



EUROPEAN VETERANS FENCING

EUROPEAN VETERANS CIRCUIT HANDBOOK

2026-2027 SEASON

Version 6.3 – August 2026

European Veterans Fencing offers Veteran Fencers in Europe the opportunity to compete in a Circuit of Competitions for which they will be awarded European Ranking Points.

Member Countries open existing events or create new events to attract fencers from other Countries.

Circuit Events are awarded and delivered through the application of a specific set of guiding principles laid down by EVF.



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Background

European Veterans Fencing is committed to facilitating the best possible environment within Europe to increase participation, raise standards and grow Veterans Fencing as a friendly but competitive family.

The creation of a Veteran Fencing Circuit is the first step in fulfilling this objective by providing an incentive for Veteran Fencers to participate in competitions outside their own countries. This is equally beneficial for experienced fencers seeking to enhance their ranking and newer fencers seeking to gain experience.

Fencers from outside Europe are welcome to participate in Circuit Events but may not be awarded as European Veteran Fencer of the Year.

Circuit Events

12 events currently comprise the Circuit for the 2026 Season, each event is awarded for a period of 3 years during which time it is evaluated for inclusion for a further 3 years. The 2026 season comprises the following Circuit Events:

FRA	Paris	July 2026	Epee + Foil + Sabre
ESP	Madrid	November 2026	Epee + Sabre
HUN	Budapest	November 2026	Epee + Foil + Sabre
GER	Munich	November 2026	Foil + Sabre
POL	Lomianki	December 2026	Epee + Foil + Sabre
GBR	Guildford	January 2027	Epee + Foil + Sabre
FRA	Faches-Thumesnil	February 2027	Foil + Sabre
SUI	Lausanne	February 2027	Epee
ITA	TBD	March 2027	Epee + Foil + Sabre
SWE	Stockholm	March 2027	Epee + Foil
AUT	Salzburg	April 2027	Foil
BEL	Liège	April 2027	Sabre
GRE	Athens	May 2027	Epee + Sabre
IRL	Dublin	May 2027	Epee + Foil + Sabre

Nomenclature

An **event** has a name, a location and a date eg EVF Circuit, Budapest, 2024

A **competition** has a weapon, category, entries and results eg ME4, 62 entries, John Mason came 1st

Age Categories

For the purposes of the EVF Circuit and rankings, a fencer's age is taken as the age at the end of the Circuit Season Year. Fencers competing in the 2027 Circuit that commences in 2026 will fence in the category that corresponds to their age on 31 December, 2027.

V1: 40-49 years

V2: 50-59 years

V3: 60-69 years

V4: 70+ years

Invitation

The organisers must advise EVF, at least 6 months prior to the event, of the date, location and organisers contact details.

A public Invitation with the following information about the event shall be transmitted to EVF Members and Executive 3 months before the event with the following information

- Contact of organisers
- Competition venue
- Schedule of the competition
- Number of pistes
- Entry information
- Entry fee
- Timetable following approval by EVF
- Presence of equipment vendors
- Presence of a cafeteria
- How to get to the venue

Organisers may also publicise their event on the EVF Website and EVF FaceBook page.

Circuit Imaging

A series of images have been designed uniquely for the Circuit Competitions – one for each weapon.



Organisers may use these on their invitations, printed, medals and social media material by applying for the artwork from EVF.

Organisers may use the image on merchandise through the payment of a royalty on sales or by purchase through the EVF merchandise provider.

Competition Structure

All Circuit Events will take guidance from the FIE Rules for Competitions (<https://fie.org/fie/documents/rules>) in conjunction with criteria specified by EVF. In the event of any disputes or disciplinary matters the FIE rules shall be deemed ascendant and applicable.

Venues are required to have appropriate climate control so that the piste area is neither too hot nor too cold for fencers within a range of 18-21 degrees centigrade.

Sunlight coming from outside shall not limit the view of the fencers in the pistes; appropriate shades shall be installed in case of direct sunlight affecting the fencers during the bouts.

All Circuit Events are organised and delivered by local hosts but they must all fulfil the following criteria:

