



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

BP 797 L – 2017 Luxembourg



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

STATUTES



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PREAMBLE

The National Federations which first signed the initial Statutes in Vienna (Austria) on 26 October 1991 and the European National Federations which had become affiliated Members decided to unite into an association called “EUROPEAN FENCING UNION” governed by the Luxembourgian Law dated 21 April 1928.

By virtue of a decision of the General Assembly, held on 10 November 1997 in Gdansk (Poland), the denomination of the association was changed to:

“EUROPEAN FENCING CONFEDERATION” (EFC)
“CONFEDERATION EUROPEENNE D'ESCRIME” (CEE)

The European Fencing Confederation (EFC) is a non-profit making organisation that is subject to the laws and regulations of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

In compliance with Luxembourg Law, the number of member federations cannot be lower than three (3).

The EFC's functioning is regulated by these Statutes and also by the Internal Rules.

The purpose of the Internal Rules is to elaborate on the principles defined by the Statutes and to regulate the normal functioning of the EFC.

The Rules of the European Championships are attached to the Internal Rules.

The Statutes are approved and modified only by the vote of the EFC Congress. Amendments to the EFC Internal Rules are also approved by the Congress, but may in case of urgent necessity be made by the Executive Committee, to be subsequently also ratified by the Congress;

Modifications come into force immediately after approval by the Congress with the exception of provisions which presume new elections.

The present Statutes represent a restructuring of the previous Statutes of the EFC.

This restructuring was approved by the Congress of the EFC during its meeting held on September 11, 2021 and came into force on September 11, 2021.

SECTION 1 – MISSION AND GOALS – SEAT – ENTITY

ARTICLE 1.1. MISSION AND GOALS

Mission: The objectives of the EFC are:

- 1.1.1 to promote and develop the practice of fencing in Europe as extensively as possible, and to assist the International Fencing Federation (“FIE”) to achieve 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;
- 1.1.2 to ensure amicable mutual support, of technical and other kinds, between European Federations and to tighten the ties of friendship which unite fencers of all European countries;
- 1.1.3 to represent fencing in relations with other European entities;
- 1.1.4 to organise European senior, junior, cadet and veteran championships at all weapons and for both men and women and other European championships and competitions that it may choose;
- 1.1.5 to coordinate and facilitate the teaching of fencing in Europe;



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- 1.1.6 to take part in activities of the FIE in compliance with the Statutes thereof;
- 1.1.7 to ensure strict applications of the FIE regulations by Member Federations and their members;
- 1.1.8 to create national federations on the territories where they are not established;
- 1.1.9 to co-ordinate initiatives of the Member Federations;
- 1.1.10 to carry out itinerant missions in Europe entrusted to it by the FIE with a view to reinforcing Member Federations;
- 1.1.11 to promote and develop the struggle against doping;
- 1.1.12 to adhere to and promote the FIE's Ethics Code, including its Betting and Anti-Corruption Rules appendix; and
- 1.1.13 to be subject to the FIE's Disciplinary Code.

ARTICLE 1.2. MEANS OF ACHIEVING THE GOALS

- 1.2.1 The authority of the EFC has been recognized in accordance with the decision of the FIE to allow some member federations of the FIE to group themselves according to geographic areas in order to control relationships which can be usefully established among themselves. The EFC fulfills the role provided for in the statutes of the FIE and undertakes to develop FIE goals. The EFC is not itself a member of the FIE.
- 1.2.2 Duration of the EFC is unlimited.
- 1.2.3 The EFC fully complies with and adheres to the principles and rules of the FIE.
- 1.2.4 The EFC Statutes are in compliance with those of the FIE. The EFC shall have no rules or statutes contrary to those of the FIE. Any matter that is not covered either by the present Statutes or the EFC Internal Rules is governed by the FIE regulations. In case of discrepancy between these Statutes or the EFC Internal Rules, and their interpretation, and FIE statutes or rules, FIE regulations shall take precedence. The EFC also strives in all matters to ensure consistency with the requirements of EU law.
- 1.2.5 The EFC is the fencing governing body for European Fencing Championships. The EFC has the sole jurisdiction to propose to the FIE the organisational structure of the senior and junior zonal championships in Europe in which the Member Federations and their members participate.
- 1.2.6 No team or competitor of a Member Federation has the right to take part in any competition organized by a country that is not a member of the FIE or by a confederation which is not recognized by the FIE and the converse.
- 1.2.7 The EFC may propose to the Executive Committee of the FIE measures that it deems useful for the development and consolidation of fencing in Europe.
- 1.2.8 The EFC acts in furtherance of its objectives with no regards for, or discrimination on grounds of, race, sex, ethnicity, religion, political opinion, family status or other reasons.
- 1.2.9 The EFC adheres to the principles of good governance and transparency, in particular in terms of elections and the auditing and publishing of accounts.



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ARTICLE 1.3. REGISTERED OFFICE AND ADMINISTRATION

- 1.3.1 The registered office of the EFC is in Luxembourg City at the address of the seat of the Luxembourgian Fencing Federation.
- 1.3.2 The administrative seat of the EFC is located at the seat of the EFC's Secretary General.

