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**GULF COAST DIVISION**  
**UNITED STATES FENCING ASSOCIATION**

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**PREAMBLE**

These Bylaws, revised in 2005, do hereby supersede, supplant and otherwise replace any previous bylaws, amendments or other rules whereby the Gulf Coast Division has been governed. In these bylaws, the term “he” or “him” shall apply to all persons regardless of gender. “Membership” shall mean all individual members in good standing of THE DIVISION.

**ARTICLE I – NAME AND ORGANIZATION**

**Section 1: Name.**

The name of the division shall be THE GULF COAST DIVISION of the UNITED STATES FENCING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED. THE GULF COAST DIVISION shall hereinafter be referred to as "THE DIVISION", and the UNITED STATES FENCING ASSOCIATION shall be referred to as "USFA." THE DIVISION is the responsible entity for the organization and supervision of fencing within its geographical area. THE DIVISION is a duly chartered subordinate, constituent body of the USFA, exercising powers given by, performing duties directed under, and subject to, the Charter and Bylaws of the USFA, with jurisdiction over the following geographic area:

**Section 2: Geographic Area.**

Beginning at the mouth of the Sabine River, at the Texas-Louisiana border, thence extending west down the Texas Gulf Coast to the Mexican Border, thence west following the Mexican-Texas border to the junction of US Highway 77, thence northward following US Highway 77 to the point where it is intersected by the 31st parallel of latitude, thence east following the 31st parallel to the Texas-Louisiana border, thence southward following the Texas-Louisiana Border to the mouth of the Sabine River. The foregoing geographic area is the historic and approved area for THE DIVISION. It shall not exclude any offshore developments in the Gulf of Mexico nor waive any claim to jurisdiction thereto.

**ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of THE DIVISION shall be:

1. To encourage the sport of fencing.
2. To promote sportsmanship.
3. To promote programs to advance levels of coaching, refereeing, and armoring.
4. To promote participation in divisional, sectional and national competitions sponsored by the USFA.
5. To improve the quality of fencing competitions.
6. To provide general information to the public with respect to the sport of fencing.

**ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1: Eligibility.**

Any person residing in THE DIVISION, or representing a fencing organization located within the area of THE DIVISION, shall be eligible for membership in THE DIVISION. No member of this Division may be a member of any other Division of the USFA. USFA

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or FIE membership shall be required for any fencer competing at any USFA sanctioned event organized by a member organization of this Division.

**Section 2: Classes.**

The membership of THE DIVISION shall be divided into classes as established from time to time by the Board of Directors of the USFA. Members of each class shall possess such rights and be subject to such regulations as the Board of Directors of the USFA may determine.

**Section 3: Rights of Members to Compete and Vote.**

1. Competing:  
All individual members in good standing shall be entitled to participate in any competition held under the auspices of THE DIVISION, subject to the limitations of these Bylaws and to such regulations and limitations as the Board of Directors of the USFA may from time to time lay down with respect to particular categories or classes of members or competitions.
2. Annual Meeting:  
Only those individual members who are qualified to vote per the USFA Bylaws shall have the right to vote on all matters that may be voted on by THE DIVISION pursuant to these Bylaws and to hold any office to which they may be elected or appointed. The date of admission to membership is determined according to the USFA Bylaws. To be eligible to vote or hold office, members must have either provided their date of birth to the USFA National Office or notified the National Office on or before February 1st of the year at issue that they have, or will attain their 18th birthday as of that date.
3. Special Meetings:  
All individual members in good standing with the USFA and who have attained their 18th birthday by the date of the meeting shall be entitled to participate and to vote on all matters that may be voted on by THE DIVISION pursuant to these Bylaws.

**Section 4: Membership Year.**

The membership year shall commence on August 1st and end on the following July 31st. All dues are payable on application for membership to the USFA.

**Section 5: Discipline and Grievances.**

With the exception of disciplinary penalties associated with competitions, all other matters pertaining to the discipline, suspension and expulsion of members and any grievances submitted by members shall be referred to the Board of Directors of the USFA for appropriate action.

**Section 6: Non-Discrimination.**

Membership in THE DIVISION shall be allowed without regard to race, color, religion, national origin or sex.

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**ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS**

**Section 1: Officers and Terms of Office.**

At the Annual Meeting of THE DIVISION there shall be elected a Chair, a Vice Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer). All officers shall take office August 1st next following their election, and shall hold office until the following July 31st, or until their successors are elected and have qualified.

