

Decisions regarding the affiliation of the member federation – Mexico

The Federación Mexicana de Esgrima (**FME**) is the national federation currently affiliated with the FIE.

On 6 September 2023, the FIE was informed that the FME had been removed from the *Registro Único del Deporte (RUD)* by CONADE, the Mexican governmental sports authority. Besides, the FIE could not recognise any person as President of the FME for the 2021–2024 term.

On 20 September 2023, to ensure that Mexican fencers, referees, and coaches could continue participating in FIE competitions during the Olympic qualification period, the Executive Committee decided to establish an ad hoc transition committee. Its tasks included, among others, selecting the athletes, coaches, and referees eligible for FIE licences and competitions. The Executive Committee also decided that, in a second stage, the FME would need to be renewed, with its statutes reviewed and approved by the FIE Legal Commission, and statutory elections organised. Completion of this stage was required for the FME to be represented at FIE Congresses.

Thereafter, the FIE received a Request for Affiliation, dated 26 September 2024, from a newly formed fencing association in Mexico, registered under the name: ASOCIACIÓN DEPORTIVA NACIONAL DE ESCRIMA MEXICANA, ASOCIACIÓN CIVIL (“NATIONAL SPORTS ASSOCIATION OF MEXICAN FENCING, CIVIL ASSOCIATION”, “**ADNEM**”).

The FIE Executive Committee appointed two members, Donald Anthony Jr and Novak Perović (the “**Panel**”), to provide an assessment of ADNEM.

Between 3 and 6 November 2024, the Panel met with the CONADE, Mexican NOC, ADNEM, Mexican fencers and referees. It then issued an assessment and verification report (the “**Report**”), which included the following information and recommendations.

The Request for Affiliation fulfils the requirements of Chapter 8 of the FIE Administrative Rules, with the exception of art. 8.2 relating to the letter from the National Olympic Committee (NOC) certifying that the federation is the only acknowledged body governing fencing by the NOC of the federation.

A. A significant number of Mexican fencers, coaches, referees, Regional Associations and fencing clubs are affiliated with ADNEM:

- 705 affiliated Fencers, which is 81% of the total number of registered fencers in Mexico (870)
- 59 Affiliated Coaches
- 20 Affiliated Referees (6 of them are FIE Referees)
- 18 Affiliated State (Regional) Associations, which is 58% of total number of regional Associations (31).
- Affiliated Regional Associations incorporate +/- 90 Fencing Clubs.

B. The Panel made the following recommendations:

1. To deregister the existing Fencing Federation as a member federation of the FIE;

2. To accept the ADNEM application for affiliation with the FIE.
3. The Panel also recommended that, because the ADNEM is not recognised by the NOC, and therefore not in line with the FIE Constitution, Administrative Rules and existing bylaws, this affiliation to be treated as provisional until they become affiliated with the Mexico NOC.
4. To supply the ADNEM with a letter of intent issued by the FIE regarding its affiliation and endorsement.
5. To make sure that Mexican fencers can carry on participating at the FIE fencing competitions under the control and administration of the existing Transition Committee.

Relevant statutory framework

The Executive Committee considers that this situation falls within Article 2.1.1(b)(2) of the FIE Statutes, which provides:

“In a case of dispute between two or more groups each desiring to represent their country as a member of the FIE, the Executive Committee of the FIE will be called upon to decide, which to recognise, after consulting the National Olympic Committee concerned.”

Under article 2.1.1(a) of the FIE Statutes, in order to qualify as a member of the FIE a National Federation must have a sufficient number of attached fencers and prove that its Statutes do not clash with the Fundamental Rules of the FIE Statutes - being chapters 1-7 of these Statutes - (except with respect to official and working languages).

Pursuant to article 2.1.1(d) of the FIE Statutes, a member federation may lose its membership of the FIE by expulsion.

Pursuant to Rule 29 of the Olympic Charter:

“29 The national federations

To be recognised by an NOC and accepted as a member of such NOC, a national federation must exercise a specific, real and on-going sports activity, be affiliated to an IF recognised by the IOC and be governed by and comply in all aspects with both the Olympic Charter and the rules of its IF.”