ARTICLE 1.4. OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

- 1.4.1 English and French are the official languages of the EFC.
- 1.4.2 The working languages of the EFC are English and French.
- 1.4.3 All the official texts/documents of the EFC are rendered in English and translated into French.
- 1.4.4 In case of discrepancy, the English language shall take precedence.
- 1.4.5 Other European languages may be used as working languages in order to facilitate communication between the Member Federations.

ARTICLE 1.5. FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial year of the EFC begins on 1st January and ends on 31st December.

ARTICLE 1.6. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

- 1.6.1 Member Federations pay an annual membership fee the amount of which is set by the Congress. The fee cannot exceed 1000€ must be paid no later than 31st March of the year in progress. However a federation may only compete in an EFC championship after having paid its membership fee.
- 1.6.2 Income of the EFC also includes licence fees, sums paid according to the contracts concluded with partners and contributions received.

ARTICLE 1.7. GOVERNING BODIES

The governing bodies (Organs) of the EFC are the following:

- Congress (see Section 4);
- Executive Committee (COMEX) (see Section 6);
- President (see Article 6.4);
- Bureau (see Article 6.5).

SECTION 2 – MEMBERSHIP

ARTICLE 2.1 CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 1 The association is a confederation composed of European fencing federations geographically belonging to Europe. Nevertheless, other countries can be associated for reasons of geographical or cultural proximity providing they are not associated to other continent fencing associations. The EFC may also admit invited bodies that will not have member status providing that they belong to countries without existing member federations.



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- 2.1.2 The EFC may accept as its Member Federations (Federations, Unions, Fencing Sections, National Sports Organisations etc.), other organisations which bind themselves to the present Statutes and the Internal Rules of the EFC, provided that they are officially recognised by the Olympic Committee of their country as the only representatives of fencing in their country and are FIE member federations.
- 2.1.3 Member Federations undertake to cooperate in furtherance of achieving the objectives of the EFC.
- 2.1.4 Member Federations accept the Statutes and the Internal Rules of the EFC.
- 2.1.5 Member Federations exercise all the rights granted to them by the present Statutes.

ARTICLE 2.2. QUALIFICATION

In order to qualify for eligibility to apply for recognition as a Member Federation, a National Federation must have and must maintain a sufficient number of registered fencers and prove and continue to ensure that its Statutes are not in contradiction with the Fundamental Rules of the FIE and the EFC Statutes (except with respect to official and working languages).

ARTICLE 2.3. APPLICATION

A National Federation which wishes to be made a Member Federation can present an application to the Executive Committee of the EFC. 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.

ARTICLE 2.4. ENROLMENT

- 2.4.1. At each of its meetings, the Congress rules on applications for membership.
- 2.4.2. The Executive Committee has the right to accept provisionally, until the next Congress, a National Federation which has applied for membership.
- 2.4.3. When a National Federation is a provisional Member, it benefits from the same rights and has the same obligations as any other Member Federation.
- 2.4.4. A refusal of permanent membership by the Congress does not allow any grounds for compensation.
- 2.4.5 The decision of Congress as to applications for permanent membership is final and there is no right of appeal against a refusal to accede to an application for membership. However this does not preclude the National Federation from applying for membership in the future.

ARTICLE 2.5. LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP

A Member Federation may lose its membership of the EFC:

- by resignation;
- by expulsion; and/or
- by failure to comply with the requirements of the present Statutes.



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ARTICLE 2.6. MEMBERS OF HONOUR

For outstanding merits to the EFC and long and loyal service to European fencing, the Congress may grant to a person the title Member of Honour of the EFC. The Executive Committee recommends the possible Member of Honour to the Congress. The Members of Honour assist at the Congress in an advisory capacity and have no voting rights.

SECTION 3 –LICENSES

ARTICLE 3.1 STATUTORY CHARACTER OF LICENCE

- 3.1.1. Being licensed obliges the Member Federation, the individual athlete, each coach and each referee to respect the Rules and Statutes of the EFC.
- 3.1.2. Athletes who participate in EFC competitions must comply with the FIE anti-doping Rules, use neither prohibited substances nor prohibited methods, and agree to submit to any in-competition and out-of-competition testing.
- 3.1.3. Until an athlete's FIE fencing nationality has been registered, the rules for changing EFC nationality as set out in the Handbook of Regulations apply and such athlete will be entitled to apply for a licence from their Member Federation.

ARTICLE 3.2 COMPULSORY CHARACTER OF LICENCE

- 3.2.1. Each athlete whether from a Member Federation or a non-member federation must have a valid licence in order to take part in any official competition of the EFC.
- 3.2.2. All referees whether from a Member Federation or a non-member federation (including candidates for EFC refereeing exams and with the exception of those holding a valid FIE refereeing licence) must have a valid licence in order to officiate at all competitions organised by or run on behalf of the EFC.
- 3.2.3. All coaches whether from a Member Federation or a non-member federation (with the exception of those holding a valid FIE Coaching Licence) must have a valid licence in order to coach at all competitions organised by or run on behalf of the EFC.

