

**Veterans Council Meeting
Lausanne, Switzerland
Friday June 30 – Saturday July 1, 2017
Draft Minutes**

Present:

Celso Dayrit –PHI Representative of the Executive Committee
Max Geuter – GER President of Veteran Committee
Rita Comes – USA
Ozden Ezinler – TUR
Francis Kwong – HKG
Gregorio Lima – PUR
Leonardo Patti – ITA
Benoit Pincemalle –FRA
Mark Rakita – RUS
Mark Rance – NZL
Marja-Liisa Someroja - FIN

Notes

9:00am start on both days

Welcome by Max Review of agenda, proposal of dinner

1. Meeting with Emmanuel Katsiadakis, GS
 - a. Mr. Katsiadakis was not available to attend event
2. Welcome by Max Geuter and Celso Dayrit
 - a. Welcome by Celso and Max
 - b. Review of agenda, proposal of dinner
 - c. Discussion of the 12 medals that are now available for fencing at the Olympics. First increase since Women's sabre was included in the Olympics in 2004 but medal number stayed at only 10 .
3. Reflections of World Championships
 - a. Max read short report from 2016 Veteran World Championship.
 - b. Question re profit from Stralsund, no information from the organizers but the town was very happy re the participants coming to the town during a historically low tourist period in the town. Discussion about the personal socio economics of Veterans, some organizers perceive

that veteran fencers are wealthy but some save all year to participate. FIE does not give money towards the Championships but collects money from the many participants, perhaps we can ask for some financial help from the FIE to help with future Veteran World Championships. Need to give thought to future medal presentation area for team and individual medal ceremony so that participants can stand on podiums safely.

4. 20 years FIE Veterans Fencing

- a. Max reflections on Carl Jorgen's idea on Veteran Fencing and making a plan for Veteran Fencing Championships with the FIE. Program is a success. Participation of years 1997 – 2014 spreadsheet was shown noting 19 different countries were involved in the first event. Review of locations and participation. Notation of variety of locations and the impact of the local economy of the venue area. Many of the fencers that attend the events bring others with them to the championships – coaches, family members, etc., so our economic impact numbers are much higher than the number of participants. Rita proposed doing a survey that we can send to Stralsund participants for economic impact that we can use for future events. Mark will help edit the survey.

5. Reflections

- a. US – Continued increase of US Vet participation, 80+ demo in Portland 12/17
- b. Oceania - increase of participation but expensive, five veteran 40+ events in Australia and two in NZ. Ability to fence in Asian Championships also had a positive impact. Commonwealth Veteran event 198 entries from 10 countries. Marketed event on how it will boost local economy.
- c. Puerto Rico – competing in the US, because no overhead costs, planning on sending a small group to the Vet world championships.
- d. Italy – Decided to include people younger than 40years old in vet competitions as a plan to bridge the gap for the older fencers. Decreases the abandonment of the fencers after the senior events. Successful in increasing the numbers for women's foil and women's sabre for veterans. Six competitions over two days for these events. Events are open. Italian competition is over four days and keeps the fencers in the sport.
- e. Asia – Celso – started in 2015 year. Started with younger age 40 for men and 35 for women. Asia Veteran championships in Thailand 2017, 2018 in Japan.
- f. Max discusses participation as partners in fencing using Veterans. Keeping fencing relevant, giving awards to multi year participants.
- g. Nordic – 8 countries with championships with Veteran categories. Group is growing but is still light. Iceland is increasing participation.

