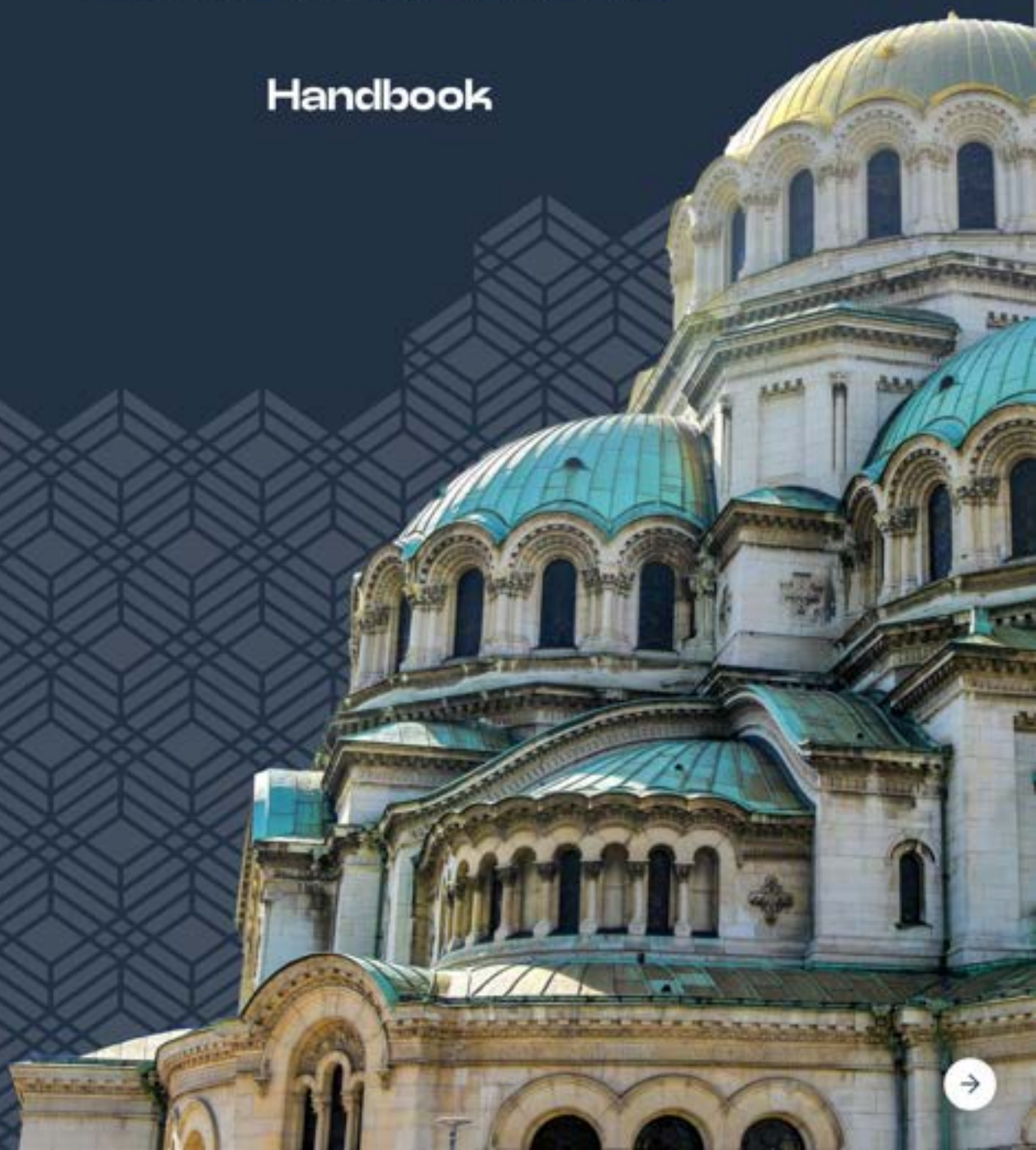




EUROPEAN BOXING
ELITE CHAMPIONSHIPS
SOFIA 2026
BULGARIA

Handbook





EUROPEAN BOXING

Dear boxers, coaches, officials and boxing leaders across Europe,

On behalf of the European Boxing Executive Board, it is my great pleasure and honor to welcome you all to **the first European Boxing Elite Championships** for women and men taking place in Sofia, Bulgaria.

