



**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM ON FRIDAY 28
JANUARY 2022**

1. Welcome

The president welcomed the members and thanked Patrick for joining us as council representative in this new format. We look forward to working together for the good of fencing.

2. Present and apologies

Present:

Mike Stafford – President

Rhea Morar – Deputy-president

Louise Lombard – Secretary General

Patrick Collings – Council member

3. Bank accounts

Documents were duly forwarded to the bank and we have all done signatory forms this week. Louise has been into the bank to build a bank ID and has been advised to return on Monday to finish the process. Thereafter we should have full access to our bank accounts again. As soon as we have access, we shall process the development fencer sponsorship refunds.

4. Treasurer position

Rhea has studied the constitution, which clearly states at point 12.12-12.14 that a vacancy may be filled by a 30 day nomination period open to the provincial chairs,



sport & recreation
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Sport and Recreation South Africa
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Fencing Federation of South Africa
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Official web site: www.safencer.co.za.

whereafter there is a 7 day voting period in writing to the Head or alternative member of the Legal Commission. Thus the process can be completed entirely via email.

It would be preferred if all constituted provinces could be represented in this process.

Going forward, we will consider options regarding bookkeeping services, accountants and the like, but in consultation with the new treasurer.

5. National competitions

Louise reports that there have been many late license payments and parents chasing Penny about their child's license being issued when no payment or list had been received from the province. We urge provinces to deal with licenses more urgently and to ensure that their members understand the process.

A side discussion developed about the possibility of national membership and/or license value and payment methods. The issue of athlete insurance is to be revisited, other options considered and, if suitable, a proposal made to the AGM later in the year if feasible.

Jessica Raper, EC chair, said that issues ahead of the EC Open were able to be dealt in individual conversations, with so no meeting was required. We are looking forward to the EC Open and note the efforts being made by the organising committee.

6. SASCO

We have received a letter of introduction and a full set of contact details of the new CEO, Ms Nozipho Jafta. We have also received her PA's details and an invitation for federations to make contact should we require her assistance. We consider this a great step forward for SASCO, where federations previously had a difficult time

making contact with the previous Acting CEO. The President will make contact and introduce our federation to her.

As an Olympic federation, we have been invited to an Olympic preparation brainstorming session next week. Rhea to attend on our behalf.

7. USSA

The current chair of USSA has contacted Louise and requested verbally that USSA be created as a virtual province and a separate body within FFSA. Despite promises, no written correspondence to this effect has been received.

We understand that most university clubs are not even aware of this proposal and would reject it if asked.

Further, this does not fit with our existing structures, where university clubs are free to be members of the provincial bodies and university students are able to fence for their provinces.

8. Junior African Championships

Louise advises that due to concerns ahead of the competition, the CAE Executive Committee has required an inspection of the hotel and competition venue, as well as an enquiry into the visa costs and covid protocols and related costs. Feedback is expected within the week.

Regrettably, Tshepho Phakisi did not have and did not manage to obtain a passport before the 30 day limit on submission of teams to SASCOC so will not form part of the team.

The bulk of the team fly out on 20 February 2022. Costs for this event are particularly high and issues have already been experienced with the visa process.

Changes in the referee requirement rules stated that for Junior zonal events countries should send 1 referee per 5 fencers or pay the fine of E1000 per referee not sent. We have managed to negotiate to send 1 referee (Louise) who will work hard and not pay the second fine, with costs being just a little over the value of 1 fine.

We record that we are concerned that this team shows poor transformation and more effort is needed across the board grow and transform clubs.

9. Matters raised

The President and Deputy President have received communications from Dr Tyshler requesting that we spend DSAC funds on top SA fencers to World Cup events, and not on juniors or for the previously disadvantaged fencers for whom the funding was awarded. We reject this request as the funding is specifically entailed to give previously disadvantaged fencers the opportunity to participate in championship events.

Further, the President has received correspondence from Dr Tyshler requesting a letter to assist with fundraising for Paris Olympic qualification.

We specifically note that there has been no appointment by either council or Exco of any person(s) to qualify a team. Individuals are welcome to prepare their athletes in a private coach capacity and we will review their international performance from time to time.

Given that SASCOC is commencing discussions about the 2024 Olympics, Exco to request the National Team Management & Coaches Commission to provide input on how best to approach the Olympic qualification cycle, given FFSA's stated focus on growth and transformation.

10. Social media

It has been noted that there is limited engagement on our social media channels and we need to change things up a little going forward. To ask Blue for a statistical

report on the social media. Rhea putting together some ideas, but the following is taken into account:

- Need more and better local photos, in particular action shots from our national competitions.
- We need to clearly align and build our social media to match our overall strategy.
- There are limited shares of posts, especially from council members who could use these posts to build their own provinces.

11. GFA

We formally record that the Disciplinary Tribunal has handed down judgement and it was duly copied to all of the provincial chairs on 18 January 2022.

No responses have been received thus far.

In terms of the Disciplinary Policy, the judgement as handed down, stands and is not subject to any approval process.

We now intend to move GFA to a proper AGM and election.

12. Close

The President thanked everyone for a fruitful meeting and discussions. There is an unfortunate perception amongst some of our top fencers regarding transformation. We have made huge strides in this regard and were in fact complimented on this by the SASCOC President in December, we will continue to strive towards this strategic goal.

Next meeting to be scheduled manually according to availability.