

ALBERTA FENCING ASSOCIATION
Annual General Meeting
Hybrid (In Person & Online)
November 26th, 2022 6:26pm
Minutes

1. Roll Call/Introductions

Alexander Wong (CFC Voting)	Lory Laing (NOVA Voting)
Andrei Filonov (FAOC)	Maia Rathwell (AFA)
Andrew Rusheleau (SSC)	Marissa Ponich (SSC Voting)
Boris Bojanov (UCFC)	Mark Samuel (NOVA)
Colin Longhurst (EFC)	Michelle Ostrickoff (RDFC)
Darragh O'Malley (ARES Voting)	Orlin Bojanov (??Club??)
David Cymbaluk (WRFC)	Richard Bezemer (EPIC)
Eden Koster (WRFC Voting)	Svetoslav Marinov (WRFC)
Grace Kan (UCFC)	Vadim Demendeev (FAOC Voting)
Joshua Riker-Fox (ARES)	Will Sacuta (WRFC)
Kali Sayers (EPIC Voting, RDFC Proxy)	Yubo Li (EFC Voting)
Ken Chow (ARES)	

10 clubs present with 1 proxy vote (Kali Sayers for RDFC).

2. Election of Meeting Chair

- Andrew Rusheleau elected as meeting chair. Kali seconds. Carried. Meeting called to order at 6:26pm.

3. Reading and Adoption of Minutes of November 7, 2021 Annual General Meeting

- Andrew Rusheleau moves to accept minutes as presented. Eden seconds. Carried.

4. Review and Acceptance of Agenda

- Agenda Accepted as presented. Grace seconds. Carried.

5. President's Report

Andrew Rusheleau

- See attached Report
- Challenging year
- Transitioned to new ED
- Many updates and improvements to policies

6. Executive Director's Report

Maia Rathwell

- See attached Report.

7. Committee Reports (See attached reports)

a. Armoury Report

Orlin Bojanov

- i. Video review system?
- ii. More support needed to certify other armorers

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|---|---|
| b. Athlete Development Report
CWG selection criteria (ad hoc committee) | Richard Bezemer
William Sacuta |
| c. By-Laws & Policy Report | Andrew Rusheleau |
| d. Finance Report | Amy Chen |
| e. Technical and Coaching Report | Maia Rathwell |
| i. More referee and coaching clinics coming | |
| ii. DT crash course successful; 6-8 hr comprehensive seminar coming | |
| iii. Clarifications/streamlining coming to the referee development system | |
| f. Veterans Report | David Cymbaluk |
| i. Recommendation to encourage local veterans fencing, not just national and international levels | |
| g. Secretariat Report | Richard Bezemer |
| i. Future conversations on provincial rankings | |
| h. CWG Report | Will Sacuta |

8. Confirmation of new club members

- No new clubs.

9. Financial Reports

- a. Financial Statement 2021/2022 - unaudited
 - i. Unable to get everything together in enough time to have them audited prior to the AGM
 - ii. Audited statements will be presented to the next board as soon as completed
- b. Budget 2022/2023
 - i. Unsure of the repayment terms for the \$60,000 government loan; could result in \$20,000 extra
 - ii. Andrew Rusheleau moves to accept the budget as presented. Marissa seconds. Carried unanimously.

10. Acceptance of Financial Reports

- Once the audited financial statements are completed, they will be shown to the board for voting.
- Andrew Rusheleau moves to change to Servus Credit Union as the AFA's financial institution. Kali Sayers seconds. Carried unanimously.

11. Bylaws Review and Discussion

- No new bylaw changes.

12. Policy Manual Review and Discussion

- Andrew Rusheleau moves to accept the current policy manual and the changes that were made, with future review to come. Eden seconds, accepted unanimously.
- Andrew suggests that the first order of business of the new board's policy committee to review, clean up and consolidate the manual.

13. Other Business

- a. Canada Games 2023
 - i. Going well, Michelle and Spencer are on top of things
- b. Casino event 2023
- c. Alberta Games 2024
 - i. Playoffs to be held between September and November 2023
- d. Club Round Table and Final Questions

14. Election of Board of Directors

- Lory nominates Mark Samuel, Mark accepts.
- Svetoslav nominates David Cymbaluk. David accepts.
- Kali nominates Richard. Richard accepts.
- Eden nominates Will. Will accepts.
- Mark nominates Svetoslav. Svetoslav accepts.
- Will nominates Katie Du, pending acceptance.
- Kali nominates
 - a. Kayla Brehon, pending acceptance,
 - b. Alex Wong. Alex accepts.
 - c. Grace Kan. Grace accepts.
 - d. Boris Bojanov. Boris accepts.
 - e. Andrei Filanov. Andrei accepts.
 - f. Michelle Ostrihoff. Michelle accepts.
- Svetoslav nominates Orlin. Orlin accepts.

