

USA Fencing Veteran Committee 24-25
Meeting Minutes
Meeting #1
September 18, 2024 6 PM
Via Zoom

Present: Valerie Asher (chair), Jane Carter, Rita Comes (ex officio), Ken Gauvey, Bruno Goossens, Maria Panyi (Board liaison), Kate Sierra

Absent: Phil Andrews (Staff liaison), Jonathan Bartlett, Will Chang, Tom Mahnken, Jude Offerle, Marsha Reichman

- I. Introductions.
- II. Welcome - Intro to Vet Committee
 - A. Resources to understand our work and our community: given links to Veteran Committee Chair's year-end summary to board; powerpoint presentation about Domestic Veteran Program
- III. Veteran Committee Awards Previous honorees can be found on the Veterans Program page on the USA Fencing web site. History of awards reviewed for new members of committee
 - A. Fencer of the Year

This award is given for athletic excellence over the previous season. Last season we voted to select one Fencer of the Year per age group (40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s), without regard to gender. This was done to ensure we honored our fencers in the 40s and 80s while limiting the number of awardees to a reasonable amount (5). In the past we only awarded one per gender (2 awards per year) and only Vet World competitors were competitive (eliminated 40s and 80s for now). We used the points standings immediately after the worlds (Vet Age and Vet Combined) to establish a short list per age group and then the entire committee debated and then voted (simple majority) for the winner in each age group. We developed analogous points-based criteria (in the absence of a world championship event for V40 and V80.
 - B. Lifetime Achievement Awards'

Criteria: This award is given to a deserving veteran member(s) to recognize sustained meritorious achievement over a significant period of time in veteran athletic performance or in support of veteran fencing. In selecting someone for this award the committee may consider sustained meritorious achievement in veteran athletic performance, coaching, officiating, administrative support or other significant

contributions, or any combination of these areas. However, it must be sustained over a significant (10+ years participation in the veteran community) period and have a broad positive impact on veteran fencing. This is our highest award and should not be given lightly. This award can only be awarded once to any individual.

Nomination Process: The Veterans Committee will seek nominees from the veteran fencing community. This will be done in conjunction with the US Summer Nationals in July. To make a nomination you must be an active veteran (age 39+) member of USA Fencing. Each person may only nominate one individual for this award.

Selection process:

1. The Veterans Committee (or a select sub-committee) will review the nominees and select no more than 5 finalists. The nominees names will remain confidential.
2. The committee will research and review (process at the discretion of the Veterans Committee) each finalist and then meet to deliberate.
3. The Veterans Committee will then vote to select the awardee(s). A two-thirds majority of all voting members present is required for selection. If no one achieves this threshold, no awards will be given that year.
4. The only guide regarding selection criteria is the record of achievement demonstrated by past awardees. Each committee member must decide if the nominee's achievements merit recognition alongside past awards winners.

C. 2024 Selection process. Have asked committee members to review attachments from Meeting #1 Agenda: spreadsheets with points totals for V40 and V 80 and shortlist for Lifetime Achievement Award. Committee members may make internal nominations to this shortlist to be added for consideration for this year. Committee will meet again the first weekend in October (date, time TBD) to vote on V40, V80 and Lifetime Achievement Awards. Those who are unable to come may email their votes for inclusion

IV. Veteran Survey 2024. This was conducted in the spring of this year. The results were attached to the Meeting #1 Agenda. These will be publicized and shared with the USA Fencing Community after the committee members have had time to review them.

V. Additional Business. Discussion of Veteran World Championships for 2025 and the inclusion of V40. There is still no bid into the FIE and no location for this. Rita does not think that we will know the format for this until after the FIE Congress in late November. This is after the November 13 entry deadline for the January NAC, so V40 fencers will need to register without knowing whether all gender/weapon combinations will be included in the planned test event. The Vet Committee needs to work with USA Fencing to have qualification pathways that can be put in place as soon as an announcement is made; and we also need to work on messaging to the membership so they are aware of this situation in case it impacts their decision making.