



**European Fencing Confederation
Confédération Européenne d'Escrime**

Association sans but lucratif, 90, Rue Ermesinde, L - 1469 Luxembourg
R.C.S. Luxembourg F1378



**European Fencing Confederation
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STATUTES



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PREAMBLE

The European Fencing Confederation ("**EFC**") is a non-profit association subject to the laws and regulations of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the provisions of its present statutes (the "**Statutes**").

In compliance with Luxembourg Law, the number of member federations (the "**Member Federations**" or "**Members**") cannot be lower than three (3).

These Statutes, along with the internal rules (the "**Internal Rules**") and the administrative rules (the "**Administrative Rules**"), govern the functioning of the EFC.

The purpose of the Internal Rules and Administrative Rules is to elaborate on the principles outlined in the Statutes and to govern the internal operational and administrative functioning of the EFC. In the event of any conflict or discrepancy between the Statutes and the Internal Rules or the Administrative Rules, the Statutes shall prevail.

The present Statutes constitute a coordinated version of the Statutes as of 13.06.2025

Date: 13.06.2025

.....
President

.....
Secretary General



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1. OBJECTS, POWERS – SEAT – ENTITY

OBJECTS

1.1. The objects of the EFC (“Objects”) are:

- 1.1.1. to promote and develop the sport of fencing in Europe
- 1.1.2. to coordinate and facilitate the teaching of fencing in Europe
- 1.1.3. to support the creation of national federations in European countries within a Member Federation
- 1.1.4. to promote and develop the struggle against doping
- 1.1.5. to promote and develop the practice and culture of Historical Fencing – European Martial Arts or any other arising form of Fencing practised in one or several Member Federations.

1.2. The duration of the EFC is unlimited.

POWERS

1.3. In furtherance of the Objects but not otherwise, the EFC has the following powers:

- 1.3.1. to promote and develop the practice of fencing in Europe as extensively as possible, and to assist the International Fencing Federation (“FIE”) in achieving the same goal by coordination between the national federations, continuously and through all contacts necessary, and establishing, setting and proposing means of promotion likely to have the best impact to ensure amicable mutual support, of technical and other kinds, between Member Federations and to strengthen the ties of friendship which unite fencers of all European countries;
- 1.3.2. to represent fencing in relationships with other European entities;
- 1.3.3. to adhere to, subscribe to and promote the Olympic Charter and the Olympic Movement as set out from time to time by the International Olympic Committee, in so far as they apply to the EFC, provided that such obligations do not conflict with Luxembourg or EU law and in accordance with the generally accepted principles of good governance for continental sporting governing bodies for Europe;
- 1.3.4. to organise European senior, junior, cadet and veteran championships at all weapons for both men and women and other European championships and competitions that it may choose;
- 1.3.5. to discharge the obligations of the Zonal Confederation (as defined in and set out in the FIE Statutes) for Europe, provided that such obligations do not conflict with Luxembourg or EU law and are in accordance with the generally accepted principles of good governance for continental sporting governing bodies for Europe;
- 1.3.6. to ensure strict applications of the FIE Statutes and other regulations and aims by Member Federations and their members, provided that the application of those statutes or regulations do not conflict with Luxembourg or EU law;
- 1.3.7. to coordinate initiatives of the Member Federations;
- 1.3.8. to carry out itinerant missions in Europe entrusted to it by the FIE to reinforce Member Federations;
- 1.3.9. to ensure that the principle of non-discrimination on race, sex, ethnicity, religion, political opinions, family status or other is respected;



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1.3.10. to adhere to and promote the FIE's Ethics Code, including its Betting and Anti-Corruption Rules appendix; and

1.3.11. to be subject to the FIE's Disciplinary Code.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FIE

- 1.4. The FIE recognises the EFC as the Zonal Confederation for Europe, and the EFC fulfils the role provided by the FIE Statutes and undertakes to develop the goals of the FIE.
- 1.5. The EFC is not a member of the FIE but undertakes to fully comply with and adhere to its principles and rules, provided that they do not conflict with Luxembourg or EU law and accord with the generally accepted principles of good governance for continental sporting governing bodies in Europe.
- 1.6. Unless specifically provided otherwise in the Statutes, the EFC aims to comply with the FIE Statutes, rules, and other regulations of the FIE. Any issue not addressed by the current Statutes or the Internal Rules should be interpreted by referencing mutatis mutandis and, where possible, the FIE Statutes, rules, or other applicable regulations.
- 1.7. In the event of a discrepancy between the provisions of these Statutes, the Internal Rules, the Administrative Rules and their interpretation and the provisions of the FIE Statutes, rules, or other regulations, the FIE Statutes, rules, and other regulations shall take precedence in the order they are listed in this article. This is apart from the applicable law, which for the EFC shall in all cases remain Luxembourg law and European Law, as well as the official and working languages or any other aspect where the precedence of the FIE provisions would be legally confusing or nonsensical.
- 1.8. The EFC may have specific internal functioning rules (which may imply the creation of certain specific bodies and functions at the level of the EFC, which do not exist for the FIE), which must not violate the FIE Statutes, rules and regulations.
- 1.9. The EFC is the fencing governing body for all European Fencing Championships. The EFC has the sole jurisdiction to propose to the FIE the venue, date and organisational structure of the senior and junior zonal championships in Europe in which the Member Federations and their members participate.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW AND BEST PRACTICE

- 1.10. The EFC furthers its objectives without regard to or discrimination based on race, sex, ethnicity, religion, political opinion, family status, or other factors.
- 1.11. The EFC follows the principles of good governance and transparency, especially in elections and in the auditing and publishing of accounts.
- 1.12. The EFC complies with applicable legal provisions concerning data protection during the collection and processing of personal data.

