



# FENCING RULES



AMATEUR FENCERS LEAGUE  
OF AMERICA

1940

Amateur Fencers League of  
America

FENCING RULES

EDITED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE FOR 1939-1940

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TO THE  
AMERICAN

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## PREFACE

To the Members of the Amateur Fencers League of America:

Your Rules Committee presents the 1940 Fencing Rules in a new format. The size of the pages has been reduced, and the text has been rearranged and augmented for thoroughness and ease of reference.

### PLAN

The plan of the book is the following: (1) *Part One—Introductory*, contains material previously excluded from the Rules Book which your Committee believes will be more useful here. (2) *Part Two—Rules Governing Organization of A. F. L. A. Competitions*, has been considerably expanded and systematized. The new material is largely a codification of existing practice. (3) *Part Three—Technical Rules and Conventions of Fencing*, following the precedent set in 1933, includes the standardized rules drafted in cooperation with the Rules Committees of the Intercollegiate Fencing Association and of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. This section has also been carefully revised and expanded.

The numbering system is simple. *Part Two* contains nine "chapters" and rules numbered 1-99. Chapter I includes Rules 1-19; all other chapters contain no more than 10 rules, the first digit (tens) in the number of the rule being the number of the chapter. *Part Three* is divided into nine "articles," and the rules are numbered 101-999. The number of each article is the first digit (hundreds) in the number of the rule. This system leaves open sufficient rule numbers for future amendments, so that the basic pattern need not be disturbed for several years.

### FUNDAMENTAL THEORIES

Your Committee believes that a short statement should be made as to the fundamental theories which have been used to resolve points of doubt and conflict in the drafting of these rules. These are the following:

(A) *On Part Two of the Rules*: Many of the rules on organization, in the interest of flexibility, are directory and advisory rather than mandatory—except on the subject of official championships, where we believe efficiency and uniformity are the dominant considerations.

(B) *On Part Three of the Rules*: We believe that the function of these technical rules and conventions of fencing is to govern the *competitive* rather than the academic or calisthenic aspects of fencing. While the latter

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aspects are recognized as legitimate in other connections, the *competitive* character of the rules is fundamental here. Certain corollaries follow:

(1) The rules are not designed to teach fencing technique or embody the theories of any one school of fencing or of any group of fencing teachers. All schools must be provided an equal opportunity to prove their worth in competition. The rules must not unduly favor or handicap any school by arbitrary regulation of the technique of fencing.

(2) The judging of competitive bouts must be thoroughly *objective*. The only satisfactory method which eliminates the basic prejudices of the various schools is to score exclusively on *touches*, regardless of the technique used in fencing.

(3) Conditions of competition, weapons, ground rules, etc., must be uniform and subject to *objective* critiques.

(4) Penal legislation is legitimate in the promotion of safety and good sportsmanship. Such legislation must be drafted with due regard to the competitive character of the rules and to the desirability of *objective* determination of any infractions thereof.

A pertinent illustration of the application of these fundamental theories is to be found in the rules governing the *flèche*. The three collaborating committees (and the F. I. E.) received two types of recommendations: One was for the banning of the *flèche* on the ground that it was an "unsound" or "unorthodox" method of fencing. This argument was summarily rejected as involving *fencing technique* rather than the rules of competition. The other argument was for the banning of the *flèche* in the interest of safety. This argument carried more weight, but had to be revised and refined to meet the requirement for objectivity, and to restrict only such use of the *flèche* as might reasonably be deemed dangerous. There is no valid competitive argument for prohibiting the *flèche* executed in a manner that does not endanger the opponent or abuse the ground rules.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Your Committee wishes to make due acknowledgement of its obligations in the preparation of this book. Greatest of all is our debt to the Fédération Internationale d'Escrime, whose 1940 Rules Book—published shortly before the outbreak of European hostilities—has been the primary base of our work. It is with profound regret that we note the fact that this may be the last international code for many years. Fencing law has grown largely out of actual situations encountered in international competition

and has been formulated through the interaction of the best fencing minds of the world in F. I. E. Congresses.

The vital importance of clear and scientific rules for judging, including the terms used, emphasizes our debt to Mr. Carlo Anselmi, whose criticisms, suggestions, and explanations have been largely responsible for any real improvement in this part of the Rules. Mr. Anselmi, now a permanent resident of the United States, has for more than 15 years been internationally recognized as one of the world's outstanding officials, and has been a leader in the development of sound and impartial judging.

Your Committee is grateful for the thoroughgoing cooperation of the Rules Committees of the Intercollegiate Fencing Association and the National Collegiate Athletic Association, through our interlocking membership. Our varied training and experience have served to crystallize points of conflict and have induced us to seek agreement on fundamental principles.

Your Committee is also grateful to the many amateur and professional fencers who in the past three years have raised questions of interpretation and draftsmanship, thus revealing deficiencies or weaknesses in our Rules, and who have carefully read proof on this book. Your Committee wishes especially to thank: Dr. Norman C. Armitage, of New York City, national sabre champion and member of the Board of Governors, who has been in effect an unofficial member of the Rules Committee; Dr. Scott D. Breckinridge, of Lexington, Kentucky, former national foil champion and Olympic fencer; Mr. George H. Breed, of New York City, Foreign Secretary of the A.F.L.A., former national foil and épée champion and Olympic fencer; M. Clovis Deladrier, Fencing Master of the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, and member of the Advisory Committee of the N.C.A.A.; Allan B. Diefenbach, Esq., of Akron, Chairman of the Northern Ohio Division; Mr. John Howard Hanway, of Pelham Manor, New York, former Secretary of the A. F. L. A.; Dr. Herman S. Hettinger, of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; Mr. Arthur W. Lane, of Berkeley, California; Mr. Ferard Leicester, of San Francisco, Secretary-Treasurer of the Northern California Division; Hon. Richard F. Warren, of Philadelphia, Vice-President of the A. F. L. A.; and Mr. Walter B. White, of New York City, member of the Board of Governors.

No acknowledgements would be complete without an expression of the Chairman's appreciation of the splendid work done by the individual members of your Committee. Each one has for several years been selected by the Ranking Fencers as a top-notch official, and each has brought to

the task at hand other exceptional qualifications: Mr. Dow, Olympic foilsmen, is the Chairman of the National Bout Committee; Mr. Every, national foil champion and Chairman of the Metropolitan Committee, is the Editor of *The Riposte*, national fencing magazine; Dr. Huffman, national three-weapon champion and Olympic sabreman, has served as Secretary of the A. F. L. A. and now takes office as President; Mr. Nunes, winner of eighteen individual national championships in all weapons from 1917 to 1932, has been Chairman of all our previous Rules Committees; and Mr. Van Buskirk, now retiring from the office of President of the A. F. L. A. after four years of outstanding service, has brought to the work of the Committee a quality of inspirational leadership and encouragement which has made this long and arduous job an unforgettable experience.

Respectfully submitted,

MIGUEL A. DE CAPRILES, *Chairman A. F. L. A. Rules Committee*

*New York, September 1940*

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**PART ONE**  
**INTRODUCTORY**

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## Section A

### THE AMATEUR FENCERS LEAGUE OF AMERICA

#### (1) GENERAL INFORMATION

The Amateur Fencers League of America is the official governing body for amateur fencing in the United States, and is recognized in this capacity by the Amateur Athletic Union, the American Olympic Committee, and the Fédération Internationale d'Escrime.

The Amateur Athletic Union recognizes the individual winners of A. F. L. A. national indoor championships as amateur fencing champions of the United States. The medals awarded at these competitions bear the official A. A. U. design and inscription. Only the fencing competitions organized by the A. F. L. A. are so recognized. In addition, the Amateur Athletic Union, through existing Articles of Alliance, "will respect and enforce all penalties of suspension and disqualification inflicted by the A. F. L. A."

The A. F. L. A. is a member of the American Olympic Association, the continuing Olympic organization between Olympic competitions. The A. F. L. A. works in close coöperation with the American Olympic Committee in the selection and preparation of Olympic fencing teams to represent the United States. Every member of past American Olympic fencing teams has been a member of the A. F. L. A.

The A. F. L. A. is the sole representative of American amateur fencing in the Fédération Internationale d'Escrime, the governing body for all official international amateur fencing contests, including the World's and Olympic Championships. Any American amateur fencer wishing to participate in international contests must be accredited to the F. I. E. as to amateur standing, qualification, etc., by the A. F. L. A.

The A. F. L. A. maintains close relations with the Intercollegiate Fencing Association (founded in 1894) and with the National Collegiate Athletic Association, whose jurisdiction over fencers in their member colleges is explicitly recognized. In the past, the A. F. L. A., the I. C. F. A., and the N. C. A. A. have successfully collaborated in the standardization of the technical rules governing fencing competitions throughout the United States. These rules, as a matter of long-established policy, generally follow the rules of the F. I. E., which are the basis of official fencing rules throughout the world.

## (2) HISTORY

The Amateur Fencers League of America was founded on April 22, 1891. Prior to that date, fencing championships had been conducted by the Amateur Athletic Union. A strong group of fencers felt, however, that the sport would develop more satisfactorily under an autonomous organization. The split was only temporary, as the A. F. L. A. entered into Articles of Alliance with the A. A. U. in January, 1892, and the most friendly relations have since prevailed between the two organizations.

After one year of existence, the membership of the A. F. L. A. reached 238. At that time, there were groups in New York City, and in the New England and Nebraska Divisions, which were established on March 20, 1892. New divisions have been created from time to time throughout the United States, as required by the growth of the sport. Sectional Championships for the Pacific Coast Divisions were first held on April 11 and 12, 1925. Sectional Championships for the Mid-West Divisions were approved on March 20, 1934. In 1939, the national championship tournament was for the first time moved from New York City, and was held in San Francisco. Sectional Championships for the All-Eastern Divisions were also approved in that year.

At the time of writing (1940), the League has some 1250 members enrolled in twenty-five active Divisions. Approximately 300 competitions, local and national, are scheduled annually. In addition, technical guidance and assistance are furnished to thousands of unaffiliated fencers in hundreds of high schools, colleges and clubs, as well as to a dozen local fencing leagues.

Through alliances with the American Olympic Committee and the Fédération Internationale d'Esime, the League has led American fencing to an enviable international position. Teams have been selected to represent the United States in all the Olympic Games since 1904. International matches with England, Cuba, and Canada have been increasingly important since 1920. The League is now actively devoting its attention not only to local, sectional, and national expansion of the sport, but also to fostering Pan-American relationships.

## (3) ORGANIZATION

The Amateur Fencers League of America is a democratic organization of fencers, run by fencers, for the benefit of fencers. The membership is organized into a number of Divisions or territorial units enjoying prac-

tically complete autonomy. In 1940, there were 25 active divisions: Buffalo, Central Illinois, Columbus, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Long Island, Michigan, Mid-New York State, New England, New Jersey, New Orleans, Northern California, Northern Ohio, Philadelphia, Rhode Island, St. Louis, Southern California, Texas, Utah, Washington (D.C.), West Point, and Western Massachusetts. There were also 10 inactive divisions: Baltimore, Birmingham, Dayton, Ithaca, Nebraska, Oregon, Pittsburgh, Sacramento, Seattle, and Toronto.

The Non-Divisional group, which includes all fencers residing or fencing outside the territorial limits of local Divisions, is directly under the supervision of the national Board of Governors. For the 1939-40 and the 1940-41 seasons, a New York Metropolitan Committee has been appointed by the Board to conduct the affairs of the large number of fencers in the New York Metropolitan area, who comprise the major portion of the Non-Divisional members. This arrangement, experimental in nature, is intended to afford local autonomy to New York fencers, and to enable the national Board of Governors to concentrate on matters of inter-divisional and national importance.

The Board of Governors, which includes representatives of all the Divisions, is the governing body of the A. F. L. A. and the final authority on all local, inter-divisional, and national questions.

## Section B

## CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

(I) CONSTITUTION OF THE AMATEUR  
FENCERS LEAGUE OF AMERICA*(As Amended to May 4, 1940)*

## ARTICLE I

## THE NAME

The Name of the League shall be "Amateur Fencers League of America."

## ARTICLE II

## THE OBJECTS

The objects of the League shall be:

- (a) The encouragement of the art of amateur fencing in the United States of America,
- (b) The defining of amateur status in respect to fencing and the formulation and enforcement of regulations relating thereto,
- (c) The formulation and publication of rules for the management of fencing contests and exhibitions in the United States of America,
- (d) The grouping of all amateur fencers in the United States of America for the purpose of conducting annual local and national championships and of conducting competitions preliminary thereto or designed to awaken and maintain interest in competitive fencing as well as in the art of fencing as a cultural pursuit and an exercise and of regulating fencing exhibitions, and
- (e) The maintenance of relations with fencing associations and societies of foreign countries and committees or other organizations interested in promoting international competitions and the advancement of the sport and art of fencing.

## ARTICLE III

## MEMBERSHIP AND DEFINITION OF AN AMATEUR FENCER

*Section 1.* Membership in the League shall be limited to residents of the United States of America or Citizens thereof who are interested in fencing and who shall qualify as amateurs in fencing as hereinafter defined.

Membership shall be of four classes: Honorary, Life, Active and Junior.

Honorary Membership shall be open to any one who shall have rendered distinguished service to the cause of fencing. To become an Honorary Member of the League any candidate shall be elected by the Board of Governors of the

League by the unanimous vote of those voting who must comprise at least two-thirds of the entire board then entitled to vote. Honorary Members shall have all the rights and privileges of Active Members but shall be exempt from the obligation of paying any initiation fee or dues.

Life Membership shall consist of those qualified to be Active Members who shall pay to the League the Life Membership fee specified in the By-Laws. Life Members shall have all the rights and privileges of Active Members but shall be exempt from the obligation of paying dues accruing subsequent to the payment of the Life Membership fee.

Active Membership shall be open to all male or female amateur fencers in good standing upon being elected to membership by the Board or admitted to membership pursuant to the terms of the By-Laws of the League and upon payment of the initiation fee and dues for the current year specified in the By-Laws. All Active Members shall be entitled to participate in any competition held under the auspices of the League, subject to such regulations as the Board of Governors may from time to time lay down with respect to particular categories or classes of members, and except in the case of new members admitted to membership on or after February 1 each year, who shall have neither voting rights nor the right to hold elective office during that year, shall be entitled to vote on all matters that may be voted upon by the League pursuant to this Constitution and the By-Laws of the League and to hold any office to which they may be elected or appointed. Active Membership shall not entitle the member to any share in the assets of the League except to the extent stipulated in any resolution adopted by a majority of all the members of the League at a Special Meeting of the League called for the purpose of passing on a proposal of dissolution of the League and specifying what disposition of its assets shall be made upon final dissolution of the League, without its being succeeded by any successor League, Association or Corporation. All rights and privileges of an Active Member shall cease upon his or her death, resignation or failure to pay dues.

Junior Membership shall be open to all male or female amateur fencers in good standing under the age of nineteen years who apply for the privilege of participating in competitions conducted under the auspices of the League (to the same extent that any Active Member shall be so privileged) but without being entitled to any of the other rights and privileges of Active Members. Candidates for Junior Membership shall become Junior Members upon being elected by the Board of Governors or admitted to such membership pursuant to the terms of the By-Laws of the League and upon paying the initiation fee and dues for the current year specified in the By-Laws.

*Section 2.* An Amateur Fencer is one who has not accepted directly or indirectly any fee, gratuity, money or its equivalent as a consideration for the performance of any act or service arising from his knowledge or skill in fencing; and who is not and has not been a professional in any other branch of

athletics. The above, however, shall not apply to writing, editing or publishing articles, magazines or books on fencing.

Officers of the Army or Navy of the United States or of the National Guard detailed, appointed or assigned as instructors of fencing are exempt from the provisions of this article when in the discharge of such official duty.

#### ARTICLE IV

##### MANAGEMENT

*Section 1.* The Management of the League shall be vested in a Board of Governors composed of (1) the President, (2) the three Sectional Vice-Presidents elected pursuant to the provisions of the By-Laws, (3) such "Additional" Vice-Presidents as may be elected pursuant to the provisions of Section 5 of this Article IV, (4) the Secretary, (5) the Treasurer, (6) the last three Presidents of the League, (7) the Chairman of each Division and (8) "Non-Divisional" and "Additional" Governors of the number hereinafter specified.

The Governors, other than those who are members of the Board by virtue of their office or prior office as above provided, shall consist of the following:

(1) A number of Non-Divisional Governors to be fixed each year by dividing the number of Non-Divisional Active and Life Members, as of the date of the previous Annual Meeting, by 35 and adding one thereto. Where the number of Non-Divisional Governors so determined results in a fraction, the number to be elected and hold office shall be the nearest whole number.

(2) One Additional Governor for each Division having, on the date of the previous Annual Meeting, 50 or more Active and Life Members in good standing. In the case of any Division having more than 87 such members on such date, such Division shall be entitled to more than one Additional Governor, so that there shall be one Governor, whether an ex-officio Governor or otherwise, for every 35 such members in a Division. Where the total number of Governors to which a Division is so entitled results in a fraction, the number to be designated or elected and hold office shall be the nearest whole number.

In the case of Non-Divisional Governors and Additional Governors, the number to hold office shall be determined each year by the Secretary of the League by the first day of February, the number so determined to be applicable to the Board of Governors taking office as of the next ensuing Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors.

The President, the Sectional Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Non-Divisional Governors shall be elected annually in the manner specified in the By-Laws of the League. The Additional Governor or Governors, if any, of each Division shall be designated or elected annually by each Division thereto entitled in the manner specified in the Division Charter or By-Laws.

In addition, there may be an Assistant Secretary who may be appointed in the manner specified in the By-Laws. The Assistant Secretary shall be entitled

to attend the meetings of the Board of Governors but shall not be entitled to vote at any such meeting.

*Section 2.* The Board of Governors shall have such powers and duties as may be specified in the By-Laws of the League, and in particular the Board of Governors shall have power to interpret and apply Section 2 of Article III of this Constitution and to grant re-instatements thereunder; to regulate all competitions and exhibitions held under the auspices of the League; and to limit, in respect of particular categories or classes, the entrants to any competition in such wise as the Board of Governors may, by a two-thirds vote of the members voting, determine to be for the best interests of Amateur fencing in the United States of America; and, moreover, the Board of Governors by like vote shall have full power to reprimand, suspend, deny continuation of membership to or expel any Member whose conduct shall be deemed to have been prejudicial to the welfare, interests or character of the League, always provided, however, that action by the Board of Governors in respect of suspending for more than one year, denying continuation of membership to or expelling any member may be taken only (a) upon due notice to the members of the Board and to the Member in respect of whom action is proposed to be taken setting forth generally the character of the conduct in respect of which the proposed action is to be taken and (b) where any three members of the Board, or such Member so requires, after receipt of notice of such proposed action, only when the President shall have appointed a committee of not less than five members of the League to investigate and report (in such detail, if any, as the committee may deem appropriate) on any conduct charged against any such Member, after having given to such Member an opportunity to be heard in respect of such charges and such committee shall have reported in favor of the action taken by the Board. Where any Member has been reprimanded or suspended for one year or less without such Member having been afforded an opportunity to be heard by the Board of Governors, the Member shall be entitled to demand, within 15 days of the action by the Board, a hearing on such reprimand or suspension, and in such case no suspension shall be valid for more than 45 days from the date of receipt by the Secretary of the League of such demand.

*Section 3.* The officers of the League shall have such powers and duties as the By-Laws of the League may fix.

*Section 4.* The Board of Governors may in their discretion, and upon the same vote as is provided for the election of Honorary Members in Article III of this Constitution, elect an Honorary President, an Honorary Vice-President and/or an Honorary Secretary-Treasurer. Any such Honorary officer shall be elected for life, and shall be entitled to all the privileges of an Honorary Member and to attend all meetings of the Board of Governors but shall not be entitled to vote as a member of the Board.

*Section 5.* In addition to the officers provided for in Sections 1 and 4 of this

Article IV, the Board of Governors may, in their discretion and from time to time, elect an Additional Vice-President or Additional Vice-Presidents not exceeding two in number, for such special purposes and term of office not exceeding one year and with such special duties as the Board of Governors may determine, such additional officer or officers to be designated Fourth Vice-President and Fifth Vice-President respectively. Each such additional officer shall be an officer of the League and shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Board of Governors but shall not be entitled as such to vote at any such meeting.

## ARTICLE V

### DIVISIONS

*Section 1.* For the purpose of facilitating the development of fencing in specific localities in the United States of America, the Board of Governors is empowered to create Divisions limited, in each case, to such territory in the United States as the Board may prescribe, and to grant a charter to any such Division in such form, in respect of each such Division, as the Board of Governors may determine, always provided, however, that no charter shall be granted without reserving to the Board of Governors of the League the right and power to rescind or amend any such charter. Such power to rescind shall include the power to rescind on the ground that the membership of the Division has fallen below ten.

## ARTICLE VI

### AMENDMENTS

*Section 1.* Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in writing at any Annual Meeting and be acted upon at the next Annual Meeting, or the Board of Governors may at any time call a Special Meeting of the League for the purpose of proposing amendments to this Constitution, and in such case amendments so proposed to and approved by such Special Meeting may be acted upon at the next succeeding Annual Meeting, always provided, however, that such Special Meeting be called to meet on a date not less than sixty days prior to the next succeeding Annual Meeting and that the notice calling such Special Meeting set forth the general tenor of the amendment or amendments to be proposed to and approved by such Special Meeting.

## ARTICLE VII

### TAKING EFFECT OF REVISION

This Constitution (as well as any By-Laws adopted at the time of adoption of this Constitution or pursuant hereto and prior to the taking effect of this Constitution) shall take effect thirty days after the date of mailing to each voting member of the League of a copy of this Constitution as adopted by the

Special Meeting of the League held in New York City, May 25, 1932, and reconvened at the same place March 29, 1933. All members of the League who shall not have tendered a resignation as such member within said thirty days, shall be deemed to have accepted this Constitution and to have waived any right they may have had theretofore pursuant to the Constitution in effect prior to the taking effect of this Constitution.

## (2) BY-LAWS

### CHAPTER I

#### ELECTION OR ADMISSION OF MEMBERS

Candidates for Active Membership or for Junior Membership shall be admitted to membership by election by the Board of Governors, always provided however that the Secretary of the League, or the Secretary of any Division, may admit any candidate to provisional membership with all of the privileges of the membership to which such candidate is provisionally admitted, by receiving a signed application for membership endorsed by the Secretary of the Athletic Club of which the applicant may be a member or by two Active Members of the League. Such enrollment as a provisional member shall have full force and effect until the candidacy of such provisional member shall be acted upon by the Board of Governors at the meeting of the Board next succeeding the enrollment (in the case of members admitted provisionally by the Secretary of the League) or next succeeding the receipt of notice by the Secretary of the League of such provisional enrollment (in the case of enrollment by a Secretary of a Division).

### CHAPTER II

#### FEES, DUES AND ARREARS

*Section 1.* The schedule of League dues and fees and the regulations pertaining thereto shall be as follows:

(a) The annual League dues for all Active Members shall be \$1.00, payable, in the case of Non-Divisional members, directly to the Secretary of the League and, in the case of Divisional members, to the Divisional Secretary-Treasurer to be paid over by him to the Secretary of the League.

(b) The annual Non-Divisional and Divisional dues for Active Members shall be \$2.00, payable, in the case of Non-Divisional members, directly to the Secretary of the League, and, in the case of Divisional members, to the Divisional Secretary-Treasurer for the purposes of the Division.

Annual Non-Divisional and Divisional dues may be waived in whole or in part by the Board of Governors, in the case of Non-Divisional dues, or by the Executive Committee of any Division for all of the members of that Division.

(c) The annual dues for Junior Members shall be \$1.00, payable, in the case

of Non-Divisional members, directly to the Secretary of the League, and, in the case of Divisional members, to the Divisional Secretary-Treasurer for the purposes of the Division.

(d) All dues payable in accordance with subsections (a), (b) and (c) above shall be payable on application for membership and thereafter on or before September 1.

(e) The initiation fee for Active and Junior members shall be \$1.00, payable on application for membership to the Secretary of the League, in the case of Non-Divisional members, and, in the case of Divisional members, to the Divisional Secretary-Treasurer for the purposes of the Division.

(f) The Life Membership fee shall be \$50.00, except that, where the applicant is an active member who has been a member of the League for ten or more consecutive years, the Life Membership fee shall be \$25.00. Where the Life Member is a member of a Division, one-third shall be retained by the League and the balance paid over to the Division.

(g) All dues and initiation fees paid to the Secretary of the League shall be recorded by him and then turned over to the Treasurer for general League purposes.

*Section 2.* A member in arrears for dues shall not have a vote at the meetings, nor hold office in the League, and may be dropped from the roll at the discretion of the Board of Governors.

*Section 3.* A member in arrears for dues is not eligible to enter A. F. L. A. Competitions.

### CHAPTER III

#### MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

*Section 1.* The Annual Meeting of the League shall be convened in the same city as and at the time of the National Championships, as fixed by the President of the League.

*Section 2.* Special Meetings of the League may be called by the Board of Governors at a time and place of which there shall be at least thirty days notice.

Business not specified in the notice of any such Special Meeting shall not be acted upon.

*Section 3.* At the Annual Meeting there shall be elected a Nominating Committee of five voting members of the League which shall nominate candidates for the offices of President, Sectional Vice-Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer to be voted upon at the next Annual Meeting. A motion to close nominations for members of the Nominating Committee shall not be in order until nominations have been made of members of the League who are members of at least four different clubs, groups or divisions. This Committee shall file its nominations with the Secretary of the League on or before February first of the year next ensuing. The Three Sectional Vice-Presidents shall be nominated one each from the Eastern, Central and Western sections of the United States, and shall be appropriately designated in the nominations. On or before February tenth

next thereafter the Secretary shall mail to each member of the League a copy of the nominations of the Nominating Committee.