This historic event marks a significant milestone for European Boxing. As our first European Boxing Elite Championships under the banner of European Boxing and within the World Boxing family, it represents a new chapter for our sport—one built on unity, excellence, integrity, and the shared commitment to the future of Olympic boxing.

First and foremost, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the **Bulgarian Boxing Federation**, its President Mr. Krasimir Ininski and Executive Board, the Local Organizing Committee, and the City of Sofia for their outstanding commitment, warm hospitality, and tireless efforts in bringing this prestigious championship to life.

The Bulgarian Boxing Federation has a proud tradition of organizing world-class boxing events and has consistently demonstrated its dedication to the development of our sport. We are confident that this inaugural European Boxing Elite Championships is in the very best hands and will set new standards for future editions.

To all athletes, coaches, referees and judges, officials, volunteers, and National Federation representatives: thank you for your dedication, professionalism, and passion. Your hard work

and commitment have brought you to this championship, where Europe's finest boxers will compete at the highest level.

These championships are about much more than medals. They celebrate the strength and unity of European Boxing, provide an opportunity for the continent's elite athletes to showcase their talent, and reinforce our common vision of building a stronger future for Olympic boxing under World Boxing.

**"Together, we're
shaping the future
of European Boxing."**

May this championship be filled with outstanding performances, fair play, mutual respect, unforgettable contests, and lasting friendships. Let us celebrate the values of our sport and continue working together for the benefit of boxing across Europe.

I wish every participant the very best of success and look forward to an exceptional championship in Sofia.

Welcome to the first European Boxing Elite Championships 2026 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Yours in boxing,

Lars Brovil





It is our great pleasure and honor to welcome you to the Inaugural **European Boxing Elite Championships**, to be held from **15 to 26 September 2026 in Sofia, Bulgaria**.

The Bulgarian Boxing Federation is deeply honored to host this historic championship under the auspices of European Boxing. As the host federation, we are proud to welcome Europe's finest elite boxers, coaches, officials, and delegations to Sofia for this landmark event, which marks the beginning of a new era for our sport.

**"Celebrate
excellence,
sportsmanship,
and unity."**

Our entire organizing team is committed to delivering a championship that meets the highest international standards, providing outstanding competition conditions, excellent hospitality, and an unforgettable experience for all participants and guests.

The European Boxing Elite Championships will celebrate excellence, sportsmanship, and unity while further strengthening the development of boxing across Europe. We are confident that Sofia, with its rich sporting tradition and warm hospitality, will provide the perfect setting for this prestigious occasion.

We look forward to welcoming you to Sofia, Bulgaria, and to making the Inaugural European Boxing Elite Championships a memorable success for the entire European boxing family.

With kind regards,

Krasimir Ininski
President Bulgarian Boxing Federation

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About The Event



ORGANIZATION & RULES

Host National Federation

The Host National Federation of the European Boxing Elite Championships 2026 is **the Bulgarian Boxing Federation**, affiliated with World Boxing and European Boxing, and is responsible for organizing the event.

Name	Bulgarian Boxing Federation
Address	Sofia 1040, 75 Vassil Levski Blvd.
Phone	+359 2 9300 596
Email	infobgboxing@gmail.com
Website	www.bgboxing.org

Local Organizing Committee (LOC) & Key Event Contacts

LOC address	Sofia 1040, 75 Vassil Levski Blvd.
LOC phone	+359 2 9300 596
LOC email	infobgboxing@gmail.com
Competition and sports	sports@europeanboxing.org
Entries for teams	sports@europeanboxing.org
Accreditation	sports@europeanboxing.org
Visa and entry to the host country	elitesofia2026@gmail.com
Accommodation	elitesofia2026@gmail.com
Ground transportation	elitesofia2026@gmail.com
Medical services	elitesofia2026@gmail.com
Training venue	elitesofia2026@gmail.com
Press & media	mediabgboxing@gmail.com

Competition Rules & Format

This event will be conducted in accordance with the World Boxing Competition Rules.

