**Ontario Fencing Association AGM**

**Sunday, December 3, 2017**

**Markham PanAm Games Centre,**

**16 Main St., Unionville, ON L3R 2E5**

**Minutes**

**Attendance List**

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| **Name** | **Representing** |
| **Lucie Hamelin** | **OFA President,** |
|  | **Metroblades,** |
|  | **My Fencing Club,** |
|  | **Stratford Fencing Club,** |
|  |  |
| **Michael McDonnell** | **OFA Treasurer,** |
|  | **Newmarket Fencing Club** |
|  | **Trent Valley Fencing Club** |
|  |  |
| **Bogdan Damjanovic** | **OFA Secretary,** |
|  | **Royal Military College Fencing** |
|  |  |
| **Brad Winder** | **Canadian Fencing Academy** |
|  | **University of Western Ontario Fencing Team** |
|  | **Mustang Sword Club** |
|  | **Ryerson Fencing Club** |
|  |  |
| **David Li** | **Hua Hua Fencing Club** |
|  |  |
| **Corinne Ballot** | **Toronto Fencing Club** |
|  |  |
| **Jacob Grimshaw** | **Excelsior Fencing Club,** |
|  | **Westdale Fencing Club** |
|  |  |
| **Thomas Nguyen** | **Officials Committee Chair** |
|  | **University of Toronto Fencing** |
|  |  |
| **Maxime Brinck-Croteau** | **Tech Director and HP Committee** |
|  | **Vango Toronto Fencing Center** |
|  |  |
| **Kristina Han** | **Admin director** |
|  |  |
| **Allan Fein** | **McMaster Varsity Fencing** |
|  |  |
|  | **Guests/Non-Voting Representatives** |
| **Paul Godin** | **University of Toronto** |
| **Steve Chen** | **Hua Hua** |
| **Dimitry Balashov** | **University of Toronto** |
| **Dan Banks** | **Excelsior** |
| **Joseph Cheng** | **TFC** |
| **Gabby Weisz** | **Veterans** |
| **Alex Miklos** | **Independent** |
| **Eliane Ni** | **Hua Hua** |

1. **10:00 Registration Opens – Pre AGM Meet & Greet**
2. **10:47 Welcome** 
   1. **Call to Order and President's Welcome**
   2. **Introductions of Board and Staff**
   3. **Roll Call and Credentials**

24 Votes were registered out of the Total 47 Delegate Votes available. 16 votes were required in attendance for Quorum in 2017 (1/3). Quorum was achieved.

1. **10:48 Approval of Agenda as presented & Call for other business**

President wishes to add vulnerable sector clearance and president update on the AGENDA.

Nothing to add from others.

**Motion**: *That the agenda of the 2017 OFA AGM be approved.*

Moved by Thomas Nguyen, Seconded by Bogdan Damjanovic. **APPROVED unanimously**. ­­

1. **10:51 Lucie’s explanation for fee increase’s situation.**

Explained the reason of the increase and why it was important to cancel the increase. Modifications had to be made on the proxy regarding the fee structure.

Thomas Nguyen addressed the issue of democracy and if people want to complain/address an issue, the AGM is the place (not through a proxy). Everyone has to understand their role in a democratic system. He said that the OFA should make the members vote every year on the memberships fee.

**Motion**: *That the minutes of the 2016 OFA AGM be approved.*

Moved by Thomas Nguyen, Seconded by Bogdan Damjanovic. **APPROVED unanimously**. ­­

1. **11:03 Committee Presentations**
2. **Competitions Committee: Kristina Han in Tim Stang’s absence**

Update by Kristina Han because Tim Stang is not here and no information has been sent. Policies are written and working.

Committee chair: Tim Stang. Members Marcena Lau, John Makela, Jonathan Rennick, Mark Jeffrey, and William Kinney. They had challenges in established competitions meeting new standards of sanction. Some issues mentioned: hosting the vast majority of tournaments in GTA – this poses a problem for the east and west.

Carol Ballot proposed to hold a survey post event to get the parents’ feedback.

