



Summer Nationals Board Meeting Minutes

USA Fencing (United States Fencing Association, Inc.)

6/27/2026 7:00 PMMDT

Attendance

Present:

Members: Donald Alperstein, Phil Andrews, Peter Barton, Emily Bian, Jade Burroughs (remote), Tabitha Chamberlin (remote), Andrey Geva, Molly Hill, Kat Holmes (remote), Joe Inzerillo (remote), Damien Lehfeltdt (remote), Bruce Mitchell, Andrea Pagnanelli (remote), Maria Panyi (remote), Scott Rodgers, Abdel Salem (remote), Jess Saxon

Guests: Dan Burke, Glen Hollingsworth, Mitchell Lane, Nona Lim, Brad Suchorski, Chuck Wemple, Bryan Wendell

Absent:

Members: Lauryn Deluca, Jackie Dubrovich

I. Zoom Dial In Details

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8MeSrO7EQYS-Up_YnsyG6Q

II. Call to Order (Presenters: Scott Rodgers)

- Roll Call
- General Announcements
- Opening Remarks - Chair
- Moment of Remembrance: Jerzy Grzymski OLY & Louis Lepie
- Conflict of Interest Declaration

Bruce Mitchell noted a potential conflict of interest with Kelly Feilke, who was in marketing for USA Climbing when Mitchell served on the Board there.

III. Consent Agenda (Presenters: Scott Rodgers)

1. To approve the Minutes of the May 30, 2026 Meeting of the USA Fencing Board of Directors.
2. To approve the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) Athlete Assistive Technology Accommodation Policy.

 [Draft-May 30, 2026 USFA Board Meeting Budget Approval - Online Bradenton Minutes.docx](#)

 [DHH Athlete Policy_Final.pdf](#)

 [USA Fencing DHH Policy Example Scenarios.pdf](#)

Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) Athlete Assistive Technology Accommodation Policy dropped from the consent agenda and moved to new business.

Motion:

Motion moved by Molly Hill and motion seconded by Bruce Mitchell.

Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

IV. CEO, Operational & Financial Reports (Presenters: Phil Andrews, Tabitha Chamberlin)

V. Committee Updates (Presenters: Scott Rodgers)

Motion: To accept the following committee reports:

- Parent Council Reports
- DEIB Committee Update
- HOF Board Report & Election Timeline
- International Relations FIE Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes
- Ethics Committee Annual Report
- GDC Board Report
- USA Fencing Referees' Commission
Grassroots Referee Development Annual Report

 [USFA Parent Council report 2026 04 21.pdf](#)

 [USFA Parent Council report 2026 03 17.docx](#)

 [USFA Parent Council report 2026 02 17.docx](#)

 [DEIB Committee Update.pdf](#)

 [USFA Parent Council report 2026 05 26.docx](#)

 [HOF Board Report 2026-06-10 continuous.pdf](#)

 [DEIB Committee Update- Spring Review, Roster Changes, & June .pdf](#)

 [HOF Election Timeline Attachment 2026-06-10.pdf](#)

 [IRC 06_09_2026 meeting minutes.pdf](#)

 [Ethics Committee Annual Report \(6-10-2026\).pdf](#)

 [GDC Board Report 6-10-26.pdf](#)

 [Grassroots Committee Report June2026.pdf](#)

 [USFA Parent Council report 2026 06 16.docx](#)

Motion:

Motion moved by Damien Lehfeltdt and motion seconded by Molly Hill.

Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

VI. New Business

A. Independent Director Appointments (Presenters: Scott Rodgers, Kat Holmes)

- Andrea Pagnanelli
- Erik Moses
- Amy Hever
- Skip Gilbert
- Kelly Feilke

 [Erik Moses Bio.pdf](#)

 [Amy Hever Resume-2.pdf](#)

 [Skip Gilbert Resume-2.pdf](#)

 [Feilke CV USA Fencing Board-2.pdf](#)

 [Report of the USA Fencing Nominating Committee.pdf](#)

Andrea Pagnanelli removed herself from candidacy.

Election was held and Peter Barton, Parliamentarian, announced Erik Moses and Skip Gilbert have won the Board seats.

Jess Saxon, Secretary, affirmed.

VII. Strategic Plan Focus

Membership growth towards target: 70,000

VIII. Discussion Topics

1. Athlete Burn Out Post College

Emily Bian joined the meeting in person.

IX. Old business (if any)

X. New business cont'd

A. MOTION -Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) Athlete Assistive Technology Accommodation Policy

Motion:

To accept the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) Athlete Assistive Technology Accommodation Policy.

Motion moved by Molly Hill and motion seconded by Bruce Mitchell.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

- B. MOTION — Amendment to Code of Conduct Regarding Protective Equipment (Presenters: Damien Lehfeltdt)

Motion: That the USA Fencing Board of Directors approve the following addition to the USA Fencing Code of Conduct:

"Participate in lessons, classes, drilling, bouting, and organized fencing activities involving weapons or blade contact with at least the minimum protective equipment as required by USA Fencing rules."

Rationale: The USA Fencing Code of Conduct currently contains no affirmative obligation requiring participants to use protective equipment during training, instructional, or club activities. This gap means the organization's safety expectations are expressed at competitions but not in the environments where the vast majority of participant injury risk exists — lessons, club practices, and organized drilling sessions.