ARTICLE 3.3 DURATION OF VALIDITY AND FEES

- 3.3.1. A licence is valid for the current fencing season.
- 3.3.2. The Executive Committee shall propose the annual licence fees (in euros) for the following season and the fee shall be approved by the Congress.

ARTICLE 3.4 APPLICATION AND ISSUE

- 3.4.1. Licences are issued on a credit-based system.
- 3.4.2. A Member Federation shall purchase licence credits (both for athletes, coaches and referees) from the EFC in such way as from time to time prescribed by the Executive Committee.



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- 3.4.3 A Member Federation shall then issue licences up to the total number of licence credits purchased to such athletes entitled to compete for that Member Federation to its coaches and to its accredited referees.
- 3.4.4 Licence credits are valid only for the year for which they are issued and are non-refundable.
- 3.4.5 The process for the purchasing of and issuing of licences to athletes, coaches and referees from non-member federations shall be as set out, from time to time, in the Handbook of Regulations.
- 3.4.6 Upon issuing a licence (either to an athlete or to a referee), a Member Federation must, within 72 hours of issue, provide the following information about the licensee to the EFC (in such manner as the EFC shall from time to time prescribe):
- i) Family name;
 - ii) Pre-names;
 - iii) Date of birth;
 - iv) Gender;
 - v) Handedness (for athletes only);
 - vi) Photo.
- 3.4.7 A licence is not validly issued unless and until the information requested in 3.4.5 above has been supplied to the EFC.

SECTION 4 – CONGRESS

ARTICLE 4.1. STATUS

The Congress is the supreme body of the EFC.

ARTICLE 4.2. COMPOSITION AND REPRESENTATION

- 4.2.1 The Congress consists of the authorised delegates of each fully paid-up Member Federation). Every Member Federation shall authorise no more than two (2) delegates to act as its representatives on the Congress. Members of Honour, members of the Executive Committee and members of the permanent Commissions and the permanent Councils also have the right to take part in the Congress.
- 4.2.2 Each Member Federation has one vote which shall be exercised by the Member Federation's President or, in the absence of such person, by such individual authorised in writing by the Member Federation to cast its vote.
- 4.2.3 When a Member Federation cannot send its President or any other individual to the Congress, it can appoint a delegate of another Member Federation to vote on its behalf. Such delegation to be in accordance with such provisions relating to participation in the Congress as set out in the Internal Rules.
- 4.2.4 In any case, one delegate cannot act on behalf of more than one (1) mandate other than that of their own Member Federation.



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- 4.2.5 Persons who have received an invitation but do not enjoy any voting rights may attend the Congress.
- 4.2.6 All the decisions are made by the simple majority of votes, unless otherwise is provided for in the present Statutes.
- 4.2.7 The Congress defines the voting procedures at its meetings.

ARTICLE 4.3. COMPETENCE

- 4.3.1 It is in the exclusive competence of the Congress to take the following decisions:
- i) changes and amendments to the EFC Statutes;
 - ii) reorganisation of the EFC;
 - iii) liquidation of the EFC;
 - iv) definition of the priority fundamentals of the EFC's activities;
 - v) definition of the principles of constitution and utilisation of property;
 - vi) determine what kind of other European championships and competitions the EFC should organise;
 - vii) approval of the annual working plan and of the EFC's budget;
 - viii) determination of the number of Member Federations;
 - ix) admission of any new Member to the EFC and expulsion of any Member Federations;
 - x) election and anticipated expiry of the powers of the members of the mandates commission;
 - xi) election for a term of one year and anticipated expiry of the powers of the Auditors;
 - xii) approval of the President's message and the reviews of the Executive Committee and the General Secretariat, presentation by the Treasurer and approval of the previous year's accounts and the auditor's report thereon;
 - a) Detailed previous year's accounts, including balance sheet, income and expenditure account, and separate statements concerning travel expenses and allowances granted to the President and the members of the Executive Committee, must be at the disposal of the Members on request at least one month before the opening of the Congress;
 - xiii) fixation of the annual membership fee;
 - xiv) any issues relating to the EFC's activities included in the agenda;
 - xv) any questions submitted to the Congress by Member Federation(s) or the Executive Committee.
- 4.3.2 Decisions on any issues relating to the exclusive competence of the Congress cannot be delegated to any other body of the EFC.
- 4.3.3 All the resolutions and other decisions adopted by the Congress must be executed by all the management and executive bodies of the EFC and of the Member Federations.

ARTICLE 4.4. MEETINGS

- 4.4.1 The Ordinary Congress is convened once a year in connection with one of the European Championships, however during the year of the Olympic Games, it can be organised in conjunction with the Elective Congress.
All organisation costs of both the Ordinary and Elective Congresses are covered by the EFC. The Executive Committee fixes the date, location and time limits of the holding of the Ordinary Congress.
- 4.4.2 An Extraordinary Congress can be convened on the demand of the President, or at least of one third (1/3) of the EFC full Members, or by the decision of the Executive Committee. The request must indicate the agenda.
All organisation costs of an Extraordinary Congress are borne by the EFC.



