like below: 12/22/2019,			229	23 0				
12/22/2019 6:23 AM	US Fencing Refereeing Commission Ombudsman updated their business			210	23 0				
11/05/2019 4:02 PM	Please find the full text from the following URL below: 11/04/2019,			184	26 2				
08/22/2019 5:04 PM	One of the largest topics of discussion among referees in the			497	63 11				
06/26/2019 2:07 AM	Beginning in September 2019, per the updated USOC/ NGB			316	40 2				
02/14/2019 3:10 PM	Most members of the USA Fencing Refereeing Commission			243	8 8				
02/04/2019 4:01 PM	This is a repost of the full text from the following source: All USA Fencing			1.1K	152 26				

There has been little activity on our Committee since the COVID shutdown of the country, so since March we have not received no communication from the cadre, there have been no comments of the site, nor has any referee communication been shared with the Committee as a whole. For the National events which did take place this season we have had at least two members of the Ombudsman Committee present, and they have made their presence known by attending all meetings, announcing themselves in the referee corral and by publishing our schedules on our Facebook page in advance. At these events, we have met with and counseled with over 60 referees. We have also attended over 30 regional events and while we do not announce our presence at every event, as many do not have meetings, we do counsel referees at these events. From these events we have had several main takeaways from our discussions with the cadre:

1. Sexual harassment has been the biggest issue this organization has faced since the 2018 season. This topic has consumed the lion's share of our time this season. We have fewer complaints about ratings and pay, rather 70% of our time is now spent counselling people who feel they have been victims of repeated unwanted sexual advances or sexual assault.
2. The National events are still running a bit long and there are challenges with the hiring process. We feel this will impact the number of quality referees willing to work for USA Fencing if not addressed through better advance planning and coordination.

3. The referees still need a much clearer understanding of the SafeSport procedure. We continue to hear from referees who have filed complaints and they have no understanding of the progression of their cases nor does there appear to be consistent reasoning that some cases move forward while others are dropped. While we counsel people that USA Fencing is not in charge of the SafeSport process, it still reflects poorly on our National Office when the process appears as murky and slow as it does.
4. There is a widely held opinion that the National Office needs to have a published policy to deal with referee absences at our National events. This would include, but not be limited to, travel delays, and onsite illness which prevents the referee from performing their duties. As it stands now, it appears to be handled on a case-by-case basis by the head Referee, in consultation with the National Office and we believe a written, published policy will alleviate confusion and any appearance of favoritism.

On a personal note, as this is my last report as the Chair of the Committee, I am proud of the way the members dove into their work and have worked diligently to gain the trust of the referee cadre. I believe it is a testament to their professional ethics that no conversation or communication with our Committee has been shared outside of our Committee meetings and that has not gone unnoticed by the Cadre. It is crucial that the RC maintain a way to have an active dialog with the Cadre or we risk the adversarial relationship we have when the general feeling was that decisions were made in the dark and that members of the RC were only concerned with their personal position. There has been a concerted effort to change that perception over the last four years by all involved in the RC and I am glad this Committee could lay a small part in healing that fracture.

## **Mid-Season Report for Domestic Referee Development**

The DRDC has welcomed several new Certified Referee Instructors and Certified Referee Observers in efforts to better service regions with additional needs for referees to support their local and regional events.

The DRDC welcomes Alex Gioiella as a member to the committee in support of grassroots activities.

The DRDC has launched a new IT based solution for CRIs and CROs to perform evaluations and provide feedback which greatly enhances the experience for developing referees and their mentors at local and regional events. This tool set includes google form/doc based tools that can be used via smart phone, tablet or computer that allows for the observer to capture feedback in a more real time method for evaluations and provide it to the DRDC for updating the national referee database. It standardizes a minimum requirement for the information on the referee being observed as well as creates a constantly updating data set for each region to help identify areas of additional need.

The DRDC has successfully completed integrating Referee Seminars into the NAC Schedule offering free Certified Referee Seminars at every event in a 2 day format 4 hours each Saturday and Sunday evenings.

