

## RAPPORT DU CONSEIL DES VETERANS DE LA FIE FIE VETERANS' COUNCIL REPORT INFORME DEL CONSEJO DE LOS VETERANOS DE LA FIE

<b>Date, lieu et heure de la réunion :</b> <b>Date, place and time of the meeting:</b> <b>Fecha, lugar y horario de la reunión:</b>	<b>04072025-05072025</b> <b>Istanbul Türkiye</b>
<b>Participants:</b> <b>Participants:</b> <b>Participantes:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Velichka Hristeva – Rep of the Executive Committee</li> <li>2. Rita Comes – USA President of the Veterans Council</li> <li>3. Marja-Liisa Tuulikki - Finland</li> <li>4. Mirna Borosak- Croatia</li> <li>5. Joyce Bolanos – US Virgin Islands</li> <li>6. Leonardo Pati - Italy</li> <li>7. Mohammed Buali – Saudi Arabia</li> <li>8. Otmame Mahieddine - Algiers</li> <li>9. Khaled Kabish - Egypt</li> </ol>
<b>Absences (indiquer si l'absence avait été annoncée) :</b> <b>Absent (indicate if the absence had been announced):</b> <b>Ausencias (indicar si la ausencia fue anunciada):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yina Zhu- China- announced</li> <li>2. Luis Filardi – Uruguay -announced</li> </ol>

### INTRODUCTION INTRODUCTION INTRODUCCIÓN

### RAPPORT DE LA RÉUNION MEETING REPORT INFORME DE LA REUNIÓN

#### **Point 1 / Item1 / Punto 1: Welcome and Introductions**

The 2025 Meeting of the FIE Veterans Council began with a warm welcome from our FIE liaison, Madame Velichka, and Council President, Rita Comes.

All Council members were present with the exception of two: Luis from Uruguay and Yina from China.

The following Federations were represented in the Council:

- Algeria
- Egypt
- Saudi Arabia
- China
- Uruguay
- United States of America
- Finland

- US Virgin Islands
- Italy
- Croatia

Council members were asked to prior to the meeting:

- Prepare and share a brief personal biography
- Present an overview of veteran fencing in their respective regions
- Review the FIE Rules/Handbook relevant to Veteran Fencing events

The opening of the meeting featured a lively and insightful discussion, allowing members to gain a deeper understanding of veteran fencing activities and challenges across different regions. The exchange fostered a greater sense of collaboration and shared purpose among Council members.

#### **Point 2 /Item 2 / Punto 2: Key Issues and Needs in Veteran Fencing**

Proposal: Enhancing Participation and Value in World Veteran Fencing to Increase Hosts for Events and Benefits for the Veteran Fencers

Key Issues Identified:

1. Low Participation in Veteran Fencing
2. Limited Funding Allocated for Veteran Events
3. Underutilization of Full-Price FIE Licenses Purchased Late in the Season

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Proposed Solutions

#### **1. Increase Number of High-Level Veteran Events**

We propose the addition of at least two annual Veteran World Cup/Grand Prix events, strategically attached to existing FIE Grand Prix or World Cup tournaments. These would be scheduled by extending the event by one day to accommodate the veteran competition.

Benefits:

- Reduced Setup and Operational Costs  
By leveraging the infrastructure, staff, and logistics already in place for the main FIE event, hosts can run the veteran competition more economically.
- Increased Revenue Opportunities for Hosts
  - More hotel bookings (extra nights)
  - Additional revenue from:
    - Entry fees
    - Merchandise
    - Concessions and hospitality
    - Transportation services

- Improved Visibility and Prestige for Veteran Fencing  
Holding events alongside elite competitions can elevate the profile of veteran fencing and encourage cross-generational engagement.

## 2. Introduce a Reduced-Fee FIE License for Late Season Entrants

Many veteran fencers purchase an FIE license late in the season, often to attend a single World Championship or qualifying event. Paying the full-year license fee for a single use is a financial barrier and discourages participation.

Proposal:

- Offer a pro-rated or reduced-cost license for athletes registering after a specific cut-off date (e.g., post-April or mid-season).