- h. Watched event for 2017 European World Championships. Noted use of temporary tent structure as a way to not be limited for venue hard walled space. Many vendors, located outside of venue similar to tennis events. In Italy, a competitor needs a complete medical test for a fencing license, also for France.
 - i. Francis – Asia veteran fencing championships data presented. Bangkok in September 2017. In Manila 105 participants, Perth 179 entries. Japan will host event in 2018
6. Team event reflection
- a. Team test in Debrecen -fencers were excited and it was successful.
 - b. Full demo in Varna – medals were given but it was still a demo.
 - c. Stralsund - 55 teams
 - i. Noted that some countries only focus on one weapon and would not be able to field different weapon teams.
 - ii. Current format is appreciated by the fencers
 - iii. World Championships give only one bronze medal but give two bronze medals in Asia Championships to encourage more participants getting awards.
 - iv. Rule re USA re team competition team competitions’, notation of re fencing of teams - Person that was part of DT was dismissive to the US team and we will work on having an individual that will be available to answer rule questions to participants at future events.
 - v. Question of 2 substitutes for team event, extra team members will give too much of an advantage to large countries and a big disadvantage for the countries that cannot field larger teams.
7. News from 2017 championships in Maribor
- a. The organizers in Maribor put the schedule up too early and Benoit stepped in to make a realistic adjustment to the schedule to accommodate. Schedules should possibly be sent to the Council for review before making public.
 - b. Venue building is a place that has held many large sport events – it is a sports building. Three halls and the Italian Federation are helping Slovenia for the Championships. The official hotel is the Habakuk and that is where the finals will be held. It is a short walking distance from the venue to the hotel. Potential problems getting to finals location from venue is problems caused by rain and the spreading out of the officials. Lead person organizing event is head of Slovenia federation
 - c. Shuttle service will be available for the fencers but only official hotels will have shuttle service to venue
 - d. Host is trying to plan for Gala Dinner – head count , program and size of venue

- e. Transportation – easy flights to get to Maribor – it is updated on the website. Options of travel is to fly to Vienna, or Graz from Munich
- f. Council expects more persons participating than were in Stralsund – Benoit projects 805 fencers. If there are more people, then the capacity for more strips and computer systems – should be ready to expand. Benoit suggests that he can help and not use engarde system but his excel - it was suggested that he trains another person on his “system” and also research Fencing Time software for possible use during event.
- g. Italy Federation member, Giandomenico Varallo will handle weapon control and registration. Those that know Mr. Varallo, seemed very confident in his ability.
- h. Training for DT. We need people to train for future positions instead of pushing for inclusion in hosting future events. Concept was proposed of having “interns” possibly from the next host to help run and learn about how the event is run.
- i. Discussion of Referees. Need diversity of referees re weapon specialty. Need for referees with specialty in a few weapons are ideal. Strong need to work early with nations to send referees that are capable of multi weapons. Mark suggested that after the federation receives confirmation of participation on July 15, we then need to ask them what type of referees they will bring so that the organizers can properly plan. Slovenia does not have many referees. In the future we should add a surcharge along with registration for referees. In US, we would be able to accommodate refs from other countries; the extra income could pay for hotel, etc.. Suggestion is that we approach the head of the FIE to ask Mr. Usmanov for two referees per weapon for the Slovenia Veteran world championship. Max and Celso will figure out a way to ask.
- j. Question of concessions – need to make sure they are available and affordable.
- k. Overview of website – need to change Usmanov message and have it be the first message seen on site.
- l. Most of the FIE Veteran’s Council will be at the October event in Slovenia
- m. Need registration date for event to be placed on website, registration should close no later than September 10th in order to plan properly.
- n. First intention, referees, team – request for intention ROI

8. Time Schedule for Maribor

- a. Group reviewed time schedule for Maribor when we first saw website and made some changes in the schedule. In the future, the Veteran Council would like to review the schedule before it is publicly available.

9. Website, offer from FIE and discussion with M Shturbabina

- a. FIE license issue was discussed re participants registering for the “next year” due to Veteran World Championships being the last event of the season and an extra step may have to be coded into the system to note veteran fencers planning to fence in this championships. Might need a pull down that shows the choice of the previous season if the person is a veteran fencer. Issue of pull down menu for previous year – when does this change?
- b. Results were discussed with Marja-Liisa, Max and M. Shturbabina at a previous event – there was a discussion that all results would be posted.
- c. Confirmations of the names dash, dots, duplication etc. on FIE Licenses were discussed with Marja-Liisa, Max and M. Shturbabina at a previous event.
- d. Calculations for seeding was discussed with Marja-Liisa, Max and M. Shturbabina at a previous event – Benoit will be responsible for calculations from the last two years. The information from the last two years is available on the FIE website.
- e. Fencing day needs to be promoted more.