15. Adjournment

- Andrew Rusheleau adjourns the meeting at 7:47pm. Seconded by Kali Sayers.

President's Report

I would like to start by thanking everyone today for taking the time and making the effort to attend our 2022 Annual General Meeting; your input, interests, and feedback are, as always, very important to this association so you all being here is appreciated. Thank you to those who continue to support the Association and who participate in the AGM year after year, and I extend a warm welcome to any who are attending their first AGM.

I will be spending some time in my report recapping the past year and acknowledging some of the issues and setbacks we've dealt with, recognizing the achievements and growth, and recognizing some of our key people and perhaps touching upon some thoughts for our future.

I want to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve this community as your President. Last year at our Annual General Meeting, I made the decision that this year would be my last in this role and after 9 years as the AFA President, I will be stepping down at the end of this year. 2022 has certainly been a challenging one for the AFA, and unfortunately this has also been true in my personal life, culminating with the passing of my Father-in-Law a couple of months ago, which has meant that I have not had the time or energies needed to for this position which has cemented the decision for me.

I have reflected on my journey with the AFA the last couple of days and on what I envisioned for the organization over the years and in the year to come, and while I can't say that the past year has been what I wanted it to be, I am still proud of the work that we've accomplished during my tenure and with the way our community members and staff have stepped forward to work for, and to grow, this community and sport. This year has been very challenging and a year of rapid change, setbacks and obstacles, and retooling and rebuilding but I am confident now that moving forward into next year the AFA will be able to continue to deliver valuable programming and to find and add value for our members and clubs.

While our focus has been on supporting our membership and the association through COVID-19, as continue to move into a post COVID-19 world, we continue to seek opportunities to promote the AFA and support our community and members and I have to say that the energy and enthusiasm I've seen in the latter half of this year has been amazing. I would like to congratulate you all for your hard work and resilience through this trying time and for getting back into the clubs and out to tournaments with such gusto.



It's been a wild year, but I thought I would start this next part with some gratitude. I want to say Thank you to my fellow Directors and committee members for adapting, adding extra meetings, taking the time to read and respond to what has felt like endless emails, jumping in to help address issues, and for continuing to lean in to your volunteer roles while family lives and work lives have been so much more demanding. Thank you all for your personal commitment to the AFA.

I'd like to extend my profound thanks to Maia Rathwell, our multitalented and incredibly dedicated Executive Director, for stepping back into that role seamlessly midway through the year after the departure of her predecessor, and pivoting every aspect of what we do to address the Operational issues we were facing and resolving them all one after another with grace. It is not an understatement to say that we would probably not be here today if not for her efforts and dedication.

It is unfortunate and frustrating that we found ourselves facing many of those issues, and as the President, I take responsibility for that situation. I do want to assure you that we have taken measures and made changes to help ensure that this is not something that can be repeated in the future. Moving forward, I think that it is very important to continue to work on and develop good governance policies and clear, concise, operational procedures. To that end, I want to say another big thank you to the Policy group who have put in a lot of hours this past year working towards that goal; there is still a lot of work to be done in this sphere, and I'd encourage anyone that is interested to consider volunteering to help with this important work.

We have had all manner of issues with Banking, Accounting/book keeping, and Operations but have taken whatever steps and actions available to remedy those issues. We have ended our relationship with our former book keeper and accountant and engaged King Business Solutions in that capacity which has been a refreshingly positive experience to date; in addition, we have finally moved to digital for most aspects of our business which has served to streamline operations and ensure better accountability and transparency. As a result of the abysmal service and timeliness of deliverables from Scotia Bank we are also actively exploring options for an alternative Banking institution for next year. Despite these factors, and others such as the complete loss of paper records from the first half of the year by former contractors and operations staff, we are finally back at a point of confidence and understanding financially that we need to be moving into the new year. Maia has also righted the ship with respect to outstanding mandatory reporting obligations for the AFA with numerous Government bodies that had been ignored, neglected, and/or done poorly by former staff and she has done so in an admirably timely and efficient way.

