



USFA Board Meeting-FEB NAC Minutes

USA Fencing (United States Fencing Association, Inc.)
2/14/2026 5:00 PM MST

Attendance

Present:

Members: Donald Alperstein, Phil Andrews, Peter Barton, Emily Bian, Jade Burroughs (remote), Tabitha Chamberlin, Lauryn Deluca (remote), Jackie Dubrovich (remote), Andrey Geva, Molly Hill (remote), Joe Inzerillo (remote), Damien Lehfeldt, Bruce Mitchell, Andrea Pagnanelli (remote) joined during IV.4, Maria Panyi, Scott Rodgers, Abdel Salem, Jess Saxon

Guests: Nathan Anderson, Dan Berke, Glen Hollingsworth, Beth Mahr, Brandon Rochelle, Ari Simmons, Brad Suchorski (remote), Chuck Wemple

Absent:

Members: Kat Holmes

I. Zoom Dial In Details

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88204386876?pwd=HZkF8Z0KPuyCQaGk2PvgzZRzpw90Wg.1>

II. Call to Order (Presenters: Scott Rodgers)

1. Roll Call
2. General Announcements
3. Opening remarks - Chair
4. Moment of remembrance: Bill Walker, Charmaine Hooper, and Bill Towry
5. Conflict of interest declarations

Scott Rodgers noted a conflict of interest as to the Para discussion, as he is an active competitive Para athlete.

III. Consent Agenda (Presenters: Scott Rodgers)

1. To approve the Minutes of the December 6, 2025 Meeting of the USA Fencing Board of Directors
2. To approve the Minutes of the December 6, 2025 Executive Session
3. To approve the Minutes of the December 20, 2025 Special Meeting Executive Session
4. To accept the Ethics Committee's Revised Annual COI Report
5. To accept the Ethics Committee's Supplemental Report Regarding COIs and Litigation
6. To approve the updated Member Code of Conduct
7. To approve USA Fencing's Sport Integrity Policy
8. To approve the single logo of USA Fencing.

In accordance with Board, Committee and Athlete feedback (both FIE and Para); and in accordance with the majority vote of the membership to approve the single logo of USA Fencing; to be implemented in a cost efficient timeline determined by the staff of USA Fencing.

9. Division Resource Motion

MOTION: That USA Fencing adopt updated division boundary definitions in accord with the map and specifications attached to the Agenda labeled Report of the USA Fencing Division Resource Team and in the process formally charter the North Dakota Division as a new division with jurisdiction over the entire state of North Dakota. Where boundaries have been changed, those changes will take effect beginning with the 2026–27 USA Fencing season (August 1, 2026). Corresponding updates will be automatically made to divisional bylaws, membership systems, official maps, and member communications.

Rationale: Over time division boundary definition has grown problematic both for some of the divisions and for administrative purposes. To address the latter, the National Office began matching zip codes to division areas, but this also proved problematic when many zip codes did not align with established division boundaries. Many older divisions were defined with reference to natural features, such as rivers and mountain ranges or to highways and other structures. Some boundaries were difficult or even impossible to locate. The Division Resource Group has been working on the problem for over a year and recommends slight revisions to align division boundaries with political boundaries, such as state and county lines. Doing so avoids ambiguity in identifying division territory and simplifies administration. The documents attached to the agenda labeled as Report of the USA Fencing Division Resource Team specify the new boundaries and identify changes from former definitions, where known. Limited exceptions to the use of political boundaries were employed in areas where the divisions were clearly defined, realignment would disadvantage existing clubs and populations, and convenient political boundaries were not available.

The proposed changes include the chartering of a new division for the state of North Dakota. This area was previously unassigned to any division and the petitioners have provided the Division Resource Group with documentation demonstrating that the requisites for creation of a new division have been met and that doing so will benefit a growing body of fencers and a growing number of clubs.

The proposed changes require no action by divisions to implement as boundary definitions will be automatically updated administratively and because the new North Dakota division territory was not previously assigned to another division.

10. Committee and Resource Group Removal Motion

MOTION: To remove Helen Hu and Zachary Hoffer from the Data Resource Group.

Rationale: Ms. Hu and Mr. Hoffer did not complete their annual Conflict of Interest forms and therefore are no longer eligible to serve on a committee. They were given multiple reminders over the course of four months (final extended deadline December 5, 2025) by Director of Member Safety & Organizational Compliance Jess Saxon as well as the Data Resource Group Chair Marc Shull.

