



# International Relations Committee (IRC) — Charter

Last update: October 29, 2025

## Purpose

The International Relations Committee oversees USA Fencing's international relations efforts to include the following:

- Assist with the development of a strategic plan and metrics for USA Fencing in international relations.
- Identify and promote individuals for nomination and advancement to international political and leadership positions.
- Provide guidance on the selection of the Chief of Mission for World Championships, Paralympic/Olympic Games, and other major events as needed.
- Build the influence of USA Fencing within the international community through agreed strategic objectives.
- Provide assistance and feedback to the National Office when evaluating domestic international events with the goal of developing a quad calendar for international events.
- Assist with protocol matters as needed.

## Structure & Composition (per Board-approved restructuring)

The IRC is structured with two subcommittees and a primary committee that draws from the two subcommittees to coordinate strategy and knowledge-sharing across able-bodied and para-fencing communities.

## Subcommittees

1) FIE Subcommittee (able-bodied international relations)

2) WAS Subcommittee (World AbilitySport – para-fencing international relations)

- Have a Chair.
- Include athlete representation, with weapon and gender diversity as possible.
- Include members with experience and understanding of the respective international community.
- Include Ex-Officio members who hold positions in the respective international community as non-voting advisors, unless selected as full committee members. If an ex-officio member

loses their international office and is not selected as a full committee member, they lose their seat on the subcommittee (and, if applicable, the primary committee) unless the Board votes to add them as a continuing member.

- Include National Office representation (e.g., CEO or designee) as a non-voting advisor.
- Include the Chair of the USA Fencing Board of Directors as a non-voting advisor.
- Meet regularly and forward summaries/recommendations to the primary committee.

## **Primary Committee**

The Primary Committee exists to coordinate strategy, share knowledge between the able-bodied and para-fencing communities, and consolidate recommendations for the Board.

### **Voting members:**

- Primary Committee Chair — a highly administrative role focused on supporting subcommittees, tracking deadlines, and coordinating work.
- One Athlete Representative from each subcommittee.
- The Chair of each subcommittee.
- One non-chair designee from each subcommittee.

### **Non-voting advisors:**

- CEO of USA Fencing (or designee).
- Chair of the USA Fencing Board of Directors.

Meetings: The Primary Committee meets regularly (and at least quarterly) to review subcommittee work, coordinate positions for international bodies, and align recommendations to USA Fencing leadership.

## **Appointments & Terms**

- Appointments: Members are appointed by the Board of Directors upon recommendation from the Board Chair in consultation with the CEO and Governance leadership. Athlete representatives are confirmed consistent with USA Fencing's athlete representation policies.
- Terms: Terms follow USA Fencing committee norms unless otherwise set by the Board. Chairs serve at the pleasure of the Board.
- Voting: All members listed as voting above possess voting privileges; advisors are non-voting.

## **Responsibilities & Deliverables**

- Submit an annual plan with key objectives, initiatives, and metrics across FIE and WAS pathways.

- Maintain a calendar of key international deadlines (elections, nominations, bid windows, congresses, championships, etc.).
- Provide slates and recommendations for U.S. candidates for international committees, commissions, and congress positions.
- Provide recommendations for Chief of Mission appointments for major championships as requested.
- Advise the National Office on domestic international events and quad-planning.
- Coordinate USA Fencing protocol and representation at international events.
- Provide regular reports to the Board (through the Board Chair and CEO) summarizing activity, positions taken, and outcomes.

## **Operating Guidelines**

- Conflicts of Interest: Members follow USA Fencing's conflict-of-interest and ethics policies and disclose relevant affiliations.
- Quorum: A simple majority of voting members constitutes quorum for the Primary Committee and each subcommittee.
- Decision-Making: The Primary Committee consolidates positions from the subcommittees. If subcommittee positions diverge, the Primary Committee documents both viewpoints and any recommended path forward for Board/CEO consideration.
- Liaisons: The IRC Chair (Primary) serves as liaison to the Board Chair and CEO. Subcommittee Chairs liaise with the Primary Committee Chair.