



CONSTITUTION

1. Name of the Association

The Association shall be known as British Veteran Fencing (BVF).

2. Aims and Objectives

- a. British Veteran Fencing shall be concerned with veteran fencing in the area (the BVF Area) for which British Fencing Ltd (BF) is the governing body of the sport of fencing in the British Isles (but excluding the Republic of Ireland) and its Crown Dependencies.
- b. BVF is an Associated Body of British Fencing Ltd (BF).
- c. The objectives of BVF shall be:
 - i. to publicise and promote fencing within the veteran age groups;
 - ii. to organize such selection competitions, open competitions and matches as BVF shall determine;
 - iii. to select members to represent GB at fencing events as required.
 - iv. to encourage and support the Home Nations to provide other national and regional events to ensure the inclusion of veteran competitions;
 - v. to promote good relationships with BF as the National Governing Body for fencing;

3. Membership

- a. Any person of the age as defined in the Rules & Regulations, shall, subject to the discretion of the Committee, be admitted as a member of BVF upon paying the appropriate subscription regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion and other protected characteristics and beliefs. Any rejection of an application for membership will be subject to an independent appeal process.
- b. All competing BVF members are subject to the BF Code of Conduct and its Disciplinary Code as published. However the Committee also reserve the right to impose sanctions under its own Disciplinary Code where it feels this action is appropriate. Any person who is suspended from membership of BF under the BF Disciplinary Code shall be suspended from membership of BVF.

4. Meetings

All meetings referenced in the Constitution may be physical or virtual at the discretion of the committee.

The term 'present' means any participant at either virtual or physical meeting.

5. The Committee

- a.** The affairs of BVF shall be conducted, according to the organisation's Rules & Regulations, by a Committee who must be members of BVF at the time of their election and during their term of office.
- b.** The Committee shall consist of: three Officers comprising a President, a Secretary and a Treasurer, plus six other members whose portfolios will be assigned by the President in consultation with the Committee at the first meeting following the AGM. The Committee has the power to combine any of these portfolios except President.
- c.** Committee members have one vote each with the President/acting President holding a deliberative as well as a casting vote.
- d.** Terms of Office.
Each member of the Committee will stand for a three year term. One of the Officers and two other Committee members will stand for election each year in rotation, and can be re-elected without a time bar. For those elected their term of office will start and finish at the AGM. If a vacancy arises the committee shall have the power to appoint a replacement. In the event of the committee having appointed a member to replace an elected member, this post will be up for re-election at a subsequent AGM, with the term of office being consistent with the term of the member who has been replaced. The replacement member has the same voting rights as the replaced member.
- e.** The Committee has the power to co-opt members to carry out specific skilled tasks up to the following AGM. Co-opted members do not have a vote.
- f.** The Committee has the power to appoint a non-voting Vice President whose sole responsibility is to take the Chair and arbitrate on Committee issues if the committee ceases to function, or to call an EGM, if necessary, to elect a new Committee.
- g.** The Committee shall be responsible for the upkeep and adherence to the Rules & Regulations governing the Association and shall have the power to amend and add to them as necessary.

6. Annual General Meetings (AGMs)

- a.** All BVF members have the right to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting.
- b.** Notice of the meeting will be posted on the website at least 21 days before the meeting and, wherever possible, members will be notified by email. This should include a provisional agenda, relevant documentation and a list of committee posts up for election. For a proposed change to the Constitution notice must be given in accordance with **9.c**.
- c.** Any member wishing to stand for a committee post up for election at the AGM must submit to the BVF secretary the BVF Nomination Form at least 14 days before the AGM. The form must include the names of at least 2 proposers who are members of BVF.
- d.** An Annual General Meeting of BVF shall be convened in each financial year as follows:
 - i.** The AGM should be held within 4 months of the end of the financial year.
 - ii.** Any member who wishes to put a proposal to the AGM should notify the BVF secretary at least 14 days prior to the AGM. The Committee reserve the right to combine, or even, reject proposals in the interest of smooth and timely conduct at the meeting.
 - iii.** A final agenda will be posted on the website at least 7 days prior to the meeting.
- e.** The business of the AGM will be as follows:
 - i.** Approve the minutes of the previous year's AGM.
 - ii.** Receive reports from the President and the Secretary.