REGISTERED OFFICE AND ADMINISTRATION

- 1.13. The EFC's registered office is in Strassen, Luxembourg, at the address of the Luxembourg Fencing Federation's seat.



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OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

- 1.14. The official languages of the EFC are English and French. The working language of the EFC is English.
- 1.15. All official texts and documents of the EFC are prepared in English and translated into French. In the event of a discrepancy, the English version shall take precedence. For the purposes of this article, the official texts and documents are the Statutes, the Internal Rules, the Administrative Rules of the EFC, and any documents the EFC is required, under Luxembourg law, to be prepared or translated into French.

FINANCIAL YEAR

- 1.16. The financial year of the EFC runs from 1 January to 31 December.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

- 1.17. Member Federations must pay an annual membership fee, the amount of which is set by Congress. The fee, which cannot exceed EUR2,000, must be paid no later than 31 January in the year it falls due. A late payment surcharge of 20% of the annual fee shall automatically be applicable in case of payment after this deadline.
- 1.18. Notwithstanding article 1.17 above, a federation may only compete in an EFC championship after having paid its membership fee. EFC championships are European Championships of all categories, as well as those competitions determined as EFC championships by the Congress.
- 1.19. A new Member Federation is exempt from the requirement to pay an annual membership fee for its first three full years of membership. It is entitled to the full membership privileges for that period.
- 1.20. Where so required by the Executive Committee, a Member Federation must guarantee the financial obligations of an organiser of any official competition organised on behalf of the EFC within that Member Federation's territory. For the avoidance of doubt, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, these financial obligations include competition levies and any other costs incurred by the EFC in ensuring the smooth running of such a tournament.
- 1.21. A Member Federation is not entitled to vote or attend a Congress if it has a debt to the EFC, whether arising from these Statutes or any contractual obligation or guarantee arrangement made by the Member Federation in favour of the EFC.
- 1.22. A Member Federation is not entitled to nominate candidates for Presidency, Executive Committee membership, or other Committee or Commission of the EFC if, at the date and time at which the deadline for nominations closes, that Member Federation has a debt to the EFC, whether arising from these Statutes or any contractual obligation or guarantee arrangement made by the Member Federation in favour of the EFC.



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2. MEMBERSHIP

CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1. The EFC is a non-profit association and a zonal confederation (as determined by Article 2.3 of the FIE Statutes) composed of European fencing federations that belong to Europe. Nevertheless, other countries can be associated with the EFC for reasons of geographical or cultural proximity, provided they are not associated with other continent fencing associations. The EFC may also admit invited bodies that do not have member status, provided they belong to countries without existing member federations.
- 2.2. The EFC may accept as its Member Federations (federations, unions, fencing sections, national sports organisations, etc.) any other organisations that commit to these Statutes and the Internal Rules, provided they are officially recognised by their country's Olympic Committee as the sole representatives of fencing and are FIE member federations.
- 2.3. Member Federations undertake to cooperate to achieve the objectives of the EFC further.
- 2.4. Member Federations agree to be fully bound by and to comply with the Statutes and the Internal Rules.
- 2.5. Member Federations exercise all the rights and obligations provided for by the present Statutes.

ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP

- 2.6. To qualify for eligibility to apply for recognition as a Member Federation, a national federation ("**National Federation**") must have and must maintain enough registered fencers and prove and continue to ensure that its Statutes are not in contradiction with the fundamental rules of the FIE Statutes and these Statutes (except for official and working languages).
- 2.7. A National Federation that wishes to be made a Member Federation must present an application to the Executive Committee. This application must be accompanied by a declaration from the National Olympic Committee ("**NOC**") of the National Federation certifying that the applicant body is the only one officially recognised by the NOC and the FIE to govern fencing in that country. The EFC will provide applicants with a template for this declaration.

ENROLMENT

- 2.8. Congress considers and determines membership applications at its first meeting after receiving a valid application.
- 2.9. The Executive Committee has the right to accept provisionally, until the next Congress, a National Federation which has applied for membership.
- 2.10. When a National Federation is a provisional Member Federation, it benefits from the same rights and obligations as any other Member Federation.
- 2.11. A refusal of permanent membership by the Congress shall be accompanied by all documents provided by the Executive Committee to the Congress before the vote to allow the applicant to understand the grounds for the refusal. A refusal of permanent membership does not allow any grounds for compensation.



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- 2.12. Congress's decision on applications for permanent membership is final, and there is no right to appeal against a refusal of such an application. However, this does not prevent the National Federation from applying for membership in the future, but not earlier than six months after the date of the refusal decision issued by Congress.

LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP

2.13. A Member Federation may lose its membership in the EFC:

- 2.13.1. by resignation
- 2.13.2. by expulsion by an absolute majority of a vote by Congress or
- 2.13.3. by failure to comply with the requirements of the present Statutes concerning monies due or owed to the EFC.

MEMBERS OF HONOUR

- 2.14. For remarkable contributions to the EFC or long-standing loyal service to European fencing, the Congress may confer the title "Member of Honour of the EFC" upon an individual. The Executive Committee suggests candidates for the title to the Congress at its own initiative or upon the proposal of a Member Federation. The Members of Honour may participate in the Congress in an advisory role and do not possess voting rights.

MEDALS OF HONOUR

- 2.15. The Executive Committee may award any individual a medal of honour for an outstanding achievement or exceptional contribution to European fencing.

