



**Confédération Européenne d'Escrime**  
Association sans but lucratif, 90, Rue Ermesinde, L - 1469 Luxembourg  
R.C.S. Luxembourg F1378



**European Fencing Confederation**  
**Confédération Européenne d'Escrime**

# **INTERNAL RULES**



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1	Jacek Slupski	2025.06.13 Changes approved by the Congress	Changes in articles: 1.1-1.30, 2.1-2.16, 3.1-3.3, 4.1-4.8.6, 5.1-5.31, 6.1-6.27, 7.1-7.4	1.0	In force



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**Terms not otherwise defined in the Internal Rules have the same meaning as in the Statutes**

## 1. LICENCES

### STATUTORY CHARACTER OF LICENCE

- 1.1. Being licensed obliges the Member Federation, each licensed individual athlete, coach, referee, member of the Executive Committee and member of a Mandatory Commission to respect the Statutes, the Internal Rules as well as all other rules and regulations of the EFC.
- 1.2. Athletes who participate in EFC competitions must comply with the FIE anti-doping rules, use neither prohibited substances nor prohibited methods, and agree to submit to any in-competition and out-of-competition testing.
- 1.3. Until an athlete's FIE fencing nationality has been registered, the rules for changing EFC nationality as set out in the handbook of regulations of the EFC ("Handbook of Regulations") apply and such athlete will be entitled to apply for a licence from his or her Member Federation.

### COMPULSORY CHARACTER OF LICENCE

- 1.4. Each athlete whether from a Member Federation or a non-member federation must have a valid licence in order to take part in any official competition of the EFC.
- 1.5. All referees, whether from a Member or non-member federation (including candidates for EFC refereeing exams and with the exception of those holding a valid FIE refereeing licence) must have a valid licence to officiate at all competitions organised by or run on behalf of the EFC.
- 1.6. All coaches whether from a Member Federation or a non-member federation must have a valid licence in order to coach at all competitions organised by or run on behalf of the EFC.
- 1.7. All members of the Executive Committee, members of a Mandatory Commission, or any other delegates or officials must have a valid license.

### DURATION OF VALIDITY AND FEES

- 1.8. A licence is valid for the fencing season in which it is issued.
- 1.9. The Executive Committee shall determine the annual licence fees (in euros) for the following season.

### APPLICATION AND ISSUE

- 1.10. Licences are issued on a credit-based system.
- 1.11. A Member Federation shall purchase licence credits (both for athletes, coaches and referees) from the EFC in such way as from time to time prescribed by the Executive Committee.
- 1.12. A Member Federation shall then issue licences up to the total number of licence credits purchased to such athletes entitled to compete for that Member Federation to its coaches and to its accredited referees.
- 1.13. Licence credits, once activated, are valid only for the year for which they are issued and are non-refundable.
- 1.14. The process for the purchasing of and issuing of licences to athletes, coaches and referees from non-member federations shall be as set out, from time to time, in the Administrative Rules.



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In the case of under 17 and under 14 athletes only who are in the process of acquiring citizenship of Member Federation (and whose original citizenship of a country with a Member Federation) and who are prohibited by law from either competing for their country of original or for the country they are seeking citizenship, such athletes may apply for a licence in accordance with the process as set out from time to time in the Administrative Rules.

1.15. Upon issuing a licence (either to an athlete or to a referee), a Member Federation must, within 72 hours of issue, provide the following information about the licensee to the EFC (in such manner as the EFC shall from time to time prescribe):

- a) Family name;
- b) Pre-names;
- c) Date of birth;
- d) Gender;
- e) Handedness (for athletes only);
- f) Nationality
- g) Photo.

1.16. A licence is not validly issued unless and until the information requested in 1.15 above has been supplied to the EFC.

## ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS FOR COACH LICENCES

1.17. A Member Federation can obtain a licence for a coach who is a citizen of the country of such Member Federation and such licence shall specify the nationality of the coach.

1.18. A Member Federation can obtain a licence for a coach who is not a citizen of the country of that Member Federation but which Member Federation intends to send the coach to an official competition of the EFC as a member of the delegation of such Member Federation. The license for such a coach will specify the following:

- 1.18.1. the nationality of the coach; and
- 1.18.2. the Member Federation the coach is representing at the competition.