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APPLICABLE THROUGH 31ST DECEMBER 2023

- 4.4.3 An elective congress will be conducted in 2021 and again in 2024, in 2021 for all COMEX positions and that of the President.
An FIE observer, nominated by the FIE and at their expense, may attend the Elective Congress.

APPLICABLE FROM 1ST JANUARY 2024

- 4.4.3 The Elective Congress is conducted every four years, during the year of the Olympic Games, in principle after the Olympic Games.
An FIE observer, nominated by the FIE and at their expense, may attend the Elective Congress.

ARTICLE 4.5. ANNOUNCEMENT AND AGENDA

- 4.5.1 No later than four (4) months before the opening of the Ordinary Congress, the Executive Committee shall inform all Member Federations and the President and Secretary General of the FIE by registered letter, e-mail or fax about the Executive Committee's decision mentioned in article 4.4.1 of the present Statutes and shall invite the President of the FIE to attend.
- 4.5.2 Any issues and proposals of a Member Federation to be discussed at the Congress have to be submitted in writing to the General Secretariat at least two (2) months before the opening of the Congress. At the Congress, only the issues and proposals which have been submitted within the fixed time limit and which are included in the agenda shall be examined. At least one (1) month before the Congress date, the General Secretary shall notify the Member Federations and the President and Secretary General of the FIE of the final agenda and send them any relevant documents.
- 4.5.3 If $\frac{3}{4}$ (three quarters) of the Member Federations' delegates present at the Congress approve, the Congress may include in the agenda an item which has been submitted to the General Secretariat within a time limit shorter than the one mentioned in article 4.5.2 of the present Statutes.
The resolution and any other decisions regarding the item shall be approved by a qualified majority of $\frac{3}{4}$ (three quarters) of the votes of the delegates present at the Congress.
- 4.5.4 The provisions of articles 4.2.7, 4.3, 4.4.1 and 4.5.1-3 of the present Statutes shall also apply to any Extraordinary Congress. For an Elective Congress the provisions of 4.4.3 and 4.5.1-2 of the present Statutes shall also apply and in particular the names of the candidates for the positions of President and member of the Executive Committee must be submitted in writing to the General Secretariat at least two (2) months before the opening of the Congress.
- 4.5.5 The following points must be included in the agenda of any Ordinary Congress:
- 1 election and determination of the powers of the members of the mandates commission;
 - 2 election and determination of the powers of the members of the election commission;
 - 3 the President's message;
 - 4 official approval of the minutes of the previous Congress;
 - 5 confirmation of the reviews prepared by the Executive Committee, the General Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Auditors relating to the period following the previous Congress;
 - 6 approval of the EFC's annual working plan and budget for the following financial year.

ARTICLE 4.6. CHANGES TO THE STATUTES

The Statutes can be changed or amended only by the Congress and as follows:

- 4.6.1 The Congress is to be convened in compliance with article 4.5 of the present Statutes.



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- 4.6.2 The proposals and changes/amendments must be attached in their definitive form to the agenda of the Congress.
- 4.6.3 The Congress can only reach valid decisions if 75% of all fully paid Member Federations are present or represented.
- 4.6.4 The decisions are taken by the majority of 2/3 (two thirds) of the votes effectively represented at the Congress.
- 4.6.5 If the Congress does not have the quorum, the next Congress will be entitled to take all the necessary decisions. In this case, the Congress will validly pass resolutions, whatever the number of votes represented.

ARTICLE 4.7. DISSOLUTION (LIQUIDATION)

- 4.7.1 The EFC can only be dissolved by virtue of a resolution of the Congress adopted by $\frac{3}{4}$ (three quarters) of the fully paid Member Federations.
- 4.7.2 In case of liquidation of the EFC, the Congress will pass a resolution on the disposal of the EFC's property.

SECTION 5 – PROCESSES FOR ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 5.1. GENERAL RULES

- 5.1.1 The President of the EFC and the nine (9) other elected members of the Executive Committee are elected by the Elective Congress. They take office immediately after the Elective Congress.
The members of the Commissions and Councils are elected by the Executive Committee at a meeting following the Elective Congress and take office on the first day of the month following that meeting; however for the Athletes Commission c.f.5.5.

APPLICABLE THROUGH 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Exceptionally all those elected in 2021 will be elected for a term of three (3) years, that is to say until the 2024 elections. They are eligible for re-election at the end of their term of office.

APPLICABLE FROM 1ST JANUARY 2024

They are elected for a term of four years. They are eligible for re-election at the end of their term of office.

- 5.1.2 Candidates for any elective post may be proposed by a Member Federation subject to the following conditions
- 5.1.3 A candidate for the presidency, or to be an elected member of the Executive Committee, a commission or a council must be presented to the General Secretariat by the Member Federation of the candidate's nationality - only one candidate may be proposed by each Member Federation for each post. The Member Federation which presents the candidate must also be a fully paid-up Member Federation of the EFC.
- 5.1.4 The same person can be a candidate for President and for a member of the Executive Committee. For commissions/councils see Article 5.4.