- iii. Receive a report from the Treasurer and approve the independently examined Annual Accounts.
 - iv. Conduct elections as required.
 - v. Agree the membership fee for the following year.
 - vi. Consider any proposed changes to the Constitution validly proposed under Clause 9.
 - vii. Deal with any items from members on the agenda.
- f. No AGM can take a decision unless a quorum of twenty five members is present.
 - g. In the absence of the elected President of BVF, an acting President will be appointed by the Committee.
 - h. The President/acting President shall hold a deliberative as well as a casting vote at the AGM.
 - i. A report on the meeting and its decision(s) will be published on the BVF website.

7. Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs)

- a. An EGM shall be called by the Secretary within 10 days of receipt of a written request from the Committee or on the written request of not less than 10 current BVF members. Any such request must set out the business to be discussed at the EGM. For a proposed change to the Constitution notice must be given in accordance with 9.c.
- b. All BVF members have the right to attend and vote at an EGM.
- c. Notice of the meeting, together with relevant documentation, will be posted on the website at least 7 days before the meeting and, wherever possible, members will also be notified by email.
- d. No business other than that set out in the written request for the EGM shall be discussed at an EGM.
- e. No EGM can take a decision unless a quorum of 25 members is present.
- f. In the absence of the elected President of BVF or nominated Committee representative, an acting President will be elected for the EGM by those voting members present from among their number.
- g. The President/acting President shall hold a deliberative as well as a casting vote at the AGM.
- h. A report on the meeting and its decision(s) will be published on the BVF website

8. Finance and Administration

- a. The Financial Year runs from 1 January to 31 December.
- b. All property, financial and other assets of BVF shall be vested in the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer who shall hold it as bare trustees for BVF and shall acquire, manage and dispose of it in the best interests of BVF's members.
- c. The Committee shall ensure proper administration and use of funds and the submission of independently examined accounts annually to the AGM. Examiners of BVF accounts are to be appointed by the BVF Committee but cannot be a member of the BVF Committee.

9. Constitution

- a. No alteration(s) or addition(s) may be made to the Constitution except at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting of BVF.
- b. Such alteration(s) or addition(s) must be approved by at least two thirds of the members voting either for or against.

- c. Notice of such alteration(s) or addition(s) must be made in writing and received by the 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 Secretary to all voting members and must include notice of the alteration(s) or addition(s) proposed.
- d. The BVF Committee has the right to interpret the Constitution and to settle any questions not provided for therein.

10. Dissolution of BVF

- a. If at a BVF AGM or EGM, a resolution be passed calling for the dissolution of BVF, the Secretary shall immediately convene an EGM to be held not less than 10 days thereafter to discuss and vote on the resolution.
- b. If the resolution is approved by at least two thirds of BVF members present at the EGM, the BVF Committee shall thereupon or at such date as has been specified in the resolution proceed to realise the assets and discharge all debts and liabilities of BVF.
- c. On dissolution of BVF or merger of BVF with another organisation, after discharging all the debts and liabilities of BVF, the remaining assets shall not necessarily be paid out or distributed amongst the members of BVF, but the remaining funds will be placed in Trust, or a similar legal arrangement, the purpose of which will be to support veterans fencing activities. Trustees will be appointed by BVF, and the exact rules of the Trust developed, at the relevant time. A limited distribution may also be considered to BF and/or the Home Nations for specific use in veterans fencing.

Signed by:

President of BVF Committee:

Carl Morris

Date: 20 April 2024

Secretary of BVF Committee:

Lucy Wright

Date: 20 April 2024