*Section 4.* Additional nominations may be made on written petition of not less than ten voting members provided such petition is presented to the Secretary of the League by March fifth. No candidates except those nominated pursuant to the terms of Section 3 and this Section 4 shall be acted upon.

*Section 5.* If no additional nominations for an office are made, the Secretary of the League shall cast at the Annual Meeting a unanimous ballot for the candidate for such office nominated by the Nominating Committee. Where additional nominations have been made for any office, voting on the candidates for such office shall be by ballot, prepared by the Secretary and mailed to all voting members as provided in Chapter V of these By-Laws, at the Annual Meeting by voting members.

(a) The ballot shall be marked by putting a cross or other clear indication of choice opposite the name of the candidate for whom the voter desires to vote.

(b) The ballot shall be sealed in the envelope provided; the envelope shall be signed by the voter and attested by the Divisional Secretary in the case of Divisions, or by the League Secretary in the case of other members, as the case may be, that such voter is a member of the League in good standing.

(c) The envelopes so received are to be opened by the tellers only after the polls for election of officers are declared open.

The officers elected shall take office as of the next ensuing Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors and shall hold office until the following Annual Meeting of the Board or until their successors are elected and qualified.

*Section 6.* At the Annual Meeting of the League the Executive Committee may announce its appointment of an Assistant Secretary to take office at the next Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors and to serve until the subsequent Annual Meeting of the Board.

*Section 7.* At any meeting of the League a quorum shall consist, unless specifically otherwise provided for particular purposes or meetings, of twenty-five members, present in person or by proxy, and all business before the meeting other than elections may be voted on in person or by proxy, and a majority vote of those voting shall rule.

*Section 8.* Vacancies in the office of President, Sectional Vice-Presidents, Secretary or Treasurer occurring between Annual Meetings shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Board of Governors.

### CHAPTER IV

#### DUTIES OF OFFICERS

*Section 1.* The President shall preside at all meetings of the A. F. L. A. and of the Board of Governors, and perform such other duties as usually pertain to that office.

*Section 2.* The Sectional Vice-Presidents in order of their Seniority (or if of

equal service, then by drawing lots), in the absence of the President, shall perform the duties of the President.

*Section 3.* The Secretary shall conduct all official correspondence of the A. F. L. A. (other than such correspondence as shall pertain to the activities of the President or the Vice-Presidents which shall be conducted by such officers and periodically reported to the Secretary to be incorporated in the records of the Secretary); keep a record of all the meetings of the League and of the Board of Governors; issue notices to members of all meetings of the League; and perform such other duties as may be assigned to the Secretary by the Constitution, the By-Laws, or the Board of Governors.

*Section 4.* The Treasurer shall keep the accounts of the League; receive all moneys, fees, dues, etc.; pay all bills approved by the Board of Governors and preserve all proper vouchers for such disbursements. The Treasurer shall, at the Annual Meeting, submit a report, audited by a committee of the Board of Governors, of the financial transactions of the preceding fiscal year. The Treasurer shall keep all funds of the League in such account or accounts, each subject to withdrawals upon such signature or signatures, as the Board of Governors may from time to time prescribe.

*Section 5.* Before entering upon their duties the Secretary and the Treasurer shall each file such bond for the faithful performance of his duties as the Board of Governors may approve.

*Section 6.* The Assistant Secretary shall perform such duties as may be assigned to him by the Secretary.

## CHAPTER V

### NOTICES AND MAILING OF BALLOTS

*Section 1.* Any notice or notices; ballot or ballots shall be deemed validly given or delivered if mailed to the member at the address last designated by such member to the Secretary of the League, or, failing such designation, to the member at the address of such member furnished by the Secretary of his or her Division.

*Section 2.* Notice of the Annual Meeting shall be given to all voting members of the League by the Secretary, which notice shall be mailed on or before March 15, prior to such meeting and shall contain a statement of the name or names of the officer or officers to be elected by unanimous ballot, if any, and otherwise, a reference to the candidates to be voted on and to the ballot, if any, enclosed with the notice. Such notice shall include or be accompanied by the text of any amendment to the Constitution or the By-Laws to be acted upon at such Annual Meeting.

*Section 3.* Where any officer is to be voted on at the Annual Meeting, ballots for the candidates shall be included with the notice referred to in Section 2 of this Chapter.

*Section 4.* Ballots for candidates for Non-Divisional Governors shall be included with the notice, referred to in Section 2 of this Chapter, sent to Non-Divisional members.

## CHAPTER VI

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

*Section 1.* The Board of Governors shall be vested with full powers of management of the League subject to the Constitution and By-Laws.

*Section 2.* At any meeting of the Board of Governors a quorum shall be seven members. On failure of a quorum a lesser number shall have power to adjourn to a given time and place.

*Section 3.* The Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors shall be convened on the second Wednesday in September at a time and place to be designated by the President of the League of which there shall be at least five days' notice.

*Section 4.* Special meetings of the Board of Governors may, and upon the written request of three or more members must, be called by the President, of which there shall be at least five days' notice, except Special Meetings called to act upon matters in respect of which a Vote by Mail may be requested where such notice shall be at least twenty days. Such notice shall state the object of the meeting. Business not mentioned in such notice may not be acted on at any Special Meeting except that appropriations shall be in order at any meeting of the Board without notice.

*Section 5.* In the interval between two Annual Meetings of the Board of Governors any action other than action referred to in Section 9 of this Chapter VI that might be lawfully taken at a Special Meeting of the Board may be so taken by mail or telegraph vote, in the manner and to the extent provided in these By-Laws.

*Section 6.* The Board of Governors shall have power to constitute an Executive Committee composed of not less than four members, which Committee shall include four of the elected officers of the League. Such Executive Committee, if constituted by the Board, shall have such powers as the Board may by resolution prescribe, provided, however, that the power so delegated shall be limited to the power to take action until the next meeting of the Board of Governors, and in no event beyond a period of three months from the date of taking action, all action taken in the months of May, June and July, to be deemed for this purpose to have been taken July 31st.

*Section 7.* The Board of Governors shall have power to formulate, establish and publish the rules governing all open Amateur fencing competitions and all exhibitions in which a member of the League shall participate in the United States and in the absence of action to the contrary the Board of Governors shall be deemed to have formulated, established and published the following rules:

(a) All open Amateur Fencing Competitions shall be conducted under the rules and sanction of the Amateur Fencers League of America.

(b) Only members of the A. F. L. A. in good standing are eligible to compete in open League events.

(c) An Amateur Fencer wilfully competing in an open Amateur fencing competition not held under the rules and sanction of the A. F. L. A. shall be liable to suspension and may be held ineligible to enter any contest under League rules for such a period of time as the Board of Governors may determine.

(d) Any amateur knowingly competing in an open Amateur fencing competition with a fencer who has been suspended or disqualified by the Board of Governors of this League, renders himself liable to be debarred from entering all competitions held under the A. F. L. A. rules.

(e) No professional shall be permitted to officiate or take part in any manner in an open Amateur fencing competition held under the rules and sanction of the Amateur Fencers League of America.

(f) Managers of all fencing competitions and Chairmen of Divisions shall be notified of the suspension or disqualification of any member of the League.

*Section 8.* The Board of Governors shall receive bids from the various divisions to hold the annual National Championships and shall select the time and place thereof. In no event shall the National Championships be held prior to the thirtieth day from the mailing of the Notice pursuant to Section 2 of Chapter V.

*Section 9.* Voting by Mail and Telegraph.

(a) The President may of his own motion, and upon the written request of any three ex-officio members of the Board of Governors must, submit to a vote by mail any specific question or matter which might be passed upon at a special meeting of the Board, other than adoption of the Schedule of National Competitions, changes in the Rules of Fencing, the management of all fencing activities, except divisional events, the handling of all international relations of the League, and such additional powers and duties as may be prescribed by the By-Laws or by resolution of the Board, all of which may be acted upon solely by those attending a meeting of the Board in person, always provided, however, that action by the President or request of any three ex-officio members calling for a vote by mail must be exercised at least five days prior to the convening of the Special Meeting of the Board unless at such Special Meeting a majority of the members of the Board present shall determine to submit any such specific question or matter to a vote by mail.

(b) Where a vote by mail is required or decided to be taken as above the Secretary shall mail to each member of the Board a clear statement of the question to be voted upon, with the request that each member send his vote thereupon to the Secretary of the League; and the said request shall state upon what day the voting with the Secretary shall be closed (which shall not be less than thirty-five days after the mailing of said question). In cases where the President may deem it necessary, a vote may be taken by telegraph instead of by mail; in such cases the vote to be closed within forty-eight hours. All mail and telegraph votes received by the Secretary shall be preserved and filed. The Secretary may at any

time when sufficient votes have been received to either carry or reject a mail or telegraph vote, announce the result of the same and the result so announced shall be conclusive.

(c) Within five days after the closing of said vote with the Secretary, such officer shall mail to each member of the Board a copy of the question and the result of the same and the result of the vote thereon, to wit: the number voting for and in opposition thereto, with a statement of whether said question had been carried or defeated.

## CHAPTER VII

### ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE NON-DIVISIONAL MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE AND ELECTION OF NON-DIVISIONAL GOVERNORS

*Section 1.* The annual meeting of the Non-Divisional members shall be held immediately prior to the Annual Meeting of the League, when such meeting is in New York City.

*Section 2.* When the Annual Meeting of the League is elsewhere than New York City, the Non-Divisional Annual Meeting shall be held in New York City at a place and time to be designated by the President of the League of which there shall be at least 15 days' notice.

*Section 3.* At any meeting of the Non-Divisional members a quorum shall be 15 members, present in person or by proxy.

*Section 4.* At the Annual Meeting of the Non-Divisional members there shall be elected a Nominating Committee of 5 voting members which shall nominate candidates for Non-Divisional Governors to be voted upon at the next Annual Meeting of such members. The committee shall file its nominations, on or before the first of February next ensuing, with the Secretary of the League who shall, on or before February tenth, mail to each Non-Divisional voting member a copy of such nominations.

*Section 5.* Additional nominations may be made on petition of ten Non-Divisional voting members provided such petition is filed with the Secretary by March 5th.

(a) Voting for the Governors shall be by ballot by Non-Divisional voting members, except that where no additional nominations have been filed the Secretary shall cast, at the Annual Meeting of the Non-Divisional members, a unanimous ballot for the candidates nominated.

(b) The ballot shall be marked by putting a cross or other clear indication of choice opposite the name of the candidate for whom the voter desires to vote.

(c) The ballot shall be sealed in the envelope provided; the envelope shall be signed by the voter and attested to by the Secretary of the League that such voter is a member of the League in good standing.

(d) The envelopes so received are to be opened by the tellers only after the polls for election of Non-Divisional Governors are declared open.

The Governors thus elected shall take office as of the next ensuing Annual

Meeting of the Board of Governors and shall hold office until the following Annual Meeting of the Board or until their successors are elected and qualified.

*Section 6.* Vacancies occurring in the office of Non-Divisional Governor between Annual Meetings shall be filled for the unexpired term by the remaining Non-Divisional Governors.

### CHAPTER VIII

#### LEAGUE COLORS

The colors of the League are Dark Blue and Gold.

### CHAPTER IX

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR ALL MEETINGS

1. Reading of Minutes.
2. Report of Officers and Committees.
3. Unfinished Business.
4. Election of Officers.
5. New Business.

### CHAPTER X

#### AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended at the Annual Meetings providing the proposed amendment is submitted in writing to the Secretary by March fifth. In addition, these By-Laws, other than Chapters II, III and V, may be amended by the affirmative vote by mail of three-fourths of the members of the Board then entitled to vote. Any amendment by the members of the Board of Governors shall take effect upon adoption, but shall be valid only until the next succeeding Annual Meeting of the League.

## Section C

### THE AMATEUR CODE

#### (1) GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The basic rule of amateurism in fencing is defined by the Constitution of the A. F. L. A., Article III, *Section 2*. Attention is also called to the provisions of the By-Laws, Chapter VI, *Section 7 (c), (d), and (e)*.

The A. F. L. A. views an amateur as a sportsman interested in sport for its own sake, neither seeking nor accepting, directly or indirectly, any financial benefit from his knowledge of or participation in athletics.

The interpretation and application of these rules in specific cases is exclusively and absolutely within the discretion of the Board of Governors (*Constitution, Article IV, Section 2*). The Board will be guided, though not absolutely bound or limited, by the following definitions of acts rendering a fencer liable to disbarment as an amateur, by the precedents of the F. I. E., and by the general conditions for reinstatement.

#### (2) ACTS OF DISBARMENT

A person shall cease to be eligible to compete as an amateur by committing any of the following acts:

a. *Fraud*: By participating in any competition or exercise in any sport under an assumed name, except for reasons duly approved in advance by the proper governing body; or by being guilty of any fraud or other grossly unsportsmanlike conduct in connection therewith.

b. *Competing for Money*: By directly or indirectly receiving pay or financial benefits in consideration of, or as a reward for, participating in any public competition or exhibition in any sport; or by disposing of prizes for personal gain.\*

c. *Coaching for Money*: By directly or indirectly receiving pay or financial benefits in consideration of, or as a reward for, instructing or

\**Note on Amateur Coaching*: While truly amateur coaching is permissible, an amateur fencer may not accept non-athletic employment, involving pay or financial benefits, if this employment is in any way dependent upon his ability to exhibit, compete in, or teach any sport. If such athletic activities are obligatory, or regularly scheduled, or a prerequisite to the contract of employment, or if the time devoted thereto exceeds that required by the non-athletic employment, there is an automatic violation of these rules.

Furthermore, an amateur is not permitted to offer instruction or coaching (even if he receives no pay or other financial benefits for his services) in any case where some person or organization assesses a fee or requires a consideration for such instruction or coaching. This also applies to cases where an amateur temporarily substitutes for a professional teacher of fencing.

preparing any person in or for any competition, exhibition, or exercise, in any sport.\*

d. *Capitalization of Athletic Fame*: By granting or sanctioning the use of one's name to advertise, recommend, or promote the sale of the goods or apparatus of any person, firm, manufacturer, or agent; or by accepting compensation, directly or indirectly, for using the goods or apparatus of any person, firm, manufacturer, or agent; or by engaging for pay or financial benefit in any occupation or business transaction wherein his usefulness or value arises chiefly from the publicity given (or to be given) to the reputation or fame which he has secured from his performance in any sport, rather than from his ability to perform the usual and natural acts and duties incident to such occupation or transaction.

e. *Competing Against or With Ineligible Persons*: By participating in any public competition or exhibition against a person ineligible to compete as an amateur fencer, without having first obtained permission to do so from the Board of Governors of the A. F. L. A. or from an authorized representative of the Board.

### (3) F. I. E. PRECEDENTS

In addition to the foregoing rules, which are based on the rules of the A. A. U., the following precedents of the F. I. E. exist:

a. The maximum sum which an amateur may receive as a reimbursement of expenses shall be the actual expenses incurred by him in participating in a tournament. He may not accept reimbursement of expenses of participation in international contests beyond the period of 21 days per year, not including days of travel. He may not accept reimbursement of expenses incurred by persons accompanying him to a competition. He may not accept, under any form whatsoever, an indemnity for earnings of time lost in participating in a competition.

b. An amateur may not participate in any contest organized by an association of professionals, whether or not cash prizes are offered.

c. An amateur may not accept remuneration for changing his affiliation to a club or for remaining a member thereof.

d. An amateur may not bet on the contest in which he takes part.

### (4) QUESTIONABLE SITUATIONS

Certain factual situations may give rise to a strong suspicion against the amateur standing of a fencer, even in the absence of an overt act of

\* See footnote on p. 19.

disbarment. In these cases, the Board of Governors may require the fencer to produce evidence in his behalf that his activities or transactions do not violate the letter and the spirit of the amateur code. The following persons may find themselves in such situations:

- a. Wives and husbands of professional teachers of fencing.
- b. Teachers and other employees in dramatic or dancing schools where fencing is taught.
- c. Clerks and other employees in sporting goods stores.

### (5) REINSTATEMENT

The Board of Governors has absolute and exclusive jurisdiction over the reinstatement of persons to the privileges of amateur standing in fencing, but will not exercise its powers except for the most cogent reasons, certified by a responsible group of members of the A. F. L. A. In general, the following principles govern reinstatement to amateur standing:

a. No person guilty of fraud or of competing for money will be considered for reinstatement as an amateur fencer.

b. A person who has coached for money may, in certain cases, be reinstated as an amateur fencer upon satisfactory proof that the instruction or preparation was not given in connection with fencing; or, if it was, that two years have elapsed since the giving of such instruction or preparation; and that the said person intends never to resume such instruction or preparation, or to commit any other act or acts which would render him ineligible to compete as an amateur.

c. A person who has been guilty of capitalizing his athletic fame may, in certain cases, be reinstated as an amateur fencer upon satisfactory proof that such person has ceased to commit any of the acts, or to engage in any of the pursuits or practices, set down in Paragraph 2 (d) above; and that said person intends never again to commit any of the said acts, or to engage in any of the said pursuits or practices.

d. A person subject to disbarment under Paragraph 2 (e) above may be reinstated as an amateur fencer upon satisfactory proof that the acts therein forbidden were not done knowingly or wilfully; or that the said person intends never again to commit such act or acts.

e. No person guilty of an act of disbarment after reinstatement will be considered for a second reinstatement to amateur standing.

## Section D

## RULES GOVERNING EXHIBITIONS

## (1) BASIC PRINCIPLES

a. No member of the A. F. L. A. may participate in an exhibition for any cause without permission in advance from the Board of Governors, from the Executive Committee of his Division, or from an authorized representative of these governing bodies. The penalty for violation of this rule may be suspension from the League.

b. No member of the A. F. L. A. may profit by his services in exhibitions. If traveling expenses or costs of room and board are incurred by the amateur, he may be compensated in full or in part for these legitimate expenses. He may accept inexpensive medals, trophies or non-practical prizes for his services. Any compensation or remuneration above these may cost him his amateur standing.

c. The Board of Governors, in general, will not sanction the use of amateurs in any exhibition in which any professional receives compensation in excess of a nominal \$10.00 payment; and will not sanction any exhibition under conditions that might be detrimental to the sport.

d. The Board of Governors reserves the right to request a share of any admission fees at fencing exhibitions toward the A. F. L. A.'s Olympic or International fencing fund.

## (2) GENERAL CONDITIONS

The general rules for the conduct of exhibitions are as follows:

a. All fencing exhibitions should be held in accord with the A. F. L. A.'s technical rules and conventions of fencing. Exception is made where special bouts are arranged in historical costume, or where a comedy bout is conducted in Pierrot costume. Exception is also made in regard to plume-cutting contests and to bouts with electrified weapons.

b. Fencing exhibitions should not be undertaken under poor fencing conditions. Particular attention should be paid to ground and distance facilities. The Board of Governors will refuse permission for exhibitions where the arrangement committee will not provide reasonably adequate and safe facilities for fencing. The Board also feels obliged to require adequate dressing room and shower facilities before authorizing amateurs to participate in an exhibition.

c. No mixed competitive bouts between men and women are to be permitted.

d. The wearing of masks in exhibitions is preferred. An amateur may be permitted to take an exhibition lesson without mask if his instructor possesses a Certificate of Merit\* granted by the A. F. L. A. An exhibition without masks between a professional and an amateur, or between two amateurs, may be undertaken only if carefully rehearsed and limited to a safe routine.

e. The A. F. L. A., in granting permission for exhibitions, assumes no responsibility or liability of any kind for the conduct thereof.

\* The *Professional Certificate of Merit* is an honorary award voted by the Board of Governors to teachers of outstanding ability and character whose pupils have achieved notable success, through their fencing technique, competitive spirit and sportsmanship, in A. F. L. A. events. As an organization of amateurs, the A. F. L. A. feels neither qualified nor justified in passing judgment upon the professional competence of fencing instructors. On the other hand, the A. F. L. A. is in a position to ascertain the fencing spirit and ability of the amateurs who have been trained for competition by a particular teacher, and believes that outstanding instructors are deserving of recognition by the amateur organization which they have thus benefited. The Certificate of Merit embodies such recognition.

The Certificate of Merit is never voluntarily offered by the Board of Governors. It must be solicited, on behalf of a teacher, by two or more members of the Board or by the Executive Committee of a Division. The application must be accompanied by the fencing history of the professional, and the names and achievements of at least two of his recognized pupils. The submitted material is then reviewed by the Certificate of Merit Committee, who reports to the Board of Governors its findings and recommendations.

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**PART TWO**  
**RULES GOVERNING ORGANIZATION OF**  
**A.F.L.A. COMPETITIONS**

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## Chapter I

### SCHEDULES, DEFINITIONS, AND CLASSIFICATIONS

#### (A) SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1. The fencing season officially begins on September 1 and continues through August 31 of the next calendar year.

2. At the beginning of each fencing season, the Board of Governors shall draft and publish a schedule of national, sectional, and any other inter-divisional events, team and individual. A similar schedule of divisional events shall be published by the Executive Committee of each division of the A. F. L. A.

3. Scheduled competitions for men may include épée, foil, sabre, and three-weapon events. Women's competitions shall be limited to foil events. Mixed bouts between men and women are not permitted in formal competitions or exhibitions in which touches are counted.

4. The schedule of events should include the following information: (a) The title and classification of each competition; (b) the date and hour; (c) the place of competition; (d) the prizes offered; (e) the method and conditions for entries; (f) the terms for admission of spectators; (g) any additional information required by the rules governing organization of competitions (See Rules 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 25, 30, 63, 64, 80, 87, 91, 93, 94, and 95) or by the technical rules and conventions of fencing (See Rules 271, 402, 405, and 501).

#### (B) DEFINITIONS

5. Scheduled events may be designated as "competitions", "tournaments", or "meets":

(a) A *competition* is generally a contest in one weapon (or in the three-weapon class) organized either as an individual or as a team event.

(b) A *tournament* consists of a series of competitions in one or in several weapons, organized as individual events, or team events, or both, held continuously over a given period of time.

(c) A *meet* is a competition between two or more teams, in which matches in two or more weapons are held.

6. The following terms are used in connection with the organization of competitions:

(a) A *match* is a contest between two teams in any one weapon (or in the three-weapon class), and consists of a series of bouts.

(b) A *bout* is a contest between two individuals, and may or may not be part of a match.

(c) A *pool* is a group of individuals or teams competing against one another on a round-robin basis.

7. Where "fencing club" or "club" is used in these rules, it is intended that it shall mean any club, educational institution, organization or otherwise designated body of individual members.

#### (C) CLASSIFICATION OF FENCERS

8. For the purpose of providing reasonable equality of strength in competitions, fencers are classified on the basis of competitive experience and achievement into the following categories (in order of strength): Prep (lowest), Novice, Junior, Intermediate, and Senior (highest).

9. The classification of an individual fencer in each weapon moves from Prep to Senior, progressively or by skipping intervening categories, but once a fencer achieves a higher classification, he may never be classed in a lower category. The following rules govern the classification of fencers:

(a) A fencer who is competing in A. F. L. A. competitions (other than interscholastic invitations) for the first year in a particular weapon, and who is not otherwise entitled to a higher classification, is a *Prep*. He remains a *Prep* for the duration of the fencing season unless he wins a personal prize\* in competition, either team or individual. However, a fencer who attains Junior or higher ranking in one weapon cannot be a *Prep* in any other weapon, but automatically becomes a *Novice*.

(b) A fencer becomes a *Novice* by (1) the expiration of the time limit fixed for the *Prep* class; (2) becoming a Junior, Intermediate, or Senior in any weapon other than the one involved in the ranking; (3) winning a personal prize\* in competition, team or individual (unless such prize entitles him to a higher classification).

(c) A fencer becomes a *Junior* by winning (1) first place in any official *Novice* competition; (2) second or third medal or prize in any individual *Junior* competition; (3) a personal prize\* in a sectional Intermediate or *Junior* team championship, or in a divisional Intermediate team championship; (4) a personal prize\* in any Intermediate or Open event, except as provided in section (d) and (e) below; (5) any medal in a national or sectional Open individual three-weapon championship; (6)

\* *Personal prizes* are defined as awards made to individual fencers. They include all prizes in individual events, as well as individual awards to members of teams (as distinguished from trophies awarded to the team as a whole) whenever such prizes are given.

any team or individual medal at a recognized intercollegiate championship.

(d) A fencer becomes an *Intermediate* by winning (1) first, second, or third place in a divisional Open individual championship; (2) second or third place in a sectional Intermediate individual championship; (3) first place in a divisional Intermediate individual championship; (4) first place in a sectional or divisional *Junior* individual championship.

(e) A fencer becomes a *Senior* by (1) winning first, second, or third place in the national Open individual championships (indoor or outdoor); (2) winning first, second, or third place in a sectional Open individual championship; (3) winning first place in a sectional Intermediate individual championship; (4) being selected as a member of an official Olympic or International fencing team of the United States or of any other country; (5) representing the United States or any other country officially in a World's (F. I. E.) Championship.

(f) Except as specifically provided above, the classification of a fencer in one weapon has no effect upon his classification in any other weapon; and is not affected by his winning or competing in individual three-weapon events, or in team events, or in invitation events, or in interscholastic and intercollegiate events, or in unofficial club and interclub competitions. It is therefore possible for a fencer to be a *Senior* in foil, a *Junior* in *épée*, and a *Novice* in *sabre*, on any other combination, except *Prep* as noted.

