



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

# CHARTER

## SECTION I – ESTABLISHMENT

### Article 1

- 1.1 The National Federations which first signed the initial Charter 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.
- 1.2 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)

## SECTION II – DEFINITION – GOALS – SEAT – ENTITY

### Article 2

- 2.1 The association is a confederation composed of European fencing federations geographically belonging to Europe. Nevertheless, other countries can be associated providing they are not associated to other continent fencing associations.
- 2.2 **Conditions of Membership of the EFC**  
The EFC may accept as its Members National Federations (Federations, Unions, Fencing Sections, National Sports Organisations etc.) which bind themselves to the present Charter and the Interior Rules of the EFC, provided that they are officially recognised by the Olympic Committee of their country and by the International Fencing Federation as the only representatives of fencing in their country.
- a) Qualification**  
In order to qualify as a Member of the EFC, a National Federation must have a sufficient number of registered fencers and prove that its Statutes are not in contradiction with the Fundamental Rules of the FIE and the EFC Charters (except with respect to official and working languages).
- b) Application for Membership**  
A National Federation which wishes to be made a Member of the EFC can present an application to the Executive Committee of the EFC. This application must be accompanied by a declaration from the National Olympic Committee certifying that the Federation is the only one officially recognised by the NOC and the FIE to govern fencing in their country.
- c) Enrolment**  
At each of its meetings, the Congress rules on applications for membership.  
The Executive Committee has the right to accept provisionally, until the next Congress, a National Federation which has applied for membership.  
When a National Federation is a provisional Member, it benefits from the same rights and has the same obligations as any other Member Federation.

A refusal of permanent membership by the Congress does not allow any grounds for compensation.

**d) Loss of Membership**

The Member Federations may lose their membership of the EFC:

by resignation;

by expulsion;

by failure to comply with the requirements of the present Charter.

**Article 3**

The duration of the EFC is unlimited.

**Article 4**

The objectives of the EFC are:

4.1 to promote and develop fencing in Europe;

4.2 to ensure the amicable mutual support of technical and other kinds between European Federations;

4.3 to represent fencing in relations with other European entities;

4.4 to organise European Senior Championships and other European competitions;

4.5 to coordinate and facilitate teaching of fencing in Europe;

4.6 to take part in activities of the International Fencing Federation (IFF/FIE) in compliance with the Charter thereof.

4.7 The EFC acts in furtherance of its objectives with no regards or discrimination on political, confessional or racial grounds.

**Article 5**

5.1 The registered office of the EFC is at the address of the seat of the Luxembourgian Fencing Federation.

5.2 By decision of the Congress, its domicile may be changed to any other European country.

5.3 The administrative seat of the EFC is located at the seat of the EFC's Secretary General.

**Article 6**

6.1 Member Federations undertake to cooperate in furtherance of achieving the objectives of the EFC.

6.2 Member Federations accept the Charter and the Internal Rules of the EFC.

6.3 Member Federations exercise all the rights granted to them by the present Charter.

6.4 The EFC Charter is in compliance with that of the FIE.

**Article 7**

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 advisory capacity.

**Article 8**

Member Federations pay an annual membership fee the amount of which is set by the Congress. The fee must be paid no later than 31 March of the year in progress.

<b>SECTION III – GOVERNING BODIES (ORGANS)</b>
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**Article 9**

Governing bodies (Organs) of the EFC are the following:

9.1 Congress;

9.2 Executive Committee (COMEX);

9.3 President;

9.4 Bureau.

**Article 10**

**Congress**

10.1 The Congress is the supreme body of the EFC.

10.2 It consists of the authorised delegates of the full Members of the EFC (article 2). Every Member Federation may authorise two (2) delegates to the Congress.