Moving to some of the positives from this year, we have a great group of young athletes and coaches preparing for the Canada Winter Games who I want to wish all the best to next year and good luck. Maia and our Games team have begun working to coordinate and organize the next phase of Games preparation now that team selection has been completed and I'm very excited to see those plans coming together.

The AFA has been actively running officials and coaching courses which are starting to produce results and Maia has already scheduled several more across all technical and official fields for the New Year and I hope that we can continue this momentum and that we will see a new generation within our community develop into lifelong participants.

A much deserved word of acknowledgement here to the EPIC fencing club, for their volunteers, and to Maia for successfully organizing and hosting the first couple of tournaments since the COVID lockdowns, which were very successful, and extremely well attended and an amazing way to get back into Fencing.

Additionally, Maia has been actively working with several of our stakeholders to find funding opportunities and has been quite successful in those endeavours resulting in several grants being awarded to our members this season already.

I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to also acknowledge the achievements and accomplishments of our amazing Alberta Fencers and Coaches who have represented Canada all around the world and who continue to make this Province and Country proud.

Briefly touching on the CFF, there have been several different issues with the National body which have severely tested the mettle and patience of myself, my fellow Directors, Staff, and Volunteers this past year but we continue to advocate for our members and for Alberta and there are a couple of future possibilities we are in conversation about. We are committed to trying to bring large National and International events to the Province and we continue to work towards those goals and are in ongoing conversations with the CFF to the end.

To the departing members of my Board, I would like to humbly express my gratitude for your contributions to this organization and wish you all the best in whatever endeavours you are moving on to – thank you. I have said it during many Board meetings but will repeat it one last time, I appreciate so very much that this Board has been as good to work with, despite all the turmoil and obstacles we faced this year, and I thank you for your service.



In closing, I feel honoured to have been given the chance to serve this community for so long in this capacity and would like to depart with the following thoughts to share with you. This is *our* AFA and it runs on the passion, work, and energy of its volunteers and I want to encourage you to consider for yourselves and for your club members what matters to you and to bring those things to the AFA and share them with us all. I'd like to see more people become involved in the Board and the Committees and work towards growing and bettering this sport, especially our young people, who bring so much to the community and drive so much of what we do. On a similar note, and in the spirit of cooperation and participation, I want to impress upon those same people who step up to join the Board and Committees that it *is* their AFA and that we should work together to grow and that their obligation becomes to focus on what's best for our whole community and on how to build and strengthen it because we are truly stronger together. I wish everyone all the very best and hopefully I will see you on a Piste or around a venue in the future.

Kind Regards,

Andrew Rusheleau

Executive Director's Report

AFA Executive Director Report AGM 2022

Since I was hired in March of this year, my focus was making sure the sport of fencing has a full comeback after covid. Many leaders left the sport during the last 2 years, and knowledge transfer didn't fully occur. Therefore, aside from ensuring operational and ongoing matters are taken care of, my job was to organize a lot of development clinics and courses, and many more will follow this season.

The list below of my work has been borrowed extensively from my performance review the President and the Board completed recently.

1. Operations:

- Applied for and received the Safe Sport grant which will be used throughout the season to improve our lack of policies and procedures in this important area of development.
- Applied for and received the Canadian Sport Institute Calgary CWG enhancement grant to support Epic's ongoing HP efforts - wouldn't be possible without Alex Martin.
- The AFA has been given its next casino date in March of 2023. Notice has been sent to clubs, and some of them are already organizing volunteers.
- Conducted a complete review of the 2M registration process and made corrections and changes as needed - final recommendation is to change the system completely.
- Scheduled the AFA AGM to coincide with the Jujie Luan Open, as well as referee practical clinic
- Completed the renewal process for the Association's liability Insurance and executed a new agreement, ensuring certificates are issued to our members on an ongoing basis
- Updated or created dozens of outdated files and lists, which is still an ongoing process. AFA's laptop was wiped before my arrival and we're missing a lot of essential documents.
- Initiated a review and subsequent update of the AFA website- currently ongoing.
- Addressed issues with the levels and quality of service being provided by our contracted social media company resulting in a staffing change and subsequent immediate improvements.
- Continued oversight of CWG programs, and initiated requests for review and changes on several Policy documents and sections pertaining to the CWG after identifying issues. Assisting our coach and manager in familiarizing with Games procedures. Attended the coordinators meeting in Calgary.
- Provided ongoing reports to the Board on the status of mission critical problems that were being addressed.
- Addressed the serious SafeSport issue in Calgary that was brought to our attention including meetings with our Sport Consultant and her Superior resulting in Policy changes to better protect ourselves and our members.
- Exploring 2M alternatives as directed by the Board. In discussion with a software developer to determine AFA's need for the next season.
- Provided ongoing continuous education and support to clubs that had no knowledge transfer after covid and need extra assistance



- About a third of the 6000 emails in my info@fencing.ab.ca inbox were written since I was hired - needless to say it's impossible for me to list all operations I've performed since.

