

**2023 Annual General Meeting – Wisconsin Division**

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Call to Order:

Chair: Margherita Guzzi Vincenti  
 11:00am, Saturday, June 24, 2023

**Margherita:** Welcome and Introductions. Thank you to everyone for taking the time today to attend the Annual General Meeting for the Wisconsin Division of Fencing. Elizabeth Kane, will conduct a roll call.

**1) Annual Meeting Roll Call**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Board</b>	<b>Committees</b>	<b>Verified</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Margherita Guzzi Vincenti	Chair	Executive Committee	2023 - Comp	X
Dan Torchia	V-Chair	Executive Committee	2023 – Coach	X
Elizabeth Kane	Secretary	Executive Committee	2023 - Access	X
Dave Neevel	Armorer	Executive Committee	2023 - Coach	X
Abbas Fadel		Executive Committee	2023 - Coach	X
Kevin Kane		Executive Committee	2023 - Access	X
Michael Hull		Executive Committee	2023 - Access	X
Holly Rahn Heim		Executive Committee	2023 - Access	Zoom
Jingyi Pan		Executive Committee	2023 - Access	Present / Zoom
Nancy Wriedt		Executive Committee	2023 - Access	Zoom
Alexandra Arkin		Executive Committee	2023 - Access	X
Renee McCord		Executive Committee	2023 - Access	X
<b>Total in Attendance</b>	12			

**Proxies:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Appointed</b>	<b>Proxy Rec</b>	<b>Verified</b>	
Allison Curty	Abbas Fadel	06/19/2023	2023 - Access	
Scott Curty	Abbas Fadel	06/20/2023	2023 - Access	
Alden Grasse	Abbas Fadel	6/19/2023	2023 - Access	
Beau Mitcham	Abbas Fadel	06/20/2023	2023 - Access	
Lauren Mitcham	Abbas Fadel	06/20/2023	2023 - Access	
Michael Hull	Abbas Fadel	06/19/2023	2023 - Access	
Ann Keating	Abbas Fadel	06/19/2023	2023 - Coach	
Bryce Heim	Abbas Fadel	06/19/2023	2023 – Coll Comp	
Holly Rahn Heim	Abbas Fadel	06/19/2023	2023-Access	
Kevin Heim	Abbas Fadel	06/19/2023	2023-Access	
Spencer Heim	Abbas Fadel	06/19/2023	2023-Access	
Daniel Torchia	Abbas Fadel	06/19/2023	2023 - Coach	
Tim Glass	Abbas Fadel	06/19/2023	7/31/2167 – Oly Life	
Misti Bradford	Abbas Fadel	06/19/2023	2023- Access	

Alexandra Swenson	Abbas Fadel	06/19/2023	2023 - Comp	
Mark Swenson	Abbas Fadel	06/19/2023	2023 - Access	
Dave Swanson	Abbas Fadel	06/19/2023	2023 - Life	
Renee McCord	Abbas Fadel	06/19/2023	2023 - Access	
Angela Hull	Abbas Fadel	06/19/2023	2023 - Access	
Denise Sadler	Abbas Fadel	06/22/2023	2024 - Access	
Jingyi Pan	Abbas Fadel	06/23/2023	2023 - Access	
Total by Proxy	21			

Motion: Margherita Guzzi Vincenti

Second: Elizabeth Kane

Discussion: No Discussion

**Vote: Motion Passes**

## 2) Approval of Minutes from 2022 AGM

Motion: Margherita Guzzi Vincenti

Second: Abbas Fadel

Discussion: No Discussion

**Vote: Motion Passes**

## Approval of Agenda for 2023 AGM

Motion: Margherita Guzzi Vincenti

Second: Elizabeth Kane

### Discussion:

Abbas Fadel states that Michael Garrison, previous website manager would not coordinate with Elizabeth Kane, new website manager, the transfer of the domain name, “wifencing.com”. Elizabeth Kane states after months of going back and forth with Mike G. to obtain the domain name, we purchased a new domain name for the division because Mike Garrison would not relinquish the name. We would have preferred to have the current domain name as it provides web history that gives the domain for credibility and increase SEO. Elizabeth Kane will continue management of the website for the 2023/2024 season.

**Vote: Motion Passes**

## 3) Annual General Meeting Officer Reports

Chair Report: Margherita Guzzi Vincenti

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The Wisconsin Division has made significant progress in several key areas, contributing to the growth and development of the sport fencing in our Region.

- 1) **New WI Division Bylaws and Operating Guide:** The Division has successfully implemented the new Bylaws and an Operating Guide to streamline its operations and ensure effective governance. These updated guidelines provide a framework for decision-making, dispute resolution, and overall Division management. The new bylaws aim to promote transparency, inclusivity, and accountability within the fencing community and follow the USA Fencing format.