1.19. If a coach changes the country s/he is to represent at a future competition, the coach or the Member Federation s/he will be representing shall inform the EFC in writing of the change and the EFC will note such change on the coach's license. The coach will not need to secure a new license for the duration of that season.

1.20. A coach needs only one license, even though s/he may represent more than one country at official competitions of the EFC.

1.21. A coach needs a license as a coach, even though such person has another license as a fencer, referee, or official at an official competition of the EFC.

## ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS FOR LICENSEES (OTHER THAN FENCERS AND COACHES)

1.22. A licensee, other than a fencer or coach, ("Licensee") who enjoys multiple nationality must choose which country s/he wishes to represent. The fact that s/he has represented one of the countries in any capacity implies that s/he has made a choice. If s/he wishes to represent another country of which s/he enjoys nationality, s/he must so advise the Office of the EFC and thereafter s/he may only represent this new country and can no longer represent the other country.

1.23. A Licensee who has already represented a country in any capacity and acquires a new nationality (from being stateless, through marriage or through naturalisation) can represent his /her new country immediately. Application for change of nationality must be received by the EFC Head Office no later than 90 days after the acquisition of the new nationality.

1.24. No approval of the national federation of the prior country s/he represented is required.



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- 1.25. Any change in country which a Licensee represents is definitive; no further change can be authorised.
- 1.26. In cases of dispute the Executive Committee of the EFC will make a ruling, which is not subject to appeal.
- 1.27. If the Licensee holds licences issued by both the FIE and the EFC and the FIE recognises a change of nationality of the Licensee, the EFC will issue an updated licence to reflect the change of nationality of the Licensee.

## NATIONALITY OF FENCERS

- 1.28. For official competitions of the EFC, fencers must be of the nationality of the country they are representing.
- 1.29. Exceptionally, an officially recognised person with 'Refugee' status may be granted an EFC licence by his/her adopted country once this is approved by the EFC Bureau.
- 1.30. Where a fencer holds an FIE licence, s/he may only represent the country stated on that licence at official competitions of the EFC.
- 1.31. Where a fencer holds an FIE licence, the EFC will recognise any change of nationality recognised by the FIE under its Statutes and Rules.

## 2. CONGRESS

### VERIFICATION OF ATTENDEES

- 2.1. At the opening of Congress, the General Secretary shall conduct a roll call to determine the Member Federations present either in person or by proxy (the "Roll Call").
- 2.2. The Roll Call determines whether a quorum for Congress has been achieved and the thresholds for voting. The General Secretary announces these figures to the Congress.
- 2.3. A Member Federation not present either in person or by proxy at the conclusion of the Roll Call shall be deemed absent from the Congress and shall not be entitled to speak or vote at that Congress.

### THE ELECTION COMMISSION

- 2.4. Immediately following the verification of attendees and on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Congress shall appoint an election commission (the "Election Commission") comprising three (3) members. The members of the Election Commission shall usually be drawn from the Legal Commission.
- 2.5. Authorised delegates of Member Federations (including those acting as proxies) and candidates standing for election shall not be appointed to the Election Commission.
- 2.6. The appointment of the Election Commission shall be conducted by a vote on the show of hands. A simple majority for each appointee shall be sufficient for that individual to be appointed.
- 2.7. The Election Commission shall oversee and validate all votes conducted at the Congress.



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## VOTING PROCEDURES

- 2.8. Other than the appointment of the members of the Election Commission, all votes that concern an individual shall be conducted by secret ballot. Where a vote does not concern an individual, it shall be conducted on a show of hands.
- 2.9. The Election Commission is responsible for counting all votes cast. Prior to announcing the result of any ballot, the Commission shall confirm the total number of votes cast and the majority required for that vote to be passed.
- 2.10. A simple majority is achieved when the number of votes in favour of the proposal exceeds the number of votes against the proposal (a "Simple Majority"). When calculating a Simple Majority, abstentions are discounted.
- 2.11. An absolute majority is achieved when the number of votes in favour of the proposal exceeds 50% of the total votes cast (an "Absolute Majority"). When calculating an Absolute Majority, abstentions are included in the total number of votes cast.
- 2.12. A declaration by the Election Commission of the outcome of any vote shall be definitive.

