



**EKF General Assembly
18th June 2026
Podgorica, Montenegro**

EKF GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2026

Minutes

1. Listing of the Representatives

1.1. EKF Board of Officers (not voting):

D. Hauck, EKF
S. Drosoulakis, EKF
J.P. Labru, EKF
D. Castelli, EKF
K. Cassidy, EKF

1.2. Representatives of EKF Member Countries:

K. Ziegerhofer, L. Wurzinger, Austria
N. Pauwelyn, Belgium
L. Sagaev, Bulgaria
M. Lukic, T. Panduric, Croatia
F. Pavlíček, Czech Republic
F. Estudillo, Estonia
M. Pihlaja, T. Pihlaja, Finland
E. Schoumsky, France
K. Nikatsadze, G. Gegenava, Georgia
S. Hernschier, C. Metzger, Germany
K. Matzaras, Greece
H. Mihalik, Hungary
M. Kiosew, D. Bakker, Ireland
P. Volodarsky, Israel
M. Petri, M. Battaglioni, Italy
Y. Tatishev, A. Mussina, Kazakhstan
D. Arsenin, E. Loputeva, Latvia
M. Maciulevicius, D. Buozius, Lithuania
D. Djuraskovic, Montenegro
K. van Hattum, J. de Jong-Talen, Netherlands
A. Atanasovski, North Macedonia
M. Skiftesvik, B. Abrahamsen, Norway
K. Yearwood, M. Bidzinska, Poland
J. Silva, Portugal



S.C. Mahika-Voiconi, Romania
I. Jovanovic, A. Drmanovic, Serbia
M. Grice, C. Grice, South Africa
M.A. González Jiménez, D. Castro Rabadán, Spain
C. Lindholm, Sweden
S. Buob, C. Kröbl, Switzerland
B. Gökmen, C. Aydogdu, Turkey
T. Widdows, A. Lam, United Kingdom

1.3. Proxy votes delegated in writing in advance:

- Jordan → Greece: Konstantinos Matzaras
- Ukraine → Ireland: Martin Kiosew
- Hungary → Internal Transfer from Péter Németh to Hunor Mihalik

1.4. Also present:

A. El Hamidi El Idrissi, A. Diebold, applicants from the Royal Moroccan Federation of Aikido, Kendo, Iaido and Jodo
A. Nouisser, M. Jirraya, applicants from the Tunisian Kendo League
S. Yoshisato, Secretary General, International Kendo Federation

2. Opening and Report by the EKF President (PR)

2.1. Welcome, I am glad to see you and enjoy your interest in the operation of this European federation. We are all the European Kendo Federation; we make it prosper if united we stand! The Boards mission is to enable, guide and implement, lead. But as always, leading only works if there is somebody following!

The year 2025 saw Europe and the activities of EKF and of the national Federations overshadowed inter alia by wars in Ukraine, Israel and – recently - Iran. The world is changing, but not to the better. The rule of (international) law is falling into disregard. Europe does and must redefine its position in the world to survive and prosper. We all need to consider that and try to prepare ourselves and our communities.

2.2. There will be items on the agenda related to these situations of war and unrest. In order to prepare and fence in the discussion, I would like to state at this very beginning on behalf of the BO fundamental points, which may help to clarify some – and most hopefully obvious - points and keep the discussion – as per content and as per time – inside reasonable limits:

- The EKF BO supports and promotes the principles of the EKF Statutes, the universal applicability of human rights, the priority of cooperation before confrontation, the rule of law and a unified Europe.



- We also believe in keeping our disciplines and sport in general as much as possible insulated from national or international politics and distinguishing between the actions of governments and those by basically private federations and associations. We are aware that this may not be possible to 100%.
- The EKF BO abhors and rejects governmental violence for annexing territory, killing people or making them refugees, destroying homes and the foundations for a normal existence on any scale or level, as well as oppressing the own population. Whatever the dispute or conflict, it shall be resolved by peaceful means and with respect to applicable laws.
- The EKF BO also abhors and rejects violence by non-governmental entities leading to death and abduction of people, no matter if military or civilian, and the use of civilians and civilian installations as a shield in an armed conflict.
- However, the EKF BO is not able nor willing to judge those conflicts, where not even the international community or international organizations can come to a uniform position. This is way beyond the mission, abilities and the responsibility of the EKF BO.
- In the motions relevant to the agenda there was an implicit question, which surprisingly was not asked before, either formally or informally. Although as a lawyer I normally do not answer questions not put, I will make an exception here, as the answer is so obvious and simple:
 - The question is: “*Why did the EKF BO move for an expulsion of the Russian Kendo Federation (RKF) in 2022, but so far did not the same against the Israel Federation (IKBF)?*”
 - Here is the answer: In 2022 two Member Federations of EKF presented formal motions to suspend/expulse RKF, arguing that RKF did actively support or at least did not distance itself from the war of aggression started by the Russian Government.
 - In 2022, Europe, the IOC, other international organizations and the western world – something still existing at that time – were almost uniform in the condemnation of the Russian aggression.
 - To the contrary, recently, we were contacted by several Member Federations on the matter of Israel and the deplorable situation in Gaza. Those federations did not move for an expulsion or other action against Israel. The positions of international politics including the IOC on this topic is much divided, to put it politely.
 - Then the Turkish Kendo Federation moved for expulsion of the IBKF. Here we are discussion the topic.
 - So, if there is a half reasonable motion by a Member Federation, the BO will bring it into the General Assembly. Here the political or other reasons and positions may be different, but that is the decision-making in a democratic way.

