

Annual Country Report from Finland

Before the pandemic, the number of veteran fencers was growing, but the pandemic put a long stop to veteran sporting activities between 2020 and 2021. The beginning of 2022 looked good for Finland, as veterans were able to train and compete again. Many fencers contracted covid-19 during the year, and some were in recovery for months. Some competitions had to be cancelled at the beginning of 2022.

The most important international veteran competitions in 2022:

- European Team Championships in Hamburg, May
- Nordic Championships in Copenhagen, August
- World Championships in Zadar, October
- EVF in Turku, Finland (epee only), September.

Finland participated in the European Championships with six teams. 17 fencers from Finland participated in the World Championships, some of them with more than one weapon.

The Finnish Fencing and Modern Pentathlon Federation also organize cadet and veteran sparring events in Espoo. The idea is that cadets and veterans support each other's training: cadets learn patience from veterans, and veterans get good training from fencing with young and fast fencers.

In December, the Finnish Veterans Championships in all weapons were held in Oulu. There were also plans to organize team competitions, but not enough teams signed up.

So far in 2023, training and competition activities have continued as normal, and clubs are actively working to increase the number of members.

We are looking forward to the European Championships in 2023.

Yours sincerely,

Helsinki, Finland 3rd April 2023

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Finnish Fencing and Pentathlon Federation

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