



## **CFF Board of Directors Meeting Minutes April 30, 2023, 11AM EST**

### **1. Roll Call and Introductions**

Board of Directors:

Yann Bernard  
John French  
Kelly Grieves  
Luc Theriault  
Chris Kalantzis  
Judit Blasko  
Alexanne Verret

Staff:

David Howes  
Igor Gantsevich

Guest:

Kelleigh Ryan, CFF Athlete Rep

Provinces:

British Columbia – Ron Bakonyi  
Alberta – Richard Bezemer  
Saskatchewan – Sue Pitura and John Shurniak  
Manitoba – Sean Rathwell  
Ontario – Lucie Hamelin and Francesco Sabatini  
Quebec – Olivier Tyteca  
New Brunswick – Wendy Yano



## 2. Approval of Agenda

Safe Sport was added to the agenda as item 8.3

It was moved by Luc Theriault, seconded by Judit Blasko to approve the Agenda. Motion approved.

## 3. No conflicts of interest were declared.

## 4. Approval of previous minutes

### 4.1 June 12, 2022 Minutes

A number of corrections were made to the previously missing minutes as suggested by Yann Bernard. It was moved by Luc Theriault, seconded by Kelly Grieves, to approve the Minutes as amended. Motion approved.

### 4.2 Approval of February 12, 2023 Minutes

A number of corrections were made to the minutes as suggested by Yann Bernard. It was moved by Judit Blasko, seconded by John French, to approve the Minutes as amended. Motion approved.

## 5. Update from President

Yann Bernard reported on the COC session that he attended. A number of issues of concern for many sports were discussed during this session including: Sport Canada funding not keeping up with inflation, which has resulted in a decrease in real funding; sports and their leaders are under a lot of pressure to meet objectives; safe sport; mental health; athletes' role in governance.

2030 Commonwealth Games: CFF supports the Commonwealth Fencing Federation and Marie-France Dufour to bring fencing back into the Games. Hamilton has dropped their potential bid to host the 2030 Games, but Alberta may now submit a bid.

## 6. E-votes

The following motions were approved by e-vote:

1. The CFF agrees to adopt UCCMS 6.0 as a standalone policy and will ensure that all of its organizational policies and procedures are interpreted and applied in a manner consistent with the UCCMS.



2. The CFF agrees to adopt the Safe Sport Policy Manual revised March 29, 2023.
3. The CFF agrees to retain the services of the SDRCC in the implementation of the Program Signatory's safe sport framework, including but not limited to the applicable services of the Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner ("OSIC"), the Director of Sanctions and Outcomes ("DSO") and the SDRCC Dispute Resolution Secretariat for the administration and enforcement of the UCCMS, effective March 31, 2023.

## 7. Business Arising from the Minutes

Distribution of draft minutes from 2022 AGM: the minutes have not yet been produced.

## 8. New Business

### 1. Executive Director Report

David Howes reported that we have met all of our financial and legal obligations for this period. Our membership numbers are up and essentially at the same level as 2018-2019. David thanked Luc for his assistance with nationals and for negotiating an agreement with the city of Longueuil to pay a portion of the venue cost, which will help to ensure a healthy profit. Canada Games was a success and enjoyed by the athletes. The format resulted in many provinces being able to win medals. FIE equipment aid: CFF will be receiving 2 new pistes. COC has provided financial support for a number of initiatives in response to David's request for support following the Fencing for Change social media campaign including: mental health support for staff, mental health needs/gap assessment of our national team program, funding for an expert to work with coaching and other staff and senior national team athletes to improve how to work together and communicate better and build trust.

It was requested for CFF to share mental health resources available as well as any recommendations from the COC-funded initiatives with the provinces.

### 2. High Performance Director Report

Igor Gantsevich thanked Kelleigh Ryan for her work as athlete mentor



and assistant team manager at cadet/junior worlds. This was one of our best cadet/junior worlds ever with 2 medals, 3 top 8 and 5 top 16 results. There were no selection appeals this year. In parafencing, Ryan Rousell was top 16 in men's sabre. The INP document outlining selection criteria for the Paris Olympics is being reviewed by COC and OTP. National coach contracts have been extended to after senior worlds. The team for senior pan-ams and worlds will be selected following the last few selection competitions taking place this month.