(g) Whenever there is reasonable doubt as to the classification of a fencer, the *Bout* Committee in charge of a competition, or the *Jury of Appeal*, may decide according to its view of the facts of the case, and such determination shall be conclusive for that competition. However, for subsequent competitions, the decision shall be subject to review by the divisional or sectional Executive Committee and by the national Board of Governors.

(h) Whenever there is doubt as to the classification of a fencer, the proper authorities shall consider both the specific provisions of the foregoing regulations and the general purpose thereof, and shall be guided accordingly. In marginal cases, the presumption shall be in favor of *Novice* as against *Prep*, in favor of *Junior* as against *Novice* or as against *Intermediate*, and in favor of *Intermediate* as against *Senior*. The theory behind these presumptions is that, up to the *Junior* classification, any marginal case should be decided in favor of the higher class, in order to protect other inexperienced competitors; but beyond the *Junior* rank the fencer should clearly prove his right to be classified in the upper categories.

10. Two additional classifications are made: (a) Ranking Fencers; (b) Veterans. These classifications are independent of the categories established by the preceding rule, so that a fencer may be a Veteran and a Junior at the same time, or any other combination.

(a) A *Ranking Fencer* in a particular weapon is a fencer who has been selected as a leading fencer in that weapon by the Board of Governors for the purpose of the seeded draw in individual competitions.

(b) A *Veteran* is a fencer (1) who has attained the age of 50 years; or (2) who has attained the age of 40 years and in addition has retired from all competitions except the Veterans' individual events or the team events in which he participates as a member of a composite team made up exclusively of Veterans.

#### (D) CLASSIFICATION OF COMPETITIONS

11. An *Open* competition is one in which all members of the A. F. L. A. in good standing are eligible to compete without restriction as to class or rank.

12. A *Senior* competition is one which is open to Seniors and Ranking Fencers. It may be open to other members of the A. F. L. A. only to the extent noted in the schedule of events.

13. The classification of other competitions (*Intermediate, Junior, etc.*) indicates the highest category of fencers permitted to participate therein, but these competitions are also open to fencers of lower categories unless the contrary is specifically stated in the schedule of events.

#### (E) CHAMPIONSHIPS

14. The title of "championship" shall be limited to the more important competitions or tournaments in divisional, sectional, or national schedules, as follows:

(a) *National Championships* include the individual Open épée, foil, sabre and three-weapon championships for men, the individual Open foil championship for women, and the corresponding team events. The Board of Governors has the right to designate other competitions as national championships in the official schedule of events, subject to the limitations provided below.

(b) *Sectional Championships* include the Pacific Coast, Mid-West, and All-Eastern inter-divisional championships. These championships ordinarily shall be limited to Open, Senior, and Intermediate events, team and individual.

(c) *Divisional Championships* may be held in any division in the Open, Senior, Intermediate, and Junior classifications, team and individual.

(d) *Intermediate Championships* shall not be designated as national championships, but shall be limited to divisional or sectional events.

(e) *Junior Championships* shall be limited to divisional events.

(f) No Prep or Novice competition shall be designated as a championship of any kind.

15. Championship events shall be competitive contests, conducted strictly in accord with the rules governing the organization of competitions, and with the technical rules and conventions of fencing, as provided herein.

#### (F) MISCELLANEOUS

16. For competitions other than championship events, special regulations differing from the standard rules herein prescribed are permitted, provided that a suitable notice is included in the schedule of events.

17. Academic contests, where the number of touches scored is not the sole criterion for victory in a bout, are permitted, provided that adequate notice of the character of the competition is included in the schedule of events.

18. In the drafting of the schedule of events, the Executive Committee of each division and the national Board of Governors should take into account the general caliber of the fencers likely to participate therein, and proceed to classify the various competitions in light of the effect that the winning of prizes may have upon the individual classification of the fencers. Special care should be taken not to deprive inexperienced fencers of possible competitive opportunities by moving them too rapidly into the upper categories. In this connection, the distinction between "championships" and other competitions is to be kept in mind.

## Chapter II

### ORGANIZATION AND DISCIPLINE

#### (A) BOUT COMMITTEE

20. The Board of Governors shall appoint a national Bout Committee to conduct national events. Similar committees shall be appointed by divisional or sectional Executive Committees to conduct competitions within their respective jurisdictions.

21. The Bout Committee shall be responsible for the organization, conduct, and discipline of A. F. L. A. competitions within its jurisdiction; it shall appoint and remove directors, judges, and scorers; and it shall exercise such judicial and executive powers over protests and questions of discipline as are given to it under these rules.

22. The rules governing competition, including organization and technical rules, are enacted, amended, and repealed solely by action of the national Board of Governors (*By-Laws, Chapter VI, Section 7*). These rules are mandatory for all official contests scheduled by or under the auspices of the A. F. L. A., except to the extent specifically provided for in the rules. In exceptional circumstances, the Bout Committee may waive or modify the rules of organization for a particular event with the unanimous consent of all the fencers directly or indirectly affected; but in all cases, this action is subject to review by the divisional or sectional Executive Committee and by the national Board of Governors.

#### (B) ELIGIBILITY AND REPRESENTATION

23. Only members of the A. F. L. A. in good standing (as defined in Article III of the Constitution) are eligible to compete in team or individual events scheduled by or under the auspices of the Amateur Fencers League of America, except as otherwise specifically authorized by the divisional Executive Committee (for local competitions) or by the national Board of Governors (for national competitions).

(a) The Bout Committee shall reject any entry from a member of the League who is not in good standing because he is in arrears for dues (*By-Laws, Chapter II, Section 3*), or because of the imposition of disciplinary penalties (*Rule 28-b, c, d, e, f, g*), or because of any other reason, such as those provided below.

(b) A fencer who has entered a competition but has failed to pay the

required entry fee (*Rule 25-a*), and who has either taken part in the competition or failed to withdraw therefrom in time (*Rule 25-b*), shall be liable to the League for the amount of the entry fee, and shall be ineligible to enter any subsequent competition until restored to good standing by payment of the sum due.

(c) No member of a division shall be in good standing unless his Division is in good standing according to the established rules and practices of the A. F. L. A. Consequently, if a member's Division is not in good standing and he wishes to compete in any event scheduled outside the jurisdiction of his Division, he must become a Non-Divisional member by the payment of dues directly to the national Treasurer.

24. To represent a club in team or individual competition a fencer must be a member in good standing of that club.

(a) No fencer resigning from one club and joining another, or holding membership in two or more clubs, shall within the same fencing season transfer his representation from one club to another without special permission of the Board of Governors. This permission will not be granted for a fencer to represent more than one club in team events within the same fencing season. However, a fencer who is a member of two or more clubs may elect to represent any one of the clubs of which he is a member.

(b) A fencer who, while a member of a recognized club, elects to fence *unattached*, may not be permitted to represent any club during the remainder of the season in individual competition, and may not compete in team events except as a member of composite teams. (*See Rules 62 and 83.*)

#### (C) ENTRIES

25. Unless otherwise specified in the official schedule of events, entries for all competitions must be forwarded in writing to the Chairman of the appropriate Bout Committee *at least one week* in advance of the time set for any competition which the fencer or team desires to enter.

(a) Every entry must be accompanied by the required entry fee.

(b) Entry fees received in accordance with the provisions of this rule will be refunded if the Bout Committee receives notice of an individual's or team's desire to withdraw *not later than 72 hours before the competition is scheduled to start.*

26. Contestants upon arriving at a competition shall report at once to the Bout Committee. A contestant who arrives late, or who is not on the

mark when called, is liable to be excluded irrevocably by the Bout Committee after an interval in its opinion sufficient, taking due account of the circumstances.

(D) PROTESTS, APPEALS, PENALTIES

27. All protests and appeals must first be referred to the Bout Committee, whenever the rules permit such protests or appeals. No other body may recognize a competition protest or appeal prior to its registry with the Bout Committee. Whenever necessary, the *Jury of Appeal* must be called together by the Bout Committee, either on its own initiative, or at the request of an individual competitor, team captain, director, or other official.

(a) The Jury of Appeal at a national competition shall be composed of all members of the national Bout Committee and all members of the Board of Governors present at the competition.

(b) The Jury of Appeal at a sectional competition shall be composed of all members of the sectional Bout Committee and all members of the sectional Executive Committee present at the competition.

(c) The Jury of Appeal at a divisional competition shall be composed of all members of the divisional Bout Committee and all members of the divisional Executive Committee present at the competition.

(d) The Jury of Appeal has jurisdiction over all persons who participate in, or are present at, any competition. It has the power to decide finally all appeals made to it for interpretation of the rules. It has the power to inflict all disciplinary penalties for the duration of the competition or tournament. It may in addition recommend to the appropriate Executive Committee or to the Board of Governors the application of the penalty of temporary or permanent suspension.

(e) In cases heard by the Jury of Appeal, decisions are made according to the vote of the majority.

28. Disciplinary penalties include *reprimand* (of officials, contestants, and other members of the A. F. L. A.), *exclusion* (of contestants), *disqualification* (of contestants), *expulsion* (of any and all persons, including spectators), and *suspension* (of any member of the A. F. L. A.).

(a) *Exclusion* from a competition means that the person or team so excluded cannot continue to take part in it, no matter how far the competition has progressed or what classification may have been obtained.

(b) *Disqualification* from a tournament means that the team or individual disqualified is barred, not only from the competition then in

progress, but from all other subsequent competitions forming part of the same tournament.

(c) *Expulsion* from a competition or tournament means that the person expelled will no longer have the right to be present in any capacity at the competition or tournament concerned.

(d) *Suspension* means that the person suspended will no longer have the right to exercise his functions or enjoy his privileges as a member of the League, within the limits of time and place fixed when the penalty is inflicted.

(e) The penalty of *suspension for a period of more than one year*, and any other more drastic penalty, shall be imposed only by the Board of Governors strictly in accord with the provisions of the Constitution (*Article IV, Section 2*).

(f) The penalty of *reprimand or suspension for one year or less* may be imposed either by the Board of Governors or by the appropriate divisional or sectional Executive Committee. In the latter case, such action shall be deemed to have been taken, without a hearing, by the Board of Governors as a whole. If the penalized fencer does not within 15 days avail himself of the right to a hearing by the Board, granted to him by the Constitution (*Article IV, Section 2*), this action shall furthermore be deemed final, and shall not be subject to appeal to the Board of Governors except upon affirmative motion of a quorum of the Board to hear such appeal.

(g) Whenever the right of appeal exists, the appeal does not suspend the application of the penalty.

29. In all cases involving the application of disciplinary penalties, the competent authorities are required to take into account the gravity of the offense and the circumstances in which it was committed, and to reach their decisions in an equitable manner, without being restricted by formal procedural regulations. However, as far as possible, the following principles should be observed:

(a) No disciplinary penalty should be inflicted unless the parties concerned have been given an opportunity to be heard in explanation of the occurrence, either verbally or in writing, within a reasonable interval suited to the time and place.

(b) If the offending party does not take advantage of the opportunity for a hearing, the penalty may be inflicted after the expiration of a reasonable period of time.

(c) In case of a conviction involving the sentence of disqualification or suspension for less than one year, pronounced by competent authorities

against a fencer who has never before been guilty of any similar offense, the authorities may *in their discretion* suspend the application of the penalty for a probationary period of a duration equal to double the length of time involved in the disqualification or suspension. If, during the probationary period, the fencer in question does not incur a new liability to disciplinary penalties, the original sentence shall be commuted and the original penalty shall be annulled. If, on the other hand, the fencer in question again becomes liable to disciplinary penalties during the probationary period, the original sentence shall become immediately effective, and the original penalty shall be added to the new one.

(d) In case the penalty of *exclusion* or *disqualification* is inflicted *during a competition* upon an individual or team, as provided in the rules of competition and discipline (*Rules 107-109, 111-112, 118, 330-332, 719, and 722*), the Jury of Appeal shall determine, upon examination of all the pertinent facts, *whether or not* the consequent withdrawal shall be deemed *beyond the control* of the offending contestant or team (*Rules 50-51, and 78-79*). In general, the application of the penalty of exclusion or disqualification *for technical reasons* should not deprive an individual or team of any placement or prizes earned *before* the commission of the offense for which the penalty is inflicted. However, in cases involving *flagrant violations* of the code of good sportsmanship, the application of the penalty of exclusion or disqualification *may* include forfeiture of any placement or prizes earned during the competition in which the offense was committed.

### Chapter III

#### COMPETITIONS WITH THE ELECTRICAL ÉPÉE

##### (A) PRELIMINARY REGULATIONS

30. In all official contests conducted with the electrical épée, the registration apparatus must be of a type approved by the Board of Governors of the Amateur Fencers League of America.

(a) The acceptance of the apparatus by the A. F. L. A. carries no guarantee against defects in construction.

(b) When the electrical épée apparatus is to be used in any competition, announcement of this fact shall be made in the schedule of events.

(c) At least 24 hours in advance of any competition at which the electrical épée is to be used, the Bout Committee shall obtain a sufficient number of apparatus to run the event efficiently. These apparatus shall be submitted to one or more experts, qualified to certify that the machines meet the requirements of these rules and that they are in good working order.

##### (B) APPARATUS SPECIFICATIONS

31. The apparatus must register, regularly and exactly, which of the competing fencers has been touched first. However, when both fencers have been touched, and the interval between touches is equal to or less than *1/15th of a second*, the apparatus must register a double touch.

32. A thrust upon the neutralized strip or upon the metallic parts of the opponent's weapon must not be registered as a touch by the apparatus and must not prevent the registration of a touch upon the target, scored by the opponent's simultaneous thrust, or subsequently by either contestant.

33. The apparatus must not include any device which permits the Director, as distinguished from the Apparatus Manager, to interrupt its operation during the combat.

34. The female plugs of the reel wires, which receive the male plugs of the body wire at the back of each fencer, must be attached to a reliable contrivance which will insure the following:

(a) That the connection cannot be completed if it is improperly made.

(b) That disconnection of the plugs in the course of the bout will be impossible.

(c) That each contestant will be able to ascertain that the two foregoing provisions have been complied with.

## (C) EXPERTS AND TECHNICIANS

35. For every competition with the electrical épée, the Bout Committee shall obtain the services of one or more *experts* in the operation of the electrical apparatus, preferably from among members of the A. F. L. A., or others familiar with the general rules of fencing as well as with the technical aspects of the apparatus. These experts may be consulted by the Director to establish facts relating to the electrical equipment and to localize defects in operation. They should, therefore, be able to explain such established facts and the conclusions which should be drawn therefrom. The experts may be required to furnish similar explanations to the Board of Governors or the Executive Committee of a Division or Section whenever the need therefor may arise.

36. In addition, for each such competition, the Bout Committee shall insure the presence of *technicians* competent to repair the electrical apparatus and the personal armament of the contestants in case of a breakdown in the course of competition.

## (D) OPERATION

37. The management of the electrical apparatus should be in charge of an official appointed exclusively for that purpose.

(a) The Apparatus Manager must report to the Director each result, as registered by the apparatus, and must notify the Director, even during the course of a bout, of any abnormality in the functioning of the apparatus.

(b) The table on which the electrical apparatus is placed must be sufficiently removed from the fencers, the jury, and the spectators, to prevent any interference, intentional or unintentional, with its operation. A different table should be used by the Scorer, Time-keeper, etc.

## (E) CONTESTANTS' ARMAMENT

38. At all *multiple-touch* competitions with the electrical épée, no competitor shall be permitted to fence unless he has, available for his personal use, two satisfactory weapons, tested and approved by the Bout Committee. At *one-touch* competitions, a competitor may be permitted to fence if he has one satisfactory weapon.

## Chapter IV

## INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS—CONDUCT

## (A) ORGANIZATION

40. For any individual competition the minimum number of actual contestants shall be four, except when otherwise ruled by the proper governing body.

41. Individual competitions may be organized as direct-elimination contests (*losers dropping out*), or as complete round-robins (*each contestant meeting every other contestant*), or on the basis of pools with two or more rounds.

(a) Individual three-weapon events shall ordinarily be organized on the basis of direct elimination.

(b) Events in a particular weapon, where the number of actual contestants is nine or less, shall ordinarily be organized on the basis of a complete round-robin.

(c) Other events shall ordinarily be organized on the basis of pools with two or more rounds.

(d) When a competition is organized on the *pool basis*, the fencers in each preliminary pool shall fence a round-robin among themselves, and at least the two highest shall qualify for the next round, which may be in turn organized on the basis of pools or as a final round-robin. There may be any number of eliminatory rounds organized on the pool basis prior to the final round-robin, as for example, preliminary, quarter-final, and semi-final rounds. (*See below.*)

(e) Eliminatory pools in *one-touch épée competitions* should in principle be composed of at least eight contestants, and preferably one-half or more should qualify for the next round. For example, if the total number of contestants is eleven or less, a complete round-robin should be held; if the number is between 12 and 21, there should be two preliminary pools; if the number is between 22 and 30, three preliminary pools; between 31 and 40, four preliminary pools, etc. If large pools are not feasible, the same result may be obtained by fencing the round-robin through two or three times, so that each contestant fences two or three one-touch bouts with each opponent in the pool.

(f) In competitions in foil and sabre, and in épée for several touches, the number of contestants in each eliminatory pool should in principle be at least six, and the number of qualifiers at least one-third, preferably one-half.

(g) *Final round-robins* should in principle be composed of at least six fencers in all weapons. This regulation and the two preceding, however, may be modified by the Bout Committee as circumstances demand.

#### (B) RULES FOR SEEDING

42. In all eliminatory rounds, the Bout Committee shall endeavor as far as possible to separate representatives of the same club, so that they shall not meet in these rounds. This principle is superior to the seeded draw if the two conflict. In cases where several possibilities obtain, the distribution of contestants may be done by lot.

(a) In the *first* eliminatory round, the Bout Committee should distribute the contestants among the several pools on the principle of the seeded draw. For this purpose, the Bout Committee is required to follow generally the list of Ranking Fencers. When no rankings are available, and there are several representatives of the same club entered, the captain of each club shall furnish to the Bout Committee a ranking list of its fencers for purposes of seeding.

(b) In the *second* or following eliminatory rounds, the seeded draw shall be based on the results of the preceding eliminatory round, so that each pool shall contain the same number of fencers who finished first, second, etc. in the preceding round. Nevertheless, as far as possible, the distribution of fencers should be made so as to avoid having two fencers, who have already fenced each other, meet in the succeeding round.

#### (C) ORDER OF BOUTS

43. In every pool, each contestant is given a number which determines the order of that fencer's bouts in accordance with a pre-arranged table. This number may be assigned to each fencer by the Bout Committee, or, at the request of any contestant, it shall be determined by the drawing of lots.

(a) In the absence of special regulations, the order of bouts shall be as indicated in the table on page 41.

(b) Where two or more representatives of the same club are drawn in the same pool, they shall so far as possible fence one another before meeting any other fencer. However, when the fencers from the same club constitute a majority of the pool (particularly in a final round-robin), the Bout Committee shall establish a *special order of bouts* to maintain the principle of this rule.

#### ORDER OF BOUTS

(Read Downward)

4 Competitors (6 Bouts)	5 Competitors (10 Bouts)	6 Competitors (15 Bouts)	7 Competitors (21 Bouts)	8 Competitors (28 Bouts)	9 Competitors (36 Bouts)	10 Competitors (45 Bouts)	11 Competitors (55 Bouts)
1 2	1 4	1 4 4 5	1 4 1 3	1 5 3 5 7 8	1 5 1 6 1 7 2 5 1	1 2 1 4 1 6 1 10 1 5	1 7 1 8 1 9 3 7 2 7
3 4	2 3	2 5 1 2	2 5 4 6	2 6 4 6 1 3	2 6 2 7 2 8 3 6 3	2 3 2 8 2 9 2 7	2 8 2 9 2 10 1 10 1 11
1 3	4 5	3 6 3 5 3 6	3 7 1 8 2 4	3 7 1 8 2 4	3 8 3 5 1 8 5	3 8 4 9 4 7 3 9	3 9 3 10 3 11 2 11 3 8
2 4	1 2	1 5 4 6	1 7 3 5 4 8	2 5 5 7 3 7	4 5 4 6 4 7 6	4 6 9 3 7 5 6 4 8	4 10 4 11 4 7 4 8 4 9
2 3	3 5	2 6 1 3	4 5 1 6	1 6 3 6 6 8	1 9 2 9 1 2 6 9 9 10 7 10 5 10 3 8 6 10	5 11 5 7 5 8 5 9 5 10	5 11 5 7 5 8 5 9 5 10
1 4	2 4	3 4 2 4	2 3 2 4	2 7 4 7 1 4 2 4	1 3 5 9 2 3 1 3 1 8 1 9 1 7	1 6 2 6 3 6 1 3 1 2	1 6 2 6 3 6 1 3 1 2
1 5	1 5	1 6 5 6 6 7	3 7 3 8 1 2 2 3	6 8 7 8 3 4 1 4 2 4 2 6 7 8 2 5	2 3 1 4 2 4 2 6 7 8 2 5	2 3 1 4 2 4 2 6 7 8 2 5	2 3 1 4 2 4 2 6 7 8 2 5
3 4	2 3	1 5 5 6	4 5 3 4 5 8 5 7	5 6 6 7 5 8 5 9 3 10 2 10 3 6	4 5 6 7 5 8 5 9 3 10 2 10 3 6	4 5 7 10 1 5 2 5 5 6	4 5 7 10 1 5 2 5 5 6
2 5	1 3	3 4 1 2	1 7 5 6 6 7 3 9	4 9 8 9 7 9 6 7 4 5 3 5 8 9	8 10 7 9 4 6 4 10	8 9 9 11 7 11 7 9 7 8	8 9 9 11 7 11 7 9 7 8
1 3	1 3	2 6 4 7 2 8	5 7				10 11 3 5 8 10 8 11 9 10
							6 7 6 8 6 9 6 10 6 11

## (D) BYES

44. In *direct-elimination competitions*, the Bout Committee may grant a sufficient number of first-round byes (to the top-seeded contestants) to insure a two-man final. The Bout Committee may also grant such other byes as may be necessary, but no individual shall receive more than one bye during a competition.

45. In an Open or Senior competition, organized on the *pool basis*, one or more Ranking Fencers may, at the option of the Bout Committee, be granted byes into the second round, in order of their rank. All Ranking Fencers, however, must be on hand at the scheduled starting time.

## (E) QUALIFICATION AND PLACEMENT

46. For purposes of qualification in eliminatory pools, or for places in the final round-robin, fencers are ranked according to the number of bouts won in that particular round.

(a) In case of a tie in the number of bouts won, except where such tie is for first place in the finals, the contestant receiving the lowest total of touches in all bouts of the pool or round shall be declared the winner. If the total number of touches received is equal, the contestant scoring the greatest total of touches shall be declared the winner.

(b) In the event of parity in bout victories and in touches, both received and scored, the contestants are tied. If it is necessary to resolve the tie, a fence-off by the contestants actually affected shall be held.

(c) In any pool from which only two fencers qualify for the next round, if three fencers tie with *only one defeat* each (having beaten one another), all three shall be advanced to the next round without counting touches.

(d) A tie for *first place* in the final round-robin must always be fenced off until a winner is determined on the basis of bout victories, without consideration of the number of touches received or scored in the previous bouts of the pool, or of previous fence-offs.

## (F) FENCE-OFFS

47. When three or more fencers tie for first place, the fence-off determines first, second, third, and such other places as may be involved, on the basis of bout victories in the fence-off round-robin. However, in the event that after the fence-off two or more fencers are still tied in bout victories for any place other than first place, the tie is resolved by counting touches as above, except that the touch score in the original pool shall

be added to the touch score in the fence-off to determine the relative standing of the fencers involved.

(a) When three or more fencers tie for a qualifying place in an eliminatory pool, as provided in Rule 46 (b), and a fence-off is necessary, the principles of the preceding paragraph shall be followed in resolving the tie.

(b) When three fencers are involved in a fence-off *for a single position*, the first bout of the fence-off shall be drawn by lot, unless two of the three fencers are members of the same club, in which case they must meet first. The winner of the first bout must then fence in the second bout, and if he wins again, the third bout becomes unnecessary.

(c) On the other hand, when three fencers are engaged in a fence-off to determine *two or three positions*, the loser of the first bout must fence the second bout against the third contestant. If he loses again, the third bout may be unnecessary (in an eliminatory round) or it may be the climax of the competition (in a fence-off for first place).

## Chapter V

## INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS—WITHDRAWALS

## (A) GENERAL PROVISIONS

50. When a contestant withdraws from a competition by reason of some cause which, in the opinion of the Bout Committee, is beyond his control, he has the right to the placement to which his actual victories entitle him, but, if a fence-off is required, he shall be deemed to have lost the fence-off.

51. When a contestant withdraws from a competition for reasons, which, in the opinion of the Bout Committee, are not beyond his control, he shall lose all rights to qualification or to a prize in the final round, and in addition he shall be subject to such disciplinary penalties (including permanent suspension) as the appropriate Executive Committee or the national Board of Governors in their discretion see fit to impose.

## (B) WITHDRAWAL DURING A BOUT

52. When a contestant withdraws *during a bout*, and at the time of withdrawal the bout is tied or he is leading in touches, the bout shall be annulled. If at the time of withdrawal, his opponent is leading in touches, the withdrawing contestant shall be considered as having lost that bout, but only that bout, without having scored any additional touches. *For example:* If in a bout for five touches between A and B, A withdraws (a) when the score is 3-3, or 3-2 in favor of A, the bout is annulled; (b) when the score is 3-2 in favor of B, B is the winner by a score of 5-2.