**Section 2: Qualifications for Officers.**

Only voting members of THE DIVISION may hold office in THE DIVISION.

**Section 3: Chair.**

The Chair shall:

1. Preside at all meetings of THE DIVISION, unless otherwise appointed in these Bylaws.
2. Ensure that all scheduled Division meetings are convened.
3. Coordinate and direct the duties of the Executive Committees.
4. Ensure that any Division checking accounts shall require at least two signatures, the Chair and the Treasurer's.
5. File the annual reports, called for under the corporate Bylaws of the USFA, with the Secretary and Treasurer of the USFA. The preparation of these reports may be delegated to the Secretary and the Treasurer of THE DIVISION.
6. Ensure that a full and complete financial account of Division funds and expenditures be published three times yearly.
7. Assign officers and members of the Executive Committee to chair standing or ad-hoc committees. The Chair shall be ex-officio member of all committees and boards.
8. Ensure that the Executive Committee appoints a Webmaster to run and maintain the Division Website.
9. With the Executive Committee, prepare the yearly schedule to members of THE DIVISION by September 1st, or as soon after this date as the National Schedule is published.
10. Fill, by appointment, any of the offices of the executive committee, which are vacated by abandonment, dereliction or death.
11. Perform the duties of the Chair of the Bout Committee, a standing committee of THE DIVISION, if that position is vacant for any reason.
12. Ensure the presence of qualified referees, appropriate equipment and supplies, and trophies, awards, or certificates at Junior Olympic Qualifiers and Divisional Qualifiers for Summer Nationals.
13. Ensure that the Executive Committee or the Equipment Committee makes an annual inventory and recording of all Division equipment and supplies and make recommendations for its repair and/or replacement. At the end of the term of office, immediately deliver all such equipment and inventory records to his successor.

**Section 4: Vice Chair.**

The Vice Chair shall:

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1. In the absence of the Chair, perform the duties of the Chair and, when so acting, have all of the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions of the Chair.
2. Preside over and convene all scheduled Division Advisory Board meetings.
3. Serve as an ex-officio member of the Division Advisory Board.
4. Act as liaison between the Division Advisory Board and the Division Executive Committee.
5. Perform such duties as may be assigned by the Chair or other proper authority.

**Section 5: Secretary.**

The Secretary shall:

1. Conduct all official correspondence as authorized by the Executive Committee.
2. Keep a record of the annual and special meetings of THE DIVISION and its Executive Committee and make available to the Webmaster electronically for posting on the Division Website, or by emailing it to members, or by any equivalent method. Any member who would like to receive a printed copy of the minutes by mail may do so by notifying the Secretary.
3. Issue notices to all members of DIVISION meetings.
4. Provide the current yearly schedule of fencing events and make available to the Webmaster electronically for posting on the Division Website, or by emailing it to members, or by any equivalent method. Any member who would like to receive a printed copy of the schedule by mail may do so by notifying the Secretary.
5. Be official custodian of the records of THE DIVISION.
6. Maintain a current membership list of the Division members.
7. Verify the voting status of each member as appropriate.
8. Prepare and submit to the USFA results from all required qualifying events for National Competitions.
9. Ascertain and report to the USFA the rating of all approved division competitions and certify each fencer as to his or her classification(s).
10. Perform such duties as may be assigned by the Chair or other proper authority.

**Section 6: Treasurer.**

The Treasurer shall:

1. Keep the accounts of THE DIVISION.
2. Receive all monies, fees, dues, etc.
3. Compile full financial accounts of divisional funds and expenditures three times per year and make available to the Webmaster electronically for posting on the Division Website, or by emailing them to members, or by any equivalent electronic method. Any member who would like to receive a printed copy of the accounts by mail may do so by notifying the Secretary. The financial accounts will be made available as follows:
  - a. on or before September 1st
  - b. on or before December 1st
  - c. on or before April 1st
4. At the Annual Meeting of THE DIVISION, submit a report of the financial transactions of the preceding year.

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5. Keep all funds of THE DIVISION in a checking account. All accounts shall be in the name of "Gulf Coast Division of the USFA" opened with the Gulf Coast Division Tax Identification Number.
6. Pay all bills approved by the Executive Committee and preserve all vouchers for such disbursements.
7. Perform such duties as may be assigned by the Chair or other proper authority.

**Section 7: Combined Offices.**

The office of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined for any year upon majority vote of the members of THE DIVISION voting, in person or by proxy at the annual meeting. In the event of such vote, the candidates for the office of Secretary and the office of Treasurer shall be deemed candidates for the combined office.

