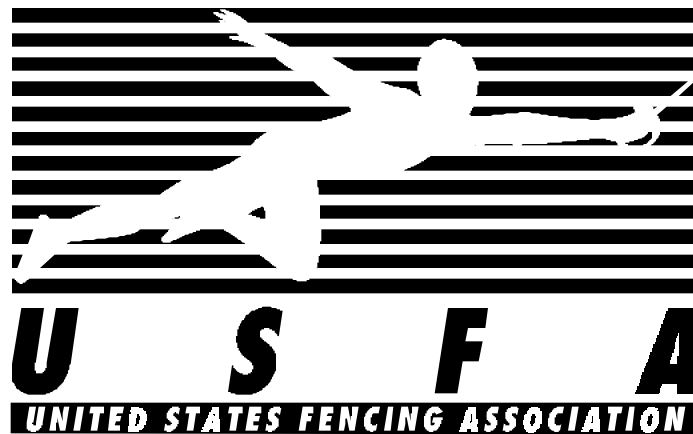


FENCING RULES

1995 Edition

United States Fencing Association, Inc.



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FOREWORD

This American version of the international rules governing fencing competitions is translated and adapted from the 1994 French edition published by the FIE and incorporates changes made by the FIE Congresses through 1995. Unless otherwise noted here or in the *USFA Operations Manual*, these rules apply to fencing competitions in the United States.

Two appendices are included with this 1995 edition:

Appendix A – The Fencer’s Publicity Code is part of the FIE *Rules for Competitions*.

Appendix B – The FIE has published a number of “Temporary Provisions” concerning competition formats and certain other rules. The complete, updated text is included in Appendix B; notes are also located in the text in appropriate locations.

The USFA, Inc. (founded as the Amateur Fencers League of America in 1891) is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization primarily engaged in increasing participation in the sport of fencing. Membership in the USFA, in an appropriate category, is open to anyone who has an interest in fencing. The USFA is the official governing body for amateur fencing activities in the United States, and is so recognized by the United States Olympic Committee and the International Fencing Federation (FIE). Accordingly, the authority to enact, amend, and repeal the rules governing amateur fencing in the United States rests solely with the Board of Directors of the USFA. As a matter of policy, the USFA normally follows the technical rules enacted for the sport by the FIE, with occasional minor exceptions that are duly announced. The rules for fencing, as set forth in this book, therefore apply to all USFA championships and nationally-rated competitions, and, unless exceptions have been announced in advance by the appropriate authorities, apply also to all events scheduled by any Section or Division of the USFA, or held under USFA auspices.

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PREFACE

This American edition incorporates the most recent FIE rules changes, using terms commonly used in American fencing. Some changes of form have been made to increase the clarity of the text, without altering the original intent. The Table of Contents and Index have been extensively revised in an attempt to improve their usefulness.

The ongoing publication of an American version of the FIE Rules has been carried out under the auspices of the USFA Fencing Officials Commission. Our British and Canadian counterparts have been consulted regarding translations from the French text. A number of USFA members have been involved in the publication of this book. I would like to offer special thanks to Mary Frye for her assistance in updating the sample DE tables (in case anyone is wondering, there are no characters from *Star Trek: Voyager* because they couldn’t be seeded into the table – they’re always in the wrong quadrant).

For those interested in such things: The text has been through many electronic incarnations and now exists in IBM PC format. Editing and formatting are currently performed using Adobe PageMaker™ 5.0, Microsoft Word™ 7.0, Microsoft Excel™ 7.0, CorelDRAW!™ 6.0, and Corel PHOTO-PAINT™ 6.0.

Ann McBain Ezzell, *Editor*
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
April 1996

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE TEXT

Cf. (followed by a number) = see article number
f. (after a number) = and the following article
ff (after a number) = and the following articles
Please note the difference between “327f.” - Articles 327 and 328 and
“327f” - section (f) of Article 327

NUMBERING OF ARTICLES

The articles are numbered without continuity from one part to the next. The number of each part of the Rules corresponds to the first digit of each article it contains.

Part I	GENERAL RULES	begins at Article 1.
Part II	FOIL	begins at Article 201.
Part III	EPEE	begins at Article 301.
Part IV	SABRE	begins at Article 401.
Part V	ORGANIZATION	begins at Article 501.
Part VI	DISCIPLINARY RULES	begins at Article 601.
Part VII	SCORING EQUIPMENT	begins at Article 701.

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PART ONE: GENERAL RULES AND RULES COMMON TO ALL THREE WEAPONS

Ignorance of the Rules is no excuse.

Chapter I – HISTORICAL NOTES

The technical rules of the *Fédération Internationale d'Esgrime* [FIE] were unanimously adopted by the International Congress of National Olympic Committees held in Paris in June 1914 for use in all events of the Olympic Games. They were first codified in 1914 by the Marquis de Chasseloup-Laubat and Monsieur Paul Anspach and issued in 1919 under the title "Rules for Competitions." They were modified by different FIE Congresses and were revised after the 1931 Congress and again after the 1954 Congress, when they were renamed "Technical Rules." They were revised and modernized after the 1958 Congress and renamed "Rules for Competitions."

The amendments made by Congress between 1964 and 1972 were incorporated in the new updated edition published in 1972. The amendments made by Congress between 1973 and 1983 inclusive were incorporated in an updated edition published in 1983. Subsequent amendments up to and including the 1995 Congress are included in the current edition.

Chapter II – APPLICATION OF THE RULES

§ 1. Mandatory use of the rules

- 1 These rules are mandatory **without modification** for the "official competitions of the FIE," that is:
 - the World Championships
 - the fencing events at the Olympic Games
 - the World Under-20 Championships
 - the World Cadet Championships
 - the Category "A" competitions

These rules **must** also be applied at every international competition of any kind, unless exceptions are made and announced in advance.

§ 2. Exceptions to the rules

- 2 These exceptions must be ratified by the national federation of the country to which the organizing committee belongs, and should be brought to the notice of those concerned when the competition is announced (Cf. 1).

Chapter III – GLOSSARY

A) Referee

- 3 Throughout these rules the word **referee** means "President of the Jury" or "Director of the Bout."

B) Competitions

§ 1. Assaults and bouts

- 4 A friendly combat between two fencers (competitors) is called an "assault." When the score is kept in such a combat (competition), it is called a "bout."

§ 2. Match

- 5 The aggregate of the bouts fenced between the fencers of two different teams is called a "match."

Note: In French, the word "match" means a combat between two fencers ("bout" in English). In English, the word "match" means a contest between two teams ("rencontre" in French).

§ 3. Competition

- 6 A competition is the aggregate of the bouts (individual competitions) or of the matches (team competitions) required to determine the winner of the event.
Competitions are distinguished by weapons; by the competitors' sex, age or occupation (military, students, etc.); and by the fact that they are contested by individuals or teams.
Competitions are said to be by "direct elimination" when the competitors are eliminated as soon as they have received their first defeat (or after their second if the rules specify a repechage table). A "pool", on the other hand, is the coming together of several competitors (or of all the competitors), each of whom fences all the others in order to establish their respective rankings.

§ 4. Championship

- 7 A championship is a competition held to determine the best fencer or the best team in each weapon, for an association, for a specific region and for a specific period of time.

§ 5. Tournament

- 8 A tournament consists of a number of competitions held at the same place, during the same period of time and for the same purpose.

C) Explanation of some technical terms commonly used in the judging of fencing ¹

§ 1. Time

- 9 **Fencing time** is the time required to perform one simple fencing action.

§ 2. Offensive and defensive actions

- 10 The different offensive actions are the attack, the riposte and the counter-riposte.
 - The **attack** is the initial offensive action made by extending the arm and continuously threatening the opponent's valid surface (Cf. 233ff, 417ff).
 - The **riposte** is the offensive action of the fencer who has parried the attack.
 - The **counter-riposte** is the offensive action of the fencer who has parried the riposte.The different defensive actions are the parries.
 - The **parry** is the defensive action made with the weapon to prevent the attack from arriving.

Parries are **simple** (direct) when they are made in the same line as the attack.

They are **circular** (counter-parries) when they are made in the line opposing that of the attack.

11 Offensive actions:

a) Attack or riposte

The action is **simple** when it is executed in one movement and is either

- **direct** (in the same line), or
- **indirect** (in another line).

The action is **compound** (composed) when it is executed in several movements.

b) Riposte

The riposte is **immediate** or **delayed**, depending on what action takes place and the speed of its execution.

Examples:

1° Simple direct ripostes:

- **Direct riposte:** a riposte that touches the opponent without leaving the line in which the parry was made.
- **Riposte along the blade:** a riposte that touches the opponent by grazing along the blade after the parry.

2° Simple indirect ripostes:

- **Riposte with a disengage:** a riposte that touches the opponent in the line opposite to that in which the parry was made (by passing under the opponent's blade if the parry was in the high line, or over the blade if the parry was in the low line).
- **Riposte with a coupé:** a riposte that touches the opponent in the line opposite to that in which the parry was made (in every case, by passing the blade in front of the opponent's point).

3° Compound ripostes:

- **Riposte with a doublé:** a riposte that touches the opponent in the line opposite to that in which the parry was made, after making a complete circle around the opponent's blade.
- **Riposte with a one-two:** a riposte that touches the opponent in the same line in which the parry was made, after the blade has first been into the opposite line by passing under his blade.

Etc., etc.

§ 3. Counter-attacks

12 Counter-attacks are offensive or offensive-defensive actions made during the offensive action of the opponent:

- Stop hit:** A counter-attack made on an attack.
- Stop hit made with opposition** (formerly called the "time-hit"): A counter-attack made by closing the line in which the attack will be completed (Cf. 233ff, 329ff, 418ff).
- Stop hit made within a period of fencing time**, i.e. "in time" (Cf. 236, 419f, 421)

§ 4. Varieties of offensive actions

13 a) Remise

A simple and immediate offensive action that follows the original attack, without withdrawing the arm, after the opponent has parried or retreated, when the latter has either released the blade without riposting or has made a riposte that is delayed, indirect or compound.

b) Redoublement

A new action, either simple or compound, against an opponent who has parried without riposting or who has merely avoided the first action by retreating or evading.

c) Reprise of the attack

A new attack executed immediately after a return to the "on guard" position.

d) Counter-time

Every action made by the attacker against a stop hit made by his opponent.

Chapter IV – THE FIELD OF PLAY (Cf. 201ff, 301ff, 401ff)

14 The field of play should have an even surface. It should neither advantage nor disadvantage either of the two adversaries, especially as regards slope and light.

When announcing a tournament, the organizers must always state the nature of the field of play on which the competition will be fenced. In particular they must specify if a competition is to be held outdoors.

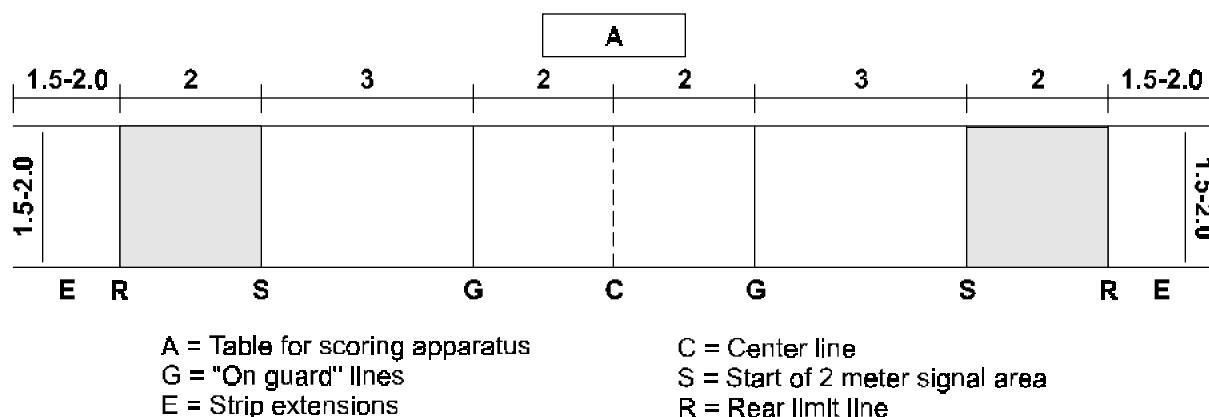
15 That portion of the field of play that is used for fencing is called the **strip**. The strip may be made of earth, wood, linoleum, cork, rubber, plastic, metal, metallic mesh, or a compound with a metallic base (Cf. 201, 304, 401).

The width of the strip is 1.50 to 2.00 meters; its "useful" length is 14 meters (Cf. Fig. I-1, Strip Diagram for All Three Weapons).

However, the strip should in practice be extended a distance of 1.50 to 2.00 meters at each end, to enable a competitor who crosses the rear limit of the strip to retreat over a continuous and even surface.

If the strip is mounted on a platform, the latter must not be higher than 0.50 m.

The Regulation Strip for All Three Weapons



For electrical weapons, the metallic strip must cover the entire length and width of the strip, including the extensions.

Note: dimensions are given in meters.

Figure I-1: Strip Diagram for All Three Weapons

Chapter V – THE FENCERS’ EQUIPMENT (Weapons – Equipment – Clothing) (Cf. 205ff, 306ff, 404ff)

§ 1. Responsibility

- 16** Fencers arm, equip and clothe themselves and fence on their own responsibility and at their own risk.

The safety measures specified in the rules and the attached standards, as well as the methods of inspection required by these rules, are only designed to **supplement** the fencers’ safety, and cannot **guarantee** it. They cannot, therefore, whatever the manner in which they are applied, impart responsibility to the FIE, the organizers of competitions, the officials who carry out such organization, or those who may cause an accident.

§ 2. Inspection of fencers’ equipment (Cf. 53)

- 17** The fencers are responsible for their equipment (including weapons and clothing) at the moment they present themselves on the strip. In particular, blades, masks and clothing must bear the guarantee label specified in the safety standards attached to the rules. The inspection measures specified by these rules are only intended to help organizers who must apply the rules and fencers who must always respect the rules. These inspections can therefore in no way absolve from their responsibilities any fencers who break the rules. For electric sabre competitions, the organizers must provide an adequate number of sensors to allow

three sensors for each strip, with two per strip held in reserve at Weapons Control.

The inspection personnel must verify, before each electric sabre competition, that all the provided sensors meet the requirements set forth in article 764. In principle, the sensors will not be inspected on the strip.

Note: FIE Temporary Provision 4 states:

Sabre scoring machines that function without sensors (capteurs) are authorized on an experimental basis for the 1994-95 season. A definite decision will be made at the 1995 Congress concerning the use of sensors during the 1995-96 season.

The 1995 Congress voted to remove the sensor effective October 1, 1996. Tournaments held during the 1995-96 season may be fenced with or without a sensor.

As of March 1996, the USFA has not made a final decision about the use of sensors.

