



**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY 8  
DECEMBER 2021**

**1. Welcome**

The president welcomed the members.

**2. Present and apologies**

Present:

Mike Stafford – President

Rhea Morar – Deputy-president

Louise Lombard – Secretary General

Apologies:

Tony Rademeyer – Treasurer

**3. Treasurer**

The President advised that Tony is in hospital, now an extended stay with details unknown. We wish him the best and trust that council do the same.

**4. GFA matters**

Rhea advised that the disciplinary hearings are complete and the findings and recommendations ought to be published shortly. The President highlighted the time that these disciplinary matters have taken thus far and notes his extreme concern. We were advised that there has been a lot of evidence to consider, request for extensions and recently new information has come to light, which has also had to be taken into account.



We have also received correspondence from Novak Perovic, the appointed administrator, that he is tired of being involved in GFA in-fighting and wishes to bring his involvement to an end and making recommendations going forward.

## **5. FIE Congress**

The Congress was attended by the President and Secretary General; as well as Novak Perovic as a member of the FIE Executive and Irina Knysch as a member of the FIE Refereeing Commission.

Unfortunately there was some overshadowing of events by the cancellation by most airlines of flights back to South Africa, but all were able to make it home safely and await the various airline refunds/credits.

The Congress is always an excellent opportunity to network with other countries and commission members and we hope to have created some opportunities for South African Fencing.

The CAE SGM took place during the Congress where the new updated statutes were finally approved, which brings these in line with the FIE Statutes. This process began in 2016.

The following appointments were made either at the Congress by voting or by the new Executive Committee afterwards, in line with the FIE Statutes:

Novak Perovic – Executive Committee

Irina Knysch – Refereeing Commission

Mike Stafford – Women & Fencing Council

Gennady Tyshler – Coaching Council

## **6. Calendar 2022**

We take into account the discussions of council in respect of the draft circulated and are particularly cognisant of the lateness in the year and the majority feelings expressed; and we agree to the following calendar:

Date	Event	Venue	Type	Qualifying cut off	Comments
5-6 February 2022	Eastern Cape Open	Port Elizabeth	National Open	Junior World Championships	Confirmed
28 February – 6 March 2022	Junior African Championships	Nigeria	Zonal	N/A	
7-8 May 2022	Gauteng Open	Johannesburg	National open	Senior African Championships, Senior World Championships & Commonwealth	TBC
2-10 April 2022	Junior World Championships	Dubai, UAE	FIE	N/A	
TBC June 2022	Senior African Championships	Morocco	Zonal	N/A	
24-25 June 2022	Junior Nationals	Limpopo	Nationals		TBC
15-23 July 2022	Senior World Championships	Egypt	FIE	N/A	
9-20 August 2022	Commonwealth	London	International	N/A	
17-18 September 2022	Senior Nationals	KZN	Nationals	N/A	TBC
10-11 December 2022	Cape Open	Cape Town	National Open	Junior African Championships 2023	TBC

Proviso to be published that the calendar remains subject to change due to Covid restrictions and government guidelines.

## 7. U23 International Events for selection

Verbal responses from the Competition and Athletes Commissions is that it would be unfair to include U23 international results as substitutes in our ranking lists as it is not the same as either U20 or Senior Age groups. Accordingly, we shall not include U23 results.

## 8. Junior African Championships

Due to Covid, travel restrictions, financial limitations and concerns over Nigeria hosting; we anticipate that we will have a small team to the Junior African Championships. To consider cost savings regarding the manager and referee requirements, in line with the team size. To ask Patrick his opinion regarding manager. To revisit this subject after selection, which is after the Cape Open.

## 9. Selection policy

This document has been prepared, circulated to Exco for first checking and the Legal Commission for checking at the same time to speed things up. It will then be

circulated to council for approval in line with the decision taken at the Selection Policy meeting.

#### **10. Safeguarding**

Various discussions have been had with the Gender Youth Transformation and Safeguarding Commission Chair regarding steps forward. Whilst we note her various concerns and the possibility of writing our own Safeguarding manuals and training programmes, the first step remains to finalise our Safeguarding policy in line with the decision at AGM and then nominate and appoint the permanent commission members as the current members remain those appointed to essentially set up the commission.

#### **11. Cape Open**

We are concerned with rising Covid numbers ahead of the weekend's competition and withdrawals of athletes, however the competition shall proceed and protocols be followed as strictly as possible. To request an urgent social media post reminding everyone of the protocols.

#### **12. General**

We are informed that the Cape Town Sports Awards includes a number of fencing nominees:

Patrick Collings as coach

Pumza Yantolo as athlete

Tatiana Thomatos as young athlete

We wish them all the best.

#### **13. Close**

Next meeting to be scheduled in the New Year. We wish all members of the South African fencing family and merry Christmas and a good new year.