## PROCEEDINGS AT CONGRESS

- 2.13. The reports of the President, General Secretary and Auditor(s) shall be presented to the Congress in writing.
- 2.14. The time limit for interventions at the Congress is 5 minutes per person for speakers who introduce a position or bring up a new point and 3 minutes for any other intervention.
- 2.15. No delegate shall speak on the same subject more than once except in the following cases:**
  - 2.15.1. A speaker who introduces a proposal has the right to give a summary at the end of the discussion before the vote.
  - 2.15.2. A speaker who raises a point of order or presents a request for information.
  - 2.15.3. A speaker to whom special permission is granted by the President or by the vote of the Congress.
- 2.16. The General Secretary shall take minutes of the proceedings of Congress including the outcome of all resolutions voted upon. The minutes shall be circulated in draft to all Member Federations at the latest three months after the Congress.

## 3. SUPPLY OF INFORMATION BY MEMBER FEDERATIONS

- 3.1. All Member Federations must provide the General Secretary with:**
  - 3.1.1. The official name of the Member Federation
  - 3.1.2. The registered office and address of the Member Federation
  - 3.1.3. The names of the president and the chief of operations of the Member Federation
  - 3.1.4. The names and roles of the members of the executive committee (or equivalent) of the Member Federation
- 3.2. All Member Federations must update the General Secretary with details of any changes to the information contained in Article 3.1 above within one (1) month of such changes taking effect.
- 3.3. All Member Federations must supply such other information as the General Secretary reasonably requests regarding the fencing activities within their country.



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## 4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### GENERAL RULES

4.1. The Executive Committee administers the EFC and fulfils tasks specified in Article 6.4 of the Statutes.

### MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

4.2. As soon as reasonably practicable after a Congress at which elections to the Executive Committee take place, the President shall appoint the members of the Bureau.

4.3. The General Secretary shall circulate summary minutes of each meeting of the Executive Committee as soon as reasonably practicable after the meeting. The minutes shall be approved at the next meeting of the Executive Committee and signed by the President and the General Secretary. Once signed by the President and the General Secretary, they are definitive evidence of the meeting proceedings.

4.4. The General Secretary shall inform all Member Federations of relevant, non-confidential decisions of the Executive Committee.

4.5. If a member of the Executive Committee is absent from three consecutive meetings without the prior permission of the Executive Committee, the member concerned shall be considered resigned.

### GENERAL SECRETARY

#### 4.6. The General Secretary is responsible for:

4.6.1. Ensuring the EFC's governance framework is robust, transparent and compliant

4.6.2. Taking minutes of all meetings of the Congress, the Executive Committee and the Bureau

4.6.3. Managing the coordination of all Congress meetings

4.6.4. Such other tasks as may be assigned to them in writing by the Executive Committee or the Bureau

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### 4.7. If the Executive Committee appoints a Chief Executive, the individual so appointed shall be responsible for:

4.7.1. the direction of the EFC head office

4.7.2. implementing the strategic vision and long-term goals of the EFC

4.7.3. overseeing the day-to-day operations of the EFC

4.7.4. co-ordinating the organisation of championships and events which fall under the responsibility of the EFC

4.7.5. maintaining contact with and between Member Federations

4.7.6. presenting to the Executive Committee the administrative report intended for the Congress

### TREASURER

#### 4.8. The Treasurer is responsible for the financial administration of the EFC. The Treasurer must:

4.8.1. Keep the accounts including the official account books of the EFC and all the supporting documents

4.8.2. Receive the membership fees and other receipts

4.8.3. Pay the expenses in compliance with the rules set in the Section 8 of the Statutes,

4.8.4. Oversee the preparation of the accounts of the last fiscal year and the balance sheet which the Treasurer shall submit and present to the Executive Committee, the Auditors and the Congress.

4.8.5. Prepares the annual budget for approval by the Executive Committee and the Congress

4.8.6. Ensure a smooth handover of all documentation relevant to their role as part of an orderly transfer to a new treasurer.