2. Financials and Reporting:

Scotia Bank:

- In cooperation with the President and after many delays and setbacks with the bank, had the Signing authorities corrected and then updated; new debit banking cards issued, re-enrolled our required GIC into a much more profitable program, procured months of old statements and records that were lost by the previous accountant in order to complete required AGLC reporting, resolved online banking issues around inability to view transactions and history.
- Asked for recommendations from the Board/clubs and Percy Page residents in hopes to find a better financial institution for the AFA and received 8 recommendations for Servus Credit Union and 7 for ATB. We'll be switching our bank- the operational issues with Scotiabank are now minor, but ongoing.

Bookkeeping:

- Engaged a new Accountant/bookkeeper after finding that the levels of responsiveness and service we were receiving were not sufficient from our former contractor. Canvassed the Percy Page building for recommendations and established a relationship with King Business Solutions, with whom we now have a healthy and working relationship.
- Arranged for the set up and implementation of Hubdoc for uploading and creating invoices.
- Arranged for the set up and implementation of Plooto for online banking and payroll solutions not available effectively through Scotia Bank.
- Conducted multiple meetings, working on the year-end financial audit and report.
- Finalized the new budget once the books are reconciled
- Addressed all outstanding invoices and bills and ensured that cheques were issued.

Reporting:

- Resolved outstanding CRA remittance issue from 2019.
- Resolved other issues with our taxes resulting from improper/erroneous submissions.
- ADP (Provincial government funding grant):
 - Reviewed past submissions and addressed their lack of quality and detail with our Government Representative and submitted much improved documents for the upcoming funding cycle including a new budget, business plan, and supporting materials. As a result, we have secured our next funding installment.
 - Completed the second part of ADP accountability requirements and identified a lot of missing policies that will be crucial for the AFA to develop this season
- Completed and submitted the Society's overdue annual return documents for this year.
- Worked on the year-end financial report with our bookkeepers, met multiple times for the purpose of sorting and identifying the missing documents and financial records, as well as misplaced expenses and revenues

- Coordinating the Donation Fund in collaboration with SPAR consultants
- Casino report:
 - Managed to submit all overdue Casino reporting
 - Made repayments to the Casino account ultimately on only two items.
 - We were not able to host Casino events until reporting was resolved, but have now been awarded our next date.
- In Motion grant:
 - Addressed long overdue to be spent grant money and spoke with the funding partner and was able to allocate the funds towards the registration fees for the 4 ladies who recently participated in the CFF comp-dev clinic.
 - Alex Martin was certified as comp-dev in October
 - Michelle Ostrickoff was certified as comp-intro in November

3. Athletes:

- Summer camps: the AFA offered subsidies for cadet athletes (priority to CWG athletes) in amounts of up to \$200 with 25 athletes applying - funds were distributed.
- Veteran's Camp: Helped to organize and set up the Veteran's training camp leading up to Veteran World Championships.
- Worked on generating and tracking the database of athletes who would receive monies as part of the new AB Cup Bounties.
- Working on the CWG Program: Ongoing work to ensure the goals and outcomes of the CWG are going to be met; working to make sure that our Coach and Manager are able to fulfil the coaching requirements of attending the games and finalizing the qualifying events and rules.
- Planning a Veterans summer camp with an Italian coach, visited potential venues and discussed the potential to expand it to women's foil/sabre HP camp

4. Coaching:

- Organized a Comp-dev clinic hosted at Epic; AFA provided 100% subsidy of all our member's fees associated with participation.
- Ongoing support for comp-dev evaluation for our Games staff, resulting in one comp-intro certification; seeking exemption for our Games coach with the Council
- CFF Coaching development: ongoing collaboration in planning instructor-beginner and new comp-intro clinic for beginning of 2023
- Began serving as member of the CFF coaching committee and the head of CFF LTD (Domestic development) committee with the beginning of the new season
- Met with S4L colleagues and will continue the work we halted 7 years ago around fundamental CFF LTD documents - will result in a functional booklet for clubs and coaches to use by the end of this season

