

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
 CAPITOL DIVISION, USFA
 26 JULY 2020
 Virtual Meeting

Meeting Attendees:

Position	Name	Present	Absent
Chairperson	Nick Ferrara	+	
Vice-Chairperson	Arnold Wynn	+	
Treasurer	Rebecca Chimahusky	+	
Secretary	Bettie Graham	+	
Member-at-Large	Valerie Asher	+	
Member-at-Large	Raymond Finkleman	+	
Member-at-Large	Aaron Ruby	+	
Club Representative	Chevy Chase Fencing Club-Matthew Moore	+	
Club Representative	DC Fencers Club-Byron Neslund	+	
Club Representative	Capital Fencing Academy-Nick Ferrara	+	
Club Representative	George Washington University FC-Hunter Higgison	+	
Club Representative	Half Shell/U Maryland FC		+
Club Representative	Nazlymov Fencing –Jill Feldman	+	
Club Representative	Invicta Sports		+
Club Representative	National Capital Fencers Club		+
Club Representative	Royal Fencing Academy—Teja Safai		+
Club Representative	Royal Imperial Fencing Club		+
Cap Div Member	Vladimir Nazlymov-Nazlymov Fencing	+	
Cap Div Member	Maggie Brasted-Rockville Fencing Academy	+	
Cap Div Member	Kaz Campe-DC Fencers Club	+	
Cap Div Member	Sally Gifford-DC Fencers Club	+	
Cap Div Member	Esperanza Alzona- Rockville Fencing Academy	+	

The meeting was opened at 1:35 pm.

The new Chairperson was welcomed.

Schedule of Division Fencing Events:

Because of COVID 19, the consensus of the group was: (1) Capitol Division event will only sanction events if they comply with state, local, and USFA guidelines with regard to COVID 19. To comply with USFA guidelines (and thus insurance coverage), the Capitol Division will not sanction any tournaments in areas that have not entered Phase 3 and later. Additionally, because of the uncertainty of the pandemic, no Capitol Division-sponsored events will be held for the rest of calendar year 2020, with the possible exception of the JO Qualifiers; (2) all scheduled events in calendar year 2021 posted on AskFred would be marked “tentative;” and (3) the Division’s Y12’s and veteran’s events would be rescheduled for dates (to be determined) in calendar year 2021.

Ray drafted a schedule of Capitol Division USFA events for the 2020-2021 season:

All tournaments are <u>TENTATIVE</u> depending on the pandemic situation and national, state, local and US Fencing guidance		
Event	TENTATIVE Date(s)	Notes
Junior Olympic Qualifiers	November 21-22	Dependent on advice from National Office re. required date of qualifier submission and qualifying procedures
Tom Wright Memorial Veteran Tournament	February 14/April 11/June 13	To be determined by August 7
Youth-12 & Under Tournament	January 3/April 11/April 25	To be determined by August 7
Summer National Qualifiers	February 20-21	
Cherry Blossom Open D1A ROC	March 13-14	
Tune-Up Open	June 26-27	

ACTION:

Reschedule Y12 and Veteran events: Bettie will send out a doodle poll to reschedule these two events in calendar year 2021.

CBO: Because the succession plan for Half Shell results in a turnover of staff involved in the CBO, Nick has offered to work closely with the group to ensure that the CBO is planned, scheduled and managed efficiently and effectively.

Club Events: Clubs that wish to have their events sanctioned in calendar year 2021 should contact Ray.

Review Fees for Registration and Stipends for Capitol Division Event Officials:

By unanimous vote, the fee schedule remains unchanged.

Referee Rating	Stipend/Day
1	\$200.00
2	\$190.00
3	\$180.00
4	\$130.00
5	\$120.00
6-7	\$110.00
8-10	\$80.00
Unrated	\$50.00

Meet Manager: \$125.00/day

Referee "Wrangler": \$50 per competition

The fee schedule for the Cherry Blossom Open is set by the event managers.

International Competition and Club Development Programs:

It was unanimously agreed that the Division should continue its development grants to clubs and international travel grants to Capitol Division international competitors.

All clubs are eligible to apply for club development awards in fencing year 2020-2021.

It was noted that USFA clubs and especially the small ones were affected by the pandemic and many will close or have already closed because of financial instability. There was a discussion of how the allowable activities under the Cap Div's club development award could be expanded to ensure viability of clubs and remain within the legal authority of a non-profit organization. Some of the issues floated for possible use of club development funds were: professional development of club coaches; improve technology for training, such as zoom licenses, improve computer technology, etc.

ACTIONS:

Rebecca and Arnold will contact USFA regarding this issue.

All clubs should submit grants for club development funds.

Initiate an open online forum to discuss possible legal uses of club development funds. This action is open for "ownership."

Sanctioning tournaments during pandemic/ Division Guidance with Local, State, CDC and USFA Guidelines for Opening Fencing Clubs

In May 2020, USFA posted return to fencing guidelines:

https://www.usafencing.org/news_article/show/1106819. It was unanimously agreed that these guidelines should be posted on the Cap Div's website, distributed to members and posted on the Division's Facebook page.

There was also a discussion if the Division should have its own guidelines, such as those developed by the Virginia Division (<http://va-usfa.com/?p=977>)

Notably, events can only take place if the area where the event is held is in Phase 3 or 4.

There was a discussion whether the Capitol Division should develop its own guidelines. Since the Virginia Division has developed guidelines, the issue was how do the two guidelines differ.

ACTION:

Arnold agreed to review the USFA and Virginia Division guidelines and document the differences.

Other Discussions:

Racial Justice:

Rebecca and Valerie raised the issue of what the Division can do locally to increase the participation of racially diverse fencers. Several options were posed: having the Division/clubs post statements about inclusiveness; engaging HBCUs in fencing activities; etc. It was noted that a bottom up approach would probably work best.

Reminders:

Individual USFA membership and liability insurance for clubs expire on July 31

All Executive Committee members, referees, and bout committee members must renew their SafeSport license.

Background checks need to be current for the fencing season.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:26 pm.