A) Presentation of equipment for inspection

Fencers are obliged to present themselves at the Weapons Inspection Office at the time stated in the timetable of each official FIE championship, with the equipment they intend to use during the event specified. The number of articles handed to the Inspection Office for each national team is limited to 20 weapons (4 per fencer), 10 body cords (2 per fencer), 10 metallic vests (2 per fencer), and 10 masks (2 per fencer).

If material or equipment presented to the Inspection Office appears to have been assembled so as to allow the registering of touches at will or the

malfunctioning of the scoring apparatus, the representative of the SEMI Commission may, after examination of the irregular items, require a penalty against the person who submitted them.

The fencers or the team captain may only insist on the return of inspected equipment one hour before the start of the event.

Weapons, equipment and clothing presented to the Inspection Office after 5 pm on the day before each event will be refused.

Any repairs to equipment rejected during the inspection can be carried out in the repair workshop. However, repaired equipment will only be retested after the initial inspection of fencers' equipment has been completed.

For direct elimination bouts and finals of the World Championships and Olympic Games, and for finals of category "A" competitions, the two fencers will report to the referee designated for their bout 5 minutes before reporting to the strip so that the referee may control their equipment.

No control will be carried out on the strip. If an irregularity is discovered, the defective equipment will immediately be replaced, without penalty.

At the beginning of the bout, the referee will place the spare controlled equipment near the strip, beside the fencer.

B) Organization of the inspection office

The FIE Central Office or the bout committee (or, failing them, the organizing committee), may appoint one or more special delegates charged with verifying the weapons, equipment and clothing of the fencers.

This is mandatory at official FIE competitions, where the inspection must be supervised by members of the FIE Commission for Electrical Apparatus and Equipment (Cf. 509).

- 18** The pieces of equipment that have been thus inspected will be marked with a distinctive mark. A fencer must not, on pain of penalties specified below (Cf. 21ff), use any equipment that does not bear this inspection mark.

In addition to the measures of inspection mentioned above, the referee of a bout may at any time, on his own initiative or at the request of a fencer or team captain, himself carry out such inspections, verify inspections already carried out, or even carry out or have carried out new inspections.

He will in any case, before each bout or each time a weapon is changed, verify the presence of a safety label on the fencer's clothing, blade and mask, the insulation of the conductive wires inside the guard and the pressure of the spring in electric foil and epee points. Verification of the wire insulation and the spring pressure will be repeated each time a weapon is changed.

For epee, he will check the total travel and the residual travel of the tip (Cf. 732/4):

- He will check the total travel by inserting between the base of the tip and the barrel a gauge 1.50 mm thick. This gauge, provided by

the organizing committee, may have a tolerance of plus or minus 0.05 mm, i.e., from 1.45 mm to 1.55 mm.

- He will check the residual travel by inserting between the base of the tip and the barrel a gauge 0.50 mm thick; with the gauge in place, the machine should not register when the tip is depressed. This gauge, provided by the organizing committee, may have a tolerance of plus or minus 0.05 mm, i.e., from 0.45 mm to 0.55 mm.

For details of the test weight required for inspection, see the description in Part VII (Cf. 719, 732).

- 19** Before the start of each pool, team match or bout by direct elimination, the referee must assemble the competitors on the strip and verify that:

- For electric foil, the metallic vest conforms to the provisions of article 216 when each competitor is standing upright, is "on guard" and is in the lunge position.
- For epee, each competitor is wearing a jacket conforming to the regulations (Cf. 315), and that the material from which the clothing is made has not too smooth a surface.
- For electric sabre, the metallic jacket conforms to the provisions of article 424 when each competitor is standing upright, is "on guard" and is in the lunge position; and that each sabre is fitted with a sensor.

Before each bout, the fencers, starting with the first called and under the supervision of the referee, will each choose a sensor, which must be inserted in the connector within the guard. This sensor may not be changed during the bout without permission of the referee, who may, if he deems it necessary, first consult a technician.

- For all three weapons, each fencer is wearing, under his jacket, a regulation protective plastron unless the clothing is made entirely from fabric resistant to 800 Newtons (Cf. 212, 315, 408).

Note: The FIE Executive Committee, at a meeting in Paris January 14-15, 1995, decided to authorize for the current season the wearing of fencing uniforms that were regulation in 1994 (that is, 350/800 Newton), specifying that beginning April 1, 1995, an 800 Newton protective undergarment would be mandatory.

USFA Note: The protective plastron must:

1. have at least two layers;
 2. include a sleeve down to the elbow without opening or seam in the region of the armpit; and
 3. ensure the best possible protection.
- It may be fixed to the jacket without being entirely sewn in.*
-

C) Inspection equipment and staff

- 20** In order to enable the technicians to fulfill their functions, the organizers must supply them with the necessary equipment (gauges, weights, scales, electrical apparatus, etc.) and the personnel

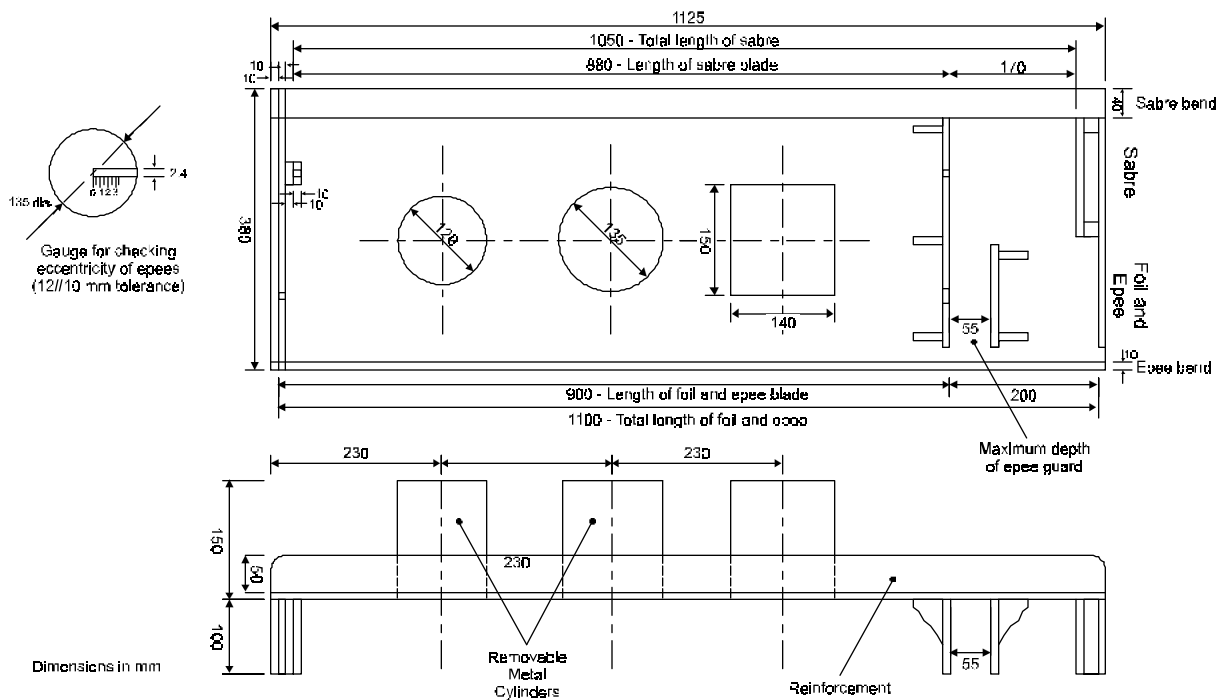


Figure I-2: Weapons Inspection Gauge

necessary to carry out this work (Cf. Fig. I-2 for a sample weapons inspection gauge).

§ 3. Nonregulation equipment (Cf. 18, 641)

21 In whatever circumstances, when a fencer on the strip is found to be in possession of equipment that is nonregulation or defective, this equipment will be immediately confiscated and submitted to the experts on duty for examination. The equipment in question will only be returned to the owner after the measures necessitated by this examination have been completed and, if appropriate, after the payment of any expenses for repairs. The equipment must be reinspected before it is used again.

A) If there has been a preliminary equipment inspection

1) When a fencer appears on the strip:

- with only one regulation weapon (Cf. 604),
- with a weapon or body cord that does not work or that does not conform to the rules,
- without a protective plastron (Cf. 19, above),
- with a metallic vest that does not fully cover the valid surface,
- with clothing that does not conform to the rules,

the referee will penalize him as specified in articles 635, 637 and 641 (1st group).

2) When an irregularity in the equipment is found in the course of a bout that could have been caused by conditions during the bout:

Examples:

- metallic vest with holes where touches are registered as nonvalid,
- body cord or weapon no longer functioning,
- pressure of the point spring having become too weak,
- the travel in the point no longer regulation,

the referee will apply neither warnings nor sanctions.

On the contrary, any touch made with the equipment that has become defective will be awarded.

3) If, when a fencer appears on the strip or during a bout, it is established that the equipment used by the fencer:

a) does not bear the marks of the preliminary inspection,

the referee will:

- annul the last touch, if any, scored by the fencer at fault,
- penalize him as specified in articles 635, 638, 641 (2nd group).

b) does not conform to the rules on a matter that could not be checked during the preliminary inspection,
the referee will:

- penalize the fencer at fault as specified in articles 635, 637 and 641 (1st group).
- c) **has passed the preliminary inspection but presents irregularities that could have been made deliberately.**
- d) **bears preliminary inspection marks that have been forged or transferred.**
- e) **has been altered so as to allow the recording of touches or the malfunctioning of the apparatus at will:**

In cases c), d), and e), the referee must immediately confiscate the equipment (weapon, body cord and if necessary the metallic vest) and have it examined by the expert on duty. After having obtained the opinion of the expert (a member of the Commission for Electrical Apparatus and Equipment at official FIE competitions) who has established the facts (Cf. 509), the referee will apply the following sanctions, without prejudice to the application of article 615/d:

- In cases c) and d), the referee will penalize the fencer at fault as specified in articles 635, 639 and 641 (3rd group).
- In case e), the referee will penalize the fencer at fault as specified in articles 635, 640 and 641 (4th group).

While awaiting the decision of the referee, that bout will be suspended but other bouts in the pool may continue.

B) If no preliminary inspection has taken place

In this case, only the provisions above of paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 (b,e) of article A are applicable.

On the other hand, if as a fencer appears on the strip, or during a bout, irregularities concerning the dimensions or other characteristics of his equipment are found, the referee will allow him the time necessary to conform to the regulations and will penalize him as specified in articles 635, 637 and 641 (1st group).

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- C) The members of the Commission for Electrical Apparatus and Equipment have the right at any time to seize a weapon, body cord, metallic vest or any item of equipment or clothing for examination.
- D) Note: In addition to the penalties above, the rules for judging define for each weapon all the circumstances in which touches made during a bout are annulled or not annulled.

§ 4. Specifications common to all weapons

- 22 All kinds of weapons are authorized providing that they conform to the regulations [and the safety standards annexed to the *Rules for Competition*].

The weapon should be so constructed that it cannot normally injure either the user or his opponent. Any treatment of a blade so as to modify its flexibility by grinding, filing or other methods, is forbidden (Cf. 207, 308, 406).

A) General description

- 23 All weapons are composed of the following parts:
1. A flexible steel **blade** completed at its forward extremity by a **point** and at the rear by the **tang** (the latter enclosed in the hilt when the weapon is mounted).
 2. A **hilt** within which the tang of the blade is fixed by a **locking nut** or in any other way, and that enables the fencer to hold the weapon. It may be composed of one or several parts; in the latter case it is divided into a **handle** (that is normally held in the hand) and a **pommel** (rear portion of the hilt that locks the handle onto the tang).
 3. A metal **guard** fixed (with the convex portion towards the front) between the blade and the hilt, serving to protect the sword hand. The guard may contain a **pad** or cushion (Cf. 26/2, 712) to reduce the effect of blows. In electrical weapons, it will also contain a **connector** to which the **body cord** can be attached. For electric sabre, it must also contain a connector for attaching the sensor (capteur).

B) Dimensions (Cf. 206ff, 307ff, 404ff)

Each weapon has its own design and measurements.

- 24
1. The length of the blade includes the point and everything that is added in front of the convex surface of the guard whether or not it is fixed to the latter.
 2. The total length of the weapon and the lengths of its various parts correspond to the distances between planes drawn parallel to each other and perpendicular to the axis of the blade. These planes are situated:
 - a) at the forward extremity of the weapon
 - b) at the point where the blade leaves the front (convex) surface of the guard
 - c) at the back of the guard
 - d) between the handle and the pommel
 - e) at the rear extremity of the hilt
 3. The total length of the weapon is the distance between planes a) and e); the length of the blade, that between a) and b); the length of the hilt, that between b) and e); and the depth of the guard, that between b) and c).
 4. The maximum total length of the weapon must be less than the greatest permissible length for the blade and the hilt added together. These latter two lengths must therefore complement each other to arrive at the total length of the weapon.
 5. In order to measure either the total length of the weapon or the length of the blade, it is essential that the latter should be straight. Therefore, when measurements are being made

the blade should be kept straight on a flat surface.

6. Only the pommel or the locking nut may be placed between planes d) and e).

C) The hilt

- 25
1. The maximum length of the hilt for foil and epee is 20 cm between planes b) and e), and 18 cm between planes b) and d). For sabre the maximum length of the hilt is 17 cm (refer to the diagrams in the relevant sections).
 2. The hilt must be able to pass through the same gauge as the guard. It must be so made that normally it cannot injure either the fencer or his opponent.
 3. All types of hilts are allowed, providing that they conform to the regulations that have been framed with a view to placing the various types of weapons on the same footing. However, orthopedic grips for epee, whether metal or not, may not be covered with leather or any material that could hide wires or switches.
 4. The hilt must not include any device that assists the fencer in using it as a throwing weapon.
 5. The hilt must not include any device that can increase in any way the protection afforded to the hand or wrist of the fencer by the guard; a cross bar or electrical socket that extends beyond the edge of the guard is expressly forbidden.
 6. If the hilt (or glove) includes any device or attachment or has a special shape (orthopedic grip) that fixes the position of the hand on the hilt, the hilt must satisfy the following two conditions:
 - a) It must determine and fix one position only for the hand on the hilt.
 - b) When the hand occupies this one position on the hilt, the extremity of the thumb when completely extended must not be more than 2 cm from the inner surface of the guard.

D) The guard (Cf. 208, 310, 407)

- 26
1. The convex face of the guard must have a surface that is smooth and not too bright. It must be so made that it can neither catch nor hold the opponent's point. It must not have a raised rim.
 2. The padding inside the guard must have a thickness of less than 2 cm and must not be arranged in such a way as to increase the protection that the guard affords the hand.

E) Buttons and points (Cf. 210ff, 311ff, 406ff, 719ff, 732ff)

See the chapters on each weapon and Part VII, Chapters II and III.

§ 5. Equipment and clothing – general conditions

- 27
1. The equipment and clothing must provide the competitor with the maximum protection

compatible with the freedom of movement necessary for fencing.

