

# EUROPEAN VETERANS FENCING Constitution

Revised 24 May 2016

## 1. Main purposes of the Committee

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. Composition of the EVF Board

1 President

1 Secretary/Treasurer

1 Data Manager

1 Communications Manager

1 Competitions Supervisor

1 Medical Representative

Other temporary members may be co-opted for particular projects.

Membership of the Board is voluntary and unpaid. All Board members are expected to meet their own personal expenses for attendances at meetings and doing the work of European Veterans Fencing.

## 3. Election and Appointment of Board Members

- a) No more than one Board member to be drawn from one country, except in the case of the Secretary/Treasurer (see below).
- b) In the event of no candidates from a different country for a Board position, the post may be filled by a candidate from a country already represented on the Board for one year only.
- c) The Secretary/Treasurer may be, if approved by the congress for the purposes of ease of communication, from the same country as the President. Duties include the collection and circulation of agenda items, collection and use of administration fees, circulation of minutes, membership lists, and other papers received from European Veterans members.
- d) The members of the Board to be elected at the annual congress to serve for two years. The two years' service begins immediately following the full process of election of the Board members at that congress and ends with the conclusion of the last agenda item before the next election for that post. Board members may stand for re-election after the expiry of their service.
- e) The election of the President, the Secretary/Treasurer and Communications Manager will take place in "even" years and the other three Board members will be elected in "odd" years, i.e. in alternate years. Any person who has been proposed and/or wishes to be elected as a Board member of European Veterans Fencing must be present at the time of election.

- f) The following procedure shall be used to attract candidates for election to the Board:
- i) The Secretary shall, at least six calendar months before the upcoming annual congress, notify the member country representatives and the Members of Honour, of those Board members standing down on rotation and call for candidates for election to the Board for the vacant positions with a closing date of one month before the upcoming congress.
  - ii) A candidate may propose themselves, or a candidate may be nominated by a proposer.
  - iii) Candidates should submit their CV to the Secretary on or before the closing date.
  - iv) Each candidate may present their CV and address the congress before the election. If there is more than one candidate for a position the order of presentation will be decided by the drawing of lots. Each candidate may address the congress without the presence of any other candidate for the post.
  - v) The Board member will be elected by ballot of all those present and eligible to vote at the congress. A simple majority will decide if a candidate is elected.

#### **4. Election to the EVF Roll of Honour**

- a) A Roll of Honour will bear the names of persons honoured by the EVF.
- b) The title of Member of Honour of the EVF may be awarded to persons who have served European Veterans Fencing with distinction for many years and/or have made a considerable personal contribution for the benefit of veterans fencing in Europe.
- c) The Honour may only be endowed at an annual congress of the representatives of the member nations. The endowment must be agreed by ballot, with a simple majority being sufficient of those present and voting, after careful consideration of the merits of each case.
- d) Any member nation may propose persons who they consider suitable for consideration for the Honour.
- e) The Honour should be awarded for life.
- f) If a Member of Honour dies then his or her name shall remain on the Roll of Honour.
- g) There should be a maximum of 6 “Active” Members of Honour at any one time.
- h) A Member of Honour may not be a serving officer of the EVF or be a national representative.
- i) Members of Honour shall have the right to one vote if present at the congress.

#### **5. Language of the Committee**

The official languages of the Committee are English and French.

## **6. Meetings**

There shall be one meeting of the European Veterans Fencing Congress per annum, convened on the day before the European Veterans Championships begin. The Board members and one representative from each member country have automatic rights to attend. Other participants may be invited for particular purposes, such as persons seeking election to the Board, and for competition organisation matters.

## **7. Voting and Decision Processes**

- a) One vote for each member country representative, one vote for each Member of Honour present at the congress, and one vote for each member of the Board, excluding the President. The President will have the right to cast a vote in the event of equal votes for and against a decision.
- b) All those present may take part in the discussions that may lead to a vote.
- c) All decisions to be taken by the full EVF at the annual congress, after opportunities for the due democratic process have been organised by the country representatives with their National Membership Associations.
- d) All resolutions of the full EVF to be decided by a simple majority of those present.
- e) The meetings must contain a quorum before decisions are taken. A quorum will consist of at least three of the elected Board members and at least six country representatives. A non-quorate meeting may discuss agenda items but not take decisions.
- f) All matters affecting the general membership to be decided at the annual congress. Examples may be the relationship between European Veterans Fencing and other bodies (such as the FIE, the EFC and National Fencing Federations), and ways to fulfil the stated purposes of European Veterans Fencing etc.
- g) Extra-ordinary meetings between annual assemblies may be held and may take place remotely e.g. by e-mail, telephone conferencing, exchange of fax. Records will be produced for circulation to the membership. The same rules for a quorum will apply, i.e. country representatives to outnumber the Board. Such “meetings” may take decisions to be acted upon by the Board before the next congress.

## **8. Receipt and Use of Funds**

- a) Each member country will pay an annual membership fee which will be collected each year by the European Championship organisers. This money shall be used for the benefit of that year's championship.
- b) Fencers will only be allowed to participate in European Veterans Championships if membership fees have been paid by their countries or by themselves.
- c) No Board member will receive any personal expenses or honoraria from funds held in the EVF bank account. Any use of funds other than for administration (mailing, maintenance of internet etc) will be agreed by the full committee before any expenditure takes place.