Other issues: the CFF and the OUA both make their own schedule without consulting the OFA and it creates a situation where the OFA has to wait until securing facilities and sometimes needs to change its schedule. Met some issues with the bid process to host Canada Cups. The process is there but not followed by CFF. The process should start from the club with the PSO’s support to the CFF but sometimes it’s done from the CFF directly to the club skipping the PSO. Another issue for HP fencers: Flying from Europe to Quebec City the following week if they wanted to meet the HPP points system and criteria. This will be brought up to the CFF.

1. **Complaints and Discipline Committee**

No complaints this year. Nothing to report.

1. **High Performance/Quest Committee: Maxime Brinck-Croteau**

Still waiting on ministry for Quest for Gold (QfG) program launch for this season. High Performance Development Program (HPDP) from last season was a big success. After all expenses, made over $4000 profit to be reinvested in this season’s program. Feedback (through MonkeySurvey) was very low (6 surveys filled out). Kristina suggested that it should be done on paper right after the event (clinic or camp). The program was a great value for the members: $250-$300 for a camp and 4 clinics. Members of the HPDP Committee believe that it must be linked to the QFG meaning that you have to be part of the HPDP in order to be eligible for Quest.

1. **Officials Committee: Thomas Nguyen**

Committee chair: Thomas Nguyen. Members: Kristina Han, Piotr Pilaszewicz, and Maxime Brinck-Croteau. The OFA standards are starting to be on the radar of the CFF (big pool to tap into). The committee is a leader in Canada and world-wide having reached parity (50% male and 50% female) among our referee candidates Huge difference compared to the rest of fencing Canada and also compared to other sports in Canada. Kristina suggests that the clubs should reach out to the committee if they need/want to send mentors to run a referee clinic at their club. Almost no complaints towards the referees during competitions. Most problems are defused by the mentors on the spot. The community starts to trust the referee system. Some of the reasons why the program is successful are: mentors addressing the issues/problems on the spot (defusing), having a female mentor (females have a very different reality and having a role model is also very important), organization of the program is well done (structure, infrastructure, follow-up, etc.), and active recruitment (approach fencers directly). Allan suggests VR to entwine with the referee video training (he has contact and “some” knowledge).

1. **Veterans Committee: Lucie Hamelin**

Two co-chairs: Ann Jolly and Vera Belaoussouf. Members are Rob McLean, Maxime Brinck-Croteau, and Kyle Foster. Replaced chairs after two years of inactivity. Maxime: small update regarding the planning for this year (clinic in east, west, and central).

1. **Ontario Winter Games (OWG): Lucie Hamelin**

Committee Chair: Lucie Hamelin. Members: Katya Belkina, Patrick Fournier, David Howes and Mark Jeffrey.

Biggest challenge with OWG is numbers. Given the shorter qualifying period, stemming from the change from the Summer Games to the Winter Games, it is hard to have people to participate to the Games. Plus it is in the middle of the seasons, fencers are focused on for points competitions.

1. **Youth Development Committee: Lucie Hamelin**

Youth is basically the OWG program for now but on it’s way to be a program on it’s own. Last year, youth provincial were great. Good feedback.

1. **12:35 to 12:53 PM Lunch Break**
2. **12:53 President update**

Meeting with ministry: Sport recognition: 4-5 pages feedback on things that are going well and things that we need to improve/focus on.

CFF AGM: AGM are a lot more civil than is used to be. Too civil because nothing to vote on really (other than board members). Not much of communication CFF-OFA.

Committee was set up to address the issue that not all members are registering. What value do OUA athletes or athletes registered in a 10-week-program receive? Some coaches really don’t believe that it’s necessary or logical. $5 first year, then pays normal fees? A lot of club members are not in some provinces are not paying CFF memberships. The policies are there but not reinforced by the CFF, by the OFA, by the clubs, by the coaches, by the members, by the parents. Price is also an issue. Some would be willing to do it for $5 but clearly not for $22.50 (which is the actual CFF part of any membership).

