

Minutes

Monday, January 17, 2022 @7:30pm

Central Florida Division

Special Meeting of the Executive Committee

Emily called the meeting to order 7:35

Shanna took attendance: Carlos Ablenado, Jackie Wiksten, Robert Szokolay, Alex Libers, Nestor Grajales, LeAnn James, Jason Seachrist, Ken Lauver, Shanna Davis, Emily Grajales, Jenny Seachrist and special guest Sung Yim.

Jenny reiterated the complaint that two fencers were unregistered for the Battle of the Padawans event once it was clear that those fencers would not be joining the hosts club and the order of events in removing sanctioning. All of which was spelled out in the email to the EC prior to this meeting. (Attached)

Yim was allotted time to present his perspective. He explained the issue with his email and shared that he registers his club members as a "service" to his fencers. He stated that his club has a tradition of attending competitions together as a group. When these fencers decided not to be part of his club he removed them from the event for these reasons.

Questions were asked by the EC such as: Once the fencers were unregistered how long did they have to reregister before the start of the event? Was the family told they could reregister on their own? At what point? Did the fencers in question pay for the Padawans event?

Mr. Yim clarified that the event registration fee for Battle of the Padawans IV was included for anyone attending the camp which the fencing family initially gave him a check for. He also said that he notified the family along with Ms. Simmons from the National Office that they could freely reregister themselves. In the discussion that followed, some context was shared via a reference to a text between families that indicated the family was no longer welcome even in the parking lot when they carpool regularly from the same school with other fencers from Mr. Yim's club. This, while circumstantial, would further imply an intentionality on the part of Mr. Yim to exclude the family from his tournament. Push back was given from some EC members on this circumstantial evidence stating a desire to keep to the facts only. The officers reminded the EC members that the facts are: two minor-aged fencers, who were registered for an event organized by Mr. Yim, were later unregistered when the family notified him they would not be joining his club. The officers asserted that Mr. Yim could have done any number of things other than unregister those child fencers including doing nothing - and simply collecting their registration fees upon their arrival at the event, but he chose to take the added step of unregistering them. The officers further asserted that USFA policies only allow restricting access to sanctioned tournaments based on age, classification, and division. Restrictions are enforced by organizers in two ways by a) only allowing one to register for events that the logged in fencer is qualified for in the first place or b) by removing registrations that do not meet criteria. Nowhere in the information for the event was it stated that fencers had to be participants in Mr. Yim's Camp or exclusive members of his club, as sanctioning would have been denied at the start.

Jenny ended the discussion and Emily called for any motions.

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Alex Libers made a motion to reinstate sanctioning to the Battle of the Padawans IV event.
Carlos Ablenado seconded.

A vote was taken:

3 yes: Alex Libers, Carlos Ablenado, LeAnn James

2 absentions: Ken Lauver, Robert Szokolay

6 No: Jackie Wiksten, Nestor Grajales, Shanna Davis, Jason Seachrist, Emily Grajales, Jenny Seachrist

Jenny made the motion to adjourn. Ken seconded. Emily adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Subject **Information for Monday's Special EC Meeting including Zoom Link**
From <secretary@usfacentralfloida.org>
To Chair <chair@usfacentralfloida.org>, Secretary <secretary@usfacentralfloida.org>, Treasurer <treasurer@usfacentralfloida.org>, Vice Chair <vicechair@usfacentralfloida.org>
Bcc Carlos Ablenado <maestro1800@gmail.com>, Gregory Arthur <bgmarthur@att.net>, Eric Eldon <dblecho@aol.com>, Nestor Grajales <coach@orlandofencers.com>, Aleksandr Gromov <info@resolutesportfencing.com>, Leann James <leannjames824@gmail.com>, Alex Kossman <redhatroger0@gmail.com>, Alex Libers <alex.libers@gmail.com>, German Paz <naplesfencingacademy@gmail.com>, Jason Seachrist <jasons@wgfencingacademy.com> [3 more...](#)
Date 2022-01-13 10:32



-
- PadawansDocumentation4EC.pdf (~1.5 MB)
-

To the EC:

As previously notified, a special meeting is set for Monday, January 17th at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Yim is appealing the Officer Team's decision to rescind the sanctioning from the December 22nd, Battle of the Padawans IV Tournament. **The zoom link for that meeting is at the bottom of this email.**

In an attempt to keep that meeting as short as possible and respect the time of all those involved, the officers have laid out their reasoning below and supporting documentation is attached. Please read through this information prior to Monday's meeting.

