



## **CFF Board of Directors Meeting Minutes June 23, 2024, 11AM EST**

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

Board of Directors:

Yann Bernard (President)

Luc Theriault (Treasurer)

Alexanne Verret

Monique Kavelaars

Judit Blasko

Regrets:

John French (Vice-President)

Chris Kalantzis (Secretary)

CFF:

David Howes (Executive Director)

Kelleigh Ryan (Athlete Rep)

Provinces:

Sean Rathwell (Manitoba & Alberta)

John Shurniak (Saskatchewan)

Lucie Hamelin (Ontario)

Francesco Sabatini (Ontario)

Jean-Yves Pelletier (Quebec)

Kathryn Howe (New Brunswick)

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

It was moved by Luc Theriault, seconded by Monique Kavelaars, to approve the Agenda. Motion approved.



### 3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations of conflict of interest.

### 4. Approval of Previous Minutes: April 2024

It was moved by Luc Theriault, seconded by Alexanne Verret, to approve the April 2024 Minutes with amendments suggested by Yann Bernard. Motion approved.

### 5. Update from President

Yann Bernard reported on the International Fencing Academy meeting in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. This was a political event organized by Vitaly Logvin and supported by the FIE Executive Committee, but Yann felt it was important for Canada to be present as an observer.

### 6. E-votes

#### 6.1. 2024-2025 Operational Plan Approval

Yann Bernard reported that the 2024-2025 Operational Plan was approved by e-vote on May 23, 2024.

David Howes said that he will distribute the Operational Plan to all once translated.

Jean-Yves Pelletier asked about the process to create a new Strategic Plan for 2024-2028.

David Howes asked for anyone interested to contact him in order for a working group to be formed with the goal of presenting a draft strategic plan for discussion at the AGM.

### 7. Business Arising from the Minutes

#### 7.1. Jean-Yves Pelletier asked 3 questions related to the increase in CFF license fee and the proposed changes to the domestic competition calendar for 2024-25:

- a. Is there documentation indicating that the Board approved the increase in the CFF license fee from \$22.50 to \$30?

David Howes reported that the fee increase was discussed by the board and approved when approving the budget.



Yann Bernard indicated that the Board will document the decision in the minutes of the in-camera meeting.

- b. Was there a motion or e-vote by the board to approve the changes to the domestic competition calendar? In his opinion, the Executive Director exceeded his authority in making these changes without board approval and this should be discussed at the AGM.

David Howes indicated that it will be too late to make further changes to the competition calendar at the AGM. He also welcomed further direction from the Board regarding his authority to make decisions affecting the operations of the CFF.

Yann Bernard indicated that the Board will discuss this and document the decision.

- c. Was there a motion by the board or documentation to approve the new hosting grant amount?

Yann Bernard indicated that the Board will document the decision.

- 7.2. Jean-Yves Pelletier asked if the CFF has a physical security policy for events. A discussion took place regarding the FEQ policy and Yann Bernard indicated that the Board will review the FEQ policy and determine if there is a requirement for the CFF to have a similar policy.

## 8. New Business

### 8.1. Executive Director Report

David Howes reported that membership is at record numbers.

David thanked John Shurniak and his crew of volunteers for helping to run a very successful national championships in Saskatoon. Of note, 8 athletes and 1 territory participated in this year's competition. Participation by more provinces and territories will help the CFF's case to have fencing included in future Canada Games.

David reported that no bids were received for Canada Cup #1, but that he is working with one of the clubs who bid on another event to see if they would be willing to take the first Canada Cup.

David reported on the progress to date regarding the CFF meeting the



requirements of the Canadian Sport Governance Code. Recommendations for changes to the bylaws will be presented at the AGM for discussion.

It was recently announced that fencing has been added to the 2027 Canada Winter Games. This will be beneficial for many provinces.

## **8.2. High Performance Director Report**

David Howes reported that Angel Xiao has received a spot for the Paris Olympics, which has increased the size of our team even further and is the largest team in 36 years.

The following 3 athletes have qualified for the Paralympics: Ryan Rousell, Trinity Lowthian and Sylvie Morel. Canada has also applied to the bipartite commission for a sport for Amber Briar, based on her results at the zonals. Coach selection will be decided in the coming weeks.

David reported on the first meeting of the OTP-funded Culture of Excellence working group.

David reported that thanks to the efforts of Igor Gantsevich, the CFF has signed a no-cost agreement with University Canada West to conduct a research project to assist in determining future performance of our women's foil team. This could be expanded in the future to look at the other weapons,

## **8.3. Finance Report**

Luc Theriault reported that all financial obligations have been met, that the audit is underway, and that the CFF's finances are positive.

## **8.4. Committee Updates**

Updates on some of the committees were given.

## **9. Update from Provinces**

New Brunswick: Kathryn Howe provided an update on the PSO.

Quebec: Peter McLaughlin provided an update on the PSO.

Ontario: Francesco Sabatini provided an update on the PSO.

Manitoba: Sean Rathwell provided an update on the PSO.



Saskatchewan: John Shurniak provided an update on the PSO.

Alberta: Sean Rathwell provided an update on the PSO.

**Next meeting dates**

**The Board will discuss the need for a meeting prior to the AGM and report back to the provinces.**