

# Email Vote Minutes

## USA Fencing Board of Directors

Via E-mail on March 7, 2025

The following motions were voted on by e-mail vote on March 7, 2025

**MOTION 1 (Mr. Lehfeldt): To approve the Hall of Fame Nominees for the 2025 Election as follows:**

**Finalized 2025 Ballot Recommendations**

**Olympic Athletes (3 to be inducted):**

- Steve Kaplan
- Tom Losonczy
- Herbert Cohen
- Tim Morehouse
- Kelley Hurley
- Dagmara Wozniak
- Race Imboden
- Ibtihaj Muhammad
- Nicole Ross

**Veteran Athlete (1 to be inducted):**

- Julie Seal
- Elizabeth Kocab
- Jennette Starks Faulkner
- Anne-Marie Walters

**Coach (1 to be inducted):**

- Gil Pezza
- Gary Copeland
- Laurie Schiller
- Mark Masters

**Contributor (1 to be inducted):**

- Leon Auriol
- Gerrie Baumgart
- Peter Harmer
- Jon Moss
- Andy Shaw

**Result: Passed by roll call vote**

**MOTION 2 (Mr. Lehfelddt):** To automatically induct any athlete into the USA Fencing Hall of Fame who wins an individual Olympic or Paralympic gold medal.

**Result: Passed by roll call vote**

**MOTION 3 (Mr. Lehfelddt):** To approve the Hall of Fame Committee Charter as attached.

**Result: Passed by roll call vote**

# USA Fencing Hall of Fame Committee Charter

## Article I: Purpose and Mission

### Section 1: Role of the Committee

The USA Fencing Hall of Fame Committee is tasked with recognizing individuals who have made significant contributions or achieved outstanding success in the sport of fencing. The Committee plays a vital role in upholding the purpose of the Hall of Fame by ensuring a transparent, fair, and thorough selection process. Committee input underscores the need to preserve fencing history and inspire future generations through the recognition of exemplary achievements.

### Section 2: Mission

The mission of the Hall of Fame is to honor individuals who have significantly contributed to the development and excellence of fencing in the United States by establishing and maintaining a robust and transparent process for Hall of Fame nominations and inductions.

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## Article II: Objectives and Goals

### Section 1: Committee Objectives

1. Recognize and celebrate outstanding achievements and contributions to the sport of fencing.
2. Ensure the integrity, inclusivity, and transparency of the Hall of Fame nomination and selection process.
3. Enhance the visibility and prestige of the Hall of Fame through effective communication and collaboration with the USA Fencing community.

### Section 2: Committee Responsibilities

1. Develop and maintain nomination categories and criteria.
2. Establish a nomination and voting process framework.

3. Oversee the evaluation of nominees and ensure adherence to established criteria.
  4. Collaborate with the Board of Directors to gain approval for the framework and final inductee selections.
  5. Announce and celebrate inductees at the annual Hall of Fame event.
  6. Collect nominations from the general fencing community as well as from within the committee.
  7. Vet nominations and select those to be voted on by the general membership annually.
  8. Obtain the results of the membership vote and combine them with the objective point system based on the verified results of the athlete and coach nominees.
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## Article III: Committee Structure

### Section 1: Membership

The committee shall consist of 8-12 members to ensure diverse perspectives and efficient operations. The roles within the committee include:

#### 1. Chair:

- Leads the committee by organizing meetings, setting agendas, and ensuring progress toward objectives.
- Serves as the primary point of contact with the Board of Directors.
- Ensures adherence to the charter and oversees all aspects of the nomination and voting processes.

#### 2. Members:

- Actively participate in meetings, discussions, and decision-making processes.
- Review nominations, contribute to the evaluation process, and provide insights based on their expertise.
- Assist in outreach efforts to encourage nominations and engagement from the fencing community.

#### 3. Athlete-Members:

- Represent the voice and perspective of athletes within the committee.
- Provide firsthand insights into the significance of achievements and contributions to the sport.
- Advocate for fair and balanced recognition of athletic accomplishments.