## (C) WITHDRAWAL DURING A POOL

53. When, for any reason whatsoever, a contestant withdraws *from a pool already begun*, the Bout Committee shall determine the result of the pool according to the special regulations which follow. Nothing herein stated shall absolve the withdrawing contestant from liability to disciplinary penalties whenever applicable.

54. Upon completion of the pool from which a contestant has withdrawn (except for that contestant's unfenced bouts), the Bout Committee

shall tabulate two complete lists: *List A* shall include only those contestants who have completed all their scheduled bouts in the pool; *List B* shall include only those contestants who have not met the withdrawing contestant.

(a) Each list must classify the fencers as first, second, etc., on the basis of bouts won. Ties are resolved on the basis of touch scores, as provided above, or on the basis of fence-offs for first place or for any other places in the respective lists if a fence-off is necessary. *As between contestants on the same list, their relative positions as determined by this method are final.* Consequently a fencer classified as No. 2 on either list, for example, cannot finish lower than a fencer classified as No. 3 in the same list.

(b) If the withdrawal has taken place in the *final round-robin*, the highest ranking contestant on *List B* is entitled to fence off for first place with the highest ranking contestant on *List A*, in case the number of bout victories scored by the latter is equal to, or not more than one full victory better than, the record of the highest ranking contestant on *List B*. Therefore, if the top-ranking contestant on *List A* has a record of bout victories which is two or more bouts better than that of the top-ranking contestant on *List B*, the latter is not entitled to the fence-off, and first place must be awarded to the top-ranking contestant on *List A*.

(c) For the determination of other places *in the final* (after first place has been determined), the fencer who remains at the head of *List B* may fence off with the fencer who remains at the head of *List A*, provided that the latter's record of bout victories is equal to, or not more than one victory better than, the record of the fencer on *List B*. However, the fence-off shall not be held if the record of the fencer on *List A* is one bout victory better than that of the fencer on *List B*, and in addition, the number of touches received and scored is such that the fencer on *List B* could not have finished higher than the fencer on *List A*, even if he had won his bout against the withdrawing contestant without receiving a single touch. Likewise, the fence-off is not necessary if the record of the fencer on *List B* is equal in bout victories to that of the fencer on *List A*, and in addition, the number of touches received and scored is such that the fencer on *List A* could not have finished higher than the fencer on *List B* even if the latter had lost his bout against the withdrawing contestant without scoring a single touch.

*For example:* Assume that in a final pool of 10 fencers in épée (bouts of 3 touches) the following results are obtained:

List A (Fenced all bouts)		List B (Did not fence one bout)	
1st. D . . . . .	7 v.; 14 t. rec.	1st. M . . . . .	6 v.; 11 t. rec.*
2d. E . . . . .	5 v.; 18 t. rec.	2d. N . . . . .	6 v.; 10 t. rec.*
3d. F . . . . .	3 v.; 22 t. rec.	3d. P . . . . .	4 v.; 19 t. rec.
	14 t. sc.		
4th. G . . . . .	1 v.	4th. R . . . . .	3 v.; 19 t. rec.
			15 t. sc.
		5th. S . . . . .	3 v.; 21 t. rec.

\* On List B, there was a tie in bouts for first place, so that a fence-off was necessary, and M won. Therefore M is first on List B and N is second.

#### Solution

(1) M now fences off with D:

a. If D wins, D wins first place, M is second, and N is third.

b. If M wins, M is first. However, N now becomes the top-ranking man on List B; he might have tied D in bout victories if he had had the opportunity to fence the withdrawing contestant, and he might have finished ahead of D on touches. Therefore N is entitled to fence off with D to determine second and third places.

(2) There is no need for a fence-off between E and P, because P has already received more touches than E; consequently P could never have finished ahead of E, even if P had won against the withdrawing contestant by 3-0. Therefore, E is fourth and P is fifth.

(3) Also, there is no need for a fence-off between F and R, because F's touch score is such that he could never have finished ahead of R, even if the latter had lost against the withdrawing contestant by 3-0. Both F and R might have received the same number of touches (22) but R would have finished ahead of F on the basis of one more touch scored. Therefore, R is sixth.

(4) However, for the seventh place, it is necessary to have a fence-off between F and S, because their respective touch scores are such that S's unfenced bout might have affected their respective standing in the final.

(5) There is no doubt that G is ninth.

(d) If the withdrawal has taken place in an *eliminator round*, the same procedure shall be followed as in the final, except that it is unnecessary to hold a fence-off between two contestants from different lists if they have a sufficient number of bout victories to entitle them to qualify for the next round.

*For example:* Assume a pool of 12 fencers, from which 6 qualify for the next round:

List A		List B	
1st. A . . . . .	9 victories	1st. T . . . . .	8 victories
2d. B . . . . .	7 victories	2d. U . . . . .	8 victories
3d. C . . . . .	6 victories*	3d. V . . . . .	6 victories*
4th. D . . . . .	6 victories*	4th. W . . . . .	6 victories*
5th. E . . . . .	2 victories	5th. X . . . . .	1 victory
6th. F . . . . .	1 victory		

\* Relative places determined by preliminary fence-offs or count of touches.

#### Solution

(1) There is no doubt that E, F, and X are eliminated, and that A, T, U, and B must qualify (since C and D cannot finish higher than B, and only V and W have a chance to equal B's number of victories by fence-offs). Therefore, there is no need for a fence-off between T and U.

(2) Although B is certain to qualify, he must fence off with V. If V wins, V qualifies, and W is entitled to fence off with B. If now W wins, the qualifiers will be A, B, T, U, V, and W.

(3) On the other hand, if B wins over V, then C is entitled to fence off with V, and the winner automatically qualifies. If the loser is C, he must fence off with W for the sixth qualifying place; if the loser is V, he must fence off with D for the sixth qualifying place.

(4) If B loses to V in the first fence-off, but wins over W, then A, B, T, U, and V are the first five qualifiers. Then W must fence off with C to determine the sixth place.

#### (D) WITHDRAWAL OF TWO OR MORE FENCERS

55. When two or more contestants withdraw *from the same pool*, the general principles described in the foregoing paragraphs shall be applicable. The object of these rules is that no one may suffer by reason of the fact that he has been prevented from completing his scheduled bouts, and that no one may profit by reason of not meeting all the opponents that he normally would have been required to meet. Therefore the following corollaries are applicable:

(a) At the conclusion of the pool (except for the unfenced bouts of the withdrawing contestants), the Bout Committee shall draw up three or more lists (each list complete as to the placement of fencers), as follows: List A including only those fencers who have completed *all* of their scheduled bouts, without exception; List B including only those fencers who have completed *all but one* of their scheduled bouts; List C including only those fencers who have completed *all but two* of their scheduled bouts; and so on.

(b) Every fencer who has failed to complete his bouts is entitled to fence off for a position in a pool if he might have obtained the same or a higher number of victories than the highest contestant in the other lists (for that position in the pool), unless the relative touch scores are such that a fence-off would not be permissible under Rule 54(c) above. In this connection it must also be remembered that the relative position of fencers in the same list is final (*Rule 54a*).

(c) If no fencer has a clear-cut title to first place in the final round-robin, the Bout Committee must ascertain which one of the fencers ranked at the top of each list has actually won the greatest number of bouts; then:

(1) If this fencer is on List A, he must fence off with the top-ranking fencer on List B, provided that the latter has actually won the same num-

ber of bouts, or only one less bout; and he must also fence off with the top-ranking fencer on *List C*, provided that the latter has actually won the same number of bouts, or only two less bouts than the fencer on *List A*. The same principle applies to *Lists D, E, etc.*

(2) If this fencer is on *List B*, he need not fence off with any fencer on *List A*, but he must fence off with the top-ranking fencer on *List C*, provided that the latter has actually won the same number or one less bout. As to fencers on *Lists D, E, etc.*, the principles of the foregoing paragraph would be similarly applied.

(3) If this fencer is on *List C*, he need not fence off with any fencer on *List A* or on *List B*, but must meet the properly qualified fencer on *List D, etc.*

(d) After the fence-off for first place (between two or more fencers) has been completed, the winner shall be first in the final round-robin. The results of the fence-off shall also determine the relative final position of the contestants *as between themselves*, but other fencers may be entitled to second, third, and other places, by the application of the principles of Rule 55(b) above.

(e) In the eliminatory rounds, after ascertaining the fencers who are clearly entitled to qualify (on the basis of actual victories), and those who are clearly eliminated (even counting possible victories in any unfenced bouts), the Bout Committee shall order a fence-off among the remaining contestants in the pool, and the result of the fence-off shall be conclusive.

#### Example

##### Results of a Pool of 10 Fencers. Bouts for 5 touches.

Fencer	Unfenced Bouts	List A	List B	List C
A	1		6 v. 18/33*	
B	2			5 v. 16/29
C	0	4 v. 35/29		
D	2			3 v. 27/21
E	2			3 v. 28/20
F	1		2 v. 33/20	
G	0	2 v. 40/20		
H	WITHDRAWS (2 v.)			
J	1		6 v. 16/35	
K	WITHDRAWS (3 v.)			

\* This means that Contestant A won 6 bouts, received 18 touches, scored 33 touches.

#### Solution

(1) Assume that, in a preliminary fence-off, A defeats J for top ranking on *List B*. Then A must fence off with Contestant B for first place. If A wins, he is first, and B must fence off with J for second place. If B wins the first-place fence-off, B is first, A is second, and J is third (since now J cannot place higher than A).

(2) Next, C and D (who now becomes the top-ranking fencer on *List C*) must fence off for 4th place. If C wins, he is 4th, D is 5th, and E is 6th (since E cannot place higher than D). But if D wins, he is 4th, and there must be a fence-off between C and E for 5th and 6th places.

(3) There is no need for a fence-off for 7th place, as F clearly is entitled to it on his touch score, as against G.

(4) If K's three victories entitle him to a place (e.g. in case of withdrawal because of injuries), he would follow after E. E would be deemed to have won a fence-off against K.

#### (E) ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES

56. The Bout Committee has the power to modify the foregoing rules governing withdrawals from a pool already begun (*Rules 53-55*) whenever, *in its opinion*, the application of these rules would result in undue delay in the time-schedule of the competition; or whenever, *in its opinion*, a possible abuse of the spirit of these rules may be involved, as for example, when the withdrawal or withdrawals, *in the Committee's opinion*, are purposely designed to affect the result of the pool to the detriment of one or more competitors. In such cases, the Bout Committee shall choose, among the following alternative procedures, the one which will least disturb the relative standing of the remaining fencers in the pool:

(a) The bouts actually fenced by the withdrawing contestant or contestants shall be annulled, and the result of the pool shall be computed only on the basis of the round-robin among the remaining fencers in the pool. This procedure should not be followed, however, if the withdrawing contestant or contestants are entitled to qualification or placement, on the basis of actual victories scored as provided above (*Rule 50*).

(b) The unfenced bouts of the withdrawing contestant or contestants shall be defaulted, and shall be scored as victories for the appropriate opponents in the pool, exactly as if the withdrawing contestant or contestants had lost such bouts without scoring a single touch.

57. Whenever either of these alternative procedures is followed, the usual method of determining the results of the pool shall prevail. However, if two or more fencers tie in bout victories for qualification or placement, and the relative touch score of the tied contestants has been affected by the annulment or default of bouts in the pool, the tie cannot be resolved by counting touches, but must be fenced off.

## Chapter VI

## TEAM COMPETITIONS—GENERAL

## (A) PRELIMINARY REGULATIONS

60. For any team competition the minimum number of actually contesting teams shall be three, except when otherwise ruled by the proper governing body.

61. A college, university, or secondary school may enter two teams in Junior or Intermediate team events only. Other clubs may enter two teams in Senior or Open team events only. Members of two teams representing the same organization may not be interchanged during a competition.

## (B) COMPOSITE TEAMS

62. In any competition, *composite teams* formed by unattached fencers, or by unattached fencers and fencers from one or more clubs, may be entered. However, no fencer (other than a Veteran fencing on a team composed entirely of Veterans) may fence on a composite team in any event in which his club is formally represented.

(a) Composite teams shall be so declared at the time of making entry for an event. They shall adopt a sufficiently descriptive name and furnish guarantee for the safe custody of any trophy which may be won.

(b) The Bout Committee shall refuse the entry of any composite team when, in its judgment, these conditions have not been complied with in every respect, or if such entry might be prejudicial to the best interests of fencing.

(c) Fencing on a composite team shall not render a fencer ineligible again to represent his own club during the same fencing season.

## (C) TEAM MATCHES

63. Unless otherwise stated in the schedule, teams shall be composed of three competitors. In addition, each team is allowed one alternate.

(a) The names of the individual fencers on a team need not be formally filed at the time the team entry is made, but for purposes of the seeded draw should be in the hands of the Bout Committee *72 hours in advance* of the time set for the competition.

(b) The captain of each team may, prior to each match, alter the composition of the team by using any three of the four members entered as a

team, and the order in which the team members are to fence. Substitutions may be made between matches but not during a match (*except under Rule 76*).

(c) The *line-up* of each team for each match, and the *order* in which the individual members are to fence, shall be submitted in writing by the captain to the Bout Committee, and this information shall be confidential until the opposing team has submitted its line-up and order.

64. For prize competitions and unofficial events, teams may be composed of any number of members, and the contest may be organized on any basis, provided due notice is included in the schedule of events.\*

65. Official team matches in *épée*, foil, and sabre shall be fenced between two teams, *each team considered as an entity*. Each match shall consist of nine bouts, fenced in such a manner that each of the three fencers on one team shall meet each of the three fencers on the other team, according to a pre-arranged order, as follows:

## TEAMS OF THREE FENCERS

Bout	Bout	Bout
1: A-1 vs. B-1	4: A-1 vs. B-2	7: A-1 vs. B-3
2: A-2 vs. B-2	5: A-2 vs. B-3	8: A-2 vs. B-1
3: A-3 vs. B-3	6: A-3 vs. B-1	9: A-3 vs. B-2

66. Official three-weapon team matches shall consist of one bout in each weapon. No member of a three-weapon team may fence in more than one weapon during the competition.

67. The winning team *in a match* is determined first by the number of bout victories scored by its members over the members of the opposing team. In the event that the number of victories of each team is the same, the Bout Committee shall ascertain the total of touches received by all the

\* Official order for matches between teams of four and five.

## TEAMS OF FOUR

| Bout A - B |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| (1) 1 - 1  | (9) 1 - 3  | (1) 1 - 1  | (9) 4 - 5  | (18) 3 - 1 |
| (2) 2 - 2  | (10) 2 - 4 | (2) 2 - 2  | (10) 5 - 1 | (19) 4 - 2 |
| (3) 3 - 3  | (11) 3 - 1 | (3) 3 - 3  | (11) 1 - 3 | (20) 5 - 3 |
| (4) 4 - 4  | (12) 4 - 2 | (4) 4 - 4  | (12) 2 - 4 | (21) 1 - 5 |
| (5) 1 - 2  | (13) 1 - 4 | (5) 5 - 5  | (13) 3 - 5 | (22) 2 - 1 |
| (6) 2 - 3  | (14) 2 - 1 | (6) 1 - 2  | (14) 4 - 1 | (23) 3 - 2 |
| (7) 3 - 4  | (15) 3 - 2 | (7) 2 - 3  | (15) 5 - 2 | (24) 4 - 3 |
| (8) 4 - 1  | (16) 4 - 3 | (8) 3 - 4  | (16) 1 - 4 | (25) 5 - 4 |
|            |            |            | (17) 2 - 5 |            |

fencers composing each team, and the team which has received the smaller total of touches shall be declared the winner. If both teams have scored the same number of bout victories and received the same number of touches, *the match is a draw.*

## Chapter VII

### TEAM COMPETITIONS—CONDUCT

#### (A) ORGANIZATION

70. When four or more teams are entered, a competition may be organized on an elimination or round-robin basis throughout, or partly on an elimination basis and partly on a round-robin basis. In the final round, consisting of two, three, or four teams, the surviving teams shall fence each other to determine the winner.

#### (B) ELIMINATION COMPETITIONS

71. In elimination events, the team that wins a match (*see Rule 67*) is entitled to progress to the next round, and the losing team must drop out. Therefore, the match may be concluded as soon as one team has won a majority of the maximum number of bouts. However, if the result of the match is a draw (*equality of bout victories and touches*), the match must be fenced over.

(a) In elimination events, the pairing of the competing teams shall be governed by the principle of the seeded draw.

(b) In elimination events, the Bout Committee is empowered to grant a sufficient number of byes in the first round to insure a two-team final. The Bout Committee is also empowered to grant such other byes as, in its opinion, may be necessary, but no team shall receive more than one bye during a competition.

#### (C) ROUND-ROBIN AND POOL COMPETITIONS

72. For official team competitions, the round-robin and pool methods are preferable, whenever practicable, along the general lines followed in individual events.

73. A *round-robin* or *pool* involving three or more teams consists of a number of *separate team matches*. Each match victory scored by a team over its opponents counts *one point* toward the team standing in the round-robin. A drawn match (in which the two competing teams score the same number of bout victories and touches) counts for *half a point* in the team standings. (*See Rule 67.*)

74. The relative standing of teams at the completion of a round-robin pool is determined by the number of *match points* scored. If two or more teams have scored the same number of match points, their relative standing is determined by counting the individual *bout victories* scored by the

members of each team in all matches of the round-robin. If the number of *match points* and the number of individual *bout victories* are equal for two or more teams:

(a) In case of bouts for one touch, the teams are absolutely tied.

(b) In case of bouts for several touches, on the other hand, the apparent tie is resolved as follows: (1) The total number of touches received by the members of each team shall be ascertained, and the team receiving the lower number of touches in all the bouts of all the matches in the round-robin shall receive the higher ranking. (2) If two or more teams are still tied after the count of touches received, the teams shall be ranked on the basis of the number of touches scored by each in all bouts of all matches in the round-robin. (3) If two or more teams are still tied after the count of touches received and scored, they are absolutely tied.

(c) If two or more teams are absolutely tied at the end of a round-robin, and it is necessary to resolve the tie, there must be a fence-off. In principle, any fence-off must take place immediately after the conclusion of the regular round-robin in which the tie occurred, but in cases where the hour is late or the competition has been exceptionally long, the fence-off may be deferred by the Bout Committee.

(d) In the final round-robin of a championship event, if two or more teams tie for *first place* on the basis of match points, the tie may not be resolved by counting bout victories or touches, but must be fenced off.

75. As a consequence of the foregoing rules, in any round-robin team event, *each match must be completed in full*, even if one team has already won a majority of the bouts needed for victory. Likewise, it is important that each bout of the match be fenced with the same attention and energy, as it is possible that a single touch may decide the relative standing of the teams in the round-robin. Only two exceptions are permitted: (a) In an *eliminator pool*, once the final standing of the qualifying teams has been positively established on the basis of match victories, a match may be stopped after one team has won the requisite number of bouts. (b) In the *final pool* of a team championship (*if only first place is important*), each match in the pool may be stopped when one team has won the requisite number of bouts, inasmuch as all ties in match victories must be fenced off without reference to bout victories or touches.

#### (D) WITHDRAWALS

76. If a member of a team is disabled during a bout, or is obliged to withdraw from competition for reasons beyond his control, he may be

replaced by a substitute, and the bout shall be continued as if there had been no interruption. In all other cases, his team must forfeit the remainder of his bouts in that match. (*See also Rules 29-d, 50, and 51.*)

(a) In case of a substitution under the preceding paragraph, a fencer substituted for in any match may be returned to the competition for any succeeding match only with the approval of the Bout Committee.

(b) When in a match a member of a contending team withdraws and no substitution is made, the results achieved up to the time of his withdrawal shall be counted, and for all other bouts which he should have fenced a defeat shall be counted against him; that is, it shall be assumed that all his remaining opponents have beaten him without themselves having been touched a single time. (*See also Rule 52.*)

77. When for any reason whatsoever, a team withdraws during a match, the same general rules shall be followed as in individual events. *For example:* If in a match for nine bouts between teams A and B, Team A withdraws (a) when the score is 3-3 or 3-2 in favor of A, the match is annulled; (b) when the score is 3-2 in favor of B, Team B is the winner by the official score of 7-2. Therefore, if the match is in an elimination round, Team B automatically advances; if the match is in a round-robin pool, the results of the round-robin are determined in accordance with the procedure prescribed for individual events. (*See Rules 54 to 57.*)

78. When a team withdraws from a competition for some reason which, in the opinion of the Bout Committee, is not beyond its control, the team and all the individual members thereof shall lose all rights to qualification or to a prize in the final round, and shall in addition be subject to such disciplinary penalties as the proper governing body may deem fit to impose.

79. When a team withdraws from a competition for reasons which, in the opinion of the Bout Committee, are beyond the team's control, the team shall be entitled to the placement earned up to the time of withdrawal, but, if a fence-off is required, it shall be deemed to have lost the fence-off.

## Chapter VIII

### NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### (A) GALA TOURNAMENT

80. Certain national championship events, to be announced annually in the schedules of events, both divisional and national, shall be held in two parts: *First*, a preliminary *qualifying competition* (including one or more rounds), which shall be open to all members of the A. F. L. A. in good standing, and which shall be held severally in the various divisions of the League and in the non-divisional group. *Second*, a subsequent *championship competition* (including one or more rounds), open only to duly qualified contestants, which shall be held in the city to which the championship tournament has been awarded by the Board of Governors. (See *By-Laws, Chapter VI, Section 8.*)

(a) At least four championship events—the men's individual Open épée, foil, and sabre, and the women's individual Open foil—shall be held in accordance with the preceding paragraph, and the championship competitions therein shall constitute the *national championship tournament*.

(b) Whenever possible, the four corresponding national team championships shall be held at the same time, as part of the same national championship tournament.

(c) The date of the national championship tournament shall be determined at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors in September of the preceding calendar year. (See *By-Laws, Chapter VI, Section 3.*)

#### (B) QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS

81. The divisional and non-divisional *qualifying competitions* for the national championship tournament events shall be held *at least one month* prior to the date set for the opening of the national championship tournament. (Note *Rule 82-b.*)

(a) Any member of the A. F. L. A. in good standing is eligible to qualify through his Division or through the non-divisional qualifying competition. Furthermore, upon approval of the divisional Executive Committee, subject to review by the Board of Governors, a member of the A. F. L. A. may be permitted to qualify from a division other than the one of which he is a member. However, no individual who has for the same season endeavored to qualify in the non-divisional preliminaries shall be permitted to qualify from a division, nor shall any one who has for the

same season endeavored to qualify from one division be permitted to qualify from another division or from the non-divisional preliminaries.

(b) *Entries* for the qualifying competitions shall be sent to the Chairman of the Bout Committee in each division (or in the non-divisional group), according to the requirements announced in the appropriate schedule of events. (See also *Rules 24, 25, and 26 above.*)

82. All *qualifying competitions* for the national individual championships shall be held according to the round-robin or pool method, in one or more rounds as required by the number of contestants, in accordance with the rules governing individual competitions. When more than one round is necessary, the number of qualifiers from each pool for each round shall be at least three.

(a) In all qualifying competitions for the national individual championships, the *number of qualifiers* who will be eligible to compete in the championship tournament shall be determined by the number of fencers actually competing in the divisional or non-divisional qualifying preliminaries; as follows: (1) when there are 14 competitors or less in a weapon, four shall qualify; (2) when there are 15 to 20 competitors (inclusive), six shall qualify; (3) when there are 21 or more competitors, eight shall qualify. In other words, four shall be the minimum, and eight the maximum, that shall be allowed to qualify from any division or from the non-divisional preliminaries.

(b) In the event that the number of entries for a qualifying competition is four or less, the qualifying competition need not be held, and all entries shall automatically be qualified for the national championship tournament.

(c) Officers of the Army and Navy of the United States not regularly assigned to duty at either West Point or Annapolis are permitted to qualify as representatives of the "Army and Navy at Large." In the event that the number of entries from the "Army and Navy at Large" is more than four, the national Bout Committee shall schedule a preliminary qualifying competition from which the individual qualifiers shall be determined as in the case of a division.

(d) In addition, *the defending individual champion* in each weapon shall automatically qualify for the championship competition, without taking part in the qualifying competitions, and without reducing the number of other qualifiers from his Division. The same privilege may be extended, at the discretion of the Board of Governors, to visiting members of the F. I. E.

(e) In all *qualifying competitions*, the conditions of competition, the number of touches required for victory in a bout, and the method of determining qualifiers, *shall conform strictly to these rules*, and to any amendments or supplementary regulations prescribed in advance by the Board of Governors.

83. For any *team events* held as part of the national championship tournament, each division of the League and the non-divisional group may qualify two teams. These teams may represent either a specific club or the division as a whole. The method of determining the qualifying teams rests with the division concerned, subject to the rules governing eligibility and representation for team competitions, and to the following regulations:

(a) Composite teams qualifying for the national championship tournament shall be composed of members of the same division.

(b) In all qualifying team competitions, if three or more teams compete, no club shall be permitted to qualify more than one team, even though the rules may permit a club to enter two teams in the competition. (*See, however, Rule 86 d.*)

(c) For any national championship team events not included in the national championship tournament, where no qualifying competition is required, there is no limit on the number of teams that may be entered from each division or from the non-divisional group.

84. In addition to the regular qualifiers provided in the preceding rules, each division and the non-divisional group may determine a number of *alternates* who shall, in a specified order, become eligible to qualify for the national championship tournament in the event of the withdrawal of a regularly qualified contestant or team. However, no individual may be an alternate unless he has actually participated in the qualifying competition.