10. Study of 75+ category and results from Chiavari (ITA) test

- a. First European Veteran Championships were held in 1991, event has been growing strong for many years.
- b. David Sweeney, past FIE Veteran Council member suggested 75+ category
- c. Numbers of 75+ participants increased from Porec to Chiavari
- d. Overall the difference between 70+ and 75+ was not so big
- e. Rita mentioned that in the US they are having more 70+ participants and having a demo in December 2017 for 80+.

11. Problem of referees: designation by FIE

- a. Referees are being moved around by FIE that have been scheduled for events and then made unavailable due to responsibilities with the FIE.

12. Referees age group 60-65 years

- a. Make sure federations know about this update of FIE referees for Vet events can be older than the normal cut off for FIE referees. Opportunity to get well-seasoned referees at Vet fencing events.

13. FIE endowment fund

- a. Privacy issues and modesty has blocked people from participating and there is still confusion on what type of help the endowment is actually offering.
- b. Participation is encouraged for veteran fencers to utilize the funds.

14. FIE diplomas -FIE Medals

- a. Printing size of paper of diplomas makes them difficult to keep nice, calligraphy on diplomas is not easy but the diplomas are very appreciated by the recipients.
- b. Medals are beautiful and we need to look into why the FIE first place medals were discontinued and try to get them reinstated.
- c. Discussion about adding diversification during the rewarding of the eighteen medal and flower presentations – agreed and seconded. An effort will be made at Veteran World Championships to have the presenters of the medals/flowers better reflect the constituency of the event participants while being mindful of the FIE Honor Protocol.

15. Complimentary diplomas

- a. Diplomas for multi year participation at Veteran World Championships are a greatly anticipated event at Veteran World Championships. In 2017, we will have people getting 15-year diplomas for the first time.

16. Candidates for future world championships

- a. Livorno – city of fencing 2017
 - i. On FIE website but dates need to be corrected 8-14 October
- b. Cairo – 2019?
- c. Japan – 2020?
- d. US – 2020 or 2021?
- e. Discussion re religious holidays happening usually during Veteran World Cup and how it might affect some participants.

17. Medical Certificates

- a. If federations have rules for certificates, we must comply with the needs of that Federation.
- b. Medical examination or just simple liability release waiver will be needed depending on the country.

18. Various

- a. A Mr. Lapo Novellini from Milan is interested in doing a grand prix for veterans. Mr. Lapo has the idea but did not send slides. Max suggested that Mr. Lapo talk with the Italian Federation. Francis suggested that he start perhaps with a smaller event.
- b. Max read a list of suggestions from Panathlon about encouraging the best in sport – not just winning. Suggestions were well received by the group and provoked a positive discussion on sportsmanship.
- c. Benoit made a presentation on the possibility of increasing participation of adding the 40+ category to the event, also the possibility of adding five participants from each country, each category.. If we had this in Stralsund, we would have added almost

107 more fencers to the event. Promotion of Veteran fencing. Rita suggested that we support the smaller programs first before we can move forward. Asia championships per Celso – stated that Asian veteran championships have no limit to the number of participants per country (there is only a limit of 2 participants per country at Major Games such as Asian Games and South-East Asian Games). Mark Rance feels that you will discourage medium countries from participating. Benoit feels that the event is more exciting if more participants are involved. Gregory says that the Caribbean federation is helping the participation of the games with the purpose of increasing the diversification. Jamaica participated with encouragement from his group and got medals. Celso, using money from FIE the Asian federation has been giving money to smaller Asian countries so that they can send participants. Asian federation is doing it to give the sport a life in these areas. Max stated that the European federation also helps smaller countries with registration etc. to help grow the sport – we have 45 federations and cannot help. Discussion ended with the suggestion that we continue to encourage the smaller countries and make no changes in the numbers.

