



**SECRETARY GENERAL
COMMISSIONS AND COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Athletes Commission

24 March 2026

Online

Present:

Gulnora Saidova

Ruben Limardo

Ziad Elsisy

Andras Szatmari

Zohra Kehli

Ilieva Yoana

Ruslan Kurbanov

Velikaya Sofya

Berthier Amita

Curatoli Luca

Elena Murdaca

Ezequiel Abello Navas

FIE Secretary General

President of the Commission

Member of the Commission

Member of the Commission

Member of the Commission

Member of the Commission

Member of the Commission

Member of the Commission

Member of the Commission

Member of the Commission

Projects and Development Director

Sports Department

The Secretary General welcomed the members of the Athletes' Commission and emphasized the Commission's important role in representing athletes within the FIE structure and contributing to the implementation of the FIE Strategic Development Plan. Members were encouraged to actively support FIE initiatives and strengthen communication between athletes, National Federations, and FIE leadership.

1. Clarification Regarding the Alleged Open Letter

The Secretary General officially clarified the situation regarding the alleged open letter that had been discussed on social media. It was confirmed that no official letter had been submitted through FIE channels.

Members expressed concern regarding the spread of misinformation and emphasized the importance of accurate communication within the fencing community. The Commission recommended that the FIE issue an official communication clarifying the situation and providing factual information to National Federations, athletes, and stakeholders.

2. Athlete Experience and Competition Environment

The Commission discussed athlete feedback regarding competition conditions, communication with organizers, athlete visibility, and other operational aspects of FIE events. Members agreed that athlete concerns should be systematically reviewed and forwarded to the relevant FIE commissions where appropriate.

3. Social Media and Athlete Engagement

The Commission discussed the role of athletes in promoting fencing through social media and public engagement. Members agreed that athletes serve as ambassadors for the sport and should contribute positively to the image and development of fencing. The importance of responsible social media use and constructive dialogue within the fencing community was highlighted.

4. Athlete Career Development and Support Programmes

The Secretary General invited the Commission to develop proposals aimed at supporting athletes during and after their sporting careers. Discussions focused on potential grant programmes, educational opportunities, professional development initiatives, and career-transition support mechanisms.

It was proposed that the programme be developed around four main pathways:

- Coaching – supporting former athletes in obtaining coaching education and qualifications;
- Technical Officiating – creating opportunities for athletes to become fencing technicians and technical specialists;
- Refereeing – encouraging athletes to pursue referee education and certification pathways;
- Commentating and Media – preparing athletes for roles as commentators, presenters, and media contributors within fencing events and broadcasts.

The Commission agreed that athlete career development should become one of its strategic priorities and that a detailed proposal, including potential grant opportunities, educational support, and certification pathways, should be prepared for future consideration.

5. Cooperation with Other FIE Bodies

The Commission discussed opportunities to strengthen cooperation with other FIE commissions and councils. Members were encouraged to identify priorities for meetings during the Sofia sessions and explore potential joint initiatives supporting the long-term development of fencing.

6. Decisions

- Develop a detailed athlete career support and grant programme proposal.
- Explore educational and career-transition opportunities
- Recommend that the FIE issue an official clarification regarding the alleged open letter.
- Promote responsible social media engagement and constructive communication.

- Strengthen cooperation with other FIE commissions and councils
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Conclusion

The Secretary General thanked the Commission members for their engagement and encouraged them to continue serving as active representatives of the athlete community. Participants agreed to continue working closely with the FIE leadership to improve athlete representation, support athlete development, and contribute to the growth and positive image of fencing worldwide.
