



MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM ON FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 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. FIE equipment grant

We have finally received our final confirmation of receipt of our wish list, so this process is now moving along.

4. Cheryl Roberts tweet

It would appear that the sports journalist, Cheryl Roberts, has received some poor information and tweeted the Deputy Minister regarding fencing. The executive received an urgent notice from the Deputy Minister's office to respond to the allegations in the tweet (below). A response was drafted and sent at short notice and we have been thanked for our response.





cheryl roberts
@cherylroberts00

Dear Deputy Minister of Sport in RSA
Nocawe Mafu @MafuNonce: Please
investigate this white controlled
national fencing federation that
'represents' fencing in SA. These
talented black fencers from Soweto R
getting left out of most international
competitions because of 'no money'.

13:55 - 2020/09/07 - [Twitter Web App](#)

2 Retweets and comments

Provinces are requested to ensure that their fencers understand that their words may be taken out of turn when speaking to the press.

5. FIE Academy 2021

We have received no formal candidates as yet for 2021.

6. Women in fencing movement

We note that a document was forwarded from Mr Bester in response to the women's statement and have received the initial neutral observer reports therein. Whilst we agree with the comments raised in the observer reports, we feel that it would be best to move on to the education phase as a means of really tackling the issues at hand.

The Safeguarding commission is now tasked with adding gender issues to its ambit and making recommendations on the way forward and the long term state of this commission ie the already existing safeguarding commission was to write the initial safeguarding policy and then write the permanent commission job description. So will now include making recommendations on gender issues and whether this should be a separate commission or remain within safeguarding and setting initial policies.

Social media to show support for women in the upcoming weeks.

Exco has received a concerning email from the GFA chair, inter alia, objecting to the “canvassing” of GFA member fencers to join the women’s group by council members and meddling in the affairs of another province, thereby suggesting that they ban such members from GFA events. It is once again noted that the WhatsApp group made it clear that no one was forced to remain and anyone could add anyone to the group. More concerning is the apparent failure to grasp the gravity of the issues at hand and the national importance of these issues; and that FFSA as a National Federation needs to fully support these issues and discussions, no matter how uncomfortable they may be. GFA should note that this email could be perceived as limiting their members’ South African constitutional rights to protest. Additionally, the affairs of a province are deemed to be those of administration and the related matters of actually running a provincial federation and not those that pertain to matters of national importance. Should GFA feel the need to ban any members of other provincial federations they should take the matter to council to vote.

There has been an issue raised over the title of the statement (STATEMENT VICTIMISING WOMEN IN FENCING SOUTH AFRICA) and with it being on social media and people’s propensity to never read a full document and just the headline, thus to ask Renuka Ramroop if it would be possible to change the heading on the Facebook version to “Statement of women in fencing in South Africa”? However, it is particularly noted that the post has not gone “viral” in any way, nor are there untoward shares and in fact it has been well liked and supported.

7. SASCOG SGM

We have received no call for RSVP’s, so to ensure that we are duly accredited, Louise has sent this in regardless ahead of the usual 7 day closing date.

8. The Guardian/Safeguarding

The accounting issues are being dealt with and we are awaiting allocation of our account to a “rep” to get the app up and running.

9. Coaching RPL process

There appear to still be issues with the professional body and having funds already paid transferred. Gunter chasing this.

10. Close

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for Wednesday 23 September 2020.