85. Immediately upon the completion of the qualifying competition in each weapon, the Secretary of each Division shall transmit to the Chairman of the National Bout Committee, by registered mail, the following information: (a) a certified list of all the individual fencers actually taking part in the qualifying competition; (b) a certified list of the competitors entitled to qualify from that division; (c) a certified list of alternates in each weapon, in order of placement; (d) a certified list of the teams authorized to represent the Division, and of any possible alternate. This information must reach the Chairman of the National Bout Committee *at least two weeks* prior to the date set for the opening of the national championship tournament.

### (C) CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITIONS

86. Every *qualifier (individual or team)* who wishes to participate in the championship competitions held as part of the national championship tournament, *must file an official entry* with the Chairman of the National Bout Committee at least two weeks in advance of the date set for the opening of the national championship tournament. Every entry must be accompanied by the required entry fee, which is in every case non-returnable.

(a) Any *alternate* who, by the withdrawal of a qualifier prior to the latter's official entry, becomes eligible to participate in the championship competitions, must file an entry in accordance with the terms of the preceding paragraph, and the entry must be accompanied by a certification of the Secretary of his division as to the withdrawal of the qualifier and the eligibility of the alternate.

(b) The maximum number of contestants from any division in the championship competitions will be fixed by the number of entries received in accordance with these rules, and the plan of competition will be drawn accordingly.

(c) *Alternates* may replace individuals or teams who have regularly entered as provided above, and who wish to withdraw, on condition that the notice of withdrawal and replacement, duly authenticated by the Secretary of the division, shall be received by the Chairman of the National Bout Committee not later than one week prior to the date set for the opening of the national championship tournament.

(d) When *team competitions* are included in the national championship tournament, a duly qualified team representing a specific club or division need not limit its composition to those fencers who actually competed on that team in the qualifying competition. However, no fencer shall be permitted to represent a club or division in the team championship competition unless he was a *bona fide* member of that club or division at the time of the qualifying team competition.

87. Unless otherwise specifically announced in the schedule, the *championship competitions*, team and individual, shall be held by the round-robin or pool method.

(a) The seeded draw in the first round of the championship competition shall be governed by the national list of Ranking Fencers. Otherwise, the usual rules apply, with the additional provision that members of the

same division shall insofar as possible be separated in the eliminatory rounds, in the same manner as required for members of the same club.

(b) Unless otherwise specifically announced in the schedule, at least three fencers shall qualify from each eliminatory pool in the individual events, and the final round-robin shall consist of at least six fencers.

(c) In the event that the final round shall consist of only two fencers, the championship bout shall be fenced for ten or more touches, and the winner shall be required to obtain at least a two-touch advantage over his opponent.

(d) In the event that the final round shall consist of less than six fencers, the rules for qualification from the semi-final pools to the final round shall be amended as follows: Qualification shall be determined, without reference to touches received or given, on the basis of bout victories in the semi-final pool. If two or more fencers are tied for the last qualifying place on the basis of bout victories, there shall be a fence-off. If after a fence-off there is still a tie in bout victories, the tie shall be resolved by counting touches, but the touch score in the original semi-final pool shall be added to the touch score of the fence-off to determine the relative standing of the fencers involved.

## Chapter IX

### SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### (A) GENERAL REGULATIONS

90. *Sectional Championships* shall be inter-divisional competitions or tournaments organized and conducted, under authority of the Board of Governors of the A. F. L. A., by sectional Executive Committees composed of the Chairman or other representative of the Executive Committee of each division entitled to participate therein, subject to the provisions of Chapter I of these Rules.

(a) The *Pacific Coast Championships* are open to all divisions of the A. F. L. A. whose territory lies west of the Rocky Mountains.

(b) The *Mid-West Championships* are open to divisions included in the Mid-West area, defined as follows: "That portion of the United States lying east of the Mississippi, north of the Ohio River, and west of the eastern border of the State of Ohio; provided, however, that any city, such as St. Louis, immediately contiguous to rivers of such borders shall be deemed as included in it; and provided that any division lying in territory near to the aforesaid area may, at its own request and with the consent of the Mid-West Executive Committee, be included in its jurisdiction."

(c) The *All-Eastern Championships* are open to all divisions of the A. F. L. A. whose territory lies east of the Mid-West area.

91. All Sectional championships shall be held strictly in accordance with the technical rules and conventions of fencing (*Part Three of these Rules*). The plan of organization, qualification, and competition lies entirely within the powers of the sectional Executive Committee, provided, however, that a suitable notice thereof shall be included in the announcement and schedule of events. The regulations which follow are typical of those heretofore in force for the sectional championships, but are subject to amendment as herein provided.

#### (B) PACIFIC COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS

92. The Pacific Coast Championships shall be held annually in the spring of each year, *at least two weeks* prior to the date set for the opening of the national championship. They shall be held in the place chosen by the entertaining division.

(a) Each participating division is entitled to have the Pacific Coast

Championships held within its territory according to an established system of rotation.

(b) A new division entering the Pacific Coast Championships for the first time is entitled upon request to have them held within its territory during the year it enters. If no such request is made, the new division will be placed at the bottom of the rotation list and must await its regular turn.

93. The Pacific Coast Championships include individual and team championship events as well as prize competitions, as announced in the schedule of events. Each participating division must hold qualifying competitions in each of the events to be contested at the Pacific Coast Championships.

(a) The qualifying competition may be identical with the divisional championship, but must be held during the fencing season of the Pacific Coast Championships.

(b) The number of qualifiers for individual events shall be limited to three from each division. One alternate may also be named. The defending individual Pacific Coast Champion in an Open event shall *in addition* be entitled to qualify without taking part in the qualifying competitions.

(c) Only one team in each team event may qualify from each division for the Pacific Coast Team Championships. All teams must qualify, including the defending team champions. All members of a team shall be members of the same club or division.

(d) No Pacific Coast Championship shall be held in any scheduled event unless competitors from at least two divisions actually participate.

#### (C) MID-WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS

94. The Mid-West Championships shall be held annually *at least two weeks* prior to the date set for the opening of the national championship tournament.

(a) Participation is limited to the divisions in the Mid-West area, and to such divisions outside the Mid-West area as are within one day's automobile travel. Neighboring divisions may be invited as guests at the discretion of the entertaining division.

(b) Mid-West Championships are ordinarily limited to Open individual events.

(c) Team scores for each division are computed on the basis of the bouts won by the two top-scoring fencers of each division, in each round of each event, including both men and women.

(d) The time-table, numbers of qualifiers from each division, organiza-

tion of events, and other pertinent regulations and information shall be announced in the schedule of events.

#### (D) ALL-EASTERN CHAMPIONSHIPS

95. An All-Eastern Championship tournament including Open individual events for men and women shall be held in New York or in a neighboring city, *at least two weeks* prior to the date set for the opening of the national championship tournament, only in those years when the national championship tournament is not held in New York or in a neighboring city.

(a) Whenever an All-Eastern Championship tournament is held, the rules of organization, qualification, etc., shall be the same as those for the national championship tournament, except as otherwise specifically announced in the schedule.

(b) Other All-Eastern championship events and prize competitions may be held throughout the fencing season, when duly approved by the Board of Governors. For these events, the rules of organization, qualification, etc., for competitions in the national championship tournament, shall prevail except as otherwise announced in the schedule of events or as modified by the Bout Committee.

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**PART THREE**  
**TECHNICAL RULES AND CONVENTIONS**  
**OF FENCING**

*(As adopted by the Amateur Fencers League of America in collaboration  
with the Intercollegiate Fencing Association and the National  
Collegiate Athletic Association.)*

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COLLABORATING RULES COMMITTEES

<i>Intercollegiate Fencing Association</i>	<i>National Collegiate Athletic Association</i>
MIGUEL A. DE CAPRILES, <i>Chairman</i>	JOHN R. HUFFMAN, <i>Chairman</i>
HUGH V. ALESSANDRONI	HUGH V. ALESSANDRONI
GEORGE H. BREED	JEAN GÉLAS
JOHN HOWARD HANWAY	HERMAN S. HETTINGER
ASA S. BUSHNELL, <i>Ex-officio</i>	RENÉ PEROT

## Article I

### COMPETITORS, SPECTATORS, DISCIPLINE

#### (A) BASIC REGULATIONS

101. Every fencer engaging in competition, and every other person attending a competition in any capacity whatsoever, does so at his own risk and peril, and neither the governing organization under whose jurisdiction a competition is held, nor any organization furnishing the place where a competition is held, nor any officer, official, agent, or employee of either of the aforementioned organizations, shall be liable in any manner for any damage or injury suffered by any person as a competitor, official, attendant, or spectator at a fencing event; and the same shall apply whether or not such fencer or person shall have complied with the rules and regulations prescribed herein, and whether or not the Director or any other official or officials shall have waived strict compliance therewith.

102. The contestants and officials shall know and observe the rules. The plea of ignorance will not be accepted as an excuse.

#### (B) DUTIES OF CONTESTANTS

103. Each fencer, by the mere fact that he enters a competition, is in honor bound to conduct himself in a courteous and sportsmanlike manner.

104. The fencer shall obey scrupulously the orders of the Director; shall fence only with his weapon; shall observe the rules; shall respect the decisions of the jury; shall employ the same vigor and attention in each bout; and shall defend his chances to the end of the competition in a sportsmanlike manner, without giving to anyone or asking from anyone a single touch, so as to obtain the best personal classification possible, except in case of material or physical incapacity, duly verified by the Director.

105. The fencer shall not start fencing before the command "*Play*"; or continue to fence after the command "*Halt*," or after having noticed that his opponent is absolutely unable to defend himself as a consequence of anything which seriously modifies the normal and regular condition of combat, such as disarmament, an involuntary fall, a raised bib, displaced mask, and the like.

106. The fencer is permitted to announce aloud the receipt of a touch at the moment that he is hit (*Note Rule 621*). But the fencer is *absolutely forbidden* to make any other gestures or communications which might influence the decision of the Jury, or to announce receipt of a touch after the decision of the Director.

107. The Director, after a single warning, is empowered to exclude from further competition any fencer whose conduct fails to meet the proper standards of courtesy and sportsmanship.

108. The Director, after a single warning, shall exclude from further competition any fencer who, *in his opinion*, manifestly tries to favor the play of his opponent. He shall act likewise toward the latter if, *in his opinion*, the fencers are in collusion.

#### (C) ORDER

109. At the start of a competition or pool, the Director shall call the fencers or teams scheduled to compete under his jurisdiction. If at the first call a fencer or team fails to appear, or if the team is incomplete, the call shall be repeated twice at intervals of one minute. After the third call, any fencer or team who is not actually present and ready to fence may be excluded from the competition, and no appeal from this penalty shall be allowed.

110. In exceptional cases, the Bout Committee may authorize an incomplete team to start, under penalty of defaulting to the opposing team all the bouts that the absent member or members are scheduled to fence in that particular match.

111. During a competition or pool, each bout shall be clearly announced in advance, in order to afford the contestants sufficient time to get ready. After this announcement, if the fencer scheduled to compete is not on the mark when called, he is liable to be irrevocably excluded from the event then in progress.

112. A fencer who retires from an unfinished bout, and leaves the strip, shall be immediately recalled by the Director. If then he fails to return at once, the penalty of exclusion may be irrevocably applied. Under similar circumstances, a team that retires from an uncompleted match may be excluded from the competition.

113. However, when a fencer retires for reasons beyond his control (as for example, broken blade, disarrangement of clothing, accident, indisposition, etc.), the Director is authorized to grant such delay as may be necessary before issuing the call for the fencer's return to the strip.

#### (D) TEAM MEMBERS

114. At team events, the captain of each team shall be responsible to the Bout Committee for the conduct and discipline of the fencers on his team. He alone is empowered to represent the team before the Director

and the Bout Committee in matters involving technical questions, protests, and appeals.

115. Members of teams are required to obey strictly any orders of their respective team captains, provided that said orders do not involve violations of specific rules of competition. To the extent that the individual members obey such orders, they shall not be held individually liable by the governing body, but the liability shall be exclusively the team captain's. On the other hand, the individual members of a team shall be held liable for any acts committed in disregard of the orders of the team captain, and for any personal violations of the rules of competition.

#### (E) ABNORMAL STIMULANTS

116. The use or administration of any abnormal stimulant, before or during a competition, for the purpose of rendering the athletic performance of a contestant superior to the normal, is strictly forbidden.

117. The determination of which substances constitute abnormal stimulants, and which are simply normal tonics, shall rest with a medical commission appointed by the Bout Committee.

118. Any participant, official, attendant, or spectator who knowingly uses, administers, or assists in the administration of such abnormal stimulants shall be immediately disqualified or expelled from the tournament, without prejudice to subsequent temporary or permanent suspension by the proper governing body.

#### (F) DUTIES OF SPECTATORS

119. For the purpose of these rules, the term "spectator" applies to any and all persons attending a competition who are not at the moment engaged in active participation therein, either as contestants or as members of the jury or in any other official capacity recognized by these rules.

120. Spectators are required, in the interest of safety and good order, to sit or stand at a distance of *not less than six feet* from the limits of the strip. They must not cross the field of play at any time during the course of a bout, nor in any way block the vision or impede the movement of the officials, even momentarily.

121. The spectators shall refrain from disturbing the good order of the competition; shall do nothing which would tend to influence the fencers or the Jury; shall respect the decisions of the Jury, even when they do not approve of them; and shall obey any orders that the Director thinks necessary to give.

122. Should the spectators fail to observe these rules, the Director may order the expulsion of any and all offenders, and such a measure shall not give anyone whomsoever the right of redress.

#### (G) JURISDICTION OF THE DIRECTOR

123. The Director in charge of a contest has jurisdiction over all the fencers who take part in, and over all persons who are present at, the contest over which he is presiding.

124. The Director has the power to determine finally all questions of fact arising under these rules in the course of the contest over which he is presiding. His decisions and findings of fact are not subject to appeal except as provided below. (*Rule 129.*)

125. The Director has the power to inflict competitive penalties for violations of the technical rules and conventions of fencing, in accordance with the provisions herein. (*See, for example, Rules 203, 318, 321, 328, 330-333, 337, 422-423, 427, 430, 711-717 and 719-722.*)

126. The Director has likewise the power, without referring to the other members of the Jury, to pronounce a warning, and to inflict the disciplinary penalties of *exclusion* (against the competitors) or of *expulsion* (against spectators, coaches, or trainers).

127. The Director is empowered to recommend to the Bout Committee all other disciplinary penalties which he deems advisable.

#### (H) PROTESTS AND APPEALS

128. Against the decisions of fact of the Director, on the subject of the materiality or validity of a touch, no protest is allowed.

129. However, if the Director, under the established facts, ignores a positive prescription of the rules, or applies the rules incorrectly, a protest is allowed. Such a protest must be made either by the fencer affected, or by the team captain, without any formality, and must be communicated verbally to the Director *immediately and before any decision is made on any subsequent touch.*

130. Appeals from the Director's decision upon a protest (when permitted) shall be taken directly to the Bout Committee for immediate settlement in accordance with the rules of the governing body covering such appeals.

## Article II

### EQUIPMENT AND ARMAMENT

#### (A) GENERAL CONTROLS

201. The following rules and regulations, insofar as they relate to facility in judging, or to the prevention of the acquisition in competition of an unwarranted advantage by one fencer over another, shall be strictly enforced by the Director or by any other official or officials in authority. Insofar as these rules and regulations relate to protection against injury to contestants, they shall be deemed advisory but not mandatory.

202. Every fencer is solely and personally responsible for his armament and equipment and for their conformity to these rules and regulations.

203. The Bout Committee, or the governing body, shall appoint a special representative whose duties shall be to test and control the armament and equipment of the competitors. He shall have the power to forbid the use of any weapon which does not conform exactly to the rules, and to forbid the participation of any fencer whose equipment appears to him inadequate. The Director is empowered to exercise the functions of this special representative whenever the occasion arises.

#### (B) TESTS FOR ELECTRICAL WEAPONS

204. Each fencer is responsible for his personal electrical armament and equipment. Therefore, he should ascertain from the Bout Committee, sufficiently in advance of a competition, whether or not his armament is suitable for use with the registration apparatus employed in the competition.

205. Before the beginning of any electrical épée competition, the Bout Committee shall provide for the testing of all weapons and body wires. For reasons of safety, special attention should be paid to the method by which the electrical button or *pointe d'arrêt* is attached to the blade (*Rules 257 and 258*). The Bout Committee shall reject any weapon which does not strictly conform to the rules and specifications, or which presents anomalies of construction which may render the weapon dangerous.

206. If an electrical weapon offered for testing is found unsatisfactory and impossible of repair or modification which would make it conform with the rules, the Bout Committee is empowered to confiscate it for the duration of the contest.

207. Whenever a preliminary test has been conducted by the Bout

Committee, a fencer who appears on the strip with an electrical épée which fails to conform to the rules shall be warned, and if he repeats the offense, his weapon shall be confiscated for the duration of the contest. A fencer who so offends for the third time shall be required to finish the competition, at his own expense, risk, and peril, with weapons supplied by the Bout Committee; unless he can prove that his épée was tested and has not been altered since the test, and that therefore an error was made in the testing.

208. If for any reason the preliminary test has been omitted, an electrical épée which fails to conform to the rules shall, when such failure is established, be confiscated and not returned to the contestant until the technicians of the Bout Committee are satisfied as to its operation, and until the contestant has defrayed the expenses of adjustment and repair.

209. If a contestant is compelled to stop during a competition because of defects in or damage to his electrical armament, and of lack of reserve armament, he may be required to continue and complete the competition, at his own expense, risk, and peril, with armament placed at his disposal by the Bout Committee.

#### (C) EQUIPMENT

210. The equipment of the fencers includes the uniform or other covering for the body, including arms and legs; the shoes; the glove; the mask; and any other contrivances for use in competitions, exhibitions, etc.

211. The fencer shall have the maximum of protection compatible with the freedom of movement indispensable for fencing.

212. Women's equipment shall include a breast protector made of metal or of some other rigid substance.

213. The fencer's equipment shall be of such construction and design that his opponent shall not be wounded or annoyed by it, nor shall the opponent's weapon be caught or deviated by it. Therefore, the equipment shall not have any buckle or opening which could, in normal actions, catch the opponent's point.

214. The visibility of touches shall be facilitated by the equipment as much as possible. The material of which the equipment is made shall not have a smooth surface across which the *pointe d'arrêt*, button, or point of the adversary may slip. Therefore, the use of glazed materials, silk, atlas, and the like, is prohibited.

215. The entire costume or uniform, both for men and for women, shall be white and shall be made of strong cloth. It must fully cover the neck, the trunk, the arms, and the legs of the fencer.

(2) *Costume* 216. For foil and sabre, the jacket should be cut so that it entirely covers the valid target (*See Rules 802-804*).

217. For foil, the shoulder seams should correspond to the attachment lines of the arms to the shoulders.

218. For women's foil, the jacket must include a dark ribbon to mark the horizontal line passing across the tops of the hipbones.

219. For women, the costume shall include loose white trousers fastened anywhere below the knee.

220. The bib of the mask, and for épée and sabre, all parts of the mask liable to come in contact with the opponent's blade (mesh, reinforcements, straps, and bib), and the outside surface of the visor (3) *Mask* (which, if used, must always be placed within the mask), must be white or very light *écru* in color. On the other hand, the inside surface of the mesh, reinforcements, straps, bib, and visor, may be of any color whatsoever.

221. For foil, the mask shall be so shaped that the lower part shall not extend more than 20 mm. (0.787") below the chin. For sabre, the mask should be well padded on the inside.

222. For all weapons, the mask shall be provided with a bib sufficiently large and strong to prevent all accidents.

223. For foil, the glove may be lightly padded. The use of enormous gloves constituting a shield, and of large cuffs, which in a measure may also shield the target, is prohibited.

(4) *Glove and Elbow Guard* 224. For sabre, neither the hand nor the cuff of the glove may be of hard or polished leather which might cause the opponent's blade to slip.

225. For sabre, the elbow-guard may be of hard or polished leather.

#### (D) STANDARD ÉPÉE

226. All kinds, types, or models of épées are authorized, provided that they conform to the specifications.

(1) *General Specifications* 227. The weapon shall be so constructed that it cannot wound either the user or his opponent.

228. The total weight of the épée, ready for use and everything included, shall be less than 770 grams (27.160 oz.).

229. The total, over-all length of the épée, measured in a straight line from the tip, or the forward end of the *pointe d'arrêt*, to the extreme end of the pommel, shall be less than 1,100 mm. (43.307").

230. The blade shall be triangular in section, but may be channeled. It shall not cut or whip, nor shall it be too rigid. It shall have a uniform taper and be as straight as possible. The deflection of a blade not perfectly straight shall be less than 10 mm. (0.394"), and shall be permitted only in the vertical plane.

231. The blade shall be mounted with the widest surface uppermost.

232. The length of the blade, measured from the tip, or the forward end of the *pointe d'arrêt*, to the point where the blade joins the tang at the convex surface of the guard shall be less than 900 mm. (35.433").

233. The maximum width of each face of the blade shall be less than 24 mm. (0.944"), and the blade shall have no abrupt projections.

234. The mounting comprises the tang (made with the blade proper); the guard; the padding; the handle, barrel, or grip (meaning the part of the hilt which alone is intended to be held by the hand); the pommel or locking nut; the quillons or cross-bar, if any; and the strap, attachment, or martingale.

235. The mounting at all points shall not have a diameter larger than that of the guard, and shall be able to pass through the same gauge as the guard, though it need not pass through in any particular direction.

236. The diameter of this gauge shall be 135 mm. (5.415"), and its thickness shall be between 5 mm. (0.197") and 50 mm. (1.968").

237. Eccentric mountings are permitted, but the eccentricity shall be less than 35 mm. (1.378"), measured from the center of the guard to the nearest point of the junction of the blade or tang with the guard.

238. Any imaginable system of mounting, with or without transverse bars, longitudinal bars, swellings, crosses, notches, grooves, bands, straps, martingales, pommels, locking nuts, pistol grips, imprints for the hands or fingers, handles moulded to the shape of the hand, etc., separately or conjointly, shall be allowed at the wish and risk of the contestant, provided that it conforms to the rules designed to keep all mountings on an equal footing by preventing any irregularity prohibited in the following rules:

(a) The weapon shall not be transformed either openly or by concealment, permanently or temporarily, into a throwing weapon;

(b) The effective length of the weapon shall not be unduly increased—either openly or by concealment, permanently or temporarily—while maintaining the fencer's ability to handle the weapon with strength, security, and authority, substantially equal to that which may be obtained

by holding the weapon normally, that is, near the internal surface of the guard.

(c) The hand and wrist of the fencer shall not be given protection superior to that normally afforded by a guard (eccentric or not) which has the maximum diameter and depth permitted in the rules.

239. The guard shall be the only part of the mounting which normally protects the hand and wrist of the fencer. It shall have an outside convex or conical surface sufficiently smooth so that it cannot catch the point of the opponent, but it shall not be too brilliant. It shall not have a projecting rim.

240. The diameter of the guard shall be less than 135 mm. (5.415").

241. The curve and depth of the guard shall be between 30 mm. (1.181") and 55 mm. (2.165").

242. The padding of the inside surface of the guard shall be less than 20 mm. (0.787") in thickness and shall not be designed or adjusted in such a way that it increases the protection to the hand afforded by the guard.

243. The total length of the hilt, including the handle or grip and the pommel or locking nut, shall be less than 232 mm. (9.134"), measured from its point of contact (or from the intersection of its axis if there is no contact) with the inner surface of the guard to the extreme rear end of the weapon.

244. All types of hilts, handles, and grips, shall be permitted, but, in order to put the various mountings on a plane of absolute equality, all must comply with the following conditions:

(a) The part of the hilt which has a roughened surface and provides a firm grasp for the hand of the fencer shall have a total length of less than 180 mm. (7.087"), and may be shaped in any way that affords a good grasp to the hand. Usually, the said 180 mm. (7.087") includes only the grip or handle, while the pommel or locking nut, which normally has for its function the counterbalancing and not the increase of the effective length of the weapon, has a form and surface not permitting a firm grasp by the hand of the fencer. However, the said 180 mm. (7.087") may, if the fencer desires, include the entire hilt, in the case of a short grip or handle and a pommel, the latter having a form and surface permitting a firm grasp. Thus, for example, a hilt comprising a handle or grip of 158 mm. (6.220") and a pommel of 20 mm. (0.787") having a rough surface and a form permitting a firm grasp shall be allowed, since the entire hilt has a length of less than 180 mm. (7.087").

(b) No part of the hilt at a distance between 180 mm. (7.087") and

232 mm. (9.134") from the inner surface of the guard (if such parts exist) shall have either a form or a surface permitting that the weapon be thereby held firmly and easily in the fingers or palm of the hand. Such parts (usually the pommel or locking nut) are for the single purpose of counterbalancing the weapon.

(c) The mounting shall not include any contrivance which permits the fencer to slide his hand along the hilt during a thrust and catch it again by the extreme end of the pommel.

(d) The mounting shall not include any contrivance which may in any manner whatsoever increase the protection afforded by the guard to the hand or wrist of the fencer. The quillons or transverse bars shall in no case project beyond the guard.

245. In addition to the foregoing, if the mounting includes a contrivance or combination of contrivances which fixes the location of the hand upon the hilt, it shall be one which satisfies the two following conditions:

(a) The contrivance or combination of contrivances shall fix and determine one, and only one, position for the hand in holding the weapon by the hilt.

