

Session 3: Athlete Services and Registration Fees

FEI Technology and Sport Services (TSS) Director Gaspard Dufour, provided an overview of the FEI's Athlete Services, which support athletes both directly and indirectly.

- Direct Services include resources that athletes can interact with directly, such as competition support, promotion, regulatory guidance, biosecurity measures, FEI Solidarity initiatives, legal assistance, anti-doping efforts, and performance development.
- Indirect Services benefit athletes by enhancing the overall quality, standards, and regulation of the sport.

The FEI TSS Director underscored the substantial growth of Direct Services for athletes, which have evolved from their inception in 2009 to encompass 52 distinct services by 2025.

He also showcased the development of 36 FEI Online Solutions and Platforms introduced between 2006 and 2024, which have been instrumental in delivering these services effectively.

FEI President Ingmar De Vos then took the floor to provide an overview of the financial and operational challenges of maintaining essential services, part of them being mandated by external organisations such as the IOC. He emphasised the need for long-term planning on how to fund these services to ensure the continued relevance of the sport.

Currently, these services are funded by the annual athlete registration fee, supplemented by FEI operational revenues. However, the FEI's investment in technology services has grown significantly, with approximately CHF 3 million allocated to both new services and the maintenance of existing ones.

However, the annual athlete fee of CHF 10, which has remained unchanged since 2005, generates only around CHF 400,000 in revenue, which is insufficient to keep up with the rising costs of technology investments. This has contributed to a substantial deficit of approximately CHF 4 million over the past three years.

To address the unsustainable deficit, an increase in the athlete registration fee to CHF 110 was proposed. Recognising the financial impact on National Federations (NFs), however, the FEI recommended a more gradual adjustment to CHF 55 as of 1 January 2025. Given that many NFs have already finalised their budgets for next year, it was decided, on the request of some NFs, that the increase would be postponed by an additional year to allow time for a smoother transition, starting as of 1 January 2026.

As a result, the Financial Charges for the year 2025 were modified and the updated version dated 12 November 2025 is available [here](#). The revised budget for 2025 has been published [here](#).

During the discussion, the IJRC President suggested setting a fixed five-year period to maintain the athlete registration fee at the same level, which the FEI President agreed to take up with the FEI Board. However, the German delegate advised that large, infrequent fee increases could be more challenging to absorb than smaller, gradual adjustments.

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The Japanese delegate proposed invoicing individual athletes directly instead of through the NFs, but it was noted that this is going against the principle of National Federations sovereignty and would create significant administrative challenges, as NFs would be unable to monitor registered athletes effectively.

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