5. Officials:

- Organized and supported the online referee clinic with Mark Stasinoss held in October for 30 participants
- Held 3 in person referee written exams in both Edmonton and Calgary to ensure everyone who didn't have a chance to take the exam in the recent years has that chance
- Organized an in-person certification and referee clinic with Mark Stasinoss during the Jujie Luan Open in November
- Planning another online clinic with Mark in January, and another in-person certification in February
- Planning a higher level referee course with Vasil Milenchev in April, with a potential in-person clinic during our Provincials
- Started a review of the referee development policies, and budgeting an expert review of our education and certification procedures
- Organized a DT short course with an FIE expert to ensure EFC volunteers are better prepared to run their second tournament of the season + session was recorded for all clubs to use it
- A longer, more extensive clinic on how to run a tournament to follow in December
- Established a good relationship with Antoine Gouin, a national level armourer from Quebec, who will be holding some of our development clinics in the future. With Orlin's assistance, starting to establish an armourer development system for AB
- Planning a safety online clinic next year with a long standing member of EFC SEMI commission

6. Tournaments:

- Schedule of events received from clubs and posted on the AFA website.
- Working very hard to help EFC organize both of their November events at the Garrison; dealing with subsequent complaints from the venue staff and helping repair the relationship.
- CFF Canada Cup: the AFA declined the CFF's request to bid on hosting the October Canada Cup after consultation with hosting partners.
- Alberta Winter Games 2024: Completed and submitted AB Fencing's application to participate; as well as the initial meetings with our AB Sport liaison.
- Started serving on the CFF Competitions committee in November in hopes to eventually be able to provide Provinces the yearly schedule in a timely manner
- AFA equipment rental contracts, handling and shipping procedures review in progress

7. Communication:

- Tourism Calgary: Met with Cheryl Bernard in person and discussed potential partnership around our future international events bids. There is a good relationship established and there are possible opportunities in the future.
- World Veteran Champions in Zadar, Croatia - attended and met with many partners; discussed the international bids, referee development with key CFF, USFA and FIE people
- Website: after the initial redesign of the website to ensure it's customer oriented and easy to navigate; small improvements are ongoing on a regular basis.
- Social media: There has been noticeable improvement after a new manager was put in place; lots of positive feedback from the community

- Coach Communication: Created an email group for coaches so that we have a better avenue for sending out relevant information + ongoing communication through all channels
- Responding to emails and messages in a timely fashion and making sure correspondences are followed up on.
- Ongoing and positive communication towards the CFF leadership team has resulted in a much more responsive and collaborative approach from their side.

Summary:

While it's impossible for me to list everything in this report, I have done my best to summarize the most important steps forward we've made in the last year.

AFA's financials and documents were not well kept during the most recent years, resulting in much more work than I anticipated being required in those areas. However, it was crucial for me to ensure all outstanding problems that could collapse the PSO were dealt with: CRA payments, annual society return, financial reporting to our grant funding partners. It was almost as equally important to restart all developmental programs AFA is responsible for; coaching, officiating, camps, etc. Unfortunately, the AFA will be showing a loss on our income statements for the fiscal year under review, which will decrease my ability to successfully apply for grants. However, the first time I was hired in 2011, a similar income statement was audited that year, and we managed to bring those numbers significantly higher within 2 seasons, and even hired additional staff.

One thing I want to mention is that I'm sure I would not be able to accomplish most of what's listed in this report, if I hadn't already had an excellent working relationship with key sport leaders in Alberta. Whether it's my former colleagues from AB Sport, both development and Games departments, or other S4L, CSI, CAC, FIE, EFC, USFA and other connections I've formed throughout the years, this would absolutely not be possible. They had the understanding, patience and willingness to figure out the best possible solution for any and all of the problems I came to them with. Also, as many of them pointed out, it was very smart of the AFA to hire someone with experience.

I presented the AFA Board and President with many challenges and tasks in the recent months, and I have to sincerely thank them for the patience and tremendous amount of work that they've done.

I also have to sincerely thank the Alberta fencing community, for welcoming me back into this role and assisting in every way possible, understanding the complexities of ongoing problems, and offering their support wherever possible.

To conclude - I will do my best to continue this work, but it won't be possible without efforts from the whole community. I'm grateful for all of you positive helpers who show up consistently, or when you're most needed. Thank you!