The DRDC has held a number of lectures at NACs in an effort to level set the national cadre to interpretations of actions and tempo.

The DRDC has finalized the updated study tools for taking the general and weapon specific exams as one of the steps to becoming a certified USA Fencing Referee.

The DRDC is working on the following initiatives for the second half of the season;

- Updating the rating process to match with the newest regional events growth.
- Integration of an athlete member to the DRDC
- Video assessment tools and video upload documentation
- Creating a study guide for para-fencing referees

## **End of Season Report for Domestic Referee Development**

During these challenging times with e an ongoing global pandemic impacting all fencing activities around the country, there have not been many opportunities for referees to use their skills. Sense the country wide cancelling of events during the second week of March 2020, the following new initiatives have been undertaken by the Domestic Referee Development;

Launch of a new online based referee seminar where CRIs use tools like Zoom and Google Hangouts for giving the certification seminar. First piloted in late March there have been a standardized set of guidelines presented to the CRIs for offering an online live seminar. To date over 200 potentially new referees have participated in this online seminar format. This format will most likely continue after restrictions are lifted in order to fill seminar needs tied to Regional events. A full certification seminar online takes approximately 8 hours to get through the minimum requirements for meeting certification.

Seminar survey forms online. The DRDC has launched a new online survey which goes out to all seminar participants immediately after the seminar is completed and participant rosters are provided to the DRDC. This feedback is used to continue to improve quality of certification seminars going forward.

A new series of live online discussions are being piloted within region 2 providing fencers and referees both to discuss applications of rules, interpretations of actions and any rule or policy changes impacting fencers and referees within the USA Fencing community. The first event focused mainly on right of way calls and how the language is different between the weapons. This first trial event had more than 30 participants with 4 national level referees who are both either CRIs or CROs answering questions and explaining actions. The goal of this initiative is to have lead CRI/CROs in each region hold similar events where they can engage their local fencers and referees whom they are more likely to see once restrictions lift and we get back to enjoying the sport of fencing.

The DRDC is partnering with Side by Side Sports for an 8 week live and video webinar series with each installment being between 30 and 60 minutes on the sport of fencing from the referee's perspective and how to become a referee. The goal is to have each installment be hosted by a different CRI/CRO with the first airing July 25, 2020.

As different regions around the country slowly come out of this current crisis, the DRDC will continue to look for new ways to share information, train individuals and engage the fencing community.

Stay healthy,

*Patrick Webster*

Domestic Referee Development Committee



# Rules and Exams Annual Activity Report - 2019-2020 (Feb)

Devin Donnelly, Vice Chair  
Bradley Baker  
Laura Decker  
Tyler Jacobson



# Summary

- Recommendation for adoption of new rules from 2019 FIE Congress forwarded to the BoD
- All new rules questions/mask inquiries from membership answered
- Exam administration stabilized; responsibility has changed hands within the National Office
- Worked with Kat Holmes to add three weapon-specific athlete reps to work with the Rules Committee



# Rulebook Updates 2019-2020

- Updates during the 2019-2020 season (all changes approved by BoD):
  - t.18: Add a USA Fencing note that reads “USA Fencing sanctioned tournaments must use strips that conform to requirements based on the level at which the competition is held that are specified in the Operations Manual.”
  - t.124: Adopt the full current FIE language for t.124, with the deletion of “which is based on the FIE ranking” in t.124.1.e and t.124.2.f.
  - Changes to material rules (M-rules) *not* adopted per recommendation of US SEMI



# Referee Exam Status

- Administrative control of the referee exam has passed to the National Office
  - Formerly Kate R.
  - Currently Christine Simmons
- Minor access issues resolved by Christine in early March
- Forwarded all records of Parafencing exam to designee from Domestic Development (Lisa Campi-Sapery) for creation of Parafencing study guide



# Membership Questions

- The Rules Committee continues to answer all questions from the membership within the week-long response window to which we've committed.
- This includes approving designs for self-decorated masks