2. It may not in any way risk obstruction of or injury to the opponent, or include any buckles or openings by which the opponent's point may be caught or deflected – except accidentally. The jacket and its collar must be completely buttoned or fastened.
3. The fencers' clothing may be of different colors, except on the torso, where it must be white or a light color.

Note: At USFA local, divisional, and sectional competitions, there are no restrictions on colors or decorations on uniforms, providing that the uniforms still comply with all other requirements.

It must be made of sufficiently robust material and be clean and in good condition.

The material from which the equipment is made must not have a surface that is smooth enough to cause the point, the button or the opponent's touch to glance off (Cf. 313, 408); the judging of touches must be facilitated as much as possible.

[For FIE competitions] Clothing must be made completely from material resistant to 800 Newtons. Special attention must be paid to the execution of the seams, if any, in the underarm area. An undergarment consisting of a plastron covering the vital areas of the upper body (according to the diagram on page 33 [FIE version] of the appendix to the *Rules*, "Safety Standards for Manufacturers...") and resistant to 800 Newtons is also required (effective April 1, 1995).

Note: A regulation protective plastron (underarm protector) is required at all USFA competitions, with EITHER a jacket bearing an official FIE label indicating homologation OR a standard jacket.

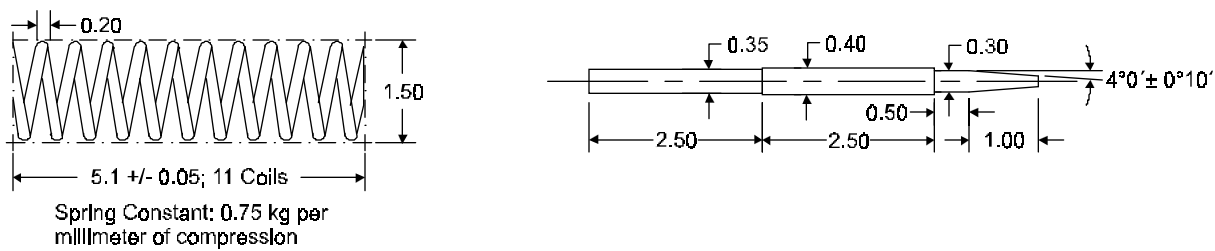
For official FIE competitions and during the finals of World Cup competitions, foil and epee fencers may wear between the shoulder and the elbow of the non-weapon arm an armband 10 cm wide in their national colors. The edges of the armband must not be white.

4. In all weapons, the lower edge of the jacket must overlap the breeches by at least 10 cm when the fencer is in the "on guard" position (Cf. 212, 315, 408).

For epee the fencer must wear a regulation jacket covering the whole of the trunk (Cf. 315).

Women's equipment also must include breast protectors made of metal or some other rigid material inside the jacket (Cf. 215, 315).

5. The breeches must be fastened below the knees. If a fencer wears long trousers, these must be fastened or buttoned at the ankles. With breeches, the fencer must wear white socks. These must entirely cover the legs right up to the breeches and must be held up in such a way that they cannot fall down.



All Dimensions in centimeters
See Instructions in Article 27/7

Figure I-3: Mask Punch

The fencer is permitted to wear socks with a 10 cm high turn-over in his national team colors.

6. For all weapons, the cuff of the glove must in all circumstances fully cover approximately half the forearm of the competitor's sword arm to prevent the opponent's blade from entering the sleeve of the jacket.
7. The mask must be made up with a mesh (space between the wires) of maximum 2.1 mm, with wires having a minimum gauge of 1.0 mm diameter.

[For FIE competitions] Masks for all weapons must be made according to the safety standards and must bear the quality label as provided for in those standards.

For foil, the mesh of the mask must be insulated inside and out (Cf. 218, 722/4).

For sabre, the mesh of the mask may not be insulated, and must guarantee electrical conductivity. The bib and trim must be completely covered by a metallic fabric; the trim may also be made from metal.

The bib and other trim must be white.

During weapon inspection, if there is a question about the mask, the inspector may verify that the mesh of the mask, both at the front and at the sides, is able to withstand, without permanent deformation, the introduction into the mesh of a conical instrument (the angle of the surface of the cone being at 4 degrees to the axis) at a pressure of 12 kilograms.

All masks will be checked at every official FIE competition and at the Olympic Games, using

an instrument with a spring-loaded point (Cf. Fig. I-3, Mask Punch).

A mask that does not comply with the safety requirements laid down in article 27/7 will be rendered visibly unusable by the weapons inspection personnel or the referee in the presence of the person who presented the mask to weapons inspection or of the team captain of the fencer concerned.

However, a mask made from stainless steel mesh is permissible and need not be tinned.

Chapter VI – BOUT

§ 1. Method of fencing (Cf. 16)

- 28 The competitors fence in their own ways and at their own risk and peril with the only condition being the observance of the fundamental rules of fencing.

All bouts or matches must, however, preserve the character of a courteous and honest encounter. All abnormal actions (a fleche ending in a collision that jostles the opponent, disorderly fencing, any fall,

abnormal movements, brutal hits, touches made while falling) are strictly forbidden.

Before the start of the bout, both fencers must salute the opponent, the referee and the audience. If one of the fencers does not obey this rule, the referee will give a Red Card. Failure to comply following the Red Card will result in exclusion from the competition. If both fencers commit this fault, they will be excluded from the competition. When the last touch has been scored, the bout is not ended until both fencers have saluted each other, the referee and the audience. The fencers must therefore remain still during the decision of the referee and proceed with the salute once the decision has been given.

If the winner does not comply with this rule, the last touch awarded will be annulled. If the loser does the same, the penalty will be suspension for two competitions. If both fencers do not comply with this rule, they will be excluded from the competition and suspended for two competitions. The fencer's salute is performed by bringing the guard of the weapon to the chin. It is followed, at the end of each bout, by shaking the opponents' hand, using the unarmed hand.

[USFA variation: Before the start of the bout, the referee will instruct the fencers to salute. The fencers must salute each other, the referee, and the audience. After the last touch is scored, the bout is not ended until both fencers have again saluted in the same fashion. Any fencer failing to salute after the referee's instruction is penalized by a Group 3 Red Card, followed by Black Card upon a second failure to salute.]

In foil, it is forbidden to place the shoulder of the non-weapon arm forward of the shoulder of the weapon arm during the course of fencing.

The fencer on or off the strip must keep the mask on until the referee calls "Halt." In no case may the fencer address the referee before the referee's decision.

For all these offenses, the referee will penalize the fencer at fault as specified in articles 635, 637 and 641 (1st group)

§ 2. Correctness of the touch

- 29** When fencing foil and epee with nonelectric weapons, every thrust with the point must arrive clearly and distinctly to be counted as a touch (Cf. 219, 316).

In sabre, when fencing with nonelectric weapons, thrusts with the point and cuts with the edge and reverse edge must arrive clearly and distinctly (Cf. 409).

§ 3. Method of holding the weapon

- 30** With all three weapons, defense must be effected exclusively with the guard and the blade used either separately or together.

In the absence of a special device or attachment or special shape (e.g. orthopedic), the fencer is free to hold the handle in any way he wishes and he may also alter the position of his hand on the handle during a bout. However, the weapon must not –

either permanently or temporarily, in an open or concealed manner – be transformed into a throwing weapon; it must be used without the hand leaving the hilt and without the hand being slipped along the hilt from front to back during an offensive action.

When the handle has a special device or attachment or a special shape (e.g. orthopedic), it must be held in such a way that the upper surface of the thumb is in the same plane as the groove of the blade for foil or epee and perpendicular to the plane of the flexibility of the blade for sabre.

The weapon must be used with one hand only; a fencer may not change hands until the end of the bout unless the referee gives special permission because the hand or arm is injured.

The use of the hand and arm that are not used to hold the weapon to carry out an offensive or defensive action is forbidden.

In foil, it is equally forbidden during the course of the bout to protect or cover the valid surface with the unarmed hand or arm or any other nonvalid surface.

In sabre, it is forbidden to protect or substitute a valid surface with another part of the body, either by covering or an abnormal movement.

During the bout, the fencer's unarmed hand must not in any case take hold of any part of his electrical equipment.

For all these offenses, the referee will penalize the fencer at fault as specified in articles 635, 637 and 641 (1st group).

§ 4. Putting on guard

- 31** The fencer who is called first should place himself to the right of the referee, except in the case of a bout between a right- and a left-hander, if the left-hander is called first.

The referee places each of the two competitors in such a way that the front foot of each is 2 meters from the center line of the strip (that is, behind the "on guard" lines).

Competitors are always put on guard, whether at the beginning of the bout or subsequently, in the center of the width of the strip. During replacement on guard in the course of the bout, the distance between the fencers must be such that, in the "on guard" stance, with arms extended and points "in line", the tips of the weapons cannot touch. Replacement on guard at distance cannot cause a fencer who was in front of the rear limit line at the time the bout was halted to be placed behind that rear limit line.

If he already had one foot behind the rear limit line, he holds his position.

Replacement on guard at distance after crossing a lateral boundary of the strip may place the fencer at fault behind the rear limit line and result in a touch. Competitors come on guard when the referee gives the order "On Guard," after which the referee asks, "Are you ready?" On receiving an affirmative reply, or in the absence of a negative reply, he gives the

signal for the bout to commence with the word "Fence."

The fencers must come on guard correctly and remain completely still until the command "Fence" is given by the referee (in foil and sabre, fencers may not come on guard with the point "in line"). If during a bout the referee notices that one of the fencers is making use of his unarmed hand or arm or protecting or covering valid surface with a nonvalid surface, he may call for the help of two judges (as neutral as possible) who will be appointed by the bout committee. These judges, one on each side of the strip, will watch one fencer each and will signal, by raising their hands or when asked by the referee, if the unarmed hand or arm has been used or if valid surface has been protected or covered. The referee alone then decides on the penalties to impose (Cf. 222, 635, 637, 641-1st group).

The referee may also make the fencers change places so that the fencer breaking this rule does not have his back to the referee.

§ 5. Beginning, stopping and restarting the bout

- 32
1. As soon as the command "Fence" has been given the competitors may begin offensive actions. No action started or made before this command is counted.
 2. The bout stops on the command "Halt," except in the case of special occurrences that modify the regular and normal conditions of the bout (Cf. 47).

As soon as the command "Halt" has been given, the competitors may not start any new actions; only an action that began before the order was given remains valid. Everything that takes place afterwards is entirely invalid (but Cf. 47).

If a competitor stops before the command "Halt" and is touched, the touch is valid. The command "Halt" is also given if the fencing of the competitors is dangerous, confused or contrary to the rules; if one of the competitors is disarmed or leaves the strip; or if, while retreating, he approaches too near the spectators or the jury (Cf. 43, 231/7).

3. After each valid touch is scored the competitors are put on guard in the middle of the strip. If the touch is not allowed, they are placed in the position that they occupied when the bout was interrupted (however, Cf. 226, 320, 414). The competitors change ends:
 - outdoors, after each touch;
 - indoors, after each encounter; or, for bouts taking place for several touches, after one of the competitors has scored half the maximum number of touches that he can score. In sabre, if one of the competitors is left-handed and if the referee cannot cross to the other side of the strip, the competitors remain in their positions and the

judges exchange places from right to left and vice versa.

However, with electrical scoring apparatus competitors do not change ends during the bout (but Cf. 31, 545).

4. Except in exceptional circumstances, the referee cannot allow a fencer to leave the strip. If a competitor does so without permission he is subject to the penalties in articles 635, 637 and 641 (1st group).

§ 6. Fencing at close quarters

- 33
- Fencing at close quarters is allowed as long as the competitors can wield their weapons correctly and the referee can, in foil and sabre, continue to follow the action.

§ 7. Corps à corps

- 34
- Corps à corps* exists when the two competitors are in contact; when this occurs the referee must stop the bout (Cf. 37, 224, 318, 412).

In foil and sabre it is forbidden to cause *corps à corps* (even without brutality or violence).

In all three weapons, it is forbidden to cause intentional *corps à corps* to avoid being touched or that jostles the opponent.

In the case of such an offense, the referee will penalize the fencer at fault as specified in articles 635, 637 and 641 (1st group).

§ 8. Evasions – displacements and passings

- 35
- Displacements and ducking are allowed, including those actions during which the unarmed hand may come into contact with the ground.

It is forbidden to turn one's back on one's opponent in the course of fencing.

In the case of such an offense, the referee will penalize the fencer at fault as specified in articles 635, 637 and 641 (1st group).

When a fencer passes his opponent during a bout, the referee must immediately call "Halt" and replace the competitors in the positions that they occupied before they passed one another.

When touches are made in the course of passing, a touch made immediately is valid; a touch made after passing his opponent by the competitor who has made the passing movement is annulled, but a touch made immediately, even by turning around, by the competitor who has been subjected to the offensive action is valid.

When during a bout a fencer who has made a fleche attack has a touch registered against him and continues to run beyond the extreme limit of the strip sufficiently far to cause the reel or the connecting line to the reel to be torn out, the touch that he has received will not be annulled (Cf. 625).

§ 9. Ground gained or lost

- 36
- When the order "Halt" is given, ground gained is held until a touch has been awarded. When the competitors are replaced on guard, each fencer should retreat equally in order to attain fencing distance (Cf. 31).

At the beginning of each period in a direct elimination bout and at the beginning of any additional minute of fencing time, the fencers are replaced on guard at the center of the strip [behind the “on guard” lines].

- 37 However, when the bout has been stopped because of corps à corps, the fencers are replaced on guard so that the competitor who has sustained the corps à corps is at the place he previously occupied; this also applies if his opponent has subjected him to a fleche attack, even without corps à corps. For replacement on guard at fencing distance, the provisions of article 31, third paragraph, must be observed.

§ 10. Crossing the limits of the strip

a) Stopping the bout

- 38 When a competitor crosses one of the boundaries of the strip with both feet, the referee must immediately call “Halt” and annul everything that occurred after the boundary was crossed, except a touch received by the competitor who crossed the boundary (even after he crossed it), provided that this touch was made immediately as part of the movement in the course of which he crossed the boundary.

When one of the two fencers leaves the strip, only a touch made by the fencer who remains on the strip may be counted as valid, even in the case of a double touch (Cf. 329ff).

b) Rear limits

- 39 A fencer who crosses his rear limit of the strip with both feet will receive a penalty touch.

40 Deleted.

41 Deleted.

42 Deleted.

c) Lateral boundaries

- 43 When a competitor crosses a lateral boundary of the strip with one foot he is not penalized, but the referee must immediately call “Halt” and replace the competitors on guard on the strip.

A competitor who crosses a lateral boundary of the strip with both feet is penalized. For replacement on guard, his opponent will advance one meter from the position that he occupied when the crossing occurred; the competitor who is penalized must retreat to regain fencing distance.

When the application of this penalty places a competitor with both feet beyond the rear limit of the strip, that competitor is considered as having been touched.

