



CFF Letters – 2008:1

12th February, 2008

CFF AGM 2008

The CFF Annual General Meeting and workshops will be held the weekend of June 7th and 8th, in the Fairmont Hotel, Mont Tremblant. The CFF has some outstanding credit at the hotel remaining from the Pan American Championships in 2007 and will use these to assist in offsetting the costs for the meeting.

Once again, a meeting room will be made available for the members on the Friday evening of June 6th.

Members are asked to prepare written reports for circulation prior to the meeting. As recommended by the members, the reading of these reports will be removed from the meeting agenda. The reports will be considered accepted as submitted for information only.

Sharefile

The CFF has adopted a new electronic file storage system called Sharefile. A public folder has been created where it is our intent to place CFF information available to the Branch members. We shall slowly populate this folder with past AGM, Board and committee minutes and post current years minutes when adopted by the Board. We shall also use this space to post materials for the AGM and so forth.

Each Branch member shall be allocated access for two email addresses. These will initially be the email addresses to which this letter has been sent. If there is need for a change, please notify me directly at president@fencing.ca

I would like to thank Vanessa in Alberta, Sylvie in Quebec and Barbara in New Brunswick for trying the system out for us. The Board has been using the system for several months now.

Email Addresses

For consistency of maintaining contact with our Branch

members, we are recommending that each branch establish a system of email addresses that remain perpetual and are re-directed to the appropriate individuals as determined by the provincial association. For example, the CFF board members can all be contacted through perpetual generic email addresses. I am aware that some provinces have already implemented such a system. This makes maintaining contact easier.

CFF Licence Renewal date

At its Board meeting of January 13th, the Board adopted a resolution to amend the CFF Rules and regulations so that the renewal date for CFF licences becomes August 1st, replacing September 30th.

The rationale for this decision is that the first CFF competition of the new season occurs in September. After two years of experience, it has proven very confusing to have the licence renewal date after this first event, but prior to the second one. A re-alignment of the CFF licence renewal date should reduce confusion for the licence holders.

CFF By-Laws

At its January 13th Meeting, the CFF Board reviewed a revised edition of the CFF By-laws (H) and agreed in principle to the changes. The By-Laws will be placed on Sharefile for each Branch member to access and review within the timeframe of Branch members being granted access. The CFF Board would welcome your comments by return email to president@fencing.ca

The changes to the By-Laws reflect a fundamental change in the CFF governance model, from an operational Board to a Policy Board. It is recognized that such a transition cannot occur instantly, but having the appropriate governance documents and processes in place will assist in a rapid change. 2008 is the appropriate time to facilitate such a change as it sets the stage for the next quad and the programmes leading to London. The main thrust in such a change is the empowerment of the staff to run the organization to meet the performance objectives set by the board and the empowerment of the board to set clear objectives, both strategic and operational for the organization along with the performance measures to determine success or failure.

The changes include the creation of two divisions, one for the Veterans and one for the Coaches. The Board has ratified these changes. Several other changes are minor rewording of articles to meet the requirements of the new model. The most significant change is in the manner the directors are elected, their terms and their responsibilities. The Board will remain at 5 directors elected by the Branch members, four of whom will be without portfolio and one will be directly elected as President / CEO. This model directly assigns one person the responsibility for the oversight of the CFF and the direct responsibilities of contact with the FIE and the funding partners.

The terms of the directors will be changed to four years to allow then board to operate on a quad basis. This has some challenges in that it becomes possible for a full slate of new directors to be elected for a new quad, removing overlap of tenure and continuity within the board. That might also be considered a plus for the organization. It also has the challenge of a longer mandate and hence commitment for directors. It has the benefits that the board is responsible for the entire quad and the accountability from start to finish of all the phases within a quad. The policy model removes the direct operational responsibilities from board members and this should reduce the potential of changes of direction within portfolios as based upon the interests of any single director.

The current Board members have agreed to resign to facilitate this model if the By-Law changes are adopted by the members. I am encouraging the current directors to consider standing for election to maintain a continuity of process.

Governance Rules

We are currently working on a new chapter of the CFF Rules and regulation to clarify the governance accountabilities, responsibilities and process. As soon as a draft is approved by the Board, a copy will be made available for comment on Sharefile.

Sport Canada Standards

To comply with Sport Canada standards, we shall be enhancing the methods by which individuals can

	access the CFF Harassment and Abuse officers and providing a seminar on this subject on an annual basis to the CFF programme athletes and coaches.
FIE Commission Candidates	The Board has undergone its first review of the candidates who have identified an interest in FIE commission nominations.
SFAF	The CFF has completed its reporting and funding agreements for Sport Canada funding for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. This is the fourth year of the quad.
Podium increases funding to CFF	Podium Canada has increased funding to the CFF for preparation for Beijing. This is multi-staged and the final amount will be driven by the success of Canadian fencers as they qualify for the OG's. We have to thank Danek for his persistence in highlight the athletes successes and the enhancements to the CFF programmes that support and drive this.
2008 CFF Cadet and Junior Nationals Senior CSC #1	<p>The CFF received a statement of interest in hosting the cadet / junior nationals / senior CSC #1 from the FEQ at last years CFF AGM. Unfortunately, the venue of choice is not available for the May long weekend as is traditional for this event. Venue space was available for the last weekend in June and the CFF Board has agreed to accept this date for the competition. While this is a change from past practice, it was an incentive to move this competition to a date that is a better fit to the developing LTAD model and the international competition schedule for both juniors and seniors. Our coaches have indicated that they have a strong preference for our senior programme members to be present at the Canadian competitions. This was very difficult with the May dates and is made easier with the June dates.</p> <p>Change is not always easy to accept, however, this change is for all the right reasons</p>
Canada Games	The softball Canada appeals of the sports selected for the 2013 Canada Summer Games has been rejected by the appeals committee. Fencing remains a sport selected for these Games. We have teams of 12 athletes (2 per weapon, both genders) with 3 support

| staff per province.



Stephen Symons
President, Canadian Fencing Federation
president@fencing.ca