3. LICENCES

- 3.1. An individual must hold an appropriate EFC licence. The Internal Rules set out the categories of licences and the fees, if any, payable for a licence.
- 3.2. A licenced individual must comply with the Statutes, Internal Rules, and other regulations of the EFC as they relate to the activities governed by their licence.

4. CONGRESS

STATUS

- 4.1. The Congress is the supreme decision-making body of the EFC. Meetings of Congress shall take place either i) as an Ordinary Congress or ii) as an Extraordinary Congress.

COMPOSITION AND REPRESENTATION

- 4.2. The Congress consists of the authorised delegates from each fully paid-up and unsuspended Member Federation, whose names have been provided to the Secretary General no later than 2359 CET on the fifth calendar day before that Congress. Each Member Federation may be represented by up to two (2) duly authorised delegates at the Congress. Members of the Executive Committee and members of the Mandatory Commissions also have the right to participate in the Congress.
- 4.3. Where a Delegate of a Member Federation also holds a position with the Executive Committee or a permanent Commission or Council, he/she shall exclusively participate in the Congress in his/her role of Delegate of the Member Federation to avoid conflicts of interest.



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- 4.4. Each Member Federation has one vote, which shall be cast by the Delegate the Member Federation has appointed in writing as its Voting Delegate.
- 4.5. If a Member Federation does not send its own delegates to Congress, it can appoint a delegate of another Member Federation to vote on its behalf. Any such delegation of powers must be submitted in writing on the Member Federation's official business paper and signed by the president of that Member Federation. To be treated as a valid delegation of powers, it must be received by the Secretary General no later than 2359 on the second calendar day before that Congress.
- 4.6. In any case, one delegate cannot act on behalf of more than one (1) mandate other than that of their own Member Federation.
- 4.7. Individuals who have received an invitation but do not enjoy voting rights may attend the Congress.
- 4.8. All decisions are made by a simple majority of votes unless otherwise provided for in the present Statutes.
- 4.9. The Executive Committee determines the voting process in a way that ensures:**
- 4.9.1. all persons attending the meeting can be identified,
 - 4.9.2. all persons participating in the meeting have the technical possibility to communicate,
 - 4.9.3. votes can be directly transmitted and secretly, and the voting result cannot be distorted
- 4.10. Participation in a Congress through virtual or online means shall be considered equivalent to physical presence at the meeting (including the calculation of quorum and majority).

COMPETENCE OF CONGRESS

4.11. The following matters are the exclusive competence of the Congress:

- 4.11.1. Election and removal of the President
- 4.11.2. Election and removal of Members of the Executive Committee
- 4.11.3. Approval of the dates and places of the European Championships
- 4.11.4. Determination of the other championships and competitions the EFC should organise
- 4.11.5. Admission of a new Member Federation
- 4.11.6. Temporary suspension of a Member Federation
- 4.11.7. Exclusion of a Member Federation
- 4.11.8. Approval of the Membership Fee for the next financial year
- 4.11.9. Approval of the EFC's annual working plan and budget for the next financial year
- 4.11.10. Approval of the Financial Statements of the EFC and its Auditor's Report
- 4.11.11. Discharge of the President and Executive Committee from their responsibility for the governance of the EFC over the previous year's activities
- 4.11.12. Appointment and dismissal of the approved statutory auditor
- 4.11.13. Approval of amendments to the Statutes and Internal Rules of the EFC
- 4.11.14. Liquidation or dissolution of the EFC

- 4.12. Decisions on any matter within Congress's exclusive competence cannot be delegated to another body of the EFC.
- 4.13. The management and executive bodies of the EFC and the Member Federations must execute all resolutions and decisions adopted by Congress, which, unless expressly stated to the contrary, come into effect immediately upon the closing of the Congress at which the resolution or decision was taken.



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MEETINGS

- 4.14. The Ordinary Congress convenes once a year. If it is held during the calendar year of a Summer Olympic Games, it must not occur before the conclusion of that Olympic Games.
- 4.15. The Executive Committee determines the Ordinary Congress's date, timings, location and agenda.
- 4.16. The Congress shall meet either in person or by suitable electronic means.
- 4.17. The Executive Committee may indicate in the meeting notice that members can participate in the Congress via videoconference or any telecommunications method that ensures their identification and guarantees effective and continuous involvement. These members are regarded as present for the purposes of calculating the attendance quorum and voting.
- 4.18. An Extraordinary Congress can be convened at any time on the demand of the President, at least one-fifth (1/5) of the Member Federations, or by the decision of the Executive Committee.
- 4.19. An Extraordinary Congress may deliberate and decide on all matters within its exclusive competence, including the election and removal of the President and members of the Executive Committee.
- 4.20. The EFC will cover the administrative and organisational costs of a Congress. For the avoidance of doubt, this does not include the costs incurred by Member Federations in sending delegates to a Congress.
- 4.21. A representative of the FIE, at the FIE's expense, may attend any Congress. Such a representative shall have no right to speak at such a meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENT AND AGENDA