A fencer who crosses one of the boundaries of the strip with both feet to avoid being touched – especially when making a fleche – will be penalized as specified in articles 635, 637 and 641 (1st group).

d) Leaving the strip accidentally

- 44 A competitor who crosses one of the boundaries of the strip as the result of an “accidental cause” (such as jostling) incurs no penalty whatsoever.

§ 11. Duration of the bout

Note: See the comments following Articles 47 and 49.

- 45 Duration of the bout is taken to mean the effective duration: that is, the total of the intervals of time between the commands “Fence” and “Halt.” The time taken for the deliberations of the jury and other interruptions is therefore not counted. The duration of the bout must be registered exactly by a timekeeper appointed by the organizing committee (mandatory for official FIE competitions – Cf. 59).

For the finals of all official FIE competitions, as well as for all bouts in which a clock is visible to the spectators, the clock must be placed so that it is equally visible to both fencers on the strip and to the referee.

The actual duration of a bout is:

- in epee for *one touch*: 5 minutes;
- in all weapons for *4 touches*: 5 minutes
for *5 touches*: 6 minutes
for *8 touches*: 8 minutes
for *10 touches*: 10 minutes.

- 46 One minute before the expiration of regulation time, the timekeeper must stand up and call “One minute” (without stopping the clock). This warns the referee, who stops the bout and warns the fencers that they have *approximately* one minute before the expiration of the time allowed for actual fencing.

An action initiated at the time of the referee’s “Halt” remains valid.

The fencers may ask how much time remains each time that the bout is halted.

At the expiration of regulation fencing time, the timekeeper must call “Halt” or operate an audible signal to stop the bout; in this case even an action initiated at the time of the referee’s “Halt” is not valid.

In case of a failure of the clock or an error by the timekeeper, the referee himself must estimate how much fencing time remains.

- 47 For the finals of official FIE competitions, the warning at one minute before the end of regulation time must be made automatically by the clock, which must set off an audible signal. The referee, alerted by the clock, stops the bout and warns the fencers that they have *approximately* one minute before the expiration of time allowed for actual fencing (Cf. 46). An action initiated at the time of the referee’s “Halt” at the stopping of the bout is valid (Cf. 702/5, 709/8&9).

At the expiration of regulation fencing time the clock must automatically set off a loud audible signal and block the scoring machine, without canceling touches registered before the disconnection. The bout stops with the audible warning.

Note: The current FIE and USFA format specifies for all weapons a 4 minute duration for a 5 touch bout, and three periods of 3 minutes’ duration each, with a 1 minute rest between periods, for a 15 touch direct elimination bout.

Regardless of the presence or absence of a chronometer visible to both fencers, no warning or audible signal is given to indicate the start of the final minute of fencing time. At any halt in the bout, the fencers may ask how much time remains.
See the complete text of the FIE Temporary Provisions, attached to these Rules, for more details.

- 48 If a fencer improperly endeavors to cause or prolong interruptions in the bout, the referee will penalize him as specified in articles 635, 637 and 641 (1st group).
- 49 When the time limit expires before the bout is completed, the procedure to be followed is as specified for each weapon (Cf. 226, 321, 414, 555A).

Note: FIE Temporary Provision 1 states, in part:

A pool bout is finished when:

- one of the fencers has scored five touches, or
- four minutes of actual fencing time have elapsed.

There will be no warning for the final minute.

In the case of a tie at the end of regulation time, before allowing an additional minute to decide between the two fencers by the first decisive touch, the referee will randomly designate which fencer will be the winner should the tie persist after the additional minute. After this random selection, and before the bout recommences, a visible indication (in writing or by a light) of which fencer has the priority must be made.

The score shall be noted on the scoresheet as follows:

- V 5 – D 4: If a touch is scored during the time of the bout,
- V 5 – D 5: a) If the random selection chose the winner, or
b) If in epee the score was 5/5 at the expiration of the time of the bout.

The direct elimination bouts are for 15 touches, with a maximum time of nine minutes, divided into three periods of three minutes, with one minute of rest between periods. During this minute, a coach designated before the bout can address the fencer. The scoring apparatus blocks itself at the end of each three minute period. There is no warning for the final minute.

The bout ends when:

- one of the fencers has scored 15 touches, or
- nine minutes of actual fencing time have elapsed.

The fencer having scored the greater number of touches is declared the winner.

In the case of a tie at the end of regulation time, before allowing an additional minute to decide between the two fencers by the first decisive touch, the referee will randomly designate which fencer will be the winner should the tie persist after the additional minute. After this random selection, and before the bout recommences, a visible indication (in writing or by a light) of which fencer has the priority must be made.

In this case, the score shall be noted on the scoresheet as V/14.

See the complete text of the FIE Temporary Provisions, attached to these Rules, for more details.

- § 12. Accidents – withdrawal of a competitor**
- 50 For an injury that occurs in the course of a bout and that is duly confirmed by the delegate of the FIE Medical Commission or the doctor on duty, a break in the bout lasting no longer than 10 minutes is allowed, timed from the point at which the bout was stopped and strictly reserved for the treatment of the accident that brought it about. Before or at the end of the ten minute break, if the doctor considers that the fencer is incapable of continuing the bout, he will advise the referee that the fencer should withdraw (individual events) and/or be replaced (team events) (Cf. 558, 562).
During the remainder of the same day, a further break may not be allowed unless as a result of a new injury.
In the case of an unjustified request for a break in the bout that is duly confirmed as such by the representative of the FIE Medical Commission or by the doctor on duty, the referee will penalize the fencer at fault as specified in articles 635, 638 and 641 (2nd group).
In team events a fencer judged unable to continue a bout by the doctor may, nevertheless, according to the decision of the same doctor, fence in subsequent matches on the same day.
The bout committee may modify the bout order in order to ensure the good running of the competition (Cf. 520).
- 51 Deleted.
- 52 The referee may, after taking the advice of the doctor on duty, on his own authority require the withdrawal of a fencer whose inability to continue is flagrant.

Chapter VII – DIRECTION OF A BOUT AND JUDGING OF TOUCHES

A) OFFICIALS

§ 1. Referee

- 53 All bouts of fencing are directed by a referee who has many duties:
- a) he calls the roll of the competitors (Cf. 604, 615, 641);
 - b) he directs the bout (Cf. 63);
 - c) he verifies that the fencers' materials and equipment bear the proper inspection marks, especially those items concerned with safety, according to the special provisions for each weapon. He inspects the insulation of the wiring, particularly inside the guard (Cf. 18, 217, 314, 425, 428, 712);
 - d) he supervises his assistants (judges, floor judges and arm judges, timekeepers, scorers, etc.) (Cf. 54ff);
 - e) he maintains order (Cf. 615);
 - f) he penalizes offenses (Cf. 615); and
 - g) he awards touches (Cf. 67, 69, 75).

§ 2. Jury, judges, and floor judges

- 54 The referee fulfills his duty either with the help of four judges or with the use of an apparatus for the

automatic registering of touches; with the latter he may be assisted if necessary by two floor judges or two judges watching for the use of the unarmed hand (Cf. 31).

Floor judges are required when there is no metallic strip.

The referee and the judges (or the floor judges) constitute the "Jury." For all bouts in the finals, the referee must be assisted by two judges, each watching one of the fencers in order to draw attention to any use of the non-sword arm or any other nonvalid part (Cf. 30, 31, 71, 641-1st group):

- in foil, either to deflect the opponent's blade or to cover part of the valid surface;
- in epee, to deflect the opponent's blade. In epee they will also fulfill the functions of floor judges (Cf. 30, 31, 71).
- in sabre, to replace a valid surface with other parts of the body on which touches cannot be registered.

Arm and floor judges must change ends halfway through each bout or between each segment [of a DE bout] so as not to judge the same fencer the entire time (Cf. 555C).

55 By accepting a position on a jury, each of the members concerned pledges his honor to respect the rules and to cause them to be respected, and to carry out his duties with the strictest impartiality and most sustained attention (Cf. 610).

56 In official FIE competitions all members of a jury must be amateurs and licensed. In other international competitions they must, if they are amateurs, be licensed.

57 Selection of officials

A – INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

For the rounds of pools, the bout committee will designate neutral officials, chosen by lot from a list prepared by the Fencing Officials Commission representative.

For the direct elimination table (and the repechage), the representative of the Fencing Officials Commission will submit [*USFA variation*: may submit] to the bout committee a sufficiently large list of the best officials. From these officials, the bout committee will draw lots to determine who will direct each bout, in the order of the table, taking nationalities into consideration (for tables B, E, and F, by 1/4 table). In the case of a nationality conflict, the chosen referee will be assigned to the next bout in the order of the table.

At the beginning of each round, the representative of the Fencing Officials Commission may recommend to the bout committee chair the removal of a referee whose performance has not been satisfactory.

For the final, the representative of the Fencing Officials Commission will draw up [*USFA variation*: may draw up] a list of from four to eight referees, of whom:

- two to four must be completely neutral,

- two to four may be chosen without considering their nationality.

The drawing of lots, for the first four bouts, will be from among the completely neutral referees.

It is necessary to avoid "crossed" officiating for the quarters of the table.

After the first four bouts of the finals, the drawing of lots will be carried out again, taking into consideration the nationalities of the fencers still competing.

B – TEAM COMPETITIONS

From the quarter-finals of team competitions:

- if the team captains agree to accept the referees proposed by the bout committee and the Fencing Officials Commission, no drawing of lots will take place;
- if the team captains do not agree, the delegates of the Fencing Officials Commission and the bout committee will choose from among the neutral "A" referees present the two, three or four referees who appear suitable, and lots will be drawn among these referees.

58 For individual finals comprising at least six fencers and from the semi-finals of team competitions there will be, whenever possible, two complete juries (or two referees when judging with a machine). (This is mandatory for official FIE competitions (Cf. 507).)

§ 3. Auxiliary personnel

1. Scorers and timekeepers

59 Whenever possible the organizers will appoint, on their own responsibility, scorers whose duty it will be to keep the scoresheets and scoreboards and a timekeeper whose duty it will be to keep time for the duration of the bouts (Cf. 45ff). (This is mandatory for the official FIE competitions.) For the finals, the bout committee may assign a representative or a referee, as neutral as possible, to supervise the work of the timekeeper, the scorer and the superintendent of the apparatus.

2. Specialist personnel

60 When judging is done with the assistance of a machine for registering touches, the organizing committee will further appoint:

a) A superintendent of the apparatus

The organizing committee must choose qualified persons who should follow the working of the apparatus with careful attention in order that they may be able to advise the referee as to what the machine has registered, and notify him, even during the course of a bout, regarding any abnormal phenomena that may occur.

While fencing is in progress the superintendent of the apparatus must not touch the apparatus. When fencing ceases, he resets the machine either after the referee has given his decision or when the competitors are testing their weapons, but he must never, after a phrase of the bout has caused the machine to signal a touch, annul this signal before the referee has given his decision.

b) One or more experts

For each tournament, the organizing committee must appoint experts in matters relating to electrical scoring. These experts are placed under the supervision of the bout committee.

The experts may be consulted, separately or jointly, by the referees or by the bout committee regarding all questions relating to the electrical apparatus. Members of the FIE Commission for Electrical Apparatus and Equipment are ex officio qualified to act as experts.

c) The technicians

The organizing committee must, for any international tournament, ensure the presence of competent technicians to fix any damage that may occur during the competition in the personal equipment of the fencers and, if necessary, in the rest of the electrical apparatus.

B) JUDGING BY A JURY

§ 1. The duties of the referee

- 61** The referee takes up a position at a distance from the strip that enables him to follow the actions of the fencers completely; he follows the competitors in their movements on the strip.
For the finals of official FIE competitions, he must use a microphone, preferably without a cord. He directs the bout according to the provisions of the rules (Cf. 227ff, 322ff, 415ff),.

§ 2. Positions occupied by the judges

- 62** Two judges are placed on each side of the strip to the referee's right and left respectively and slightly behind the competitors.
The two judges placed to the referee's right should watch the fencer to the referee's left and especially verify the arrival of touches that this competitor may receive.
Similarly, the two judges placed to the referee's left should watch the fencer to the referee's right and especially verify the arrival of touches that this competitor may receive (however Cf. 69/4).

§ 3. Method of judging

a) Procedure

- 63** The referee, who alone is responsible for the direction of the bout, gives the orders. However, any other member of the jury may give the command "Halt," but only in the case of a presumed accident. Also, the timekeeper stops the bout by calling "Halt!" when time expires.
- 64** As soon as a judge sees a touch arrive (whether on a valid surface or not) on the fencer whom he is watching he must raise his hand in order to advise the referee.
- 65** All judging is carried out aloud and without the members of the jury leaving their places.
- 66** The jury is not bound by the acknowledgment of a touch even if properly made by a competitor (Cf. 606).
- 67** The jury first decides as to the materiality of the touch or touches. The referee then alone decides for

which fencer a touch will be scored by applying the conventional rules for each weapon.

b) Materiality of the touch

- 68** As soon as the bout has been stopped, the referee briefly analyzes the actions that composed the last fencing phrase before the order "Halt" (this formality is not required in epee) and in the course of his analysis he questions the judges watching one fencer in order to ascertain whether in their opinion any of the actions occurring in his analysis of the phrase has resulted in a touch on that competitor; he then follows the same procedure with the two judges of the other competitor. (This formality must be observed in all three weapons). When the judges are questioned they must reply in one of the following ways: "Yes," "Yes, but not valid," "No" or "I abstain." The referee votes last.
- 69** The referee then totals the votes thus made from each side; the opinion of each judge counts as one vote, the opinion of the referee as one and a half votes, while abstentions are not counted at all:
- 1° If both judges on the same side agree in a positive opinion (either both say "Yes" or both say "No" or both say "Yes, but not valid"), their judgment prevails.
 - 2° If one of the judges has a definite opinion and the other abstains, the referee may decide by himself as his vote is overriding; if he also abstains, the decision of the judge who has a definite opinion prevails.
 - 3° If the two judges concerned are positive but contrary in their opinions or if both abstain, the referee may decide according to his own observations;⁴ if he also abstains, the touch is regarded as doubtful (Cf. 69/5).
 - 4° In the case of a double abstention, the referee may, as an exceptional measure, ask the opinions of the other two judges if he considers that they were better placed to see the touch:
 - for example, a riposte on the back made on a fencer who has made a fleche attack and has passed his opponent.
 - 5° A doubtful touch is never scored against the competitor who might have received it. On the other hand, any touch made subsequently or simultaneously in the same phrase by the fencer who has thus been granted the benefit of the doubt must also be annulled (but Cf. 38). As regards a touch made subsequently by the fencer who originally made the doubtful touch, the following courses will apply:
 - a) If the new touch (remise, redoublement or riposte) is made by the fencer who made the doubtful touch without any touch having been made by his opponent, this new touch must be awarded.
 - b) But if the doubt concerns the surface on which the touch arrived (one "Yes" and

one “Yes, but not valid”), no other touch in this phrase may be awarded.