Data Protection: There have been interventions relating to the matter of data protection



and in relation to our website. These interventions have been twofold. An anonymous mail sender and one Member Federation. Data Protection is a very complex matter, and we may be faced with authorities and their legal practice in more than 40 countries. We think we are ok, but it is always advisable to limit exposure and there were some inspirations in this interventions:

1. Check to have someone within your federation who addresses the issue, has the knowledge and checks your own activities;
Most sporting federation with multiple layers of organization rely on the justification of “*for the fulfilment of contractual obligations (Art. 6 Paragraph 1b GDPR) and the protection of legitimate interests (Art. 6 Paragraph 1f GDPR)*”. However, sometimes the safest justification for data processing and transfer, though also not without problems, is a personal consent (Art. 6 Paragraph 1a GDPR). If this was needed, we would need to discuss if and how we can ensure the existence of such consent for the persons in our database.
2. We remind all MFs of the possibility to suppress the public display of the data of a person under their administration at the record of the respective person. This has also been more clearly mentioned in the online-data policy.
3. We propose to suppress in general the display of data for persons younger than 16 years.

We could discuss limiting the public access to data (grades, exam results) to persons registered in the data base, e.g. by providing identification like for the checking of exam-registration. This certainly may cause problems and many questions.

We also recommend again to all Member Federation, to check their own data processing and make certain, to be on the safe side, that persons providing data to them, agree to processing and publication (names grade) and to the forwarding to the EKF, where they are processes for the objectives of the EKF Statutes and published as was the practice for some decades.

We will contact you soon for a further strategy on making the data processing of EKF and the Member Federations even more compliant.

4. For a data protection policy on the website, see a good example at <https://irishkendofederation.org/privacy/>.

2.3. **Technical system:** This is working quite reasonably, please use the possibilities, such as gathering information, displaying events, Menjo printing, exam registration, event registration etc. The mailing of Menjo was implemented. Please update exam results in due time: We had – luckily only few – cases where the earlier grade was not entered yet and that interfered with the registration for the next grade. Further, registration for events with categories (EIC, EJC) can be affected by not updated grades. If this is discovered too late it can cause invalid registrations and in any case a lot of unnecessary stress and work.

If you wonder, what we – the EKF BO – are doing all the time: I am handling about 2500 emails (without spam / automatic emails) a year, we have a video-call of several hours every month and the list of events we need to take care of one way or the other in our meeting agenda



(five pages just bullet points) normally includes about 12 items for this year and already 5 for the next. We have to comply with the laws in the countries of all Member Federations. In particular where we have events, which includes countries outside the European Union.

2.4. I have been doing this since I became EKF Treasurer in 2005, more than 20 years ago. It is about time to think about a successor.

3. G.A. Minutes 2025

Formal approval of the minutes of the GA 2025, which have been sent to the Member Federations according to Art. 05.09 EKF-Statutes and have been published on the EKF website. No remarks have been received within the statutory deadline. The published version is approved unchanged.

4. Report by the EKF Vice-President (VP)

2025 was another active year. As we have left COVID era far behind us, EKF activities have returned to a high operational tempo. And happily, practitioners of our disciplines, across the European Zone, showed up in satisfactory numbers.

Accordingly, the EKF Board continued its activities by meeting regularly, monitoring the evolving situations and directing evolutions. Since the previous GA, EKF Board has met 11 times, basically through video conference. In addition, the Board is in daily contact and communication, through media applications, exchanging information and views on emerging issues. BO also met a number of times, in video conference, with Member Federations responsible to organize events, in order to discuss organizational matters. In this way EKF Board was able to follow evolutions closely and provide timely solutions to evolving issues.

The return of our activities in the Championships area, had its influence on Antidoping Activities, which as you are aware constitutes a field of special interest and falls within my responsibilities.

I assume that you are all aware that the international anti-doping rules, following the WADA- List, apply in Kendo and its associated arts, Iaido and Jodo. EKF, being a Regional Federation, has no direct involvement with Antidoping administration matters, which are conducted, in our case, at National and Global, aka FIK, level. However, in order to cope with Antidoping requirements, at the EC, we form an ad-hoc TUE Committee, which examines TUE Requests, by member federations and advises us accordingly. The members of this Committee are selected among your AD officers, primarily medical doctors. Currently TUE Committee is composed by the AD Officers of Germany, France and The Netherlands

Although EC are attracting major attention, test by national authorities can happen at all national, European and even local events. Therefore, the TUE Procedure should not be limited to



European Championships only but should be implemented in any event, National or local, as well.

Please instruct your competitors, managers and coaches that the international anti-doping rules following the WADA- List apply in Kendo. And take all necessary precautions to maintain kendo as a clean sport and keep your competitors out of trouble.

At this point I would like to remind you the obligations, for every EKF member Federation, in the Antidoping field.:

- To assign a suitable Antidoping Officer.
- To follow closely evolutions on Antidoping field.
- To ensure that practitioners, in the country, are aware of Antidoping requirements.
- To be prepared to deal with Antidoping tests, if demanded so, by respective National Authorities.
- To insert National Antidoping Agency website in the respective section in their Country information at EKF Data Base.
- And last but not least, please keep in mind that TUE Requests, for the European Championships, should be submitted on time. Otherwise, there is a risk of not being granted at the opening of the Championships, with whatever consequences may occur.

5. Report by the EKF Treasurer (TR)

The Treasurer presented the following summary showing the projected and actual budget for 2025 and the projected budget for 2027.

EKF	Budget 2025		Actual 2025		Budget 2027	
	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out
Membership Fees	42.000,00		42.161,00		50.000,00	
FIK Fees	15.000,00	15.000,00				20.000,00
Referee Seminar	2.500,00	15.000,00	3.210,00	16.845,00	5.000,00	20.000,00
Others	500,00	5.000,00		2.262,00	500,00	5.000,00
Examinations Inscription Fee	40.000,00		30.946,00	11.036,00	45.000,00	20.000,00
Examinations Registration Fee	8.000,00		42.701,00		15.000,00	
Championships and supported events		50.000,00		30.535,00		50.000,00
Board expenses and GA		10.000,00		22.955,00		10.000,00
Bank costs		1.000,00		1.848,00		1.000,00
Interests			405,00		100,00	
Special missions		30.000,00		19.195,00		20.000,00
Web and IT		4.000,00		2.300,00		5.000,00
Total	108.000	130.000	119.423	106.976	115.600	151.000
result		-22.000		12.447		-35.400
Annual result	108.000	130.000	119.423	106.976	115.600	151.000

This table shows a positive balance this year. It was noted, however, that the FIK fees for 2025 were paid in fiscal year 2024, so they do not appear in this table. This is due to a misalignment between the European and Japanese fiscal years.



