

Recently, Frank Mustilli, claiming that he was acting in his capacity as Chairman of the New Jersey Division, submitted and approved a petition to the USFA to split our division. A discussion about reshaping divisional and sectional boundaries may be warranted, especially with our qualifiers involving close to 300 fencers, but we strongly oppose the manner in which Mr. Mustilli and his associates acted in this matter.

Mr. Mustilli and his associates developed and submitted their petition in secrecy and without the support, knowledge or input of the Division officers, the Division Executive Committee, the vast majority of the Division's Clubs or the Division's fencers. The other officers did not discover what Mr. Mustilli had done until after Mr. Mustilli had secretly submitted the petition to the USFA and approved it as Chairman of the Division. Nonetheless, our discovery allowed us to alert the USFA to Mr. Mustilli's unauthorized activities. Had we not learned of Mr. Mustilli's submissions and unauthorized approval, the National and Sectional authorities would have considered the petition as if it were the result of due consideration and proper authorization by this Division's managing authorities

Apart from Mr. Mustilli's club, NJFA, only six of the more than thirty clubs in this division signed the petition. Together, these seven clubs represent only a tiny fraction of the membership of this division. The vast majority of our clubs and members were never given the opportunity to participate, comment upon and shape this petition before Mr. Mustilli submitted it to the USFA and approved it in the name of the Chairman of the New Jersey Division.

The three officers and the Tournament Chair unequivocally oppose and condemn the high-handed and clandestine manner in which Mr. Mustilli and his associates have acted and we request that the membership of this division join us in that opposition and condemnation. We assert that such an important topic demands honest, open and objective analysis, discussion and input from the fencers, clubs, divisions and others potentially affected. We believe that the overwhelming majority of the members of this division agree with that assertion. We are therefore doing all we can to put the brakes on this petition so that it can be properly considered and, if necessary, reshaped or rejected, as the best interests of the members of this division dictate.

The Division belongs to all of us and all of us have a right to participate and to be heard. We request that you review this matter with other members of your club and other members of the Division and make them aware of what is at issue. If you or they have any input or suggestions that will be of value, please submit them to us for consideration and discussion. In the interim, we shall update you as the circumstances require.

Vince Paragano, Vice Chairman
Anne Strauss-Wieder, Treasurer
Debbie Bratsko, Secretary
Richard Yusem, Tournament Chair