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- 5.1.5 The names of the candidates for the positions of President and member of the Executive Committee must be submitted in writing to the General Secretariat at least two (2) months before the opening of the Congress.
- 5.1.6 The President and nine (9) members of the Executive Committee are elected by secret vote in two separate polls.
- 5.1.7 Order of elections:
- The President is elected first;
- Subsequently, the members of the Executive Committee are elected.
- 5.1.8 The candidates for the Executive Committee must be presented ahead of the Presidential candidates.
- 5.1.9 The President and nine (9) Executive Committee members are elected through direct vote.
- 5.1.10 All elections shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of these Statutes as supplemented, where relevant, by the Internal Rules.

ARTICLE 5.2. ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

- 5.2.1 The Presidential candidates will have the opportunity to address the Congress (maximum time is 10 minutes per candidate) before the vote.
- 5.2.2 To be elected at the first ballot a majority of the votes cast is required.
- 5.2.3 If in the first round of voting no candidate receives the absolute majority (more than 50%) of the votes cast, the candidate who received the least votes is eliminated and an additional round is organised.
- 5.2.4 If during the second round an absolute majority of votes is not obtained by a candidate, the candidate who received the least votes is eliminated and one or several additional rounds are organised until one candidate obtains a majority of votes or until only two candidates remain.
- 5.2.5 In this last case (i.e., two candidates remaining), the candidate who receives the most votes at the following round is elected. Should there be a tie between these two candidates for two rounds of voting, the younger candidate is elected.

ARTICLE 5.3. ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 5.3.1 Elected members of the Executive Committee must each be from different Member Federations to that of the President and no Member Federation may have more than one member on the Executive Committee.
- 5.3.2 Member Federations can vote for no more than nine (9) candidates from the list proposed for election of the Executive Committee.
- 5.3.3 The nine (9) candidates having obtained the highest number of votes are elected:
- 1st round by simple majority;
- 2nd round by means of a draw.
- 5.3.4 As women and men must each be represented by at least 3 elected members of the Executive Committee. If the 9 candidates who have obtained the most votes do not include at least 3 persons of each gender, the Executive Committee will consist of the 3 candidates for the Executive Committee of the under-represented gender who have obtained the greatest number of votes and the 6 candidates of the other gender who have obtained the greatest number of votes. If there are less than 3 candidates of one gender, that gender will be



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represented by the number of candidates put forward and the remainder of the Executive Committee will consist of the candidates of the other gender who have obtained the most votes.

ARTICLE 5.4. ELECTION OF THE COMMISSIONS AND COUNCILS EXCEPT THE ATHLETES COMMISSION

- 5.4.1 Member Federations are invited to nominate candidates for the Commissions/Councils.
- 5.4.2 The Commission/Council members are selected by the Executive Committee in compliance with the recommendations of the Commission's/Council's President.
- 5.4.3 All candidates for membership of these Commissions/Councils must be presented to the General Secretariat for the attention of the Executive Committee by a Member Federation and are subject to the following conditions:
- Only one candidate may be proposed by each Member Federation for each post;
 - A candidate for a Commission/Council can only be presented by the Member Federation of the country of which the candidate has nationality;
 - Only a fully paid up Member Federation may nominate a candidate for a Commission or Council.
- 5.4.4 The Secretary General asks the Member Federations to present their candidates for the different Commissions/Councils after the Elective Congress has taken place and at least one month before the date of the Executive Committee meeting at which the Commission/Council members will be selected. Names of Commission/Council candidates must be submitted in writing to the General Secretariat at least two (2) weeks before the date of the above-mentioned meeting.

ARTICLE 5.5. ELECTION OF THE ATHLETES COMMISSION

- 5.5.1 The elections for the Athletes Commission are held at the first European Senior Championships after each Olympic Games. Those elected take office on the first day of the month following that event.
- 5.5.2 All athletes who, in the weapon in which they fence, have been entered to compete in at least one of the European Senior Championships held over the last 5 years can be a candidate for the Athletes Commission.
If the fencer has fenced several weapons during such competitions, he must choose only one of those weapons for this candidature.
Each member federation can nominate one single athlete for the Athletes Commission.
- 5.5.3 Each member federation shall indicate to the EFC the name of its candidate two months before the first day of the first European Senior Championships after each Olympic Games take place.
- 5.5.4 One month before the European Senior Championships, the EFC shall send to each Member Federation the list of the validly nominated candidates.
- 5.5.5 The athletes participating in the first European Senior Championships after each Olympic Games will elect six representatives from among these for a term expiring on the last day of the month in which the first European Senior Championship after each Olympics Games takes place.



