

BVF CONSTITUTION

As amended at the AGM, 1 March 2013

1. The Association shall be known as British Veterans Fencing.
2. British Veterans Fencing shall be concerned with veteran fencing in the area known for representational purposes as Great Britain, comprising the United Kingdom and Crown Dependencies in the British Isles.
3. As an Associated Body of the British Fencing Association Ltd. ('British Fencing') the Association remains an independent organisation able to conduct its own affairs with the exception of those which are the responsibility of British Fencing as the governing body for the sport of fencing in Great Britain. The Association will keep British Fencing informed of its policies and any changes to such policies relating to:
 - a) the organisation of national events run in the name of the Association;
 - b) the process of selection of Association teams and individuals to represent Great Britain;
4. The objects of British Veterans Fencing shall be:
 - a) to publicise and promote fencing within the Veteran age groups;
 - b) to organise National closed competitions and such open competitions as the Association shall determine;
 - c) to encourage and support other competitions to include veteran events;
 - d) to ensure proper administration and use of funds and the submission of accounts annually to the AGM;
 - e) to arrange, organise and select members for any GB Veterans matches;
 - f) to keep proper administrative records including minutes of Committee and General meetings;
 - g) to undertake such other duties as British Fencing may request.
5. Any person 40 years of age or over in the current membership year which starts on January 1st who is interested in fencing, shall, subject to the discretion of the Committee, be admitted as a member of BVF upon paying the appropriate subscription.

Amateurs and professionals are equally eligible to be members, though BVF recognises that the rules of certain competitions in which BVF takes part may preclude the participation of professionals. Membership may be terminated by a decision of the Committee when a member's behaviour is considered to have brought the Association or the sport of fencing into disrepute or is manifestly against the spirit of the Association.
6. Only members of the Association may enter the Association's National Championships.
7. Committee members at the time of their election must be members of BVF. The Committee shall consist of:
 - a) the Officers, being Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Treasurer, Domestic Fencing Officer, International Fencing Officer and Membership Secretary;
 - b) up to three elected members;
 - c) the Life President of the Association who, once elected by a General Meeting, will serve as a voting member of the Committee for as long as he/she wishes without the requirement for re-election.

8. The Committee shall have the power to combine any of these offices except the office of Chairman, if circumstances dictate this. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt individuals onto the Committee on a temporary basis, and to fill vacancies which arise between one AGM and another.
9. The Committee shall have the power to nominate Vice-Presidents, who must be members of BVF. Such persons shall, if elected, be entitled to attend but will not be entitled to vote.
10. The Committee shall meet not less than three times in each financial year. No meeting of the Committee can take a decision unless a quorum of four voting members is present. In the absence of the Chairman of the Association a chairman will be chosen from those voting members present. Each voting member of the Committee shall be entitled to exercise one vote on any matter. On equality of votes the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
11. An Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be convened each year. Twenty-one days' written notice of such a meeting shall be given to all members of the Association by the Honorary Secretary. With this notice and an agenda for the meeting the Honorary Secretary will circulate the Annual Report and an examined copy of the accounts for the previous financial year. The Committee will appoint the examiner, who may not be a member of the current Committee.
12. No Annual General Meeting can take a decision unless a quorum of ten members is present.
13. Officers, Vice-Presidents and members of the Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. They shall serve for one year and be eligible for re-election.
14. A quorum of the Committee, or not less than ten individual members, shall be entitled to call an Extraordinary General Meeting to discuss and vote upon any matter. A written agenda shall be circulated by the Honorary Secretary no less than twenty-one days before such a meeting is to be convened. No business other than that on the agenda will be discussed at an Extraordinary General Meeting. No Extraordinary General Meeting can take a decision unless a quorum of ten members is present.
15. The Association shall hold a Bank and/or Building Society or appropriate Account which will be administered by the Treasurer. Payments out of the Account will be sanctioned by two signatures from among the following members of the Committee who are authorised to do so:
 - a) Chairman
 - b) Honorary Secretary
 - c) Treasurer
16. The Association's financial year will run from 1st January to 31st December.
17. The Committee shall have the power to offer financial assistance to any individual or team representing the Association in a competition, or to a cause which it considers would be of benefit to the Association.
18. All property, financial and other assets of the Association shall be vested in the Committee who shall acquire or dispose of it in the best interests of the Association's members.

19. No alteration(s) or addition(s) may be made to the Constitution except at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association. Such alteration(s) or addition(s) must be approved by two thirds of the members present and voting. Notice of such alteration(s) or addition(s) must be made in writing and received by the Honorary Secretary at least twenty-eight days before the meeting at which the resolution is to be brought forward. At least twenty-one days' notice of such a meeting must be given by the Honorary Secretary to all voting members and must include notice of the alteration(s) or addition(s) proposed.
20. Dissolution of the Association
- a) If at any General Meeting of the Association a resolution be passed calling for the dissolution of the Association the Secretary shall immediately convene a Special Meeting of the Association to be held not less than 28 days thereafter to discuss and vote on the resolution.
 - b) If at this Special Meeting the resolution is approved by at least two thirds of the full members present at the meeting the General Meeting shall thereupon or at such date as has been specified in the resolution proceed to release the assets of the Association and discharge all debts and liabilities of the Association.
 - c) After discharging all the debts and liabilities of the Association the remaining assets shall not be paid out or distributed amongst the full members of the Association but shall be given or transferred to the British Fencing Association.

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