

## Minutes

Tuesday, May 24, 2021 @8pm

Central Florida Division  
Executive Committee Meeting

Attendees: Emily Grajales, Jenny Seachrist, Ken Lauver, Shanna Davis, Alex Kossman, LeAnn James, Eric Eldon

❖ **Call to Order** by Emily at 8:07pm

❖ **Consent Agenda**

- Jenny moved to approve minutes from April 5th 2022; Eric seconded.

❖ **Old Business**

- Emily reiterated the updated USA Fencing mask policy - masks for fencers while bouting is now optional
- Shanna announced that documents from the national office regarding the roll out of streamlined Division Bylaws and accompanying Operating Guide is imminent. If available in time, we will make copies available for distribution at the Annual Meeting on June 11th.
- Division Championship Series Finale & Annual Meeting
  - June 11th @College Park Community Center
  - Annual Meeting to start at 9am with fencing to start at 9:45am
  - Officers for next season will be announced; no election is required
    - Chair - Emily Grajales
    - Vice Chair - Jenny Seachrist
    - Secretary - Shanna Davis
    - Treasurer - Robert Szokolay
  - Volunteer Sign up sheet - Jenny will put together a google form and send it out to the clubs. Any teenagers in need of volunteer hours may also sign up.
  - Approve Budget for Awards
    - Shanna moved to approve a budget up to \$400 for finale and championship awards as well as the two pending Charles Johnson Sportsmanship awards. LeAnn seconded. All were in favor, none opposed.
  - There was some discussion on having the finale open to fencers outside of the division and how that would affect points for division champions. Jenny clarified that the previous events in the series were in fact open to other divisions and that those individuals outside the division were simply removed from the point calculations. This finale was closed to fencers outside the division initially due to venue capacity concerns.
    - Eric moved to open the event to fencers outside of the division. Alex seconded. All were in favor except for Ken who opposed.

**Current Event Schedule for the Central Florida Championships  
(with AskFred Links)**

<a href="#">Division Championship Series: Junior/Vet #1</a>	January 16th
<a href="#">Division Championship Series: Youth #1</a>	February 26th
<a href="#">Division Championship Series: Senior #1</a>	March 20th
<a href="#">Division Championship Series: Youth #2</a>	March 26th
<a href="#">Division Championship Series: Junior/Vet #2</a>	April 9th
<a href="#">Division Championship Series: Senior #2</a>	April 16th
<a href="#">Central Florida Division Championship Finale</a>	June 11th

Current Standings linked [here](#)

- [Charles Johnson Sportsmanship Award](#) - nomination process
  - Jenny reminded the group of how nominations were done in recent years. For this season, it was decided to continue in the same vein by sending out an email to each club soliciting nominations. Responses should include reasoning for the nomination and a photo of the individual if available to be sent to Jenny with a copy to Shanna by June 3rd. Jenny will put all the nominations in one document and send out an election form to the clubs on June 5th. Shanna will put up Facebook posts/stories for all those nominated. All voting should be complete by June 10th so that both, this season's and last season's, awards can be presented at the Annual Meeting on June 11th.
  - For next season, LeAnn has some ideas for promoting sportsmanship all year round. Ken Lauver and Alex Kossman agreed to be a sounding board for some new strategies for acknowledging sportsmanship and collecting nomination information throughout the season. Emily suggested a slack thread for feedback from the larger group.

❖ **New Business**

➤ [The New Florida State Championships](#)

- LeAnn asked why the date was chosen. Emily explained that the Sunshine State Games has been sanctioned by USA Fencing for many years and was being advertised as such until a few weeks ago. Many fencers had registered thinking it was sanctioned by USA Fencing and many more were on the cusp of registering. When AAU took over the event, all the USA Fencing members and clubs who had already been promoting those dates and that event essentially had no state championship in which to fence. The chairs of all three divisions met with representatives of the Sunshine State Games to discuss restoring the sanctioning authority of USA Fencing. When they expressed no interest in doing so, the division representatives, despite the challenges, took it upon themselves to create a state championship for USA Fencing members.
  - There was some discussion on the history of the Sunshine State Games. Some issues with the event were highlighted surrounding costs and the use of funds that are collected at the Sunshine State Games contrasted with how any surplus funds with this event will support Florida fencing with all profits to be split equally between the three divisions.
  - Alex and Eric asked about the location and the plan for future locations of this new Florida State Championship. Emily clarified that the idea is to move the event to a different division every year. Due to the last minute hustle to find a venue, there were not a lot of options for this year.
- Next Seasons schedule for the Division Championship Series
- There is a general desire to start the championship series earlier in the season. A couple of preliminary dates will be identified by the June 11th Annual Meeting and things more solidly defined at the July meeting.
- Proposed policy for updates to club information on the division website:
- Shanna stated the need for a policy regarding when and how club information is updated on the website. Due to several reasons last year club renewals were delayed or pending for an extended time and there is no current guidance/policy laying out what clubs can expect from the division on this matter.

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- Ken shared that universities do not get budgets approved in time to make a September 1st deadline. Jenny suggested a caveat for colleges and universities as noted in the text below.
- Proposed wording for the new policy which will easily transfer to the New Operating Manual for the coming season:
  - *Club contact information will be updated on the division website at the beginning of the season. Any clubs from the previous season who have not fully completed the renewal process and show an inactive or pending status with USA Fencing will be deleted from the division website September 1st. (For college and university clubs the deadline is October 1st). During the month of August, the Secretary will send out an email to all EC members reminding them of the deadline and requesting any updated club information for the website. An email will also be sent to any newly active or pending clubs within division boundaries to the email address cited on the USA Fencing website noting the existence of the division website and to submit any club contact information they would like shown there. After Labor Day and for the remainder of the season, it will be the responsibility of newly active or renewed clubs to reach out to the division secretary to update their club information on the website.*
- LeAnn moved to approve as above. Ken seconded. All approved; none opposed.
- Eric asked if there was any interest in an informal fencing/referee clinic with Chris Cheny, a B level FIE and level 3 USA Fencing referee and A rated saberists.
- A special meeting was set for July 19th for the express purpose of:
  - Discussing the new Bylaws and Operating Guide Template and Instructions - Shanna
  - Plan the calendar for the coming year - Emily & Jenny
  - Present any ideas related to promoting sportsmanship and changes to nomination process for Charles Johnson Sportsmanship Award - LeAnn, Alex Kossman & Ken
- ❖ Jenny moved to adjourn; Eric Seconded; All in favor
  - Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm

Minutes Approved on August 29th, 2022