- At least one round of poules of 5, 6 or 7 fencers followed by a Direct elimination tableau. Poules of 5 are allowed only if it's not possible to compose poules of 6 and 7. If, as the result of the absence of one or more fencers before the start of the poules, one or more poules were to be reduced to 5 or fewer fencers, the Directoire Technique must add to these poules, when possible, one or more fencers from other poules of 7 fencers in the same round of poules, taking into account the initial ranking of the fencer(s) being replaced.
- The poules are composed according to the EVF individual ranking system. The DT may make adjustments in order to avoid unbalanced poules. In case of merged categories in the poules, the seeding is formed allocating all the fencers of the younger category first, followed by the fencers of the second younger category, and so on up to the older category.
- In the case of multiple fencers from the same country in a poule, the 0.68.2. FIE rule will be applied. If, in a single competition, more than 40% of the participating fencers belong to the same country, for this country(ies) the movement of the fencer one or more places down the ranking will be applied according to their fencing clubs and not according to their nationality.
- The bouts of the poules are of 5 hits, 3 min, according to the t.38. FIE rule.
- No fencers will be eliminated from the poules which will be followed by a Direct Elimination tableau based on the results of the poules, according to 0.93.1. FIE rule.
- Direct Elimination bouts are of 10 hits with consideration of t.39., t.40., t.42. and t.124 FIE rules. T.124 rule will be modified as follows: in case of P-Black If the scores of the two fencers are equal, the fencer with the higher ranking after the poules wins the bout.
- Every fencer can only fence in the age category to which he or she belongs : 40-49 (or V1), 50-59 (or V2), 60-69 (or V3), 70 and over (or V4).
- If there are fewer than **12 fencers** in a category, they may join the nearer and younger age category for the poule round.
- If this merge is not enough to reach 12 fencers another merge may be made
 - *Examples :*
 - V1 : 16
 - V2 : 10 >> merge with V1
 - V3 : 7
 - V4 : 5 >> merge with V3
 - Finally : 26 in V1/V2 and 12 in V3/V4
 - V1 : 13
 - V2 : 5 >> merge with V1
 - V3 : 4 >> merge with V2
 - V4 : 1 >> merge with V3
 - Finally : 23 in V1/V2/V3/V4

- In case of a match between fencers of different categories, a negative handicap of one hit will be granted for a difference of two categories
 - *Examples :*
 - *V1/V2, V2/V3 or V3/V4 : no handicap*
 - *V1/V3 : V1 begins at -1*
 - *V2/V4 : V2 begins at -1*
 - *V1/V4 : V1 begins at -2*
- Should a score be negative at the end of the bout, it must be notified at zero on the score sheet
 - *Example :*
 - *A defeats B for 0 to -1, the score must be noted V0 to 0*
- After the poules, each fencer will fence Direct Elimination in their own category if the number of fencers is at least 2.
- If there are fewer than **2 fencers** in a category, he/she joins the nearer and younger age category for the Direct Elimination.
- The two fencers who lose the semi-final matches are placed equal third and will each receive a bronze medal.
- The indication of the name and nationality of the fencer on the back of his jacket and the wearing of national colours is recommended but not mandatory

Initial seeding

Seeding should be applied following the current European Ranking provided by EVF. Competitors from outside Europe may compete and be included in the Ranking for the purposes of seeding.

Timetable

The provisional timetable must be provided to EVF for approval one month prior to the date of the competition. Significant changes to timing or structure must be made in consultation with EVF. Minor adjustments do not require further approval.

All the competitions shall be finished before 7pm.

Eligibility

Please refer to “European Veterans Fencing Championships – Handbook of regulations” paragraph 1.1.1. with the following exceptions:

- Fencers from outside Europe may participate
- Individual registrations are allowed if authorised by the National Representative

Entry fees

Entry fees for all Circuit Events are set at a maximum of 50 Euros per person per weapon. Organisers to use fees to cover referee, officials and other costs.

All fencers must be full members of their National Federation and must not be required to pay fees to the National Hosting Organisation.

Entry may only be collected in advance if there is no charge to fencers outside the hosting country. Facilities to collect entry fees on arrival at registration must be made available.

Referees

Referees may be National and Local but must be of a suitable level to direct bouts with International competitors. All referees to be supplied by the organisers with no demand on fencers to provide referees according to entry numbers. Referees must be at least 20 years old at the time of the Championships. EVF accepts referees over 60. A rest room for referees shall be provided with refreshments and feed.

Registration

Registration deadline to be 7 days prior to the event. Late registrations may be accepted, at discretion of the organisers, up to 3 days prior to the event.

Fencers who have registered must notify organisers of cancellation at least 24 hours prior to the event. Fencers who do not notify cancellation will forfeit their entry fee and may be barred from entering subsequent events.

The list of entries shall be sent to the EVF Circuit Events Director (leonardo.patti@veteransfencing.eu) 6 days before the event and shall be published and updated as the fencers register on EVF website.

Results Transmission

Full results shall be provided to EVF within 24 hours from competition containing the following information:

- a) final position
- b) last name
- c) first name
- d) country of representation
- e) date of birth

Preferably, the full FIE XML export files of the Tournament Management software are to be sent. Exports of pre-rounds without a final ranking are not needed. If FIE XML files are not possible, CSV files with the above mentioned columns are the best alternative. Please send this information to : rankings@veteransfencing.eu .

The organisers must make sure to include medical and other non-black-card withdrawals as DNF in the final overall ranking. If category indications are used in the competition fields or titles, please use either one of the following systems consistently:

- V1, V2, V3, V4 (preferred)
- V40, V50, V60, V70
- o40, 050, 060, 070

Competition Photos

Organisers shall provide EVF with a selection of up to a maximum of 60 photos of the event in order to maintain a gallery of images from Championships and Circuit Events on the EVF website. The

provided photos shall, preferably, represent general atmosphere, fencing action and competitor interaction rather than only podium images. Photos shall be sent to: webmaster@veteransfencing.eu.

