



# **European Fencing Confederation**

## **EFC Circuit Competition Rules**

**v.1 July 2025**

All FIE Rules are to be respected, with the exception of some deviations which have been adopted for the purpose of respecting some specifics of the EFC Circuit competitions.

## Individual competitions

### **I. Formula of competitions:**

- a) FIE JWC formula, i.e. one round of pools followed by Direct Elimination (DE).
- b) From the round preceding the DE table at least 20% and maximum 25% of participants should be eliminated.
- c) In this context, from the moment of allocation of competitions for the EFC Circuit upon the decision by EFC Executive Committee, the organisers have to present their invitation letter no later than 2 months before the date of the concerned tournament.

### **II. Besides the rules cited above, the EFC Comex adopted following complementary rules:**

- a) Pools must be published the day before start of competition. In case of no show on the day of competition FIE rules for the possible arrangement of concerned pools will apply. Note: **the entries are closed at 12:00 mid-day on the day before competition** and organisers should download the most recent XML entry file for publishing pools by 16:00 of the same day.
- b) The first round of pools should be run in a maximum of two flights. In case of pools running in two flights the following rule for the second flight has to be applied: a minimum of 50% of pools in the second flight must be composed of 7 fencers in order to ensure the possibility of moving fencers from those pools to pools of 6 fencers with any missing fencers.
- c) The organisers must mandatorily send a short report and photos from the tournament within 2 days after the competition to the EFC Media Commission and to the Sports and Technical Director.
- d) Online live results from competitions are mandatory and must be ensured by organizers.
- e) Only FIE certified fencing competition management software can be used.
- f) Weapon control should be focused on security aspects defined by the EFC SEMI commission as follows:
- g) The table below summarizes requirements. For full details please refer to the FIE rules.

	Mask	Glove	Maragin (F/E/S)	Clothing	Wires/Lamé
EC Senior	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
EC U23	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
EC Junior	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
EC Cadet	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
E.F. League	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
U23 Circuit	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
U17 Circuit	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
U14 Circuit	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
The mandatory equipment control can only be performed at the piste by the referee as an exception.					

The EFC can send for any chosen competition a member of the EFC SEMI commission as the delegate to check the application of relevant rules.

The Organiser of all EFC Circuit competitions should appoint a local Safeguarding Officer.

### **III. Points to be accorded:**

- a) The FIE formula scale of points will be applied in general
- b) 1 point for places from 65 to 128 will be awarded if the fencers were qualified from the previous round.

No points will be attributed for fencers eliminated in the first round.

### **IV. Referees quotas:**

#### **a) Number of referees:**

- 1-3 fencers - no referee required
- 4-9 fencers - 1 referee
- 10-15 fencers - 2 referees
- 16-20 fencers - 3 referees
- 1-2 teams - 1 referee
- 3-5 teams - 2 referees

b) Non-compliance of the quotas is sanctioned by 500 EUR for every missing referee per day of competition. A referee can only be registered for one event per day.

c) The referees officiating at U14 and U17 must have a national licence, for the EuroFence League and U23 they should have a valid EFC-C / FIE B/A qualification. In a transitional phase during the season 25/26 good national qualification is accepted. When competition is also FIE Satellite, FIE rules has to be applied.

d) In order to respect the quota delegations may "hire" referees from different countries. In any case this must be coordinated with the organiser and the EFC in order to guarantee that enough countries are represented within the referees.

e) For the Ranking of teams 4 best results will be counted, but only the best ranked team will be considered for the global ranking.

f) No late entry or retirement for injury will be noted after 12:00 mid-day on the day preceding the competition. At this moment the registration is closed and organisers should download the most recent XML entry file for publishing pools by 16:00 of the same day.