- c) This is also the case if the opponent has himself made a doubtful touch between the first doubtful touch and the new touch made by that same fencer.

c) Validity or priority of the touch

- 70** After the jury has decided the materiality of a touch, the referee, acting alone and by applying the conventional rules for each weapon, decides for which fencer a touch is to be awarded, whether both have scored (epee), or if there is no valid touch (Cf. 232ff, 329ff, 416ff).

C) JUDGING WITH A SCORING MACHINE

§ 1. Direction of the bout

- 71** 1. The bout is directed by the referee who must place himself so as to be able to follow the actions while being able to see the illumination of the light signals.
2. At the beginning of each bout the referee must check the weapons, clothing and equipment of the fencers.
- For the weapon inspection, which must also be performed each time a weapon is changed, the referee must verify the strength of the point spring by means of the special weight, the insulation of the wires inside the guard and, in the case of epee, the total travel and residual travel of the tip with the 1.50 mm and 0.50 mm gauges (Cf. 18, 21, 719, 732).
- When the machine is equipped with yellow lights the referee will, for foil, check that contact between the blade or guard of the foil and the same fencer’s metallic vest causes the corresponding yellow light to light up. If the light or lights remain permanently lit without it being possible to cancel them by pressing the reset button, the bout must not be started or continued until the insulation fault in the circuit has been repaired.
3. The referee oversees the proper functioning of the electrical apparatus. Either on his own initiative or at the request of a team captain or competitor, he will have the necessary tests made in order to check the apparatus and localize any faults that may be found. He will prevent the competitors from complicating the results by unplugging or untimely changing of their equipment.
4. If there are floor judges, they are placed on either side of the referee and on opposite sides of the strip; they observe all actions during the bout (Cf. 54).
5. The referee should consult the experts for the electrical apparatus whenever he considers it necessary (Cf. 60).

§ 2. Method of judging

a) Materiality of the touch

- 72** The materiality of the touch is established according to the indications of the machine, if necessary after consulting the floor judges (Cf. 74). Only the indications of the electrical scoring machine may be taken into consideration for scoring touches. Under no circumstances may the referee declare a competitor to have scored a touch unless the touch has been properly registered by the machine, except as specified in the rules (Cf. 222, 226, 321, 414, 555A) and in the case of penalty touches (Cf. 228ff, 323ff, 415ff, 626).
- 73** On the other hand, the referee must, in the cases enumerated for each weapon, annul a touch registered by the machine (Cf. 230ff, 324ff).
- 74** Only the two floor judges, who each have one vote, and the referee, who has one and a half votes, decide if a touch has been made on the ground or not. If they cannot reach an affirmative majority decision (i.e. if there are three abstentions or the two judges are of different opinions and the referee abstains), the touch must be considered doubtful (Cf. 69/5). In no circumstances may the referee take account of the opinions of other persons.

b) Validity or priority of the touch

- 75** After reaching his decision regarding the materiality of a touch, the referee, by applying the conventional rules for each weapon, decides for which fencer a touch is to be awarded, whether both have scored (epee) or if there is no valid touch (Cf. 232ff, 329ff, 416ff).

Notes

- 1) It is stressed that this chapter is not designed as a manual on fencing and that it is only included here in order to help the reader to understand the rules.
- 2) Examples:
 - 1. Judge A says “No”; Judge B says “Yes, but not valid.” Even if the referee considers the touch valid, the judgment must be “no touch.” However, in this example as one judge and the referee agree that there has been contact with the point of the opponent, anything that occurs after the “no touch” decision must be annulled.
 - 2. Judge A says “Yes,” Judge B says “Yes, but not valid,” and the referee abstains. He cannot therefore score the touch as there is doubt as to whether or not it arrived on a valid surface. However, as both judges are agreed that there was contact with the point on the opponent, anything that occurs after the “no touch” decision must be annulled.

PART TWO: FOIL

Chapter I – HISTORICAL NOTES

The Rules for Foil were adopted 12 June 1914 by the FIE Committee for Foil at a meeting in Paris under the presidency of General G. Ettore, representing the Italian Fencing Federation, who edited the proposed rules.

They were basically the same as those drawn up by Monsieur Camille Prévost, President of the *Académie d'Armes* and President of the Technical Committee for Foil of the French National Fencing Federation. They also conformed to the rules drawn up by the Marquis de Chasseloup-Laubat for “*Les Armes de France*,” to the various earlier international regulations drawn up by the different countries affiliated with the FIE, and to the Franco-Italian Rules.

The present rules merely define and complete those adopted in 1914.

The rules governing foil competitions judged with electrical scoring apparatus were adopted in 1957 and modified by various later Congresses up to the present date.

Chapter II – FIELD OF PLAY (Cf. 14ff)

- 201** Foil competitions are held indoors on strips made of wood, linoleum, cork, rubber, plastic, etc. For competitions judged with electrical apparatus, the strip and its extensions must be entirely covered by metal, metallic mesh or a compound with a metallic base in order to neutralize touches made “on the ground” (mandatory for official FIE competitions) (Cf. 711).
- 202** The width of the strip is from 1.50 to 2.00 meters. The length of the strip is 14 meters, so that each competitor, being placed 2 meters from the center line, has at his disposal for retreating a total distance of 5 meters without it being necessary for him to cross the limit of the strip with both feet (Cf. 15, 38ff and Fig. I-1, Strip Diagram).
- 203** Five lines should be drawn very clearly on the strip perpendicular to its length, as follows:
- one **center line**, which must be drawn as a broken line across the entire width of the strip.
 - two **on guard lines** located 2 meters on either side of the center line (these must be drawn across the entire width of the strip).
 - two **rear limit lines**, which must be drawn across the entire width of the strip, at a distance of seven meters from the center line. In addition, the last two meters of the strip before these rear limit lines must be clearly distinguished – if possible by a different color of strip – to enable the fencers easily to identify their positions on the strip (Cf. 15, 38ff and Fig. I-1, Strip Diagram). A fencer who crosses his rear limit with both feet is considered as touched (Cf. 39).

- 204** The table on which the scoring machine is placed must be at least 1 meter from the strip and opposite the center line; the referee must ensure that its isolation is maintained by the auxiliary personnel as well as the fencers and the spectators.

Chapter III – FOIL EQUIPMENT (Weapons – Equipment – Clothing) (Cf. 16ff)

A) WEAPONS (Cf. 16ff, 22ff)

§ 1. General specifications for foils

a) Weight

- 205** The total weight of the foil ready for use is less than 500 grams.

b) Length

- 206** The maximum total length of the foil is 110 cm.

c) The blade

- 207** The blade is rectangular in cross-section and must be made from steel in accordance with the safety standards annexed to the rules.

The edges must be smoothed off so that they will not cut, and must be chamfered at an angle of $45^\circ \pm 5^\circ$, 0.5 mm on each side (± 0.1 mm), so that they will neither cut nor become capable of cutting.

The blade is mounted with the widest dimension placed horizontally.

The maximum length of the blade is 90 cm (Cf. 24).

The blade must have a flexibility equivalent to a bend of minimum 5.5 cm and maximum 9.5 cm measured under the following conditions:

1. The blade is fixed horizontally at a point 70 cm from the extremity of the point.
2. A 200 gram weight is suspended 3 cm from the extremity of the point.
3. The bend of the blade is measured at the extremity of the point between the non-weighted and the weighted positions. (Cf. Fig. II-1, Foil Dimensions and Flex Test Diagrams)

All methods of treating a blade between the guard and the point, either by grinding, filing or otherwise, are forbidden (Cf. 22).

The blade should be as straight as possible.

Any curve must be uniform and the bend of the blade in all cases less than 2 cm; curvature is only permitted in the vertical plane and must be located near the center of the blade.

d) The guard (Cf. 26)

- 208** The guard must be able to pass through a straight cylindrical tube (gauge) having a diameter of 12 cm and a length of 15 cm, the blade being parallel to the axis of the cylinder.

Eccentric mounting is forbidden; the blade must pass through the center of the guard. The diameter of the guard must be between 9.5 cm and 12 cm. (Cf. Fig. II-1, Foil Dimensions and Flex Test Diagrams)

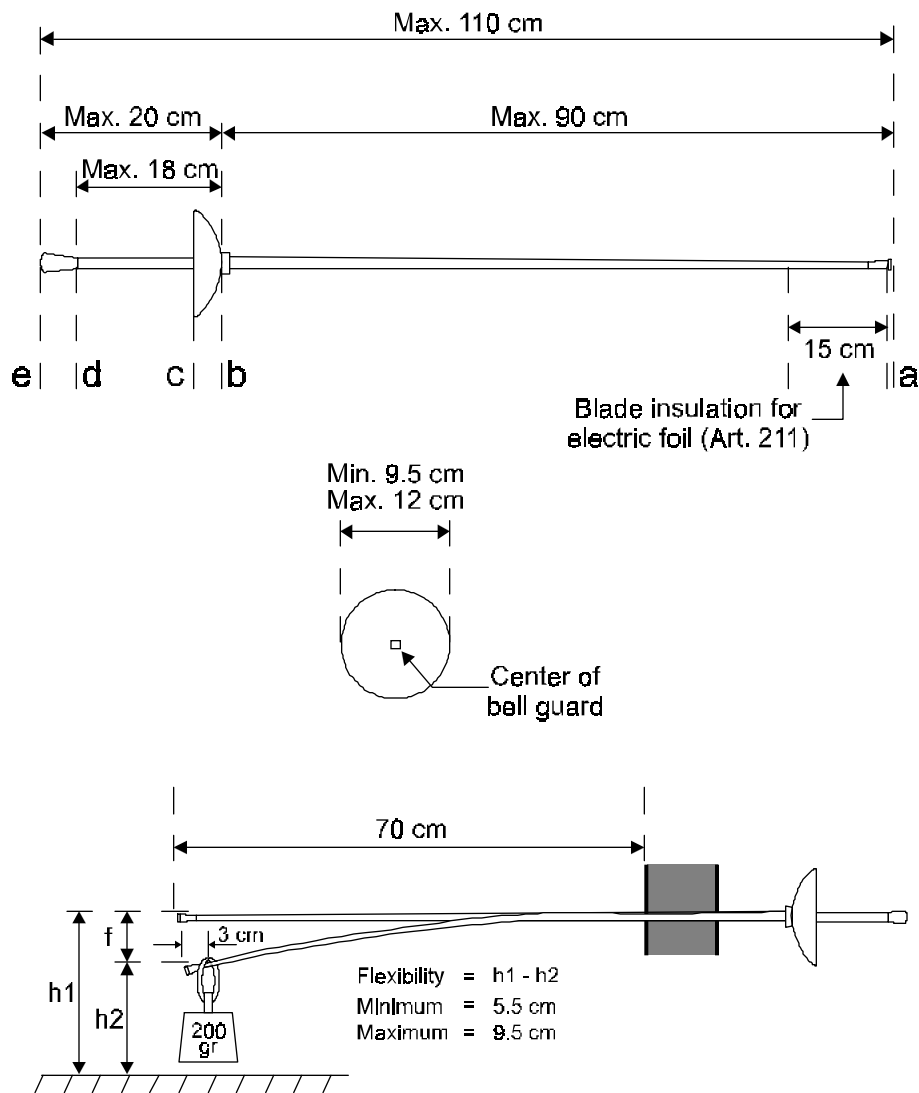


Figure II-1: Foil Dimension and Flex Test Diagrams

e) The martingale

209 When the foil is not secured to the hand by an attachment or by the body cord, the use of a martingale is mandatory.

f) Points and tips

210 Unless fitted with an electric point for registering touches (or another design previously approved), the point of the foil must be covered; the flat metal head of the blade must be covered with waxed thread, plastic or some other nonmetallic material.

§ 2. Specifications for the electric foil

211 In addition to the special conditions regarding construction specified in Part VII (Cf. 702, 712, 718ff), foil fencers' electrical equipment must conform to the following conditions:

a) The tip

The pressure that must be exerted on the tip in order to cause the scoring machine to register a touch must be more than 500 grams; this weight must be lifted by the point (Cf. 719).

The distance that the tip must travel back in order to cause the scoring machine to register a touch may be infinitely short; the total stroke is less than 1 mm.

Sharpening the edges of the point is forbidden. It is strictly forbidden to press or drag the point of the electric weapon on the metallic strip during the bout (between "Fence" and "Halt"). It is equally forbidden, at any time, to straighten the weapon on the strip. Any breaking of this rule will be punished according to articles 635, 637 and 641 (1st group).

b) Insulation

The body of the point, apart from any parts that may be insulated; the foil blade for a length of 15 cm from the point; and the pommel or the extremity of the grip must be entirely covered with some insulating material (electrical tape, cellophane tape or even varnish) (Cf. 721).

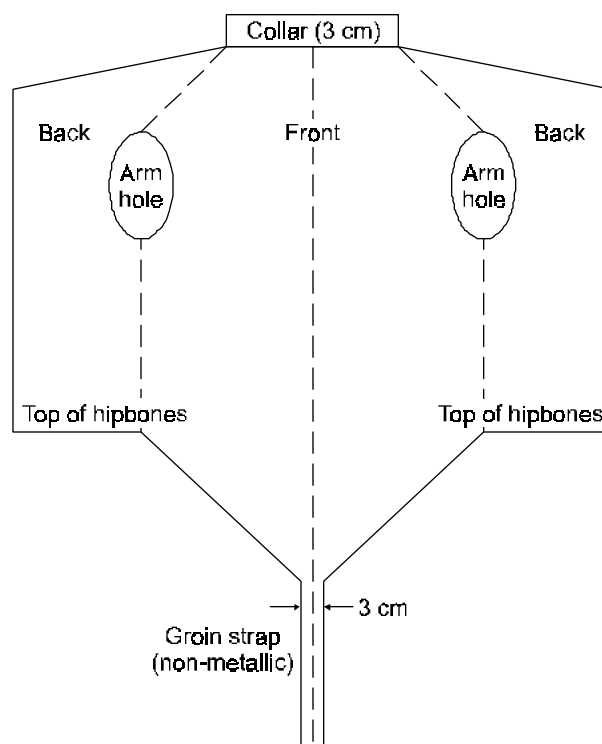


Figure II-2: Metallic Vest for Foil

B) CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

§ 1. General specifications for clothing and equipment for all foilists

a) The jacket

- 212** The lower edge of the jacket, cut horizontally at the waist, must overlap the breeches by at least 10 cm when the fencer is in the “on guard” position (Cf. 27).

The jacket must include a lining making a double thickness of material for the sleeve down to the elbow [of the sword-arm] and covering the flank up to the region of the armpit.