**Section 8: Removal of Officers.**

Officers of THE DIVISION may be removed for cause. The Board of Directors of the USFA may prescribe procedures for removal that provide the accused officer with notice of the asserted grounds for removal and due process during the removal proceedings. If the Board of Directors of the USFA fails to adopt such procedures, the USFA Executive Committee may remove an officer of THE DIVISION if it finds there is cause for such removal after notice to the accused officer and a hearing or other appropriate proceeding in which that officer was accorded due process rights.

**Section 9: Vacancies in Office.**

A vacancy in the office of Chair, whether arising from resignation, death, removal or otherwise, shall be filled by the Vice Chair. All other vacancies in offices of THE DIVISION, whether arising from resignation, death, removal or otherwise, shall be filled by appointment by the Chair. In filling vacancies, the Chair may appoint any member eligible to hold office.

**ARTICLE V – DIVISION ADVISORY BOARD**

**Section 1: Composition.**

The Advisory Board shall be composed of Representatives from each USFA Member Organization of THE DIVISION, and representatives from three (3) age groups; a fencer between the age of 13 and 19, a fencer between the age of 20 and 39, and a fencer age 40+. Members shall be members in good standing with the USFA. The term of office for representatives is from August 1st next following their appointment or election, and shall hold office until the following July 31st, or until their successors are appointed or elected and have qualified.

**Section 2: Selection or Election.**

1. The Representatives of each USFA Member Organization shall be selected annually by the membership of each organization. The Organization shall notify the Division Secretary of the name and contact information of the Representative.
  - a. Each Organization is allowed to select an alternate Representative. The Organization shall establish procedures for notifying the alternate when his presence at meetings is needed. The alternate need not receive notices from

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the Division Secretary and need not be placed on the mailing list of the Board for any purpose.

2. The age group representatives shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of THE DIVISION by their peers. Fencers younger than 18 years may vote to elect their age group representative. Nominees shall be the proper age for their respective term of office, and be willing to accept their nomination.

**Section 3: Responsibilities and Powers.**

The Advisory Board shall receive suggestions from the membership pursuant to the expressed objectives of THE DIVISION as stated in these Bylaws for consideration by the Executive Committee.

**Section 4: Notification and Quorum.**

1. Notice of the Advisory Board Meetings shall be given to all members of THE DIVISION by the Secretary, which notice shall be published on the Division Website a minimum of five (5) days prior to such meeting.
2. At any meeting of the Advisory Board, a quorum shall not be required.

**Section 5: Meetings.**

1. The Vice Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Advisory Board, provide information on activities of Executive Committee, and record all suggestions and votes.
2. Advisory Board Meetings shall occur a minimum of twice yearly, once during the fall and once during the spring, or as suggestions dictate. The Vice Chair may pair meetings with tournaments as seen fit.
3. Suggestions may be voted on by the Representatives to gauge the popularity of each suggestion. The Vice Chair shall not vote.
4. Any member of THE DIVISION may attend meetings of the Advisory Board and shall be entitled to voice, but not to vote at any such meeting.

**Section 6: Electronic Mail.**

Any specific question or matter that might be discussed at an Advisory Board Meeting may be submitted to any Representative by electronic means. Representatives shall forward their contact information to the Vice Chair to be posted on the Division Website.

**ARTICLE VI – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Section 1: Composition.**

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Chair, the Vice Chair, the Secretary, and the Treasurer of THE DIVISION.

**Section 2: Responsibilities and Powers.**

The Executive Committee shall be vested with the full powers and responsibility for the management and policies of THE DIVISION subject to these Bylaws.

**Section 3: Quorum.**

At any meeting of the Executive Committee, a quorum shall consist of three (3) members. On failure of a quorum, a lesser number shall have the power to adjourn to a given time and place. The Chair shall designate the date, place and time of each meeting.

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**Section 4: Meetings.**

The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at such time and place as shall be designated by the Chair and shall be called upon the written request of two (2) or more members of the Committee. All members shall be given not less than forty-eight (48) hours prior notice of all meetings. The Divisional Executive Committee shall schedule meetings at no less than the following times:

1. at some time prior to September 1st to prepare the Divisional Schedule.
2. at the Chair's discretion, in the Fall following the Advisory Board Meeting.
3. at the Chair's discretion, in the Spring following the Advisory Board Meeting.