In the meeting, we will take attendance to ensure a quorum and the voting status of all present. Afterwards, Mr. Yim will read a statement. The chair will ask for discussion followed by any motions. Any seconded motions will be voted upon with a roll call vote. This meeting may be audited by National Office staff as they have been kept abreast of the situation from both sides.

Officer Team Decision and Process

1. A complaint was made that Sung Yim deleted the registration of 2 youth fencers, solely based on the fact that they denied joining his club. (See A Attached)
 1. AskFred emails to the fencing family (See B Attached)
 2. Copy of text message showing more context (See C Attached)
2. The officers of the Division requested a response to the complaint from Mr. Yim directed to an email address he regularly uses for division business.
3. Mr Yim failed to respond to the complaint
4. Officers voted unanimously to withdraw sanctioning of the tournament due to the violation of USA fencing rules. Evidence supports that the fencers were unregistered from the Battle of the Padawans IV tournament once it was clear that the fencers in question would not be joining the host club. Guidance regarding the restriction of tournaments can be found in the [USFA Operations Manual](#) (link provided - see page 17 under Type of Tournament). Club membership is not listed as a valid reason for restricting (removing) registrations.
5. Only after a notice was sent out by the division secretary to all division clubs regarding the change of the tournament's status did Mr Yim send a response. In that response, Mr. Yim asked the officers to reconsider. (See D & E Attached)
6. The officers saw nothing in Mr. Yim's late response that changed the facts but notified Mr. Yim that the next course of action per our [tournament sanctioning procedures](#) (link provided) was a formal appeal to the EC which could take place in a special meeting after appropriate notice had been given.
7. After numerous emails to various members of the National Office and members of the USA Fencing Board of Directors, Mr Yim took the option of a formal request to appeal the decision to the EC.

Again, documentation is attached.

Regards,

Shanna Davis, Secretary

Jennifer Seachrist is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Executive Committee: Special Meeting

Time: Jan 17, 2022 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86748058075?pwd=dXBPQmJTSVRoQ3JjTUtPWkILVzA1dz09>

Meeting ID: 867 4805 8075

Passcode: 665451

Meeting ID: 867 4805 8075

Passcode: 665451

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86748058075>

A. Official Complaint:

I refer to the Battle of the Padawans IV Unrated Senior Men's Foil and the Battle of the Padawans Y12 Mixed Foil (together, "Tournament") that are organized by the Orlando Fencing Academy ("OFA") under Coach Sung Yim.

On November 22, 2021 around 3:45 PM, I met up with Coach Yim expressing my interest to join his club, OFA. Coach Yim was highly recommended by my friend, whose children fenced at his club. He gave an orientation for about 2-3 hours. Coach Yim discussed that we have to leave Stoccata for us to be a part of his club. I asked if the kids can foil in his club, then epee and sabre in Stoccata Fencing Academy. He replied no, I only needed to join one club.

At that time, I said yes but I told him I will tell Coach Emily first. He also offered the Foil Camp with the Health Coach of Columbia University, for which I personally gave him a check. For your information, I got notifications from "askfred.com" that payment was received on November 22, 2021, at 5:22 PM.

On November 26, 2021 at 12:06 PM, Coach Sung Yim pre- registered both of my children, [REDACTED], through askfred.com using our accounts.

Please note, my children never fence nor under coaching supervision with Coach Yim.

After a very long thoughtful consideration (for 13 days), we decided to stay with Stoccata Fencing Academy. The primary reason was his coaching style will not work with my children. Coach Yim proudly told me that he reprimanded one of the children in his club who did not listen to him telling him that "I can make the tire to be a better fencer." And other things that he said, "It's either my way or you're out." Some of the stuff he said did not resonate with me, and how I want my children to be treated by a coach or by an Olympic-winning coach or by any human being for that matter.

On December 5, 2021, at 3:16 PM, I sent a text to Coach Sung Yim informing him that my children will stay in Stoccata Fencing Academy.

On December 5, 2021 at 3:59 PM, I received notifications from "askfred.com" that my children pre-registrations for Battle of the Padawans IV Unrated Senior Men's Foil and the Y12 Mixed Foil were deleted by the tournament organizer. Coach Yim, as a tournament organizer, deleted and canceled the pre-registration without my consent or knowledge. Set out below is the copy of the emails confirming the deletion.

