

British Columbia Fencing Association Annual General Meeting



2025 AGM Meeting Minutes

Location & Date

Via Google Meet on September 7th, 2025

Present:

Yuriy Rubin, Dylan French, Lynn Seguin, Orkhon Erdenebaatar, Maia Rathwell, David Shorey, John French, Margo Yakovshenko

Registration of Proxy Forms:

Yuriy Rubin carried 176 proxy votes.

Quorum:

Confirmed to proceed with AGM.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 am

Approval of 2024 AGM Minutes:

Motioned by Lynn Seguin and seconded by Orkhon Erdenebaatar to approve the 2024 AGM minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

Approval of 2025 Agenda:

Motioned by Dylan French and seconded by Lynn Seguin to approve the 2025 AGM Agenda. Motion approved unanimously

Report and Approval of 2024-2025 Financial Statements:

The 2024-2025 financial statements were reviewed. Motioned by Maia Rathwell and seconded by Lynn Seguin to approve the 2024-25 financial statements. Motion approved unanimously

2024-2025 Budget:

The 2024-2025 budget was reviewed and discussed. It was motioned by Lynn Seguin, seconded by Dylan French to approve the 2024_25 budget. Motion approved unanimously.

Presentation of BCFA Annual Report:

Yuriy Rubin presented highlights of the last year, including:

Membership: Our membership stands at 780 competitive fencers and approximately 2,000 developmental participants.

Athlete Success: BC athletes won 46 medals at the 2025 Nationals. At NAC competitions, they captured 19 medals, including 9 gold. At the 2025 Cadet/Junior Pan-Ams, we brought home 3 medals. At the 2025 Cadet/Junior World Championships, BC athletes earned 4 medals. In the Junior Team event, 3 out of 4 silver medalists were from BC: Nicholas Zhang, Simon Shan, and Daniel Rubin. In addition, Simon Shan won an individual bronze medal in the Cadet event. Athletes training at BC clubs also won a

team gold and a team bronze while representing other world teams. At the Senior Pan-Ams, 10 BC athletes medaled across multiple events. And we are proud that Nicholas Zhang qualified for the 2024 Olympic Games. This level of success reinforces BC's position as a leader in Canadian fencing.

Safe Sport requirements:

Over the past year, we have maintained and updated our Safe Sport policies, covering areas such as bullying and harassment, conflict of interest, code of conduct, and privacy. Our goal remains to provide a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for every participant.

High Performance, Developmental Policy & Carding

We continue to invest in our high-performance athletes through direct funding, training camps, and carding support. Our commitment is to ensure that BC athletes continue to lead nationally and perform internationally

Competitions & Camps

This season, we will once again host the Epee World Cup, which continues to be a flagship event for us. Unfortunately, it is very unlikely that the Foil World Cup will be awarded to us in 2026, despite our strong hosting record. This year, in order to help with the improvement of Canadian fencing overall, we have adjusted the schedule for Canada Cup 2 so that it will start and finish one day later. This minimizes the gap between the Canada Cup and the World Cup events. Our hope is that many top world athletes will choose to take part in the Canada Cup as a warm-up and additional practice before the World Cup. In addition, we have secured extra space at the Olympic Oval and will once again run Youth Provincials during the World Cup. Last year's Youth Provincials were a great success and a source of inspiration for many young BC athletes and their parents."

Referee & Coach Development

Last December, during the Epee World Cup, we hosted a seminar led by the head of the FIE referee commission. It was a great success, and we are looking to repeat the seminar this year. This will become a prerequisite for newly qualified provincial referees, especially those who joined the National Team for the first time in the 2024–2025 season. We continue to support our referees and coaches in advancing their qualifications and gaining international experience. Our community of technical officials is growing stronger every year.

Women in Sport Initiative

This year, we received a \$1,000 grant for Women in Sport programming. This initiative will focus on increasing female participation and leadership within fencing across the province.

Update from CFF AGM

The Canadian Fencing Federation AGM will take place Sunday September 14th. Yuriy Rubin will be attending and will provide a full update at the next BCFA board meeting.

Staffing Update:

Yuriy Rubin acknowledged the incredible work of our staff and volunteers. John French, who has been our administrator for most of the 2024–2025 season, brings invaluable experience as a former BCFA President of over a decade. His contributions in daily operations and organizational oversight have been instrumental. Margo Yakovshenko has been responsible for our website, marketing, and social media outreach. Thanks to her work, our Instagram posts

now average 38,000 views, with some exceeding 60,000. She has also produced our regular newsletter and secured coverage in the Vancouver Sun and Richmond News. Philip Neuwirth joined us as our financial controller, implementing stronger governance practices and ensuring transparency in financial management. Together, this team has significantly strengthened the capacity and professionalism of the BCFA

Appointment of Auditors:

Motioned by Lynn Seguin and seconded by Orkhon Erdenebaatar to engage Bouchard & Company as auditors for another term

Election of Board members:

Yuriy Rubin was re-elected as President for a two year term. Martin Zhang, Dylan French and Lynn Seguin were re-elected as board members for two year terms

Other Business and Adjournment:

There being no further business, it was motioned by Lynn Seguin and seconded by Maia Rathwell to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 am.