**Section 5: Action on Advisory Board Matters.**

Any proposed suggestions from the Advisory Board shall be included on the agenda for the next Executive Committee meeting as appropriate. The Executive Committee shall take such action as it deems appropriate, which action may include adoption, adoption with conditions, rejection or tabling. Actions on suggestions shall be recorded in the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes.

**Section 6: Electronic Mail.**

Any specific question or matter that might be discussed at an Executive Committee Meeting may be submitted to the Executive Committee by electronic means.

**Section 7: Operations Manual.**

The Executive Committee shall maintain an Operations Manual to provide information about the policies, procedures and operations of THE DIVISION.

**ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES**

**Section 1: Committees.**

Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, the Chair shall have the power to create and appoint the members of such standing and special committees as he may deem necessary or appropriate, designate the chairs thereof, and assign functions thereto. The members of committees need not be members of the Executive Committee. With the exception of the Webmaster and Bout Committees, any other committee shall be optional at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

The standing committees are as follows:

1. Bout Committee: The Chair of the Bout Committee or his appointee shall be the de facto Chair of the bout committee at each tournament in THE DIVISION at which classifications may be earned. The Chair of the Bout Committee shall also appoint two (2) or more other members of THE DIVISION and possibly other members of the USFA for each competition who, with the Bout Committee Chair of the competition, shall constitute the bout committee for such competition. The Chair may also accept suggestions from the tournament organizers for additional Bout Committee members. The Chair of an individual bout committee shall decide all disputes arising during the course of that competition. An appeal may be taken from any decision of the Chair to the bout committee as a whole, in

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which event the decision of a majority of the members of the bout committee shall control.

- a. The Bout Committee shall consist only of members in good standing of the USFA.
  - b. The minimum requirement for a place on the Bout Committee is a thorough knowledge of the USFA Rules.
  - c. Anyone competing or serving as team captain may not serve on the Bout Committee of that tournament.
2. Webmaster Committee: The Chair of the Webmaster Committee shall be responsible for the Division Website. This includes ensuring that the Division Website is regularly updated (no less than once per month) and properly maintained. The Website should include: the minutes of Executive Committee Meetings, Division Financial Accounts, a copy of these Bylaws, a listing of all upcoming tournaments in the Division and a listing of member and referee classifications. The committee may also choose to post news articles written about members, clubs, organizations, or events of THE DIVISION.
  3. Historical Committee: The Chair of the Historical Committee shall compile a record of the results of all individual competitions conducted by THE DIVISION and results of outstanding individual performances by members of THE DIVISION in competitions outside of the Division, such as, International competitions, National competitions, Sectional Qualifiers and other major Section competitions. Historical records compiled by this committee shall be kept on the Division Website. The activities of this committee shall in no way negate the record keeping and reporting responsibilities of the Divisional Secretary.
  4. Publicity and Membership Committee: The Chair of the Publicity and Membership Committee shall have charge of all publicity and public relations relating to THE DIVISION and shall also be charged with the conducting of continuing efforts to promote fencing within THE DIVISION.
  5. Equipment Committee: The Chair of the Equipment Committee shall have charge of all competition equipment of THE DIVISION. The committee shall maintain and store the equipment at a designated location. The Chair of this committee shall also be responsible for making periodic reports as to the status of the equipment, and for ensuring the transport of the equipment to Divisional qualifying competitions, Sectional qualifying competitions and Section Circuit competitions.

**Section 2: Committee Meetings.**

Every committee shall meet from time to time at the call of the Chair thereof, and it shall be the duty of the Chair to call a meeting upon the written request of a majority of the members of his committee or of the Division Chair.

**Section 3: Committee Reports.**

The Division Chair may request reports from the Committee Chairs from time to time.

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**ARTICLE VIII – DIVISION MEETINGS AND NOTICES**

**Section 1: Annual Meeting.**

There shall be an Annual Meeting of THE DIVISION held in the same location as the Divisional Qualifiers for Summer Nationals. A quorum shall consist of seven (7) voting members present in person, regardless of the number of proxies brought to the meeting. The meeting shall convene immediately following the completion of the first day of fencing for the Divisional Qualifiers.

1. Unless those entitled to vote at the meeting shall determine otherwise, the order of business at the Annual Meeting shall be as follows:
  - a. Reading of Minutes of the last Annual Meeting
  - b. Treasurer’s Report
  - c. Inventory and Condition of Divisional Equipment Report
  - d. Recommendations by Outgoing Officers
  - e. Election of New Officers
  - f. Old Business
  - g. New Business

**Section 2: Notice of Annual Meeting.**

Notice of the Annual Meeting shall be given to all voting members of THE DIVISION by the Secretary, which notice shall be mailed and or published on the Division Website not less than twenty-one (21) days prior to such meeting.

