
Working Group on the FIE Calendar 2022 Progress Report

Participants:

- AZZI Paolo, Member of the FIE Executive Committee and Chair of the Working Group
- HH. ENGR.SHEIKH SALEM Sultan S. Alqasimi, President of the Asian Fencing Confederation
- EL HUSSEINY Abdelmoneim Elhamy, Vice-President
- LOGVIN Vitaly, President of the Pan American Fencing Confederation
- SMITH (MH) Helen, President of the Oceania Fencing Confederation
- MONTANO Aldo, President of the Athletes Commission
- KNYSCH Irina, President of the Refereeing Commission
- MASSIALAS Gregory, Member of the Coaches Council
- TSUKHLO Evgeny, Sport and Technical Director

Dates of meetings:

1. 08.03.2022
2. 23.03.2022
3. 20.04.2022

The Working Group on the International Calendar has operated based on some inputs provided by the COMEX, which has highlighted that the overall management of the international competition activity presents considerable criticalities with a high number of events that often overlap, making it difficult to find available referees and, more generally, the control of the conduct of competitions by the FIE. For this reason, the development of proposals which can improve and make the existing situation easier to manage by reducing the number of events and rationalizing the competition calendar was requested.

In consideration of the imminent start of the Olympic qualification, COMEX has deemed it correct not to change the calendar until the end of the current four-year period, i.e., for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 seasons, in which the competition calendar will remain substantially unchanged. Consequently, the reflection of the Working Group focused on the definition of a solution to be applied, starting from the fencing season following the Paris Olympic Games (2024/25).

The application of the new calendar would require some changes to the FIE Rules which will be submitted to the Congress in 2023, so that if the changes are approved, the calendar could be implemented after the Paris Olympic Games.

In order to make the calendar less crowded and easier to manage, the Working Group, after having discarded the idea of reducing the overall number of competitions (except for the Junior World Cups where a decrease from 8 to 7 event was proposed) preferred to focus on their unification, providing for each competition session of each individual weapon, the concentration in a single location of the women and men events, both individual and in teams, to be held over 4 days, usually from Thursday to Sunday.

The application of this solution would have several advantages:

- It would make it possible to free up a considerable number of weekends throughout the season, facilitating the management of the competitions by the FIE and the scheduling of training by the Federations
- It would facilitate the task of the Refereeing Commission by allowing all the best referees to be concentrated in one place
- It would reduce the travel costs incurred by the Federations, allowing to plan, for each men and women event, a single trip, a single staff, etc.

The proposal to revise the competition calendar starting from the 2024/25 competition season, prepared by the Working Group at the end of the three meetings, held on 8 and 23 March and 20 April, can be summarized as follows:

Senior World Cup:

1. FIE GP:

- 2 events for each weapon for a total of 6 to be distributed in the period December-May.
- No changes compared to the current formula: a men event and a women event only individual.

2. World Cup Circuit:

- 6 events for each weapon for a total of 18 to be distributed in the period between mid-November and the end of May.
- For each event will be held, in the same venue and in 4 days, one men and one women individual competition (first three days), a team event for both men and women (fourth day).

The eight competitions of each weapon will be distributed among the confederations as follows: Europe 3, Pan America 2, Asia 2, Africa 1.

The official individual FIE ranking will take into account the five best results achieved by each athlete in GP, World Cup or satellite events, with a maximum of two results per continent, plus the World Championships / Olympic Games and Zonal Championships.

The official FIE Teams Ranking will take into account the four best results achieved by each team in World Cup event, with a maximum of one result per continent, plus the World Championships / Olympic Games and Zonal Championships.

If it is impossible to hold at least one team competition in one or more continents, the four best results achieved by each team will still be taken into account with a maximum of two for each continent.

Junior World Cup:

- 7 events per each weapon for a total of 21 to be distributed in the period between mid-October and the third week of February.
- For each event, in the same venue and over three days, a men and a women individual competition (first two days) and a team event for both men and women (third day) will be held.

The seven competitions of each weapon will be distributed among the confederations in the following way: Europe 3, Pan America 1, Asia 2, Africa 1.

The official individual Junior FIE ranking will take into account the four best results achieved by each athlete in World Cup event, with a maximum of two results per continent, plus the World Championships and Zone Championships.

The official FIE Junior Team ranking will take into account the four best results achieved by each team in World Cups with a maximum of one result per continent, plus the World Championships and Zone Championships.

If it is impossible to hold at least one team competition in one or more continents, the four best results achieved by each team will still be taken into account with a maximum of two for each continent.

FIE Satellite Competitions:

- Maximum 8 and minimum competitions 6 for each weapon, to be distributed in the period between September and May.

While considering the need not to make the organization of these competitions too challenging for organizers, it would be advisable to provide some minimum requirements to be taken into consideration when assigning competitions to national federations.