Advantages:

- More inclusive and financially accessible
- Encourages spontaneous or first-time participants to join without significant financial commitment
- Aligns with FIE's mission of growing global participation

## Conclusion

By implementing these two measures—strategic event placement and flexible licensing options—the FIE and local organizers can:

- Boost veteran participation globally
- Increase financial sustainability of veteran competitions
- Improve the value proposition for veteran athletes

## **Point 3 / Item 3 / Punto 3: Goals for the FIE Veteran Council (Short and Long Term)**

Many items were under discussion for our Goals.

- Collaboration of the Council and the Hosts of the 2025 and 2026 FIE Veteran World Championships
- Coordination of International trainings for Veteran Fencers
- The FIE Veterans Council proposes the creation of the FIE Veterans Foundation, a philanthropic initiative under the auspices of the FIE, dedicated to increasing access and equity in international veteran fencing. The Foundation's primary mission is to provide financial support to underrepresented and financially constrained federation participants, enabling their participation in the FIE Veterans Competitions. (Document is attached)
  - Creation of Promotional Content to support the proposed foundation

## **Point 4 / Item 4 / Punto 4: Meetings with Others**

The FIE Veterans Council members held a series of strategic meetings with both fellow attendees and members of the FIE Executive Committee. These discussions focused on promoting the mission and visibility of the FIE while developing strategic plans to support and grow Veteran Fencing worldwide.

In addition, targeted meetings were conducted with the following FIE Commissions:

- Publicity, Communication, and Marketing Commission – Discussions centered around enhancing the promotion of Veteran events and developing robust social media content to engage a wider audience. We also spoke about using #Hashtag algorithms to boost social media posts.
- Medical Commission – Topics included veteran athlete health support, and competition readiness for older fencers.
- Rules Commission – Reviewed and discussed adaptations or clarifications of rules for the upcoming test event in Bahrain that may impact veteran categories.
- SEMI Commission – Focused on equipment innovations that ensure accessibility for veteran fencers.

A key focus throughout these meetings was support for the proposed FIE Veterans Foundation, including discussions on funding models, sustainability, and its role in strengthening the veteran fencing community globally.

#### **Point 5 / Item 5/ Punto 5: Next Steps Conclusion**

The Council's current top priority is supporting the planning and successful execution of the 2025 FIE Veteran World Championships, to be held in Bahrain. This milestone event will include two important developments:

- A test event for the 40–49 age category,
- A new team format designed to enhance competitive structure and participation.

Helping the local organizers and the FIE ensure a well-organized, forward-looking championship remains the Council's central focus.

At the conclusion of our recent meetings, the Council also established its future collaboration strategy, including:

- Agreement on meeting frequency,
- Use of accessible communication platforms,
- Shared document tools to support ongoing coordination.

We are pleased to report that communication among Council members during the meetings was effective and productive. The Council extends its sincere appreciation to the FIE for facilitating these important discussions and for its continued support of the Veteran Fencing Community.

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### **Proposals for the 2025 Congress**

#### **Modifications of the Statutes**

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#### **Proposal 11**

##### **Article: 9.3**

##### **Opinion of the Veterans Council:**

**The FIE Veterans Council is in favor of this proposal.**

#### **Proposal 13**

##### **Article: Chapter 13**

##### **Re-formulated proposal by the Legal Commission:**

##### **Articles**

***Proposal: To update text for proposal n. 13.***

**Opinion of the Veterans Council:**

**The FIE Veterans Council is in favour of the reformulated proposal by the Legal Commission.**

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### **Proposals for the 2025 Congress**

#### **Modifications of the Organisation Rules**

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**Presented by : Rules Commission**

**Article o.119 – Urgent Decision**

***VETERANS TEAM EVENTS***

**o.119**

**Opinion of the Veterans Council:**

**The FIE Veterans Council is in full support and agreement with the amendment proposed by the Rules Commission.**

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### **Proposals for the 2025 Congress**

#### **Modifications of the Technical Rules**

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**Presented by : Great Britain Fencing Federation**

**Articles t.20, m.25.5**

***Proposal: To update and complete t.20.2 and m.25***

**Opinion of the Veterans Council: We agree with the removal of the suggestion that socks need to match and feel that the chest protector would increase safety for the fencer, but aware that it will increase cost for veteran male fencers that might not own a chest protector and also aware that these fencers may be uncomfortable with the chest protector if it is not part of their regular training practice.**