The Treasurer reminded participants that FIK fees are collected by the EKF and forwarded to FIK. These should not be paid directly to FIK by the National Federations.

As usual, the main sources of income are the federation fees and grading fees. The Referee Seminar continues to be the biggest single expense for the EKF. We spent less in 2025 on European Championships, but more on board expenses.

It was noted that the second account which was set up in case of bank issues has been maintained for several years. As the relationship with our primary bank BNP Paribas has now normalised, we have closed this second account. This will result in lower banking fees going forward.

The delegate from Belgium asked if the projected board expenses for 2027 should be adjusted upwards, in light of the higher expenses for 2025 and the WKC. It was agreed that these should be rebalanced.

The assembly voted unanimously to accept the 2025 Financial Report and the 2027 Budget.

6. Report by the Secretary-General

The Secretary General thanked the Member Federations for their improved respect for deadlines for registrations to championships, gradings and for the General Assembly.

With regards to communication with the Member Federations, this year we have seen quite a few bounced emails or simply emails not reaching us or the federations, without any error message indicating that there was a problem. This is particularly an issue with Gmail accounts, due to their security settings. The Secretary will continue to follow up with the National Federations to try to resolve these issues.

The delegates were reminded of the following points:

- It is important to keep the list of National Federation Board members, and their contact details, in the EKF System up to date.
- When registering grades obtained overseas, this should be done in good time, and the request should include the dates and locations of all pass grades not registered in the EKF System as well as the menjo or other evidence for the latest grade.
- The procedure for a situation where an examinee passes the Jitsugi part of an examination, but fails Kata is laid out in the EKF Grading Guidelines.

Electronic Menjo are now being sent out from the EKF System for EKF exams. Where these are not received, they can be requested by email from the Secretary General.

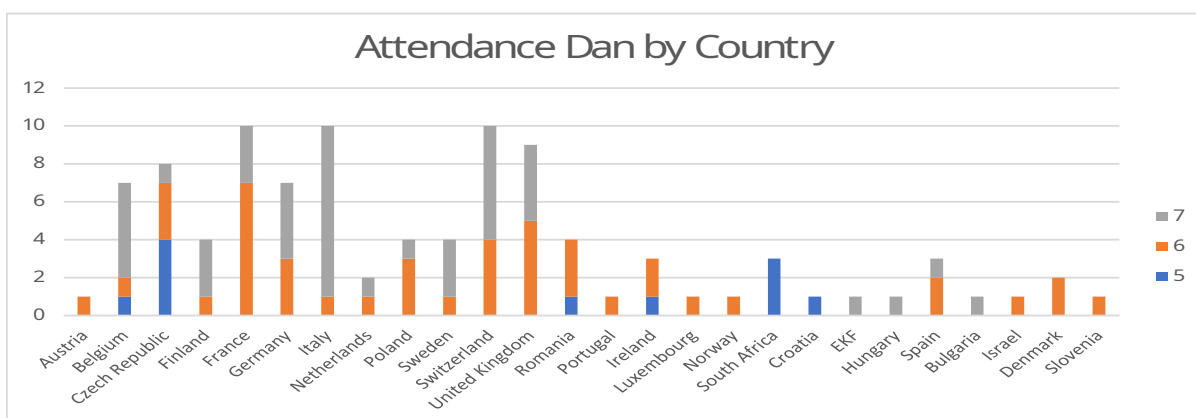


7. Report by the Technical Director

The Technical Director presented some statistics on participation in the European Championships, which are summarized below. He also clarified some rules issues and changes.

7.1. European Championships in 2025

7.2. Kendo Referee Seminar



7.3. High Level Examinations

Type	ExamPerson																		
2025	≡6				≡7				Total_Registered	Total_Passed	Ratios	6			7				
	Registered	male	Passed	female	Registered	male	Passed	female				female	male	Total 6	female	male	Total 7		
	female	male	female	male	female	male	female	male			Iaido	Bruges	40%	49%	47%	-	25%	30%	
	Iaido	10	37	4	18	2	8	1	2	57	25	Prague	33%	23%	25%	-	22%	22%	
	Iodo	3	13	1	3		9		2	25	6	Iodo	Zielona Gora	100%	17%	29%	#DIV/0!	25%	25%
	Zielona Gora	1	6	1	1		4		1	11	3	Kendo	Brussels	22%	21%	21%	0%	28%	24%
	Kendo	9	72	2	15	5	32	0	9	118	26	Budapest	100%	27%	31%	50%	0%	8%	
	Brussels	2	37	2	10	2	10	1	0	51	13	Leiden	40%	43%	43%	40%	22%	26%	
	Budapest	5	51	2	22	5	18	2	4	79	30	Total	40%	32%	33%	29%	29%	23%	
	Leiden	30	216	12	69	14	81	4	18	341	103	Total	40%	32%	33%	29%	29%	23%	

7.4. Nihon Kendo Kata European Championships

The Technical Director went on to thank Italy for offering to host the first Nihon Kendo Kata European Championships. These championships will be held in the beautiful city of Ravenna on the 17&18 of April 2027.

The Rules have been published, and the NKKEC Committee is continuing to develop procedures for refereeing. Without nationality, grade and function, just to thank them by mentioning the names of the members of this committee in the TD report: Katja FLEURY, Elena VATOLINA-WEST, Donatella CASTELLI, Lorenzo ZAGO, Edwin de WIT, Tomas KYNCL,



Louis VITALIS, Michel GUENTLEUR, René Van AMERSFOORT , Chris MANSFIELD, Konstantinos MATZARAS.