Event category	European Boxing Elite Championships 2026
Age category	Elite, born from 1 January 1986 to 31 December 2007
Men's weight categories	M50kg; M55kg; M60kg; M65kg; M70kg; M75kg; M80Kg; M85Kg; M90kg; M90+Kg
Women's weight categories	W48kg; W51kg; W54kg; W57kg; W60kg; W65kg; W70kg; W75kg; W80kg; W80+kg
Entries acceptance criteria	The European Boxing Elite Championships is an open-entry competition to all NF's affiliated to European Boxing. NF's will be allowed to register one (1) primary boxer and one (1) reserve boxer per weight category.
Ranking points	World Boxing Ranking Points Per Competition Rules Article 1.10.11. ➤ 1 st Place - 800 points ➤ 2 nd Place - 500 points ➤ 3 rd Place - 300 points ➤ 4 th Place - 300 points ➤ 5 th Place - 150 points ➤ 6 th Place - 150 points ➤ 7 th Place - 150 points ➤ 8 th Place - 150 points
Number of rings	Two rings will be required for the Preliminary rounds, and the event will transition to one ring for Semifinals and Finals
Scoring & timing	Xempower
Equipment & hand wrapping	Boxing gloves, headguards, and bandages provided by STING
Technical officials	World Boxing certified
Boxing entries check	Mandatory for inclusion into the draw, appointment set prior to arrival

Team Delegation Members

Each Team Delegation can register the following number of Team Delegation Members, besides boxers:

- ✓ 1 Team Manager
- ✓ 1 Team Doctor
- ✓ 1 Physiotherapist
- ✓ 1 Cut Technician
- ✓ 1 Dietitian / Nutritionist
- ✓ Number of coaches according to the table below:

1 – 3 boxers	Up to 3 coaches
4 – 8 boxers	Up to 6 coaches
9 – 20 boxers	Up to 8 coaches

It is the responsibility of the respective National Delegations to ensure that all Team Delegations Members are qualified to perform their duties.

Competition Officials

These Championships are a continental, World Boxing-sanctioned event and will be officiated by World Boxing-certified technical officials, referees and judges.

The World Boxing-certified technical officials, referees and judges will be appointed by World Boxing.