## 5. MANDATORY COMMISSIONS

### GENERAL

- 5.1. Pursuant to Article 9 of the Statutes, the Executive Committee must establish Mandatory Commissions.
- 5.2. No candidate for election as President or to the Executive Committee or for appointment to a Mandatory or Auxiliary Commission shall be professionally involved, directly or indirectly with any business providing services or goods related to fencing).

### APPOINTMENT TO MANDATORY COMMISSIONS

- 5.3. No later than 10 calendar days after a Congress at which elections have occurred, the General Secretary shall ask unsuspended and fully paid-up Member Federations to propose their candidates for appointment to the Mandatory Commissions (except the Athletes Commission).
- 5.4. Member Federations must propose their candidates for appointment to the Mandatory Commissions (except the Athletes Commission) within 20 calendar days from the date the request for candidates is transmitted.
- 5.5. No later than 30 calendar days from the date of Congress, the Executive Committee shall appoint the presidents of the Commissions (the “Commission Presidents”) from among the members of the Executive Committee.
- 5.6. No later than 45 calendar days from the date of Congress, the Executive Committee shall appoint the members of the Mandatory Commissions (except the Athletes Commission).

#### 5.7. Each Commission President must:

- 5.7.1. Head the work of their Commission
- 5.7.2. Draw up meeting minutes
- 5.7.3. Report on the activities of their Commission and be responsible to the Executive Committee for those activities

5.8. Mandatory Commissions shall comprise of no more than 8 individuals (including the Commission President).

### PROCEEDINGS OF MANDATORY COMMISSIONS

- 5.9. A Mandatory Commission must meet at least once a year, either online or in person.
- 5.10. The Commission President shall convene online meetings of a Mandatory Commission, and the General Secretary shall convene in-person meetings.
- 5.11. A Mandatory Commission shall make decisions by a simple majority of those present and voting at the meeting (with abstentions discounted). The quorum for a physical or online meeting of a Mandatory Commission shall be 50% of the total number of individuals appointed to that Mandatory Commission pursuant to Article 5.8 above.
- 5.12. The Commission President must report on the decisions of their Mandatory Commission at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 5.13. The members of the Executive Committee have the right to attend the meetings of the Mandatory Commissions.
- 5.14. Commission Presidents shall present an annual budget plan relating to their Commission's work to the Executive Committee at least two months before the Congress is convened.



## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MANDATORY COMMISSIONS

### **The Training/Fencing Masters Commission**

5.15. The Training/Fencing Masters Commission must be comprised of the Training/Fencing Masters Commission President and other individuals in possession of a recognised coaching diploma and at least 3 years' experience as a coach.

#### **5.16. The Training/Fencing Masters Commission must:**

- 5.16.1. Study, bring into general use and propagate the experience of the most accomplished European coaches
- 5.16.2. Improve and develop new forms of training for the coaches of the EFC

### **The Promotion/Marketing Commission**

5.17. The Promotion/Marketing Commission must be comprised of the Promotion/Marketing Commission President and other individuals with a professional background in marketing, promotion, or public relations.

5.18. The Promotion/Marketing Commission is responsible for the planning and putting into effect of a set of measures aimed to popularise and promote fencing in Europe and to aid the development of fencing in emerging European countries.

### **The Referees Commission**

5.19. The Referees Commission must be comprised of the Referees Commission President and other individuals who are active referees holding at least an FIE "B" refereeing status or who have been a member of either the FIE or EFC referees commission in the season preceding their appointment.

#### **5.20. The Referees Commission's mission is to:**

- 5.20.1. Develop the training of international referees in different European countries
- 5.20.2. Supervise the refereeing in the EFC's competitions

5.21. Members of the Referees Commission must not referee in EFC competitions during the term of their appointment to the Referees Commission.

### **The Competitions Commission**

#### **5.22. The Competitions Commission must:**

- 5.22.1. Study, prepare and submit to the Executive Committee the rules of the events of the EFC,
- 5.22.2. Express its opinion on any general technical problem to the Executive Committee.
- 5.22.3. Appoint members of its Commission to supervise each EFC competitions.
- 5.22.4. Prepare proposals for the improvement of the technical rules of the EFC.