10.3 It is in the exclusive competence of the Congress to take decisions with regard to:

- 10.3.1 changes and amendments to the EFC Charter;
- 10.3.2 reorganisation of the EFC;
- 10.3.3 liquidation of the EFC;
- 10.3.4 definition of the priority fundamentals of the EFC's activities;
- 10.3.5 definition of the principles of constitution and utilisation of property;
- 10.3.6 approval of the annual working plan and of the EFC's budget;
- 10.3.7 determination of the number of Member Federations;
- 10.3.8 admission of any new Member to the EFC and exclusion of any Member from the EFC;
- 10.3.9 election and anticipated expiry of the powers of the members of the mandates commission;
- 10.3.10 election for a term of one year and anticipated expiry of the powers of the Auditors;
- 10.3.11 approval of the President's message; confirmation of the balance sheets, the allocation of the EFC profit and the reviews of the Executive Committee, the General Secretariat, the Treasurer and the Auditors;
- 10.3.12 fixation of the annual membership fee;
- 10.3.13 any issues relating to the EFC's activities included in the agenda;
- 10.3.14 any questions submitted to the Congress by Member Federation(s) or the Executive Committee;
- 10.4 The Ordinary Congress is convened once a year in connection with one of the European Championship competitions.
- 10.5 All organisation costs of the Congress are covered by the EFC.
- 10.6 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.
- 10.7 Each Member Federation has one vote. The right to vote on behalf of the Member Federation is limited to its President, or its voting delegate, or any other duly authorised person.
- 10.8 Besides the President of a Member Federation, only a delegate empowered by a written mandate from the President thereof can participate in the Congress with the right to vote.
- 10.9 When a Member Federation cannot send its President, nor another delegate, in compliance with article 10.8 of the present Charter, to the Congress, it can entrust its mandate to a delegate of a different Member Federation.
- 10.10 In any case, one delegate cannot hold more than one (1) mandate other than that of his own Member Federation.
- 10.11 All the decisions are made by the simple majority of votes, unless otherwise is provided for in the present Charter.
- 10.12 Any issues relating to the exclusive competence of the Congress cannot be transferred to any other body of the EFC with regard to their examination and decision making.
- 10.13 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.
- 10.14 Elective Congress is conducted every four years, during the year following the Olympic Games, at the time of European Senior Championships.

## **Article 11**

### **Proceedings and Agenda before the Congress**

- 11.1 The Executive Committee fixes the date, location and time limits of the holding of the Ordinary Congress.
- 11.2 Within a period of at least four (4) months before the opening of the Ordinary Congress, the Executive Committee informs all Member Federations by registered letter, e-mail or fax about the Executive Committee's decision mentioned in article 11.1 of the present Charter.
- 11.3 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 of the final agenda.
- 11.4 If  $\frac{3}{4}$  (three fourths) of the Member Federations' delegates present at the Congress approve, the Congress may take the decision to 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 11.3 of the present Charter.  
The resolution and any other decisions regarding the item shall be approved by a qualified majority of  $\frac{3}{4}$  (three fourths) of the votes of the delegates present at the Congress.

- 11.5 The provisions of articles 10.11 to 10.13 and 11.1 to 11.4 of the present Charter shall also apply to any Extraordinary Congress.
- 11.6 The Congress defines the voting modalities at its meetings.
- 11.7 Persons who have received an invitation but do not enjoy any voting rights may attend the Congress.
- 11.8 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 12**

### **Executive Committee (COMEX)**

- 12.1 The Executive Committee is composed of the President and nine (9) members elected for the term of four (4) years by the Congress.
- 12.2 The Executive Committee must include at least one woman and one man.
- 12.3 A candidate for a member of the Executive Committee must be presented to the General Secretariat by the Member Federation of the candidate's nationality. The Member Federation which presents the candidate must also be a full Member of the EFC. The same person can be a candidate for President and for a member of the Executive Committee.
- 12.4 The President and nine (9) members of the Executive Committee are elected by secret vote in two separate polls.
- 12.5 **Order of elections:**
  - 12.5.1 The President is elected first:
    - 12.5.1.1 1<sup>st</sup> round by absolute majority;
    - 12.5.1.2 2<sup>nd</sup> round by absolute majority;
    - 12.5.1.3 3<sup>rd</sup> round by simple majority.
  - 12.5.2 Subsequently, the members of the Executive Committee are elected.
    - 12.5.2.1 Members of the Executive Committee must represent different Member Federations than that of the President and different Member Federations between themselves.
    - 12.5.2.2 Member Federations can vote no more than nine (9) candidates from the list proposed for election of the Executive Committee.
    - 12.5.2.3 The nine (9) candidates having obtained the highest amount of votes are elected:
      - 12.5.2.4 1<sup>st</sup> round by simple majority;
      - 12.5.2.5 2<sup>nd</sup> round by means of a draw.
- 12.6 **Elective rules**
  - 12.6.1 The candidates for the Executive Committee must be presented ahead of the Presidential candidates.
  - 12.6.2 The Presidential candidates will have the opportunity to address the Congress (maximum time is 10 minutes per candidate) before the vote.
  - 12.6.3 The President and nine (9) Executive Committee members are elected through direct vote.
- 12.7 If the nine (9) highest amounts of votes in the Executive Committee election are for candidates of the same gender, eight (8) candidates with the highest amounts of votes and a person of the opposite gender having obtained the highest amount of votes are elected.
- 12.8 If several candidates obtain the same number of votes, the ballot is completed by means of a draw.
- 12.9 In case of withdrawal 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. If there are no other candidates, a supplementary election shall be organised during the next Congress.
- 12.10 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.
- 12.11 The following items are related to the exclusive competence of the Executive Committee:

- 12.11.1 amendments and changes to the EFC Internal Rules, which are to be ratified by the Congress and made only in case of urgent necessity;
- 12.11.2 affiliation of new Members to the EFC and expulsion of Members from the EFC, which are to be approved by the next Congress;
- 12.11.3 implementation of resolutions and other decisions of the Congress;
- 12.11.4 taking decisions on convocation of an Ordinary Congress; approbation of the agenda, time limits and place of the Congress;
- 12.11.5 organising and controlling the reasonable/proper spending of the EFC funds in respect of the approved budget;
- 12.11.6 preparation of a report on the work performed;
- 12.11.7 examination and taking of decisions concerning the problems of preparation and realisation of competitions;
- 12.11.8 preparation and approval of the European sporting events plans;
- 12.11.9 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;
- 12.11.10 taking decisions concerning the membership in any European and International bodies, non-profit organisations, unions or associations and the withdrawal from the said bodies.
- 12.12 Decisions are taken by the 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 13**

#### **Bureau**

- 13.1. The bureau is composed of:
  - President;
  - Vice-President;
  - General Secretary;
  - Treasurer.

The President appoints the other members of the Bureau among the elected members of the Executive Committee.
- 13.2 If any of the said positions is vacant, the President shall designate another Executive Committee member to the office during the Executive Committee's next meeting.
- 13.3 The Vice-president replaces the President in case of absence. He performs the functions of the President at the Executive Committee meetings, at the Congresses and in other official activities.
- 13.4 In case of definitive absence, withdrawal or death of the President, the Vice-president shall lead the EFC until the next Congress, during which a new President shall be elected.
- 13.5 The Bureau, under the guidance of the President, attends to all ongoing activities and prepares the issues to be treated by the Executive Committee.

### **Article 14**

#### **President**

- 14.1 The President represents the EFC in all the activities of the civil life and ad litem.
- 14.2 The President presides the Congress, the Executive Committee and the Bureau.
- 14.3 The President, assisted by the Bureau members, attends to all ongoing matters and subsequently obtains the Executive Committee's ratification of the decisions taken.
- 14.4 The President may employ, with the approval of the Executive Committee, the personnel necessary to run the EFC efficiently.
- 14.5 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 Charter.
- 14.6 The President may assign powers of attorney to other EFC officials in compliance with the present Charter.
- 14.7 The President orders the expenses; the Treasurer performs them.
- 14.8 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.
- 14.9 The President has the executive power to implement resolutions based on the working plan and the budget.
- 14.10 For specific matters, the President can nominate Presidential advisors, who can be invited to attend the Executive Committee meetings without right to vote.

## **Article 15**

### **Auditors**

- 15.1 Two (2) internal Auditors are elected annually by the Congress.
- 15.2 The Auditors examine, on a yearly basis, the financial activities of the EFC on the basis of the documents submitted by the Treasurer. They provide a report of their examination to the Congress.

## **Article 16**

- The Executive Committee members as well as the Auditors must originate from different Member Federations.
- 16.1 An independent Auditor can be appointed by the Congress instead of elected internal Auditors as per article 15.1.