EVENT SCHEDULE

Event period
15 — 26 September 2026

Competition period
17 — 25 September 2026

Date	Time	Activity	Location	Notes
Tuesday 15 September	All Day	Team Arrivals	Airport Sofia (SOF)	
	14.00 - 19.00	Sport Entries Check	Hotel Moskva	
Wednesday 16 September	9.00 - 12.00	Sport Entries Check	Hotel Moskva	
	18.00	Technical Meeting	Hotel Moskva	
	18.30	Official Draw	Hotel Moskva	
Thursday 17 September	7.00-8.00	Daily weigh-in and medical	Hotel Moskva	
	14.00 - 17.00	Afternoon Session	Asics Arena	Preliminaries
	18.00 - 19.00	Opening Ceremony	Asics Arena	
	19.00 - 21.00	Evening Session	Asics Arena	Preliminaries
Friday 18 September	7.00-8.00	Daily weigh-in and medical	Hotel Moskva	
	14.00-17.00	Afternoon Session	Asics Arena	Preliminaries
	18.00-22.00	Evening Session	Asics Arena	Preliminaries
Saturday 19 September	7.00-8.00	Daily weigh-in and medical	Hotel Moskva	
	14.00-17.00	Afternoon Session	Asics Arena	Preliminaries
	18.00-21.00	Evening Session	Asics Arena	Preliminaries
Sunday 20 September	7.00-8.00	Daily weigh-in and medical	Hotel Moskva	
	14.00-17.00	Afternoon Session	Asics Arena	Preliminaries
	18.00-21.00	Evening Session	Asics Arena	Preliminaries
Monday 21 September	7.00-8.00	Daily weigh-in and medical	Hotel Moskva	
	14.00-17.00	Afternoon Session	Asics Arena	Preliminaries
	18.00-21.00	Evening Session	Asics Arena	Preliminaries
Tuesday 22 September	7.00-8.00	Daily weigh-in and medical	Hotel Moskva	
	14.00-17.00	Afternoon Session	Asics Arena	Quarterfinals
	18.00-21.00	Evening Session	Asics Arena	Quarterfinals
Wednesday 23 September	7.00-8.00	Daily weigh-in and medical	Hotel Moskva	
	14.00-17.00	Afternoon Session	Asics Arena	Quarterfinals, Semifinals
	18.00-21.00	Evening Session	Asics Arena	Quarterfinals, Semifinals
Thursday 24 September	7.00-8.00	Daily weigh-in and medical	Hotel Moskva	
	14.00-17.00	Afternoon Session	Asics Arena	Semifinals
	18.00-21.00	Evening Session	Asics Arena	Semifinals, Finals
Friday 25 September	7.00-8.00	Daily weigh-in and medical	Hotel Moskva	
	17.00-22.00	Evening Session	Asics Arena	Finals
Saturday 26 September	All Day	Departure	Airport Sofia (SOF)	

Please note that all dates and times are subject to change due to operational requirements, sport-specific considerations, or circumstances beyond our control (force majeure).

ENTRY PROCESS

National Federations must confirm the technical and medical standards of the boxers and other Team Members.

Participating National Federations are also responsible for submitting the personal data on behalf of each member of their Team, and for ensuring that the personal information provided during the entry process is accurate.

All entries, including reserve boxers, must be submitted via the World Boxing Xempower Database. Entries submitted by email will not be accepted as valid. The Xempower entry process consists of two stages:

1. Creation and verification of athlete and team official profiles

Once uploaded, European Boxing staff will validate the information and aims to validate new profiles within 72 hours of being uploaded.

2. Registration of verified profiles for the competition

Only athletes and team members approved by the European Boxing in the system will be available for selection in the competition registration. All entries are subject to validation by European Boxing following submission. Detailed instructions for using the Xempower system are provided in the National Federation (NF) Registration Guide. Any teams without a Xempower admin account must request access by email to sports@europeanboxing.org

Registration Process

Step 1

National Federations must:

1. Log in to the World Boxing Xempower Database
2. Register all athletes, coaches, and team officials for the European Boxing Elite Championships 2026
3. Athlete validation will be completed by European Boxing.

Deadline: 10 August 2026 (23:59 CET)

Step 2

Please send the Excel form from the LOC for the accommodation & travel details to the LOC by **10 August 2026**.

Step 3

The LOC will send the invoices for the accommodation to the participating NF.

European Boxing will send the invoices for the registration fee to the participating NF.

Step 4

All outstanding invoices must be paid in full by **20 August 2026**.

Accreditation will only be issued upon full payment of accommodation costs.

Step 5

All arrival and departure details should be submitted to the LOC.

Deadline: 30 August 2026 (23:59 CET)

Registration Fee

The registration fee for the European Boxing Elite Championships Sofia 2026 is € 100 per person.

The registration fee applies to boxers, coaches, team officials, and additional National Federation (NF) officials. The European Boxing Office will issue an invoice for the registration fee, which must be paid prior to the Championships.