## **V. Inscriptions for competitions:**

- a) Only the central offices of Federations can enter fencers, coaches and referees respecting the EFC quota.
- b) EFC Circuit competitions use their access to data in the EFC Service portal.
- c) **If organisers use additional software requiring fencer data, this data must be extracted from the XML file – organisers shall not require additional registration via their own website.**
- d) The entry fee for individual competitions – see concerned age category rules.
- e) **The deadline for inscriptions is 1 week before the day of the event.**
- f) **All fencers, teams, coaches and referees must be in possession of an EFC licence (fee of 25 EURO) and entered by their respective National Federation respecting the above mentioned deadline policy. Entering the fencer, coach or referee after the deadline is sanctioned by a penalty: for a fencer or coach 50 EUR per person, for a referee 100 EUR per person. (See EFC Administrative Rules, point 1.6 - <https://www.eurofencing.info/getFile/case:show/id:495398> )**
- g) **Mixed teams composed of fencers from different countries cannot be entered.**

**VI. The EFC Circuit competitions continue to be open for all interested fencers, including from other Regional zones. However, the best ranked fencer will be declared at the end of the season and he/she can be only a fencer coming from an EFC member federation.**

**VII. After ending the competition, the organiser must immediately, on the same day, upload the XML-out file to the EFC web site or send it to the EFC administrator of the Circuit. Then an **unofficial** updated ranking will be available right after that operation. After validation of results by the EFC office an updated ranking will become official. Besides uploading the XML-results file the organisers also **have to send to the EFC administrator the complete results file under pdf format** and upload it to the EFC web site structured as follows:**

### **In individual competitions:**

- a) fencers by country (including date or year of birth)
- b) fencers by initial seeding (given by EFC CC actual ranking)
- c) formula
- d) pools
- e) ranking after pools
- f) ranking for DE table in case two rounds of pools were fenced
- g) all DE tables
- h) final ranking (including date or year of birth)
- i) activity of referees

### **In team events:**

- a) fencers in teams (including date or year of birth)
- b) teams initial ranking
- c) Table of direct elimination with results (all tables if matches for places were also

fenced)

- d) Final ranking of teams
- e) Activity of referees
- f) All details of matches in direct elimination

**VIII. General installations for competitions** should follow good practice and standards for FIE Junior World cup competitions using exclusively FIE prescribed pistes (**1,5 m wide** and 17 m long), if possible surrounded by barriers offering sufficient space for referees, ensuring good conditions for refereeing, timely posting of results at every stage of competition, etc.

**IX. Protocol: with the exception of “force majeure” the organisers are to hang out flags of participating federations and play the national anthems of the winners during medal ceremonies.**

**X. The fencer's name on the back is optional**

**XI.** The organisers are to provide mandatory medical service at competitions following the FIE Rule about availability of medical services and transportation (not necessary in case of proximity of hospital according to FIE Rules).

**XII.** If necessary, complementary rules can be implemented by the EFC Competition Commission and/or the EFC Sport and Technical Director after approval of the EFC Executive Committee.

**XIII.** From this season it is highly recommended to use the EFC logo on every communication. The EFC logo shall be displayed on site and on the results as well as together with the sponsors. This will be mandatory from the next season and preference will be given to those already using the logo in this season (2025/2026).

## SPECIFIC RULES ACCORDING TO THE AGE CATEGORIES

### A) U14 Circuit competitions

- A1) Respecting the low age of participants it is expected that fencers will not travel long distances and will look for competitions in their neighbourhood. Therefore, no limitations of competition per country and weapon are applied.
  - A2) More than one tournament in the same weapon can be organized in the country interested to hold them, to emphasize point 1.
  - A3) EFC U14 ranking will be computed from the overall calendar where only 3 competitions will be taken into account
  - A4) The entry fee was defined by the EFC Congress 2023 in Krakow as 20 EUR for the organizer + 5 EUR, which should be transferred to the account of the EFC after the end of competitions by the organizer
  - A5) There is only one restriction: for the U14 calendar, only the tournaments containing both genders, girls and boys, can be proposed. However, the proposed tournament can contain one or several weapons according to the decision of the organisers.
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### B) Cadet Circuit competitions

#### B1) Competition arrangements:

If the number of participants is exceeding 100, only one individual competition per day can be organised, possibly followed by one team event. An exception can be awarded by the EFC Sport Director upon request of the organiser who will give a guarantee of smooth running of competitions based on presented relevant technical conditions (number of pistes in context of expected number of participants), as well as availability of a sufficient number of referees for the given number of pistes.