Maia Rathwell

Armoury Committee Report

Chair: Orlin Bojanov

Members:

- Andrew Rusheleau
- James Seigel
- Trevor Plitt
- Douglas Carstead
- Elya Perritt

Armorer report 2022

Orlin Bojanov <orlinkb@gmail.com>
To: "ed@fencing.ab.ca" <ed@fencing.ab.ca>, Andrew R <izhora@gmail.com>

Sat, Nov 26, 2022 at 4:47 AM

Here is the link to my report:



It is also illustrating the tracking system for the equipment I am proposing.

A QR code sticker will be attached to each piece of equipment we would like to track with a link to a google drive document that will list the information we would like to store for that particular piece of equipment. Only the people on the armoury committee could edit these documents, but everybody else could instantly scan the code and get information about the equipment.

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Orlin Bojanov
C: +(1) 403 483 3618



Athlete Development Report

Chair: Richard Bezemer

No report attached.

Policy and Bylaws Committee Report

Policy Committee Report

Chair: Andrew Rusheleau

Priorities and Overall tasks for the year:

- Created Canada Winter Games Selection Criteria
- Adopted by the Board
- Created and then further revised Alberta Cup tournament policies
- Adopted by the Board
- Expanded policy around membership registration and declarations to address an issue and future proof against similar situations while providing tools to better address member(ship) issues.
- Adopted by the Board

Through the course of the last couple of Board meetings we became aware of the fact that Policy changes that the Committee had made during the early days of COVID (2019) as part of a complete Policy Manual Review were not reflected in the official Policies posted on the AFA website. We were initially unable to find any record of this work at the time of this realization and very unfortunately for us, the now departed Executive Director responsible for keeping record of those changes, organizing the Google drive, and updating the Official Policies document wiped everything on the AFA laptop with his departure and failed to perform any of those tasks. As a result, I spent a number of hours combing through the AFA drives and emails and have finally today found a copy of those changes and verified that none of them have been reflected. However, their recovery is very good news because we have not lost all of the work that we did revising those policy sections and it will not be very difficult to review them and approve them once again. The only unfortunate part is that now those changes will need to be reviewed and compared with the existing policies to see where other changes have been made or added since then and ensure that we don't have overlap or inconsistency.

It is therefore my adamant recommendation that this review and update/correction be of highest priority for the next board so as to ensure that we have the most robust and up to date policies and procedures with which to operate off of. The Policies form the backbone of, and effectively are, the job description for the Executive Director as well as serving to protect and guide the Association and our Members and they need to be the strongest they can be to help ensure and facilitate that.

Copies of the Policy changes have been forwarded to the Executive Director for safe keeping and reference and will be properly documented.



The Bylaw Committee does not have anything to report this year.

Andrew Rusheleau

Financial Committee Report

Chair: Amy Chen

Members:

- Andrew Rusheleau

We received the draft financial statements for the fiscal year 2022, and we are waiting for the audited financial statements to be finalized. Based on our past experience, there may be some adjustments to the draft financial statements. Therefore, this report provides the estimated financial position. There was no 2022 budget provided; this report is comparing the 2022 draft financial statements with the 2021 audited financial statements.

In 2022, we resumed all of our regular activities before Covid. We hosted tournaments and camps as well as more athlete development events. We also received more funding for Canada Winter Games. However, the overall gross revenue decreased while the operating expenses increased, creating a deficit in the range of \$40,000 to \$30,000 in 2022 fiscal year.

2022 vs 2021 Profit & Loss Actual

In the 2022 fiscal year, the overall total gross revenue dropped by \$33,000, which is more than 20% of the gross revenue in the 2021 fiscal year. The membership fee increased by \$10,000, and the tournaments fee also increased by \$31,000. However, Casino revenue reduced by \$40,000, and the funding received also reduced by around \$41,000. Therefore, the total gross revenue decreased. However, the Canada Winter Games funding received in 2021 fiscal year in the amount of \$14,100 was deferred. There is no adjustment on this amount of deferred revenue in the 2022 draft financial statements. I believe that this amount of the funding should be realized in 2022. If it is the case, then the adjusted overall gross revenue in 2022 was actually dropped by \$17,000 after the adjustment.

With more activities incurred in 2022, there were more operating expenses: increased athlete development, facility rental, tournament costs, and marketing and promotion expenses. There was \$5,000 more marketing and promotion expenses in 2022, but the membership fees received were at the similar level of 2020. The total of tournaments expenses was \$10,000 more than the tournaments fee received. On the other side, the wages paid in 2022 was reduced by around \$7,000.

