



To: **Membership of the New Jersey Division of the US Fencing Association**

From: Thomas Tishman, NJ Division Chairman

Subject: **Actions of the New Executive Committee**

Date: July 20, 2010



The New Jersey Division's [Officers and Executive Committee](#) have been very busy, meeting monthly since our reorganization in March. We have made some important changes to the way things are done in the Division. Below, I cover changes in five areas: 1.) our legal settlement, 2.) suspending the sanctioning fee, 3.) further black card penalties, 4.) changes to the method of assembling a tournament calendar and 5.) more information posted to the website.

1. Legal Settlement, Uncontested Election

The legal settlement negotiated over a 4-month period amongst Vice Chairman Steve Caputo, Executive Committee Member Glenn Pantel and me was approved by counsel and the Executive Committee. It has ended our differences. The agreement enables the Division to move forward in service to our fencers and has ended our spending on legal advice. All of our expenditures are now in support of fencing.

A new [Executive Committee](#) was installed by court order in March of this year to finish out the current term until the end of July. An uncontested election, the first in several years, will be certified by Division Secretary Bill Nunley at the **Annual Meeting of the Membership**, which will be held on **July 24, 2010, at Medeo Fencing Club, beginning at 3:00pm**. In addition, we will hold the awards ceremony there for the expanded New Jersey Cups and for the first time the NJ Veteran Cups. Treasurer George Bowden's annual fiscal report is on the agenda, along with any new business that a member of the Division wishes to bring up.

2. Suspension of Sanctioning Fee

The Executive Committee has suspended the collection of the \$5 per competitor sanctioning fee from clubs who hold tournaments in the New Jersey Division for the 2010-2011 season. Clubs are strongly encouraged to reflect that reduction in their costs by lowering their tournament entry fees from those charged this past season.

3. Black Card Penalties

At the direction of the Divisional Liaison in USFA's National Office, the New Jersey Division will begin keeping a Black Card List as of August 1, 2010. Any USFA member earning a Black Card in a New Jersey Division-sanctioned event or a NJ Division fencer earning one in another division will have their names kept on a list published on our website for one year after the black card occurrence. Any fencer, coach, or parent earning two black cards within a 12-month period will see their name forwarded to the USFA Board of Directors for a disciplinary review.

Separately, perhaps at our urging, the USFA Board of Directors is considering a proposal to not downgrade tournament ratings that are currently lowered only because of black cards issued to fencers that have already been knocked out or left a tournament. Under current rules when a tournament rating is lowered because of black cards, other fencers in the tournament are deprived of the opportunity to earn a higher rating thru no fault of their own. These two proposals combine to increase punishment of those earning black cards, while reducing the inadvertent penalizing of those who behave themselves in tournaments where others earn black cards.

4. Producing a Tournament Calendar

In recent seasons, all the club owners or managers would meet in a very exhausting, four-hour meeting in August to haggle over who gets which dates on the tournament calendar. We've discovered, thru an analysis put together by EC Member Jennifer Yamin, that inefficient process has led to the calendar not having enough E & under, veteran and team events. There will be no calendaring meeting this August.

Instead, clubs will receive a master calendar of NAC, ROC, RYC, SYC, SAT and NJSIAA/NJIFA dates to avoid. The clubs will submit their requests for events and dates to the [Tournament Committee](#), which will assemble a provisional calendar that will go thru several iterations between the Committee and the clubs before being finalized by Sept 1. Clubs must submit a list of their entire season's requested events and dates by **August 10, 2010**. We specifically encourage clubs to submit tournament requests for E & under, veterans and team events.

We've put together a usergroup to which *only* club representatives should subscribe. The usergroup will be how all information about the tournament calendar will be disseminated to club representatives. To subscribe, e-mail: Clubs-NJ-USFA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or accept my e-mailed invitation.

The [Executive Committee](#) is currently [accepting inquiries](#) from those interested in serving on the newly reconstituted Tournament Committee for next season. The Tournament Committee is responsible for putting together the Division's tournament schedule and for running the division qualification tournaments.

In case you missed it, there will be **no** Junior Sectional Championships beginning with the new season. The junior events at the 2011 Summer Nationals will have no qualification events. They will be just like a NAC, if you're under-19 you can compete. Beginning in 2011, the Junior Olympics in February will be considered the Junior National Championships.

5. More Information Posted to the Website

To make the Executive Committee's decision-making process more transparent and to better communicate those decisions, we added a new page to the website for all important documents. Please see the [NJ Division's Reports page](#). The minutes of Executive Committee meetings and our financial statements are posted there. On the [About Us page](#), we listed all the Officers; Executive Committee members; and Tournament, Nominating and Audit Committee members with their e-mail addresses. If you have a question or concern, please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate group or individual. Constructive criticism is encouraged.

In addition, we've added a back-up webmaster, EC Member Bill Nunley. Therefore, if you have any information all of us should see, please forward it to [Webmaster Jeff Savit and Back-up Webmaster Bill Nunley](#) for inclusion on the website.

Sincerely,



Tom Tishman, Chairman

New Jersey Division of the US Fencing Association, Inc.