Process	Means	Deadline / Contact
Final Entries	Register all athletes, coaches, and team officials on the World Boxing Xempower Database. Reserve Boxers must also be added to the competition section.	10 August 2026 sports@europeanboxing.org
Rooming List	Teams should submit the rooming list to the LOC.	10 August 2026 elitesofia2026@gmail.com
The LOC will send the Invoice for the Accommodation	The LOC will send the invoices to the NF.	12 August 2026 elitesofia2026@gmail.com
European Boxing will send the Invoice for the Registration Fee	European Boxing will send the Invoices for the registration fee to the NF.	11 August 2026
Final Payment	Final payment for all invoices to be made to the LOC and European Boxing.	20 August 2026 elitesofia2026@gmail.com
Arrival and Departure Info to the LOC	All arrival and departure details should be submitted to the LOC.	30 August 2026 elitesofia2026@gmail.com

Sport Entries Check

The Boxing Entries Check is the final part of the event entry process.

Exact appointment times and locations will be communicated to teams in advance and displayed at the event hotel.

The Boxing Entries Check is mandatory for all Teams, and teams should make all necessary arrangements to arrive on time for their respective appointment.

Each team may appoint a maximum of two people to attend its Boxing Entries Check (e.g., Team Manager and the Team Doctor).

In order to be cleared for the competition, teams must provide the following documents for each boxer, signed and completed as required:

- Passport
- Record Book (with annual medical examination completed within the previous 12 months).
- Code of Conduct
- Condition of Participation
- Medical Certificate issued within the previous 3 months, signed by the National Federation doctor.
- Declaration of Non-Pregnancy Form (Women boxers only), signed by the boxer/legal guardian.
- Uniforms (red and blue) per World Boxing Competition Rules.
- Gender Test for Men and Women (Older than 18 years as per the World Boxing Sex Eligibility Policy).

All National Federations are strongly advised to complete the required gender testing in their home country prior to arrival.



VISA & ENTRY TO THE HOST COUNTRY

Visa

Those countries that need entry visas for Bulgaria must send us in a Word document with the following details:

- ▶ Names of participants
- ▶ Birth dates
- ▶ Passport numbers
- ▶ Copies of passport

Not later than 31 July 2026, and contact the Embassy of Bulgaria in their countries in advance or the nearest Consulate of Bulgaria in neighboring countries. The Organizing Committee will provide all necessary facilities for participating countries to enter Bulgaria. To ensure and speed up the visa application process, please remember to fill in the Final entry form carefully and to send it to the Organizing committee in due time. Based on this form, the Organizing committee will issue a formal Visa support letter to facilitate the visa procedure.

Please keep in mind that Bulgaria is already part of the Schengen area, so we cannot expedite the approval process.

International Transportation

The airport of arrival and departure will be Vasil Levski International Airport Sofia (SOF). All delegations, accredited members, and participants will be welcomed by a representative of the LOC.

Deadline to submit arrival and departure information: 30 August 2026 (23:59 GMT)

In case of requiring any kind of assistance at the airport, please contact the LOC at +359 88 4440 610 (Milena Videnova).

Ground Transportation

Local transportation / shuttle service will be provided by the organizers to and from the airports, as well as between Team Hotel(s) and Competition / Training venues according to the final event schedule.

Guidance information and timetables will be displayed on information boards in the lobby of each Team Hotel, at the Venue Info point, and on the official WhatsApp channel.

COMPETITION & TRAINING VENUES

Asics ArenaA

The Asics ArenaA (formerly *Festivalna Hall*) was built in 1968 for the 9th International Festival of Youth and Students and hosted the Summer Universiade in 1977. It remains the only functioning indoor arena in Bulgaria suitable for athletics competitions.

The building is a monolithic concrete structure with a total area of 26,500 square meters — 9,000 square meters of covered space and 17,500 square meters of adjacent open area. The main hall accommodates 2,270 seated spectators and features high-quality sports and technical characteristics.

Over the years, the hall has served as a major venue for various national events, exhibitions, fairs, and cultural activities. It also includes additional facilities such as gyms, recovery rooms, a restaurant, and a café.

Today, the Asics Arena continues to function as both a sports and cultural center, offering rental options for exhibition and conference spaces, as well as advertising areas.

The main hall covers 2,000 square meters and features large interior spaces suitable for different public uses.