## **SECTION IV – COMMISSIONS**

## **Article 17**

- 17.1 In order to ensure the proper performance of the EFC, the Executive Committee creates Commissions, the members of which are elected by the Executive Committee.
- 17.2 The Commissions are constituted of representatives of Member Federations in compliance with the recommendations of the Commissions' Presidents from the Executive Committee.
- 17.3 The Commissions normally consist of up to 6 (six) members, representing different Member Federations.
- 17.4 Detailed functions and rights of the Commissions are set by the EFC Internal Rules.
- 17.5 The Presidents of the Commissions are designated by the Executive Committee from among its members following the proposal of the EFC's President.
- 17.6 The Commissions 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.
- 17.7 The President of each Commission ensures the proper utilisation of the budget and provides the Executive Committee with financial reviews when demanded.
- 17.8 Member Federations are invited to propose candidates for the Commissions.
- 17.9 There are two (2) kinds of Commissions:
- 17.9.1 Compulsory Commissions, which are:
- a) Educational Commission;
  - b) Promotion and Assistance to underprivileged Federations Commission;
  - c) Referees Commission;
  - d) Competitions Commission
  - e) Veterans Commission;
  - f) Handicapped Fencing Commission
  - g) Athletes Commission
  - h) Technical Commission
  - i) Medical Commission
- 17.9.2 Auxiliary Commissions are created if needed.

## **SECTION V – FINANCES**

## **Article 18**

- The financial year of the EFC begins on 1 January and ends on 31 December.
- 18.1 The Executive Committee establishes a general budget showing the main expenses and receipts for the approval of the Congress.
- 18.2 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).
- 18.3 The expenses provided for in the budget must be countersigned by the Treasurer. The expenses which are not provided for in the budget and which exceed the budget by more than 10 % must be approved by the Executive Committee.
- 18.4 Income of the ECF includes membership fees paid by Member Federations in compliance with article 8 of the present Charter, entry fees for the European Championships, sums

- paid according to the contracts concluded with partners and contributions received by the Executive Committee.
- 18.5 Payments and invoices of over 5% of the EFC budget must be signed by the President and the Treasurer.
- 18.6 Payments and invoices of the amounts between 1.5% and 5% of the EFC Budget must be signed by the President and the Treasurer, or by the President and the Secretary General.
- 18.7 Payments and invoices of the amounts below 1.5% of the EFC budget must be signed by the Secretary General and the Treasurer, or by the President alone.
- 18.8 Payments and invoices of the amounts below 0.15% of the EFC budget can be signed by the Treasurer or the President alone.

## SECTION VI

### **Article 19**

- 19.1 English and French are the official languages of the EFC.
- 19.2 The working languages of the EFC are English and French.
- 19.3 All the official texts/documents of the EFC are rendered in English and translated into French.
- 19.4 In case of discrepancy, the English language shall govern
- 19.5 Other European languages may be used as working languages in order to facilitate communication between the Member Federations of the EFC.
- 19.6 The purpose of the Internal Rules is to elaborate on the principles defined by the Charter and to regulate the normal functioning of the EFC.  
The Charter is approved and modified by the vote of the EFC Congress.  
The Internal Rules are approved by the Executive Committee.
- 19.7 The Rules of European Championships are attached to the Internal Rules.

## SECTION VII – CHANGES TO THE CHARTER, LIQUIDATION

### **Article 20**

- 20.1 The Charter can be changed or amended only by the Congress.
- 20.2 The Congress (article 20.1) is to be convened in compliance with article 11 of the present Charter.
- 20.3 The proposals and changes/amendments must be attached in their definitive form to the agenda of the Congress.
- 20.4 The Congress (article 20.1) can only reach valid decisions, if 75% of all the EFC Member Federations (full Members) are present or represented.
- 20.5 The decisions are taken by the majority of 2/3 (two thirds) of the votes effectively represented at the Congress.
- 20.6 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 21**

The EFC can only be dissolved by virtue of a resolution of the Congress adopted by  $\frac{3}{4}$  (three fourths) of the EFC's Member Federations (full Members).

### **Article 22**

In case of liquidation of the EFC, the Congress will pass a resolution on the disposal of the EFC's property.

### **Article 23**

The present Charter is in force immediately after approval by the Congress with the exception of provisions which presume new elections.

The President

The Secretary General

Place and date