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- 5.5.6 Six ballot boxes will be provided, one per weapons; each participant may vote for one athlete in each weapon.
- 5.5.7 The voting athletes will personally go to the office of the EFC at the competition site to fill in their voting slips (one per weapon, preferably of different colours) and deposit them in the appropriate ballot boxes, after having verified their identity by presenting their accreditation and having signed the attendance sheet.
- 5.5.8 The voting will be open for all weapons and will begin on the first day of the European Senior Championships and will end at noon local time on the last day of the individual events of the European Senior Championships.
- 5.5.9 In each weapon the candidate who has received the greatest number of votes will be elected.
- 5.5.10 In case of a tie, the candidate who has the highest placing in the world open ranking on the date of the opening of the European Senior Championships will have the preference.
- 5.5.11 If in any weapon there is no candidate, the un-elected candidate with the highest vote will be elected; in case of a tie, 5.5.10 will apply.
- 5.5.12 The Member Federations will be informed of the result of the election before the end of the championships.
- 5.5.13 The athlete receiving the most votes will become the president of the commission. If the president elect or a member elect does not wish to stand or in the case of subsequent withdrawal, or death, the athlete with the next most votes shall be chosen etc. If the president does not take part in three consecutive Executive Committee meetings, he or she shall be considered resigned and the athlete with the next most votes shall be appointed as president.

SECTION 6 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 6.1. STRUCTURE AND TENURE

- 6.1.1 The Executive Committee is composed of the President, nine (9) members elected for the term of four (4) years by the Congress, ex-officio the President of the FIE with voting rights and the president of the EFC Athletes Commission, also with voting rights.
- 6.1.2 Subject to Article 5.3.4, the nine elected members of the Executive Committee must include at least three women and three men).
- 6.1.3 In case of withdrawal, permanent absence or death of a member of the Executive Committee during the period he/she holds office, the first non-elected candidate will automatically replace him/her for the remaining term, provided that the requirements of art. 5.3.4 are respected. If there are no other candidates, a supplementary election shall be organised during the next Congress. The term of the person thus elected will be until the next Elective Congress.

ARTICLE 6.2. MEETINGS

The Executive Committee meetings are convened by the President as may be required and at least two (2) times during the year. In case of necessity, the President, acting on his own initiative or on the initiative of at least half of the Executive Committee members, convenes an additional meeting of the Executive Committee.



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ARTICLE 6.3. COMPETENCE

- 6.3.1 The following items are related to the exclusive competence of the Executive Committee:
- i) amendments to the EFC Internal Rules, which are to be ratified by the Congress and made only in case of urgent necessity;
 - ii) Representation in relations with the FIE and European entities;
 - iii) Affiliation of provisional Members to the EFC and suspension of Member Federations from the EFC, which are to be approved by the next Congress;
 - iv) Implementation of resolutions and other decisions of the Congress;
 - v) Taking decisions on convocation of an Ordinary Congress; approbation of the agenda, time limits and place of the Congress;
 - vi) Convening the Congress in case of the President's resignation;
 - vii) Organising and controlling the reasonable/proper spending of the EFC funds in respect of the approved budget;
 - viii) Preparation of a report on the work performed;
 - ix) Examination and taking of decisions concerning the problems of preparation and realisation of competitions;
 - x) Preparation and approval of the proposal for the European Competition Calendar, all age categories, including places and dates. EFC must procure adequate coordination with the FIE calendar;
The proposals for the Senior and Junior Zonal Championships, while included in the FIE calendar, must be submitted with supporting justification at least six months before the start of the fencing season concerned to the Executive Committee of the FIE for its final approval, the FIE having advised the EFC of the dates of the Junior and Senior World Championships of the next season by February 1st in the previous year;
 - xi) Supervision and preparation of the European Championships and any events the organization of which falls under its responsibility;
 - xii) Consulting with the Member Federations; constitution and approval with regard to the number, function and composition of the EFC Commissions; appointment of the Commissions' Presidents from among the Executive Committee members; determination of the composition of the Commissions in accordance with the proposals of Member Federations and following the consultation of the Commission's President appointed within the Executive Committee (all except in the case of the Athletes Commission, for which see Article 5.5);
 - xiii) Taking decisions concerning membership of any European and International bodies, non-profit organisations, unions or associations and withdrawal from the said bodies;
 - xiv) Responsibility for the application of the plans for the EFC agreed with the FIE;
 - xv) Granting of the medals of honour of the EFC;
 - xvi) Recommending possible Members of Honour to the Congress.
 - xvii) to establish, amend and revoke 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.
- 6.3.2 Decisions are taken by a simple majority of votes with the President's vote as decisive in case of equality of votes. The Executive Committee is entitled to take any decisions under the condition that more than half of its elected members take part in the meeting.

ARTICLE 6.4. THE PRESIDENT

- 6.4.1 The President represents the EFC in all the activities of civil life and ad litem.
- 6.4.2 The President chairs the Congress, the Executive Committee and the Bureau.
- 6.4.3 The President, assisted by the Bureau members, attends to all ongoing matters and subsequently obtains the Executive Committee's ratification of the decisions taken.