In every case, clothing must conform to the safety standards annexed to the rules.

b) The glove

- 213** The glove may be lightly padded (Cf. 27).

c) The mask (Cf. 27, 722/4)

- 214** The mask must conform to the safety standards annexed to the rules. It is mandatory that the mesh of the mask stop at the fencer’s chin.

d) Clothing for women’s foil

- 215** Women’s clothing must include breeches closed below the knee or a divided skirt and, inside the jacket, breast protectors of metal or other rigid material (Cf. 27).

§ 2. Specifications for clothing and equipment necessary for electric foil

a) Metallic vest

- 216** The fencer wears over his jacket a metallic vest the conductive surface of which must entirely and

without omission cover all the valid surface when he is standing upright, in the “on guard” position and lunging (Cf. 220).

Whatever the means of fastening used, the metallic material must cover a sufficient area to ensure that it covers the valid surface in all positions of the fencer. The overlap at the closure must always come from the sword-arm side.

The metallic collar must have a minimum height of 3 cm.

The lamé material must satisfy the conditions for its verification detailed elsewhere (Cf. 722).

The shape of the bottom edge of the vest must be such that when it is laid flat there is a straight line between the top of each hipbone and the point of junction of the lines of the groin.

The band of **nonmetallic** material passing between the legs must be at least 3 cm wide (Cf. Fig. II-2, Metallic Vest for Foil)

b) Body cord and attachment plugs

- 217** The conducting wires of the body cord (fencers’ personal equipment) must be well insulated electrically from each other, not affected by humidity, and twisted or joined together. The body cord has a connecting plug at each end. The electrical resistance of each of these conducting wires (plug to plug and plug to crocodile clip) must not exceed 1 ohm.

– At the reel end the three-prong male connection, which must satisfy the conditions of manufacture and assembly specified in Part

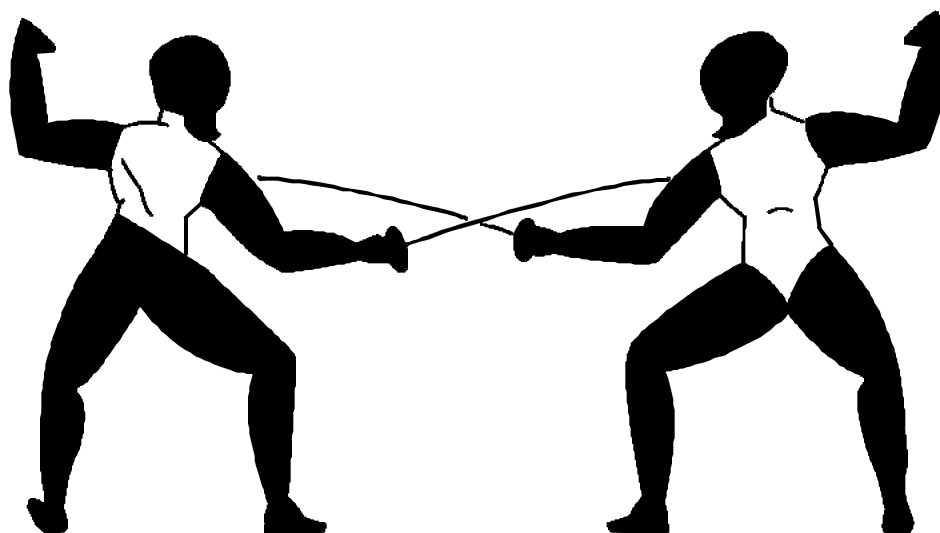


Figure II-3: Valid Surface for Foil

VII (Cf. 710), will be attached to the wires in the following manner:

- the prong at 15 mm to the metallic vest;
- the central prong to the wire in the weapon; and
- the prong at 20 mm to the foil ground circuit or the metallic strip.

The wire that joins the rear connection of the body cord to the metallic vest by a crocodile clip must be separate for at least 40 cm. This wire must be soldered to the crocodile clip and this soldering must not be covered by insulation or any material whatever. However, any method of attachment that presents the same guarantees as soldering may be used, provided it has been accepted by the Commission for Electrical Apparatus and Equipment.

The crocodile clip must be strong and ensure perfect contact with the metallic vest. Its width at the point of contact must be at least 10 mm; the inside of the clip must have a free space at least 8 mm long by 3 mm high. It should be clipped to the back of the metallic vest on the sword-arm side.

- At the end nearest the foil, inside the guard, any method of attachment is allowed, but the chosen method must always conform to the specifications in article 712. Furthermore, the male plugs of the connection must in no circumstances be able to touch the metal part of the guard. The wire from the point must be protected by an insulating sheath from the place where it enters the guard to the insulated socket of the plug. Under no circumstances may non-insulated wire extend beyond this insulated socket (Cf. 26, 208, 712).

c) Mask

- 218** The wire mesh of the mask must be insulated internally and externally with a plastic material that will not chip off, applied before the mask is assembled (Cf. 722).

Chapter IV – CONVENTIONS OF FOIL FENCING

A) METHOD OF MAKING TOUCHES

- 219** The foil is a thrusting weapon only. Offensive actions with this weapon must therefore be made with the point and with the point only. When fencing with nonelectric weapons, any touch with the point must arrive clearly and openly to be counted (Cf. 29).

B) VALID SURFACE

§ 1. Limitation of the valid surface

- 220** In foil, only touches that arrive on the valid surface are counted.

The valid surface for foil, for women as for men, excludes the limbs and the head. It is confined to the trunk, the upper limit being the collar up to 6 cm above the prominences of the collarbones; the side limits are the seams of the sleeves (which should cross the head of the humerus); the lower limit follows a horizontal line across the back joining the tops of the hipbones, thence following in straight lines to the junction of the lines of the groin (Cf. Fig. II-3, Valid Surface for Foil).

- 221** The bib of the mask is part of the valid surface. (Details in the annex to the rules, “Safety Standards for Manufacturers...”).

Note: Implementation of this rule has been indefinitely postponed by the FIE. This rule has NOT been adopted by the USFA; the mask remains “off target” in foil.

§ 2. The possible extension of the valid surface

222 However, touches that arrive on a part of the body considered to be nonvalid are counted as valid whenever, by reason of an abnormal position, the fencer has substituted this nonvalid surface for the valid surface. The referee may question the judges about this, but he alone must decide whether the touch is valid or not.

§ 3. Non valid surfaces

223 A touch that is made on a nonvalid surface (whether directly or as a result of a parry) is not counted as a valid touch, but it stops the phrase and annuls all touches that are scored thereafter (but Cf. 222).

C) CORPS A CORPS AND FLECHE ATTACKS

224 In foil, it is forbidden to cause *corps à corps* (even without brutality or violence), to cause voluntary *corps à corps* to avoid a touch, or to jostle the opponent.

For these offenses, the referee will penalize the fencer at fault as specified in articles 635, 637 and 641 (1st group).

D) NUMBER OF TOUCHES – DURATION OF A BOUT

Note: Articles 225 and 226 are no longer in effect; see the comments following Articles 47 and 49, and the FIE Temporary Provisions, Appendix B of these Rules.

225 In foil, bouts are for five touches for men and for women, with a time limit of six minutes per bout; in direct elimination, either two encounters for five touches with a deciding encounter if necessary, or bouts for any specified number of touches (Cf. 554f., 555A).

226 When the time limit expires before the bout has been completed:

- a) if one competitor has scored more touches than his opponent, the number of touches required to bring it up to the maximum being fenced for must be added to his score, and the same number of touches must be added to his opponent's score.
- b) if both competitors have scored the same number of touches, they are both counted as having scored one less than the maximum number of touches and they fence for the last touch without any time limit. They are replaced on guard in the positions that they occupied when the bout was interrupted (Cf. 32/3).

E) JUDGING OF TOUCHES IN FOIL

227 Foil competitions are judged with electrical scoring apparatus. This is mandatory for the official FIE competitions. In the case of all other competitions, the organizers are required to make an advance announcement if they will be judged by a jury (Cf. 1f.).

I. MATERIALITY OF THE TOUCH

§ 1. With a jury (Cf. 61ff)

§ 2. With electrical scoring apparatus

228 1. For judging the materiality of touches, only the indications of the scoring machine may be taken into consideration. Under no circumstances may the referee declare a competitor to have scored a touch unless the touch has been properly registered by the machine (except as specified in the regulations (Cf. 222, 226, 555A) and in the case of penalty touches) (Cf. 72, 626, 709/4).

229 When using the apparatus it should be noted that:

- a) if a nonvalid touch occurs, the machine does not register a possible valid touch on the same side.
- b) the machine does not indicate whether there is any priority in time between two or more touches that it registers simultaneously.

Note: This rule has not yet been adopted for USFA competition; scoring machines have not been altered to block a colored light after a white light on the same side of the machine.

FIE Temporary Provision 2 states:

During the 1993-94 season and until scoring machines include a system for blocking the colored light after the illumination of the white light on the same side as provided in Article 229, machines using the old system of blockage remain acceptable for use.

-
- 230 2. The referee will disregard touches that are registered as a result of actions:
- started before the word “Fence” or after the word “Halt” (Cf. 32);
 - that are made on the ground (when there is no metallic strip, or outside it); or that are made on any object other than the opponent or his equipment (Cf. 73f.).

A fencer who voluntarily causes the machine to register a touch by placing his point on any surface other than his opponent will be penalized as specified in articles 635, 637 and 641 (1st group). If in the final minute of fencing a fencer voluntarily causes a touch by placing his point on any surface other than his opponent, he will be penalized as specified in articles 635, 638 and 641 (2nd group). Fencers are forbidden to place a noninsulated part of their weapon in contact with their metallic vest with the intention of jamming the scoring machine and thus avoiding being touched.

If such an offence is committed, the referee will penalize the fencer at fault as specified in articles 635, 637 and 641 (1st group).

When the scoring machine is equipped with yellow lights, these lights light up in three cases:

1. The yellow lights light up and go out at once; this does not stop the bout.
 2. If the yellow lights light up with the sounding of an audible signal and do not go out, the fencer who has placed his weapon in contact with his metallic vest must be declared touched, even if the point arrived on his weapon, provided that the referee awards priority to the touch made against him. If the white light lights up on the same side as the yellow light, the touch is nonvalid.
 3. If the yellow lights light up and do not go out, the referee must stop the bout because there must be a fault in the electric circuit. Permanent illumination of the yellow lights is often caused by perspiration that dampens the jacket and, particularly, the glove of one of the fencers.
- 231 3.** The referee must, on the other hand, take into account possible failures of the electrical equipment, in particular:
- a) He must annul a touch that he has just awarded due to an apparent touch on the valid surface (colored light) if he establishes, by tests made under his personal supervision, before the bout has effectively recommenced³ and without any of the equipment in use having changed (Cf. 71/3&5):
 - that a touch registered as “valid” against the fencer against whom the touch was awarded can be made without there being in fact a valid touch,
 - that a “nonvalid” touch made by the fencer against whom the touch was awarded is not registered by the machine,
 - that a “valid” touch made by the fencer against whom the touch was awarded does not cause any touch either valid or nonvalid to be registered, or
 - that the registration of touches made by the fencer against whom the touch was awarded does not remain recorded on the machine.
 - b) On the other hand, when the referee has awarded priority to a fencer’s touch, this touch will not be annulled if subsequently it is found that a valid touch made by the opponent is registered as nonvalid or that the weapon of the fencer against whom the touch was awarded is permanently registering a nonvalid touch.
 - c) If a fencer’s equipment does not conform to the provisions of paragraphs 2 to 4 of article 722, a touch made on a nonvalid surface that is registered by the machine as valid will not be annulled.
4. The referee must also apply the following rules:
 - a) Only the last touch made before the fault is established may be annulled.
 - b) A competitor who makes any modification in or changes his equipment without being asked by the referee to do so before the referee has given his decision loses all right to the annulment of the touch (Cf. 71/3).
 - c) If the bout has effectively recommenced,³ a competitor cannot claim the annulment of a touch awarded against him before the recommencement of the bout.
 - d) The localization of a fault found in the equipment (including the competitors’ equipment) is of no consequence to a possible annulment.
 - e) It is not necessary that the established failure repeat itself each time a test is made, but it is essential that the fault should be verified by the referee without the possibility of doubt at least once during the tests made by him or under his supervision.
 - f) The mere fact that the competitor against whom a touch has been awarded has broken his blade is not sufficient to justify the annulment of that touch.
 - g) The referee must pay particular attention to touches that are not registered or that are registered abnormally. Should such defects be repeated, the referee must ask a member of the Commission for Electrical Apparatus and Equipment or an expert technician on duty to verify that the equipment conforms to the rules.
The referee must ensure that nothing is altered in the competitor’s equipment or in the whole of the electrical apparatus before the expert makes the inspection.
 5. Whenever accidental causes make it impossible to carry out tests, the touch will be considered doubtful (Cf. 69/5).
 6. If touches are registered simultaneously on both sides of the machine and the referee cannot establish the priority with certainty, he must replace the competitors on guard.
 7. In accordance with the general rules (Cf. 32), the referee must stop the bout, even if no touch is registered by the machine, whenever fencing becomes confused and he is no longer able to analyze the phrase.
 8. The referee must also supervise the state of the metallic strip; he must not allow the bout to commence or continue if the metallic strip has holes in it that might affect the proper registering of touches. (The organizers must make the necessary arrangements to permit the rapid repair or replacement of metallic strips.)

II. VALIDITY OR PRIORITY OF THE TOUCH

§ 1. Introductory note

232 Whatever method a referee has used to make a decision regarding the materiality of a touch (either with the assistance of a jury or with an electrical scoring apparatus), he **alone** then decides as to the validity or the priority of the touch by applying the following basic rules that are the conventions applicable to foil fencing.

§ 2. Regard for the fencing phrase

233 a) Every attack (that is, every initial offensive action) that is correctly executed must be parried or completely avoided and the phrase must be followed through – that is to say, coordinated (Cf. 10).

In order to judge the correctness of an attack the following points must be considered:

1. The simple attack, direct or indirect (Cf. 11), is correctly executed when the extending of the arm, with the point threatening the valid surface, precedes the initiation of the lunge or the fleche.
2. The compound attack (Cf. 11) is correctly executed when, with the arm extending in the presentation of the first feint, the point threatens the valid surface and the arm is not withdrawn during the successive actions of the attack and the initiation of the lunge or the fleche.
3. The attack with advance-lunge or advance-fleche is correctly executed when the extending of the arm precedes the end of the advance and the initiation of the lunge or the fleche.
4. A simple or compound action, forward movement or feint executed with a bent arm is not considered an attack, but rather a preparation, which lays itself open to the initiation of the offensive or offensive/defensive action of the opponent (Cf. 12).

To judge the priority of an attack when analyzing the fencing phrase, it should be noted that:

5. If the attack is initiated when the opponent is not “in line,” that is to say with the arm straight and the point threatening the valid surface, it may be executed with a direct thrust, by a disengagement or a *coupé*, or may even be preceded by a beat or successful feints obliging the opponent to parry.
6. If the attack is initiated when the opponent is “in line,” that is to say with the arm straight and the point threatening the valid surface, the attacker must first deflect the opponent’s blade. Referees must be aware that mere contact is not considered sufficient to deflect the opponent’s blade (Cf. 237/2/a).