Training Center

The Diana Boxing Center is a modern facility specifically designed for boxing training. It features three training rings and one competition ring, along with a fully equipped fitness center and sauna facilities to support athletes' physical preparation and recovery.

The center is conveniently located within a 15-minute walk of the official team delegation hotels. Transportation services will be provided upon request to ensure smooth and timely transfers.

Over the years, Diana Boxing Center has hosted numerous national and international boxing events and training camps. Its high-quality infrastructure and professional environment have made Bulgaria a preferred destination for many teams preparing for major competitions.



ACCOMMODATION / EVENT HOTELS

All participating teams are required to book and pay for accommodation for the entire championship period, **from 15 September to 26 September 2026 (11 nights)**.

Teams may indicate their preferred hotel and room type in the **Accommodation Form**. Accommodation requests will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to availability. The final hotel allocation will be confirmed by the Local Organizing Committee (LOC).

Accommodation reservations must be made exclusively through the LOC. Direct bookings with the hotels will not be accepted.

All National Federations are requested to submit their completed **Accommodation Form and Rooming List** to elitesofia2026@gmail.com

Deadline: 10 August 2026

Only accredited participants of the championships will be permitted to stay in the official event hotels.

Accommodation Package

The accommodation package includes:

- ✓ Accommodation for 11 nights
- ✓ Three meals per day (breakfast, lunch and dinner)
- ✓ Transportation between the official hotels and the competition venue

All meals will be served at the respective official hotel where the delegation is accommodated. Delegation members may dine only at their assigned hotel.

Additional Expenses

Additional expenses, including but not limited to minibar consumption, telephone charges, laundry, parking, room service, and any damages to hotel property, are the responsibility of the respective National Federation and must be settled directly with the hotel before departure.

Early Arrival

In the event of an early arrival or a request for early check-in, the LOC must be informed in advance by email. Early check-in cannot be guaranteed and is subject to hotel availability.

Team Delegation Hotels

PARK HOTEL MOSKVA ***

Address 25 Nezabravka Str., Sofia, Bulgaria
Reception +359 88 514 2901

Park Hotel Moskva is located in Sofia's prestigious diplomatic district, adjacent to Borisova Garden, the city's largest and most beautiful park. The "Joliot-Curie" Metro Station is only a three-minute walk from the hotel, providing convenient access to Sofia Airport, the city center, and the Central Railway and Bus Stations.

Standard Room

Comfortable Standard Rooms are available with either one king-size bed or two separate beds and are suitable for single or double occupancy. Junior Suites offer additional space, including a separate seating area, and can accommodate up to three guests.

Standard Room Facilities

- ✓ King-size bed or twin beds
- ✓ Work desk
- ✓ Bathroom with bathtub, hairdryer & telephone
- ✓ Individually controlled air conditioning
- ✓ LCD television with cable channels
- ✓ Complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi
- ✓ Direct-dial telephone
- ✓ Complimentary bottle of mineral water
- ✓ Electronic key-card access
- ✓ Room service
- ✓ Laundry, ironing & dry-cleaning services
- ✓ 24-hour business center
- ✓ ATM

VITOSHA PARK HOTEL *****

Address 1 Rosario Str., Sofia, Bulgaria
Reception +359 2 816 8888

Vitosha Park Hotel is situated in the southern part of Sofia, close to major business districts, universities, and the city's main transport connections. Combining modern comfort with excellent conference facilities, the hotel is well-suited for both business and sports delegations.

The hotel offers a comprehensive range of accommodation, dining, wellness, and conference services, together with professional hospitality and personalized service to ensure a comfortable stay for all guests.

Standard Room

Modern guest rooms provide comfortable single or double accommodation with either king-size or twin beds. Designed for both short and extended stays, the rooms combine practicality with contemporary comfort.