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- 6.4.4 The President may employ, with the approval of the Executive Committee, the personnel necessary to run the EFC efficiently.
- 6.4.5 The President has the power to open and operate a bank account on his sole signature and to carry out current transactions in compliance with the present Statutes.
- 6.4.6 The President may assign powers of attorney to other EFC officials in compliance with the present Statutes.
- 6.4.7 The President orders the expenses; the Treasurer performs them.
- 6.4.8 The President presents to the Executive Committee the proposals regarding the distribution of functions between its members and allocation of the financial funds of the EFC.
- 6.4.9 The President has the executive power to implement resolutions based on the working plan and the budget.
- 6.4.10 For specific matters, the President can nominate Presidential advisors, who can be invited to attend the Executive Committee meetings without right to vote.
- 6.4.11 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.
- 6.4.12 The President presents each year to the Executive Committee of the FIE a report on the EFC's activities and a progress report on the plans for the EFC agreed with the FIE, plus a financial report and a draft budget for the subsequent year.

ARTICLE 6.5. THE BUREAU

- 6.5.1 The bureau is composed of:
 - President;
 - Vice-President;
 - General Secretary;
 - Treasurer.Who are appointed by the President from the elected members of the Executive Committee.
- 6.5.2 If any of the said positions is vacant, the President shall designate another Executive Committee member to fill that role during the Executive Committee's next meeting.
- 6.5.3 The General Secretary 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.
- 6.5.4 In case of definitive absence, withdrawal or death of the President, the General Secretary shall lead the EFC until the next Congress, during which a new President shall be elected to serve as President for the remaining term.
- 6.5.5 The Bureau, under the guidance of the President, attends to all ongoing activities and prepares the issues to be treated by the Executive Committee.
- 6.5.6 The Bureau shall inform the Sport Department of the FIE of the training requests and needs for the coaches of its national federations and actively collaborates with the Sport Department of the FIE to carry out the training projects developed by the FIE.
- 6.5.7 The president may ask the Vice-President or another member of the bureau to represent him at a particular function.



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SECTION 7 – COMMISSIONS AND COUNCILS

- 7.1 In order to ensure the proper performance of the EFC, the Executive Committee creates Commissions/Councils.
- 7.2 The Commissions/Councils are constituted of representatives of Member Federations.
- 7.3 There are two (2) kinds of Commissions/Councils:
- i) Compulsory Commissions/Councils, which are:
 - a) Training/Fencing Masters Commission
 - b) Promotion/Marketing Commission;
 - c) Referees Commission;
 - d) Competitions Commission
 - e) Legal Commission
 - f) Athletes Commission
 - g) Technical Commission (SEMI)
 - h) Medical Commission
 - i) Veterans Council;
 - j) Women and Sport Council
 - ii) Auxiliary Commissions that are created if needed.
- 7.4 With exception of the athletes' commission each Commission/Council normally consists of up to 6 (six) members, representing different Member Federations, plus a president, who is designated by the Executive Committee from among the Executive Committee members following the proposal of the EFC's President.
- 7.5 Detailed functions and rights of the Commissions/Councils are set by the EFC Internal Rules.
- 7.6 The Commissions/Councils prepare and submit to the Executive Committee for examination any new proposals, the aim of which consists in the achievement of the EFC statutory objectives.
- 7.7 The president of each Commission/Council ensures the proper utilisation of the budget and provides the Executive Committee with financial reviews when demanded.

SECTION 8 – FINANCES

- 8.1 The Executive Committee prepares a general budget showing the main expenses and receipts for the approval of the Congress.
- 8.2 The Treasurer prepares, with all the necessary explanations, all the details of the budget within the general lines established by the Executive Committee. This budget is intended for the management of EFC, President, Bureau, Executive Committee and Auditor(s).
- 8.3 Expenditure provided for in the EFC budget must be signed by the Treasurer
- 8.4 Expenditure whether or not in the EFC budget of less than 5% of the EFC budget must be signed by the Treasurer. Expenditure whether or not in the EFC budget of over 5% of the EFC budget must be signed by the President and the Treasurer.



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- 8.5 Expenditure which are not provided for in the budget and which exceed the budget by more than 10 % must be approved by the Executive Committee.
- 8.6 The Congress appoints professional auditor(s) as auditors for the following fiscal year, which can be renewed.
- 8.7. The Auditors examine, on a yearly basis, the financial activities of the EFC, including the proper use of aids granted by the FIE, on the basis of the documents submitted by the Treasurer. They provide a report of this examination to the Congress, which report shall be based on recognized international financial reporting standards.

SECTION 9 – DISCIPLINE

- 9.1 The EFC is subject to the FIE's Disciplinary Code. In furtherance of this the EFC incorporates by reference the FIE Disciplinary Code, substituting "EFC" for "FIE" as appropriate to make it effective for controversies within the EFC.
- 9.2 The Disciplinary Panel of the FIE has sole jurisdiction to rule on all offences against the Rules and Statutes, Ethics Code, discipline or sportsmanship within the purview of the E.F.C., except the specific dispositions with respect to discipline at the sites of the competitions to be found in Articles t.114 et seq. of the Rules for Competitions of the F.I.E.
- 9.3 Any person, therefore, be they individual or entity, wishing to present a complaint or state the existence of an offence within the purview of the EFC susceptible of being pursued in accordance with the above Articles 8.1 – 8.2 must present their complaint before the Disciplinary Tribunal of the FIE in conformity with the Disciplinary Code of the FIE.
- 9.4 The EFC has a no tolerance policy with regard to Doping and commits to the rules and regulations of the struggle against doping put forward by the WADA and the FIE.
- 9.5 The EFC recognizes the TAS as the final instance in any conflict.