d. Plan for July 1st

July 1st Agreed upon Agenda by Group:

1. Ranking for Maribor BP
2. Team: Engarde/Excel BP
3. Team/Referee Fee: Voted down in Congress 2015
 - a. What actions – all
 - b. Administrative Rule 6.2
4. Meet up with:
 - a. PP Commission
 - b. Women's Fencing
 - c. Rules
5. Medal Administration @ World Championships
 - a. Structure /outline etc.
 - b. Podium (safety Concern)
6. Olympic Museum – Conclusion of Meeting

1. Benoit will use his numbers, question is if we are going to use Fencing Time
2. Format of Team – Benoit has used the information and because of the individual . Question of Fencing Time or En Guard? Can it handle the set up for Team? Can it be upgraded?

3. Team Referee Fee – Proposal was made in China during the congress 2015, we proposed Referee fee for individual Veteran’s World championships, Referee fee Team Veterans World Championships \$45. Plan is to write up with explanation before the next congress to promote the “why” we think it is important.
4. Meet ups
 - a. PP Commission
Visitors – PP Commission
Two Visitors – Presentation to group – stated that they would work with the federations to promote. David Baker will be the point person to contact directly. The PP Commission will use the Federations as the filter of the content.



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b. Medical Commission

Medical – Lisa from the Medical Commission visited the group. She spoke about the proposed 5-minute medical interaction, once medical is on the strip for an injury, this will change from the current 10-minute time. She will be a participant at the Veteran World Championships 2017. We spoke to her about having a medical delegate that may make a review of medications that “older fencers” might take. We also asked about safety issues regarding the finals piste.



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5. Medal Administration – Note that this is covered in the rulebook.
 - a. Discussion of Structure of podium/safety - responsibility of Protocol Manager and in rulebook.
 - b. Discussion of Medal Protocol of who gives medals/flowers safety - responsibility of Protocol Manager and in rulebook.

6. Other – Finals Piste– Note that this is covered in the rulebook.
 - a. Discussion on need for following the rulebook re proper clearance on sides of finals strip and also noting height of strip to reduce possible injuries. It was also noted - advertisement and other items need to safely placed so as to not interfere with fencer and possibly cause safety hazards during fencing.

7. Visit to Olympic Museum – Conclusion of meeting

To discuss with RULES Commission on the rejected proposal in the 2015 Congress on veteran championships entry fees and referee fees

Current Administrative Rules (April 2017):

6.2 AMOUNTS TO BE PAID TO THE ORGANISERS

Subject	Euros
Entry fee junior A grade tournament	25
Entry fee senior A grade tournament	60
Entry fee GP tournament	100
Entry fee junior team tournament	150
Entry fee senior team tournament	400
Individual entry fee Cadets, Juniors, Seniors, World Championships	55
Team entry fee Juniors, Seniors, World Championship	140

Failed proposal in 2015 Congress:

Proposal 8

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

6.2 Amounts to be paid to the organisers:

Subject	Euros
Individual entry fee Cadets, Juniors, Seniors, Veterans World Championships	55
Team entry fee Juniors, Seniors, Veterans World Championship	140
Referee fee Individual Veterans World championships	45
Referee fee Team Veterans World championships	45

Participation Date for Asia Veterans Fencing Championships

2015 Manila

2016 Perth

2015 Manila Philippines

Manila 2015						
Individual	(35)40-49	50-59	60-69	70+	Total	No.of Teams
ME	11	13	5	2	31	7
MF	10	15	2	2	29	7
MS	11	8	1	0	20	5
WE	7	1	3	0	11	4
WF	4	0	2	0	6	2
WS	5	0	2	1	8	2
	48	37	15	5	105	27

2016 Perth Australia

PERTH 2016						
Individual	(35)40-49	50-59	60-69	70+	Total	No.of Teams
ME	23	20	13	5	61	7
MF	17	6	7	4	34	6
MS	19	10	3	4	36	7
WE	10	6	4	0	20	0
WF	12	3	3	0	18	2
WS	4	2	3	1	10	0
	85	47	33	14	179	22