



Proposals for the 2019 Congress
Modifications of the Statutes

Article: 1.1

Proposal from: Italian Fencing Federation

P. 1

Motivation: The modifications to this article aim to create the conditions to allow the FIE to have the possibility to cooperate with the IWAS and in general support the development of the Paralympic fencing, which is not mentioned in the Statutes.

Proposal:

1.1 MISSION

The FIE is recognised by the IOC as the organization which governs the sport of fencing worldwide in accordance with the rules in Chapter 3 of the Olympic Charter*.

The aims of the F.I.E. are:

- a) to promote the development of fencing throughout the world, to tighten the ties of friendship which unite fencers of all countries, by setting up lasting relations between representative groups, and to nurture the improvement of the practice of our sport in every way.
 - b) to see that international competitions open to member federations are organised in accordance with F.I.E. Rules;
 - c) to establish Rules according to which international competitions must be organised;
 - d) to organise the Open World Championships, as well as Junior, Cadet and Veteran World Championships;
 - e) to authorise and supervise the other official F.I.E. competitions;
 - f) to insure that in international competitions the bans, suspensions, expulsions, disqualifications and all other penalties issued by one of the member federations are respected;
 - g) to study and legislate on all matters pertaining to fencing in international relations;
 - h) to promote and develop the struggle against doping;
 - i) to organise the fencing at the Olympic Games, in liaison with the International Olympic Committee.
 - j) to ensure that the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, ethnicity, religion, political opinions, family status or other, is respected.
 - k) to apply appropriate measures to contribute to the respect of the environment.
- *: Olympic Charter, p. 10, 16
- l) to ensure fair sporting contests so that the spirit of fair play prevails.
 - m) to establish rules and appropriate measures to protect the health of athletes and prevent any abuse.
 - n) to take appropriate means to provide for the social and professional future of athletes
 - o) to foresee the possibility to cooperate for the development of the wheelchair fencing.

Legal Commission: The Legal Commission voted unanimously to alter the language of (o) to read as follows:

- To assist in the development of Paralympic fencing.

But that this amendment should only take place if the Executive Committee first agrees that this is a direction it wishes to go and is willing to allocate resources for and the FIE can agree with IWAS on an agreement to move forward together on the development of Paralympic fencing.

Executive Committee: The FIE had meetings with IWAS to explore possible cooperation between the two federations. A document has been signed regarding the organisation of competitions. Therefore, the Executive Committee thinks that changing the FIE mission by introducing that obligation in the FIE Statutes is not necessary.

P. 2

Article: 1.5

Proposal from: UAE Fencing Federation

Motivation: adoption of Arabic language as an official language in the International Federation of Fencing in fulfilment of the aspirations of the 18 Arab Fencing Federations and thus contribute to the upgrading of the game in the Arab countries

Proposal:

Your Excellency,

It may give us the pleasure to send our compliments to your Excellency and to all friends in the HQ of the FIE. We would like to take this opportunity to express our warmest regards and appreciation for your good efforts to develop the work of the International Federation of Fencing

I am pleased to present to you this request as President of the Arab Fencing Federation, which includes 18 Arab countries as in "Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Saudi Arabia - UAE - Qatar - Oman – Yemen- Kuwait and Bahrain" which are active associations in the activities of the International Federation of Fencing.

Mr. President, as is well known, all these Arab Federations speak Arabic, the language adopted by the United Nations as the official language of communication in all international forums. As a result, many international federations of many sports have adopted the Arabic language in their approved languages.

Therefore, we look forward to the adoption of our Arabic language as an official language in the International Federation of Fencing in fulfilment of the aspirations of the 18 Arab Fencing Federations referred to and thus contribute to the upgrading of the game in our Arab countries.

Once again, thank you for your support. The Arab Fencing Federation avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the FIE highest consideration and appreciation.

Engineer Shaikh Salem Bin Sultan AL Qassimi, President of the Arab & UAE Fencing Federation.

