



ERS CONGRESS | 2026

5-9 September | Barcelona, Spain

ERS CONGRESS GUIDELINES & REGULATIONS

ORGANISING MEETINGS AND EVENTS OUTSIDE THE CONGRESS

The success of the ERS Congress is in the best interest of all our participants, sister societies and sponsors. The following guidelines are in place to prevent any events, meetings or promotional activities detracting from the ERS congress programme during the period of the meeting. ERS asks all interested parties to respect these limitations.

Meetings, events and activities

ERS does not approve of any open-invite meetings (either on the topic of respiratory medicine or aimed at ERS congress participants) taking place throughout the entire duration of the Congress, as well as three days prior to and three days after the official opening and closing dates of the ERS Congress, respectively.

ERS forbids any sponsored meetings taking place (whether 'open invite' or 'closed invite') throughout the entire duration of the Congress, as well as three days prior to and three days after the official opening and closing dates of the ERS Congress, respectively. We ask ERS's industry partners to respect these guidelines if approached by entities for financial support.

ERS understands the opportunity that congress participants represent, but the proliferation of the above-described meetings is not in the best interest of the ERS Congress. We hope that all participants of the ERS Congress will be able to dedicate their time to the congress programme and all the related initiatives and activities planned by ERS.

Scientific symposia

ERS forbids the organisation of scientific symposia outside of the ERS Congress, at any venue within the host city throughout the entire duration of the Congress, as well as three days prior to and three days after the official opening and closing dates of the ERS Congress, respectively. This rule also applies to 'Meet the Professor' type events, all events involving speakers presenting data or case studies, practical workshops and all educational events.

All industry sessions will be held within the congress venue on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

Closed meetings and social events

Companies are permitted to organise and host invitation only meetings and social events provided they do not take place during the following times, which would either clash with the congress programme or the congress opening session.

- 08.00 - 19.30 CEST (Sunday, Monday and Tuesday)
- 17.00 - 20.30 (Saturday)

For small, closed meetings, discussion groups, clinical findings meetings, meetings with investigators and speaker briefings for symposia, approval from ERS is not required unless the



ERS CONGRESS | 2026

5-9 September | Barcelona, Spain

event is for more than 40 participants, provided the timings respect the above time restrictions. In these cases, invitations must be directed to specific individuals and not be open invite.

Promotional meetings

Press events taking place outside of the congress centre are exempt from the blackout times provided they are closed meetings for staff and media only. *Please refer to scientific symposia.

Internal staff meetings

Companies are entitled to host meetings for more than 40 participants for delegates they have funded to attend the Congress. However, these meetings cannot take place during the Congress programme and must not compete with or dilute the value of the content of the ERS congress programme.

Programmes for such meetings must be approved by the ERS Office, please forward them to corporate.relations@ersnet.org

CONGRESS CENTER RULES

SMOKING AND VAPING POLICY

As tobacco is the major cause of lung diseases, ERS' Congress Committee asks all participants and exhibitors to refrain from smoking or vaping in the Congress centre, including meeting rooms, exhibition areas, poster areas, toilets, restaurants, cafeterias, bars and loading areas and within 250 metres of the main entrances/exits at all times. The restriction applies to all types of electronic cigarettes.

CHILDREN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Children and members of the public are not permitted in the exhibition area or any room hosting an industry activity. In addition, ERS asks delegates and faculty to refrain from bringing children into the Congress centre unless using the ERS childcare services. In the event that a member of public is invited to participate in the ERS Congress scientific programme, they should be accompanied by a qualified healthcare professional or ERS representative observing the ERS restrictions where appropriate.

FILMING AND RECORDING OF SESSIONS

ERS wishes to protect the intellectual materials of those contributing to the Congress, prevent inappropriate material being made available to audiences outside the Congress, as well as protect its exhibitors and delegates, and avoid blockages and logistical problems. Due to the increased number of requests from companies regarding the filming of events and individuals, we are circulating the following guidelines for exhibitors and companies.