2022/2023 Budget

We are hoping to continue our regular activities and host national level tournaments, i.e. Canada Cup or Championships.

Recommendations:

I would recommend the board continue making efforts to recruit more athletes to increase membership fees income and the associated income from tournaments, summer camps, equipment sales, etc. The board may also try to bring the Casino revenue back to its past range of \$40,000 to \$50,000. I also encourage the Board to investigate better channels for target member marketing.



Technical and Coaching Report

No report attached.



Secretariat Committee Report

No report attached

Veterans Committee Report

Chair: David Cymbaluk

Members:

- Andrew Rusheleau
- Michelle Ostrikoff
- Colin Longhurst
- Richard Bezemer
- Svetoslav Marinov
- Eden Koster
- Mark Samuel
- Elya Perritt?

Looking back.

This past year has been a productive year for veterans fencing in Alberta.

With the restart of fencing, participation in veterans events has been good. However, there is still work to be done to ensure that veterans foil and veterans sabre events run and just importantly that both women's and men's events run rather than running as combined events.

August saw the Commonwealth Fencing Championships run in London England. Five Alberta veterans participated and four medals were earned. Mark Samuels earned gold in men's epee and silver in men's team epee. Eden Koster earned a bronze in women's team sabre, and David Cymbaluk earned bronze in men's team sabre.

We only had one participant at the Veteran's Fencing World Championships (VFWC) so hopefully that will improve this next year with the 2023 event being in Florida.

For the first time this past year a veteran's training camp was hosted by the AFA. We had 11 people participate with more people expressing interest, but unable to attend due to conflicts on the weekend it was held. The feedback was universally positive.

In the spring, I recommended to the Board that we discontinue our exploration of making a bid to host the VFWC. The Board accepted my explanation for doing so and no further work has been done on the subject.

Looking ahead.

We have taken the feedback from last years camp and are using it in planning an event for 2023. Hopefully we will have firm dates and a venue established by the end of January so that people can start planning well in advance. At the VFWC, the Italian Federation expressed interest in



holding a training camp in Canada and we made them aware of our interest in working with them. Preliminary discussions have occurred and will pick up pace in the coming months.

At the VFWC, the head of the CFF Veterans Committee made a lengthy argument for us to reconsider making a bid to host a future VFWC. I made no commitment beyond discussing the subject further with the Board. The Board has had some discussion on the subject but has formed no consensus or made any decision about re-engaging on this subject, or completely abandoning it.

During the week of November 14th, the CFF Veterans Committee and the CFF Executive Director both forwarded a notice to submit an “Expression of Interest” for the 2024 Commonwealth Veterans Fencing Championship. As this was after the last Board meeting, the Board has not discussed this. I forwarded the notice to individuals who had volunteered to work on the VFWC bid for comment and to bring their opinions to this meeting. In discussions with the AFA Executive Director she and I reached the opinion that it was not possible to proceed with such an event without significant buy in from the AFA community. By buy in, I mean a willingness of people to step forward to do the work necessary to complete a bid by the submission deadline of January 31, 2023. This is a very short time period which means that it would be an excessive amount of work without a good number of people to share in the work.

With the approval of the membership and the Board, I look forward to continuing as Chair of the Veterans Committee.

David Cymbaluk,
Veterans Committee Chair.

University Committee Report

Chair: Michelle Ostrihoff

Members:

- ?

The focus of this year was to reignite the University Committee following Covid shutdown. Before 2020, the University Committee was making great strides towards a number of goals. The university event held during the last Don Laszlo tournament was a great success, bringing in more participants than before. This year, the university division will again appear at the Don Laszlo event in Calgary and I hope we can allocate resources towards ensuring a robust competition for the participants. Our other goal was to develop a questionnaire for athletes at university to identify barriers or issues to participation in fencing. The committee created the survey and passed it to the ED and Chair but unfortunately has not been worked on since that time. The priority at this point will be to finish the survey and make it functional and have it administered by season's end.

Michelle Ostrihoff

Canada Winter Games Athlete Selection Committee

Chair: William Sacuta

Committee Members:

- Katie Du (AFA Board Members)
- Andrew Rusheleau
- Maia Rathwell (ex-officio)
- Elya Perritt
- Spencer McPhedran (CWG Team Manager) was also involved in discussions but did not sit on the committee.