### **The Legal Commission**

5.23. The Legal Commission must be comprised of the Legal Commission President and individuals who are practising lawyers, judges, or notaries.

#### **5.24. The Legal Commission:**

- 5.24.1. prepares the texts of all proposals concerning the Statutes and the Internal Rules for the approval of the Executive Committee before submission to the Congress.
- 5.24.2. proposes to the Executive Committee any changes to the Statutes and Internal Rules that it considers appropriate.
- 5.24.3. ensures that any such texts are not in contradiction with the Statutes of the FIE and their annexes.



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5.24.4. advises the Executive Committee on all legal matters including, without limitation commercial contracts, licensing matters, employment matters, disputes, and interpretation of the Statutes, Internal Rules and Administrative Rules.

## The Athletes Commission

5.25. The Athletes Commission is responsible for studying all questions concerning athletes and presenting suggestions and recommendations to the Executive Committee.

## The Technical Commission (SEMI)

### 5.26. The Technical Commission is responsible for:

- 5.26.1. Continuously studying the safety of equipment,
- 5.26.2. Examining all suggestions and proposals concerning equipment and presenting reports on these proposals to the Executive Committee,
- 5.26.3. Maintaining contact with the corresponding commission of the FIE
- 5.26.4. Supervising weapon control activities (including conformance to the FIE publicity code) at European Championships.

## The Medical Commission

5.27. The Medical Commission must be comprised of the Medical Commission President and individuals with medical degrees.

### 5.28. The Medical Commission must:

- 5.28.1. appoint medically qualified members of its Commission to supervise each EFC competition
- 5.28.2. consider all medical questions concerning the sport of fencing
- 5.28.3. propose any useful means of fighting doping.
- 5.28.4. report to the Executive Committee and present its suggestions and recommendations on all these issues.

## The Veterans Council

5.29. The Veterans Council is responsible for the development of veteran activities in the whole of Europe and for the co-operation with FIE and all the veteran associations.

## The Equality and Diversity Commission

5.30. The Equality and Diversity Commission is established to promote and support an inclusive environment within the EFC. The Commission is responsible for advising on policies, strategies, and practices to ensure equality, diversity, and inclusion are integrated into all aspects of the EFC's operations and culture.

## The Safeguarding Commission

5.31. The Safeguarding Commission is established to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants, including athletes, staff, volunteers, and other stakeholders, involved with the EFC. It is responsible for developing, implementing, and monitoring policies and practices that protect individuals from harm, abuse, and exploitation within the federation's programs and activities.



## 6. THE ATHLETES' COMMISSION

### COMPOSITION OF THE ATHLETES COMMISSION

#### 6.1. The Athletes Commission shall comprise of:

- 6.1.1. Six representatives elected at the first European Senior Championships after each Olympic Games ("Senior Representatives")
- 6.1.2. Two representatives elected at the first European Under 23 Championships after each Olympic Games ("Under 23 Representatives")

### ELIGIBILITY FOR ELECTION AS A SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE

6.2. Each Member Federation can nominate no more than three athletes (each from a different weapon and no more than two per gender) for election as Senior Representatives.

6.3. All athletes who, in the weapon they fence, have been entered to compete in at least one of the European Senior Championships held over the last two years, including the current European Senior Championships, can be candidates for election as Senior Representative. If the fencer has fenced several weapons during such competitions, he must choose only one for this candidature.

### ELIGIBILITY FOR VOTING FOR SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES

6.4. Only athletes whose names appear on the confirmed list of entrants for the European Senior Championships at which the elections are taking place are eligible to vote for Senior Representatives.

### ELECTIONS AT THE EUROPEAN SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

6.5. The elections for the Athletes Commission are held at the first European Senior Championships after each Olympic Games. Those elected take office on the first day of the month following that event and shall hold office until the last day of the month in, which the first European Senior Championships after the next Olympic Games concludes.

6.6. Each Member Federation shall indicate to the EFC, in writing, the name of its candidates for Senior Representatives one month before the first day of the first European Senior Championships after each Olympic Games take place.