Consultation with the Mexican NOC

On 6 July 2025, the FIE interim President wrote to the Mexican NOC to inform them that on 26 June 2025, the FIE Executive Committee had decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee

“entrusted with the exclusive powers and authority to achieve the mission of overseeing and managing all Mexican fencing activities and responsibilities in relationship with the FIE, including the entire process for the participation of Mexican athletes, coaches and referees in FIE official fencing competitions.

The Ad Hoc Committee will comprise two representatives appointed by the FIE Executive Committee, i.e. Messrs Donald Anthony Jr and Mr Novak Perovic, one reputable representative from the Mexican fencing community, one member appointed by CONADE and one member appointed by the Mexican National Olympic Committee.”

The Mexican NOC was invited to appoint a representative to sit on this Ad Hoc Committee and to inform the FIE according by 15 July 2025.

On 22 July 2025, in order to unblock the situation in Mexico, the FIE Executive Committee decided to consult the Mexican NOC and ask them to provide their observations regarding the FME and ADNEM, by no later than 15 August 2025. The FIE interim President sent a letter to the Mexican NOC on 24 July 2025.

On 5 August 2025, the Mexican NOC responded by requesting a complete copy of the ADNEM's application documentation and a clear and detailed explanation of the reasons why ADNEM's request was being considered.

On 13 August 2025 the FIE interim President replied that such material was internal and would not be shared with the Mexican NOC or any third party. In any event, all relevant information had already been communicated in his letter dated 24 July 2025, including figures regarding affiliated fencers, coaches, referees, and regional associations. The Mexican NOC was also invited to contact ADNEM directly in view of receiving directly any relevant and objective information.

On 14 August 2025, the Mexican NOC wrote to the FIE interim President reiterating in substance the arguments they had raised in earlier communications. The following day, the Mexican NOC wrote again to the FIE interim President pointing out that it was impossible to issue an opinion on the legality of the project related to ADNEM without being provided with the requested documentation. They further stated that *"the COM cannot endorse or legitimate actions that lack clear legal grounding or that jeopardize the sporting integrity and autonomy of national federations."*

On 21 August 2025, the FIE interim President responded to the Mexican NOC, expressing his surprise that the latter had not reached out to ADNEM since the visit of the Panel in November 2024. This was deemed both regrettable and incomprehensible. The FIE interim President also reminded the Mexican NOC that the FIE was not willing to engage in any legal discussions pertaining to the competence of the FIE, and that the Mexican NOC had only been consulted because two national federations wanted to represent Mexico. The Mexican NOC had also been invited to appoint a representative to sit on the Ad Hoc Committee. They did not appoint such representative.

On 25 August 2025, the Mexican NOC sent another letter to the FIE interim President, reiterating the arguments raised in previous correspondence and concluding that *"before accepting any related invitation [to sit on an Ad Hoc Committee], it must conduct a meticulous analysis of the situation, assuming responsibility for anticipating possible setbacks and ensuring effective solution to any controversy."*

On 9 September 2025, the FIE interim President replied that the FIE remained very concerned by the situation of fencers, coaches and referees in Mexico and that it had provided the Mexican NOC with information about the 80% of Mexican fencers registered with ADNEM. Nevertheless, the Mexican NOC has not contacted ADNEM. The FIE interim President reiterated that the FIE did not require the assistance of the Mexican NOC regarding the decision about the affiliation of the Mexican national association, and confirmed that the FIE considered its correspondence with the Mexican NOC to be concluded.

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The Executive Committee's decision and recommendation

In light of the above, the FIE Executive Committee has decided to refer to the FIE Congress the question of which federation should represent Mexico as a FIE member.

The FIE Executive Committee recommends

- disaffiliating the FME from the FIE, in accordance with art. 2.1.1(d), for not having a sufficient number of attached fencers; and
- affiliating ADNEM as the FIE member federation representing fencing for Mexico.

Questions to the Congress members

1. Do you agree to disaffiliate the Federación Mexicana de Esgrima (FME) from the FIE?
2. Do you agree to affiliate the Asociación Deportiva Nacional de Esgrima Mexicana (ADNEM) as the FIE member representing fencing in Mexico?