

Statement on the organisation of the OEC Qualification France under the regulations of the DDI

The DDI Board received applications for the organisation in due time from
Vinciane Vialettes - Tournament in Orange from 10 - 11 May 25
Julie Panetta/Corinne Benetruy - Tournament in Bertrange from 12-13 April 25

On 1 August 2024, the board decided to award the OEC qualification to the tournament in Orange. Both tournaments met the same conditions, but the tournament with the larger ring was awarded the contract in accordance with the regulations.

The organisers of the tournament in Bertrange expressed concerns about this decision and felt it was not fair. The board was open to discussions and put forward various proposals and compromise options, including the organisation of the French championship in Bertrange 2025, a rotating qualification system and a member survey on a split qualification. While the organisation of the championship was rejected, the other proposals remained unanswered.

At the end of 2024, the board learnt via social media that the tournament in Bertrange was to be held as a double tournament. Saturday DDI tournament according to DDI regulations and Sunday a tournament according to CNEAC regulations, which also includes an OEC selection.

The DDI board endeavoured to engage in constructive dialogue and held extensive telephone conversations in order to resolve the resulting situation (2 different qualification tournaments under 2 different associations for the OEC). Despite the competing CNEAC selection tournament, the aim was to find a compromise that would solve the problem for all starters in France and prevent conflicts from arising with regard to registration eligibility for the OEC.

The CNEAC submitted a proposal to the DDI Board of Directors, which, however, only provided for adjustments on the part of the DDI for 2025 and was based on the fact that the DDI would waive its qualification in Orange and would instead be given the opportunity by the CNEAC to organise an OEC qualification in 2026. However, the DDI insisted on its right of first entry due to the fact that it had already organised an OEC qualification in 2024 and was the only association in France interested in participating in the OEC to date.

In the hope of further cooperation between the DDI & CNEAC, the DDI developed a counter-proposal that would enable both sides to come together as equals.

The DDI's proposal was as follows:

- Holding both qualifying tournaments (Orange & Bertrange)
- Use of a points system based on rank & points
- Selection of the starting teams according to this points system

Unfortunately, there was no feedback on this for some time. Only after further enquiry did the DDI receive a reply clearly rejecting the proposed compromise solution on the grounds that the two scoring systems were not comparable.

A meeting was planned to discuss the issue. However, the CNEAC stated that it had no knowledge of such a meeting and referred to one of the organisers of the tournament in Bertrange as the contact person. The Executive Board contacted her again.

At the end of January, the DDI board once again approached the CNEAC directly with a further adapted compromise solution to enable the two associations to continue to work together.

Proposal number 2:

- Organisation of both qualification tournaments (Orange & Bertrange)
- After both tournaments, a joint committee (consisting of Sandrine Houdin CNEAC, Corinne Benetruy co-organiser Bertrange, Nina Neumann DDI, Vincianne Vialettes organiser Orange and Claudia Moser for translations).
- This committee would then have made the final selection of starters for the HTM and FS teams for the OEC.
- Alternatively, a percentage system based on the number of starters in the two tournaments (qualifying starters)

The board received a response at the beginning of February. The CNEAC still intends to organise its selection tournament in Bertange. The DDI could also organise its own qualification tournament and the CNEAC team would then be filled out with starters from the DDI tournament in Orange if the CNEAC did not provide a complete team.

The DDI's proposals were all rejected with the reference that the DDI could then organise the qualification in 2026. In our eyes, cooperation looks different, especially as the DDI clearly sees itself in the position of the association that not only advertised an OEC qualification first, but also organised a qualification in 2024! From our point of view, the CNEAC is clearly the association that has subsequently organised a rival event.

For all these reasons, we have decided to organise the OEC qualification in Orange as planned. We stand behind this decision and hope that the DDI will be able to send a strong team to the OEC. However, the final decision on which team will participate in the OEC is up to the OEC organisers and not the DDI.

It should be noted that the CNEAC has boycotted the participation of French starters in the OEC for several years. The DDI, on the other hand, organised a qualification for the OEC in France for the first time in 2024.

We did everything we could to find a solution for both associations. Unfortunately, this was not possible for 2025, which disappoints us greatly.

The board