

Congress

1) FIE Statutes state:

3.1 a) *Congresses are held during the latter part of November or the first part of December each year.*

i) The Elective Congress is held during the Olympic year.

10.3.4 *The fencing events at the Olympic Games are under the direction of the FIE and constitute the Senior World Championships of the Olympic year.*

The Olympic year can thus only be the year during which the Olympic Games are held. Further to the postponement by the IOC of the Tokyo Olympic Games from 2020 to 2021, the latter year has become the Olympic year.

5.1 *The management of the FIE in between Congresses is entrusted to an Executive Committee.*

2) Physical Congress in 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic obliged us to cancel several events and the Olympic Games were postponed to 2021.

At this stage, it is impossible to plan a physical Congress because of the unsettled conditions (pandemic, health threats, quarantines, restrictions, flights, etc.) due to COVID-19.

In addition, article 3.6.5 of the FIE Statutes states:

3.6.5 *The President, the members of the Executive Committee and of the permanent commissions (except the Athletes Commission) take office on the first day of the month following the closing day of the Olympic Games or of the Elective Congress, whichever is the latter.*

Even if we hold the Congress in 2020, elected persons will not take office before September 1st, 2021.

3) Virtual Congress in 2020

Participants

350-400 members may attend the Congress:

- 2 delegates per federation (who could be in two different locations), but only one delegate will vote
- Members of Honour
- Members of the Executive Committee
- Members of Commissions and Councils

Technical aspects

It is confirmed that there is no product on the market that can provide secure voting, simultaneous translations, and a mass video/audio conference service in one platform. Three different platforms will have to be used and they must be compatible between them. Results of tests:

- For audio and broadcast, Bluejeans Event or Zoom. Both Bluejeans and Zoom can be restricted in some countries.
- For secure voting system, use of Lumi. An external supervisor may be hired to confirm that nobody had access to the votes.
- To ensure identity protection, meeting security and vote integrity, it is necessary to put in place a secure login method: All members will use login details (email address, password), and a second factor of authentication.
- For translations, the FIE will have to add one platform such as Interprefy which can be integrated through widget. At FIE Congresses, there are simultaneous translations in French, English, Spanish, Russian and Arabic (Arabic was decided at the 2019 Congress).

Risks

Five factors are totally out of control at the time of the meeting, regardless of the platform selected:

- Internet connection in the delegates' country
- Unpredictable technical problems for delegates the day of the meeting
- Different level of expertise of delegates using online meetings (end-user adaptation and support)
- These platforms were never tested for previous FIE congresses (whether elective or not)
- Respect of the meeting time zone by the delegates

Even if we hold a Congress in 2020, elected persons will not take office before September 1st, 2021 (see article 3.6.5 above).

4) Road map agreed by the Executive Committee

- a) Postpone the 2020 Congress to 2021
- b) Hold a Congress in November 2021 as follows:
 - Day 1: regular documents and proposals submitted to the Congress
 - Day 2: elective Congress
- c) All items and documents which would normally be presented to the 2020 Congress to be sent to the National Federations and items to be voted on can be done by electronic response, or through any other secure and confidential system.
- d) Commissions and Councils will meet in June 2021 by Zoom videoconference, with assistance given to any members who need enhanced connectivity to attend the meeting.
- e) Proposals for the 2021 Regular Congress and candidatures for the elective Congress will be submitted by the Federations in 2021, pursuant to the normal statutory timeline.
- f) In the event that it is determined not to hold the Olympic Games as currently scheduled in July/August 2021, the Executive Committee of the FIE:
 - (i) authorizes the FIE to hold a virtual Congress in 2021 as authorized by Swiss law, in case a physical Congress cannot be reasonably held;
 - (ii) by publication of this notice informs the Member Federations of the potential use of a virtual Congress in 2021, in case a physical Congress cannot be reasonably held; and
 - (iii) shall review the feasibility of holding a physical or virtual Elective Congress sufficiently before the scheduled November 2021 Congress.