



European Fencing Confederation Confédération Européenne d'Esgrime

EFC Referees Commission

President of the Commission: Vilem Madr (CZE), author

Members of the Commission:

1. Reka Balogh (ROU)
2. Martina Ganassin (ITA)
3. Ilgin Gucluer Surekcigil (TUR)
4. Denis Ostrovski (EST)
5. Vasil Milenchev (BUL)
6. Mikhail Paghiev (MDA)

Date of meetings (since last report):

1. 12.03.2025 (on-line)
2. 18.03.2025 (with working group)
3. 03.06.2025 (on-line)
4. 28.06.2025 (physical in Istanbul)
5. 17.10.2025 (on-line)
6. 10.12.2025 (on-line)
7. 13.01.2026 (on-line)
8. 10.03.2026 (on-line)

Objectives:

1. New C licensed referees during the season 2025/2026
 - a. 14 new foil referees
 - b. 28 new epee referees
 - c. 10 new sabre referees
2. On European Championships there were 10 referees promoted (first experience on championships)
3. Level of refereeing
 - a. The referees were evaluated during all season (ECC U17 and all European Championships)
 - b. Two complaints have been submitted to the commission during the season
4. New EFC masterlist referees education planned has been released
 - a. Soft skills seminar (27.01.2026)
 - b. Rules seminar (11.02.2026)
5. EFC Referees award
 - a. First edition of EFC Best referees award has been released



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Description of activities (since last report):

Delegates nominated to the ECC U17 continued with competition observation and supported referees throughout all events. These observations resulted in a total of 52 C licensed referees across all weapons during the season. The EFC Referee Commission updated the rules for obtaining the EFC C license with the license granted upon successful evaluation.

New talent scouting continues, with 10 referees nominated for their first European Championships. Achieving gender equality during nominations remains a significant challenge; however, more balanced gender criteria for masterlist nominations are currently being discussed for the next season.

During the past season, the Referee Commission launched a new seminar format ahead of the European Championships. This format allowed for a unified information for all referees on the EFC Masterlist. A new „soft skills” seminar, including a safeguarding part, was also introduced (cooperation with Safeguarding Commission). We recorded positive feedback and high satisfaction ratings from respondents in a survey conducted during the subsequent European Championships. Also regular voluntary seminars were held in preparation for FIE exams.

The "EFC Best Referees Award" based on evaluation of referees during championships was introduced for the first time with names and trophies and was met with a very positive response. It has been shown that such recognition is highly desirable and motivates referees toward further professional development. These awards will continue in the same format at the end of the upcoming season.

In the next period, we must continue to focus on educational development, talent scouting, and motivation. It is essential to improve cooperation between athletes, coaches, and national federations.