



MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 31 AUGUST 2020

1. Welcome

The president welcomed the members

2. Present and apologies

Present:

Mike Stafford – President

Gunter Schroder – Vice-president

Louise Lombard – Secretary General

Tony Rademeyer – Treasurer

3. Meetings

Agreed to push the Saturday strategy meeting back to a 2pm start for everyone's convenience.

There are some difficulties for attendance of the AGM on 7 November 2020, to canvas regarding the 14th.

4. Value added

To answer a point raised at a recent council meeting, we would like to point out that FFSA adds value for our fencers in various ways, e.g.:

- 1) FIE membership – Through this fencers are eligible to participate in International tournaments around the world. FFSA receives generous annual donations of equipment and sponsorships for one of our best fencers to attend



SAC, JWC & SWC. The nett value (after FIE subs) normally exceeds

R100,000/annum. This year we also received R75,000 in Covid relief funding.

- 2) CAE and CFF membership – These ensure that our fencers are eligible to attend junior & senior African and Commonwealth championships
- 3) Purchase, maintenance and insurance of competition pistes and scoring boxes and the transport of such equipment to and from National tournaments. The equipment is also made available for use during Provincial competitions.
- 4) Availability (at substantial cost) of the Ophardt system of competition management.
- 5) Training of referees and coaches.
- 6) Provision of competent competition supervisors and referee supervisors for National Ranking competitions, including related transport and accommodation expenses.
- 7) Sponsorship of FFSA licenses, entry fees and travel & accommodation expenses for highly ranked development fencers to attend 3 National ranking competitions/year.
- 8) Sourcing of DSAC & Lotto grants.
- 9) Maintenance of accounting records and audited accounts required per constitution and for qualification for external grants.
- 10) Partial sponsorship of referees and Team managers as required for international events.
- 11) Social media program to boost awareness of our sport.
- 12) Effective administration of the Federation.

5. Level 2 Gazette

The Gazette has been published via the government website over the weekend and from initial perusal is great step forward for fencing as both professional and non-professional sport is allowed and no longer a differentiation between contact and non-contact sport.

We are awaiting clarification from DSAC regarding whether we can simply increase our numbers to include amateur or if we have to re-apply for level 2.

6. Viral emails and their relation to safeguarding

Renuka Ramroop joined us for this portion of the meeting as the Chair of the Safeguarding Commission.

We note with concern the email which Niell Bester sent to Gunter and Mariet Schroder and that it is inappropriate for a member of one province to approach the chair of another province in this way, and especially to share such a concerning dialogue that flies in the face of national government programmes to make men accountable for their actions and to abolish victim shaming. This matter is to be referred to GFA for disciplinary proceedings

Further, the allegations that the Executive or the Safeguarding Commission have in any way failed in their duty of care and reporting of the David Abdelmalak matter remain concerning. This matter was duly reported to the SAPS in March and we were asked to leave space for the SAPS investigation and not tip off the accused. We have now contacted the SAPS Investigating Officer and advised that we can no longer remain silent in this respect and a full release will be prepared and sent to the fencing community.

We will specifically include that we are disappointed in both the SAPS and SASCO for their very slow due process in this matter.

We shall also include that the suspension pending the outcome of these 2 other investigations will be enforced. Once these matters are concluded we will revisit this suspension. Provinces to be asked to action this suspension.

We are advised by Renuka that in response to Niell Bester's inflammatory email, a "Women in fencing" WhatsApp group has been formed to discuss and plan a way forward for women in sport. A written response to this email is planned. The Executive fully supports these women in asking for respect and an end to victim shaming and condemns any sort of victim blaming or shaming. The Executive fully

supports women in sport and intends to specifically support their written response. It is recording that a full education campaign will also be necessary and we look forward to submissions in this respect.

7. Close

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for Monday 7 September 2020.