

Annual Meeting of the Colorado Division of the USFA
Sunday, July 26, 2009

Jennifer checked proxies – Jill had 7, Nathan had 15, Wendy had 3, and CFA (Penny) had none.

The meeting was called to order. Last year's minutes were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Tom resigned on April 16th
- There is \$9,972.86 in checking and \$518.51 in reserves for referee training
- SDFA has not been reimbursed for the last referee clinic, \$450.00
- There are a few deposits that are not included in the above total - \$640.00 from JO's, \$700 from Div II/III, and \$483.50
- The clubs were to send payments to Barb after Tom's resignation
- We need to make sure there are always two signers at each local tournament
- Quite a few clubs have not been reimbursed for Division tournaments (SDFA, CFA, and DFC)

The treasurer's report was accepted as is.

Elections – Nominations were as follows:

- Chairman – Al Axford
- Vice-Chairman – Rod Gallagher (in his absence)
- Treasurer – Karen Boudreau
- Recording Secretary – Barb Hansen
- Corresponding Secretary – Wendy Amann

As there were no other nominations, all were voted in unanimously.

Tournaments

- For the youth tournaments, it was suggested that fencers are not registered until prepaid for the first event (on-line)
- It should be more than a \$10 late fee at the door
- Askfred has a small transaction fee (about 2%) and will make a distribution weekly
- This equates to about .99 cents for each \$20 registration.
- Should the .99 cents be part of the \$20 or in addition to it?
- What about bad weather that is out of fencer's control? Are there refunds in those types of circumstances?
- Whatever we decide, we need to have a consistent set of policies in place
- Will this be handled by the clubs or the division?
- Nathan feels that this will be tying up everyone's money that much earlier
- It may result in many last-minute registrations
- We may want to change registration to two weeks before an event
- There was a suggestion to contact other division chairs for their experiences/ideas

- We can let people know why pre-registration is required, explain impact of withdrawing fencers, etc in an email to the division
- For the club owners – how important are late fees?
- We want to be careful not to lose fencers because of too much administration/fees
- It should be up to the clubs to educate their “new fencers/parents”
- Last minute changes do affect all of the division – clubs, fencers, referees, division board, etc.

Fee Structure

- Jennifer expressed concerns about opinions given regarding youth – if the division doesn’t treat the youth the same as the adults, the fees should be lowered
- Both Al and Barb commented that the youth are just as important and that we should treat all ages/weapons the same
- One positive result from the “bad” tournament last year is that we all heard it and can now address it
- Al mentioned that our fees are a bit lower than average and doesn’t think we should have different/tiered fees
- Jill mentioned that the fees should stay the same and we should acknowledge that we consider all ages/weapons equally. She also mentioned that the current fees are working.
- Nathan mentioned that he has to charge more for the Regional Youth Circuit because it is a qualifier/USFA tournament

There was a motion made and seconded to leave the fee structure as is subject to a transaction fee from askfred. The motion was approved.

Number of Tournaments

- After much discussion, it was decided to leave the number of tournaments as there were last year:
Seniors will have six tournaments, the best four of which will count towards the Colorado Cup – three division tournaments, the two Air Force Academy tournaments, and the Bill Goering.
Vets will have eight tournaments, the best three of which will count towards the Colorado Cup – three division tournaments, the two Air Force Academy tournaments, the Bill Goering, and two Vet tournaments.
The youth will have five tournaments, the best three of which will count towards the Youth Colorado cup.
- The total number of tournaments that the division will have as part of the Colorado Cup is eight – the Bill Goering, the Nick Toth, the Falcon Open, two Vets, and three Colorado Cup tournaments.

There was a motion made and seconded to accept the tournaments as noted above – it was approved.

Other Tournament Issues

- Jill mentioned the need to split the youth events into 2 days due to their size and she will plan to do so if there are no restrictions from the division. She will keep all sabre on one day, being very conscientious of all schedules, etc. This will also provide more opportunity for fencers to learn to referee younger groups.
- Al wanted to know why we have restricted ourselves to two unrated tournaments. It was explained that the division has limited dates around the NAC and SRYC events which was a contributing factor to adding the Friday night fights last year. Nathan suggested we allow more Friday night fights to make-up for the lack of unrated tournaments.

Rule Changes for unrated per USFA

- A D rating is going to be more difficult to attain – an event will need four E rated fencers and two of them must finish in the top eight, i.e. if you have 15 fencers in an unrated event, you will get one E rating
- This will change the dynamics on how unrated tournaments will run.

Referees

- A Charter was developed for the referee committee but the division did not getting anyone appointed to the committee. The new board will need to appoint a chairman, and then the chairman and the board will appoint the remainder of the committee. There was discussion about the difficulty in getting the charter set up this past year. The purpose of the committee is to help the division board set up training and seminars for referees, keep current lists, and discuss concerns that arise throughout the year.
- Currently, the division hires referees for the open Colorado Cup tournaments and the qualifiers but does not pay them – this is done by the hosting club.
- Should this remain as it was last year? A motion was made and seconded to not change this and it was approved.
- There is a list of referees on the USFA website but it is not updated. The FOC updates ratings for the fencers.
- Melissa will help the board get an updated list of rated referees for use by the board this next year.
- Should we still hire D & above only referees? There was a motion moved and seconded to continue this practice and it was approved.
- Our division does have the highest pass rate for referees in the country.
- We reviewed the compensation for referees (per page four of last year's newsletter). Do we need to change the compensation? A motion was moved and seconded to leave it as is – it was approved.

Other Business

- The UNC fencing club was represented by their new President
- Dana from NCF asked if anyone had addressed how to handle the swine flu? There was some discussion and Jill mentioned that we should have a policy in place that allows bumping of elbows in lieu of shaking hands if a fencer on strip is sick. There was a comment that this doesn't need to be codified but allowed to be up to the referee's discretion.
- There was discussion about a Tri-State Cup between Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas. It was mentioned that Air Force Academy Falcon Open was named for one of the contributing tournaments; the Amarillo tournament was named; and a New Mexico tournament was named. There was not much awareness of this as yet.
- Barb would like a good fencing picture to put on the website. She is in the process of moving the website to a more economical domain and will have it back on line soon.

There was a motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.