



FENCING FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA
MINUTES OF THE FFSA AGM
SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER AT 14H00

VIA ZOOM

- 1. WELCOME**
- 2. PRESENT AND APOLOGIES**

Present:

Mike Stafford – President
Gunter Schroder – Vice-President
Tony Rademeyer – Treasurer
Louise Lombard – Secretary General
Jessica Raper – EC Chair
Mariet Schroder – Free State Chair
Patrick Collings – FWC Chair
Chris Mostert – GFA Chair
Renuka Ramroop – Limpopo Chair

Joann Saner – National Competitions supervisor, invited

Various members of the provincial federations were present as observers.

Apologies:

Stuart Gibson – KZN Chair, proxy to Patrick Collings of FWC
Zet De Beer of Mpumalanga, not a voting member

Voting strength was also confirmed as based on 2019 numbers due to the fact that as at the date of Notice for the AGM being circulated we had only just received permission to return to training from the Minister:

President	1
Vice-President	1
Treasurer	1
Secretary General	1
Eastern Cape	2
Free State	2
Fencing Western Cape	2
Gauteng	2
Limpopo	1
KZN	2

Gauteng queried whether KZN had enough members for 2 votes to which Patrick Collings objected as holder of the KZN proxy and the Secretary General pointed out that as a member of KZN she could verify that there were 4 clubs each with more than 10 members, accordingly KZN has the 40+ members for 2 votes.

3. RATIFICATION OF 2019 AGM MINUTES

Proposed Vice-President, Seconded Jessica Raper

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No matters were raised.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President read his report to the meeting.

I would like to thank my fellow EXCO members for their dedication and hard work during the lockdown period where the EXCO gave of their time weekly in trying to keep our sport alive. 2020 has indeed been a very challenging year. We as EXCO resolved to hold weekly Zoom meetings in order to be able to be on top of action required to keep our coaches and their businesses alive which we considered to be a priority. To this end a lot of hard work was put into obtaining funding from Government as well as re-allocating much of our own funding to assist our coaches across the board.

We managed to get Louise Lombard onto the Covid War Room Committee of Sascoc which helped us to stay ahead of issues involved in getting the sport back to activity. We

planned, financed and implemented the training of compliance offices to ensure that the return of our clubs to fencing was done in a manner that complied with rules set out by Government. The President (myself) has built up a good relationship and communication with the new Sascoc President, Mr Barry Hendricks. We also organised a virtual training course during Lockdown for Foil and Epee refereeing which was extremely popular and well supported.

The EXCO had to comply with a lot of reports and paperwork from Department of Sport and Culture and we are pleased to report that this has resulted in us being given an increased annual grant which I believe is a great achievement given the economic circumstances of the country.

The EXCO is involved in giving sound leadership and guidance on some serious issues involving women in sport and this is an ongoing issue.

Administration

There have been no changes to the Executive committee in the 2019/20 year.

We have welcomed Mrs Renuka Ramroop as chair of Limpopo province in September 2019 and Mr Patrick Collings as chair of the Western Cape in February 2020.

Mr Manyane Sefalaru was elected as chair of the Athlete's Commission in August 2019. All other commissions have remained as is.

National competitions

National competitions as you are all aware have been severely curtailed due to Covid.

International results

We have noted some very strong international performances during the 2019/20 year, the following being of specific note (some of these were mentioned in my previous Presidents report but are interesting to note again):

- *Christiaan Bester had notable Junior World Championship 2019 results in April 2019 finishing 12/144 in Cadet Men's epee and 85/195 in Junior Men's epee.*
- *At the Senior World Championships in July 2019 Pasha Tychler finished 74 and Harry Saner finished 172 of 224 entries in the men's epee event.*
- *The senior women's epee team won Silver at the Senior African Championship in Mali in June 2019.*
- *Our Junior African Championship squad to Ghana in February 2020 did exceptionally well, returning with a Junior Women's epee silver, a Junior Men's epee bronze and a Junior Men's foil bronze.*
- *We have 6 fencers eligible to compete in Olympic qualifier, which was previously scheduled to take place in April 2020 in Egypt, but this has been pushed back by 1 year.*

Coaching

The national coaching body has been formalised and we have all of our paperwork in place to begin the RPL process for a number of our coaches.

