Information Letter

N°19-26, 11.11.2026

FIE FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE D'ESCRIME

REMINDER OF FIE REGULATIONS – ORGANISATION OF COMPETITIONS, NON-DISCRIMINATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBER FEDERATIONS

Dear President,

As the 2026–2027 fencing season gets underway, and with the qualification period for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games beginning on 1 April 2027, the FIE wishes to remind all Member Federations of their obligations regarding the organisation of competitions on the official FIE calendar.

Further to Information Letter No. 26-25 of 10 November 2025, the FIE reiterates that all eligible athletes, teams and sports officials must be able to participate in FIE competitions without any form of discrimination, in accordance with the FIE Statutes, Rules, Administrative Rules, Regulations and official decisions. In this regard, the FIE recalls the following provisions of its Statutes:

- **Article 1.2.4** requires each member national Federation to apply the principle of political, racial and religious non-discrimination.
- **Article 1.2.5** requires that member National Federations applying as candidates to organise congresses, official competitions, or any other FIE international events, must document the fact that the organizer has used all means to enable all the member National Federations to take part in those events, without any discrimination whatever.

  Failure to comply will subject the member federations to sanctions by the FIE.
- **Article 2.1.1** establishes that National Federations must have an independent role in accordance with the principles of the Olympic Charter.

Member Federations are therefore expected to fulfil their obligations towards the FIE independently, including in their relationship with the competent national authorities.

Furthermore, the **Preamble to Chapter 2 of the FIE Administrative Rules** provides that the organisation of FIE competitions shall only be awarded to Member Federations that undertake to issue invitations to all FIE Member Federations and guarantee the issuance of visas to all FIE Member Federations.

It also requires that the FIE receives all written contractual guarantees from the organiser and from the highest governmental authorities of the host country confirming that all eligible athletes, sports officials and teams can enter the host country and participate without any form of discrimination, including the right to be treated equally in accordance with the protocol applicable to all participants.

Such guarantees must be effectively implemented by the organiser and the host country.

Failing this, the FIE shall take the appropriate measures, including, but not limited to, the postponement, relocation or cancellation of the competition.

The FIE emphasises that all organising Member Federations are responsible for ensuring, sufficiently in advance, that their competitions can be held in full compliance with the FIE Statutes, Rules, Administrative Rules, Regulations and official decisions.

Any governmental restrictions or interference affecting the organisation of a competition or the participation of eligible athletes, teams or officials must be anticipated and addressed by the organising Member Federation in coordination with the competent national authorities.

The FIE further recalls that **governmental interference or restrictions do not, in themselves, constitute force majeure under Article 2.6.3.1 of the FIE Administrative Rules**, which defines force majeure as the dissolution of the organizing federation, natural disaster, civil unrest, war or pandemic diseases.

In accordance with **Articles 2.6.3.2 and 2.6.3.3 of the FIE Administrative Rules**, except in case of force majeure:

- Any change of date or city of a competition less than four months prior to the scheduled date will result in the reimbursement by the organisers of the airfare tickets purchased by delegations where such tickets are non-refundable or non-modifiable, as well as hotel rooms and any other non-refundable expenses, upon presentation of the corresponding supporting documents. The competition will also be assigned to a different Member Federation the following year.

- Any cancellation of a competition less than three months prior to the scheduled date entails the same reimbursement obligations. In addition, the reallocation of the competition concerned, as well as of any other competition awarded to the relevant federation, to other Member Federations in the following year will be pronounced.

The financial consequences of such late modifications or cancellations must be borne by the organisers in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Administrative Rules and must not be transferred to the affected athletes or delegations.

With the Olympic qualification period approaching, the FIE wishes to emphasise the importance of maintaining a stable and reliable international competition calendar.

Any late modification, cancellation or restriction affecting the participation of athletes or delegations may have serious financial and sporting consequences. In particular, such situations may deprive athletes of opportunities to compete, earn ranking points and pursue their Olympic qualification under equal conditions.

Such consequences would be particularly prejudicial to the athletes and delegations concerned and could undermine the fairness and integrity of the Olympic qualification process.

The FIE therefore calls upon all organising Member Federations to take every necessary measure, well in advance of their scheduled competitions, to ensure full compliance with their obligations and to obtain and secure the effective implementation of all required guarantees from the competent national authorities.

Any potential difficulty that could affect compliance with these obligations must be communicated to the FIE without delay.

The FIE will remain vigilant in ensuring that these requirements are respected and will take appropriate measures, where necessary, in accordance with its Statutes and Administrative Rules, including the postponement, relocation or cancellation of competitions. Any such measure will be taken on a case-by-case basis, after hearing the Member Federation concerned.

The FIE counts on the full cooperation and responsibility of all Member Federations to protect the interests of athletes and delegations, ensure equal conditions of participation and preserve the stability and integrity of the international fencing calendar, particularly during the Olympic qualification period.

We thank you for your cooperation.

Abdelmoneim ElHusseiny
Interim President