Legal Commission: The Legal Commission was **unanimously not in favor** of this proposal. The only official language of the FIE is French and there is no need to add another official language. With regard to making it a working language, the Legal Commission was **unanimously not in favor** of Arabic being added as an additional working language for the following reasons:

- Arabic is not widely spoken in any countries other than the 18 Arab Fencing Federations and

a working language should be one that is a second or tertiary language in many countries other than those in which it is the primary language;

- There would be significant expense in adding a new working language because of increased translation costs and the need to add personnel; and
- There is no showing of how the addition of Arabic as an official or working language would upgrade fencing in the Arab countries.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee follows the opinion of the Legal Commission.

P. 3

Article: 3.4

Proposal from: Executive Committee

Motivation: To have at least two months in order to prepare and translate the documentation for the Executive Committee, Commissions and Councils which meet in June and review the proposals.

Proposal:

3.4 AGENDA

3.4.1 All the proposals shall reach the FIE's head office no later than ~~midnight 00:00 hrs~~ Lausanne time ~~7~~ 8 months before the opening day of the next Congress.

Legal Commission: The Legal Commission was **unanimously in favor** of moving the date back one month to provide staff with additional time to prepare and translate the documentation for the Executive Committee, Commissions and Councils.

Executive Committee: In favour.

P. 4

Article: 4.4.4.

Proposal from: Legal Commission

Motivation: The FIE Statutes currently call for at least 30% gender representation in the FIE Executive Committee, the Councils and Committees, but not in the FIE Commissions.

The Statutes are thus inconsistent without logical reason for the inconsistency.

Therefore, we would request an extraordinary measure submittal to ensure Statutory consistency for gender representation beginning with the 2020-2024 quadrennial.

Reasons to support the Proposal 1. Below are listed a few supporting facts and research study conclusions:

- 1.) Women in fencing make up nearly 43% of all competitors; representation should more closely mirror participation.
- 2.) There is significant evidence/research showing that diverse groups make better decisions.

- 3.) McKinsey research from 2015 indicates a correlation between diverse leadership teams and financial performance as well.
- 4.) Building an inclusive culture is critical to attract and retain talent within the FIE from the athlete, to referees, to coaches and administrative support personnel and others that we need to strengthen and grow the FIE.
- 5.) With the current 20% requirement, and in those Commissions that are below the threshold of 30%, it is difficult to reach critical mass with numbers of women and numbers do matter.

Much research in both public and corporate sectors finds that having just one or two women on a board or committee does not change gender dynamics nor admit women's voices and ideas. Without critical mass, women run the risk of being perceived as the "token" woman and not taken seriously. The same issue would result from having too few men on a board or committee.

Minimum Representation of Each Gender

That the minimum representation of men and women on all FIE Commissions should be raised from 20% to 30%.

Proposal:

4.4.4.

Commissions:

- a) If the 10 ~~first members elected~~ candidates to a Commission who have obtained the most votes do not include at least ~~two members~~ 3 persons of each gender, the Commission will consist of ~~the first 8 members elected and the two members of the other who are candidates for the commission~~ the 3 candidates of the under-represented gender who have obtained the greatest number of votes and the 7 candidates of the other gender who have obtained the greatest number of votes.

If no candidate of either one of the genders has ~~offered herself/himself as candidates~~ been nominated, the 10 candidates of different nationalities of the other gender with the greatest number of votes are elected.

Legal Commission: The Legal Commission is **unanimously in favor** of this proposal to bring the minimum representation of each gender to 30% for Commissions to bring it in line with the current rules for the Executive Committee, Councils and Committees.

PCM Commission: The PCM Commission continues to be **in favor** of this proposal.

SEMI Commission: **In favour**

Rules Commission: **In favour**

Refereeing Commission: **Not in favour**

Medical Commission: FIE statutes call for at least 30% gender representation in FIE Executive Committee, the Councils and Committees, but not in the FIE Commissions. The Statutes are inconsistent and should be made consistent. The Medical Commission **agreed**.

Coaches Council: **In favor**. But minimum professional qualification requirements should be created for nominating the candidates. For example – professional diploma in the field, 10 or 15 years of experience, etc.