#### 4. Staff Liaison:

- Serves as the connection between the committee and USA Fencing staff.
- Provides administrative support, such as scheduling meetings, maintaining records, and distributing materials.
- Ensures alignment between the committee's activities and organizational policies.

#### 5. Advisor:

- Provides expert guidance on complex issues, such as interpretation of criteria or historical context.
- May be a past Hall of Fame inductee, fencing historian, or other subject matter expert.
- Serves in a non-voting capacity to maintain neutrality.

#### 6. Board Liaison:

- Acts as the conduit between the committee and the Board of Directors.
- Communicates updates, seeks approvals, and ensures alignment with the board's vision and goals.
- Provides feedback from the board to the committee to enhance processes and decision-making.

## Section 2: Composition

With the understanding that this composition may be flexible depending on the size of the applicant pool, the Hall of Fame Committee recommends the following composition for the Committee.

1. **Hall of Famers:** One-third (1/3) of the committee should ideally be comprised of individuals who have been inducted into the USA Fencing Hall of Fame. These members bring invaluable experience and historical perspective to the committee.
2. **Athlete Representatives:** One-third (1/3) of the committee shall be athlete representatives (per the requirements of the Ted Stephens Amateur Sports Act). These members shall be appointed by the Athlete Council.
3. **Board Appointees:** One-third (1/3) of the committee shall be appointed by the USA Fencing Board of Directors. These appointees shall be selected based on their expertise, commitment to the sport, and ability to contribute to the committee's objectives. While these composition requirements are not mandatory, they are strongly suggested to ensure a balanced and effective committee.

## Section 3: Appointment Process

1. All members of the committee are appointed by the Board of USA Fencing (with the exception of the athlete reps who are appointed by the Athlete Council). The Board ensures that appointees meet the qualifications outlined above and contribute to the overall mission and objectives of the Hall of Fame.
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## Article IV: Duties and Responsibilities

### Section 1: Duties and Responsibilities

#### Reviewing Nominees:

- a. Carefully assess all submitted nominations to ensure they meet established criteria.
- b. Verify supporting documentation and the accuracy of nominees' achievements.

#### Establishing and Updating Criteria:

- c. Regularly evaluate and refine nomination and selection criteria to reflect the evolving nature of the sport.
- d. Ensure criteria are fair, inclusive, and aligned with the mission of USA Fencing.

#### Voting Procedures:

- e. Develop and oversee transparent voting processes.
- f. Ensure all voting is conducted ethically and in adherence to the established framework.

#### Communications with Stakeholders:

- g. Maintain open lines of communication with the USA Fencing community, nominees, and inductees.
- h. Provide regular updates on the nomination and selection process.
- i. Collaborate with the Board of Directors, staff, and other relevant parties to ensure smooth operations.

#### Annual Review:

- j. Conduct an annual review of the nomination and induction process.
- k. Identify areas for improvement and implement necessary changes to enhance efficiency and transparency.

### Event Planning Support:

- l. Assist in organizing and promoting the annual induction ceremony.
- m. Work with the USA Fencing staff to ensure the event highlights the achievements of inductees and fosters community engagement.

### Maintaining Records of Potential Nominees:

- n. Keep detailed records of athletes, coaches, and contributors with outstanding achievements who may become eligible for nomination within the next 5-10 years.
- o. Review and update these records annually to ensure accuracy and relevance.

### Soliciting Nominations:

- p. Actively solicit nominations from USA Fencing members to ensure a broad and diverse candidate pool.

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## Article V: Meetings and Operations

### Section 1: Meeting Frequency

1. The Committee will meet quarterly, approximately six weeks ahead of USA Fencing Board meetings, with additional meetings scheduled as needed.

### Section 2: Quorum

1. A majority of members must be present to conduct official business.

### Section 3: Agenda and Minutes

1. The Chairperson sets the agenda for each meeting.
2. Minutes are recorded and distributed to members for transparency and

documentation.

