



CFF Board of Directors Meeting Minutes January 26, 2025, 11AM EST

1. Roll Call and Introductions

Board of Directors:

Yann Bernard (President)

Chris Kalantzis (Secretary)

Alexanne Verret

Monique Kavelaars

Judit Blasko

Steven Moore

Phil McCully

CFF:

David Howes (Executive Director)

Igor Gantsevich (High Performance Director)

Kelleigh Ryan (Athlete Rep)

Provinces:

John French (British Columbia)

Sami Op (Alberta)

John Shurniak (Saskatchewan)

Sean Rathwell (Manitoba)

Lucie Hamelin (Ontario)

Esther Lapointe (Quebec)

Kathryn Howe (New Brunswick)

2. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Chris Kalantzis, seconded by Judit Blasko, to approve the Agenda.
Motion approved.

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes: November 2024

Yann Bernard suggested a modification for item 8.1 of the November 2024 minutes in relation to a sentence about holding the Canada Cup before the World Cup.



It was moved by Monique Kavelaars, seconded by Chris Kalantzis, to approve the November 2024 Minutes. Motion approved.

5. Update from President

Yann Bernard reported that since the last meeting, the FIE General Meeting took place and Mr. Usmanov was re-elected in a landslide. He immediately suspended himself again from his duties and was again replaced by Mr. Katsiadakis. We had two Canadians elected on commissions. High Performance results have been fantastic.

Yann Bernard also reported that at the last In Camera meeting, the Board decided that Monique Kavelaars will be our new Vice President, Alexanne Verret will be our new Treasurer and Chris Kalantzis will stay on as Secretary.

6. E-votes

There were no e-votes.

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

8. New Business

8.1. Executive Director Report

David Howes reported that our memberships are up this year. We are almost at the same total we had at the end of March last year. We just had the last Canada Cup in Vancouver. It went very well. Thanks to the BCFA and Dynamo. A few international fencers even stayed for the Canada Cup. The men's epee podium was international. The next Canada Cup is coming up in a few weeks in Winnipeg. We have to submit information to the Canada Games Society on our membership. Our Sport Canada funding application for one year was submitted in December. We have asked for \$500,000 more in base funding and we asked for more from OTP as well, however, there is not any more money for sport overall. David thinks we have a good chance to get some more money, but has no idea how much. We most likely will not find out until March. The Canadian Centre for Ethics and Sport is taking over safe sport. It looks like all fencers at national events will have to complete the online consent form. David has also been working with Will Russell on amendments to our bylaws.



8.2. High Performance Director Report

Igor Gantsevich reported that it has been a good start to the season with many medals. The junior team will be announced in Winnipeg. We are sending our B-C-D teams to Pan-Ams. A lot of our cadets are on the senior team and we are concerned about burnout, which is why we prepared the HP Booklet in the way we did. We are excited about the upcoming World Championships. Our OTP representative has said that they want to sit down with us to discuss the other five weapons. We are meeting in early February to go over our women's foil program and also to discuss the other five weapons.

8.3. Finance Report

Alexanne Verret reported on the current state of the CFF's finances.

David Howes reported that we overspent the budget last year in our Olympic/Paralympic qualification and preparation knowing that the Board had approved additional funding. Our overall spend was just under \$127,000. The Board approved approximately \$150,000 total. Overall our finances are very positive. The Board also moved the \$50,000 loan from Jackson into an Olympic fund, which we did not have to use this time, so it will be there for the next Olympics. Overall it is good news and we are in good shape.

8.4 Committee Updates

Yann Bernard reported on which Board members will sit on the committees.

Veteran's Committee: Judit Blasko reported that the committee is very active. A Veteran's Cup was held in Montreal and was a success. The committee is considering a bid to host world championships.

Coaches Committee: Steven Moore reported that there are a lot of active coaches. There will be an online workshop for coaches coming up.

Parafencing Committee: Steven Moore reported that the committee is not currently active.

Referee Committee: Steven Moore reported that the committee has been



preparing for Winnipeg and selecting the referees for that event. We have three new provincial referees from Alberta who will participate in Winnipeg.

Competition Committee: Judit Blasko reported that the committee is receiving bids for next year's Canada Cups and Nationals. We have a few bids already.

Governance Committee: Chris Kalantzis reported that the committee is not active at the moment but that he will work with David Howes and Will Russell to update the bylaws and reactivate the committee.

Medical Committee: Kelleigh Ryan reported that there are no updates from the committee.

Gender Equity Committee: Monique Kavelaars reported on the work of the committee.

Lucie Hamelin asked a question about transgender policies and Monique Kavelaars engaged in a discussion.

Cuba Payment

David Howes reported that we have had an outstanding payment due to Cuba for a number of years that we have been unable to pay. It was suggested to move the funds into a fund to hold onto until we can pay them in order to remove it from our accounts payable.

9. Update from Provinces

British Columbia: John French reported that most of their recent work has been preparing for the Canada Cup and World Cup. They have the World Cup again later this year on December 4-7, 2025.

Alberta: Sami Op reported that he is new and that the PSO has a new president. The PSO has been using a gender equity grant to work on developing more female coaches. They also have some competitions coming up.

Saskatchewan: John Shurniak reported that their second tournament is going on this weekend. They have been trying to get extra funding for their high performance group.

Manitoba: Sean Rathwell reported that the PSO is finalizing Canada Cup preparations. The PSO has been able to obtain grants for various projects. Sport



Manitoba has been excellent in providing support for their initiatives.

Ontario: Lucie Hamelin reported that the PSO's main provincial competitions have started again. The registrations are very good. The PSO's bylaws also have to be revised.

Quebec: Esther Lapointe reported that the PSO's competitions have had such a high attendance that next year they need to look at different venues. The PSO is working on a replacement for the PSO's executive director who is retiring this summer.

New Brunswick: Kathryn Howe reported that the PSO's competitions are gearing up. There has been a lot of travel back and forth between New Brunswick and Quebec. They are running coaching and refereeing workshops. The HP program is in its second year and is running more smoothly.

Yann Bernard reported the sad news of the passing of Sylvie Clement.

Next meeting dates March 23, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.