- 4.22. No later than four (4) months before the opening of the Ordinary Congress, the Executive Committee shall inform all Member Federations and the Office of the FIE by registered letter or e-mail about the Executive Committee's decision to convene the Ordinary Congress.
- 4.23. The Secretary General shall circulate a preliminary agenda to all Member Federations no later than three (3) months before the opening of the Ordinary Congress.
- 4.24. Any issues and proposals of a Member Federation to be discussed at the Ordinary Congress or the proposals of the names of the candidates for the positions of President and members of the Executive Committee (in years where elections are to take place) must be submitted in writing or by email to the Secretary General no later than 2359 on the day two (2) months before the opening of the Ordinary Congress. The Member Federation must be able to demonstrate proof of delivery of any such submission in a form acceptable to the Executive Committee.
- 4.25. At the Ordinary Congress, only issues and proposals submitted within the fixed time limit and included in the agenda will be examined. At least one (1) month before the Ordinary Congress, the Secretary General will notify the Member Federations and the Office of the FIE of the final agenda and send them any relevant documents.
- 4.26. If $\frac{3}{4}$ (three-quarters) of the Member Federations' delegates present at the Ordinary Congress approve, the Ordinary Congress may include in the agenda an item which has been submitted to the Secretary General within a time limit shorter than the one mentioned in Article 4.25 of the present Statutes. The resolution and any other decisions regarding the item shall be approved by



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a qualified majority of $\frac{3}{4}$ (three-quarters) of the votes of the delegates present at the Ordinary Congress.

4.27. For an Extraordinary Congress, the timeframes and time limits outlined in Articles 4.22 and 4.24 shall be halved. In cases of urgency or matters requiring immediate action, the timeframes and time limits specified in Articles 4.22 and 4.24 may be further shortened at the sole discretion of the President or the Executive Committee. In all circumstances, and to comply with the law of Luxembourg, the minimum notice for a meeting of the Congress shall not be reduced to less than 15 days.

4.28. The following items must be included in the agenda of an Ordinary Congress:

- 4.28.1. election to and determination of the powers of the Election Commission
- 4.28.2. the acknowledgement of the President's message
- 4.28.3. official approval of the minutes of the previous Congress
- 4.28.4. presentation of the reviews prepared by the Executive Committee, the Secretary General, the Treasurer, and the Auditors relating to the period following the previous Congress
- 4.28.5. presentation of the EFC's annual working plan and approval of the budget for the following financial year
- 4.28.6. discharge of the President and Executive of their responsibility for the governance of the EFC over the since the previous Congress
- 4.28.7. (where applicable) the names and CVs of the candidates proposed for election to the office of the President or the Executive Committee.

4.29. All documentation relating to the Ordinary Congress shall be published on the EFC's website at the same time as being sent out to the Member Federations.

5. PROCESSES FOR ELECTIONS TO THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

GENERAL RULES

5.1. The President and the nine (9) other elected members of the Executive Committee are elected by the first Ordinary Congress after the conclusion of each Summer Olympic Games. They take office immediately upon the conclusion of that Ordinary Congress and hold office until the conclusion of the first Ordinary Congress after the next Summer Olympic Games unless removed at a previous Ordinary Congress or Extraordinary Congress.

5.2. A candidate proposed by a Member Federation will only be included on the list of candidates standing for election if:

- 5.2.1. Their candidature is submitted by the Secretary General (or equivalent) of the Member Federation
- 5.2.2. The candidate is a fully paid-up individual member of that Member Federation
- 5.2.3. The Member Federation is a fully paid-up and unsuspended Member Federation at the closing date and hour for submission of applications

5.3. The names of the candidates for President and Executive Committee members must be submitted in writing to the Secretary General in accordance with the timings set out in Articles 4.24 and 4.27 (as appropriate). The same candidate may be proposed for President and election to the Executive Committee. In the event such a candidate is not elected as President, that candidate may, before the elections to the Executive Committee, withdraw their candidacy for the Executive Committee elections.



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- 5.4. The election for the President shall take place before the election of the Executive Committee Members.
- 5.5. The elections are conducted by secret, direct vote in accordance with the provisions of these Statutes, supplemented, where relevant, by the Internal Rules.

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

- 5.6. Each candidate for President may address the Congress for no more than 10 minutes in English or French (without a translator or interpreter) before the election. The order in which candidates shall speak shall be determined by lot conducted by the Chair of the Election Commission.
- 5.7. An absolute majority of the votes cast is required to be elected president, except in the case provided for in Article 5.10.
- 5.8. If no candidate receives an absolute majority of the votes cast in the first round of voting, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, leading to an additional round being organised.
- 5.9. If a candidate does not obtain an absolute majority of votes during the second round, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and one or more additional rounds are organised until a candidate secures an absolute majority of votes or only two candidates remain, who shall proceed to the final round.
- 5.10. In the final round of voting, the candidate who receives the most votes is elected. Should there be a tie between these two candidates for two rounds of voting, the election shall be determined by lot conducted by the Chair of the Election Commission.
- 5.11. If there is only one validly nominated candidate for President. In that case, that candidate shall be deemed elected.

ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 5.12. Elected members of the Executive Committee must be from different Member Federations than the President. No Member Federation may have more than one member on the Executive Committee. For clarity purposes, this provision applies to the Executive Committee as a whole, that includes the President of the Athlete's Commission.
- 5.13. Should there be ten or more candidates, there shall be an election. The nine (9) candidates who have obtained the most votes are elected. In the event of a tie for the ninth candidate, this shall be resolved by drawing lots. Where there are ten or more candidates, Member Federations must vote for nine candidates from the list proposed for election to the Executive Committee.
- 5.14. If there are nine or fewer candidates, only those who receive at least two (2) votes shall be elected to the Executive Committee. Where there are nine or fewer candidates, Member Federations must cast one fewer vote than the number of candidates. For the avoidance of doubt, for example, if there are nine candidates, a Member Federation must cast eight votes, and if there are eight candidates, a Member Federation must cast seven votes, etc. There shall be a further vote for the remaining vacant positions at the next meeting of the Congress.
- 5.15. At least three women and three men must be elected to the Executive Committee. If the nine candidates who receive the most votes do not include at least three women and three men, the Executive Committee will consist of the three candidates from the under-represented gender who received the most votes, along with the six candidates from the other gender who received the most votes. If there are fewer than three candidates from one gender, that gender will be



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represented by the number of candidates nominated, while the remainder of the Executive Committee will include candidates from the other gender who received the most votes.