Fair Play Council: Was **unanimously in favour** in proposing to make the gender representation in Commissions equal to those that are in use at the Executive Committee, Councils and Committees.

Women and Fencing Council: In favour.

Executive Committee: In favour.

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Article: 4.4.4.a

Proposal from: Legal Commission

Motivation: A procedure needs to be in place in the event that there are no or insufficient candidates for a Commission.

Proposal:

Procedure if there are Insufficient Candidates

If there are fewer than 3 candidates of either gender, that gender will be represented by the number of candidates of such gender put forward who have received at least one vote and the remainder of the Commission will consist of the candidates of the other gender who have obtained the most votes.

If there are fewer than 10 candidates for a Commission then the commission will consist of all candidates who have received at least one vote.

If there are no candidates for a Commission then the members of the Commission whose term had just ended shall hold over for the following year until new candidates can be presented and an election is held for that Commission at the following Congress.

Legal Commission: The Legal Commission is **unanimously in favor** of this proposal to deal with the procedures for handling voting when there are insufficient candidates.

Executive Committee: In favour.

P. 6

Article: 9.1.2 b)

Proposal from: Sam Cheris, MH

Motivation: Licensing of Coaches. It is necessary to add coaches and other persons traveling to official FIE competitions for the purpose of security at events and for the accumulation of statistical data to support the development work of the FIE.

Proposal:

9.1.2 b) This licence is also compulsory for the following persons:

- Members of the Executive Committee, ~~and~~ of the Commissions, **Councils and Ethics Committee** of the FIE;
- All officials designated for the World Championships and Olympic Games; ~~and~~
- All A or B referees of the FIE; ~~and~~

- All coaches and other persons wishing to be permitted to be on the field of play at an official competition of the FIE.

Legal Commission: The Legal Commission is **in favor** of the following proposal:

9.1.2 b) This licence is also compulsory for the following persons:

- Members of the Executive Committee, ~~and~~ of the Commissions, **Councils and Ethics Committee** of the FIE;
- All officials designated for the World Championships and Olympic Games; ~~and~~
- All A or B referees of the FIE; **and**
- **All coaches at an official competition of the FIE.**

Coaches Council: Not in favour. Every person at the competition got the accreditation. If some of the competitions are run without accreditation, FIE should include accreditation requirement for all FIE competitions

Executive Committee: In favour of the proposal as revised by the Legal Commission.

Application: from season 2020-2021

Article: 9.1.5

Proposal from: Sam Cheris, MH

P. 7

Motivation: Adding a requirement related to the Security and Safeguarding of the Members and licensees of the FIE.

It is important that the FIE have relevant assurances about those persons who will come into contact with fencers, referees and other officials at official FIE competitions to support the Security and Safeguarding initiatives of the FIE.

Proposal:

9.1.5 Application and Issue

a) The licences are ordered by national Federations on the FIE Web site for those holding the nationality or a refugee status issued by the governmental authorities of and entitled to membership with the federation.

b) All applications for licences for persons listed in 9.1.2 b) should be accompanied by assurance that the person has passed an appropriate background or criminal record check secured by the national federation.

~~b~~ c) For those countries which do not yet have a national federation which is a member of the FIE applications are made through the Olympic Committee of the country.

~~e~~ d) It is strictly forbidden for a fencer to possess more than one international licence.

~~d~~ e) When a fencer is visiting another country, or even if he lives in a country other than his own, he must apply for his licence to the member Federation of his own country, that is to say, to the member Federation of the country whose nationality he possesses.

~~e~~ f) The FIE head office with the agreement of the FIE Bureau may of its own initiative grant an international licence to a fencer who has the nationality of a country where there is neither a national

federation which is a member of the FIE nor an Olympic Committee affiliated to the IOC and to fencers who are legally stateless.

Legal Commission: The Legal Commission is **in favor** of this proposal with the following amendment:

New item f) (instead of a new b) and renumbering):

All persons listed in 9.1.2 b) and for whom an FIE licence is ordered by a national federation are committed to respect the FIE Code of Ethics, code of conduct and Safeguarding policy.

Executive Committee: In favour of the proposal as revised by the Legal Commission.