Activity:

During March and April, we built out selection criteria into what would be the final selection criteria. Selection Criteria were ratified by the board by e-vote in April 2022.

Selection Criteria Specifics:

The committee was faced with a lot of complexities to consider, many of which resulted from uncertainty around Covid and Covid protocols. In particular, Covid-related complications made it difficult to forecast events being able to be held as well as athlete attendance. Below is an outline many of the major decisions made by the committee as well as the reasoning behind them.

1. Usage of dedicated CWG Ranking Points instead of Provincial rankings
 - The committee opted to use a separate ranking system with the intention of reducing potential sources of variance given external uncertainties
2. Selection events to include Alberta Circuit only
 - The intention of this was to encourage athletes to participate in provincial circuit events wherever possible
 - As a result of the 2022-2023 Canada Cup schedule and locations not being published early enough in the year, we chose not to use these tournaments as selection criteria
 - As CWG is a cadet event this year, accessibility of qualification events was a priority, which is why no other out of province tournaments were chosen
3. Results from best 3/5 events instead of all qualification events
 - Due to external uncertainties around Covid, specifically the heightened risk of athletes becoming sick and missing qualifying events, we thought it best to allow flexibility to athletes in obtaining qualification points. This mitigates the disadvantage that an athlete would face as a result of missing a qualifying event due to sickness
4. Double points for provincial championships
 - AFA board as well as many provincial coaches wanted to emphasize performance at Provincial Championships and encourage participation. As such, point values for 2022

Provincial Championships were doubled. This has historical precedent, as Provincials typically counts for twice the points of an ordinary provincial circuit event in provincial rankings

5. Non-mandatory team training events
 - Again, due to complexities of Covid, the committee thought it best to specify that training camps were mandatory *barring exceptional circumstances* instead of just having them as mandatory events as they have been historically (though historically this rule has also not been enforced)
6. Exclusion of Jujie Luan Open from qualification
 - JLO was not used as a qualifying event because the tournament was not confirmed far enough in advance, and by the time it was confirmed the selection date had been announced and JLO would be happening after it.

Reflections:

- These criteria were put together too late in the selection process. In future, they should be done ideally one year in advance, or at the very least confirmed prior to the qualifying season(s) of the Games. This should be made easier by having this year’s criteria to build off of.
- I personally feel that the weighting of points could be adjusted, both scaling it down and reducing the disparity between first, second, and third-place finishes. Under the current system, the disparity gives a lot of weight to top-finishing a single event (which is important for consideration), and skews even higher for provincials. This is problematic when essentially 3 events are being used for qualification. Please see below for my suggested point values.

2023 Selection Point Values		
	Result	Points
Top 4	1	40
	2	30
	3	20
Top 8	5	16
	6	14
	7	12
	8	10
Top 16	9 – 16	7
Top 32	17 - 32	5

Suggested Point Values		
	Result	Points
Top 4	1	20
	2	16
	3	12
Top 8	5	8
	6	7
	7	6
	8	5
Top 16	9 – 16	3
Top 32	17 - 32	2

Ad Hoc Canada Winter Games Advisory Committee 2021-2022

Chair: William Sacuta

Members:

- Katie Du (Board member)
- Michelle Ostrikoff (Board member, also CWG coach),
- Andrew Rusheleau
- Maia Rathwell (ex-officio)
- Alex Martin

Purpose: The scope of the committee is to be oversight and guidance of the CWG programs and to provide support as needed.

Timeline: Committee established in August 2022

Activity:

- Established high-level goals, including building team chemistry, using external resources available to us (e.g. sports psychology/nutritionists available to us)
- Work to ensure that coach (Michelle Ostrikoff) and team manager (Spencer McPhedran) have NCCP Comp-Dev Certification required by CWG organizers
 - AFA provided financial support so that both Michelle and Spencer could enroll in courses to achieve this certification, and so that they could travel to Canada Cup #1 during October to be evaluated
 - As of the time of writing this report, still waiting on confirmation that both have passed their evaluations. Note that team manager is not required to have Comp-Dev certification, though coach is
- Worked with team manager to implement selection criteria
 - Currently still waiting on confirmation from most athletes

Reflection:

- Going forward, it would be best if all Canada Games-related activities are handled by a single committee, that encompasses coach/manager selection, athlete selection, and general Canada Games support
- This committee should also be established and maintained further in advance, ideally the season prior to each Games occurring