- 2) **Continuing Development of Fencing Exposure and Interest in WI Schools and Athletic Clubs:** Efforts to introduce fencing in Wisconsin schools as well as athletic clubs have been ongoing, and the Division has made significant strides in expanding exposure and generating interest among students. Ataba successfully reached out to Kettle Moraine School, Oconomowoc School, University Lake School and hosted about 90 high school students. Furthermore Ataba organized a fencing demonstration at the Wisconsin Athletic Club, which turned out very successful. These initiatives aim to cultivate a lifelong interest in fencing and encourage more young athletes to pursue the sport.
- 3) **Enhanced Training Opportunities:** To strengthen the quality of fencing in Wisconsin, the Division has focused on providing comprehensive training opportunities for various stakeholders within the community:
  - a. Referee Clinics: The Division has organized 4 referee clinics throughout the season to improve the knowledge and skills of referees. These clinics cover rules, protocols, and best practices, ensuring fair play and consistent officiating. Thanks to Abbas Fadel for running these clinics.
  - b. Armory Clinic: The Division recognizes the importance of well-maintained equipment and has conducted an armory clinic to educate individuals. The clinic has emphasized proper care, repair techniques, and equipment safety, ultimately enhancing the overall fencing experience. Thanks to David Neevel for running it.
  - c. Ongoing Bout Committee Training: To ensure efficient and effective tournament management, the Division has implemented ongoing bout committee training during the Ataba Challenge tournaments. These trainings are equipping WI Division members with the necessary skills to organize and conduct fencing competitions smoothly.
  - d. Coaching Clinic: The Division has organized a coaching clinic this past week to support the professional development of fencing coaches.
- 4) **Safe Sport Membership and Community Cleanliness:** The Division is proud to report an increase in the number of individuals joining Safe Sport, a program that promotes safe and respectful sporting environments. By encouraging our adult fencing community members and parents to participate in Safe Sport, the Division is taking proactive steps to maintain a clean and inclusive community, free from harassment and misconduct.
- 5) **Fencing Success Across Ages:** The Division celebrates the remarkable achievements of fencers across different age groups within the Region. Competitors from Wisconsin, in particular Ataba Fencing Club, have showcased their skills and dedication, achieving notable successes at regional, national and international competitions. These accomplishments serve as a testament to the Division's commitment to fostering talent and creating a supportive competitive environment.

**Conclusion:**

The Wisconsin Division has made significant progress in various areas. By implementing new bylaws, promoting fencing, providing comprehensive training opportunities, promoting Safe Sport membership, and celebrating successes, the Division continues to contribute to the growth and development of fencing in Wisconsin.

Motion: Margherita Guzzi Vincenti  
Second: Elizabeth Kane

**Discussion:**

Abbas Fadel thanked Margherita and the entire board for all their hard work over the year.

**Vote: Motion Passes**

**Approval of 2023 Wisconsin Division Bylaws**

Motion: Margherita Guzzi Vincenti

Second: Elizabeth Kane

**Discussion:**

Margherita explained that the Bylaws and Operations Guide over all divisions needed to be standardized. Our previous Bylaws were the same as the new Bylaws just formatted differently.

**Vote: Motion Passes**

**Approval of 2023 Wisconsin Division Operations Guide**

Motion: Margherita Guzzi Vincenti

Second: Elizabeth Kane

**Discussion:** No Discussion

**Vote: Motion Passes**

Vice-Chair Report: Dan Torchia

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The vice chair has been tasked to run the qualifying events in the division.

At the summer nationals qualifier this year we had 26 individual qualifiers, some in multiple events. There was a large number of fencers from Lawrence University that qualified. After some questions about division affiliation were resolved, all LU fencers were allowed to compete.

There were no other issues involving the Div2/Div3 qualifiers.

Membership is an area that I have also been asked to look at.

At this time at the end of the 2022/23 season, there are 196 Wisconsin Division Members.

Motion: Margherita Guzzi Vincenti

Second: Kevin Kane

**Discussion:** No Discussion

**Vote: Motion Passes**

Treasurer Report: Beau Mitcham (Margherita Guzzi Vincenti)

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All financial statements have been checked and balanced to this point.

Motion: Margherita Guzzi Vincenti

Second: Abbas Fadel

**Discussion:** No Discussion

**Vote: Motion Passes**

Elizabeth Kane: Our WI membership from 8/1 2022 – 6/23/2023 was 196.