# Athlete representatives

We've worked with Kat Holmes to add per-weapon representation to the Rules Committee:

- Sabre: Ben Igoe
- Epee: Jason Pryor
- Foil: Iman Blow (pending)

## Summary of DAC activities for the 2019-20 Season.

- Hire referees for each NAC/JO/SN each season
  - Current method is to have one DAC associate member hire for one tournament per season. There were two new members of the DAC this year, Emma-Tei Kyono and Ron Thornton. They were both trained in the process and philosophy of hiring and performed well.
  - The DAC completed hiring for all five NAC's and JO's. While the March and April NAC's were not held, the hiring was completed for both. The perennial issue with not being able to fill out the ranks for the March NAC did not happen this year. The date later in the month along with being scheduled at the same time and location as the NCAA Championships likely helped in the hiring process.
  - A new process for hiring referees was tried out for the March and April NAC's. This involves the Referee Data base being merged with the USA Fencing member data base. The website now includes a place where referees can note their availability. The Hiring Referee can go into the system, which tabulates the availability for each tournament and check off referees to be hired. When a referee has been hired, a hiring letter is automatically generated by the system and send via email. While there have been a few bugs to work out the system is probably 98% completed and has greatly reduced the time spent in the hiring process. The other members of the DAC will need to be trained in using the system.
  
- Determine Referee Coordinator for each national tournament.
  - Referee Coordinators were selected for each NAC, JO's and Summer Nationals. See List below.
  
- Determine Assigners for each national tournament.
  - Assigners were determined for all of the NAC's JO's.
  - Select a core group of referees who will assign for all four days at each tournament, one for each weapon.
    - For the more complex tournaments, two assigners per weapon is recommended.
  - Select additional, one-day, assigners for each tournament from the cadre hired for that event.

- In addition, a Assigner Advisory group was created for each weapon to assist in deciding who should be used and who should be developed. This process appeared to work well and will be continued.
- Review potential schedule in collaboration with Tournament Committee Chair (Brandon Rochelle) and Dan Berke.
  - Dan creates the initial schedule.
  - Review schedule with an eye towards referee usage.
    - Saber shouldn't use more than 18-20 referees at a time.
    - Saber shouldn't be one of the late finishing events on the last day.
    - Should try to avoid all strips used by ROW events.
  - Review is done right after regular entry deadline for tournament.
  - Proposed schedules were reviewed and suggestions made for each Event. Further review of the proposed Check-in Times was made after the close of registration for each event.
- Maintain list of active referees by season.
- Maintain referee email address list.
  - Used by DAC associate members when hiring for national tournaments.
  - The Referee Email List is maintained on an on-going basis.
- Review hire lists for completeness. (These tasks are usually performed by DAC hiring member, but VC should check that they are done.)
  - Need to have correct arrival/departure dates (for hotel stays)
  - Need to have correct flight departure time (for tournament management)
  - Need to make sure referees have current SafeSport eligibility.
  - Need completed minor referee authorization forms.
- Add referee usage data to season usage (viewable on RC website) after tournament is finished.
- Track referee tournament work day length.
- Create usage summary report, for review by entire RC when determining ratings increases at August RC meeting.
  - Based on assigners' determination of ratings at each tournament.
  - Include International usage.
  - Hiring lists for each Event were reviewed prior to the event to assure proper hiring and information tabulation.

The Referee Usage for each event has been tabulated along with the summary of referee work day lengths.

The Usage Summary Report has been completed for use by the RC at the summer meeting.

## Appendix C

### **Tournament Committee**

#### **Meeting Minutes – 2020-2021 Policy Updates**

#### **Members:**

Brandon Rochelle (Chair)

David Blake

Meredith Delgado

Maggie Dull

Nikki Franke

Alan Geller

Cody Mattern

Cat Bouwkamp

**Board Liaison:** Jeff Salmon

**RC Liason:** Anne Crocket

**Staff Liaison:** Dan Mott

Beginning with the Tournament Committee's annual in-person meeting at Junior Olympics, and throughout the remainder of the 2019-2020 season via conference call, the committee met to discuss various policy and procedure changes previously announced or submitted to the board, including the classification degradation extension to January 1, 2021, and event capping available to organizers for this season.