7. If the attacker, when attempting to deflect the opponent’s blade, fails to find it, the right of attack passes to the opponent.
8. Continuous forward motion with crossing of the feet is a preparation, and against this preparation any simple attack has priority.

234 b) The parry gives the right to riposte; a simple riposte may be direct or indirect, but to annul any subsequent action by the attacker, it must be executed immediately, without indecision or delay.

235 c) When a compound attack is made, if the opponent finds the blade during one of the feints, he has the right to riposte.

236 d) When a compound attack is made, the opponent has the right to stop hit, but to be valid the stop hit must precede the conclusion of the attack by an interval of fencing time; the stop hit must arrive before the attacker has begun the final movement of the attack.

§ 3. Judging

237 In applying the basic conventions of foil fencing, the referee should judge as follows:

When during a phrase both fencers are touched simultaneously, there is either a **simultaneous action** or a **double touch**.

The first of these is due to the simultaneous conception and execution of attacks by both fencers; in this case the touches exchanged are annulled for both fencers even if one of them has touched a nonvalid surface.

The double touch, on the other hand, is the result of a faulty action on the part of one of the fencers. Therefore, when there is not a period of fencing time between the touches:

1. Only the fencer who is attacked is counted as touched if

- a) he makes a stop hit into a simple attack;
- b) instead of parrying, he attempts to avoid the touch and does not succeed;
- c) after a parry, he makes a momentary pause that gives his opponent the right to re-attack (redoublement, remise or reprise);
- d) during a compound attack, he makes a stop hit without being in time; or
- e) having his point “in line” (arm straight and point threatening a valid surface) and being subjected to a beat or a *prise de fer* that deflects his blade, he attacks or places his point in line again instead of parrying a direct thrust made by his opponent.

2. Only the fencer who attacks is counted as touched if

- a) he initiates his attack when his opponent is “in line” (arm straight and point threatening a valid surface) without deflecting the opponent’s weapon (referees must ensure that mere blade

- contact is not considered as sufficient to deflect the opponent's blade.);
- b) he attempts to find the blade, does not succeed and continues the attack;
 - c) during a compound attack in which his opponent finds the blade, he continues his attack while the opponent ripostes immediately;
 - d) during a compound attack, he makes a momentary pause, during which time the opponent makes a stop hit, while the attacker continues his attack;
 - e) during a compound attack, he is stop hit in time before he begins his final action;
 - or
 - f) he makes a touch by a remise, redoublement or reprise after his opponent's parry, which has been followed by a riposte that is immediate, simple, and executed in one period of fencing time without withdrawing the arm.
3. ***The competitors are replaced on guard*** each time the referee is unable to judge clearly from which side the fault has come when there is a double touch.

One of the most difficult cases to judge arises when a stop hit is made and there is doubt as to whether it was made sufficiently in time in relation to the final movement of a compound attack. Generally, in such cases, the double touch occurs through the fault of both fencers concerned, which justifies the referee in replacing them on guard. (The fault of the attacker consists of indecision, slowness of execution or the making of feints that are not sufficiently effective; the fault of the defender lies in delay or slowness in making the stop hit.)

Notes

- 3 The fact that the referee has said "Fence", even if some time has thereafter elapsed, does not necessarily mean that "the bout has effectively recommenced," if the fencers have maintained a passive attitude. For the bout to have effectively recommenced, the fencers must have actually engaged in a fencing phrase that could have affected the equipment in use.

PART THREE: EPEE

Chapter I – HISTORICAL NOTES

The rules for epee drawn up in 1914 clarified and completed all the various epee rules that existed prior to the foundation of the FIE and that had evolved from 1892 both in France and elsewhere, notably by:

- the permanent committee named by the *Société d'Escrime à l'Épée de Paris, l'Académie d'Épée*; the *Société d'Entraînement à l'Escrime et au Pistolet*; and *Les Armes de France*;
- the 1905 *Comité International*, subject to the laws of each country, regarding the application to duelling;
- the *Union des Sociétés Françaises de Sport Athlétiques (USFSA)*;
- the *Comité National des Sports de France*;
- the *Comité Olympique Français*; and
- the organizing committees for the tournaments held at Nice, the Côte d'Azur, Ostend, etc.

The present rules modify only in detail the principles adopted in 1914.

The rules governing epee competitions judged with electrical scoring apparatus were adopted in 1936 and modified by various subsequent Congresses.

The 1984 Congress adopted the introduction of women's epee; that of 1987 decided to organize a World Championship in women's epee beginning in 1989.

Chapter II – FIELD OF PLAY (Cf. 14ff)

- 301** Epee competitions may be held indoors or outdoors. Official FIE competitions may only be held indoors.
- 302** The width of the strip is from 1.50 to 2.00 meters and its length is 14 meters (Cf. 15, 38ff, 202 and Fig. I-1, Strip Diagram).
- 303** Five lines should be drawn very clearly on the strip perpendicular to its length, as follows:
- **one center line**, which must be drawn as a broken line across the entire width of the strip.
 - **two on guard lines** located 2 meters on either side of the center line (these must be drawn across the entire width of the strip).
 - **two rear limit lines**, which must be drawn across the entire width of the strip, at a distance of seven meters from the center line. In addition, the last two meters of the strip before these rear limit lines must be clearly distinguished – if possible by a different color of strip – to enable the fencers easily to identify their positions on the strip (Cf. 15, 38ff and Fig. I-1, Strip Diagram). A fencer who crosses his rear limit with both feet is considered as touched (Cf. 39).

- 304** When competitions are judged with electrical scoring apparatus, the strip and its extensions must be entirely covered with metal, a metallic mesh or a compound with a metallic base in order to ensure the nonregistration of touches made on the ground (this is mandatory for official FIE competitions) (Cf. 711).
- 305** The table on which the scoring machine is placed must be at least 1 meter from the strip and opposite the center line; the referee must ensure that its isolation is maintained by the auxiliary personnel as well as the fencers and the spectators.

Chapter III – EPEE EQUIPMENT (Weapons – Equipment – Clothing) (Cf. 16ff)

A) WEAPONS (Cf. 22ff)

§ 1. General specifications for epees

a) Weight

- 306** The total weight of the epee ready for use is less than 770 grams.

b) Length

- 307** The maximum total length of the epee is 110 cm.

c) The blade

- 308** The blade is made of steel, triangular in cross-section without cutting edges, and must be made according to the safety standards annexed to the rules. It is as straight as possible and mounted with the groove uppermost. Any bend must be uniform and the curve of the blade in all cases less than 1 cm; curvature is only permitted in the vertical plane and must be located near the center of the blade (Cf. 24, 30).

The maximum length of the blade is 90 cm.

The maximum width of any of the three sides of the blade is 24 mm.

The blade should have a flexibility equivalent to a bend of 4.5 cm minimum and 7.0 cm maximum measured under the following conditions:

- 1) The blade is fixed horizontally at a point 70 cm from the extremity of the point.
- 2) A 200 gram weight is suspended 3 cm from the extremity of the point.
- 3) The bend of the blade is measured at the extremity of the point between the non-weighted and the weighted positions (see illustration).
- 4) All methods of treating a blade between the guard and the point, either by grinding, filing or otherwise, are forbidden (Cf. 22 and Fig. III-1, Epee Dimension and Flex Test Diagrams).

d) The martingale

- 309** When the epee is not secured to the hand by an attachment or by the body cord the use of a martingale is mandatory.

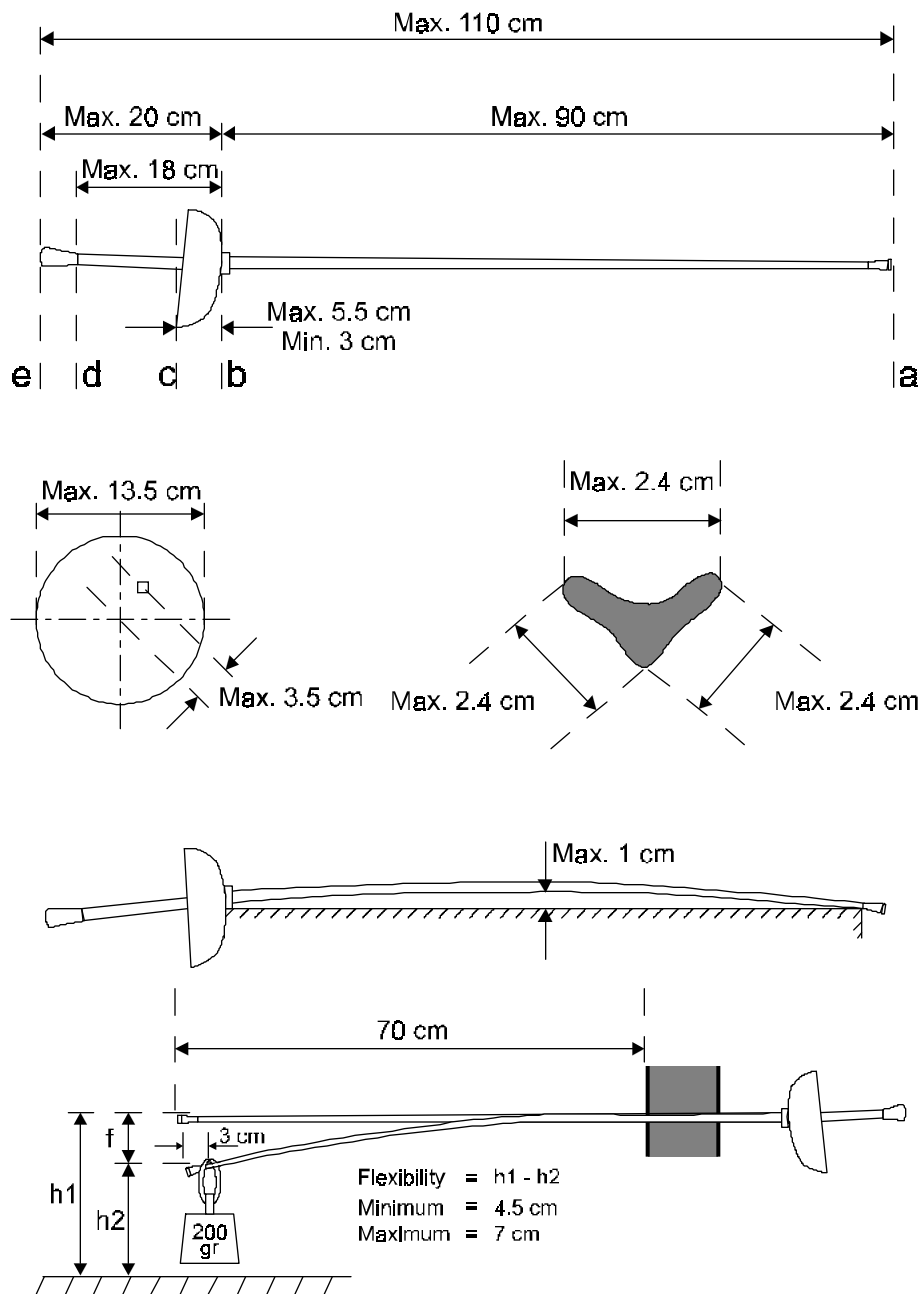


Figure III-1: Epee Dimension and Flex Test Diagrams

e) The guard (Cf. 26)

310 The guard, which must have a circular edge, must be able to pass through a cylindrical gauge having a diameter of 13.5 cm and a length of 15 cm, the blade being parallel to the axis of the cylinder. The depth of the guard (the distance between planes B and C) must be between 3.0 and 5.5 cm (Cf. 24). The total length between planes A and C must never be greater than 95.5 cm (Cf. 24). Eccentric mounting (the distance between the center of the guard and the point where the blade passes through the guard) is allowed provided it does not exceed 3.5 cm.

§ 2. Points and tips

For the electrical epee

- 311**
1. The electrical point is completed by a tip that must conform to the specifications in Part VII (Cf. 732).
 3. The point should be fixed to the end of the blade and conform to the specifications in Part VII (Cf. 733).
 4. The pressure that must be exerted on the tip in order to cause the scoring machine to register a touch must be more than 750 grams; this weight must be lifted by the spring of the point (Cf. 732).

5. The distance that the tip must travel back in order to cause the scoring machine to register a touch (the “lighting stroke”) must be greater than 1.0 mm. The further distance that the tip may travel (the “residual travel”) must be less than 0.5 mm. This last requirement is as vital as that dictating the length of the “lighting stroke.” The total travel must be greater than 1.5 mm (Cf. 18, 732).

312 Deleted.

B) EQUIPMENT

§ 1. The mask

- 313 The mask must not be covered, in whole or in part, by material that can cause the point to glance off (Cf. 27).

The mask must be so shaped that the bib reaches below the prominences of the collarbones.

§ 2. The body cord

- 314 The conducting wires of the body cord (fencers’ personal equipment) must be well insulated from each other, insensitive to humidity, and twisted or joined together. The maximum electrical resistance allowed for each of these conducting wires from plug to plug is 1 ohm.

The body cord has a connecting plug at each end. At the reel end the three-prong male plug is connected to the wire as follows:

- the prong at 15 mm to whichever wire is most directly connected to the point;
- the central prong to the other wire in the epee; and
- the prong at 20 mm to the epee ground circuit and the metallic strip.

This plug must conform to the conditions of manufacture and mounting specified in Part VII (Cf. 710, 730).

Inside the guard the choice of system is free, but the system chosen must comply with the conditions of article 712.

In addition, the prongs of the plug must not on any account be permitted to contact the metal of the guard.

The two wires coming from the tip must be protected by two insulating sheaths, one for each wire, from the point where they enter the guard up to the two insulated plug holes on the plug socket. In no case may uninsulated wires extend beyond the plug connections (Cf. 26, 310, 712, 730).

C) CLOTHING

- 315 The jacket, which must cover the entire front of the trunk, must be completed by a lining in two parts, the one making a double layer of material for the sleeve down to the elbow of the sword-arm and the other covering the flank in the region of the armpit. The collar must have a minimum height of 3 cm.

Clothing must, in all cases, conform to the safety standards annexed to the rules.

Women’s clothing must include, inside the jacket, breast protectors of metal or other rigid material (Cf. 27/4).

The lower edge of the jacket must overlap the breeches by at least 10 cm when the fencer is in the “on guard” position.

Chapter IV – THE CONVENTIONS OF EPEE FENCING

A) METHOD OF MAKING TOUCHES

- 316 The epee is a thrusting weapon only. Attacks with this weapon must therefore be made with the point, and with the point only.

When fencing with nonelectric weapons, any touch made with the point must arrive clearly and distinctly to be counted (Cf. 29).

It is strictly forbidden to press or drag the point of the electric weapon on the metallic strip during the bout (between “Fence” and “Halt”). It is equally forbidden, at any time, to straighten the weapon on the strip.