Standard Room Facilities

- ✓ King-size bed or twin beds
- ✓ Complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi
- ✓ Television
- ✓ Telephone
- ✓ Room service
- ✓ Laundry & dry-cleaning services
- ✓ Outdoor parking
- ✓ Business centre
- ✓ Wellness centre
- ✓ Indoor swimming pool
- ✓ Fitness centre

European Boxing Family Hotel

HILTON SOFIA ★★★★★

Address Bulgaria Blvd 1, 1421 Sofia, Bulgaria
Reception +359 2 933 5000

Standard Room

Modern and comfortable rooms designed for single or double occupancy, featuring either one king-size bed or two twin beds. Ideal for both business and leisure travelers, offering contemporary furnishings and all essential amenities for a relaxing stay.

Deluxe Room

Spacious rooms with upgraded furnishings and enhanced comfort. Available with a king-size bed or twin beds, Deluxe Rooms offer additional living space and beautiful views of the city or South Park.

Executive Room

Elegant rooms providing all the comforts of the Deluxe category, complemented by exclusive access to the Executive Lounge. Guests enjoy premium services, including complimentary breakfast, refreshments throughout the day, and evening canapés.

Park Executive Suite

Stylish suites featuring a separate bedroom and living room, providing privacy and ample space for work or relaxation. Executive Lounge access and premium in-room amenities are included.

Standard Room Facilities

- ✓ King-size bed or twin beds (depending on room category)
- ✓ Complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi
- ✓ Smart HDTV
- ✓ Work desk with ergonomic chair
- ✓ Individually controlled air conditioning
- ✓ Tea & coffee-making facilities
- ✓ Minibar
- ✓ In-room safe
- ✓ Bathroom with walk-in shower or bathtub
- ✓ Hairdryer & premium bathroom amenities
- ✓ Iron & ironing board
- ✓ 24-hour room service
- ✓ Laundry & dry-cleaning services
- ✓ Complimentary bottled water
- ✓ Electronic key-card access
- ✓ Executive Lounge Benefits (Executive Rooms and Suites)
- ✓ Private check-in and check-out (subject to hotel policy)
- ✓ Complimentary buffet breakfast
- ✓ All-day refreshments
- ✓ Evening drinks and canapés
- ✓ Dedicated business & relaxation area



Financial Conditions

Hotel	Single occupancy 1 person per room	Double occupancy 2 persons per room, twin beds	Triple occupancy 3 persons per room, twin beds and an extra bed
<i>Team Delegation Hotels</i>			
Park Hotel Moskva *** Including 3 meals	€ 135 per person	€ 105 per person	€ 80 per person
Park Hotel Vitosha **** Including 3 meals	€ 165 per person	€ 135 per person	N/A
<i>European Boxing Family Hotel</i>			
Hilton Sofia ***** Bed&Breakfast	€ 190 per person (Standard Room)	€ 125 per person (Standard Room)	N/A
	Executive Room Price on Request		N/A

The room rates are provided for the tournament period and apply from 14 September 2026 (for early arrivals) to 26 September 2026.

Payment of Hotel Room Charges

All Team Delegations must pay the full room charges for the entire tournament period.

Payment method	BANK TRANSFER
Account holder	Company for International Meetings – CIM Ltd.
Bank	Eurobank EFG Bulgaria
IBAN	BG54BPBI 7940 1401226001
BIC	BPBIBGSF

Please state your invoice number as the reason for payment.

Payment deadline: 20 August 2026

ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION

Image Rights & Video Recording

The LOC will film the event for broadcast, and promotional videos and official event photographers will take still images of boxers before and during the event.

All training sessions will be open to the accredited media unless a Team specifically requests otherwise. By participating in the event, each Team Member agrees to release his/her image rights to European Boxing and the LOC.

Video recording of bouts for any broadcasting purposes (including social media) will not be allowed. National Federations may be allowed to record bouts of their boxers using only one camera per ring, exclusively for technical purposes. A specific location in the venue will be reserved for this purpose.

Medical Services

The LOC will provide first aid to any participant who sustains a sports injury during the event.

Anti-Doping

Doping control will be conducted in accordance with World Boxing Anti-Doping Rules and World Anti-Doping Code. According to WADA regulations, blood testing may be conducted during World Boxing and European Boxing Competitions.