(b) When the hand is placed upon the hilt in the one and only position fixed by the use of the contrivance or combination of contrivances, the end of the fully extended thumb shall be at a distance of less than 20 mm. (0.787") from the inner surface of the guard.

246. Among the contrivances limited under the preceding rule are included the following:

(a) A hilt sufficiently rough or uneven to prevent the slipping or displacement of the hand;

(b) A hilt coated with wax, pitch, or any similar substance;

(c) A glove, the inner surface or palm of which is coated with wax, pitch, or any similar substance.

(d) Any other contrivance, such as a pocket or pad, which permits clamping or wedging the hilt, or which increases the power of grasping the weapon beyond that obtained by using the ordinary glove.

247. The martingale or attachment of the weapon to the hand is obligatory. That is, if the weapon is not otherwise bound to the hand or

(7) *Attachments and Martingales* arm, the weapon must be loosely attached to the hand by a cord or string in such a manner as to prevent possible injury to any one else in case of disarmament. This cord or string is the martingale.

248. All kinds of straps, thongs, and similar attachments, used separately or conjointly, are permitted provided that they conform to the following conditions:

(a) They shall compel the fencer to keep his hand near the guard, so that the end of his fully extended thumb shall be at a distance of less than 20 mm. (0.787") from the inner surface of the guard.

(b) They shall not form loops in which the opposing weapon may catch.

(c) They shall not protect either the hand or the wrist, nor be made of any material which might cause the opposing point to slip.

249. All models and types of *pointes d'arrêt* are permitted provided that they conform to the following conditions:

(8) *Buttons and Pointes d'Arrêt* (a) The *pointe d'arrêt* used with the standard épée shall have three prongs.

(b) There shall be under the *pointe d'arrêt* a metal button forged with the blade. The surface of this button shall be flat. If square, its sides shall be at least 5 mm. (0.197") long. If round, its diameter shall be at least 6 mm. (0.236").

(c) The total length of the *pointe d'arrêt*, including the supporting button, shall be less than 20 mm. (0.787").

(d) The maximum length of the prongs of the *pointe d'arrêt* shall be less than 5 mm. (0.197").

(e) The effective or uncovered length of the prongs of the *pointe d'arrêt* shall be less than 2 mm. (0.079").

(f) The outer surface of the prongs of the *pointe d'arrêt* shall be parallel.

(g) The diameter of the cylinder circumscribing the prongs of the *pointe d'arrêt* shall be between 6 mm. (0.236") and 8 mm. (0.315").

250. In order that the multiple prongs of the *pointe d'arrêt* may not act as a punch or gouge, the space between the effective parts of any two consecutive prongs shall be at least twice the volume of the effective part of one of the prongs. The space between the prongs, from the base up to within 2 mm. (0.079") of the tip, shall be filled with waxed thread or other soft material forming a plug or pad.

251. The use of coloring matter for the purpose of facilitating the judging of touches is authorized, provided that such coloring matter be of

(9) *Coloring Matter* such consistency and be applied in such a manner that only those touches which arrive clearly with

the point shall leave any mark, while flat hits shall leave no mark whatsoever. A red marking fluid, soluble in vinegar or other weak acid, is preferred for use as coloring matter.

(E) ELECTRICAL ÉPÉE

252. The armament of the fencer for use with the electrical registration apparatus includes the electrical épée and the body wire.

(1) *General Specifications* 253. The specifications for the electrical épée are the same as for the standard épée, as stated above, except for the additions and modifications prescribed by the rules which follow.

254. The button or *pointe d'arrêt* may have three or four prongs. The external surface of the prongs must be cylindrical in shape, with a diameter between 6 mm. (0.236") and 8 mm. (0.315"). This diameter may not under any circumstances be larger than the diameter of the remainder of the button or *pointe d'arrêt*.

255. The pressure required to be exerted upon the *pointe d'arrêt* before the apparatus registers a touch must be more than 750 grams (26.455 oz.); that is, such a weight must be resisted by the spring of the button.

256. The *pointe d'arrêt* must recede a minimum of 1 mm. (0.039") before contact is made with the electrical circuit so as to cause the registration of a touch. Beyond this point, the possible recession must not exceed 0.5 mm. (0.020").

257. The attachment of the electrical button or *pointe d'arrêt* to the blade must be solidly effected, so as to insure safety in every respect. The best methods are those which preserve the customary flat surface at the tip of the blade, or which utilize special blades ending in a cylindrical tip welded to the blade and threaded to receive the electrical button.

258. However, the attachment of an electrical *pointe d'arrêt* by screwing it on blades which have been cut and filed is also authorized, on condition that the following requirements are strictly complied with in every respect; and subject to the provision that any weapon not so complying, no matter how carefully constructed, shall be barred:

(a) The attachment must be made directly in contact with the steel of the blade. No attachment with insulating material (such as fibre) upon the steel is permitted.

(b) Any light alloy which bends easily, and steel which is too brittle, are forbidden in the construction and attachment of the electrical button.

(c) All soldering or brazing operations which might possibly affect the

temper of the blade are forbidden. However, a highly fusible tin alloy, applied with a soldering iron, may be used to secure the wires.

(d) The use of paint or varnish on the tip of the blade is strictly prohibited.

(e) The tip of the blade cannot at any point be thinner than 3.5 mm. (0.138").

(f) The diameter of the core of the threaded portion of the tip of the blade, where the threading method is employed must be at least 2.6 mm. (0.102"). The threading must be very close (*International Standard Thread 3.5 x 0.6 mm. or American equivalent*).

(g) The thread at the tip of the blade must be at least 6 mm. (0.236") in length and must be completely covered by the body of the button.

(h) The groove necessary for the passage and protection of the wires must be cut in such fashion as to avoid as far as possible any weakening of the section of the blade.

259. In the male plug at the end of the body wire which connects with the female plug of the reel wire of the apparatus, the two external prongs

(3) *The Body Wire* must be at distances of 20 mm. (0.787") and 15 mm. (0.591") respectively from the central prong. The prong at a distance of 20 mm. (0.787") must be connected with the guard of the weapon; that at a distance of 15 mm. (0.591") must be connected directly with the *pointe d'arrêt*.

260. With the electrical buttons customarily used in the United States, where the *pointe d'arrêt* is neutral in its normal position, the prong at the distance of 15 mm. from the central prong is connected with whichever of the two wires receives the contact when there has been a touch.

261. The internal surface of the guard must be so arranged as to render it impossible for the fingers of the fencer to be in contact with the wires while he is fencing.

(F) FOIL

262. The specifications for the foil are the same as for the standard épée, as above stated, substituting the word "foil" for the word "épée,"

(1) *General Specifications* except for the differences prescribed in the following rules.

263. The total weight of the foil, ready for use and everything included, shall be less than 500 grams (17.637 oz.).

(2) *The Blade* 264. The blade shall be of rectangular or square cross-section. It may be very flexible, provided it is not too whipping.

265. The guard shall have a maximum diameter of less than 120 mm. (4.724"), which is to say that it must be able to pass through a circular gauge 120 mm. (4.724") in diameter. The guard need not be circular in shape, and may be a "figure-eight," or double loop, provided that the front face of the latter is covered with leather, and that the construction is of such character that it is impossible for the opponent's point to be caught in it.

266. Eccentric (*off-center*) mountings are prohibited.

267. Binding the wrist and hand of the fencer to the hilt of the weapon, even with a long leash, is authorized. In default of a strap or other binding, the martingale is obligatory.

268. The tip of the foil must be blunt and flat, forming a button forged with the blade. This button, if square, must have sides approximately 5 mm. (0.197") long, or if round, its diameter shall be approximately 6 mm. (0.236").

269. The tip or button of the foil must be covered with adhesive tape or other soft material forming a pad.

270. Except upon specific authorization and announcement of the proper governing body, the use of the *pointe d'arrêt* with the foil is strictly prohibited.

271. Coloring matter or special marking buttons are prohibited except when specifically authorized by the proper governing body and duly announced in advance. In any case such marking systems must be so arranged that only those touches which arrive clearly with the point shall leave any mark, while flat hits shall leave no mark whatsoever.

#### (G) SABRE

272. The specifications for the sabre are the same as for the standard épée, as above stated, substituting the word "sabre" for the word "épée," except for the differences prescribed in the following rules:

(1) *General Specifications* 273. The total weight of the sabre, ready for use and everything included, shall be more than 325 grams (11.464 oz.) and less than 500 grams (17.637 oz.).

274. The total over-all length of the sabre shall be less than 1,050 mm. (41.338").

275. Sabres of abnormal or extraordinary construction are forbidden.

276. The blade shall have a maximum length of 880 mm. (34.646").

277. The minimum width of the blade (between the two cutting edges) shall be at the tip or button, and shall be at least 5 mm. (0.197").

(2) *The Blade* 278. The minimum thickness of the blade, just below the tip or button shall be at least 1.2 mm. (0.047").

279. Blades which are too stiff or too whipping are prohibited.

280. The blade shall be as straight as possible. If a curvature exists, it is permitted only in the direction in which the blade naturally bends when a point touch is scored. Such curvature shall be apparent, continuous, and of not more than 40 mm. (1.575") deflection. No curvature is permitted if it constitutes a hook near the tip of the blade, or if it exists on the horizontal plane of the cutting edges.

281. The guard shall be smooth, solid, and of one piece. It shall present a continuous convex surface, without projecting edges and without any holes sufficiently large to catch the point of the opponent.

(3) *The Guard* 282. The width of the guard in the plane of the cutting edges of the blade shall not exceed 150 mm. (5.905") and its width perpendicular to this plane shall not exceed 140 mm. (5.512"). In other words, the entire guard shall be able to pass through a rectangular gauge 150 mm. (5.905") by 140 mm. (5.512"), the flat of the blade being parallel to the 150 mm. sides.

283. The tip or button shall be cast with the blade, and shall be rounded (*See also Rules 277 and 278*).

(4) *The Button* 284. The tip or button must be covered with adhesive tape or other soft material forming a pad.

285. The use of *pointes d'arrêt* or coloring matter is strictly prohibited.

### Article III

#### THE BOUT

##### (A) GENERAL PROVISIONS

301. The Director is in full charge of the bout. He alone is empowered to give the commands which control the actions of the fencers ("On Guard," "Play," "Halt," etc.), except that any member of the Jury is permitted to call "Halt" if he believes that there has been an accident, or that conditions exist which might lead to an accident.

302. The contestants are placed "on guard" by the Director in accordance with the ground rules (*Rules 411-414 and 415-421*).

303. Once the contestants are on guard, the Director shall ask "Ready?", and upon affirmative reply by each fencer shall give the order to begin, "Play!"\* If either contestant makes no reply, the Director may assume that he is ready and give the command to play.

304. The moment the command to play is given, the contestants may begin the attack.

305. Any action which starts or arrives before the command to play must be annulled.

306. Each bout comprises several periods of combat. Each period of combat begins with the command "Play" and ends with the command "Halt," except as the bout may otherwise be halted as a result of exceptional circumstances which modify the normal and regular conditions of combat (e.g. the incapacity of the opponent to defend himself as mentioned above, *Rule 105*).

307. A new action shall not be started after the command "Halt," or after a halt for the above-mentioned exceptional reasons, but one already started may be carried to completion. Thus, if a simple action, resulting in a hit on the target, is started before the command "Halt" or before the fencer has had time to realize the incapacity of his opponent, the touch shall be valid, even though it arrives after the bout has been halted. Any subsequent action is invalid.

308. If one of the fencers stops before the command "Halt" and is immediately touched, the touch shall be valid. However, in exceptional circumstances, if he stops in good faith and a sufficient interval without action elapses, the Director has the power to decide that the touch shall not be scored.

\* The order to begin may also be given as "Fence!" or other equivalent expression.

309. The command "Halt" shall be applicable, not only when the phrase *d'armes* (*Rules 902 and 903*) is normally at an end, but also whenever the play of the fencers is dangerous or contrary to the rules, or if one of the fencers goes off the strip, or in retreating comes too close to the spectators or the Jury.

##### (B) METHODS OF FENCING

310. The contestants may fence as they please, and at their own risk and peril, provided that they observe the fundamental rules of fencing and the characteristics of the weapon.

311. Every bout must preserve the character of a courteous and sportsmanlike encounter.

312. All methods and systems of combat, including drawing back and displacing the body, crouching (*passata sotto*), rotating, pivoting or side-stepping (*inquantata*), turning, etc., are allowed, and the unarmed hand may come in contact with the ground.

313. The normal *flèche* (*Rule 907*), executed without *corps-à-corps* (*Rule 325*), even if it involves running beyond the opponent, is not forbidden. However, the Director shall not call "Halt" so soon as to cause the opponent to lose his right to riposte. Furthermore, if the contestant executing a running *flèche*, crosses the boundaries of the strip, he must be penalized in accordance with the ground rules (*Rules 430-432*).

314. All acts of violence (such as a *flèche* which ends in a collision, hits delivered with brutal force, or sabre cuts intentionally delivered on parts of the body which do not constitute the target) are absolutely forbidden.

##### (C) CHARACTERISTICS OF EACH WEAPON

315. The épée and foil are thrusting weapons only. Touches can be scored only with the point (*Rules 702 and 808*).

316. The sabre is a thrusting, cutting, and counter-cutting weapon. Consequently touches may be scored with the point or with either of the cutting edges (*Rules 809-813*).

317. With all weapons, defensive actions must be effected exclusively with the guard and blade, separately or together.

##### (D) HANDLING OF THE WEAPONS

318. The weapon must not be transformed, either openly or by concealment, into a throwing weapon. The hand must not leave the hilt, or slide along it, during a thrust, either with or without the aid of a special

contrivance (*Rule 238*). Violation of this rule shall be punished by the annulment of any scoring action by the offending fencer, and, after a single warning, by the award of a touch to his opponent for each subsequent offense during the same bout.

319. Holding the pommel in the palm of the hand is permitted, even if the hilt or handle is of maximum length, provided that the hilt and glove conform strictly to the specifications (*Rules 243-246*). While the effective length of the weapon is thus increased, the fencer partially sacrifices control of his weapon, particularly on the defensive, so that the irregularity prohibited in *Rule 238 (b)* does not exist.

320. The weapon shall be handled with one and the same hand during the course of a bout, unless the Director expressly authorizes a change of hands because of injury to the sword hand or arm.

321. The use of the unarmed hand or arm, either in offense or defense, is prohibited. Violation of this rule shall be punished by the annulment of any scoring action by the offending fencer, and, after a single warning, by the award of a touch to his opponent for each succeeding offense during the same bout. (*But note Rule 312.*)

322. If the weapon is not otherwise bound to the hand or arm, the use of a martingale is obligatory. For the electrical *épée*, the body wire, if securely attached, may take the place of the martingale.

#### (E) INFIGHTING

323. Infighting (*combat at close quarters*) exists when the contestants have their guards in contact, when the guard of one fencer touches any part of the body of his opponent, when the arms or legs of the two fencers touch each other, or when the trunks of their bodies are momentarily in contact.

324. Infighting shall be permitted only as long as it conforms to the rules which define and govern normal and regular combat, with the weapon and the weapon alone, handled with one hand, as previously provided.

#### (F) CORPS-À-CORPS

325. The *corps-à-corps* (clinch) exists when the contestants, after infighting or after having passed (even though very rapidly) through a phase of infighting, meet and remain in contact, by the desire of one or both, without being able to separate or use their weapons in a manner

conforming to the rules which define and govern combat with the weapon only, handled with one hand.

326. The *corps-à-corps* shall not be prolonged. As soon as it is clearly evident that a *corps-à-corps* exists, the Director shall stop the bout.

327. In *épée*, the contestant who, either by *flèches* or by vigorous attacks, occasions several *corps-à-corps* in succession—without violence or unnecessary roughness—does not violate any fundamental conventions of fencing, and is not guilty of any irregularity.

328. In foil and sabre, when a fencer systematically provokes the *corps-à-corps*, even though without unnecessary roughness, he shall be warned and thereafter penalized one touch for each repetition of the offense in the same bout. This rule is equally applicable to any *flèche* attacks which systematically end in a *corps-à-corps*.

#### (G) FLÈCHES

329. The Director must distinguish between *flèches* "which systematically end in a *corps-à-corps*," and *flèches* "which terminate in a collision which jars the opponent." The latter are classified as unnecessary roughness and are severely punished. (*See Rule 333.*)

#### (H) DANGEROUS PLAY AND UNNECESSARY ROUGHNESS

330. The Director, after a single warning in the course of a bout, shall exclude any fencer who, either by his method of play or by movements or displacements of his body, continues to endanger his opponent, the Jury, or the spectators.

331. A fencer who commits a vindictive act (such as a brutal hit with any weapon, or a deliberate sabre cut upon parts of the body not included in the target), or who during infighting intentionally strikes his opponent with the guard, hilt, or pommel, shall be immediately penalized one touch; and upon repetition of the offense *during any part of the competition* shall be irrevocably excluded from further participation.

332. A fencer who provokes the *corps-à-corps* with unnecessary roughness, or who throws himself violently upon his opponent, shall be immediately penalized one touch; and upon repetition of the offense *during the same pool* or group of bouts shall be excluded from the competition.

333. In all weapons, the *flèche* ending in a collision which jostles or jars the opponent is considered as an act of unnecessary roughness and must be penalized in accordance with the preceding rules. If a touch is scored

as a result of such a *flèche*, it must be annulled, and the penalties must be applied as directed above.

(I) BOUTS WITH THE ELECTRICAL ÉPÉE

334. In bouts with the electrical épée, whenever either fencer or his team captain requests it, the Director—before giving the command “*On Guard*” for each new bout—shall examine the condition of the *pointes d'arrêt*, as to their resistance to a weight of 750 grams and as to their recession before a touch is registered. If the Director is in doubt as to the conformity of a *pointe d'arrêt* to the rules, he shall order a formal re-testing of the weapon in question.

335. The Director shall supervise the functioning of the registering apparatus and, upon request, shall permit tests of its operation. When a breakdown is established, he shall have the necessary steps taken to locate and to eliminate the defect. He shall prevent the fencers from interfering with or confusing the examination and repairs by testing or changing their weapons, unless and until he authorizes them to do so.

336. Each time that the Director may deem it advisable, and whenever either contestant shall request it, he shall consult the experts upon the operation of the electrical apparatus.

337. However, if a contestant interferes with the course of the competition, by repeated and unfounded requests for testing of the apparatus or armament, or for consultation of the experts, the Director is empowered to ignore his requests and finally, after one warning, to penalize him by awarding to his opponent one touch for each subsequent offense.

Article IV

GROUND RULES

(A) SPECIFICATIONS

401. The ground shall have a good surface. It shall give neither advantage nor disadvantage to either contestant, particularly with regard to slope and light. The part of the ground used for combat is called the strip.

(1) Surface

402. Official championships, unless specifically otherwise announced in the schedule of events, shall be held indoors on linoleum or cork mats.

403. The use of a neutralized strip is recommended for all official contests with the electrical épée.

404. Outdoor épée and sabre competitions shall be held on firm ground (gravel, level soil, pavement, etc.).

405. Any authorized deviation from the foregoing rules in the case of specific competitions must be duly announced in the schedule of events.

406. The official strip is *obligatory for championship events*. The width of the official strip shall be between 1.8 m. (5' 10<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>"") and 2 m. (6' 6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>"").

(2) Dimensions

The length of the official strip shall be 12.2 m. (40').

407. In order to provide an even and unbroken ground surface to a retreating contestant who crosses the rear limit of the strip, it is desirable that the material or surface of the mat be extended beyond the dimensions of the official strip. This extension is not compulsory and need not in any case be longer than 2 m. (6' 6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>"") on each end of the official strip.

408. For any authorized competition, other than championship events, the minimum width of the strip shall be 91.44 cm. (3'), and the minimum length shall be 9.144 m. (30').

409. The official strip shall be marked by drawing three parallel lines across the width of the strip: (a) the center line 25 mm. (1") wide dividing the strip in the middle; and (b) two “visual warning” lines each 10 cm. (4") wide and 3.05 m. (10') from its respective end of the strip. Two additional “on guard” lines, each 2 m. (6' 6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>"") from the middle, are optional; where used they should be short and less than 25 mm. (1") wide.

410. In A.F.L.A. competitions, particularly in outdoor events, an *alternative system of marking* the strip is permitted, in accordance with the rules of the Fédération Internationale d'Escrime. This consists of five

parallel lines, each 25 mm. (1") wide: (a) the center line, dividing the strip in the middle; (b) two "on guard" lines, one on each side, drawn at a distance of 2 m. (6' 6¾") from the center; and (c) two "warning" lines, one on each side, drawn at a distance of 1 m. (3' 3¾") from the end of the strip.\*

#### (B) CONTESTANTS' PLACES

411. At the beginning of the bout, the Director may, *in his discretion*, require the contestants to draw their places on the strip by lot.

412. In bouts for several touches, held indoors, the contestants shall change positions on the strip after one of the fencers has scored half or a majority of the maximum number of touches provided in the rules (*i.e.* three in a five-touch bout, two in a four-touch or three-touch bout, etc.).

413. In bouts for several touches, held outdoors, the contestants shall change positions on the strip after each touch.

414. As an exception to the foregoing rules, in electrical épée competitions, the contestants shall retain their positions on the strip throughout the bout, unless the Director rules otherwise.

#### (C) GOING "ON GUARD"

415. At the beginning of the bout, the contestants shall go "on guard" in such a way that the front foot of each is 2 m. (6' 6¾") from the center line of the strip.

416. At all times in the bout when the command "*On Guard*" is given, the contestants shall go "on guard" midway between the sides of the strip.

417. After every valid touch, whether awarded as a result of a score or as a penalty, the contestants shall be put "on guard" at the center of the strip in the same manner as at the beginning of the bout.

418. The ground gained is held until a touch is awarded. If the bout is halted, but no touch is awarded by the Director, the contestants shall go back "on guard" each approximately 2 m. (6' 6¾") from the point where the action was stopped. Each fencer shall lose the same distance, except as provided below.

419. When the bout has been stopped because of a *corps-à-corps*, the fencers shall be put "on guard" in such a manner that the fencer who has stood his ground shall remain where he was.

420. When the official markings of the strip are used, and the bout has been stopped, a fencer who is within 1 m. (3' 3¾") of the end of the strip,

\* The alternative markings are not permitted in I. C. F. A. and N. C. A. A. competitions.

shall not lose ground when going back "on guard." In all cases, a fencer shall be put back "on guard" in such a manner that both his feet are inside the limits of the strip.

421. When the alternative (F. I. E.) strip markings are used, a fencer shall not be placed back "on guard" behind the warning line if he were in front of it at the suspension of the bout; and he shall not lose any ground if he were behind the warning line at the suspension of the bout.

#### (D) OFF THE STRIP-END

422. In foil, when a retreating contestant crosses the rear limit of the official strip with both feet, he shall be penalized one touch.

423. In épée and sabre, each contestant is allowed to retreat a distance twice as long as in foil. Consequently, when a retreating contestant crosses the end of the official strip with one foot, the bout shall be stopped and the fencers brought back to the center of the strip. If the same contestant then retreats again and crosses the end of the strip with both feet (and no touch has been awarded to either contestant in the interim for any reason whatsoever) he shall be penalized one touch.

*Note:* Assume fencer A has retreated off his end of the strip once. Then his opponent B retreats off his end of the strip, and no touch has been awarded to either fencer in the interim. In this case, A has *regained* the lost distance, and both contestants are allowed the full retreating distance thereafter, exactly as if neither had retreated off the strip.

424. When a strip shorter than 12.2 m. (40') is used, the Director shall adapt these regulations so that a contestant will have the opportunity to retreat the full distance allowed in each weapon without penalty.

#### (E) WARNINGS

425. When the official strip is used, there shall be no warning to the retreating contestant who approaches the rear limit of the strip, except the visual warning provided by the warning lines.

426. When the alternative (F. I. E.) strip markings are used, the Director *must stop the bout* and verbally warn the retreating contestant when the latter crosses the warning line for the last time. If this warning has not been given by the Director, no penalty may be imposed, and the retreating contestant must be put back on guard at the warning line. No warning other than herein provided shall be given to a retreating contestant.

## (F) OFF THE STRIP-SIDES

427. In all weapons, when a retreating contestant steps off the side of the strip with both feet, he is not thereby penalized one touch. He shall, however, be penalized by the loss of 1 m. (3' 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ "") of ground when he is put back on guard. Furthermore, if the application of this penalty places the contestant beyond the rear limit of the strip with both feet for the last time (*See Rules 422-424*), he shall be penalized one touch.

428. In all weapons, a contestant who crosses one of the boundaries of the strip, end or side, in turning, in pursuit of his adversary or in case of an accident, such as a fall or a push, shall not be penalized, except as provided below.

429. The contestant who crosses one of the boundaries of the strip (end or side) with both feet loses all rights of play immediately upon crossing the strip boundary. However, an immediate and successful riposte or other counter-action (*Rules 923-933*) by his opponent may be valid, even if it arrives after the first contestant is off the strip with both feet.

## (G) FLÈCHE

430. When a fencer *systematically* crosses one of the boundaries of the strip (end or side) with both feet—particularly while executing an unsuccessful *flèche* or rushing attack—in order to avoid being hit, he shall be warned by the Director for the first offense, and he shall be penalized one touch for each subsequent offense in the same bout.

431. An immediate and successful riposte or other counter-action (*Rules 923-933*), which touches the fencer referred to in the preceding rule, shall be valid as provided above (*Rule 429*), without prejudice to the warning against the offending fencer whenever applicable.