11. To reappoint our auditor and to accept the 2024-2025 Audit per recommendations of the Audit Committee.

12. Committee and Resource Group Motion

MOTION: To appoint Joe Inzerillo to the Audit Committee (term ending in 2027) and appoint him as Board liaison; to appoint Dr. Scott Rodgers PLY to the Budget Committee (term ending in 2026) as a member and as Board liaison; and to appoint Bruce Mitchell as Board liaison to the Election Committee (term ending in 2026).

Rationale: There are currently vacancies in the Audit, Budget, and Election Committees after the expiration of the terms of Selina Kaing and Marie Donoghue. The Task Force on Committees and Resource Groups suggests the above replacements until the end of the existing terms. All candidates have agreed to serve in their respective roles.

 [USFA Board Meeting Minutes-December 6, 2025.pdf](#)

 [Redacted -Special Meeting - Executive Session for a Grievance & Disciplinary Appeal Only Minutes.pdf](#)

 [USFA December 6, 2025 Executive Session Minutes.pdf](#)

 [USFA 25-26 Annual COI Board Report-Revised.pdf](#)

 [USAF Ethics Committee - Response to Follow-Up Questions Regarding Scope of Defendant-Director Recusals \(1-20-2026\).pdf](#)

 [USA Fencing Member Code of Conduct-PARA FINAL EDITS.docx](#)

 [Report of the USA Fencing Division Resource Team Feb26 BOD-Final.pdf](#)

 [USFA Post-Audit Communications.pdf](#)

 [Financial Statements \(Issued\).pdf](#)

 [USA Fencing Sport Integrity Policy v2.pdf](#)

Motion:

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

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

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

V. Committee Updates (Presenters: Scott Rodgers)

1. Parent Council Report
2. Division Resource Team Report
3. Audit Committee Report
 - i. Chuck Wemple, Chair – Audit Committee.
4. Nominating Committee Report
5. Tournament Committee
 - o Events Restructure Project Verbal Update
Brandon Rochelle, TC Chair
Glen Hollingsworth, Director of Events

 [USFA Parent Council report 2025 12 16.pdf](#)

 [1-16 Nom Com Report.pdf](#)

 [USFA Parent Council report 2026 01 20.pdf](#)

 [USA Fencing Audit Committee Report - January 27 - 2026.pdf](#)

 [Report of the USA Fencing Division Resource Team Feb26 BOD-Final.pdf](#)

The Tournament Committee gave a presentation on work around the event qualification restructure outlining the journey since the USA Fencing Events Review Group in 2023, the needs of the organization given the growth of the sport, and the work done on improving the system based upon feedback from a wide variety of stakeholders, including detailed work on the allocation of points. The Tournament Committee and board sat a task force of key

stakeholders including Parents, Coaches, Athletes and Tournament Operations to deliver within 6 weeks a consensus that can be moved forward, the Board also tasked the staff to ensure a robust communication plan supporting the roll out was put into place.

VI. Strategic Plan Focus Topic (Presenters: Phil Andrews, Beth Mahr)

- Para Athlete Funding for 2028

The board discussed with USA Fencing staff progress on the Para Advancement pillar of the USA Fencing Strategic plan, highlighting significant progress but also roadblocks to success at the Paralympic level. The board sat a task force to work with Beth Mahr and Phil Andrews to assess how the Board and organization can help remove such barriers.

VII. Discussion (Presenters: Scott Rodgers)

1. Independent Nominating Committee Update

1. The Independent Nominating Committee Working Group (Jackie Dubrovich OLY - Chair, Bruce Mitchell, Joe Inzerillo) discussed their progress and the feedback of the group on the proposed new structure of the Nominating Committee. The group will finalize their work and seek to present a concept for Board, and then membership, consideration at the next available meeting.

2. Athlete Burn Out Post College

Athlete Burn Out Post College moved to a future meeting.

VIII. Old business (if any)

None.

IX. New Business

A. Referee Commission Nominating Committee Nomination (Presenters: Scott Rodgers)

1. Maria Panyi
2. Donald Alperstein

Maria Panyi withdrew herself as a candidate.

Motion:

Motion to Name Donald Alperstein to the Referee Commission Nominating Committee.

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

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

B. At-Large Director Appointment (Presenters: Scott Rodgers)

 [1-16 Nom Com Report.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion to Vote for an At-Large Director by rank choice voting among nine nominees.

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

First vote, sixth round: Damien Lehfeltd-5, Jeremy Sirota-5

Runoff vote: Jeremy Sirota-6, Damien Lehfeltd-5

Jeremy Sirota is appointed as an At-Large Director to the Board of Directors, commencing September 1, 2026.

X. Executive Session (if needed)

Not held.

XI. Adjournment

Motion:

Motion moved by Maria Panyi and motion seconded by Abdel Salem.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.