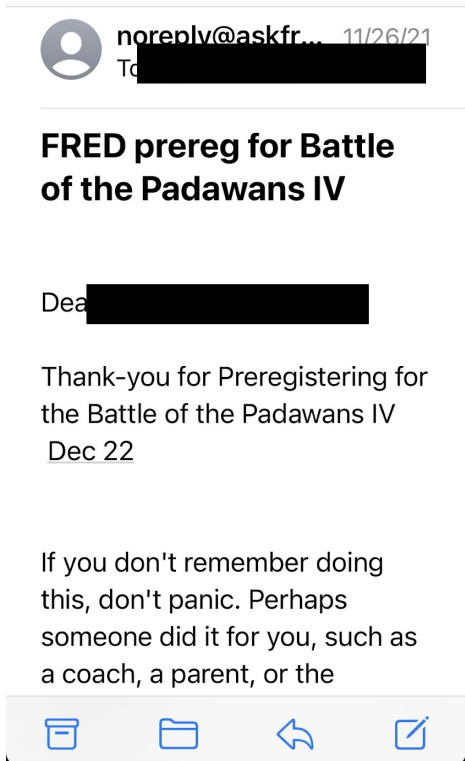
On December 12, 2021, I emailed the OFA requesting a reason for the deletion. I received a response from Coach Yim on December 13, 2021 confirming that he did cancel the pre-registration because he only pre-registered them as a courtesy to my children joining OFA.

I am concerned that my children's pre-registration were deleted without basis because they are fully qualified to participate in the open Tournament due to their age, classification, and division affiliation. I note that the deletions were made after I notified Coach Yim that my children will continue to fence in their current club Stoccata Fencing Academy instead of OFA.

I respectfully request that the USFA CFL Division consider investigating the matter as I want to ensure that the deletion of the pre-registrations were in compliance with relevant USFA policies and by laws. I am hopeful that my decision not to have my children join OFS would not be taken against them in any future interactions with OFA or Coach Kim (in his capacity as a coach, referee, or otherwise).

Thank you. I am happy to provide any other information you may require.

B. AskFred Emails

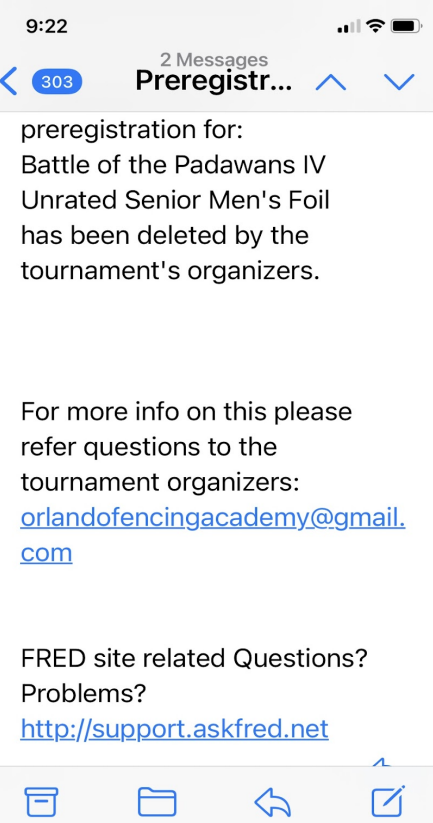
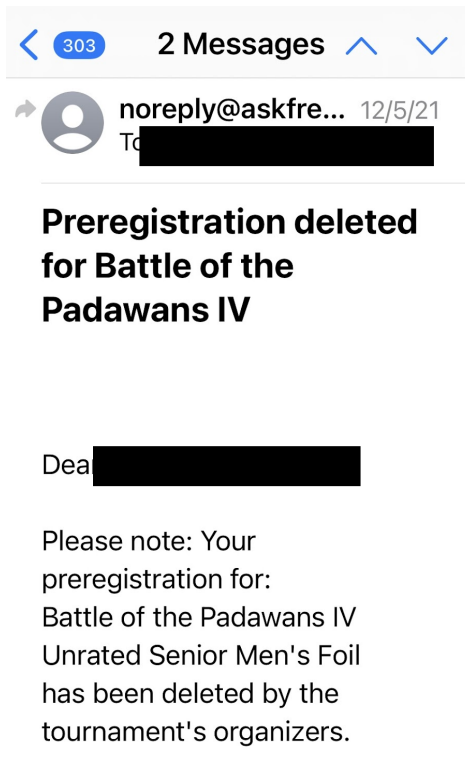


Thank-you for Preregistering for the Battle of the Padawans IV Dec 22

If you don't remember doing this, don't panic. Perhaps someone did it for you, such as a coach, a parent, or the organizer.

PLEASE NOTE: This is not a payment receipt.

To edit this preregistration, go to this page:
<https://askfred.net/Events/Prereg/prereg.php?>



Preregistration deleted for Battle of the Padawans IV

Dear [redacted]

Please note: Your preregistration for: Battle of the Padawans IV Unrated Senior Men's Foil has been deleted by the tournament's organizers.

preregistration for: Battle of the Padawans IV Unrated Senior Men's Foil has been deleted by the tournament's organizers.

