

Alberta Fencing Association
Executive Meeting July 26, 2005

Minutes

Start time: 7:13 PM

Attendance: Elizabeth Chong, Marc Prymack, Spencer Brown, Norman Wiebe, Marie Hiebert

Regrets: Barry Edgar, Chris Seabrook

Agenda

1. Use of SKYPE for the meeting.

After a few tries Marie got everyone on SKYPE. The 3 Calgarians congregated at Marc Prymack's house which worked well. As Marie explained we can have up to 5 lines on the conference call so 1 line will be designated to Edmonton, one to Red Deer and 3 (if necessary) for Calgary since there are more executive members in Calgary than any where else. If this system works okay it will save the AFA up to \$800 per year.

2. Canada Winter Games Selection Options.

The following is an excerpt from an email that Norman circulated on June 26th.

There was some great discussion at the AGM, and some of it was a repeat of what happened at our planning meeting a couple of years back. The portion that I am referring to is in regards to the selection for Canada Winter Games (CWG) team candidates. Essentially we laid out our a plan to avoid some of the problems that occurred during the last selections for the 2003 CWG team. We wanted to create a method that would be fair and equitable for all; with the result of that meeting being option 1 as detailed below.

With the changes that have occurred these past couple years especially with the refinement of the AFA ranking system; we felt it prudent to revisit this path laid out for CWG selections, and from the discussion today, have two options for your consideration.

1. Every tournament in the AFA circuit is used as selection criteria during the 2006 calendar year. This means that when we get half way through this next season, all events from January to the end of the season must offer an 'under 16' event for each weapon and sex. These events will be used as selection events for the CWG. These events would not count toward AFA ranking, essentially making these events for a single purpose, and of no other value. The events in the fall of 2006 can run the U17 events as normal and these will also be added to the earlier events for the selection process. After the last event held during the 2006 calendar year, we would select the 3 highest ranked individuals resulting from all of those events. [This would ensure that our eligible fencers are not exposed to non-eligible fencers, but these exclusive events may disadvantage younger fencers seeking to earn points on the AFA ranking list].
2. Every tournament in the AFA circuit is used as selection criteria during the 2006 calendar year. Every tournament must offer a U17 event in every weapon, and after the last tournament for that calendar year (Nov 2006), the 3 highest ranked individuals in each

U17 category, on the AFA ranking list are selected for the team. [This method would be exceptionally simple to use and have no negative effects on the ranking list. The kids could simply watch their rank on our website and immediately know who is leading; but it does pose the problem of having our fencers that are eligible for CWG possibly fencing against those non-eligible older kids in the beginning of the 2006 calendar year, which has the potential to create some 'upset' situations].

In either scenario, the top 6 athletes will be offered the training opportunities of the CWG team camp, but only the top 3 are designated as team members. The next three positions would be alternates in line according to the rank they earned; and training partners for the team, benefiting from that training experience. This affords us the highest level of transparency and ease of understanding. All subjectivity is removed from the process, and 'results only' are what will earn a potential candidate a position.

It was decided that option 2 would be used for the selection of CWG athletes. Those who are not eligible because of age will simply be removed from the list and the remaining top 3 will constitute the team with the athletes ranking 4-6 being the alternates if need be.

The following clubs, Epic, EFC, Gladiators and CFC all agreed with this proposal. All executive members in attendance agreed and the motion was passed to use this proposal for selection of the 2007 CWG team.

3. Program Directors Report

Marie made a verbal report stating the following items that have kept her busy since the AGM

-Summer Fencing Camp – there are 40 plus registrants. All of the coaches have been notified of their involvement and we are good to go. A meeting with the camp coordinators, Jill Thompson, Nora O'Malley (in an advisory capacity), David Webster (in training) and Brita Goldie (in training) will be held prior to camp beginning to finalize various points.

-AFA Casino – Organization for this event is almost complete with only a couple of spots left to secure. The casino will be held in Calgary at the Elbow River Casino.

-Marie has been talking to the out of town clubs, Camrose in particular, and another potential group in Grasslands. The Camrose club is hoping to take lessons in the evenings during our summer camp. Coaches will be asked to lead this group. Grasslands, as well as Camrose, will have difficulties starting as there are no coaches available at this time to meet their needs. Nicolas Allen, who coached Camrose last year, is not willing to do it again this year. A call will go out to all members for coaches as well as some advertising will be done in these areas to see if we can't flush out some potential coaches.

4. Tournament Schedule

-Epic has agreed to host the Provincials but does not have a date or location at this time.

-Norman will be hosting the Hokkaido Cup in Red Deer September 17 & 18

-Marie will get out a tournament schedule early in the season.

Meeting adjourned 7:39 PM

Next Meeting TBA