



# European Veterans Fencing Constitution 2019

## 1. The aims of European Veterans Fencing (EVF)

- To encourage and facilitate the development and organisation of competitive veterans fencing in Europe.
- To encourage and support enjoyment of and participation in the sport of fencing by a wide range of people in the veterans age groups in Europe.
- To achieve recognition and respect for the sport of veterans fencing both within the fencing community and the wider world, including other veterans' sports.

## 2. Powers

In order to achieve its aims, EVF may:

- Organise Competitions, events and courses
- Develop ranking systems and supporting software
- Open bank accounts
- Raise money
- Advise on Veterans Fencing in Europe locally or globally
- Publish Handbooks and Guides
- Take out insurance
- Work with other groups and exchange information
- Do anything that is lawful which will help to fulfil its aims

## 3. Membership

Membership is open to any European Country that is interested in Veterans Fencing, is willing to abide by the rules of EVF and willing to pay subscriptions as agreed by the Congress. Individual Memberships are by invitation only.

## Country Membership

- Active Fencing Country membership is achieved by a capitation fee collected from fencers participating in European Championships.
- Passive Fencing Country membership is achieved by those Countries who do not have entrants in European Championships through the payment of an annual fee.

## Individual Membership

An individual Membership is:

- Conferred on Board Directors by virtue of being elected.
- Members of Honour by virtue of being nominated and elected.

Member Countries will appoint a representative to attend meetings and liaise with EVF. The organisation is controlled by the Congress which meets once a year and comprises Representatives of Member Countries and Individual Members.

Every Member shall have one vote at meetings. The President shall have the casting vote if required.

## 4. Management

EVF shall be administered by a Board of 6 Directors elected for 4 year terms on a 3 + 3 bi-annual rotation at the relevant Annual Congress. No more than one Board member may be elected from one country, except in the case of the Secretary/Treasurer.

- The Board will meet at least once a year in person and on other occasions by means of electronic communications as necessary.
- Each Board Director will have responsibility for a Portfolio and may co-opt or engage appropriate expertise to assist in their activities.
- The quorum for Board Meetings shall be 3 Directors.
- The President shall chair all meetings.
- Voting shall be by simple majority with the President holding a casting vote if required.
- The Board may, by a two-thirds majority vote and for a good reason remove a Director, provided that person has the right to be heard before a final decision is made.
- A second Director from the same Country may be elected for one year only if no other candidates are offered.
- A new Director may be co-opted until the next Congress where the position will then be open for election.

A simple majority in a ballot of all those present and eligible to vote at the Congress will decide the election of Board Members.

## 5. Duties of Directors

The President will chair meetings and act as spokesperson for Veterans Fencing in Europe.

The Secretary will maintain the administration and finances of the organisation and keep proper records of activity and membership.

Each director will be assigned one or more portfolios from at least the following:

- Medical
- Competition Management
- Member Liaison
- External Liaison
- Data and Technology
- Communication
- Legal
- Sponsorship/Financial

Other Portfolios may be created as circumstances require.

All directors are responsible for the financial probity of the organisation and may call, by a simple majority, for the accounts to be examined independently.

Membership of the Board is voluntary and unpaid.

## 6. Annual Congress

There shall be one meeting of the European Veterans Fencing Congress per annum, convened on the day before the European Veterans Championships begin.

All Members shall be given at least 4 months notice of the Congress and shall be entitled to vote. Other participants may be invited for particular purposes, such as persons seeking election to the Board, and for competition organisation matters.

The quorum for the Congress shall be 3 Board Directors and 6 Country Representatives.

The Congress shall include:

- Receiving a report from the President on EVF activities over the year
- Receiving a report on the Finances of EVF
- Receiving reports on projects specific to Director portfolios as appropriate
- Receiving reports from Members as appropriate
- Receiving presentations from prospective host cities
- Electing Board Members as necessary
- Considering any other matters

All resolutions of EVF will be decided by a simple majority of those present. The financial year for EVF runs from January 1 to December 31.

**7. Extraordinary General Meeting**

Extraordinary meetings between annual congresses may be held and may take place remotely by means of technology.

Records will be produced for circulation to the membership. The same rules for a quorum will apply, such “meetings” may take decisions to be acted upon by the Board before the next congress.

**8. Language EVF**

The official languages of the Committee are English and French.

**9. Alterations to the Constitution**

Any changes to this Constitution must be agreed by at least two-thirds of those members present and voting at any Annual Congress.

**10. Administrative Handbook**

The Administrative Handbook shall define the operational application of all matters pertaining to the functioning of EVF. Any changes to the Handbook must be agreed by the Board.

**11. Dissolution**

EVF may be wound up at any time if agreed by two-thirds of Members being present and voting at an Annual Congress. In the event of winding up, any assets remaining after all debts have been paid shall be given to another organisation with similar aims.