SECTION 10 – SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Considering the problem of safety of athletes and non-athletes involved in practising fencing as extremely important and in order to raise awareness in this respect of members of the entire fencing community, EFC decides to adopt SAFEGUARDING POLICY and implement the solutions adopted by the FIE into its operation.

POLICY STATEMENT

The EFC is committed to providing athletes and non-athletes, an environment free of any form of harassment, abuse, or discrimination. Each individual, athlete or non-athlete, 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 EFC SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The EFC Safeguarding Policy applies to harassment and abuse which may occur during the course of all EFC business, activities and events. It also applies to harassment and abuse between individuals associated with the EFC but outside the EFC business, activities and events when such harassment or



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abuse adversely affects relationships within the EFC work and sport environment. It applies to persons of all ages and at all EFC competitive levels.

The EFC Safeguarding Policy shall be applied to behaviour in-person, on the phone or conducted online or distributed electronically, using email, text messages or any other electronic medium. This includes without limitation blogs, web posting, chats and social networking sites.

DEFINITIONS

Harassment and abuse can be based on any grounds including race, religion, colour, creed, ethnic origin, physical attributes, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, socio-economic status and athletic ability. They can include a one-off incident or a series of incidents and may be deliberate, unsolicited and coercive.

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

For the purpose of this policy, harassment and abuse is defined as:

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 deliberate and unwelcome act - for example punching, beating, kicking, biting, burning or use of undue force - that causes physical trauma or injury. Such act can also consist of forced or inappropriate physical activity (e.g. age- or, physique- inappropriate training loads; or when injured or in 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 conduct of a sexual nature, whether non-contact, contact or penetrative, where consent is coerced / manipulated, is not, or cannot be given.

Neglect

The failure of a coach or another person with a duty of care towards the athlete or non-athlete to provide a minimum level of care, which results in harm or potential harm.

EFC SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

The Executive Committee shall appoint at least two persons, 1 male and 1 female, to serve as EFC Safeguarding Officers at each European Championship, as volunteers. These individuals shall be chosen from among the members of Commissions, Councils and Committees, or any independent/external entity trained for the protection of individuals. The Safeguarding Officers appointed for any of the European Championships during the fencing season shall serve with respect to the online reporting as well as for the individual event(s) to which they may be appointed.

The role of the EFC Safeguarding Officer is to serve in a neutral, unbiased, independent capacity and to receive reports or complaints, assist in informal resolution of complaints, maintain records and investigate and advise on the steps to be taken in case of formal written complaints. In carrying out their duties under this policy, EFC Safeguarding Officers shall be directly responsible to the EFC Bureau and the EFC administrative office.

During the European Championships of all categories, incidents of harassment/abuse/neglect can be reported to the EFC Safeguarding Officer on site.



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During any other events the organisation of which falls under the EFC responsibility, incidents of harassment/abuse/neglect can be reported to the EFC Supervisor acting as the EFC Safeguarding officer. This responsibility shall be added to the list of responsibilities of Supervisors.

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

The EFC shall ensure that the EFC Safeguarding Officers receive appropriate training and support for carrying out their responsibilities under this policy.

Every member of the EFC Community has a responsibility to play a part in ensuring that the sport environment is free from harassment/abuse/neglect. The EFC encourages all incidents of harassment/abuse/neglect to be reported, regardless of who the offender may be.

To report a witnessed incident of harassment/abuse/neglect, the online form on the page of the EFC website www.eurofencing.info can be used or a message can be left at safeguarding@fencing-efc.eu, both of which will be accessible solely by one of the Safeguarding Officers.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Any person, whether or not they are a licensee of the EFC that experiences or witnesses abuse, harassment or neglect is encouraged to seek the initial advice of the Safeguarding Officer(s). A parent or guardian may represent a minor individual.

The Safeguarding officer(s), as the case may be shall inform the complainant of the option to pursue one of the following:

- Mediation, where the Safeguarding Officer will deal directly with the complainant and the respondent in order to find a suitable solution
- The right to file a formal written complaint before the FIE Disciplinary Tribunal, by addressing it to the administrative office of the FIE, under this policy when an informal resolution is inappropriate or not possible. This procedure will assure due process for all parties.
- Referral to law enforcement agencies in the host country if the incident breaks the law of such host country.

COMPLAINT TO THE FIE DISCIPLINARY PANEL

a) Author of the complaint

In accordance with Article 9.3 of the EFC 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, EFC Safeguarding Officers, the EFC 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);



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- 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.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

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

Date: 11.09.2021

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Jacek Slupski
Secretary General

.....
Stanislav Pozdnyakov
President