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

STRUCTURE AND TENURE

6.1. The Executive Committee comprises:

- 6.1.1. The President
- 6.1.2. The nine elected members of the Executive Committee
- 6.1.3. Ex officio, the President of the FIE
- 6.1.4. Ex-officio, the President of the EFC Athletes Commission

6.2. All members of the Executive Committee, whether elected or ex-officio, have full voting rights on decisions taken by the Executive Committee.

6.3. In case of resignation, withdrawal, permanent absence or death of one of the nine elected members of the Executive Committee, the first non-elected candidate will automatically replace him/her for the remaining term, provided that the requirements of Article 5.15 are respected. A supplementary election shall be organised during the next Ordinary Congress if no other candidates exist and shall hold office for the unexpired term of the person they are replacing.

COMPETENCE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

6.4. The following issues fall under the exclusive competence of the Executive Committee:

- 6.4.1. Urgent amendments to the Internal Rules, which will take effect immediately and will subsequently be ratified by Congress
- 6.4.2. Representation of the EFC in relations with the FIE and European entities
- 6.4.3. Affiliation of provisional Members to the EFC and suspension of Member Federations from the EFC, which are to be approved by the next Congress
- 6.4.4. Implementation of resolutions and other decisions of the Congress
- 6.4.5. Deciding on the convening of a Congress; approbation of the agenda, time limits, date and place of the Congress
- 6.4.6. Deciding on the ratification of the President's activity concerning ongoing matters
- 6.4.7. Organising and managing the appropriate spending of the EFC funds in accordance with the approved budget.
- 6.4.8. The appointment of personnel necessary to run the EFC efficiently, including if appropriate, a Chief Executive or Office Manager
- 6.4.9. Deciding, upon the President's proposal, on the distribution of functions between the Executive Committee members and on the allocation of the financial funds of the EFC within the limits of the approved budget by Congress
- 6.4.10. Preparation of a report on the work performed
- 6.4.11. Examination and taking of decisions concerning the problems of preparation and realisation of competitions, including the setting of competition entry fees
- 6.4.12. Preparation and approval of the proposal for the European Competition Calendar, all age categories, including places and dates. The EFC must procure adequate coordination with the FIE calendar
- 6.4.13. The evaluation of bids for the European Championships for consideration by Congress
- 6.4.14. Supervision and preparation of the European Championships and any events the organisation of which falls under its responsibility
- 6.4.15. Appointing individuals to Councils and Commissions (other than the Athletes Commission)
- 6.4.16. Taking decisions concerning membership of any European and international bodies, non-profit organisations, unions or associations in the EFC and withdrawal or removal from the EFC of the said bodies



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- 6.4.17. Responsibility for the application of the plans for the EFC, as agreed with the FIE
- 6.4.18. Recommending possible Members of Honour to the Congress
- 6.4.19. Granting of Medals of Honour
- 6.4.20. Establishing, amending and revoking such rules, handbooks and such other guidance as it deems necessary to ensure the effective operation of the EFC provided that such rules, handbooks and other guidance shall not be inconsistent with the Statutes or Internal Rules
- 6.4.21. Temporarily suspending any Member Federation for non-payment of all and/or part of any sum due to the EFC by the said Member Federation.

MEETINGS AND DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 6.4.22. The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice annually.
- 6.4.23. Meetings of the Executive Committee can be called by the President, the Secretary General or at least 50% of Executive Committee Members. Meetings shall be convened on reasonable notice other than in the case of urgent business.
- 6.4.24. The Executive Committee may conduct its meetings and make decisions through video conferences, other virtual meeting platforms, or any other telecommunication methods.
- 6.4.25. Decisions taken at a physical or online meeting of the Executive Committee shall be by way of a simple majority. In the event of equality of votes, the President shall have a casting vote.
- 6.4.26. The quorum for a physical or online meeting of the Executive Committee shall consist of 50% of the elected members. To determine the quorum, the President shall be classified as an elected member of the Executive Committee.
- 6.4.27. The Executive Committee may make decisions in writing (including by email) but must be unanimous.
- 6.4.28. All information, documents, discussions, and opinions obtained or exchanged during the meetings or consultations of the Executive Committee are confidential. The responses and opinions of the members, as well as the documents and contents related to the meetings and consultations, must not be used or disclosed to third parties at any time unless justified or required by applicable laws. Decisions made during meetings or consultations may only be communicated to third parties within the limits of the duty of confidentiality established in this article and only after the EFC has officially communicated these decisions. The confidentiality provisions in this article apply to all individuals participating in the meetings of the Executive Committee or consultations, including employees or agents of the EFC.

REMUNERATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 6.4.29. In accordance with the law of Luxembourg on non-profit associations, no member of the Executive Committee (however appointed) may be remunerated for discharging their responsibilities as a member of the Executive Committee and may not be employed or engaged for reward by the EFC. Nothing in this Article shall preclude the reimbursement of properly and reasonably incurred expenses to members of the Executive Committee.

7. THE PRESIDENT

- 7.1. The President represents the EFC in all the activities of civil life and *ad litem*.
- 7.2. The President chairs the Congress, the Executive Committee and the Bureau.
- 7.3. The President, assisted by the Bureau members, attends to all ongoing matters and subsequently seeks the Executive Committee's ratification of the decisions.
- 7.4. With the approval of the Executive Committee, the President may engage advisors to support them in the efficient discharge of their functions.



