

Green Mt Division
Annual Business Meeting - Proposed Agenda
June 14, 2009

1. Election/Referendum results

Results: (tba)

Motion: a. accept the on-line poll as our official election result for division officers
b. Provided at least 72 approval votes are collected, enact the revisions to the by-laws. If necessary votes have not been collected, discussion of how to proceed.

Discussion: Any issues with on-line polling?

2. Secretary's Report

Kelly's progress in assembling a master e-mail list, recommendations for next season.

3. Treasurer's Report

2008-09 season balance sheet, trends and recommendations for next season.

Discussion: Budget-related issues.

4. Vice President's report: Champlain Cup point system

Discussion: Advantages/problems in using AskFred to keep track of points, recommendations for any changes (especially to work better with FRED).

For reference, here is the current point system:

Unrestricted mixed opens:

A3 or B3 event: 32 points
A2, B2 or C3 event: 24 points
C1 or C2 event: 16 points
D1 event: 12 points
E1 event: 6 points

Restricted events:

GMD qualifiers, age group, team or gender-specific event with 15+ fencers (or teams): 4 points
GMD qualifiers, age group, team or gender-specific event with 6-14 fencers (or teams): 2 points
D-under event: 4 points if 6-14 fencers, 5 if 15+ fencers
E-under or U event: 2 points if 6-14 fencers, 3 if 15+ fencers
Novice/beginner event: 2 points
Any event with <6 fencers: no bonus points, just 1 participation point each.
Rating restriction takes precedence over age group or gender, so a Y12 U event gets 2 points (counted as a U, not an age group event).

5. 2009-10 Competiton Calendar

For reference, this was the 2008-09 Schedule (13 weekends of competition, 1 of which was snowed out)

Sept. 28 Fall Foliage Open, UVM: open foil, epee and sabre
Oct 18 Ref Course, Norwich
Oct. 19 Pillage the Village, Hanover: open foil, epee and sabre, Y12 foil, Y14 epee
Nov. 1 Development Day, Charlotte. Yoga clinic, handicapped foil and epee
Nov. 16, JO Qualifiers, Essex
Dec. 6, Foil-Epee Doubles, and Youth Middlebury: team, Y12 foil, Y14 epee
Jan. 18, WSC Open, Essex: open foil, epee and sabre, Y12 foil, Y14 epee and sabre
Feb. 1 Groundhog Open, Arlington. Open and E foil and epee.
Feb. 22 Upper Valley Tournament, Sharon. Open foil and epee, E foil and epee: SNOWED OUT
March 7-8 Middlebury Open. Open foil, epee and sabre, veterans foil and epee, U foil and epee, Y12 foil and Y14 epee
March 22 UV D Meet modified to make up snow day: Open and E foil and epee, Y12 foil, Y14 epee
April 26. Full Circle Foil, Essex. Open, Y12 and U foil, classical foil demo
May 2-3, Summer National Qualifiers, UVM Div II, cadet, Y14 and team
May 23, Ticonderoga Challenge, open epee

Observations on this season: In 2007-08 we had 15 weekends of competition. This season we tentatively planned on 14 weekends. We ended up combining the two Jan tournaments because no club volunteered to host/find venues (Kids day and open-became WSC Open/Youth), and the two Upper Valley tournaments due to snow on the first date. Viveka's recommendation: 12-13 weekends of competition seems ideal, more than that stretches organizers and refs too thin. Also: all the E and U events were clustered late in the season - can we get one in earlier?

The following events were underattended (fewer than 15 competitors):

All sabre except Fall Foliage

All womens events (i.e. qualifiers)

Y14 epee: Pillage the Village (7), Dec (11), WSC (14), UV (11). Y-14 epee at Midd Open had exactly 15

Development Day (14 each for foil and epee)

JO Quals: all events (largest were ct and jr ME with 13, ct MF with 12)

Groundhog Open at Arlington: E events

Midd Open: veterans events

SNQ: all events except D2 ME

The following events were consistently well attended:

Open foil and open epee: turn-outs typically 20-30 fencers (occasionally more, less only at Arlington where there were 16 for each weapon), event strength typically C1-B2

E or U foil and epee: typically 15-25 fencers, occasionally more, less only at Arlington.

Y12 Foil: typically 18-25 kids, occasionally more

Discussion: how can we encourage participation in qualifiers and sabre events?

GMD demographics

Using addresses on the master membership list, I counted who lives where. I counted only competitive members (not parent associates). For Salle Catamount fencers, I used their college address (Burlington) as that is where they are based most of the season. For college students from VT attending college out of state but occasionally competing at home, I used home address.

Champlain Valley (Chittenden County, Addison County and Brandon): 69 fencers

There are also 3 fencers from northern Franklin County who travel to Chittenden County to fence.

Upper Valley (Windsor County, eastern Orange County, western NH): 26 fencers

Southwestern VT (Rutland and Bennington Counties): 9 fencers

Central VT (Washington and Lamoille Counties): 4 fencers

A few other notes on demographics: Champlain Valley Fencing Club fencers were not counted. If we expand the division to include them, they had about 10 active competitors this season. Most of our Y12 competitors are not USFA members so are not included in this survey. Most of the Y12 kids are associated with VFA (Champlain Valley) or with WSC (Champlain Valley and Central VT). Digger Puffer plans to restart fencing in the Montpelier area next season, so between that and Dale's youth class in Fayston, there is good potential for growth in central VT.

Viveka's recommendation based on these demographics: Despite the persistence of several clubs over a number of years, growth of fencing in southwestern VT has been very slow. It does not make sense to hold a tournament in Arlington until there is more growth in the club there. However, if AMH and RIFRAF were interested in co-producing a meet in the Rutland area, it might have more appeal in being closer to the 95 fencers who live in the Champlain and Upper Valleys.

National schedule for the upcoming season

October 9-10 Division II/Division III/Cadet IA

November 6-9, Junior/Cadet/Youth 14 MO

December 4-6, Division I/Veteran PA

January 15-18, Division I/Junior CA

February 12-15 Junior Olympic Championships TN

Mar 5-8 Division II/Division III/Veteran TBA

April 16-19 Division I/Youth 14/12/10 VA

July 4-13 Summer Nationas GA

Sectional Calendar: Who knows. There is a proposal to combine senior and junior into one weekend. Date?

Template for the GMD 2008-09 season (13 weekends of competition)

Sept 27: Fall Foliage Open. Open foil, epee, sabre. Add E or U foil and epee? *QC/SC*

Oct 10, 11, 17 or 18: Open and Youth

Oct 31-Nov 1, or Nov 7-8: Ref Course on Sat, Development Day focussed on ref training (especially phrase reconstruction/right of way) on Sunday.. Or other way around.

Nov 14, 15, 21 or 22: JO Qualifiers

Dec 5 or 6: Foil-Epee Doubles and Youth

Jan 9, 10, 16, or 17: Open and E

Jan 30, 31, Feb 6 or 7: Groundhog Open and Youth

Feb 20, 21, 27 or 28: Open and E

March 6-7 or 13-14: Middlebury Open (open, U, youth, veteran)

Mar 27 or 28: D Meet

April or early May ? (depends on Sectionals): SNQ (can not be scheduled against a NAC)

April or early May ? (depends on Sectionals): Full Circle Foil (can be scheduled against a NAC)

May 29 Ticonderoga Challenge epee

Discussion: What events do we want to offer this coming season? Where do we want to hold them?

Motion: Accept provisional competition calendar as discussed, host clubs agree to book venues as soon as feasible, keep Viveka updated on your progress in booking venues.

6. Open Discussion

Any issues or suggestions not already discussed?