This amendment establishes a clear, enforceable obligation at the governance level. It does not prescribe specific equipment beyond the minimum required by USA Fencing rules, and it leaves operational implementation — including any elaboration in the Athlete Handbook or club-facing guidance — to staff discretion. Its purpose is to ensure that safety compliance is an organizational expectation, not merely a competition requirement.

 [USA Fencing Member Code of Conduct Revision.docx](#)

Motion:

Motion moved by Damien Lehfeltdt and motion seconded by Molly Hill.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

- C. MOTION-Hall of Fame Induction Policy (Presenters: Damien Lehfeltdt)

Motion: That the USA Fencing Board of Directors adopt the following as standing Hall of Fame induction policy:

That in any Hall of Fame induction cycle, both the candidate with the highest objective scoring total and the candidate with the highest public vote total shall be inducted, provided each meets the minimum eligibility threshold. If the same candidate leads both categories, one induction slot is awarded. This policy shall apply prospectively to all future induction cycles.

Rationale: The current Hall of Fame process creates an internal inconsistency: a public vote is conducted, winners are identified, and the results are then treated as advisory rather than determinative. This undermines member confidence in the process and makes for confusing results.

This policy change recognizes that both objective achievement and broad member recognition are legitimate and complementary criteria for Hall of Fame induction. Enshrining both outcomes as mandatory—rather than discretionary—eliminates ambiguity, and gives the public vote the weight it implies.

Motion:

Motion moved by Damien Lehfeltdt

No second.

Motion fails.

- D. MOTION-Induction of Tim Morehouse OLY into the USA Fencing Hall of Fame
(Presenters: Damien Lehfeltdt)

Motion: That the USA Fencing Board of Directors approve the induction of Tim Morehouse OLY into the USA Fencing Hall of Fame.

Rationale: Tim Morehouse's record speaks for itself: Olympic silver medalist, three-time Olympian, two-time U.S. National Champion, seven-time World Cup medalist, and the architect of two of the most significant fencing outreach initiatives in American history — Fencing in the Schools and Fencing Masters. The 2008 Beijing silver was the first U.S. men's fencing medal since 1984.

Mr. Lehfeltdt acknowledges his own role in this oversight directly. He served on the Hall of Fame Committee during the years following Tim's eligibility in 2015, and a nomination never advanced. That failure belongs, in part, to him. It is for that reason — not in spite of it — that he believes it is appropriate to bring this motion personally and directly rather than route it through another Committee cycle that would further defer a recognition that is a decade overdue.

This motion is brought in conjunction with Motion 3 below, which addresses the structural process failure that allowed this gap and others like it to occur.

Motion:

Motion moved by Damien Lehfeltdt.

No second.

Motion fails.

- E. MOTION-Bylaw Amendments (Presenters: Damien Lehfeltdt)

Motion: To publish to the USA Fencing membership for a 45 day comment period with the Board of Directors recommendation for approval, the proposed bylaw amendments (highlights below and with red strikethroughs and green annotations as part of a full draft of the proposed bylaw amendments in the appendices) that will remove the current petition process and link nomination timelines to be linked to the Summer and Winter Meetings.

Rationale: The USA Fencing Board of Directors has created a Task Force to implement an independent Nominating Committee which would align the organization with industry best practices. Alongside these upcoming reforms and last year's by-law change that ensured the Nominating Committee must nominate enough qualified candidates for each position plus two extra, the nomination process will be more secure and fair than ever. Additionally, elimination of the petition process would match 73 percent of other NGBs, further strengthening the sport's credibility with sponsors, donors, and the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee.

 [USFA Bylaws Amendment \(6-11-26\) .docx](#)

Motion:

Motion moved by Damien Lehfeltdt and motion seconded by Molly Hill.

Motion:

Motion to table this motion to the September meeting.

Motion moved by Andrey Geva and motion seconded by Bruce Mitchell.

Motion passes by majority voice vote.

- F. MOTION-Independent Nominating Committee Proposal (Presenters: Jackie Dubrovich, Bruce Mitchell)

Motion: To accept the recommendations of the Independent Nominating Committee Task Force and to direct that proposed amendments to the Bylaws necessary to implement those recommendations be prepared and published for review, comment and consideration to the membership.

Rationale: The Independent Nominating Committee Task Force was sat by the Board of Directors at the February 2026 meeting; and was charged with reviewing the Nominating Committee's governance structure and has developed recommendations intended to strengthen independence from the sitting Board of Directors, transparency of process and governance effectiveness. The Nominating Committee Task Force consisted of Jackie Dubrovich OLY, Joe Inzerillo and Bruce Mitchell supported by staff members Jess Saxon and Phil Andrews.

 [Section 11.10 Nom Com Bylaw Redlines.docx](#)

Motion:

Motion moved by Bruce Mitchell and motion seconded by Kat Holmes.

Motion is withdrawn. Request to put it on the September agenda.

Motion:

Motion to move to Executive Session.

Motion moved by Bruce Mitchell and motion seconded by Abdel Salem.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

- XI. Executive Session
1. Grievance and Disciplinary Appeal
 2. International Relations Discussion
- XII. Adjournment
- Passed by unanimous voice vote.