432. It follows from the foregoing paragraphs that any touch scored by the *flèching* contestant while he is off the strip is annulled. But a touch scored by him while he still is on the strip is valid, even if he crosses the boundaries after scoring the touch; and in this case, neither warning nor penalty shall be applicable, provided that there is no collision or unnecessary roughness (*See Rules 327-333*).

## (H) REVERSAL OF POSITIONS

433. In bouts with the standard *épée*, the reversal of positions on the strip shall be permitted on condition that the movement be executed with-

out jostling or colliding with the opponent. The reversal is accomplished if it is more than half complete when the Director calls "*Halt*." In such a case, the contestants shall be put back on guard at the center of the strip with their positions so reversed.

434. In bouts with the electrical *épée*, the reversal of positions is forbidden.

435. In foil and sabre such movements as the displacement of the target, side-stepping, turns and half-turns, are permitted, but the reversal of positions on the strip is forbidden. Therefore, if the original positions are actually reversed, the contestants shall be placed back in the positions which they occupied at the moment the reversing movement was begun.

Article V

SCORING AND TIME LIMITS

(A) NUMBER OF TOUCHES

501. In the absence of special rulings by the governing authorities, duly announced in the schedule of events, the number of touches required for victory in each bout shall be the following:

<i>Épée:</i>	Three touches
Men's <i>foil</i> and <i>sabre:</i>	Five touches
Women's <i>foil:</i>	Four touches

502. The appropriate governing authorities may establish a greater or smaller number of touches as required for victory in each bout of a competition or the final round thereof.

503. The contestant who first scores the total number of touches required for victory shall be declared the winner.

504. In *épée* only, when both contestants simultaneously score the total number of touches required for victory (as a result of the award of a double touch), neither shall be declared the winner, and the bout shall be scored as a full defeat for each.\*

(B) THREE-WEAPON BOUTS

505. *Three-weapon* bouts shall be conducted as follows: The contestants shall first fence with the foil until the aggregate score of both fencers is five touches; then they shall fence an aggregate of five touches in *épée*; and finally they shall fence an aggregate of five touches in *sabre*. *The contestants change weapons, therefore, after the score in a weapon is 5-0, 4-1, or 3-2.* Since the maximum aggregate number of touches scored by both fencers is fifteen, the contestant who first scores *eight touches* shall be declared the winner. The order in which the weapons shall be fenced may be modified only when the Bout Committee prescribes in advance a uniform formula applicable to all contestants.

506. In three-weapon bouts, *double touches* in *épée* shall be scored as a touch for each contestant, as regularly provided in the rules, except in case the double touch occurs after the aggregate number of touches already fenced in *épée* is four. In this case, the double touch shall be

\* In I. C. F. A. and N. C. A. A. competitions, the bout shall be scored as a draw, equivalent to a half victory for each contestant.

Example: METHOD OF KEEPING SCORE  
Assume a pool of 6 fencers; bouts for 5 touches

A. F. L. A. SCORE SHEET  
INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

NAMES	No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	Bouts		Touches	
								Won	Lost	Rec.	Sc.
Smith, J.	1	X			 .W	 .					
Gray, C.	2		X			o .L					
Bell, R.	3			X			 .W				
Werner, W.	4	 .L			X						
Karl, O.	5	 .	 .W			X					
Terry, M.	6		.	 .L			X				
Touches Received											

ORDER	1-4√	1-5√	1-6	1-2	1-3
OF	2-5√	2-6	2-3	3-5	2-4
BOUTS	3-6√	3-4	4-5	4-6	5-6

*Explanation:* The first three bouts of the pool have been completed with the following results: Smith (1) has defeated Werner (4), 5-3; Karl (5) has defeated Gray (2), 5-0; Bell (3) has defeated Terry (6), 5-2. The fourth bout is now being fenced between Smith (1) and Karl (5), and the score is tied at 3-3. The fifth bout, between Gray (2) and Terry (6), has been called by the Scorer, who has marked the appropriate squares with a dot (·).

At the conclusion of the pool, the Scorer will determine the number of bout victories and the number of touches scored by each fencer by adding the appropriate items horizontally along the line bearing the contestant's name and number. The number of touches received is determined by adding vertically the column headed by the fencer's number.

The Score Sheet should then be signed by the Scorer and by the Director for transmission to the Bout Committee.

annulled, and the *épée* part of the bout shall be continued until one of the fencers alone obtains the last touch.

(C) DUTIES OF THE SCORER

507. Upon the awarding of a touch by the Director, the Scorer shall record the touch for the successful contestant upon the regulation score-form.

508. Penalty touches are never deducted from the score of the fencer who is penalized, but are added to the score of his opponent, exactly as if the latter had won them in play.

509. After each touch, the Scorer shall announce the score aloud for the information of the contestants and the interest of the spectators.

510. The Scorer shall announce the sequence of bouts, in accordance with the order stipulated upon the score-form, in such a manner that the new pair of contestants will be ready to fence immediately after the completion of the bout then in progress. (*See Order of Bouts, Rules 43 and 65, pp. 40 and 51.*)

511. The Scorer shall act as Time-keeper if no other official has been appointed for this purpose.

(D) TIME LIMITS

512. As far as possible, the duration of the periods of combat shall be measured exactly by a stop-watch.

513. The time limit for official contests shall be the following:

<i>Épée</i> (one touch):	Five minutes
<i>Épée</i> (two or three touches):	Ten minutes
<i>Foil and sabre</i> (five touches):	Ten minutes
<i>Foil</i> (four touches):	Eight minutes

514. The Bout Committee is empowered to modify these time limits whenever the occasion requires, and to fix appropriate time-limits for three-weapon bouts.

515. The duration of each bout includes only those periods of time during which the contestants are fencing or are at liberty to fence. Time is "in" from the moment the Director gives the command to play until the bout is halted in accordance with the rules. Time is "out" during the deliberations of the jury and other interruptions.

516. If a competitor is indisposed, or if he is the victim of an accident

which has been duly recognized, the Director may allow him the time necessary to recover sufficiently to continue the bout.

517. Except in case of accident or unavoidable interruption of the bout, a contestant is not permitted to ask for "time out." No additional periods of rest may be granted beyond those provided by the deliberations of the jury.

518. The Director shall warn the contestants *two minutes* and again *one minute* before the expiration of the time limit.

(E) TIME-KEEPER

519. The Time-keeper shall measure the duration of each bout strictly in accordance with the preceding rules.

520. The Time-keeper shall engage the Director's attention *two minutes* and *one minute* before the expiration of the time limit, so that the Director may give the warnings required by Rule 518.

521. The Time-keeper shall call "*Time!*" when the time limit for the bout has expired.

(F) UNFINISHED BOUTS

522. In all weapons, if at the end of the time limit fixed for a bout of several touches neither of the fencers has scored the number of touches required for victory, but *one of them is leading*, the difference between the maximum number of touches stated in these rules and the number actually scored by the fencer who is ahead shall be added to the number of touches actually scored by each fencer. Therefore, the fencer who is ahead shall be declared the winner as if he had scored the number of touches required for victory, and his opponent shall be the loser with a number of touches which maintains the difference between the actual touch scores of the contestants. *For example:* If, in a five-touch bout, A leads B by a score of 3-1 when time is called, A is declared the winner of the bout by a score of 5-3.

523. If, at the end of the time allotted for a five-touch bout in foil or sabre, neither of the fencers has scored the number of touches required for victory and *they are tied*, the score shall be brought to four-all and the fencers shall compete for a single decisive touch without limit of time. In such cases the final score of the bout shall always be 5-4. The same basic principle is applied when the number of touches in foil and sabre is more or less than five.

524. If at the end of the time allotted for an épée bout of one or several touches neither of the fencers has scored the number of touches required for victory and *they are tied*, a full defeat shall be charged against each contestant, with a touch score for each equal to the maximum for which the bout is being fought.\*

\* In I. C. F. A. and N. C. A. A. competitions, the bout shall be scored as a draw, equivalent to half a victory for each contestant.

## Article VI

### JUDGING—PROCEDURE

#### (A) OFFICIALS

601. The officials at authorized events, including the Bout Committee, directors, and judges, shall be amateurs in good standing.

602. The appointment of directors, judges, and scorers is in the exclusive power of the Bout Committee.

603. The Jury shall be composed of a Director and four Judges whenever possible. It is also desirable that, for the *finals* of championship competitions and other important events, the Jury be composed of five qualified Directors.

604. In exceptional cases, the Jury may, *in the absolute discretion of the Bout Committee*, be limited to a Director and two Judges.

605. In electrical épée competitions held with the neutralized strip, the Jury consists of the Director acting alone.

606. In electrical épée competitions held without the neutralized strip, the Bout Committee shall appoint two "field judges" to assist the Director.

607. In team matches, the Director and Judges shall not be members of either club\* participating in the match.

608. In individual events, the Director and Judges should not belong to the same club\* as either contestant. For practical reasons, however, final decision in this matter rests solely with the Bout Committee.

609. The Bout Committee shall immediately replace a Director or Judge whenever in its opinion such replacement is necessary or desirable, for any reason whatsoever.

#### (B) DUTIES OF THE JURY

610. By the acceptance of a position on the Jury, each of its members is in honor bound to respect the rules, to make the rules respected by fencers and spectators, and to carry out his functions with scrupulous impartiality and careful attention.

611. The Director is in full charge of the conduct of the bout (*Rule 301*). He alone may officially award touches (*Rule 646*). He has broad powers of discipline (*Rules 123-127*).

\* In I. C. F. A. and N. C. A. A. events, these regulations apply to alumni of the competing colleges.

612. The Director should concentrate his attention upon the ensemble of plays and the phrases of the bout, in order to be able to decide the validity of any touches that may be scored (*Rule 646*); but he is also empowered to decide upon the materiality of touches (*Rules 620-645*).

613. The Director should stand at an equal distance from each contestant and approximately four meters (13' 1") from the strip.

614. In electrical épée competitions, the Director should stand on the side of the strip opposite the registration apparatus.

615. The function of the Judges is to assist in establishing the materiality of a touch. This is a question of fact—*whether or not there has been a touch*. In the course of the bout, therefore, the only duty of a Judge (except in the case of accident) is to engage the attention of the Director when the Judge sees or thinks he sees a touch. This may be done by a verbal call, or preferably by some gesture, such as raising the arm, which does not distract the contestants.

616. The two Judges (*or one if the Jury includes a total of only two*) on the right of the Director shall watch and verify the materiality of the touches which may be received by the fencer on the left of the Director. The two Judges (*or one*) on the left of the Director fulfill a like function with reference to the fencer on his right.

617. The Judges are required to stand at least one meter (3' 3") behind and to the side of the opponent of the fencer whom they are watching. This position protects the Judges against possible injury from the weapons of the contestants and gives the Director a clear view of the play of both fencers.

618. In electrical épée competitions held without the neutralized strip, the only duty of the field judges is to assist the Director in determining whether a touch registered by the apparatus is the result of a hit upon the ground.

619. In electrical épée competitions held without the neutralized strip, the Director shall instruct the field judges as to their positions in relation to the strip and to the contestants.

#### (C) METHOD OF JUDGING

620. In all championship competitions, the *sole* basis for judging fencing bouts shall be the number of touches scored by the contestants, strictly in accord with the rules of competition and discipline. The judging of touches involves two steps: *materiality* (whether or not there has been a touch), and *validity* (whether or not the touch should be awarded).

621. In deciding the *materiality* of a touch, the Director must first ask

each Judge whether the contestant he is watching has been touched under the rules and conventions for each weapon (*Rules 701-703 and 801-815*). The fact that a fencer announces receipt of a touch (*as permitted by Rule 106*) does not in any way bind the Judges, who may proceed to render their opinions independently of such announcement.

622. The Director may require a Judge to state the part of the body on which the touch arrived, and on what movement of the *phrase d'armes* (*See Rules 902 and 903*).

623. When questioned by the Director as to the *materiality* of a touch, a Judge must reply as follows:

(a) "*Yes*," if he has a definite opinion that a touch has scored on valid target;

(b) "*Foul*," if he has a definite opinion (in foil and sabre) that a touch has arrived clearly on a portion of the body or equipment, other than the weapon, which is outside the valid target (*See Rules 814 and 815*).

(c) "*No*," if he has a definite opinion that no touch, good or foul, has arrived.

(d) "*Abstain*," if he has no opinion or is in doubt, and therefore does not wish to vote on the materiality of the touch.

624. Such expressions as "slap," "graze," "too much steel," "parried," etc., shall be interpreted to mean "*No*." Such expressions as "on the mask" or "on the arm" (in foil), or "too low" or "on the leg" (in foil and sabre), shall be interpreted to mean "*Foul*." Such expressions as "I am in doubt," "doubtful," "possible," etc., shall be interpreted to mean "*Abstain*."

625. In deciding the *materiality* of a touch, each Judge has one vote, and the Director has a vote and a half. If a Judge abstains, his vote does not count in determining the number of votes cast.

626. When there are only two Judges in the entire Jury, instead of four, the absent Judges are deemed to have abstained on all questions of fact.

627. Whenever a vote on *materiality* is taken, the Director votes last. The Director and the Judges shall vote from the places where they are standing and in audible voices.

#### (D) DECISIONS ON MATERIALITY

628. Decisions on the materiality of a touch are rendered on the basis of a *majority of the votes cast*.

629. If a foul touch is established, the phrase is automatically stopped, and any subsequent hit by either contestant shall be annulled (*See also Rules 820 and 829*).

630. If in a decision on *materiality* a *valid* touch is annulled; for any reason whatsoever, the phrase is automatically stopped, and any subsequent hit scored in play by either contestant shall be annulled. However, the annulment of a *valid* touch for disciplinary reasons does not necessarily prevent the award of a touch to the opponent of the offender as a penalty.

631. *Case 1:* If the two Judges who are watching the same fencer have definite opinions which are absolutely in agreement ("Yes," "Foul," or "No"), the Director is bound to accept their judgment, regardless of his own opinion. Even if the Director should disagree, he would be outvoted, by 2 to 1½.

632. *Case 2:* If one Judge has a definite opinion ("Yes," "Foul," or "No"), while the other Judge abstains, and the Director has no definite opinion, the Director must also abstain, and the vote of the Judge who has a definite opinion must prevail as the majority view, by 1-0.

633. *Case 3:* If one Judge has a definite opinion ("Yes," "Foul," or "No"), and the other Judge abstains, but the Director has a definite opinion which disagrees with that of the first Judge, the opinion of the Director controls, by 1½ to 1.

634. *Case 4:* If both Judges abstain, and the Director has a definite opinion ("Yes," "Foul," or "No"), the opinion of the Director controls, by 1½ to 0.

635. *Case 5:* If both Judges abstain, and the Director also abstains because he has no definite opinion, the result is a tie vote (0-0), and the decision must be that *the touch is "doubtful"* (See Rules 643-645).

636. *Case 6:* If one Judge votes "Yes," and the other Judge votes "No," while the opinion of the Director agrees with the vote of either Judge, the Director's vote controls, by 2½ to 1.

637. *Case 7:* If one Judge votes "Yes," and the other Judge votes "No," but the director abstains because he has no definite opinion, the result is a tie vote (1-1), and the decision must be that *the touch is "doubtful"* (See Rules 643-645).

638. *Case 8:* If one Judge votes "Yes," and the other Judge votes "Foul," but the Director votes "No touch," there is no majority for any one view (1-1-1½) and the final judgment must be "No decision." The Director's view cannot prevail, since he is outvoted (2-1½) by the implied agreement of both Judges that there has been a hit somewhere upon the fencer in question. Therefore, the action, and all subsequent thereto,

must be annulled in the same manner as if a foul touch had been positively established.

639. *Case 9:* If one Judge votes "No," and the other Judge votes "Foul," but the Director votes "Yes," there is no majority for any one view (1-1-1½) and the final judgment must be "No decision." The Director's view cannot prevail, since he is outvoted (2-1½) by the implied agreement of both Judges that the fencer in question has not been touched on valid target. Therefore, the action, and all subsequent thereto, must be annulled in the same manner as if a foul touch had been positively established.

640. *Case 10:* If one Judge votes "Yes," and the other Judge votes "No," but the Director votes "Foul," there is no majority for any one view (1-1-1½) and the final judgment must be "No decision." The result is the same as if the foul touch had been positively established, as explained in the two preceding rules.

641. *Case 11:* In the exceptional case where the entire Jury includes only two Judges, if one Judge and the Director *both* abstain (e.g. when the possible touch might have arrived on the back, or when a running attack or turning movement has blocked the view of both the Judge and the Director), the Director has the power, *in his absolute discretion*, to ask the opinion of the Judge who is watching in the other direction, if the Director thinks there is a reasonable chance that the second Judge might have a definite opinion.\* If the second Judge has a definite opinion ("Yes," "Foul," or "No"), his vote controls by 1-0. If the second Judge has no opinion, the result is a tie vote (0-0) and the decision must be that *the touch is "doubtful"* (See Rules 643-645).

642. *Case 12:* In electrical épée competitions held without the neutralized strip, when the question arises as to a hit upon the ground, each of the field judges has one vote and the Director has a vote and a half. Decisions upon this question are made in the same manner as in deciding the materiality of a touch without the electrical apparatus. However, if the apparatus registers a double touch, and it is established that on the one side the touch has arrived on valid surface, and on the other side it

\* It must be emphasized that a Judge's primary duty is to watch *one* contestant, as provided in these rules. In no case under Rule 641 is a Judge *required* to have a definite opinion, and in no case is a Judge permitted to *volunteer* an opinion, as to what happened upon the other contestant. Therefore, a Judge must *never* divide his attention by attempting to watch both fencers.

has arrived on invalid surface, the valid touch shall be considered good and the invalid hit shall be annulled (*See Rule 713*).

(E) BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT

643. A "doubtful" touch (*Rules 635, 637, and 641*) results only from a tie vote of the Jury on the question of *materiality*. It means that there is doubt as to whether valid contact has occurred between the blade and the target. A "doubtful" touch may be established in any weapon. It is not counted against the fencer who might perhaps have been touched. This fencer, therefore, receives the "benefit of the doubt."

644. When a fencer (*who might perhaps have been touched*) receives the "benefit of the doubt" as provided in the preceding rule, he loses all scoring rights in subsequent actions of the same phrase. Therefore, any good touch subsequently scored by the benefited contestant upon his opponent in the same phrase must be annulled.

645. On the other hand, the fencer who makes the "doubtful" touch is entitled to score on a good remise, redoublement, or counter-riposte, after the "doubtful" touch in the same phrase; provided, however, that his opponent (who has received the original "benefit of the doubt") has not—*between the "doubtful" and the good touch*—scored a foul, or suffered the annulment of a good touch by the application of Rule 644.

(a) *Case 1*: Fencer A attacks fencer B, and the touch on the attack is declared "doubtful." B scores a clear hit on his riposte. In this case, B has received the "benefit of the doubt" on the attack, and therefore B's good touch upon A must be annulled.

(b) *Case 2*: Fencer A attacks fencer B, and the touch on the attack is declared "doubtful." B fails to riposte, or his riposte misses completely (does not arrive at all, good or foul). Then A's remise, redoublement, or counter-riposte scores a clear hit. In this case, B has received the "benefit of the doubt" on the attack, but A's secondary action is valid.

(c) *Case 3*: Fencer A attacks fencer B, and the touch on the attack is declared "doubtful." B's riposte touches A (good or foul), and A's remise also scores. In this case, B has received the "benefit of the doubt" on the attack, so that B's riposte, even if good, must be annulled. However, since B has suffered the annulment of a hit which arrived before A's remise, the latter must be also annulled (*Application of Rules 629 and 630*).

(F) AWARDING OF TOUCHES

646. The award of touches, once their materiality has been established by the Jury (or by the electrical apparatus), is decided exclusively by the

Director in accordance with the rules governing validity of touches (*See Rules 705-717 and 816-835*).

647. The Director is required to announce the final decision on each touch in such a manner as to be clearly understood by both contestants and by the spectators.

648. The Director has the power to annul a touch already awarded, or to reverse his decision on a touch, if he discovers (a) that a Judge has voted incorrectly on the materiality of the touch through a misconception or misapplication of the rules, or (b) that he has himself erred under the rules in deciding the validity of the touch. But such annulment or reversal of decision must be made *immediately and before any decision is made on any subsequent touch* in the bout. This power cannot be exercised later, as it may then involve an undue disadvantage to the fencer unfavorably affected by the annulment or reversal (*See also Rules 128-130*).

## Article VII

## JUDGING—ÉPÉE

## (A) TARGET

701. The épée fencer is considered vulnerable everywhere without exception. Every thrust that arrives clearly with the point on any part of the body (trunk, limbs, or head), the clothing, or the equipment (other than the weapon), shall count for one touch.

## (B) TOUCHES—MATERIALITY

702. Every touch, to be valid, must arrive clearly and cleanly upon the target. Grazes with the point, flat hits, slaps, etc., shall not be counted as touches and shall not annul any subsequent action.

703. When coloring matter is used in connection with the standard épée to assist the Jury, the presence or absence of a mark on one or both of the contestants shall serve at most as an indication to be interpreted by the members of the Jury as they see fit; it is under no circumstances to be accounted absolute proof that a touch has or has not been scored. Each member of the Jury must give his opinion in accordance with the rules.

704. In contests with the electrical épée, the materiality of touches can be established *only when a touch has been registered by the apparatus*. Except as a result of the application of penalties under the rules, a fencer cannot be declared to be touched unless the apparatus registers a touch against him. This is a fundamental rule.

## (C) TOUCHES—VALIDITY

705. When one contestant alone has been touched, and there is no reason for the annulment of the hit under the rules of competition and discipline, his opponent shall be awarded the touch.

706. The épée is exclusively a combat weapon. Therefore, when both contestants are touched, the decision as to validity depends entirely upon the time element.

707. In bouts with the standard épée, when both contestants are touched, the Director must determine *from his own observation* whether or not there is an appreciable difference in time between the two hits. If there is such a difference, only the first touch is scored.

708. In bouts with the standard épée, when both contestants are

touched without appreciable difference in time, or when the Director has not a clear opinion as to the priority of one or the other hit, the action is scored as a *double touch*, that is one touch for each contestant.

709. In bouts with the electrical épée, the apparatus *alone* determines all questions of priority of touches. Therefore, if the apparatus registers a *double touch*, the action shall be scored as a double touch, unless one or both of the hits are annulled by the Director pursuant to the provisions of Rules 711-717, below.

710. If a double touch is awarded when the score is already tied at the maximum number of touches less one, both contestants thereby score (and receive) simultaneously the total number of touches predetermined as necessary to complete the bout. In this case, the bout shall be scored as a *full defeat* for each contestant.\*

## (D) TOUCHES—ANNULMENT

711. The Director shall annul any touch registered by the electrical apparatus which results from thrusts begun before the command "Play" or after the command "Halt," or otherwise outside of the normal periods of combat.

712. The Director shall annul any touch registered by the electrical apparatus which results from the contact of the tips of the two weapons; or from a thrust against the ground, if the neutralized strip is not used; or from a thrust against the ground outside the neutralized strip, if one is used; or from a thrust against the reel wires; or from a thrust against the body or equipment of the fencer who makes the thrust; or *in general*, from a thrust against any surface or object other than the opponent or his equipment or body wire.

713. If the apparatus registers a double touch, and the Director determines that on one side the touch has arrived on the target, while on the other side the touch has arrived on an invalid surface or object, the latter shall be annulled as provided in the preceding rule, but the valid touch may be scored (*See Rules 642 and 715*).

714. The Director shall annul a touch registered by the apparatus, but no touches previously registered, if by means of a test conducted immediately, under proper supervision and without any change whatsoever in the equipment used, he establishes any one or more of the following

\* In I. C. F. A. and N. C. A. A. competitions, the bout is scored as a draw, equivalent to half a victory for each contestant.

irregularities, which tend to place the fencer against whom the touch has been registered at a disadvantage in relation to his opponent:

(a) If a thrust upon the guard of the fencer against whom the touch is indicated causes the apparatus to register a touch; except, however, that, if this result is caused by a disconnection of either of the contact plugs of his body wire (near the hand or at the back), the touch cannot be annulled.

(b) If a thrust upon valid target of the opponent, by the fencer against whom the touch is indicated, fails to register; except (1) that if this condition results from a disconnection of either of the contact plugs of his body wire, the touch cannot be annulled; and (2) that if this condition results from a broken blade, the touch can be annulled only if the opponent's scoring thrust started after the command "Halt" or after he had sufficient time to realize the fact of the broken blade—or if there is some simultaneous or coincidental defect in the operation of the electrical apparatus justifying the annulment of the touch, which condition the Director must, if possible, ascertain.

(c) If the apparatus registers touches independently of any scoring thrust by the opponent of the fencer against whom the touch is indicated.

(d) If the apparatus is defective, so that a prior touch scored by the fencer against whom the touch is indicated either (1) fails to prevent the registration of a subsequent touch by his opponent, or (2) is annulled by the registration of such a subsequent touch.

715. If the apparatus registers a double touch, and the existence of any of the irregularities described in the preceding rule is established, the Director shall annul the double touch on both sides; except that, if the breakdown of the apparatus or of the armament affects only one fencer, the annulment of both hits is obligatory only when the fencer who is placed at a disadvantage demands it; if this fencer is satisfied with the double touch, it shall be so scored.

716. If it is ascertained, after registration of a touch by the apparatus, that the scoring épée is contrary to the technical specifications for the electrical weapon (*See Rules 252-261*), this fact shall not of itself suffice to annul the touch. Therefore the touch cannot be annulled unless the circumstances are such as to justify such annulment under the general rules of fencing, or unless the deviation from the rules is of a sort to make possible any of the irregularities mentioned in Rule 714, above. However, the fencer whose épée is contrary to the rules shall be subject to the provisions of Rules 207-209 above.