Rules

Circuit Competitions may apply local rules but must operate within broad FIE rules for equipment, referees and disputes. FIE rules related to safety of the equipment must be applied, with special attention to Material Rules m25.3.c (800 Newtons cloth).

Fencers and referees will respect the event disciplinary code described in FIE article t.170. Any objections shall be made in accordance with the procedures described in FIE rules t.171 to t.175, and t.177 to t.178. Any protest against a decision of the DT must be sent to the EVF Secretary for the Board, which will make a final decision. A fencer who has received a black card will be excluded from the competition, suspended from the remainder of the event and for the following 60 days from the EVF events of the active season (1st September – 31st August), whether current or forthcoming.

Scoring equipment must be International Standard with time displays. Weapon Control is not mandatory but weapons must be checked on the piste prior to bouts starting. Repair service/facilities and at least one equipment manufacturer stand should be present.

Organization

There must be an adequate number of pistes to ensure the smooth running of the competition that are supported by technical staff. Venues shall be equipped with a sufficient number of chairs for the fencers and an adequate room for fencing bags.

The organisers should provide and distribute information about accommodation, transportation and parking to EVF Members as early as possible.

It is strongly recommended that free Wi-fi be made available throughout the venue for the duration of the competition.

All competition information (schedules, piste numbers, results) must be available and updated in real time for consultation by Smartphone. The corresponding QR Code must be clearly displayed in the competition area. Screens (at least one every 10 pistes) shall be available in the competition area to display the competition information.

Medical

Adequate medical assistance or a doctor must be available at the venue. An ambulance should be at the venue or within 5 minutes.

Transport

Organisers may support international entrants by providing transport between key hotels and the venue and transfers from the airport. Organisers are required to provide transport for referees and officials.

Organisers may invite the President or members of the EVF Board to attend Circuit events. Travel, accommodation and per diem to be provided by the organisers.

Observer

Each event will be reviewed by an EVF Observer – this may be a member of the EVF Board, a member of the DT approved by the Board or an individual nominated by the Board.

The observer will have the necessary knowledge and experience to provide an objective view of the way in which the competition is run, be able to advise on issues pertaining to the running or discipline of the competition and be able to offer constructive feedback to both the organisers and EVF. The observer will have a working knowledge of the Circuit Handbook and the normal expectations of organisers and fencers at events.

The observer will provide a written report to EVF as soon as possible after the event but within a maximum of 14 days along with bank details in order to receive payment.

The observer will receive a flat payment of €80 as a contribution in return for this work.

The following are the broad areas of feedback sought from the observer, who may add further comment as appropriate:

Participation

- i) Overall Numbers
- ii) Numbers by weapon/category
- iii) Registration issues
- iv) Any other comments on participation

Running the competition

- i) Was the schedule approved by EVF? Did the event run to that schedule?
- ii) Use of technology to announce pistes and schedules to fencers.
- iii) Areas where schedule changed and how this impacted the event.
- iv) Layout of venue and piste quality and availability.
- v) Was the event run to FIE rules and EVF rules?
- vi) Areas where this was not the case and impact on the event.
- vii) Name and nationality of DT.
- viii) Number and standard of Referees.
- ix) Weapon control and/or repair.
- x) Issues or incidents with DT, Referees or equipment.
- xi) Conflicts and solutions.

Peripheral Support

- i) Event web page
- ii) Social media activity
- iii) Other media activity
- iv) Live streaming and results
- v) Medical support and service
- vi) Any medical issues that arose.
- vii) Executive decisions made on behalf of EVF.
- viii) Rules problems or concerns.

General

- i) Any relevant photos.
- ii) Additional comments.
- iii) Changes suggested for Circuit rules.
- iv) Any other relevant observations.
- v) Any recommendations.

Catering

Appropriate catering must be provided or easy access to catering for fencers throughout the event. Access to free water is mandatory.

New Circuit Event Applicants

Member countries that seek to have a competition included as a ranking event on the European Circuit may seek inclusion by completing and submitting a bid application.

Applications will be reviewed by the Directors responsible for the Circuit and Competitions and recommendations made to the Congress for approval – provided there is capacity within the number of events to include new ones.

Ranking System

The ranking system will continuously update to provide an accurate indication of the status of each participating fencer.

On 1 May each the top ranked fencer in each weapon will be declared 'EVF Fencer of the Year' and be awarded a medal/diploma/certificate/plaque/gift at the European Championships. Fencers from outside Europe may be included in the Rankings but cannot be awarded 'EVF Fencer of the Year'.

Ranking System Description

The Ranking System is described in the EVF Ranking System dedicated document.

ANNEX 1

Commitment letter for the respect of the Circuit handbook

- I. We, Organisers of EVF Circuit Event _____, confirm that we have read and understood the Circuit Handbook for the Season 26/27.
- II. We undertake to deliver this event in accordance with these Rules.
- III. In the event that an issue arises that is not covered specifically in these rules we will confer with the Board of EVF and accept the decision made.
- IV. EVF reserves the right to remove ranking point status from any event that does not conform to the spirit and actuality of the rules.

Place, date

-Family name, first name and signature