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## Article VI: Nomination and Selection Process

### Section 1: Nomination Process

1. Nominations may be submitted by the general membership, peer nominations, or the Committee itself. Anyone, including committee members, can propose nominees for Hall of Fame consideration.
2. The process allows for a broad range of individuals to suggest candidates, ensuring a diverse and comprehensive pool of potential inductees.
3. Clear submission deadlines and guidelines will be communicated annually to facilitate an organized and transparent process.

### Section 2: Evaluation Criteria

1. Candidates are evaluated on the following:
  - a. **Career Achievements:** Competitive successes and recognitions.
  - b. **Contributions to the Sport:** Impact on the development and growth of fencing.
  - c. **Character and Leadership:** Demonstration of integrity, sportsmanship, and influence within the community.
2. Special considerations may be made for posthumous nominations. This ensures the contributions of deceased individuals.

### Section 3: Eligibility Requirements

1. **Minimum Involvement:** Nominees must meet a minimum number of years in the sport or demonstrate exceptional contributions to fencing.
2. **Retired Athletes:** Athletes must have a minimum three-year hiatus from active senior international competition before becoming eligible. Olympic and Paralympic Gold Medalists in individual events are automatically inducted into the Hall of Fame.
3. **Ongoing Eligibility:** Previously approved nominees who were not inducted remain eligible for future consideration for a period of 4 years, after which they must be re-nominated to be reconsidered.
4. **FIE Hall of Fame Members:** Individuals who are inducted into the International Fencing Federation (FIE) Hall of Fame are eligible for induction into the USA Fencing Hall of Fame, provided they meet the criteria and contributions specific to USA Fencing.



## Section 4: Review and Selection

1. **Committee Review:** Once submitted, nominations are reviewed by the Committee based on established evaluation criteria.
2. **Shortlisting:** A nominee must receive a majority “Yes” vote from a simple majority of voting committee members to be placed on the official ballot.
3. **Ballot Creation:** The final ballot includes new nominees approved by the committee and prior nominees still eligible for consideration.

## Section 5: Voting and Approval

1. **Eligible Voters:** Voting on the final slate of nominees is conducted by the general membership of USA Fencing, ensuring a broad representation of the community.
2. **Final Decision:** The Committee facilitates the creation of the ballot but does not make the final selection. The USA Fencing Board reviews the slate before the membership vote.

## Section 6: Timeline

1. **Initial Review:** After the new year, the Committee begins the review and voting process for new and previously approved nominees.
  2. **Presentation to the Board:** By mid-April, the Committee presents the slate of nominees to the USA Fencing Board for review. This ensures alignment before the final membership vote.
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# Article VII: Ethical Guidelines

## Section 1: Conflict of Interest

1. Committee members must disclose any conflicts of interest related to nominees.
2. Members with conflicts must abstain from discussions and voting.

## Section 2: Confidentiality

1. Discussions, voting results, and decisions will remain confidential until made public.
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## Article VIII: Reporting and Accountability

### Section 1: Reporting Structure

1. The Committee reports to the USA Fencing Board of Directors.

### Section 2: Annual Report

1. An annual report will be submitted detailing the Committee's activities, decisions, and any changes to the selection process.

### Section 3: Evaluation of Effectiveness

1. The Committee will periodically review its processes to ensure effectiveness and alignment with its mission.

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## Article IX: Induction Ceremony and Recognition

### Section 1: Event Planning

1. The Committee will organize and oversee induction ceremonies to honor new inductees.
2. Events will highlight the achievements of inductees and their impact on fencing.

### Section 2: Recognition Process

1. Inductees will be celebrated through awards, public announcements, and media coverage.

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## Article X: Amendments and Review of the Charter

### Section 1: Amendment Process

1. Amendments to the charter may be proposed by any Committee member.
2. Approval requires a two-thirds majority vote.

### Section 2: Periodic Review

1. The charter will be reviewed every two years to ensure relevance and effectiveness.