7.5. Updates to EC Rules

Merging of Mudan and Shodan category

As the European Iaido Championships continue to grow, the existing format has become unwieldy. The 33rd EIC 2026 will therefore merge the Mudan and Shodan divisions to ensure that we can still hold the championships over two days.

EKC Junior Team Composition

The requirement that the Junior Team Championships inscriptions will include “a maximum of three boys or three girls with a total of 4 (four) inscriptions” will be strictly enforced in future European Kendo Championships. I.e. it will not be possible for all four competitors to be of the same sex (see Section 6.1.3. Junior Team Championship of the EKC Rules and Regulations).

EKC Team Order Amendment Process

For all Team Championships, the initial team order shall be handed in at the Managers' Meeting on the day preceding the Championships and shall remain binding for subsequent fights unless amended in due time.

Any amended team order must be submitted immediately after the next fight of the team is published to the tournament system.

If the published fight order does not correspond to the submitted team order, it shall be amended accordingly by the kakari-in.

It is the responsibility of the team and/or the team manager or coach to verify the published fight order immediately after it is displayed on the screens and to raise any objections without delay.

If an objection is not raised in due time (before sogo-ni-rei is completed), the fight order shall be deemed accepted as shown on the screen, and the consequences shall be handled in accordance with the Regulations of Kendo Shiai and Shinpan.

Refereeing one's own country

A reminder that for this EKC, referees can referee matches of their own country. This means that we have already assigned the referees for each of the semi-final and final matches.

8. Elections of the Board of Officers (Art. 06 EKF Statutes)

8.1. Board of Officers



The following candidatures for Board of Officers' roles were received:

- Mr. Dieter Hauck, Austria, longstanding EKF Treasurer, thereafter Vice- President, and currently President, is available as a candidate for the office of EKF President
- Mr. Spyridon Drosoulakis, Greece, Vice President since 2021, is available as a candidate for the office of EKF Vice President
- Ms. Kathryn Cassidy, Ireland, Secretary since 2021, is available as a candidate for the office of EKF Secretary
- Ms. Donatella Castelli, Italy, EKF Treasurer since 2017, is available as a candidate for the office of EKF Treasurer
- Mr. Jean-Pierre Labru, France, EKF Technical Director since 2018, is available as a candidate for the office of EKF Technical Director

The General Assembly was first asked if they were willing to vote on all of the above candidates as a block vote. **This proposal was unanimously accepted.**

The General Assembly was then asked to vote to accept the above candidates for the EKF Board of Officers. **The candidates were unanimously accepted.**

All of the board members accepted their positions.

8.2. Auditors

- Mr. Jindrich Ziegelheim, Czech Republic, current Auditor, is available as a candidate for the office of EKF Auditor and Mr. Sorin Mahika, Romania, is available as a candidate for Reserve Auditor

The General Assembly voted unanimously to accept the auditors.

8.3. Selection of FIK Directors according to Art. 11 EKF Statutes

The EKF General Assembly selects council nation candidates for three FIK Director roles for proposal to FIK – in this case at the 2027 FIK GA in Tokyo.

For the past several years three of the bigger nations have been council nations, and this has been working very well. The nations are Germany, Italy and France.

The EKF Board are happy to continue with the same council nations and asked the General Assembly to confirm this. **The General Assembly unanimously approved the proposal.**

Representatives of the council nations accept the proposal.



9. Membership questions

9.1. Tunisia

The previous member from Tunisia, the Association Sportive de Kendo (ASK) has requested to transfer membership in EKF to the Tunisian Kendo League. The Board has reviewed the application documentation and confirms that all necessary documents have been included, and these were circulated in advance of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly unanimously accepted the Tunisian Kendo League as a member of the EKF.

9.2. Morocco

The previous member from Morocco, the Royal Moroccan Kendo Federation, has ceased operations. An application for membership has been received from the Royal Moroccan Federation of Aikido, Kendo, Iaido and Jodo (FRMAKIJ). The Board has reviewed the application documentation and confirms that all necessary documents have been included, and these were circulated in advance of the General Assembly.

Mr. Abdelhamid El Hamidi El Idrissi, President of the FRMAKIJ, thanked the president of EKF and the board for allowing him to be here. He thanked all of the delegates and their federations for their support for Kendo in Morocco. He stated that he hoped that since the reunification of the Federation in Morocco, they could go on to make great progress in Kendo, focusing on training rather than politics.

The General Assembly unanimously accepted the Royal Moroccan Federation of Aikido, Kendo, Iaido and Jodo as a member of the EKF.

9.3. Mauritius

An application for membership has been received from the Kendo Federation Mauritius (KFM). The Board has reviewed the application documentation and confirms that all necessary documents have been included, and these were circulated in advance of the General Assembly. As no member of the KFM was able to attend the General Assembly, the Secretary General gave a brief summary of the current situation of Kendo in Mauritius.

The General Assembly unanimously accepted the Kendo Federation Mauritius as a member of the EKF.

9.4. Update on Kendo in Russia

The President gave an update on the current situation of Kendo in Russia.



As you are aware the Russian federation was expelled from EKF membership at the 2022 General Assembly for reasons everybody knows. As far as we know, there are now at least two federations active in Russia competing for membership of FIK.

One federation is currently still a FIK member – so under FIK rules all other FIK-affiliated federations are still expected to recognize the grades of their members, and grades issued in Russia, however, these grades are not registered in the EKF System.

The FIK statutes state that to become FIK member they must be member of EKF. Thus, the expectation on our end was that they would also be expelled from FIK, but this has not yet happened and is an ongoing discussion with FIK.

Motion from the Turkish Kendo Association about the Israel Kendo & Budo Federation and related motions.

The Turkish delegate made a presentation to the General Assembly. He began by thanking the Board and delegates for the opportunity to present their case. He stressed that they had not submitted this motion lightly, and that their concern was not with individuals, but with principles, and our willingness to apply these principles consistently.