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- 7.5. The President may delegate all or any of their powers to other members of the Executive Committee. This delegation shall, however, be duly justified and limited in time for periods not exceeding 6 months but may be renewed.
- 7.6. The President presents to the Executive Committee their proposals regarding the distribution of functions between its members and the allocation of the financial funds of the EFC.
- 7.7. The President has the executive power to implement resolutions based on the working plan and the Congress-approved budget.
- 7.8. For specific matters, the President can invite presidential advisors, who can attend and speak at an Executive Committee meeting without a right to vote.
- 7.9. The President informs and collaborates with the CEO of the FIE to solve any problems or administrative dysfunctions within the EFC and to carry out administration training projects.
- 7.10. Each year, the President presents a report to the executive committee of the FIE on the EFC's activities, a progress report on the plans agreed upon with the FIE, a financial report, and a draft budget for the subsequent year.

8. THE BUREAU

8.1. The bureau (the "Bureau") is composed of

- 8.1.1. the President
- 8.1.2. the Vice-president (the "**Vice-President**")
- 8.1.3. the Secretary General
- 8.1.4. the Treasurer (the "**Treasurer**")

- 8.2. The President appoints all the members of the Bureau from the elected members of the Executive Committee.
- 8.3. If the offices of Vice-President, Secretary General, or Treasurer are vacant, the President shall designate another Executive Committee member to fill that role during the next meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 8.4. The Vice-President replaces the President in case of absence and shall perform the functions of the President at the Executive Committee meetings, at the Congresses and in other official activities.
- 8.5. In case of the President's definitive absence, withdrawal, removal, resignation, or death, the Vice-President performs all functions of the President until the next Congress, at which a new President shall be elected to serve for a new or remaining term (as the case may be).
- 8.6. Under the President's guidance, the Bureau attends to all ongoing activities of the Executive Committee and prepares the agenda and list of items to be discussed by the Executive Committee.
- 8.7. The Bureau shall inform the FIE's sport department of the training requests and needs for the coaches of its national federations and actively collaborate with the FIE's sport department to carry out the training projects developed by the FIE.
- 8.8. The President may ask the Vice-President or another member of the Bureau to represent him at a particular function.



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9. COMMISSIONS AND COUNCILS

9.1. To support the proper and effective operation of the EFC, the Executive Committee must establish the following Commissions and Councils ("the Mandatory Commissions")

- 9.1.1. Training/Fencing Masters Commission
- 9.1.2. Promotion/Marketing Commission
- 9.1.3. Referees Commission
- 9.1.4. Competitions Commission
- 9.1.5. Legal Commission
- 9.1.6. Athletes Commission
- 9.1.7. Technical Commission (SEMI)
- 9.1.8. Medical Commission
- 9.1.9. Veterans Council
- 9.1.10. Equality and Diversity Commission
- 9.1.11. Safeguarding Commission

9.2. The Executive Committee may create other commissions on such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate ("the Auxiliary Commissions").

9.3. Membership of Mandatory Commissions and Auxiliary Commissions shall be restricted to individuals proposed for appointment by fully paid-up and unsuspended Member Federations.

9.4. The terms of reference for the Mandatory Commissions shall be set out in the Internal Rules.

9.5. A member of the Executive Committee must chair each Mandatory Commission.

10. FINANCES

10.1. The Executive Committee prepares an annual budget showing the main revenue lines and expenditure lines for the approval of the Ordinary Congress.

10.2. The Treasurer prepares the budget details within the general lines established by the Executive Committee, explaining them as necessary. This budget is intended for the President, Bureau, Executive Committee, and Auditor(s).

10.3. Any expenditure (whether or not included in the EFC budget) that is less than 5% of the total budgeted expenditure of the EFC must be authorised by the Treasurer.

10.4. Any expenditure (whether or not included in the EFC budget) that is 5% or more and less than 10% of the total budgeted expenditure of the EFC must be authorised by both the President and the Treasurer.

10.5. Any expenditure (whether or not included in the EFC budget) which is equal to or exceeds 10 % of the EFC Budget must be approved by the Executive Committee.

10.6. The Ordinary Congress appoints the EFC's statutory auditor, who shall comply with the requirements established under Luxembourg law. The statutory auditor's role is to annually examine the financial activities of the EFC, including the appropriate use of aids granted by the FIE, based on the documents submitted by the Treasurer. They provide a report of this examination to the Congress, which report shall adhere to recognised international financial reporting standards.



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11. DISCIPLINE

- 11.1. The EFC (which includes, for clarity, the Congress, the Executive Committee, the President, the Bureau, the Commissions and Councils, and all their individual members) is subject to the FIE's Disciplinary Code. To further this, the EFC incorporates the FIE Disciplinary Code by reference, substituting "EFC" for "FIE" as appropriate, *mutatis mutandis*, to ensure its effectiveness for controversies within the EFC.
- 11.2. The Disciplinary Panel of the FIE has exclusive authority to adjudicate all offences against the Statutes, Internal Rules, Ethics Code, discipline or sportsmanship, and other regulations within the EFC's purview, except where explicitly stated otherwise in these Statutes or in the specific provisions regarding discipline at the competition sites outlined in Articles t.114 et seq. of the FIE Rules for Competitions.
- 11.3. Any person, whether an individual or an entity, wishing to present a complaint or state the Complaints regarding the existence of an offence under the jurisdiction of the EFC, which may be pursued under Articles 11.1 and 11.2 must submit them to the Disciplinary Tribunal of the FIE in accordance with the Disciplinary Code of the FIE. The EFC maintains a zero-tolerance policy on doping and adheres to the rules and regulations established by WADA and the FIE in the fight against doping.
- 11.4. The EFC recognises the CAS as the final authority in any conflict.