For more info on this please refer questions to the tournament organizers:
orlandofencingacademy@gmail.com

FRED site related Questions? Problems?
<http://support.askfred.net>

10:29



302



Fw: Preregistration deleted for Battle of the Padawans IV

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "noreply@askfred.net"
<noreply@askfred.net>

Sent: Sunday, December 5, 2021, 03:59:27
PM EST

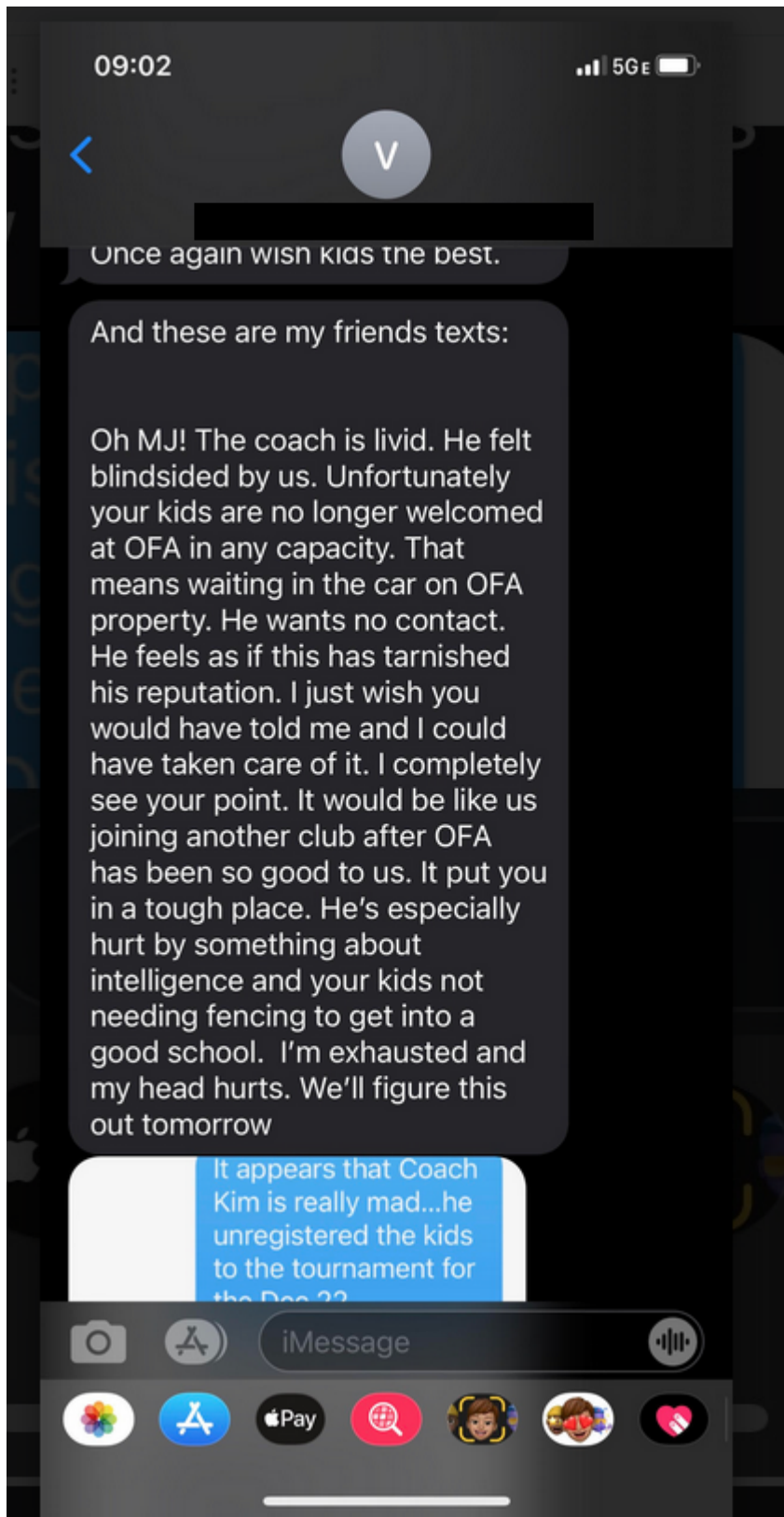
Subject: Preregistration deleted for Battle of
the Padawans IV

Dear [REDACTED]

Please note: Your preregistration for:
Battle of the Padawans IV
Y12 Mixed Foil
has been deleted by the tournament's
organizers.



