

USA Fencing Veteran Committee 24-25  
Meeting Minutes  
May 13, 2025 6 PM  
Via Zoom

Present: Valerie Asher (chair), Phil Andrews (Staff liaison) Jane Carter, Will Chang, Rita Comes (ex officio), Jude Offerle, Maria Panyi (Board liaison), Marsha Reichman, Kate Sierra, Kaitlyn Litten (USA Fencing

Absent: Jonathan Bartlett

- I. **Tournament Scheduling.** USA Fencing and the Tournament Committee wanted the Veterans Committee input on elements that impact the scheduling of Veteran NACs. The Veterans Committee expressed a strong preference for returning to a December event, with the understanding that team selection events must have video replay and an experienced referee cadre. The Veteran community has generally not been happy with the scheduling of a NAC in January, immediately after the Christmas holidays. Vets may prefer events over three day holiday weekends, minimizing the need to take leave time. Veteran fencers are also more likely to need elective surgery during the course of a season (knee replacement, hip replacement, cataracts and so on), so it is also important to have built-in times when there are breaks from the competitive schedule.
- II. **Veteran Town Hall.** We were unable to hold a town hall in Los Angeles because of other USA Fencing events taking place over that weekend. The Vet Town Hall is an important way for this committee to hear from our community and we would like to offer this at Summer Nationals. However the vet competition schedule at Summer Nationals stretches over more days than a NAC, making it hard to reach the entire community. USA Fencing will support a plan to have 2 town halls in Milwaukee, tentatively scheduled for June 30 and July 2. Valerie will attend the first one and has asked if someone on the Veterans Committee can run the second.
- III. **Veteran Worlds.** With the inclusion of V40 fencers as a test event, the US will send the largest team ever to the 2025 Veteran World Championships. The Veterans Committee discussed the need for technical support by armory and medical. The US delegation should include 2 armorers. The determination about the medical staffing should be made by Dr. Peggy Chin, who is very familiar with

the needs of the vets. The event will also have a new team format (40/50 and 60/70) with a total of 5 fencers on each team (3 active fencers and 2 subs). Once the official announcement for the event has been published, the Veteran Committee will make recommendations about revising the language for team event selection in the Athlete Handbook. The Veteran Committee was also pleased to hear that the budget for the team includes honoraria for the coaches who support the team events.

- IV. **Pan American Veteran Championships.** Tom Mahnken informed the committee that the Pan American Fencing Federation has published the official invitation but that USA Fencing has not yet opened registration for this event. Tom has a great deal of experience going to this event, and the committee asked if he would be able to write a guide to help vets who are interested in attending this event.