WI Membership Numbers:

August 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 - July 31<sup>st</sup> 2022 - 172

August 1st 2022 - June 23nd 2023 - 196

Season Start (August 1st)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Membership	174	131	79	172	172	196

Summer National WI Division 2/3 and Y14 Qualifiers  
29 individuals qualified

Junior Olympics  
6 individuals qualified

Motion: Elizabeth Kane  
Second: Margherita Guzzi Vincenti

**Discussion:** No Discussion

**Vote:** Motion Passes

Armorer Report: David Neevel

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Dave discusses the below inventory:

Uhlmann Reel- 5  
Favero Reel- 4  
Floor cords- 10  
SG-12 3-w scoring machine- 1 (S/N AF119806)  
Eigertek eclipse 3-w scoring machine- 2  
EC040634- needs upgrade for Sabre  
EC040635- needs upgrade for Sabre

Spare parts for reels:

Uhlmann spring + casing- 1  
Uhlmann thick strain tubing- 2  
Uhlmann thin strain tubing- 1  
Uhlmann cable guide- 2  
Favero cable guide- 3  
Uhlmann handle- 1  
Spare cables- 5

1 Uhlmann Mask Punch

With Dan Torchia/CMH

Uhlmann Reel- 2

Allstar 3-W scoring machine- 1

Combo test weights- 4

Epee test weights- 3

Foil test weights- 2

Shim sets

Uhlmann- 4

Leon Paul- 4

1 mask punch

With Ataba FC

Favero Reels (new)- 4

Floor cords- 2

**Recommendations:**

There are only two division owned scoring machines that have the current timings. There have been enough club-owned scoring machines in the division for the past couple of seasons that these have only been needed for backup at tournaments.

If we want more division-owned boxes that will be useable for tournaments If we want to get stand-alone scoring boxes, I would recommend Favero due to their much better support for end-user upgrades and repairs. We would be looking at about \$430 per unit for FA-01 boxes (no score/time) or \$800 per unit for FA-05 boxes with score/time. The most affordable option would be to acquire VSM sets and inexpensive Windows laptops or tablets to run them. This would cost around \$380 per scoring set. Setup of such a VSM system would be more time consuming than a stand-alone scoring box.

Recommended spare parts: We should have adequate spare parts for the time being. I would recommend allocating \$200-300 for budget to cover any repair parts that might need to be purchased in the course of the season.

Motion: Margherita Guzzi Vincenti

Second: Dan Torchia

**Discussion:**

Abbas Fadel stated that we should be looking to the future and every two years have a budget for future expenses. David Neeval agreed. Abbas Fadel states that Ataba has increased their number of tournaments per year.

**Motion:** Abbas Fadel motions to add \$300 budget for armory items.

Second: Dan Torchia

**Vote: Motion Passes**

**4) Business**

1) Abbas Fadel: Trophies currently stored at UWW – Rock County can be transferred and displayed at Ataba.

Abbas attempted to initiate the transfer with Brian Duckwitz. Abbas asked Dan Torchia to contact Brian Duckwitz again to schedule the transfer of trophies.

Motion: Abbas Fadel  
Second: Elizabeth Kane

**Discussion:** Dan Torchia to contact Brian Duckwitz to coordinate transfer.

**Vote: Motion Passes**

## 2) Scheduling/Sanctioning of Tournaments

Who has tournaments planned?

- 1) Ataba - 8 tournaments and Margherita Cup
- 2) Lawrence –
- 3) Catholic Memorial –
- 4) Madison -
- 5) Caliburn
- 6) Brookfield Academy
- 7) WI Division / JO Qualifiers –

### **Discussion:**

#### **Ataba:**

Abbas Fadel states that Ataba will be having 8 tournaments and the Margherita Cup. In addition, he would like to see a State Championship. The State Championship has not been conducted in many years.

Margherita Guzzi Vincenti agreed. She added that the dates for the Ataba tournaments had not been selected however, the goal was to have a tournament every month.

#### **Lawrence:**

No one present at the meeting. Dave Neeval stated previous conversation with Coach Eric he had interest in having tournaments however the space is limited.

#### **Catholic Memorial:**

Dan Torchia states no tournaments planned at this point.

#### **Madison:**

No one present at the meeting.

#### **Caliburn:**

Dave Neeval states nothing is planned.

#### **Brookfield Academy:**

Alexandra Arkin states the only tournament planned is their December Dual Meet.

#### **WI Division / JO Qualifiers:**

Margherita Guzzi Vincenti indicates dates have been selected for these two events.