717. If it is ascertained, after registration of a touch by the apparatus, that the scoring épée is contrary to the general specifications for the weapon, as to length, width of guard, general construction, etc. (*Rules 226-253 wherever applicable to the electrical épée*), the case shall be referred to the disciplinary authorities for investigation and decision. In this case, the penalty may include annulment of any and all hits scored with the weapon in question, if the facts warrant such action.

#### (E) PENALTIES

718. In contests with the electrical épée, any fencer who deliberately or negligently abuses the rules for the annulment of touches renders himself liable to penalties.

719. A fencer who deliberately attempts to place the point of his weapon upon the ground outside the neutralized strip (or anywhere upon the ground if the neutralized strip is not used), or upon his own body, or upon any surface other than the target of his opponent, in order to cause the apparatus to register a touch during combat, shall be warned once and thereafter penalized, for each subsequent offense in the course of the pool in which he is competing, by the award of one touch to his opponent, or—at the discretion of the Director—by exclusion from the competition.

720. Each time that the irregularities described in Rule 714, above, are found to be caused by defects in a fencer's personal armament (épée or body wire), the Director shall instruct the fencer to repair or replace the equipment in question.

(a) If, during the course of the same pool, this fencer reappears on the strip with armament similarly defective which provokes a repetition of previous irregularities (except when due to accidental damage to the blade or button during a new phrase or bout), the Director shall confiscate the armament for the purpose of having it repaired by competent technicians, and shall have the armament returned to the fencer only upon payment of the expense incurred in such repair.

(b) If, during the course of the same pool, the offense is again repeated, the fencer shall lose all rights to have a touch annulled, unless he can prove, to the satisfaction of the Director, that the defective armament was used in good faith.

721. Whenever the personal armament of a fencer causes the apparatus to register touches independently of any actual hit (*Rule 714-c*), the defective armament shall be confiscated for the duration of the competition; and, upon repetition of the offense in the same pool, the fencer shall

be compelled, at his own expense, risk, and peril, to complete the competition with armament (épée and body wire) furnished by the Bout Committee, unless the fencer can prove, to the satisfaction of the Director, that the defective armament was used in good faith and that he can himself provide substitute armament in good condition.

722. Whenever the Director discovers that a fencer upon being touched has attempted to damage his own armament, in order to obtain annulment of the touch, or that the fencer has so arranged his armament or equipment as to be able at will to cause the apparatus to register a touch, or to cause his armament to appear defective, the Director shall immediately confiscate the offending armament or equipment and shall refer the case to the Bout Committee. The Bout Committee shall investigate the matter with the assistance of the technical experts, and, if the facts warrant such action, shall place the matter before the Jury of Appeal with a recommendation for exclusion or disqualification of the offender.

## Article VIII

### JUDGING—FOIL AND SABRE

#### (A) FUNDAMENTAL CONVENTIONS

801. The foil and the sabre are conventional weapons. The *materiality* of touches is limited by the conventions restricting the valid target. The *validity* of hits, when both fencers are touched, is governed by the conventions of play or correctness of the action, known as the "right of way."

#### (B) THE TARGET

802. For men, the foil target extends from the top of the collar to the groin lines in front; in the back to a horizontal line, passing across the tops of the hip bones, which joins on the sides the tops of the groin lines. The target excludes the arms up to the shoulders. The shoulder seams of the jacket should correspond to the tip of the humerus, in order to facilitate judging.

803. For women, the foil target is the same as for men, except that the lower limit is a horizontal line passing across the tops of the hip bones (front and back).

804. The sabre target comprises all parts of the body, including the head, the arms, and the hands, above a horizontal line drawn around the body and passing through the highest points of the intersections of the thighs and the trunk of the fencer when in the "on guard" position.

#### (C) EXTENSIONS OF THE TARGET

805. The target may be extended, so that touches on the head, the arms, the hand (*in foil*), or the legs (*in foil and sabre*), may be adjudged valid, whenever the fencer—either intentionally or as a result of an abnormal position—substitutes a normally invalid surface for a part of the valid target; that is:

(a) When the fencer, either permanently or temporarily covers a portion of the target with a part of the body which is normally outside the target (*e.g.* covering the trunk with the head or arms in foil), and is hit on that invalid part.

(b) When by a displacement of the target, as a result of crouching, ducking, etc., the fencer receives on a normally invalid part of the body a touch which without such displacement would have reached the valid

target. This rule applies even if the displacing movement is perfectly regular in itself.

806. As illustrations of the preceding rule,

(a) If a fencer crouches or ducks (*e.g., passata sotto*) in foil, and is touched on the mask by a hit which otherwise would have reached the normal target, he is considered to have been validly touched. This is so because, solely as a result of the displacement of the body, he has substituted an invalid surface for part of the target;

(b) On the other hand, if a fencer pivots or side-steps (*e.g., in quartata*) and is touched on the mask in foil, or on the legs in foil and sabre, he is not validly touched. This is so because, even without the displacement of the body, the hit would not have arrived on the target.

807. It should be thoroughly understood that the rules governing the extension of the target apply only if the fencer at fault has been hit. If the fencer has not been touched anywhere, no "theoretical" touch may be called against him, regardless of the body movement by which the hit has been avoided (except, of course, in the case of penalty touches wherever applicable).

#### (D) TOUCHES IN FOIL

808. Every touch, to be valid, must arrive on the target clearly and cleanly with the point. Grazes with the point, hits with the flat of the blade, slaps, etc., are not counted as touches and do not annul any subsequent action.

#### (E) TOUCHES IN SABRE

809. Touches in sabre may be scored with the point (*thrusts*), with any part of the front edge of the blade (*cuts*) or with the forward third—nearest the point—of the back edge of the blade (*counter-cuts*). All such touches are equally valid if they arrive clearly and cleanly on the target.

810. Any hit with the remainder of the back edge, with the flat of the blade, or with any other part of the weapon, does not count and does not annul any subsequent action.

811. Point thrusts that fail to arrive clearly and cleanly on the target, but which are executed in such a manner that the cutting or counter-cutting edge of the blade grazes the target, shall not be counted as cuts or counter-cuts but shall be declared to have passed.

812. When a cut or counter-cut is cleanly parried, but whips over the

parrying blade or guard to touch the target, it shall not be counted and shall not annul any subsequent action.

813. However, cuts or counter-cuts "across the steel"—that is, those which *simultaneously* hit the target and the opponent's weapon, shall be valid whenever they clearly touch the target with one of the cutting edges.

#### (F) FOUL TOUCHES

814. Any clear hit in foil and sabre which arrives directly on the body of the opponent outside the target is a foul touch. It shall not be scored for or against either fencer, but shall stop the phrase immediately, and subject to the rules governing the validity of touches, shall annul any subsequent hit by either contestant.

815. If a thrust (or, in sabre, a cut) is directed toward a valid part of the body *and is parried*, but arrives after the parry *and as a consequence of the parry* on an invalid surface, there is no foul touch, and the phrase shall not be stopped nor subsequent hits invalidated.

#### (G) VALIDITY OF TOUCHES

816. When one contestant alone has been validly touched, and there is no reason for the annulment of the hit under the rules of competition and discipline, his opponent shall be awarded the touch.

817. When both contestants have been touched on the target, the decision as to *validity* is based first on the time element. If there is a sufficient interval of fencing time between the two hits, only the first touch is scored.

818. A *sufficient interval* of fencing time (*temps d'escrime, tempo*) is a variable depending upon the speed of the fencers in the *phrase d'armes*. Generally it shall be interpreted to mean the time required for the execution of a simple movement in the phrase *by the faster fencer*.

819. When the contestants have been touched on the target *simultaneously* (*i.e.* without a sufficient interval of fencing time between the two hits), the conventional "right of way" must be applied to determine which one (or whether neither) of the two hits shall be scored.

820. When the contestants have been touched *simultaneously*, but one touch arrives on the target, while the other is foul, the principles of the "right of way" shall be applied to determine whether the good hit shall be scored. If the foul touch has the "right of way," the whole action must be annulled.

821. The basic theories of the "right of way" are (a) that the fencer who provokes or is responsible for a simultaneous double touch is at fault, and (b) that the correctness of the *phrase d'armes* requires an orderly sequence and alternation of play between the contestants, in accordance with the principles which follow (Rules 822-831).

(H) PRINCIPLES OF THE "RIGHT OF WAY"

822. The orderly sequence of actions in the *phrase d'armes* must be followed. The fencer who departs from the regular alternation of play, as defined in these rules, does so at the risk of having his scoring action annulled in the event of simultaneous touches.

823. The *attack*, when correctly executed (Rules 824-826, 829-831), has the "right of way" in the phrase. Therefore, every attack, when correctly executed, must be parried or completely evaded by a movement of the body. (See also Rules 805-806.)

824. If the defender is *in line* (as defined in Rule 915), the attacker must first deviate the defender's threatening point (e.g. by a beat, pressure, bind, or envelopment), so as to avoid impaling himself upon it. This is a fundamental principle in judging the correctness of the attack, and it applies even if the attacker is also *in line* at the start of the attack.

825. If the defender *avoids* or *escapes* the attacker's attempt to deviate the point in line, or his attempt to take the defender's blade as a preliminary to the attack, the attacker should not continue the attack, as the "right of way" then passes to the defender.

826. If the defender offers an *invitation*, or if the attacker succeeds in taking the defender's blade, the attack may proceed by straight thrust (or, in sabre, by straight thrust or cut) or by disengagement, either immediate (*simple attack*) or preceded by one or more efficient feints which impel the opponent to attempt to parry (*composite attack*).

827. The *parry* gives a fencer the right to *riposte*. Therefore, if the attack is parried, the *riposte*, when correctly executed, has the "right of way"; if the *riposte* in turn is parried, the counter-*riposte* has the "right of way," and so on.

828. The *simple riposte* may be direct or indirect, but—in order to maintain its "right of way" so as to nullify any subsequent action of the attacker—it must be executed without indecision or delay. The same principle applies to a simple counter-*riposte* after the *riposte* has been parried.

829. The *composite attack*, to be correctly executed, must be continuous in its offensive threat. Any withdrawal of the threatening blade or point, or any perceptible stop between movements, constitutes an interruption of the composite attack and results in the loss of the original "right of way." Whether one or the other fencer thereafter acquires the "right of way" depends on the sequence and correctness of the subsequent actions. The same principle applies to composite *ripostes* and counter-*ripostes*.

830. If during a *composite attack*, even though correctly executed, the defender meets the blade on a feint by the attacker, the defender acquires the right to *riposte*. Such finding of the blade is construed as a *parry*. The same principle applies to composite *ripostes* and counter-*ripostes*.

831. During a *composite attack*, even though correctly executed, the defender has the right to stop-thrust or stop-cut, but the *stop*, to be valid, must precede the attacker's touching action by a sufficient interval of fencing time. (See Rule 818.) The same principle applies to stop-thrusts or stop-cuts against composite *ripostes* and counter-*ripostes*, correctly executed.

(I) DECISIONS UNDER THE "RIGHT OF WAY"

832. It follows from the foregoing principles that, when both fencers are touched on the target, and there is not a sufficient interval of fencing time between the two hits, the defender alone shall be declared touched:

(a) If he makes a stop-thrust (or, in sabre, a stop-cut) against a simple attack;

(b) If he attempts to evade a simple or composite attack by some body movement (e.g. *passata sotto*, *inquartata*, etc.), but fails to do so;

(c) If, being *in line*, he responds to the attacker's taking of the blade (beat, pressure, bind, envelopment, etc.) by executing a thrust or cut, or by replacing his point in line, instead of parrying the immediate thrust or cut of the attacker;

(d) If, after a successful parry, he momentarily delays or interrupts the execution of his *riposte* (simple or composite), so that the attacker acquires the right to retake the attack and does so by an immediate remise or redoublement;

(e) If, against a composite attack, correctly executed, he stop-thrusts or stop-cuts after the attacker has begun the final movement of the attack.

833. Furthermore, when both fencers are touched on the target, and

there is not a sufficient interval of fencing time between the two hits, *the attacker alone shall be declared touched*:

(a) If he provokes the double touch and impales himself upon the defender's point, by starting the attack while the defender is *in line* without first deviating the latter's threatening point;

(b) If he attempts to find the defender's blade but fails to do so because of the defender's escape or avoidance (*dérobement, trompement, cavazione*), and yet continues the attack;

(c) If, on a feint during a composite attack, even though correctly executed, he allows the defender to meet the blade, and continues the attack while the defender executes an immediate and successful riposte;

(d) If, having been parried by the defender, he touches by remise or redoublement, while the defender's parry is followed by an immediate and successful simple riposte, either direct or indirect.

834. However, *when both fencers are touched*, and there is not a sufficient interval of fencing time between the two hits, *the entire action shall be annulled* in the following situations, *even if one of the touches is foul*:

(a) If neither of the fencers is actually at fault in provoking the double touch, as for example, when both attack simultaneously;

(b) If both fencers are at fault in provoking the double touch, as in the case when there is a stop-thrust which has a doubtful time advantage against the final action of a composite attack. In such a case, the double touch may generally be said to result from the simultaneous fault of both fencers. The fault of the attacker is indecision, slowness, or lack of efficient feints; the fault of the defender is delay or slowness in the stop-thrust.

(c) If the Director is in doubt as to which of the two fencers has the "right of way."

835. If the Director announces "*Double Touch*" as the official decision on any action in foil and sabre, this shall be interpreted to mean that the entire action is annulled, and that the fencers are to be put back on guard without a score for either. Under no circumstances shall such a double touch be scored for or against both contestants.

## Article IX

### JUDGING—EXPLANATION OF TERMS

#### (A) GENERAL

901. The definitions included in this article are designed to obtain general uniformity in judging terminology. While there is disagreement on terminology among the several schools of fencing, these definitions are standard for national competitions organized by the Amateur Fencers League of America, and are based on the official international rules of the Fédération Internationale d'Esgrime.

#### (B) THE PHRASE

902. A *phrase* or *phrase d'armes* is a period in a bout during which there is no cessation of play. Generally the term is used to describe a continuous sequence and alternation of play between the two fencers, and it frequently includes an attack and one or more parries and ripostes.

903. The *phrase* comes to an end when the continuous action of the fencers is interrupted, *even if only for a brief moment*. Just as there may be several "periods of combat" (between the commands "*Play*" and "*Halt*") during a bout, there may be several "phrases" within each period of combat.

#### (C) THE ATTACK

904. The *attack* is usually the initial movement of a *phrase d'armes*. It consists, broadly speaking, of a *forward movement of the weapon*, with or without a corresponding movement of the body, which constitutes an imminent offensive threat to the opponent's valid target.

905. The *lunge* is a forward movement of the body executed by advancing the forward foot in the direction of the opponent, while the rear foot remains stationary. It is frequently used in the attack and sometimes on the riposte, as a means of reaching the opponent.

906. The *advance* is a forward movement of the body executed by moving the feet *without crossing them as in walking or running*. Its purpose is to "close" the distance, *i.e.* to come within reaching distance of the opponent. Sometimes it is combined with other movements of the feet, as for example, the advance-lunge (*attaque en marchant, pattinando*).

907. The *flèche* (or rush) is a forward movement of the body executed by a walking or running movement of the feet, so that the rear foot temporarily crosses in front of the forward foot. The *flèche* is sometimes used instead of the lunge, but it is somewhat restricted by the combat rules in the interest of safety, in order to prevent possibly dangerous collision between the fencers; and by the ground rules in order to prevent abuse thereof.

908. The *jump* is sometimes used instead of the advance, and may also be combined with other movements of the feet, as for example, the jump-lunge (*balestra*).

909. A *simple attack* is made in one movement, and is usually executed when the attacker is within reaching distance of his opponent. A simple attack may be direct or indirect:

(a) *Direct* (*i.e.* by straight thrust or cut) when the defender's line is open to a direct thrust or cut;

(b) *Indirect*, when the attacker moves his weapon from a closed line into an open line, either by disengagement (passing the point of the weapon around the defender's guard), or by cut-over or *coupé* (when the attacker's weapon passes over the tip of the opponent's weapon).

910. A *composite attack* is made in two or more movements. The purpose of preliminary movements before the final movement of the attack is usually to force open a desired line, either by controlling the opponent's blade, or by impelling him through efficient feints to move his guard in an attempt to parry.

911. The *final movement of the attack* is generally construed as the last forward motion of the weapon, immediately resulting in a touch, or constituting the last attempt to touch in a composite attack.

912. The *attack on preparation* is one executed just as the opponent is about to start his own attack, but before the opponent's attack has actually begun. The fencer who attacks on preparation may *steal the initiative* when the opponent closes the distance, or executes a change of engagement, as a preliminary to his own attack; or he may attack after *escaping* or *avoiding* the opponent's attempt to take the blade as a preliminary to his own attack.

913. An *attack of second intention* is a false attack, which the attacker intends shall be parried by the defender, in the expectation that the attacker may then parry the defender's riposte and score on the counter-riposte.

914. The *delayed attack* (attack *à temps perdu, a tempo perduto*) is a composite attack during which a "change of pace" causes a definite break in the continuity of the offensive movements. Generally, in foil and sabre, the delayed attack risks the loss of the "right of way" and in extreme cases may even offer a momentary "invitation" to the opponent. Its success depends upon the disorganization of the defense through the shift in rhythm or *tempo* of the attack, so that the defender is unable to take advantage of the momentary opening.

#### (D) POINT IN LINE

915. The *point in line* is a defensive threat used to compel the attacker in foil and sabre to execute a preliminary action on the defender's blade. A fencer is deemed to be *in line* if his arm is clearly extended and the *point of his weapon threatens the opponent's valid target*. It is not necessary that the arm be perfectly straight and the elbow locked. It is sufficient that the arm be extended so far that, without further straightening, the attacker would cause simultaneous touches by hitting himself if he attacked without first taking the defender's blade. Therefore, in this case, the defender is not truly *in line* if he finds it *necessary* to straighten his arm further, or to lunge, in order to impale the attacker upon the point.

#### (E) ACTIONS ON THE BLADE

916. Actions *on the blade* are sometimes divided into two technical categories: (a) attacks on the blade, the purpose of which is to deviate the opponent's threatening *point in line* or to force the opponent's blade aside in order to open a line of attack; and (b) actions which "take the blade" (*prise de fer, presa di ferro*), the purpose of which is to capture, hold, or dominate the opponent's blade, as a means of ensuring the attacker's safety in the execution of the attack. From the point of view of judging, there is no practical difference between the two categories. The principal actions on the blade are:

Beat ( <i>battement, battuta</i> )	Glide ( <i>coulé, filo</i> )
Pressure	Bind ( <i>liement, legamento</i> )
Opposition	Envelopment ( <i>trasporto di ferro</i> )

917. The defender may *escape* or *avoid* actions on the blade by eluding

the attempts of the attacker to effect contact of blades (*dérobement, trompement, cavazione*).\*

(F) THE INVITATION

918. An *invitation* exists when a fencer exposes an open line within reaching distance of his opponent, thus inviting the attack. Generally, if a fencer closes the distance with his weapon in the "on guard" position, or in any other position that is neither an attack (offensive threat) nor *in line* (defensive threat), he is offering an invitation. Likewise, when the two fencers are within reaching distance, and neither is attacking or *in line*, there is an invitation by both.

(G) THE PARRY

919. A *parry* is a defensive movement (executed with the blade or guard or both) that either blocks or deviates the opponent's offensive action (*attack, riposte, or counter-riposte*) so as to prevent a score on that action.

920. A *simple parry* is a direct movement of the defender's weapon to meet the attacker's blade which threatens an exposed line. The two principal types of parries are the *opposition* (blocking) parry, and the *beat* (deviating) parry.

921. A *counterparry* is a circular movement of the defender's weapon that sweeps the attacker's threatening blade back to the immediately preceding line of the defender's guard.

922. Generally the parry is deemed *sufficient*, in foil and sabre, if it

\* *Judging Note No. 1.* Sometimes it is difficult for the Director to decide the nature of the action when the blades of both fencers are in movement around each other without contact. The Director must determine whether the attacker is endeavoring to deceive or elude the defender's parries, or whether he is endeavoring to attack by taking the defender's blade, only to find that the defender is successfully avoiding or escaping the attacker's attempts to effect contact. *In foil and sabre*, this is a very important decision for purposes of ascertaining the "right of way" in the event of simultaneous hits.

The following analysis may assist in the solution of this problem: (1) If at the start of the action neither fencer is *in line*, and A makes a clear offensive threat (attack), the movements of B must be construed as attempts to parry. (2) If both fencers are *in line* (defensive threat) at the start of the action, whichever one moves forward first is required to take his opponent's blade; therefore if A moves forward and there is no contact of blades, his action is conventionally incorrect, and B must be deemed to have escaped or avoided A's action on the blade. (3) The same result as in (2) follows if B alone is *in line*, and A moves forward. (4) If neither fencer is *in line*, and neither makes a clear offensive threat, the Director is justified in declaring that neither has the "right of way." While the Director is duty-bound to exert his best efforts in order to arrive at the correct result, he cannot be expected to perform miracles when the fencers are indecisive and their play is haphazard.

clears the valid target of the threat of the opponent's offensive action, even if only for a brief moment. Under the rules, a very light parry is sufficient against a feint during a composite attack (*Rule 830*). On the other hand, the parry against a simple attack or against the final movement of a composite attack must be sufficiently *authoritative* to block or deviate the attacking thrust (or, in sabre, to break the force of the cut). This means that the successful parry ordinarily must be made with the guard or with the stronger parts of the blade (the two thirds nearest the guard). Thus, a beat parry (*tac-au-tac*), properly made, always deviates the opposing blade, even when the movement is faster than the eye can follow. However, an attempt to parry with the *foible* (the forward third of the blade, nearest the point) ordinarily carries no authority against the final movement of an attack, and is usually insufficient.\*

(H) THE RIPOSTE

923. The *riposte* is the offensive action of the defender which follows a successful parry of the attack. The riposte may be simple or composite, immediate or delayed.

924. The *counter-riposte* is the attacker's riposte after he has parried the riposte of the defender. In a long *phrase d'armes*, there may be any number of counter-ripistes—second, third, etc.,—alternating between the two fencers after each successful parry.

925. A *simple riposte* is made in one movement, and may be either direct or indirect:

(a) A *direct riposte* is made in the same line as the parry; as for example, a straight riposte (which touches the opponent without leaving the line in which the parry was made), or a riposte by *coulé* or "over steel" (which touches the opponent by gliding along his blade after the parry).

(b) An *indirect simple riposte* is made in a line different from that of the parry; as for example, a riposte by disengage (which touches the

\* *Judging Note No. 2.* When the blades of the two contestants meet during a phrase, the Director must determine whether such meeting constitutes a *beat* (by Fencer A on the attack) or a *parry* (by Fencer B on the defense). This is another important decision, in foil and sabre, for purposes of ascertaining the "right of way" in the event of simultaneous hits. The Director must study the method of play of each fencer and render his decision by reference to (1) the authority which one or the other fencer exercises over his opponent's blade, and (2) the fencing line in which the blades have met, as compared to the position of the blades immediately prior to their contact. Special attention must be given to situations in which the attacker *intends* to make a beat, but in which the execution of the movement is faulty, so that the defender is logically warranted in assuming that the movement constitutes a feint, a simple attack, or a false attack.

opponent in the opposite line of the parry, by passing the point of the weapon around the opponent's guard), or a riposte by *coupé* or cut-over (similar to the above, except that the riposte goes over the tip of the opponent's blade).

926. A *composite riposte* is made in two or more movements, involving any combination of feints and deceives of the opponent's parries which precede the final action of the riposte.

927. The distinction between an *immediate* riposte and a *delayed* riposte depends entirely on the rapidity of its execution after the parry. This is a *question of fact* which is extremely important in judging.

#### (I) COUNTER-ATTACKS

928. The *stop-thrust* (or stop-cut) is a simple counter-attack, against the opponent's attack. It is successful, in foil and sabre, against a faulty attack, simple or composite; or against attacks advancing ("on the march") and delayed attacks, when the attacker exposes an open line and enables the defender to obtain the advantage of a sufficient interval of fencing time. (See Rule 818.)

929. A *time-thrust* (or time-cut) is a simple or composite counter-attack against the opponent's composite attack, executed so that it scores and at the same time blocks the line of the final movement of the attack—that is, the attacker's blade meets a closed line and is carried off the valid target by the opposition of the defender's blade or guard.

930. The *counter-stop* and *counter-time* consist in provoking an opportunity for the counter-attack. This may be done by inducing the opponent to expose an open line, or to attempt a stop-thrust or time-thrust, upon which action the opponent's blade is taken and an immediate counter-attack follows.

#### (J) THE REMISE

931. The *remise* is the immediate continuation of the attack *in the same phrase* by straight thrust (or cut) after the opponent's parry, either because the opponent releases the blade (*i.e.* opens the line) without riposting, or because he makes a composite or delayed riposte. In the latter case, the remise is a counter-attack against the riposte.

#### (K) NEW ATTACKS

932. The *redoublement* (of attack) is a *new attack in the same phrase* (in the same line as or in a different line from that of the parry), against

an opponent who either has parried and left the line closed without riposting, or has evaded the original attack by retreating. The redoublement of the riposte is made in the same manner when the opponent has evaded the riposte and does not counter-riposte.

933. The retaking (*reprise*) of attack is a *new attack*, simple or composite, executed by the original attacker immediately *after the end of a phrase d'armes*, of whatever kind it may be.

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