

GOLD COAST FLORIDA DIVISION OF THE UNITED STATES FENCING ASSOCIATION (GCD)

Minutes of Meeting

June 28, 2020

Attendees:

Rafael Suarez, Chairperson

Dr. Marta Sanchez-Emden, Vice-Chairperson (via videoconference)

Eugenio Cano, Secretary

Delainy Quintero, Treasurer

Jose Pineda, Doral Fencing Club

Javier Andino, Miami Lakes Fencing Club

COVID-19 Social Distancing Precautions:

The election time was scheduled on July 18, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. as announced in emails to the Executive Board and candidates to the election. Also, the Division posted this information on its website for over a week. The Board asked participants to respect the tight schedule given the need to observe social distancing rules during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Board held its Annual Meeting in the outdoor seating of Graziano's on 2301 Galiano St. in Coral Gables, Florida. While the meeting was programmed initially a couple of blocks away from Graziano's at 394 Giralda Avenue, the venue did not have outdoor seating available on that Saturday. Consequently, the Secretary sent a text notification to the Executive Board and candidates 17 minutes before the meeting. All participants arrived at the venue before 10 a.m.

Call to Order:

The Chairperson called to order the Annual Meeting promptly at 10:00 a.m. on July 18, 2020 after establishing quorum with all board members present.

At the start of the session, Jose Pineda sat a couple of tables away from the meeting. He was invited to join the meeting, but did not participate until 10:17 a.m.

Election Results:

The Chairperson motioned to have Secretary to record the proxy votes received and votes of in-person for the candidates.

The Secretary received 48 valid proxies that were duly signed and dated prior to the meeting. These valid proxies were either delivered to him in person or digitally before the beginning of the meeting.

Of those who attended the meeting in person, only Jose Pineda had not voted by proxy. The Secretary of the division asked twice for him to vote around the 10:35 a.m. and 10:37 a.m. timeframe and he refused to vote twice.

The challenging candidate to the position of Secretary, Maria Garzaro, sent in her proxy during the meeting at 10:24 a.m., and her vote was registered as valid, being duly signed and dated before the meeting adjournment.

As witness, the Treasurer tallied the following results from the valid proxy votes:

Candidate	Position	No. Of Valid Votes	Vote Percentage
Rafael Suarez	Chairperson	45	93.75%
Marta Sanchez-Emden	Vice-Chairperson	45	93.75%
Eugenio Cano	Secretary	45	93.75%
Delainy Quintero	Treasurer	45	93.75%
Jose Pineda	Chairperson	2	4.17%
Maria Garzaro	Secretary	2	4.17%

The Secretary presented the motion to elect the sitting officers for their respective positions. The proposal was approved by the all present except Jose Pineda, who registered his reservations about the election.

The following candidates were elected as officers to Gold Coast Florida Division of the United States Fencing Association for the 2020-21 Season:

Rafael Suarez, Chairperson
Marta Sanchez-Emden, Vice-Chairperson
Eugenio Cano, Secretary
Delainy Quintero, Treasurer

Election Participation:

The election received an unprecedented high degree of participation from its members and Division clubs. Division Clubs that voted in the elections were from the following:

Alle Fencing Club
Doral Fencing Club
Carballo's Fencing Club
Epee Miami Fencing Club
Masters Fencing Club
Miami Lakes Fencing Club
South Florida Fencing Club
Various university students and unattached members

Adjournment:

The Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Late Proxy Requests:

After the meeting had commenced, the Secretary began to receive email requests for proxies. The Secretary received a total of 12 requests for proxies beginning at 10:07 a.m. and until 11:26 a.m. on the day of the Annual Meeting. The Secretary has digital copies on file of the late proxy requests and will provide them upon request from the USA Fencing Association.

The Board had informed the membership of proxy procedures as established by its by-laws, through a USA Fencing email blast dated July 5, 2020, and on various subsequent emails to the Executive Board and nominees, and the Division website. Each proxy vote was required to have a distinct number corresponding to each member eligible to vote. The Board advised members to

contact the Secretary to request proxies. Proxies had to be returned digitally to the Secretary or handed in at the meeting.

Of the late proxy requests, only 8 Division members were eligible to vote according to the USA Fencing Voter roll. Below is the breakdown of eligible voting members who requested proxies by email during the Annual Meeting or after it adjourned:

Requester's Name	USA Fencing No.	Request received by
Arrieta, Alejandra	100274316	10:07 a.m.
Zahran, Nasim	100282298	10:08 a.m.
Gonzalez, Orlando	100275459	10:15 a.m.
Paz, Maritza	100283449	10:22 a.m.
Marin, Hugo	100283617	10:43 a.m.
Yuste, Amervis	100274784	10:54 a.m.
Zuniga, Humberto	100283515	11:20 a.m.
Zuniga, Evelyn	100283540	11:26 a.m.

In light of the number of votes received by each of the elected officers to the Executive Board (45 each), even if the eligible voting members who requested proxies late had all voted in favor of Jose Pineda and Maria Garzaro, the election results would not have changed.

The Secretary received the following four additional proxy requests by email during or after the meeting from individuals not on the USA Fencing voter roll of eligible voters in the Division.

Requester's Name	USA Fencing No.	Request received by
Peralta, Gleny	100290766	10:06 a.m.
Herrera, Astrid	n/a	10:18 a.m.
Marquez, Adriana	n/a	10:52 a.m.
Emiliani, Rafael	100276253	11:10 a.m.