Insurance

All accredited participants must have their own travel, medical, repatriation, and liability insurance covering the entire event and travel period.

About the Host Country



ABOUT BULGARIA

Bulgaria is located on the Balkan Peninsula, in Southeastern Europe. It is bordered by Romania to the north, Serbia and North Macedonia to the west, Greece and Turkey to the south and the Black Sea to the East.

PRACTICAL INFO

Average temperature in September

Between 16°C and 21°C

Currency Euro

Local time CET +01:00

Electricity 220

Local emergency number 112

INTERESTING FACTS

- ✓ Bulgaria has not changed its name since the country was first established.
- ✓ The oldest gold treasure was found in Bulgaria which compliments its rich history.
- ✓ The Bulgarian army has never lost its flag in battle.
- ✓ Lactobacillus Bulgaricus, the bacterium that is responsible for giving Bulgarian yoghurt its unique flavor and consistency, can be found only in Bulgarian air.
- ✓ The roses grown in Bulgaria's "Rose Valley" produce most (70-85%) of the world's rose oil – a component in most perfumes.
- ✓ With the accession of Bulgaria to the EU on January 1, 2007, Cyrillic became the third official alphabet of the EU.
- ✓ In 1976 UNESCO declared the ancient Bulgarian calendar as the most accurate in the world.



SOFIA, THE CAPITAL

Sofia was founded three thousand years ago by the ancient Traci tribe "serdi" and it was known as Serdica until the beginning of the ninth century. Sofia has had several names in the different periods of its existence.

Most significant are Serdica, Triaditza and Sredets. The current name Sofia was first used in the 14th century and it refers to the famous Hagia Sophia Church, an ancient church in the city. These days Sofia is the capital and largest city of the Republic of Bulgaria. Sofia's development as a significant settlement owes much to its central position in the Balkans. It is situated in western Bulgaria, at the foot of the Vitosha Mountain. The city is the administrative, cultural and financial center of the country. Since ancient times the region has been known for its mineral and thermal springs. There are mineral springs in the center of the city, as well in the districts of Knyazhevo, Gorna Banya, Bankya, Ovcha Kupel and Ivanyane.

SOME FACTS ABOUT SOFIA

- ✓ English Name: Sofia
- ✓ Position: Southwest Region
- ✓ Region: Sofia City
- ✓ Municipality: Stolichna
- ✓ Sofia City Area: 492,029 km²
- ✓ Postal code for Sofia City: 1000
- ✓ Telephone code for Sofia City: 02 from Bulgaria, +3592 from abroad
- ✓ Population: 1,213,134 Inhabitants



Sofia, a Leading European Sports Capital

Sofia is internationally recognized for its exceptional sports infrastructure and strong tradition in hosting major international events. With five multifunctional sports arenas offering seating capacities between 1,000 and 10,000, the city welcomes World and European Championships, World Cups, and international tournaments in over 40 different sports every year — including boxing, wrestling, gymnastics, volleyball, basketball, judo, rhythmic gymnastics, taekwondo, athletics, and fencing.

In 2018, Sofia proudly earned the title of European Capital of Sport, hosting more than 500 national and 100 international sporting events that year alone. The city became a model for sports management, community engagement, and sustainable event organization.



Thanks to its ongoing development, modern sports venues, and organizational excellence, Sofia was again distinguished in 2021, being selected as the World Capital of Sports for 2024 — recognition of its lasting contribution to European and global sports.

Looking ahead, Sofia continues to strengthen its reputation as a global sports hub. In 2026, the city will proudly host Major Volleyball Championships, further confirming its position as one of Europe's premier destinations for high-level sporting events.

The opening of the European Week of Sport in Sofia 2025 took place on 23 September 2025 at the Asics Arena with the **#BeActive** Sports Fair. The event began at noon and featured presentations of various sports by federations and clubs. It was officially opened by Petar Mladenov, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports.





EUROPEAN BOXING
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