12. DISSOLUTION

- 12.1. The EFC can only be dissolved by a resolution of the Ordinary Congress or Extraordinary Congress requiring the presence of at least 3/4 (three-quarters) of the fully paid Member Federations and adopted by at least 3/4 (three-quarters) of the fully paid present or represented Member Federations.
- 12.2. In case of liquidation of the EFC, Congress will pass a resolution on the appointment of a liquidator and the disposal of the EFC's property in compliance with the law of Luxembourg on non-profit associations.
- 12.3. The allocation of the association's assets in the event of dissolution, or the method for determining this allocation, must be assigned to another association or a public benefit foundation with its registered office in a Member State of the European Union or the European Free Trade Association, to a social impact company whose share capital consists entirely of impact shares, to the State, to a municipality, or to a public institution.

13. AMENDMENTS TO THESE STATUTES

- 13.1. The Statutes can be changed or amended only by vote of the Congress and as follows:**
- 13.1.1. an Ordinary Congress or Extraordinary Congress is to be convened in compliance with the present Statutes ("**First Congress**")
- 13.1.2. the proposals and changes/amendments must be attached in their definitive form to the agenda of the Congress.
- 13.1.3. the Ordinary Congress or Extraordinary Congress can only make valid decisions regarding amendments to these Statutes if 2/3 (two-thirds) of all fully paid Member Federations are present or represented (the "*quorum*").



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- 13.1.4. decisions are taken by the majority of 2/3 (two-thirds) of the votes effectively present or represented at the Ordinary Congress or Extraordinary Congress. This provision does not apply to votes on modifications to the object of the EFC, where a majority of ¾ (three quarters) of the present or represented votes is required.
- 13.1.5. if the First Congress does not have the *quorum*, the next Ordinary Congress or Extraordinary Congress will be entitled to take all the necessary decisions ("**Second Congress**"). In this case, the Second Congress will validly pass resolutions by a majority of 2/3 (two-thirds) of the votes effectively represented, whatever the number of votes represented.
- 13.2. Unless expressly provided to the contrary, amendments to the Statutes take effect immediately upon the conclusion of the Congress at which the amendments were approved.
- 13.3. Where amendments concerning provisions of Article 5 are approved by Congress prior to an election within the same Ordinary or Extraordinary Congress, these amendments shall only enter into force after conclusion of the Ordinary or Extraordinary Congress

14. SAFEGUARDING

Considering the safety of athletes and non-athletes involved in fencing as extremely important and to raise awareness among members of the entire fencing community, EFC decided to adopt the present safeguarding policy (the "**Safeguarding Policy**") and implement the solutions adopted by the FIE into its operations.

POLICY STATEMENT

The EFC is committed to providing an environment free of harassment, abuse, and discrimination for both athletes and non-athletes. Each individual has the right to be treated with respect and dignity and to be protected from all forms of harassment and abuse. The Safeguarding Policy promotes equal opportunities and prohibits discriminatory practices.

APPLICATION OF THE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The Safeguarding Policy applies to harassment and abuse that may occur during all EFC activities, voting procedures and events. It also applies to harassment and abuse between individuals associated with the EFC outside of EFC activities and events when such harassment or abuse adversely affects relationships within the EFC work and sport environment. It covers individuals of all ages, races, sexes, ethnicities, religions, political opinions, and family statuses at all competitive levels within the EFC. The Safeguarding Policy shall be applied to behaviour in person, on the phone, or conducted online or distributed electronically through email, text messages, or any other electronic medium. This includes but is not limited to blogs, web postings, chats, and social networking sites.

DEFINITIONS

Harassment and abuse can occur on various grounds, including race, religion, colour, creed, ethnic origin, physical attributes, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, socio-economic status, and athletic ability. These behaviours can involve a single incident or a series of incidents and may be intentional, unsolicited, and coercive.

Harassment and abuse often result from abuse of authority, which is the improper use of a position of influence, power, or authority by an individual against another person.

In this policy, harassment and abuse is defined as:



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Psychological abuse

Any unwelcome act, including confinement, isolation, verbal assault, humiliation, intimidation, infantilisation or any other treatment, which may diminish the sense of identity, dignity and self-worth or result in significant emotional upset.

Physical abuse

Any intentional or unwanted act - for example, punching, beating, kicking, biting, burning, or use of excessive force - that results in physical trauma or injury. Such acts may also include forced or inappropriate physical activity (e.g., age- or physique-inappropriate training loads or activity during injury or pain), forced alcohol consumption, or forced doping practices.

Sexual harassment

Any unwanted and unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, whether verbal, non-verbal or physical, that does not constitute sexual abuse. Inappropriate touching may be considered either harassment or abuse.

Sexual abuse

Any sexual conduct, whether non-contact, contact, or penetrative, in which consent is coerced or manipulated is not valid or cannot be accepted or given.

Neglect

Failure to provide a minimum level of care by a coach or another person with a duty of care toward an athlete or non-athlete results in harm or potential harm.