In support of the motion, the delegate referenced consultation, documented statements from international bodies, and the precedent of the EKF GA's expulsion of Russia in 2022. While not asking the GA to ignore the differences between the current situation in Gaza and the Russia-Ukraine conflict, he argued that to act in one situation based on ethical considerations, but not in another was a difficult position to defend.

He rejected any suggestion that the motion was politically motivated and made a plea for delegates to judge the motion on its merits, rather than speculating about motives.

He went on to clarify that the Turkish federation was withdrawing the motion to develop a framework for dealing with such conflicts in future and stated that the only motion they were proposing was that relating to the membership of the Israel Federation.

The Israel delegate made an emotional response, referencing joint training in the past with Turkish Federation members. He argued that the goal of Kendo should be about friendship and that there was a political element to the Turkish motion and to other incidents where he felt that the Israel Federation or Team have been treated differently.

He called for all delegates to put politics aside and focus on kendo.

He also pointed out that the International Olympic Committee, FIFA, and other world bodies have not expelled Israel, and called upon participants not to vote in favor this motion.



In response to a question from the German delegate, the Israel delegate stated that he believed that the situations in Ukraine and Gaza are different.

The German delegate asked what the practical consequences would be for the Israel team if the vote was passed. The President responded that strictly speaking, if they are not members, they should not be permitted to participate in this weekend's championships, unless this GA decides otherwise.

The motion for expulsion of the Israel Kendo & Budo Federation was put to the General Assembly for a vote. The Board noted that as an expulsion motion, a 2/3 majority would be required in order to pass the motion, and that the Board was not recommending a vote either way. The result was 4 in favor, 15 against, 15 abstained. **A 2/3 majority was not reached so this motion did not pass.**

The Board of the Dutch Federation then stated that they had decided based on evolving insight to withdraw their motion related to this topic.

10. EKF Relations with FIK and ZNKR

10.1. Support by FIK / ZNKR: For many years we have received kind and highly valuable support from ZNKR / FIK by sending sensei to our Referee Seminar and the Championships in three disciplines. This support continues, however, the financial arrangements with FIK need to be done on a case-by-case basis, which makes planning more difficult.

10.2. This shows even more that the voice of Europe needs to be unified, and the European federations need to establish a broad and independent basis for their operations for Kendo, Iaido and Jodo, while using international sources of support and for gaining knowledge. One tool to this end shall be the selection and close coordination of the FIK Directors from the European Zone and the coordinated vote in the FIK General Assembly.

10.3. Further, the FIK Constitution, basically dating from the 1970s, needs an update and amendment to meet the requirements of the present. I have reported on that in the last GA in Leiden 2025. This is a complex legal process with long documents involved. However, the key issues are quite simple: Shall we accept a prolongation of the present system, where the ZNKR basically has full control over the FIK Board of Directors and thereby on all operations, including on all elections of Officers and Directors, or shall we promote a more modern democratic system, where the General Assembly of all Member Federation is the highest authority in the organization and not just a body passively receiving reports. This would also include a real power to vote and elect the Directors by the FIK General Assembly. On this I am in – very slow - communication with the FIK Secretariate for almost two years. The process is ongoing and I ask for your support for this.

For you the practical recommendation is: If you receive respective documents, study them carefully, or have them studied by somebody with a legal training and stay in contact with us.



The FIK General Assembly in 2027 in Tokyo will be an important date for this, this assembly shall vote in person on this new FIK Constitution and could shape the international world for Kendo, Iaido and Jodo for the decades to come.

10.4. FIK Directors: As well the EKF Statutes (Art. 11) as the FIK Statutes (Art. 24) provide for an election of “Council Nations”, the President of which or a person delegated by him then shall be nominated as a Director in FIK. It is important that these persons are able and willing to represent Europe and to present their opinions on a global level. Sound knowledge of our disciplines and the related politics, as well the stamina to take a stand in a high-level discussion are needed. During many years, the big European Federations have taken turns on these positions. Following changes in persons and organizations, this shall be discussed and a (s)election is needed.

11. Future Championships

11.1. EKC

- 35th EKC 2028 Candidature for 2028 Serbia. Update and discussion.
 - The Serbian delegate confirmed their candidature
 - They are currently in discussion with Aleksandar Nikolić Sport Hall, which is the second largest hall in Belgrade
 - They are considering also other halls nearby Belgrade
 - The exact date is still to be confirmed, but will be around the end of May or beginning of June 2028
- Candidature for 2029 Portugal.
 - Candidature confirmed
 - The championships will take place either in Lisbon or Porto
- Candidature for 2031 North Macedonia.
 - Candidature confirmed
- Presentation or announcements of future candidatures.
 - No further candidatures were announced.

11.2. EIC

- 33rd EIC 2026 to be held 6th - 8th November 2026 in Munich, DEU. Update and discussion.
 - Will be held in the same venue as the 2023 championships
 - Not far from the airport, and easy to reach by car from airport or city
 - Rooms are priced as follows, which is a slight increase on the 2023 price:
 - single €55 per night
 - double €50 per night (€99 full room)
 - triple €37 per night (€110 full room)
 - Reservation will be done directly by teams with the hotel
 - Meals, sayonara, etc. all take place in the same facility
- Candidature for 34th EIC 2027 by Switzerland



- Candidature confirmed
- Championships will take place in Magglingen from 8th - 10th October 2027.
- Presentation or announcements of future candidatures.
 - Poland announced their candidature for 2028

11.3. EJC

- 24th EJC 2026 to be held 25th - 27th September 2026 in Mérignac, FRA. Update and discussion.
 - Website is live at www.ejc2026.fr with all information
 - Final entry until 21 July 2026
 - Please note the earlier date for NER & TUE
- Candidature for 25th EJC 2027 by Netherlands
 - Candidature confirmed
 - Championships will take place in Papendal from 10th - 12th September 2027
- Presentation or announcement of further candidatures.
 - No further candidatures at this point
 - The president asked all countries to consider hosting