Covid disrupted the coach development programme with the British Fencing with 2020 courses, workshops and examinations to be cancelled. These will be rescheduled to 2021.

FIE

The president attended the FIE Congress in December 2019 in Switzerland. There were no major decisions affecting Africa or South Africa. The World Championships 2021 are coming to Africa in the form of Egypt, this is the first time the event has been held in Africa since 1997.

We noted the initial impact of Covid-19 on international events when the FIE had to change the hosts of various international events during February and March 2020, which made international participation difficult for South Africa during this time due to the Visa requirements of different countries.

The 2020 FIE Congress has been cancelled in light of Covid-19.

Continental Confederation – CAE

We were represented by our secretary General, Mrs Louise Lombard, at the CAE annual meeting in Mali in June 2019. Mrs Lombard also attended the African Games where the CAE was supposed to hold their annual congress, however this did not take place as planned.

The 2020 CAE Congress has been cancelled in light of Covid-19.

Sascoc

Both myself and the Secretary General have played our part (and given up a lot of our time) together with many other sporting codes to ensure that firstly a special general meeting was held that enabled the recent subsequent holding of the QGM where a new board has been elected which we all believe will go a long way to healing the mistrust and issues that were evident between the old Sascoc board and the various federations.

Going forward we note that Covid-19 is presenting a myriad of new complications for sports management from March 2020 and we hope we can weather the storm.

The Treasurer offered a vote of thanks to the President for leading us through a complicated year for sport

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

6.1 Audited financial statements

The financial statements were sent to council with the Agenda and notice of the meeting.

The Treasurer noted that he had already sent out explanatory notes to the financials, but re-iterated the following:

There were noticeable fluctuations between the prior year and 2020 figures for the following items:

- Revenue - No Lotto grant received in 2020
- Accounting Fees in respect of administration of Lotto grant avoided in 2020
- Affiliation Fees No Commonwealth federation fees paid in 2020
- Banners No banners bought in 2020
- Coaches Support - Bigger SRSA grant received & spent in 2020
- Coaches Development As above
- Domestic Competition Support No significant variance or specific reason
- Donations Unable to secure donations in 2020
- Elite athlete support Reduced SRSA grant received & spent in 2020 & some own funds applied in 2019.
- Equipment insurance, transport and repair fees - Equipment storage decentralised resulting in less transport
- Lotto grant expenses – 2017 Balance of grant spent in 2019
- Medals and Awards - No special award trophies handed out in 2020
- Printing and Stationary 2019 included expenses incurred for a training course (none in 2020)
- Public relations - Outsourced Facebook promotion campaign started mid 2019
- Safeguarding - new programme initiated in 2020
- School's league - No SRSA grant received & spent in 2020
- Senior African Championship - No SRSA grant received for this in 2019
- Travel and Accommodation - 2019 included travel to a special strategy development conference. Fewer other meetings held in 2020
- Youth programme – local support No significant variance or specific reason

Financial statements proposed by the President and seconded by the Vice-President.

6.2 Appointment of auditors

The Treasurer reported that the current auditors had been accommodating in giving a discount for the preparation of the 2020 financial statements and have always been efficient.

Re-appointment of “Ballie, Koseff, Grobler Incorporated” proposed by Patrick Collings, seconded by Jessica Raper.

