



## **EEF: Introduction of a new membership fee structure and a weighted voting system – proposal by the EEF Board**

### **Membership fees**

#### Introduction

Currently the EEF membership fee is set at 500€ for all member NFs, no matter what their level of activity is. In the early years after the EEF had been founded, several NFs supported the EEF with a voluntary contribution of 5.000€ per year each. However, the EEF Board and member NFs felt that voluntary contribution is not a sustainable system for a growing organisation.

And the EEF is a growing organisation that accepts responsibility, manages sports programmes (such as the Longines EEF Series), contributes to the development of the sport, communicates actively in more and more areas and more globally strengthens support to its member NFs and their stakeholders. On the medium and long term this is only possible with growing income to fund all such activities. Membership fees are by far not the only source of income for the EEF but they need to play a more significant role in future to establish a sustainable EEF budget.

Therefore the EEF Strategic Planning Working Group and subsequently the EEF Board studied different options of membership fee structures and created a proposal for the future membership fee system of the EEF.

#### Proposal

The EEF Board proposes to establish six levels of membership fees based on the number of FEI registered athletes in member NFs. The “base amount” of membership fee shall be € 750,-. Depending on the number of FEI athletes in a respective member NF a coefficient going from 1 to 10 will be used to multiply with the base amount of € 750,-. The result will define the future membership fee of each NF :

Coefficients applicable	membership fee
0 to 74 athletes : 1	€ 750,-
75 to 149 athletes : 1,5	€ 1.125,-
150 to 299 athletes : 3	€ 2.250,-
300 to 599 athletes : 6	€ 4.500,-
600 to 1199 athletes: 8	€ 6.000,-
1200 athletes & more : 10	€ 7.500,-

The membership fees will be established based on the previous Olympic/Paralympic cycle (i.e. the years 2017-2020) to provide an evolutive system which remains practical to understand and apply. The arithmetic mean of these years will establish the membership fee of a NF for the current Olympic/Paralympic cycle, i.e. 2021-2024. Of course, if approved by the GA, the membership fee will not be applied retrospectively but only for the future, i.e. the years 2023 and 2024.

In early 2025 a new calculation for the membership fees during the next Olympic/Paralympic cycle (2025-2028) will take place, taking into account the data of the years 2020-2024. This new grouping of membership fees takes into account the level of activity in member NFs. It will contribute significantly



to the income of EEF if voted for and will help to take on all the different responsibilities that the EEF is expected (and wants) to accept in future.

Please see the details of this “EEF membership fees” in an attached file. The EEF Board proposes that associate members pay the base amount membership fee of € 750.-.

## **Voting system**

### Introduction

FEI and EEF follow the principle of “one country – one vote”. This has been challenged at several occasions and there has been ongoing debate about the introduction of a different voting system in FEI and EEF.

Whereas one can argue that one vote per member of an International or Continental Federation is (similar to the United Nations) a fair approach there are numerous agents of change towards a system that takes into consideration the level of activity in such member countries (similar to a significant number of International Sports Federations).

Generally speaking, active participation and contribution into a certain field of activities is considered as the best way in obtaining important information and knowledge in this area and in strengthening its individual and collective capacities when it comes to contribute to decision making process.

Consequently the EEF Strategic Planning Working Group engaged in this question as well when drafting the EEF Strategic Plan 2022-2026.

Ultimately the EEF Strategic Plan 2022-2026, approved at the EEF General Assembly in 2021, states that EEF is to “*Introduce a weighted voting system in the EEF which takes into account the level of sports activity when providing votes on sport specific matters*” (page 14). This is a subject on the “EEF pathway & key milestones” for the year 2022 (page 22). The EEF SPWG dealt with this task in 2022, studied the system in other IFs to gain a broader knowledge of the options at hand and worked on different potential models comparing the effects of such models in EEF – and potentially also in FEI because an EEF voting system is widely considered as a possible role model for a future FEI voting system.

The EEF SPWG and EEF Board believe in the following transparent system based on a combination of key, reliable and fairly layered criteria to help EEF GA to strengthen its capacities on sport matter decision making process.

### Proposal

Based on a draft proposal of the EEF Strategic Planning Working Group the EEF Board recommends to establish a new structure with votes in four different categories. This new voting system would apply to sports specific matters only (e.g. not elections, statutory changes, finances).

- Every EEF member NF has one “general membership” vote.
- All EEF member NFs are structured into three groups according to the number of their athletes registered in the FEI database. There shall be 1 vote for the group with the smallest number of FEI registered athletes (>0-99), 2 votes for the second group (100-999) and 3 votes for the group with the highest number of athletes (1.000 and more).



- All EEF member NFs are structured into three groups according to the number of international FEI events organized in their country. There shall be 1 vote for the group with the smallest number of FEI events (>0-99), 2 votes for the second group (100-199) and 3 votes for the group with the highest number of international events (200 and more).
- Every EEF member NF that participated in Olympic or Paralympic Games during the three recent Games has one “Olympic/Paralympic participation” vote

This results in a theoretical total range of votes per NF between one and eight, depending on the level of activity in the respective country. Within the current scope of the Olympic cycle 2017-2020 member NFs have between two and eight votes.

The voting rights will be established based on the previous Olympic/Paralympic cycle (i.e. the years 2017-2020) to provide an evolutive system which remains practical to understand and apply. The arithmetic mean of these years will establish the number of votes of a NF for the current Olympic/Paralympic cycle, i.e. 2021-2024. Of course, if approved by the GA, the voting rights will not be applied retrospectively but only for the future, i.e. the years 2023 and 2024.

In early 2025 a new calculation for the voting rights during the next Olympic/Paralympic cycle (2025-2028) will take place, taking into account the data of the years 2020-2024.

Please see the details of this voting system in an attached file.

Soenke Lauterbach

Warendorf, 12.08.2022