

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Last Updated: April 2026

Author: Georgina Usher, Pat Aiyenuro

Last Approved by Board: 25th June 2026

1. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

1.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of the International Relations Committee (IRC) is to lead on the international relations strategy of BF, in line with BF objectives, in order to achieve maximum influence within the World (the FIE) and European (the EFC) Federations.

1.2 MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

- To advise the Board on international relations strategy and policy
- To brief the Board on any international relations issues arising from the FIE, the EFC and other relevant international bodies
- After consultation with the Rules committee and the International Relations Group, to make decisions on all proposals tabled for FIE and EFC congresses.
- To make nominations for FIE and EFC positions on Executive Committees, Commissions, Councils and Panels (or any FIE/EFC position which may arise from time to time) for approval by the Nominations Committee (NomCom) and the Board
- To advise the Board on successful candidates for FIE and EFC positions
- To make succession planning arrangements, and to advise the Board as/when appropriate
- To manage the IR budget in accordance with any current UK Sport requirements and our IR Strategy
- To advise the Board of any major IR issues
- To work with UKS, consulting on BF's IR strategy, and keeping UKS informed of any major IR issues

1.3 COMPOSITION

Members

- The BF President, who is also the Chair, who has a casting vote

IRC & IRG TERMS OF REFERENCE

- The CEO
- A third representative, nominated and agreed by the President and CEO, who will have a strong international background and good IR knowledge and skills – ideally (but not necessarily) a current or previous BF Board Director
- Any BF representative on EFC or FIE Executive Committees (if not already covered in the membership above)

Guests (non-voting)

- The BF Chair, who is invited to attend meetings where appropriate, and is consulted on all major IR strategy decisions.
- The UKS IR Advisor, who is invited to attend meetings where appropriate, and is consulted on all major IR strategy decisions.

1.4 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- The Chair reports to the Board.
- The Chair will present an annual report to the Board, usually a verbal report at the BF Board meeting following the annual FIE Congress, plus ad hoc updates to the BF Chair where appropriate.
- A written report is included in the BF Annual Report.
- An annual report for the members is included in the Sword.
- Reports and documents related to the IR Investment Strategy are forwarded to our UKS IR Advisor.

2. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS GROUP

Any meetings of the larger International Relations Group (IRG) are chaired by the President, who has a casting vote. The group comprises:

- All members of the IRC
- All BF post-holders on FIE and EFC Commissions and Councils

All IRG members will be invited to attend an annual meeting prior to the FIE Congress, held in conjunction with a meeting of the BF Rules Committee.

In addition, FIE or EFC post-holders, as appropriate, who are attending the annual FIE or EFC Congress will normally meet for a briefing at the commencement of the Congress.

*British Fencing, 1 Baron's Gate, 33 Rothschild Road, London W4 5HT
A company limited by guarantee no 1917099.
Registered in England & Wales. VAT registration 226658348*