6.3 Business Plan 2020/21

Per the circulated Exco minutes, we received a few inputs from council and submitted the below to DSAC as our grant application:

- 1) ADMIN – Taking into consideration substantial reductions in travel expenses, insurance & accounting fees we could get by on R65 000 (R90 000 last year).
- 2) ATHLETE SUPPORT, LOCAL TRAVEL – 15 Development fencers to 3 competitions
= R120 000
- 3) RETURNING COACHES – 15 x R5000 ea. = R75 000
- 4) FENCING KIT FOR DEVELOPMENT FENCERS – 80 sets of jackets, masks & gloves.
= R125 000
- 5) ATHLETE SUPPORT, INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL – 2 Fencers = R80 000
- 6) BRITISH FENCING COACHING PROJECT = R35 000

We have subsequently been advised that we have been granted R509 000, which included and additional R9 000 for administration. We are awaiting payment of this grant. All categories are increases over the 2019 grant figures. We do not know if this is due to the department accepting inflation or Covid related assistance to federations

In respect of kit for development fencers to ensure no sharing due to Covid rules, it is agreed put this out to “tender” as soon as the funds are received and will require more specific wish lists from provinces

7. COMMISSIONS

7.1 Athlete’s Commission

7.1.1 Report

Report accepted, no queries on the report

7.2 Legal, Disciplinary & Dispute Commission

7.2.1 Report

Report accepted, no queries on the report

7.3 Competition Commission

7.3.1 Report

Report accepted, query raised by Patrick Collings on behalf of KZN in respect of the comment that there were no KZN fencers registered in 2020, when 2 in fact participated in the Cape Open in February 2020.

Tony Rademeyer, as outgoing Chairman of the Commission, raised the following points of importance for the incoming commission members:

- i. Training of provincial competition supervisors
- ii. Introduction of the new FIE adopted double-strap mask system
- iii. National competition structure

He further noted that strong people with competition experience are needed on this commission.

7.3.2 Calendar 2021

The Secretary General made the proposal that due to the difficulty reported by all provinces in easily or cost effectively securing venues that we reverse plan the calendar for 2021 ie that provinces say when and where they can host rather than being allocated dates, which may be even more difficult. Approved.

It is recorded that the Arnold Classic is set for 14-16 May 2021 and fencing has once again been invited to attend. If possible and subject to restrictions, we will use this for a national competition.

Gauteng advises that they may have access to the Pretoria church hall and in which case may hope to host a competition in mid-January. To advise council.

7.4 Refereeing Commission

7.4.1 Report

Report accepted, no queries on the report

7.5 National Team Management & Coaches Commission

7.5.1 Report

Report accepted, no queries on the report

7.5.1 Closure of Men's Epee Team Olympic Qualification project

It is accepted that there is no possible way to qualify a team at this stage and the project is officially closed.

Jessica thanked the participants in the project for their efforts.

Chris Mostert proposed that future projects of this type should be tendered for by coaches or administrators, as applicable, with specific promised outcomes, rather than be assigned by council. Approved.

7.6 Medical and Safety Commission

7.6.1 Report

No report received

7.7 Veterans Commission

7.7.1 Report

Report accepted, no queries on the report

8. ELECTIONS OF PERSONS TO COMMISSIONS

Those elected highlighted

8.1 Athlete's Commission

- Disabled member

No nomination was received for this position. Should any nominations arise, to be made via email and voting to take place via email.

8.2 Legal, Disciplinary & Dispute Commission

	Pres	VP	SG	Treas	EC	FS	GFA	KZN	Lim	WC	Total
Frankie Snyman							XX				2
Louise Lombard	X	X	X			XX			X	XX	8
Andrea Cabanac				X	XX		XX	XX			7
Adrian Bellengere	X	X	X	X	XX	XX		XX	X	XX	13
Rhea Morar	X	X	X	X		XX		XX	X	XX	11

8.3 Competition Commission

	Pres	VP	SG	Treas	EC	FS	GFA	KZN	Lim	WC	Total
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As there were only 3 nominations for up to 3 positions and there were no objections, all nominees were appointed.

8.7 Veteran’s commission

	Pres	VP	SG	Treas	EC	FS	GFA	KZN	Lim	WC	Total
Susan Agrella											
Pearl Signorile											

As there were only 2 nominations for up to 3 positions and there were no objections, all nominees were appointed.

9. CLOSURE

The President asked if anyone had any other issues to address that were not submitted for inclusion on the agenda. Nobody raised any issues.

Jessica Raper thanked the President and Exco for their efforts through the year.

The President thanked everyone for taking time out of their weekend to attend the AGM. He then wished everyone well and closed the meeting.