#### B2) Rankings:

Four (4) best results + European Cadet Championships in the individual competitions will be counted for the Ranking

#### B3) Points to be accorded:

The following multiplication coefficients for ranking points will be applied according to the number of participants:

Scale of multiplications	Countries up to 7	Countries 8-12	Countries 13+
Participants 1-50	1	1,5	2
Participants 51-100	1,5	2	2,5
Participants 101+	2	2,5	3

**B4) Quota of participation:**

- a) From the organising country a maximum of 64 fencers per weapon can be engaged
- b) Foreign delegations are limited to 20 fencers per country and weapon
- c) For teams: maximum 5 teams per country can participate in team events (this is valid also for the organising federation). However, in an effort to ensure good running of competitions the organiser is entitled to limit the participation of teams by nation.
- d) In very exceptional cases the quota of participation can be exceeded upon agreement of the EFC Sports Director
- e) Minimum criteria for awarding points in the Circuit: 5 countries with 30 participants among whom are 30% of foreigners

**B5) The entry fee:**

The entry fee for individual competitions is 20 EUR (maximum) + 5 EUR .

For teams it can be higher; however, it should not be more than 60 EUR +15 EUR per team.

**B6) Team competitions:**

- a) The organisers are free to run preliminary pools of 3 or 4 teams or to organise only direct elimination team competitions. The last 8 teams can fence for all places.
- b) Initial seeding of teams will be based on the results of the participating team members
  - b1) From the individual competition preceding the team event or
  - b2) From the EFC individual ranking of the participating team members if the team event is preceding the individual team event.
- c) In the case of technical replacement during a match and if an injury subsequently appears in the same match, then the replaced fencer can come back in the team in order to allow the continuation of that team in the tournament (this differs from the FIE Rules for teams).
- e) The EFC Sport Director will arrange with the organisers of the relevant Cadet Championships the purchase of a cup for each weapon (6) to be awarded to the EFC team winners of the end-of-season ranking.
- f) For the Ranking of teams 4 best results will be counted, but only one team per country will be counted.

**B7) EFC Rules about the age of participants at the EFC Cadet Circuit and Championships:**

- a) The participants in cadet competitions are principally those who can participate at World Cadet Championships in the same fencing season, thus reaching 17 years on or after the 1st of January of the year when the World Championships are held.
- b) However, the lowest age of fencers should be under same conditions as cited here above, 12 years.
- c) It is still possible that, in the case of an extraordinarily advanced young fencer, upon written agreement of his/her parents and a recommendation from their coach and a doctor, an even younger fencer can participate in a specific cadet competition.

### **C) U23 Circuit competitions**

- C1) Principally this is the initial version of the adjusted Rules for the EFC U23 Circuit applied during the previous period before 2025-2026 season.
  - C2) It would be welcome if team competitions accompanied individual competitions and thus the tournaments would be organized as a two day event. Competitions including team events would have priority if the number of competitions in the Circuit EFC becomes limited.
  - C3) All fencers participating in the Circuit competitions must be aged U23, i.e. the fencers who can participate at the European U23 Championships in the same fencing season, thus reaching 23 years on or after the 1st of January of the year when the European Championships are to be held.
  - C4) The entry fee for individual competitions was defined by the EFC Comex in June 2024 as a maximum 35 EUR + 5 EUR. The additional 5 EUR should be transferred by the organizer to the account of the EFC after the competition.
  - C5) The initial ranking of fencers is to apply as follows:  
Current FIE ranking  
EFC U23 Circuit ranking +1000  
The places of non-ranked fencers are drawn randomly.
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### **D) EFC Eurofence league competitions**

- D1) The age of fencers participating in the Circuit competitions is not limited.
- D2) The number of participants by country is not limited
- D3) The entry fee for individual competitions was defined by the EFC Comex as a maximum 35 EUR + 5 EUR. The additional 5 EUR should be transferred by the organizer to the account of the EFC after the competition.
- D4) For the EFC Eurofence league Ranking all results are counted.
- D5) The initial ranking of fencers will be applied as follows:  
Current FIE Senior World Cup ranking  
EFC Eurofence league Circuit ranking +1000  
The places of non-ranked fencers are drawn randomly.