C.



Subject **Re: NOTICE: Sanctioning has been rescinded for an upcoming event**
From Orlando Fencing Academy <orlandofencingacademy@gmail.com>
To <secretary@usfacentralfloida.org>
Cc Chair <chair@usfacentralfloida.org>, Treasurer <treasurer@usfacentralfloida.org>, Vice Chair <vicechair@usfacentralfloida.org>, Christine Simmons <c.simmons@usafencing.org>
Date 2021-12-17 08:41



I didn't restrict anyone to participate in this tournament. I, however needed to remove two fencers who I pre-registered. And the reason was explained to USFA and mother of those fencers via email. On that email, I was very clear that they are welcome to register either by themselves or by their coach.

Again I didn't restrict them to join the tournament.

Please reconsider your decision to rescind my tournament that is on 12/22.

Look forward to hear your respond.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 16, 2021, at 10:17 PM, secretary@usfacentralfloida.org wrote:

Please be advised that the sanctioning of the Battle of the Padawans IV event on December 22nd has been rescinded due to a rules violation. As a reminder, registrations for sanctioned fencing tournaments may not be restricted on any grounds other than those laid out in [the Operations Manual](#). Please refer to page 18 regarding Type of Tournaments to see when and how tournament restrictions may be applied.

The official calendar for the Central Florida Division can be found [on the division website](#).

Regards,

Shanna Davis

Secretary

D.

E.

From: Sung Yim <sung_yim@yahoo.com>

Date: December 18, 2021 at 12:38:56 AM EST

To: vicechair@usfacentralfloirida.org

Subject: Re: Rescinded Sanctioning

Good Morning Madam Vice Chair,

In reference to the sanctioning for "Battle of the Padawans IV" been rescinded, thank you for the opportunity to provide additional information for the reconsideration by the governing body of USFA Central Florida. Please know that I would kindly hope for an amical resolution as within the last 24 hrs I have received several enquires from concern parents of fencers who were intending to participate in this USFA sanctioned tournament.

Firstly, please allow me to state equivocally that I didn't maliciously unregister any fencers that signed up for the referenced event. I agreed on the recommendation of a current fencer family of my club to meet with a family who apparently have been seeking interest in joining my club for over 6 months. About three weeks ago, I greeted the family at my club for an introduction meeting as was requested. We went over my philosophy on fencing, mission of the club and my personal services rendered over the years now that I offer to all of my members of the club. Just a few notable mentioned services if you would allow me to outlined are as follows, if desired with the "clear understanding that I will not accept a fencer who intents to be part of another club".:

- As a member of OFA I will register members for all seminars.
- As a member of OFA I will register members for all camps.
- As a member of OFA I will register members for all tournaments

I look upon this service more as a concierge's service in which I do for no additional momentary measures. This is just an attribute that as a small business owner if you

agree to being a member comes as part of the services rendered, for only the period of time elected to being a member of OFA. Every club is uniquely different with there approach to management and operations and I sincerely hope that you could appreciate my approach in attempt to be a successful fencing club within the fencing community. The family with no hesitations agreed immediately to these terms and acknowledged their desire to being a exclusive member of OFA. They also at that time expressed interest in the "Battle of the Padawans IV" which as outlined above upon agreement to be an exclusive member of OFA I register them. Them approximately 2 days later if my recollection serves me correctly I received a text from the family reversing their desire to be an exclusive member of my club and wanting me to allow them to be a member of OFA as well remaining a member of another club in Central Florida. This request was one that I had outlined and fully disclosed was not something I could allow, therefore I gracefully responded to the family wishing them the best of success with there kids and as such upon there new decision to remain members of there current club I was okay releasing them from OFA. In that same text I stated that I would refund all funds immediately for all membership dues and all services rendered as a member. As supported in communication with both the family and with Christine Simmons my intend was never to deny the family from participating and provided them with instruction on how they could register on their own considering that I couldn't offer that service anymore as them being non-members.

Once again I sincerely hope that my response and supporting documentation demonstrates the character of this matter and that we can come to an amicable resolution as I have several disappointed fencers family that have reached out really excited to be a part of this spectacular USFA sanctioned tournament ("Battle of the Padawans IV"). As you can see my intent has also been to respond in a timely manner so it was so unfortunate for your early email to have gone directly to my spam. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me on my cellphone 516-776-1738 and also I will be in attendance at regionals in Myrtle Beach SC so don't hesitate to reach out if you would like to speak. I sincerely hope USFA Central Florida would kindly reconsider.

Thank You

Sung Yim

516-776-1738