6.7. Two weeks before the start of the European Senior Championships, the EFC shall send to each Member Federation the list of the validly nominated candidates.

6.8. Six ballot boxes, one per weapon, will be provided for the senior elections.

6.9. A voting athlete shall cast a total of six votes, one vote for a candidate in each weapon.

6.10. The voting athletes will personally go to the EFC's office at the competition site to fill in their voting slips and deposit them in the appropriate ballot boxes after verifying their identity by presenting their accreditation and signing the attendance sheet.

6.11. The voting for Senior Representatives shall commence at 0800 (local time) on the first day of the European Senior Championships. It will end at 1200 (local time) on the last day of the individual events of the European Senior Championships.

6.12. In each weapon, the candidate who has received the greatest number of votes will be elected

6.13. In case of a tie, the candidate who has the highest placing in the world open ranking on the date of the opening of the European Senior Championships will have the preference.



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- 6.14. If there is no candidate for a particular weapon (for example, men's foil or women's sabre), then that vacancy shall be filled by an unelected athlete of a different weapon but the same gender who has received the highest votes cast in that election.
- 6.15. The Member Federations will be informed of the result of the election before the end of the championships.

## Eligibility for Election as an Under 23 Representative

- 5.5.16. Each Member Federation can nominate no more than two athletes (each from a different weapon and no more than one per gender) for election as Under 23 Representatives.

## Eligibility for Voting for Under 23 Representatives

- 5.5.17. Only athletes whose names appear on the confirmed list of entrants for the European Under 23 Championships at which the elections are taking place are eligible to vote for Under 23 Representatives.

## Elections at the European Under 23 Championships

- 5.5.18. The elections for the Athletes Commission are held at the first European Under 23 Championships after each Olympic Games. Those elected take office on the first day of the month following that event and shall hold office until the last day of the month, the first European Under 23 Championships, after the next Olympic Games concludes.
- 5.5.19. Each Member Federation shall indicate to the EFC, in writing, the name of its candidates for Under 23 Representatives one month before the first day of the first European Under 23 Championships after each Olympic Games take place.
- 5.5.20. Two weeks before the European Under 23 Championships start, the EFC shall send to each Member Federation the list of the validly nominated candidates.
- 5.5.21. One ballot box will be provided for the election of Under 23 Representatives. Each voting athlete shall cast a single vote in favour of their preferred candidate.
- 5.5.22. The voting athletes will personally go to the EFC's office at the competition site to fill in their voting slips and deposit them in the appropriate ballot boxes after verifying their identity by presenting their accreditation and signing the attendance sheet.
- 5.5.23. The voting for Under 23 Representatives shall commence at 0800 (local time) on the first day of the European Under 23 Championships and end at 1200 (local time) on the last day of the individual events of the European Under 23 Championships.
- 5.5.24. The candidate with the most votes will be elected as an Under 23 Representative. The second candidate elected shall be the candidate from the other gender with the most votes received. If there is no candidate from the other gender, then the candidate with the second-greatest number of votes received shall be deemed elected.
- 5.5.25. In the event of a tie, the election shall be determined by tossing a coin.
- 5.5.26. The Member Federations will be informed of the result of the election before the end of the championships.

## The Athletes' Commission Chair

- 5.5.27. The Senior Representative who receives the most votes shall be appointed the Chair of the Commission. If that individual resigns from the Commission or is unwilling to act as chair, the Senior Representative who receives the second most votes shall be appointed chair.



## 7. FINAL DISPOSITIONS

- 7.1. The Internal Rules can be changed or amended by Congress by a simple majority or, in the case of necessity, by the Executive Committee, which can then subsequently ratify the changes by Congress.
- 7.2. Unless explicitly stated otherwise, amendments to the Internal Rules take effect immediately upon the conclusion of the Congress at which they were approved.
- 7.3. Proposals for modifying the present Internal Rules must appear in the agenda of the Congress in their final form.
- 7.4. The Executive Committee shall decide upon any matters not covered by the present Internal Rules.

**Genova, 13.06.2025**

**President**

**Secretary General**