11.4. 2027 Kendo Kata European Open Competition

- Candidature from Italy.
 - 17-18 April 2027 in Ravenna
 - 1 hour from Bologna
 - looking at 2 sports halls, one big, one small depending on how many will come

12. Transgender athletes

The Swedish Kendo Federation proposed the following motion:

- 1) *a person may compete in the EKC category that matches the gender stated in their passport.*
- 2) *transwomen competing in the women's category must have had a total serum testosterone level <10 nmol/L for at least 12 months prior to the competition as well as during it.*
- 3) *each national federation takes full responsibility that each competitor they register for the EKC comply with these rules. In cases where a national federation is not allowed to ask for, or register, such information the federation shall be considered to have followed this rule if their participating athletes have been informed about these rules and have consented to following them (informed consent).*

They further requested a legal opinion from a body in Belgium on the current EKF rules. The



President addressed the letter from this body, pointing out that it is not a legal decision or weighted opinion, it is rather an advocacy paper, which does not need to take into consideration the other side. It is also clear from the letter that they do not have an understanding of kendo. They raise issues in relation to GDPR and storing personal information about gender but acknowledge that the storing of special category personal data such as testosterone levels is more problematic under GDPR legislation than requiring members to disclose the sex assigned to them at birth.

The letter refers to Belgian non-discrimination law and cites one case from cycling which is currently under appeal and relies heavily on the previous IOC position. They argue that the EKF did not rely on scientific evidence in formulating their rules. This is not the case as the EKF Board did review scientific literature as well as the rules in other sports, in advance of the 2024 General Assembly. This review and the broader evidence base consulted was not, however, included in the minutes. The board has therefore prepared a short non-exhaustive literature review which was presented by the Secretary General and is included in Appendix 1.

The EKF Board is against the motion from the Swedish Federation as it currently stands. We have serious concerns about fairness and safety if this motion is carried. We also have concerns about the GDPR implications.

The delegate from Finland commended the proposal from Sweden, but stated that having performed a comprehensive review of the legal landscape in Finland, they cannot vote in favour of the motion as it would put them in non compliance with Finnish law. The Finnish non-discrimination ombudsman has informed them that if they want to apply testosterone testing, they would have to apply this rule to all women, not just trans-women. Further this would have to be done longitudinally, over at least 12 months, and this would be prohibitively expensive, as well as intrusive.

A number of countries indicated that their laws would make asking for sex assigned at birth problematic, while others indicated that storing information about testosterone levels and conducting testosterone tests would be difficult. Other delegates indicated that they did not know what the current situation was in their country.

The delegate from Germany asked if there are any direct consequences arising from the letter from the Belgian Institute. The President responded that as the letter is not addressed to us, we do not propose to answer it or enter into any dialog at present. We do not, however, know if the Institute may share their opinion with other Belgian authorities.

The Turkish delegate asked what the consequences for an athlete found to be competing in a category that does not match the sex assigned them at birth. The President responded that, as things stand, this would result in disqualification.

A number of delegates asked for clarification about the current situation and whether all trans-



gender athletes are currently excluded from competition. The Secretary General clarified that under the current EKC rules, a transwoman (male to female) can compete in the men's category as Gender-Affirming Hormone Therapy (GAHT) in this case consists of oestrogen and testosterone suppression, neither of which are considered performance enhancing. A transman (female to male) would have to submit a Therapeutic Use Exemption form, as the main component of female to male GAHT is testosterone, which is a prohibited substance under WADA rules. As we have not had such a case, we do not know if such an exemption would be granted.

The Swedish motion was put to the General Assembly for a vote. The result was 2 in favour, 25 against, 5 abstained. **The motion did not pass.**

13. Any Other Business

13.1. EIC Merging of Mudan and Shodan

The delegate from Finland presented a statement from the Finnish Kendo Association Iaido Bu on the merging of the Mudan and Shodan categories at the 33rd EIC. This was only announced with the Rules and Regulations and should have been communicated earlier, with some consultation.

For a small federation like Finland, they believe that the Mudan category is very important to help bring in new people. They suggest other possible solutions to the time constraints such as the Godan and Rokudan categories being restricted to one competitor only per country.

The President responded that we are happy to look at other possible suggestions and asked the Finnish delegate and other federations who may have ideas to please submit them for consideration.

Live streaming of Drawings

The Turkish and Italian delegates asked for the EKC draw to be live-streamed. The president responded that the draw is not a physical process but is done electronically. The Italian delegate pointed out that random-generator algorithms on computers are not really random. The Secretary General pointed out that a fully random independent draw can always produce non-random-looking results.

13.2. Malta Kendo change of name

The Maltese Kendo Federation is changing its name to Malta Kendo. This is due to the legal definition of a Federation in Maltese law. The Board has received the new statutes and confirm that the only substantive change is the name change and the organisation is still the same.



14. Date of the next General Assembly

The next GA will take place in the context of the 20th WKC 2027 on the Tuesday 25th May, 2027 in Tokyo.

15. Closing by the President

The President closed the GA and invited the delegates to attend the EKF Dinner.



Appendix 1: Opinion of the EKF Board on the inclusion of Transgender athletes on the basis of serum testosterone levels

At the 2024 General Assembly¹, the issue of Transgender athletes at the EKC was discussed, and it was the majority opinion that the EKF should not move to change the existing situation where participation in the men's and women's categories was based on the gender assigned at birth. In 2025, this was explicitly stated in the Rules and Regulations for the 33rd European Kendo Championships 2025 in Leiden. This was also discussed at the 2025 General Assembly².