Filming at the Congress venue may be permitted in the following circumstances only:

- Filming of Industry symposia (*pending feasibility*)
- Filming taking place within your own meeting room
- Filming of Industry Skills Lab (*pending feasibility*)



ERS CONGRESS | 2026

5-9 September | Barcelona, Spain

- Filming in the grounds (car park etc) of the Congress centre
- Filming of company's own booth
- Filming of company's press conference

All filming must take place within the room where the activity is taking place. Camera crews and equipment must not cause any obstruction to delegates, ERS staff or ERS partners and other parties assisting with the organisation of the event.

To protect ERS and its delegates, filming is expressly forbidden in ERS sessions rooms, in public areas of the Congress centre and the exhibition hall. Any individuals filming in these areas will be asked to desist immediately. Care should be taken to avoid inappropriate use of ERS branding and to ensure there is no suggestion of ERS endorsement in recorded material.

A camera crew will only be allowed into the Congress centre with a valid Congress badge.

All press requests should be directed to the ERS Press Office - Dawn Ould: press@ersnet.org

The photographing of booths is not permitted during the set up/breakdown of the exhibition unless the photographer is hired by the exhibitor to take photographs of his/her own stand and can avoid inclusion of neighbouring booths.

Photography during the opening times of the exhibition of all aspects of the event is allowed in all instances except in cases where the photographer or photography equipment would cause an obstruction or danger to delegates or staff who are visiting or working in the exhibition hall.

MARKET RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION/PRESS COMPANIES

ERS does not allow market research companies to operate in areas of the Congress centre. Companies may employ companies to conduct surveys on their exhibition stands only and not in the aisles and walkways of the exhibition. It is not permitted for companies to undertake market research related to ERS, its activities or features of the Congress anywhere in the Congress centre.

ERS conducts its own independent research into these areas and the results of this research can be obtained via the Marketing & Corporate Relations Office.

PUBLICITY AND BRANDING RULES

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The content of all promotional literature, advertising and promotional material of any form used or distributed within the Congress centre for the duration of the Congress remains the sole legal responsibility of the company.

It is the company's responsibility to abide by the local law and to observe relevant legal regulations with regards to publicity, the handing out of samples and the sale of products. The exhibition consultant (Interplan AG) and ERS cannot be held liable for any noncompliance.

The exact name "ERS Congress 2026" and session type must be mentioned on all promotional items.



ERS CONGRESS | 2026

5-9 September | Barcelona, Spain

DISPLAY AND DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS

Putting up posters and distributing flyers, abstracts or invitations outside a company's exhibition stand or industry session room is forbidden. All such materials will be systematically removed and destroyed.

Any individual responsible for such activities will be asked to leave the Congress centre. This policy extends to hotels and other public places in the city.

All promotional materials to be distributed, shown or displayed during the Congress must be approved by ERS in advance.

It is also forbidden to set up promotional events, models, posters or branded structures outside the congress centre or in any public places or areas of local interest such as train stations, market squares, parks and airports.

PERMISSION AND LIABILITY

The securing of necessary permits and licenses remains the sole responsibility of the party or organisation wishing to undertake activities during the Congress. Companies are liable for all taxes, charges and duties relating to such activities. Should a claim in respect of such be addressed to ERS, companies shall fully indemnify the ERS.

Companies will remain liable for the activities of their staff and representatives during Congress. The ERS does not, in any way, accept responsibility for the staff and representatives of companies and partners during Congress, within or outside the Congress centre.

INSURANCE

It is the responsibility of the companies to assess and assure the level of insurance cover required to indemnify itself against all eventualities concerning their activities, equipment and staff during the Congress within and outside the Congress centre.

ERS offers no assurances to the companies outside those expressed within specific contracts. Companies are obliged to check the level of cover required by the Congress centre directly with the venue.