**Section 3: Special Meetings.**

Special Meetings of THE DIVISION may be called by the Chair at a time and place of relative convenience for the membership, and shall be called by the Chair upon written request of not less than twenty percent (20%) of the Division Membership or fifty (50) members, whichever is greater. For a special meeting requested by the members of THE DIVISION, the Chair shall call the meeting for a time soon enough to accommodate the business intended for the meeting. A quorum shall consist of seven (7) voting members present in person, regardless of the number of proxies brought to the meeting. Business not specified in the notice of any such meeting shall not be acted upon.

1. Unless those entitled to vote at the meeting shall determine otherwise, the order of business at the Special Meeting shall be as follows:
  - a. Reading of Minutes of the last Special Meeting
  - b. Report of Officers and Committees (when appropriate)
  - c. Proposed Amendments to Bylaws (when appropriate)
  - d. Proposed Business as notified

**Section 4: Notice of Special Meetings.**

Notice of Special Meetings shall be given to all voting members of THE DIVISION by the Secretary, which notice shall be mailed and or published on the Division Website not less than fifteen (15) days prior to such meeting and shall contain a statement on the purpose of the meeting. Such notice shall include or be accompanied by the text of any amendment to these Bylaws to be acted upon at such Special Meeting, or a notice of where on a website on the internet the text of the proposed amendments may be viewed, provided, however, that if the text of the proposed amendments is not included with the

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notice, the notice shall include a statement that a copy of such text may be obtained by mail on submission of a written request.

**Section 5: Notices to Last Known Address.**

Any notices shall be deemed validly given or delivered if mailed to a member at the address last designated by such member to the Secretary of the USFA or to the Division Secretary.

**Section 6: Procedures at Meetings.**

Unless otherwise provided for in these Bylaws, procedure at meetings shall be governed by the provisions of the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

**ARTICLE IX – ELECTIONS**

**Section 1: No Voting by Slates.**

Candidates for office stand for election as individuals. Ballots shall not take into account or provide for a vote for any candidate to be tied or joined to a vote for any other candidate, except when each of such candidates are running unopposed.

**Section 2: Election Committee.**

1. The Election Committee shall consist of five (5) members: the Division Secretary, three (3) non-Division related persons serving as Tellers appointed by the Executive Committee and overseen by the highest rated non-Division related Referee in attendance at Divisional Qualifiers for Summer Nationals.
2. The Election Committee shall be responsible to fairly administer the election of Officers and balloting on other issues brought before the membership. The Secretary shall validate the proxies of all members presenting such for consideration. The Committee shall enforce such electoral rules not inconsistent with these Bylaws, shall provide for the validation and tallying of ballots and shall certify the results of the election.

**Section 3: Nominations.**

The Secretary shall include in the Annual Meeting notification to the membership of THE DIVISION that nominations are being accepted for each Office open for election, and for Age Group Representatives to serve on the Division Advisory Board. From that time, nominations may be made and submitted to the Secretary for posting on the Division Website. Brief biographies and statements of goals may also be submitted for each Officer nomination. Nominations for Division Officers may also be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting. Nominations for Age Group Representatives may be made from the floor if no nominations were previously submitted.

**Section 4: Elections by Majority.**

The Officers of THE DIVISION shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast.

**Section 5: Uncontested Elections.**

If no additional candidates have been nominated for any office, then the candidates for such office or offices shall be certified by the Election Committee as having been unanimously elected.

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**Section 6: Contested Elections.**

When more than one candidate has been nominated for an office, the Election Committee shall provide for voting by anonymous ballot as follows:

1. Proxies for all voting shall be submitted to the Secretary for verification of eligibility to vote by or before 2:00 pm of the day of the Annual Meeting.
2. As proxies are submitted, the Secretary shall record voters' names and proxies on a Voter Identification sheet containing sequential numbers. The corresponding number shall be the Identification Number for that voter. As voters holding no proxies check in with the Secretary, their names shall also be recorded on the Voter Identification sheet with their proxy number listed as one (1). The Voter Identification Number sheets shall serve as the duplicate record of voters and proxies and shall be maintained until the conclusion of the election.
3. The Secretary shall be responsible for verifying each voter's eligibility and that of each voter's proxies. Once verified, the Secretary shall stamp the voting cards for each voter using a stamp unique for the election and year.
4. Each voter shall be given four (4) distinct colored cards with their number of proxies, including themselves, written on the cards. For those voters not carrying proxies, their cards shall have a number one (1) written on them. Each set of cards shall also have the voter's identification number written on them and carry a stamp of validation from the Secretary. Once cards have been issued, the proxy holder may submit no further proxies.
5. The Secretary shall call for any additional nominations from the floor for each position separately. Once all nominations are submitted, nominations for each Office shall be closed.
6. Voters shall submit his vote for each position by writing the name of their chosen candidate on the appropriate colored card.
7. The Tellers shall adjourn to tally the ballots under the supervision of the non-Division related Referee.
8. The Secretary shall announce the elected candidates.
9. In the event that a recount is requested, the non-Division related Referee should recount immediately.
10. In the event that three (3) or more candidates are nominated for any office, and no candidate receives a majority vote, a run-off election shall be conducted immediately and the winner shall be declared elected.
11. Voting for Age Group Representatives to the Division Advisory Board is subject to the provisions of Article V, Section 2 of these Bylaws.
  - a. Proxies shall be submitted in the same manner as described above.
  - b. The Secretary shall keep a separate Voter Identification record for Age Group Representative voters.
  - c. The Secretary shall verify voters's eligibility to vote in their respective Age Group.
  - d. Each voter shall be given one (1) voting card with their number of proxies, including themselves, written on the cards. Each Age Group shall have a distinct colored card, which shall be different from each other and from the Officer position voting cards. Each set of cards shall also have the voter's

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identification number written on them and carry a stamp of validation from the Secretary. Once cards have been issued, the proxy holder may submit no further proxies.

- e. Voting for Age Group Representatives shall take place during the day of the Annual Meeting from 2:00 pm until the start of the Annual Meeting. Votes shall be placed in Ballot Boxes provided for each Age Group.
  - f. The votes shall be tallied by the Tellers at the Annual Meeting. The Secretary shall announce the Age Group Representatives.
  - g. In the event that no nominations were made during the allotted nomination period, the Secretary shall call for nominations from the floor for Age Group Representatives.
12. When all ballots are tallied, they shall be handled in a manner designed to protect the confidentiality of each member's vote. The Election Committee shall destroy all ballots, proxies and duplicate records after the Annual Meeting of THE DIVISION is concluded.

**ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1: Manner of Making Amendments.**

These Bylaws may be amended at any Special Meeting of THE DIVISION called for that purpose, by a vote of the majority of those present in person or by proxy. Only amendments included in the Notice may be considered at the Special Meeting convened. Voting at such meetings is subject to the provisions of Article III of these Bylaws. Notices of such meetings are subject to the provisions of Article VIII of these Bylaws.

**Section 2: Effective Date of Amendments.**

Unless otherwise specified, amendments to these Bylaws shall take effect immediately after their adoption. The amended Bylaws so adopted shall be posted to the Division Website. Any member who would like to receive a printed copy of the Bylaws by mail may do so by notifying the Secretary.

**ARTICLE XI – COMPETITIONS**

**Section 1: Qualifying Competitions.**

Qualifying competitions conducted by THE DIVISION shall be run pursuant to the rules and regulations for fencing competitions promulgated by the USFA. Weapon classifications of fencers for the purpose of ranking competitors in Divisional qualifying competitions shall be the same as those used by the USFA. Subject to these requirements, the Executive Committee of THE DIVISION shall oversee the conditions and restrictions governing the qualifications, entries, seeding and conduct of all qualifying competitions under its jurisdiction.

**Section 2: Entrance Fees for Qualifying Competitions.**

Entrance fees for Divisional qualifying competitions conducted by or under the auspices of THE DIVISION shall meet the guidelines set by THE DIVISION for the current season or get a specific approval from the Executive Committee.

**BYLAWS**  
**GULF COAST DIVISION**  
**UNITED STATES FENCING ASSOCIATION**

**Section 3: Member Organization Sponsored Competitions.**

Privately sponsored competitions may be listed in THE DIVISION's schedule of events if the Executive Committee approves the conditions, qualifications and restrictions of such competitions held within THE DIVISION. At least one (1) member of the Division's Bout Committee shall be present at such approved competitions. The results of such approved competitions which otherwise comply with all USFA and Division rules and regulations may be used for the purpose of determining weapon classification upon approval by the Executive Committee.