Junior Olympics Qualifier is scheduled for 12/16/2023  
WI Division Qualifier for Summer Nationals is scheduled for 4/6/2024

Abbas Fadel also adds that the Ataba Fencing Club is having a summer camp. Dates are July 31st through August 5th. Ataba will have coaches and fencers from the Italian Olympic Fencing Team, in addition a special coach from the team that focuses on proper breathing techniques.

Motion: Margherita Guzzi Vincenti  
Second: Dan Torchia  
**Vote: Motion Passes**

3) Elizabeth Kane: Google Drive / Website

Elizabeth Kane states Google Drive is available for the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. All Meeting Minutes, Agendas, By-Laws, Operation Agreement, Armory inventory are found on the drive.

Elizabeth Kane states the website is up and functioning however many obstacles occurred due to the difficult behavior of the previous website developer, Mike Garrison. Mike refused to transfer the domain name to Elizabeth Kane.

**Discussion:**

Abbas Fadel states that Ataba is working on an affordable clothing line. The brand is called Aspire Fencing. The products are under development. Abbas Fadel states that Michael Hull will be the liaison for the brand. Michael Hull states the quality will be competition quality and price point lower than other brands. Michael Hull states the brand will have 3 tiers of equipment levels.

The Aspire Fencing website is [www.aspirefencingusa.com](http://www.aspirefencingusa.com).

Abbas Fadel states that the brand will be able to rebrand for school logos.

Abbas Fadel states we are all very proud of Margherita Guzzi Vincenti and we would like the Division to pay for Margherita Guzzi Vincenti's membership fee. All were in agreement.

**Motion to pay for Margherita Guzzi Vincenti membership fee.**

Motion: Abbas Fadel  
Second: Elizabeth Kane  
**Vote: Motion Passes**

**5) Election of Board of Directors**

**Election: Chair**

Chair: Margherita Guzzi Vincenti (Current)

Nominations: Margherita Guzzi Vincenti      Nominated By: Elizabeth Kane  
Nominations: None                                      Nominated By:

Motion:



Second:

Vote:

**Election: Vice-Chair**

Vice-Chair: Dan Torchia (Current)

Nominations: Dan Torchia

Nominations: None

Nominated By: Margherita Guzzi Vincenti

Nominated By:

Motion:

Second:

Vote:

**Election: Secretary**

Secretary Chair: Elizabeth Kane (Current)

Nominations: Elizabeth Kane

Nominations: None

Nominated By: Margherita Guzzi Vincenti

Nominated By:

Motion:

Second:

Vote:

**Election: Treasury**

Treasury: Beau Mitcham (Current)

Nominations: Beau Mitcham

Nominations: None

Nominated By: Abbas Fadel

Nominated By:

Motion:

Second:

Vote:

**Discussion:**

Abbas Fadel nominated Beau Mitcham but asked if Kevin Kane would assist with Treasurer duties. Kevin agreed.

**Election: Armorer**

Armorer: Dave Neevel (Current)

Nominations: Dave Neevel

Nominations: None

Nominated By: By the Entire Group

Nominated By:

Motion:

Second:

Vote:

**Discussion:**

Elizabeth Kane states all Board of Directors positions were nominated without opposition. As stated in the Wisconsin Division Bylaws Section 8.2, “if not more than one nomination is made for a position, the Secretary of THE DIVISION shall cast a unanimous ballot for that candidate.”

Elizabeth Kane unanimously cast a ballot for Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Armourer.

Motion: Elizabeth Kane  
Second: Margherita Guzzi Vincenti  
**Vote: Motion Passes**

## **6) Election: Executive Committee**

Executive Committee Nominations: Margherita Guzzi Vincenti to nominate following people that are present today and expressed a wish to continue with the EC:

Abbas Fadel - Yes  
Alden Grasse - Yes  
Kevin Kane – Yes  
Allison Curty - Yes  
Scott Curty - Yes  
Holly Rahm Heim - Yes  
Kevin Heim - Yes  
Spencer Heim - Yes  
Ann Keating - Yes  
Bryce Heim - Yes  
Tim Glass – Yes  
Misti Bradford - Yes  
Dave Swanson - Yes  
Mark Swenson - Yes  
Alexandra Swenson - Yes  
Lauren Mitcham - Yes  
Michael Hull - Yes  
Angela Hull - Yes  
Denise Sadler - Yes  
Renee McCord - Yes  
Jingyi Pan - Yes  
Alexandra Arkin - Yes

Motion: Margherita Guzzi Vincenti  
Second: Abbas Fadel  
**Discussion: None**  
**Vote: Motion Passes**

**7) Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn: (Elizabeth)

Second: Margherita Guzzi Vincenti

**Vote: Motion Passes**

Wisconsin Division AGM Adjourns at 11:45am on Saturday, June 24, 2023.