Thomas suggests to share the strategic plan and the implementation plan.

Allan suggests to share minutes of board meeting. People like to know about where they OFA-CFF are going and how things are doing.

1. **13:28 Vulnerable sector check: Bogdan Damjanovic**

What happens if a lawsuit is filed? The OFA is open and very vulnerable. Researched with other sports to do background checks. CFF has a way to do it but only on volunteer basis. Online criminal background check: $25 a piece. Proposal: volunteer basis for this year, then evaluate in order to make it mandatory. What would be the outcome of having a flag raised? Members suggested that some policy should be implemented to avoid certain situation (coach sleeping in the same room as young athletes. Maybe the complaints and discipline committee should get on it.). Member suggested that there should be an acceptance of equivalent for background check and not one specific check accepted only.

1. **13:47 Budget and Financials Report (Michael McDonnell)**

Until December 2016, (3 quarters of the year), nothing has been done by the last treasurer (Vivian Poon). Michael took over but had a lot of backlog to clear. A lot of missing data so the financial report is a work in progress. Working towards the minimum required for an audit. Working to get us back on track and to find all missing information. Thomas Nguyen suggested that it should be separated (officials expense, HPDP expense, coach development expense, etc.) (a break down is available). Allan suggested that it would be useful to have small budget for promotional tools (facebook ads, etc.) that could help the promotion of fencing in the entire province (value for everyone).

**Motion**: *That Norton McMullan be the official auditor for 2016-2017-2018.*

Moved by Michael McDonnell, Seconded by Dmitry Balashov. **APPROVED unanimously**. ­­

Question about ED being back or not? Board came to a conclusion that, at this time, it was difficult to find one person with all the required skills for the salary. Also, we are not really sure how many hours the job entails or exactly what are the tasks. Reached out to Kristina Han for admin part (part-time). Reached out to Maxime Brinck-Croteau for technical/HP part (part-time). Good feedback: works very well for now and the feedback has been great. Still need to work on some things but major improvement.

Lucie suggests that the (draft proposed) budget (which some information is missing) should be circulate later on with full information. Incomplete budget is available.

1. **14:17 Approval for the membership fees (2018-2019): Lucie Hamelin**

Still a lot of divided issues with the recreational fees being $35 or $45. Some for $35, some for $45, some for $0, some for being mandatory, some for ignore the membership completely.

**Motion**: *That the fees are accepted as is and that the finance committee gather the empirical evidence membership usage in relation to the fees changes.*

Moved by Michael McDonnell, Seconded by Dmitry Balashov. **APPROVED unanimously**. ­­

1. **14:33 Election of Officers: Bogdan Damjanovic**
   1. **President -Three Year Term**

Scrutineers: None required

Nominees: Lucie Hamelin

New Elected President: Lucie Hamelin by acclamation.

* 1. **Second VP – Three Year Term**

Scrutineers: Gaby Weizs and Steve Chan

Nominees: Paul Godin and Dmitry Balashov

New Elected Second VP: Dmitry Balashov

**Motion**: *That ballots be destroyed by secretary*.

Moved by Bogdan Damjanovic, seconded by Lucie Hamelin. **APPROVED**.

**Motion**: *That Michael McDonnell be the treasurer*.

Moved by Bogdan Damjanovic, seconded by Thomas Nguyen. **APPROVED**.

Allan asks if Michael needs help. Dmitry volunteers to help. Michael thanks Fidelia and Howard for their time.

Thomas suggests to fix a date for the AGM for 2018 regardless of CFF or other events. Suggests a summer time more than during the season. Lucie is open to suggestions. Thomas suggests earlier September. September 9th 2018 is proposed (or earlier) as a date for 2018 AGM.

1. **Other business**

**None**

1. **3:11 PM Adjournment**

**Motion**: *That the AGM be adjourned*.

Moved by Bogdan Damjanovic, seconded by Dmitry Balashov. **APPROVED**.

**2:35PM** Adjournment

Minutes approved by:

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Lucie Hamelin

President OFA