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Subject: Master of weapon exception process for notable fencing coaches

In our effort to work in partnership with US fencing, we are proposing new USFCA criteria for Master's degrees in a specific weapon (i.e. master of epee). This document provides guidance and structure to an exception process and in no way influences or holds precedent over the well defined certification processes that are currently in place.

This document describes a petition process in order for the USFCA to consider notable coaches for a special exemption to not write the thesis or practical test. Coaches that petition for the exemption must be current members in good standing of the USFCA. Based on this document, the CAB will review and recommend certifications levels for a petitioning coaches. All certifications proposed by the CAB through this process, requires EC review and approval of the certification before the certification can be presented to the petitioner.

Petitioning coaches must meet the following criteria:

All petitioners must pass a Risk Management written test

And in addition, any one of the following:

1. Olympic coach within the last eight years
2. Current coach of record* for four years of a U.S. fencer who placed in the Top 3 in a World Cup/Grand Prix/World Championship (including Vets) within the last eight years
3. National champion of a Div 1 event in the last five years
4. Performance based criteria: present at the AGM or other clinic for the USFCA a minimum three hour seminar on high level training** and or lesson techniques and tactics for individual and/or team events that will be videoed and available for our membership.

* "Coach of record" defined as primary coach of the fencer for the past four years. The CAB reserves the right to interview the fencer and verify the information provided.

**A high level seminar is expected to cover the latest coaching concepts a specific chosen topic. For example: on tactics, training, aspects of international level lessons, strip coaching and strategy at the highest levels to compete at the world cup and top international events. If attending members of the CAB and EC note that the presentation is not up to the standards of a high level international coaching seminar then the coach will be asked to change the presentation after the first 30 minutes. If it is still not up to expected standards then the coach will have one more opportunity to redo the presentation. If the presentation is not acceptable the Master's degree will not be awarded and a Prevot degree or no degree may result.