

**Southern California Division, USFA,
Board Meeting**

March 1, 2026, 7:30pm
Via Zoom Teleconference

Present: James Beihold (Chair), Karl Jordon (Co-chair), Karen Lieu (Secretary), Phil Hareff (At large), Elizabeth Geyer (KAFF), Laura Lynton (Swords), Rudolph Streitz (KAFF), and Mike Vazquez (Elite)

The meeting was called to order at 7:34pm.

M/S/C(unan) minutes from August 18, 2025 meeting approved.

Sanctioning Process – (Jessica Saxon, legal counsel for USA Fencing, issued a decision on February 17 regarding Tigran Shaginian's complaints about the denial of sanctioning for his "Swords Friday Tournament." While she upheld the Division's decision to deny sanctioning, she also offered the following recommendations for improving the Division's sanctioning process going forward.)

- A. Formalize and clearly document the process for securing an Official Observer.
- B. Clarify whether an Official Observer must confirm availability in writing prior to submission of a sanctioning request. – Specify on the Sanctioning request form in writing.
- C. Establish a mechanism by which the Executive Committee may assign an eligible Official Observer if one is not appropriately listed. – Tournament organizer can contact the Chair.
- D. Review website submission and tracking procedures to ensure all sanctioning requests are properly received and logged. – Already in place
- E. The SoCal Division should establish a policy requiring individuals listed as eligible Official Observers to maintain and regularly monitor a reliable email address for division-related communications. Observers should acknowledge receipt of observer inquiries within a specified timeframe (e.g., 48–72 hours), and the Division should maintain up-to-date contact information to ensure timely communication regarding sanctioning requests. – It is still the responsibility of the Tournament organizer to secure the observer. If the observer does not reply to their email, the Tournament organizer must find another observer.
- F. Tournament organizers bear the responsibility for submitting a complete and compliant sanctioning request and are ultimately responsible for making diligent and good-faith efforts to secure an eligible Official Observer prior to submission. - The Division Observer will receive the tournament results and send to Division Secretary.

The online sanctioning request form on the SoCal Division website was updated with added terminology – The Observer for the tournament must be asked and acknowledge that they will be in attendance. “Must be a current member of the Division Executive Committee listed above. Do not select a name until that individual has confirmed availability to serve. If you cannot secure an Official Observer, one will be assigned.”

Qualifiers

Revisit our policy regarding qualifier events with fewer than 4 fencers. Since they all qualify do we cancel the event and issue a refund, or hold it in order to give fencers the option to sign up at the door? - Argument – if there is only 1 fencer signed up and they have to drive 2 hours, pay 65 registration fee, and not fence. Also there is a month long window to sign up. Counter argument – fencers can still last minute sign up the door if the event is not canceled. If the fencer is willing to qualify for the JO's, they should be willing to make the trip.

M/S/5 Yes, 1 Abstain, 1 No – Passes – All registrants must show up at the qualifier events with fewer than 4 fencers and fencers can still have the option to sign up at the door.

UCLA Tournament/College Tournaments

Formalize the procedure for the Division to front day-of-event payments for college tournaments when backed by a Purchase Order, with post-event reimbursement and a 10% service fee.

Discussion was made - Rudy stated - Use purchasing order (PO). The division would need to become a vendor of the university, showing proof of insurance and tax information.

Open the floor to new business - none

Next Board Meeting to be April 12, 2026 at 7pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:48pm

Respectfully submitted.

Karen Lieu (Secretary)