

Gold Coast Division Annual Meeting

When: June 22, 2024, 9:00 am to 10:00

Where: UM Health and Wellness Conference Room

In-person: Matthew Simmons, Acting Chairperson
Eugenio Cano, Secretary
Delainy Quintero, Treasurer
Chali Roche, representing Epee Miami Fencing Club on Exec. Comm.,
Jeffrey Davis, Co-Owner, Davis Fencing Academy of Miami,
Jacquelyn Davis, Co-Owner, Davis Fencing Academy of Miami
Anamarie Ferreira de Melo, voting member
Adriana Ferreira de Melo, non-voting member

Call to Order:

The Chairperson called to order the Annual Meeting at 9:11 am on June 22, 2024, after establishing a quorum with 75% of board members present.

Past Minutes and Agenda:

Chali motions to accept the minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting and the agenda of the 2024 Annual Meeting with the amendment of adding a discussion of the annual calendar of events and a presentation by Adriana Ferreira on her initiatives to develop the sport of fencing at the high school league level.

The 2023 Annual Meeting minutes and the agenda for the 2024 Annual Meeting were approved with amendments through unanimous consent.

Election Results:

The Division announced the Annual Meeting within the 21-day deadline in Section 7.1 of the bylaws. These 21 days began on May 28, 2024, when USA Fencing sent an email blast announcing the Annual meeting on June 22, 2024, and the submission of nominations before midnight on May 31, 2024. The candidate, Jeffrey Davies, submitted his nomination before the deadline at 10:45 pm on May 31.

The only contested position is Vice Chair, with two candidates.

The Secretary received requests for proxies from those who would not be present to vote, and he sent proxies to those in good standing who requested them. According to the Operating Manual (4.2), "Voting members and eligible office holders must be USA Fencing members by February 1 of the fencing season, in good standing, and 18 years old or older by the election date." The USA Fencing National Office has provided a list of eligible voters meeting these criteria.

The Secretary digitally received 33 proxies before midnight of June 21, 2024. During the Annual Meeting, the Secretary received two proxies that were not verifiable.

Through the proxies alone, this election had a 22% voter turnout.

The Vice-Chair candidate, Jeffrey Davis, requested to withdraw his name from the contested election, leaving the incumbent candidate, Matthew Simmons, as the sole candidate for the vacancy.

According to 8.2 of the Bylaws, The Secretary of the Division casted a unanimous Ballot for the candidates of:

Rafael Suarez for Chairperson
Matthew Simmons, Vice Chair
Eugenio Cano for Secretary
Delainy Quintero for Treasurer

Chali Roche seconded the motion, which was adopted by unanimous consent. The above-named candidates were elected to their respective positions for the term 2024-25.

Treasurer's Report:

Delaney presented the Financial Statements for the fiscal year 2023-24. Revenues were \$4,442. All sanction fees were collected, with the exception of one pending sanction fee of \$200.

The total expenditures to cover competition expenses, website maintenance, and annual report filings were \$1,388. The Division maintained a surplus of \$3,053.86 for the fiscal year 2023-24.

The treasurer noted that during the fiscal year 2023-24, the Division had more local tournaments than last year, but fewer individuals attended them.

Board Updates:

- The Secretary noted that our region has an Olympian, Kruz Schembri McCord, who qualified in Men's Foil to the Olympic Games Paris 2024. Kruz qualified by winning first place in the Pan American Olympic Zonal Qualifier Tournament in Costa Rica last April. At 17 years old, Kruz is one of the youngest fencers to earn a spot of the possible 34 spots for the Men's Foil event at the Olympic Games. The Division will highlight this fact on the Division website.
- The Division is considering purchasing additional strips with rubber backing.
- The Division plans to host Jeff Bukants for referee training in October.
- The Division will continue to maintain its position that its northern boundaries revert to the Division Charter approved on September 6, 1959, which extends marked by a line running Eastward from St. Petersburg to Titusville on the East Coast. It was noted that Fort Myers and Naples are closer to the Gold Coast Division. The Division does not know of any formal secession of the area mentioned in the above-named Division Charter.
- Division member Maria Panyi was elected at-large director of the USA Fencing Board of Directors for a four-year term that begins on September 1, 2024.

Other Business:

- Jeffrey Davies asked for better coordination of the event calendar. In conjunction with the Executive Committee, the Secretary will request bids from Club Owners in accordance with the 7.1 and 7.2 Sections of the Operating Manual.
- Adriana Ferreira de Melo presented her efforts to start a high school league in our area to the Board and requested the Division for assistance. Steps to be considered include having schools become club members at the USA Fencing Association for liability insurance purposes. The Secretary mentioned that these initiatives should be proposed by parents and students in a given school. Membership in the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSA) may facilitate early adoption. It is a matter that could be taken up by the Division Executive Committee.
- The Secretary motioned that the Board agree to invite Jeffrey Davies to the Executive Committee. Chali Roche seconded this motion, which was approved by unanimous consent.

The meeting adjourned at 11:24 am.