### 3. Safe Sport

Yann Bernard provided a summary of recent events in social media related to safe sport.

David Howes provided some additional information including the role of Global Athlete in all of the social media campaigns in various sports. Concerns were raised as a result of Fencing for Change's criticism of the CFF for signing on with OSIC. All sports are mandated to sign on with OSIC in order to receive Sport Canada funding. The criticism of OSIC and our safe sport policies may result in victims being unwilling to come forward with complaints. David highlighted that in the past 3 years, only 4 complaints have been received by the independent third party or himself and only 1 was found to require action on our part. He also highlighted that the CFF can also submit complaints and he has recently done so on 2 different occasions, one in response to a serious complaint that was dropped and another related to allegations on social media. David reiterated his and the board's commitment to safe sport and to working to ensure the safety and well-being of our members.

Lucie Hamelin asked if CFF could share common key messages that provinces can use when communicating with their membership.

Judit Blasko suggested that Kelleigh Ryan's email and photo be posted on the website so athletes know how to contact her if they have questions or concerns.

Wendy Yano asked how issues are handled at national competitions such as when black cards likely should have been given as a result of poor behaviour but were not. Yann suggested that something be posted at competitions identifying who is the DT and that we could ask how the



US and UK handle these situations.

The idea of having safeguarding officials as is the FIE does might be a good idea for CFF.

4. Finance

Kelly Grieves reported that the board will be reviewing the budget during the in-camera meeting. David Howes reported that we are tracking for a surplus again this year thanks to profits from competitions, and that we have enough funds available to get through to July. Yann mentioned that the PSAC strike is a concern for some sports as there are delays in receiving Sport Canada funding.

5. Kelleigh Ryan, Athlete Rep

Social media updates from cadet/junior worlds were very well-received. Kelleigh reported that she was caught off-guard by the social media events and was surprised that no one from Fencing for Change contacted her before the posts began. An athlete town hall was held with support from Athletes CAN, where an update to athletes regarding the social media campaign was provided. A few questions were asked that have been sent to David and Yann. Athletes were sent a survey and responses are expected by Friday.

6. Coaching Development Committee proposals

It was moved by John French, seconded by Judit Blasko, to approve the following policies. Motion approved.

- 6.1 National Coaches must be certified in the Competition Development context.
  - a. Newly hired National coaches who are not certified at Comp Dev will be given a 6 month window to gain certification.
  - b. Current National Coaches will be given until September 1, 2023 to gain certification. If there is a valid need for an exception, this will be reviewed by the committee on a case-by-case basis.
- 6.2 Coaches at Canada Cups, in the 2023-24 season and beyond, must have completed the “Make Ethical Decisions” evaluation.



## 7. Committees

Competition Committee: Judit Blasko reported that they are supporting organization of nationals and have tentative dates for next year's competitions. We need to post on the website the process and pathways for becoming national level referees and armourers.

Governance Committee: Judit Blasko reported that members are needed for this committee. Most policies need to be reviewed in 2023 and the committee may need the support of a lawyer. Yann suggested Will Russell could provide some assistance.

## 9. Update from Provinces

New Brunswick: Wendy Yano reported that NB just hosted provincials and will have some athletes coming to nationals. Canada Games were great for NB and she is hopeful that with the 2027 Games moving from Yukon to Quebec, that fencing could be added. There is also a possibility of pushing for fencing to be included in the summer games that will be coming to NB.

Quebec: Olivier Tyteca reported that their provincials are coming up and passed on a message from Jean-Yves Pelletier requesting the minutes for the last AGM. Yann will follow up with Chris Kalantzis who was no longer at the meeting.

Ontario: Francesco Sabatini reported that membership numbers are up, especially in the youth categories. Ontario is very happy with the international results of their athletes. Canada Games was very successful as an event and for their athletes. Provincials coming up in May. Challenges finding venues, and venue costs, and referees. Reiterated need for common messaging regarding safe sport.

Unfortunately, the meeting needed to be cut short due to a scheduling conflict with a guest coming to the in-camera meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Kelly Grieves, seconded by Luc Theriault. Meeting adjourned at 1:00

### **Next meeting dates**

**TBA**