In bringing the initial discussion to the General Assembly, the board had surveyed the current rules for Transgender athletes in a range of other sports, including in particular, other combat sports, and the position of the International Olympic Committee. The **IOC's 2026 policy**³ represents a significant departure from its 2021 Framework on Fairness, Inclusion and Non-Discrimination, shifting from a primarily inclusion-focused approach to one that prioritizes the protection of the female category and relies on evidence of performance advantages associated with male sex development.⁴ The 2026 policy states that **"It is universally accepted that providing for a Female Category is necessary to allow equal access to elite sport to both Males and Females. Including athletes who are XY transgender and/or androgen-sensitive XY-DSD athletes (whatever their legal sex or gender identity) in the Female Category in sports and events that rely on strength, power and/or endurance runs fundamentally counter to ensuring fairness, safety and integrity in elite competition and to the reliable attainment of the IOC's modern goals."**

In the history of the EKC, there were **mixed championships before 1989** when the Women's category was first introduced. During those years of mixed championships there were no female winners.

It is often pointed out that in Kendo, skill is more important than physical force. While we agree that skill is of paramount importance, we believe that it would be naive to argue that strength and power are not significant factors in kendo competition. Furthermore, Kendo is one of very few full-contact combat sports without weight divisions for competition, including the EKC and WKC. This means that, aside from the current separate sex and age categories, there is no other means to control the difference in size, weight, strength and power in competition, and thus ensure the safety of participants.

¹ Minutes of the 2024 EKF General Assembly <https://www.ekf-eu.com/documents/2024%20MILAN%20-%20EKF%20GA%20Minutes.pdf>

² <https://www.ekf-eu.com/documents/2025-Leiden-EKF%20GA%20MINUTES.pdf>

³ International Olympic Committee. (2026). IOC policy on the protection of the female (women's) category in Olympic sport and guiding considerations for international federations and sports governing bodies.

⁴ International Olympic Committee. (2021). IOC framework on fairness, inclusion and non-discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sex variations.



Several studies have concluded that the rate and severity of in-competition injuries in competitive sports tends to be higher than for injuries sustained in training^{5 6 7}. There are therefore significant concerns about the safety of allowing transgender women, in particular, to compete in women's sporting categories. This is **particularly relevant in combat sports** where there is a risk of excessive use of force, whether as an intentional tactic, or simply in the heat of the moment in a high-stakes competitive situation.

Furthermore, it has been well documented that women are at higher risk of concussion and that they experience more severe symptoms. A 2024 scoping review on Concussion in Female Athletes of Contact Sports concluded that *“There is evidence that female sex is a risk factor for a higher injury rate of concussion and worse outcome (neuropsychological deficits and more and worse symptoms).”*⁸

In light of these factors, we believe that it is vital to consider not only issues of fairness, but also the safety of permitting transgender athletes to compete in the category of their lived gender at the EKC.

The motion from the Swedish Kendo Federation states that *“Transwomen who are on testosterone-suppressing therapy for at least 12 months typically do not show any physical advantages over cis-women (women assigned female at birth) in scientific studies (e.g. Sieczkowska et al, 2026)”*. This meta-analysis reviewed 50 studies and concluded that *“While transgender women exhibited higher lean mass than cisgender women, their physical fitness was comparable. Current evidence is mostly low certainty and has heterogeneous quality but does not support theories of inherent athletic advantages for transgender women over cisgender.”*⁹

This study, however, acknowledges that its conclusions are low certainty, and furthermore, **looks at untrained individuals not athletes**, a population with very different fitness and strength measures. There are also many other studies which conclude that the strength advantage of trans women is retained over a long period even with gender affirming hormone therapy.

⁵ Pocecco E, Ruedl G, Stankovic N, Sterkowicz S, Del Vecchio FB, Gutiérrez-García C, Rousseau R, Wolf M, Kopp M, Miarka B, Menz V, Krüsmann P, Calmet M, Malliaropoulos N, Burtscher M. Injuries in judo: a systematic literature review including suggestions for prevention. Br J Sports Med. 2013 Dec;47(18):1139-43. doi: 10.1136/bjsports-2013-092886. PMID: 24255909.

⁶ Ekstrand J, Häggglund M, Waldén M. Injury incidence and injury patterns in professional football: the UEFA injury study. Br J Sports Med. 2011 Jun;45(7):553-8. doi: 10.1136/bjsm.2009.060582. Epub 2009 Jun 23. PMID: 19553225.

⁷ Zazryn, T.R., Cameron, P., & McCrory, P. (2006). A prospective cohort study of injury in amateur and professional boxing. British Journal of Sports Medicine, 40, 670 - 674.

⁸ Fahr J, Kraff O, Deuschl C, Dodel R. Concussion in Female Athletes of Contact Sports: A Scoping Review. Orthop J Sports Med. 2024 Oct 16;12(10):23259671241276447. doi: 10.1177/23259671241276447. PMID: 39421039; PMCID: PMC11483826.

⁹ Mendes Sieczkowska S, Caruso Mazzolani B, Reis Coimbra D, et al: Body composition and physical fitness in transgender versus cisgender individuals: a systematic review with meta-analysis; British Journal of Sports Medicine 2026;60:198-210.



For example, a 2021 study “Transgender Women in the Female Category of Sport: Perspectives on Testosterone Suppression and Performance Advantage”¹⁰ found that *“current evidence shows the biological advantage, most notably in terms of muscle mass and strength, conferred by male puberty and thus enjoyed by most transgender women is only minimally reduced when testosterone is suppressed as per current sporting guidelines for transgender athletes.”* They further state that “The performance gap is more pronounced in sporting activities relying on muscle mass and explosive strength”.

Another study from 2020 “Muscle Strength, Size, and Composition Following 12 Months of Gender-affirming Treatment in Transgender Individuals”¹¹ found that muscle volume increased in trans men by a larger amount than the decrease seen in trans women: *“Thigh muscle volume increased (15%) in TM, which was paralleled by increased quadriceps cross-sectional area (CSA) (15%) and radiological density (6%). In TW, the corresponding parameters decreased by –5% (muscle volume) and –4% (CSA), while density remained unaltered. The TM increased strength over the assessment period, while the TW generally maintained their strength levels.”*

The authors concluded that *“One year of gender-affirming treatment resulted in robust increases in muscle mass and strength in TM, but modest changes in TW.”*

A 2022 study “Transwoman Elite Athletes: Their Extra Percentage Relative to Female Physiology”¹² states that *“Many anatomical sex differences driven by testosterone are not reversible”* and concludes that *“estrogen therapy will not reverse most athletic performance parameters; it follows that transgender women will enter the female division with an inherent advantage because of their prior male physiology”*.

