

British Fencing EGM

Summary of Proposals from your British Fencing Board

For British Fencing EGM on May 19, 2012

As part of its 3G strategy, and specifically of the “Green” agenda, the British Fencing (BF) Board proposes a Board restructure and other changes which require amendments to the Articles for BF members to agree. These changes have two key aims:

- **to enhance the efficiency, transparency and responsiveness of the Board and of the British Fencing operations and member services;**
- **to meet governance standards that make us “fit for purpose” and thus suitable to attract and manage public and private funds.**

The Board should stress the importance of these aims and the proposals. We bring them to an EGM because without the changes proposed our ability to raise funding for the sport from public or private sources will be undermined seriously - thus putting at great risk our “Grow” and “Gold” agendas over the next few years.

The changes are also in response to the Board’s own review of itself and the Peter King Review of Head Office, both under our “Green” agenda and published on the website.

The proposals are grouped in separate Resolutions as below. Each Resolution deals with a group of proposals which are subject to approval by members, via proxy voting or at the EGM:

1. Resolution re Board size. We propose a Board of 12 Directors, to include 8 elected by the membership (as now), and 3 independent Directors appointed by the Board, including the independent Chair (as now) and two new independent Directors. The 12th Board member will be the CEO, as now;

2. Resolution re Transitional arrangements. We propose transitional arrangements to allow for the continuance of

annual elections to the Board. These arrangements are needed as the present elected members are stepping down in October 2012 and March 2013, requiring elections then in those months (4 and 4) and thus, without special provision, there would be no further Board elections for 4 years;

3. *Resolution re the President post.* We propose that the President's role becomes an honorary post, without Director responsibilities, to be nominated by the Board for approval by the BF AGM each year;

4. *Resolution re Directors' terms of office.* We propose a maximum of two terms, each of 4 years, for Board Directors;

5. *Resolution re the Board quorum.* To maintain the elected member majority at all Board meetings, the quorum will be set at 8 Directors, 5 of them to be elected;

6. *Resolution re Equality provisions.* We propose allowing for two Directors (in addition to the 12 directors as above) to be appointed only where necessary by the Board to encourage greater representation of underrepresented groups and thus to meet public funding guidelines (which will for example in 2013 require at least 25% of the Board to be of each gender);

7. *Resolution re Technical* and minor amendments to the Articles which help enhance efficiency and clarity.