In addition, two changes to the event classification chart have been approved by the committee and are recommended for inclusion in the 2020-2021 Athlete Handbook:

#### **Treatment of Black Carded Fencers for Event Classification**

Current - If fencer receives a black card at any point during a tournament, the fencer appears in results as "Place fencer excluded" or "EXC-fencer name"; black carded fencer(s) cannot be used towards competitive field total to determine classification AND/OR qualification to championships.

Proposed - If fencer receives a black card at any point during a tournament, the fencer appears in results as "Place fencer excluded" or "EXC-fencer name"; black carded fencer(s) classifications should be used for competitive field total to determine classification, but the blacked carded fencer(s) cannot earn classification or qualification based on their excluded place.

Rationale: Currently, when a fencer is black carded, their classification is removed from the calculation of the event strength for the tournament rating (A1, B2, etc). This can potentially disadvantage other fencers who reasonably earned classifications and could be manipulated by a fencer who intentionally black cards themselves to keep others from earning classifications. As our classification system is structured to best seed our competitions, it is most fair to the field to issue those classifications as if the black carded fencer remained in the field, while also not rewarding the black carded fencer with any qualification or classification.

#### **Removing C1 Minimum for Cadet Competitions**

Current - Division, Section, and Regional Youth and Cadet Competitions must meet or exceed criteria for C1 to award changes in classification (BOD, July 02, July 03).

Proposed - Division and Regional Youth Competitions must meet or exceed criteria for C1 to award changes in classification.

Rationale: Over time, and with the introduction of regional tournaments, the makeup and overall

strength of field of our Cadet competitions has evolved since the introduction of the C1 minimum in the early 2000s, while Junior competitions did not have this restriction. The committee considered this proposed change and agreed that Cadet competitions should be treated the same as our Junior competitions for the purposes of event classification.

The above changes are recommended for the “USA Fencing Classification Reference Chart” found as an appendix in the Athlete Handbook.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brandon Rochelle  
Tournament Committee Chair

## Appendix D

**Name: US SEMI Committee**

**Meeting Minutes – July 2, 2020**

**Members Present:** Kathy Walters, Ted Li, Al Merritt, Liz Morey, Brian Rosen, Glen Hollingsworth, David Blake, and Irene Edgerton

**Members Absent:** David Blake, Dan Dechaine, Donald Alperstein, Leo Curtis

**Board Liaison:** Donald Alperstein (Absent)

**Staff Liaison:** Glen Hollingsworth

**Guests:** N/A

### REPORTS

#### OPEN ISSUES

- 1) Staffing for Next Year's Schedule – Still under review
- 2) Next Year's Schedule – Local tournaments may resume in August, Regional events in September, and National events in October (could change at any time)
- 3) List of Supplies Needed for Armory – Taken care of
- 4) Armory Safety Issues – Policy is still with legal

#### NEW BUSINESS

- 5) Armory Conference Call w/all Armorer's – Waiting for policy from legal
- 6) Update to AAC Memo Dated May 14, 2020 and Conference Call – OK with body cords and lames only until the Covid -19 virus is over
- 7) Voluntary Dress Code – waiting for survey to go out to all Armorer's
- 8) Armory Line Reorganization – Waiting for policy from legal

#### VOTES

Approval of July Agenda and June Minutes

Liz Morey moved to approve the July 2, 2020 agenda and June 4, 2020 minutes as provided.

Kathy Walters seconded. Passed with unanimous approval.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bob Lightner is hosting a video series on Armory issues the next one will be on July 16,2020

Next Conference Call Date July 16, 2020 at 8:30pm eastern

Armorer's Conference Call Date July 23, 2020 at 8:30pm eastern

#### ADJOURN