The 2023 “Transgender competition in combat sports: Position statement of the Association of ringside physicians” concluded that *“These differences – both anatomic and physiologic – persist despite normalization of sex hormone levels and create disparities in competitive abilities that are not compatible with the spirit of fair competition. More importantly, allowing transgender athletes to compete against cisgender athletes in combat sports, which already involve significant risk of serious injury, unnecessarily raises the risk of injury due to these differences.”*

¹⁰ Hilton, E.N., Lundberg, T.R. Transgender Women in the Female Category of Sport: Perspectives on Testosterone Suppression and Performance Advantage. Sports Med 51, 199–214 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40279-020-01389-3>

¹¹ Wiik A, Lundberg TR, Rullman E, Andersson DP, Holmberg M, Mandić M, Brismar TB, Dahlqvist Leinhard O, Chanpen S, Flanagan JN, Arver S, Gustafsson T. Muscle Strength, Size, and Composition Following 12 Months of Gender-affirming Treatment in Transgender Individuals. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2020 Mar 1;105(3):dgz247. doi: 10.1210/clinem/dgz247. PMID: 31794605.

¹² Heather AK. Transwoman Elite Athletes: Their Extra Percentage Relative to Female Physiology. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2022 Jul 26;19(15):9103. doi: 10.3390/ijerph19159103. PMID: 35897465; PMCID: PMC9331831.



A 2025 study “Longitudinal Performance Changes in Transgender Women Athletes Pre and Post Gender Affirming Hormone Therapy”¹³ looking at race times among Trans Women runners and swimmers, found that while overall race times increased after gender-affirming hormone therapy, greater decreases in performance were observed in longer versus shorter events (endurance races as opposed to sprints). They concluded that *“the performance effects of GAHT in TW athletes may depend in part on the physiological demands of a given event and exercise training volume.”*

The 2025 study “Transgender women and competitive sports: Considerations from Endocrinology”¹⁴ concluded that *“At least 2 years of postpubertal GAHT are necessary to achieve a significant reduction in the effects of male hormones on various physiological parameters. The scientific evidence regarding the impact of GAHT on physical performance is insufficient. Long-term studies are needed, incorporating new biomarkers and morphofunctional parameters, to allow for comparisons of athletic performance across different disciplines between TW and CW.”*

A 2021 study “Effect of gender affirming hormones on athletic performance in transwomen and transmen: implications for sporting organisations and legislators”¹⁵ found that *“Among transwomen, competitive advantages from the effects of prior testosterone exposure continued beyond the 12 month standard currently proposed for inclusion in women’s elite competition.”*

Another 2021 study “How does hormone transition in transgender women change body composition, muscle strength and haemoglobin? Systematic review with a focus on the implications for sport participation”¹⁶ concludes that *“In transwomen, hormone therapy rapidly reduces Hgb to levels seen in cisgender women. In contrast, hormone therapy decreases strength, LBM and muscle area, yet values remain above that observed in cisgender women, even after 36 months. These findings suggest that strength may be well preserved in transwomen during the first 3 years of hormone therapy.”*

¹³ Harper J, Blagrove RC, Hunsicker E, Witcomb GL, Ferguson RA, O'Donnell E. Longitudinal Performance Changes in Transgender Women Athletes Pre and Post Gender Affirming Hormone Therapy. Eur J Sport Sci. 2025 Sep;25(9):e70036. doi: 10.1002/ejsc.70036. PMID: 40804607; PMCID: PMC12350078.

¹⁴ Cuadrado Clemente, L., Miguélez González, M., Cabrera García, P., Noval Font, M., Alfaro Gandarillas, É., Gómez Balaguer, M., & Palacios Gil de Antuñano, N. (2025). Transgender women and competitive sports: Considerations from Endocrinology. Endocrinología, Diabetes y Nutrición (English Ed.), 72(4), Article 101539. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.endien.2025.101539>

¹⁵ Roberts TA, Smalley J, Ahrendt D: Effect of gender affirming hormones on athletic performance in transwomen and transmen: implications for sporting organisations and legislators. British Journal of Sports Medicine 2021;55:577-583.

¹⁶ Harper J, O'Donnell E, Sorouri Khorashad B, et al: How does hormone transition in transgender women change body composition, muscle strength and haemoglobin? Systematic review with a focus on the implications for sport participation, British Journal of Sports Medicine 2021;55:865-872.



The UK's Sports Councils Guidance for Transgender Inclusion in Domestic Sport¹⁷, carried out a review of existing scientific evidence¹⁸. They state that ***“This Guidance concludes that for many sports, the inclusion of transgender people, fairness and safety cannot co-exist in a single competitive model.”***

The guidance further concludes that ***“Based on current evidence, testosterone suppression is unlikely to guarantee fairness between transgender women and natal females in gender-affected sports”*** and that there are *“retained differences in strength, stamina and physique between the average woman compared with the average transgender woman or non-binary person registered male at birth”*.

They also point out that *“Categorisation by sex is lawful, and hence the requirement to request information relating to birth sex is appropriate.”*

¹⁷ Sport Councils Equality Group. (2021). Guidance for transgender inclusion in domestic sport. UK Sport / Sport England / Home Country Sports Councils
<https://movingtoinclusion.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Guidance-For-Transgender-Inclusion-In-Domestic-Sport-2021.pdf>

¹⁸ Sport Councils Equality Group. (2020). International research literature review: SCEG project for review and redraft of guidance for transgender inclusion in domestic sport. UK Sport / UK Sports Councils.
<https://movingtoinclusion.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Transgender-International-Research-Literature-Review-2021.pdf>