



## **CFF Board of Directors Meeting Minutes November 8, 2024, 11AM EST**

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

Board of Directors:

Yann Bernard (President)

Chris Kalantzis (Secretary)

Alexanne Verret

Monique Kavelaars

Judit Blasko

Steven Moore-Vountas

Phil McCully

CFF:

David Howes (Executive Director)

Kelleigh Ryan (Athlete Rep)

Provinces:

Yuriy Rubin (British Columbia)

John Shurniak (Saskatchewan)

Lucie Hamelin (Ontario)

Esther Lapointe (Quebec)

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

It was moved by Chris Kalantzis, seconded by Alexanne Verret, 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: June 2024**

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

### **5. Update from President**

Yann Bernard provided an update. The CFF was very happy with our breakthrough into the world of Olympic medals and the success of all of our



athletes at the Olympics, Cadet and Junior World Championships and NACs. Thanks to our coaches and fencers.

Yann Bernard reported that the FIE AGM will be in Uzbekistan this month. Alisher Uzmanov is running for re-election with one opponent. Uzmanov's candidacy was supported by more countries than needed for his re-election. Uzmanov will likely be re-elected in a landslide but will have to continue to suspend himself. Therefore, we do not know who will be running the FIE in November.

A discussion about Canada's vote took place.

## 6. E-votes

### 6.1. Coach Add-On Fee – June 25, 2024

David Howes reported that the e-vote took place.

### 6.2. Referee Add-On Fee – June 25, 2024

David Howes reported that the e-vote took place.

### 6.3. Audited Financial Statements – July 17, 2024

David Howes reported that the e-vote took place.

## 7. Business Arising from the Minutes

## 8. New Business

### 8.1. Executive Director Report

David Howes reported that membership is ahead of where the CFF was last year, which was a record for membership. The first Canada Cup was a success. Excellent job by the volunteers. Some World Cup fencers will be staying for the next Canada Cup in Vancouver. One idea would be to hold the Canada Cup before the world cup, then it could be used as a preparation event for the international fencers. The competition committee has met and finalized the event schedule for next season. Request for bids will go out soon.

David Howes also reported that fencing has been reinserted into the next Canada Games. We are applying for the 2031 Games as well.

David Howes also reported that our Sport Canada funding application requires documents to be submitted. We have a meeting next week with Sport Canada. Our deadline is in early December. We can request



funding for one to up to four years. It is a lot of work to prepare.

David Howes also reported that we will have to have a special meeting before April 2025 to approve required bylaw changes.

David Howes also reported that he and Yann Bernard met with the Future of Sport Commission.

Yann Bernard reported that the Future of Sport Commission is a Parliamentary Commission that is reviewing safe sport and the general state of sport in Canada and reviewed what the CFF contributed to the Commission in terms of feedback and perspective.

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

David Howes reported that world cups have just started for the season. The October NAC was a huge success. There is another NAC happening this weekend. We have over 200 members in the HP Program, which is a positive sign as well. We presented to OTP for women's foil funding and received good feedback. We should hopefully find out in February. We are hoping to present for other weapons, but were told not at this time. There is potential for men's sabre and women's epee.

## **8.3.** Finance Report

David Howes reported that the CFF is in good shape so far. The events so far have been profitable. The Board had allocated \$125,000 from the 2022-2023 fiscal year budget for Olympic preparation as well as \$20,000 from this year. We just received the COC's invoice and we will be underbudget, which will allow for us to save money for the next Olympics.

A discussion about the COC's bill took place.

## **8.4.** Committee Updates

Competition Committee: Judit Blasko reported that there have been a couple of meetings and next season's schedule has been finalized. We are keeping four national tournaments for next season. A call for bids will go out soon. We are also talking about making a 5-year plan for competitions. It is difficult to do so however, with NACs and international events changing.



Governance Committee: Judit Blasko reported that the committee is not active at this time.

Gender Equity Committee: Monique Kavelaars reported that a referee survey went out that will be evaluated. The committee is looking at applying for grants to support some research as well. We are also looking at creating a referee roundtable.

## 9. Update from Provinces

British Columbia: Yuriy Rubin reported that the PSO is preparing for the World Cup and Canada Cup 2. They will also be running a youth tournament so that young fencers can experience the same venue.

Saskatchewan: John Shurniak reported that the PSO held their first competition of the season with more than 90 participants. They are hoping to get some coaching grants back. Sue Pitura has retired from the Board and Jordan Smith is the new President of the PSO.

Ontario: Lucie Hamelin reported that the PSO launched their circuits the first weekend in October. They are happy with the turnout. The universities have a lot of their tournaments October-January. Everyone enjoys the large university tournaments. They are continuing to work on safe sport governance and bylaw review.

Quebec: Esther Lapointe reported that the PSO has started their tournament season.

**Next meeting dates January 26, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.**