EFC SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

The Executive Committee shall appoint at least two individuals, one male and one female, to serve as EFC safeguarding officers (the “**EFC Safeguarding Officers**”) at each European Championship as volunteers. These individuals shall be selected from the members of Commissions, Councils, and Committees, or from any trained independent or external entity dedicated to the protection of individuals. The EFC Safeguarding Officers appointed for any of the European Championships during the fencing season shall be responsible for online reporting as well as for the individual event(s) to which they may be assigned.

The role of the EFC Safeguarding Officer is to serve in a neutral, unbiased, independent capacity. The officer receives reports or complaints, assists in informal complaint resolution, maintains records, and investigates and advises on the steps to be taken in case of formal written complaints. In carrying out their duties under this policy, the Officer is directly responsible to the Bureau and the EFC administrative office.

Incidents of harassment, abuse, or neglect can be reported to the EFC Safeguarding Officer on site during the European Championships in all categories.

During any other events for which the organisation falls under the EFC's responsibility, incidents of harassment, abuse, or neglect can be reported to the EFC supervisor (the “**Supervisor**”), who acts as the EFC Safeguarding Officer. This responsibility will be added to the list of Supervisors' duties.

The EFC shall designate EFC Safeguarding Officers to other official EFC events, for example, training camps.

The EFC shall ensure that EFC Safeguarding Officers receive appropriate training and support to fulfil their responsibilities under this policy.

Every member of the EFC community has a role in ensuring that the sports environment is free from harassment, abuse, and neglect. The EFC encourages all incidents of harassment, abuse, or neglect to be reported, regardless of the offender.



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To report a witnessed incident of harassment, abuse, or neglect, use the online form on the EFC website, www.eurofencing.info, or leave a message at safeguarding@fencing-efc.eu. Both options are accessible only to one of the EFC Safeguarding Officers.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Anyone, regardless of being a licensee of the EFC, who experiences or witnesses abuse, harassment, or neglect is encouraged to seek initial advice from the EFC Safeguarding Officer(s). A parent or guardian may represent a minor individual.

The EFC Safeguarding Officer(s) shall inform the complainant of available options, including: 1. Mediation, where the EFC Safeguarding Officer will work directly with the complainant and respondent to find a suitable solution. 2. The right to file a formal written complaint with the FIE Disciplinary Tribunal by addressing it to the administrative office of the FIE when an informal resolution is inappropriate or not possible. This procedure will ensure due process for all parties. 3.

Referral to law enforcement agencies in the host country if the incident violates the laws of that country.

COMPLAINT TO THE FIE DISCIPLINARY PANEL

a) Author of the complaint

In accordance with Article 9.3 of the Statutes, any person individual or entity (or the parent or guardian of a minor), whether or not they are a licensee of the EFC, if they are personally the victim of harassment/abuse/neglect can present a complaint before the FIE Disciplinary Tribunal.

The members of the Executive Committee, the EFC Safeguarding Officers, the Supervisors at international competitions, the *Directoire Technique*, or the presidents of the Member Federations can state the existence of an offence of harassment/abuse/neglect susceptible of being pursued by the FIE Disciplinary Panel, and inform the latter (or the administrative office of the EFC) of it.

Any witness to an incident of harassment/abuse/neglect can present a complaint before the FIE Disciplinary Panel if the victim of such incident is less than 18 years of age.

b) Form of the complaint

The complaint must be addressed to the Disciplinary Panel of the FIE within 60 days following the incriminating acts or the date of their discovery. The complaint can be filed:

- In writing, in which case the postmark of the envelope, the date of the email or the reception stamp of the fax establishes the time.
- Via online form.

The complaint must include:

- the full name of the individual or entity, the nationality, address and title of the complainant(s);
- the full name of the individual or entity, address and nationality of the person against whom the complaint is being made or the indication that their address is unknown;
- a summary of the facts of the alleged harassment/abuse/neglect, the objectives of the complaint; and
- the signature of the complainant.

The complaint can, moreover, be accompanied by documents, including photos, necessary for the investigative file.

Supplementary or new information can be communicated by the complainant at the discretion of the Disciplinary Panel.



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DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

The procedure before the FIE Disciplinary Panel in accordance with Article 9.2 of the Statutes is set out in Article 7 of the FIE Statutes.

PENALTIES

The penalties which can be pronounced by the FIE Disciplinary Panel in proceedings under this Safeguarding Policy are provided for in Art. 7.1.4 of the FIE Statutes.

CONFIDENTIALITY

It is understood that it can be difficult to come forward with a complaint of harassment/abuse/neglect and that it can be equally difficult to be wrongly accused of harassment/abuse/neglect. The EFC recognises the interests of all parties concerned in keeping the matter confidential.

Therefore, the EFC shall not disclose to outside parties the name of the complainant, the circumstances giving rise to a complaint, or the name of the respondent, unless such disclosure is required by a disciplinary, legal or other remedial process. For this reason, the confidentiality clause provided for in Chapter XIII of the FIE Statutes will apply.

This requirement of confidentiality in the matters covered by the Safeguarding Policy expressly modifies the requirements of 7.2.9 of the FIE Statutes requiring that the meetings of the FIE Disciplinary Tribunal be public. Additionally, copies of the complaint do not have to be sent to the presidents of the federations of the Complainant and the accused as required for other complaints in paragraph 3 of 7.2.3. of the FIE Statutes.

PREVENTION OF ABUSE AND HARASSMENT

The EFC shall develop measures to prevent abuse and harassment to keep athletes and non-athletes safe.

These measures may include:

- Gathering information over time to take action if any person or group stands out as a risk;
- Establish a process of liaising with member federations regarding individuals who may have been disciplined for abuse or harassment;

Establish information and educational programme to engage all Member Federations in the fight against abuse and harassment.