Any breaking of this rule will be penalized according to articles 635, 637 and 641 (1st group).

B) VALID SURFACE

- 317 For epee the valid surface includes the whole of the fencer’s body, including his clothing and equipment.

Thus, any touch that arrives counts as a valid touch whatever part of the body (trunk, limbs or head), the clothing or the equipment it reaches. (Cf. Fig. III-2, Valid Surface for Epee)

C) CORPS A CORPS AND FLECHE ATTACKS

- 318 In epee a fencer who either by a fleche attack or by vigorous attacks causes *corps à corps*, even several times in succession, (without brutality or violence) does not transgress the basic conventions of fencing and commits no fault thereby (Cf. 34, 37).⁴ A fencer who intentionally causes *corps à corps* to avoid being touched or who jostles his opponent will be penalized as specified in articles 635, 637 and 641 (1st group).

D) NUMBER OF TOUCHES – DURATION OF THE BOUT

Note: Articles 319 to 321 are no longer in effect. See the comments following Articles 47 and 49, and the FIE Temporary Provisions, Appendix B of these Rules.

- 319 In epee, bouts are for five touches, with a duration of six minutes for each bout; for direct elimination, two encounters for five touches each with a deciding encounter if necessary, or one bout for a given number of touches (Cf. 544f., 555A).
- 320 If, as the result of a double touch, both competitors score the maximum number of touches being fenced for, they must fence for one or more additional touches until the expiration of the time limit. Any further double touch is annulled (and

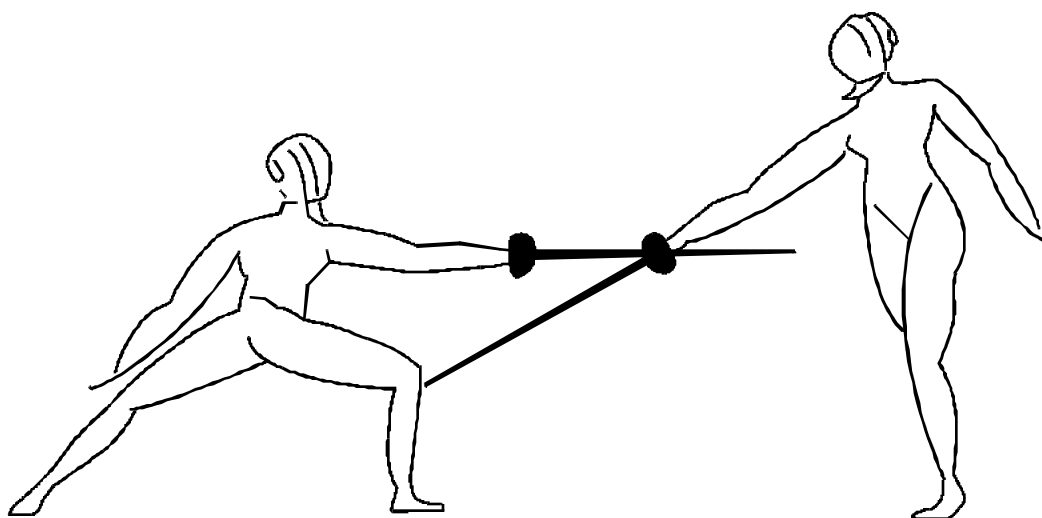


Figure III-2: Valid Surface for Epee

therefore the fencers hold their ground on the strip). The score in such a case will always be marked as the maximum number of touches for each fencer (for example when the bout is for five touches, the score is entered on the score sheet as D/5 and V/5) (Cf. 321b).

- 321** When the allotted time limit expires before the bout is competed:
- a) in epee for one touch, both competitors are counted as touched and a defeat is scored against each.
 - b) in epee for several touches:
 - if one competitor has scored more touches than the other, the number of touches required to bring it up to the maximum being fenced for must be added to his score, and the same number of touches must be added to his opponent's score.
 - if both competitors have scored the same number of touches (or no touches), they are both counted as having scored the maximum number of touches being fenced for and a defeat is scored against each, except in direct elimination where the bout goes on without any limitation of the time until there is a result (Cf. 545).

Note: The second bullet of part (b) is no longer in effect; see the comments following Article 49, and the FIE Temporary Provisions, Appendix B of these Rules.

E) THE JUDGING OF TOUCHES IN EPEE

322 Epee competitions are judged with electrical scoring apparatus (this is mandatory for official FIE competitions).

I. MATERIALITY OF THE TOUCH

§ 1. Basic principle

323 Only the indications of the scoring machine may be taken into consideration for judging the

materiality of touches. In no circumstances may the referee declare a competitor to have scored a touch unless the touch has been properly registered by the machine (except as specified in the regulations (Cf. 321, 555A) and in the case of penalty touches) (Cf. 72, 626, 709/4).

§ 2. The annulment of touches

- 324** 1. In arriving at his judgment, the referee will disregard touches that are registered as a result of actions:
- started before the word “Fence” or after the word “Halt” (Cf. 32); or
 - caused by the meeting of the points of the epees or by a touch made on the ground (when there is no metallic strip, or outside it) or that are made on any object other than the opponent, including his equipment (Cf. 74, 331).
- 325** A fencer who voluntarily causes the machine to register a touch by placing his point on any surface other than that of his opponent will be penalized as specified in articles 635, 637 and 641 (1st group).
If in the final minute of fencing a fencer voluntarily causes a touch by placing his point on any surface other than his opponent, he will be penalized as specified in articles 635, 638 and 641 (2nd group).
- 326** 2. Further, the referee must take note of possible failure of the electrical equipment and annul the last touch registered in the following circumstances:
- a) if a touch made on the guard of the competitor against whom the touch was registered or on the insulated strip causes the machine to register a touch;
 - b) if a touch properly made by the competitor against whom the touch was registered does not cause the machine to register a touch;

- c) if the machine registers an extraneous touch on the side of the competitor against whom the touch was registered; for example, after a beat on the blade, by any movements of his opponent, by vibrations on the strip that are transmitted to the central electrical apparatus or as a result of any cause other than a properly made touch; or
- d) if the registering of a touch made by the competitor against whom the touch was registered:
 - does not prevent the registering of a subsequent touch made by his opponent after a lapse of time greater than that required to register a double touch; or
 - is annulled by a subsequent touch made by his opponent.

327 3. The referee must also apply the following rules regarding the annulment of touches:

- a) Only the last touch preceding the establishment of the fault may be annulled and then only if it is the competitor against whom the touch was registered who is placed at a disadvantage by the fault.
- b) The failure must be determined by tests made immediately after the bout was stopped, under the supervision of the referee and without any changes to the equipment in use.
- c) With these tests, one is only trying to establish whether there is a material possibility of a mistake in the judging as the result of a fault. The localization of this fault in the electrical equipment, including that of either of the fencers, is unimportant in reaching a decision.
- d) A fencer who makes any modification in or changes his equipment without being asked by the referee to do so, before a judgment is pronounced, loses his right to the annulment of the touch (Cf. 71/3). Similarly, after again coming on guard and after the bout has effectively recommenced,⁵ a fencer cannot claim the annulment of a touch registered against him before the recommencement of the bout.
- e) It is not necessary, for the annulment of a touch, that the failure found should repeat itself each time a test is made, but it is essential that the fault should be established by the referee without the possibility of doubt at least once.
- f) If the incidents mentioned in article 326 occur as a result of the competitor's body cord being unplugged (either near the hand or at the back of the fencer), they cannot justify the annulment of the touch registered.

However, if the safety device prescribed in article 710 does not work or is missing, the annulment should be allowed if the plug at the fencer's back comes loose.

- g) The fact that the epee of a competitor shows on the guard, on the blade or elsewhere large or small areas of insulation formed by oxidation, glue, paint or any other material on which his opponent's touches can cause a touch to be registered, or that the electric point is badly fixed to the end of the blade so that it can be unscrewed or tightened by hand, cannot justify the annulment of touches registered against that competitor.
- h) The fact that a fencer against whom a touch has been registered is found to have broken his blade justifies the annulment of that touch unless the breaking of the blade clearly occurred after the registration of the touch.
- i) When a competitor tears the metallic strip by a touch made on the ground and, at the same time, the machine registers a touch against his opponent, the touch must be annulled.
- j) Whenever, owing to some accidental cause, tests cannot be made, the touch must be considered as doubtful and must be annulled (but Cf. 331).
- k) The referee must pay particular attention to touches that are not registered or that are registered abnormally. Should such defects be repeated, the referee must ask the members of the Commission for Electrical Apparatus and Equipment present or an expert technician on duty to verify that the equipment conforms to the rules.
The referee must ensure that nothing is altered either in the competitor's equipment or in any of the electrical apparatus before the expert makes the inspection.

328 4. The referee must supervise the condition of the metallic strip; he must not allow the bout to commence or to continue if the metallic strip has holes in it that might affect the proper registering of touches. (The organizers must make the necessary arrangements to ensure the rapid repair or replacement of the metallic strips).

II. VALIDITY OR PRIORITY OF THE TOUCH

§ 1. Basic principle

329 In epee, when both competitors are touched, priority of a touch is allowed only when there is an appreciable difference of time between the touches; if no such difference exists there is a "double touch"; that is to say a touch is scored for each competitor.

§ 2. Judging

- 330** The electrical scoring machine registers a double touch if the difference of time between the two touches is less than from 1/20th to 1/25th of a second.
- 331** When there is a double touch made by two valid touches a touch is scored for each competitor. If a double touch is registered and one touch is valid and the other is not valid (a touch made outside the opponent (Cf. 324) or a touch made after leaving the strip (Cf. 43ff)), only the valid touch is scored.
- If a double touch is registered by an definite touch and a doubtful touch (failure of the electrical apparatus, disagreement or uncertainty of judges), the fencer who has made the definite touch has the choice of accepting the double touch or having it annulled.

Notes

- 4 The “fleche ending systematically in *corps à corps*” referred to in this article must not be confused with the “fleche resulting in a shock that jostles the opponent,” which is considered as an act of voluntary brutality in all three weapons and is punished as such (Cf. 637, 641-1st group). On the other hand, the “fleche that is made by running past the opponent” and without *corps à corps* is not forbidden; the referee should not call “Halt” too soon, in order not to annul a possible riposte. If when making such a running fleche without touching his opponent the fencer who makes the fleche systematically crosses the lateral boundaries of the strip, he must be punished as specified in article 43.
- 5 The fact that the referee has said “Fence”, even if some time has thereafter elapsed, does not necessarily mean that “the bout has effectively recommenced,” if the fencers have maintained a passive attitude. For the bout to have effectively recommenced, the fencers must have actually engaged in a fencing phrase that could have affected the equipment in use (Cf. 327d).

PART FOUR: SABRE

Chapter I – HISTORICAL NOTES

The FIE sabre rules include the essential portions of the rules that were adopted at the Olympic Games in London in 1908 and in Stockholm in 1912. They also conform to the basic principles of the Ostend rules and the Hungarian rules and were adopted 12 June 1914 by the FIE Committee for Sabre assembled in Paris under the chairmanship of Dr. Bela Nagy, President of the Hungarian Fencing Federation, who edited the proposed rules.

The present rules merely complete and define those adopted in 1914 and modified by subsequent Congresses.

The rules governing sabre competitions conducted with the aid of electrical scoring apparatus were adopted in 1988.

Chapter II – FIELD OF PLAY (Cf. 14ff)

- 401** Sabre competitions are held indoors on strips made of linoleum, cork, rubber, plastic, metal or metallic mesh, or a metal-based material.
- 402** The width of the strip is from 1.50 to 2.00 meters and its length is 14 meters (Cf. 15, 38ff, 202 and Fig. I-1, Strip Diagram).
- 403** Five lines should be drawn very clearly on the strip perpendicular to its length, as follows:
- **one center line**, which must be drawn as a broken line across the entire width of the strip.
 - **two on guard lines** located 2 meters on either side of the center line (these must be drawn across the entire width of the strip).
 - **two rear limit lines**, which must be drawn across the entire width of the strip, at a distance of seven meters from the center line. In addition, the last two meters of the strip before these rear limit lines must be clearly distinguished – if possible by a different color of strip – to enable the fencers easily to identify their positions on the strip (Cf. 15, 38ff and Fig. I-1, Strip Diagram). A fencer who crosses his rear limit with both feet is considered as touched (Cf. 39).

Chapter III – SABRE EQUIPMENT (Weapons – Equipment – Clothing) (Cf. 16ff)

A) WEAPONS (Cf. 22ff)

§ 1. General specifications for sabres

a) Length

- 404** The maximum total length of the sabre is 105 cm.

b) Weight

- 405** The total weight of the sabre ready for use is less than 500 grams.

c) Blade

- 406** The blade is made of steel with an approximately rectangular cross-section. Its maximum length is 88 cm; the minimum width of the blade, which must be at the button, is 4 mm; its thickness, also immediately below the button, must be at least 1.2 mm (Cf. Fig. IV-1, Sabre Dimensions). The end of the blade must be folded over onto itself or be fashioned in one piece to form a button that, viewed end on, must have a square or rectangular cross-section of 4 mm minimum and 6 mm maximum. The maximum dimension must be at most 3 mm from the end of the blade (Cf. Fig. IV-2, Sabre Tip).

The end of the blade may also be made with a solid button, which must present the same cross-section as the folded button.

Blades that are too rigid or too whippy are forbidden. Similarly, sabres having shapes out of the ordinary are forbidden. If the blade has a curve, it must be a distinct curve that must be continuous, with a bend of less than 4 cm. Blades with sharply bent extremities or that curve in the direction of the cutting edge are forbidden.

All methods of treating a blade between the guard and the point, whether by grinding, filing or otherwise, are strictly forbidden, as is the sharpening of its rounded extremity (Cf. 22).

The sabre blade must have a flexibility equivalent to a bend of minimum 7 cm and maximum 12 cm measured in the following way:

- 1) The blade is fixed horizontally at a point 70 cm from the point of the blade.
- 2) A 200 gram weight is hung 1 cm from the point.
- 3) The curve is measured at the point of the blade between the weighted and nonweighted positions

(Cf. Fig. IV-3, Sabre Flex Test).

d) Guard (Cf. 26)

- 407** The guard must be full in shape, made in one piece and externally smooth. It must have a convex form that is continuous, without rim or holes.

It must be able to pass through a rectangular gauge measuring 15 cm by 14 cm in cross-section, with a length of 15 cm, the blade being parallel to the axis of the gauge.

(Cf. Fig. IV-1, Sabre Dimensions).

B) EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING

- 408** 1. For sabre, masks must be well padded and have bibs that are sufficiently large and strong (Cf. 27).
2. The wrist or sleeve portion of the glove (the gauntlet) must not be made of leather that is hardened or of patent leather, or of any other material that might make the blade glance off.
3. The elbow guard may be made of hardened leather.
4. The jacket must cover the valid surface of the trunk, its lower part overlapping the breeches

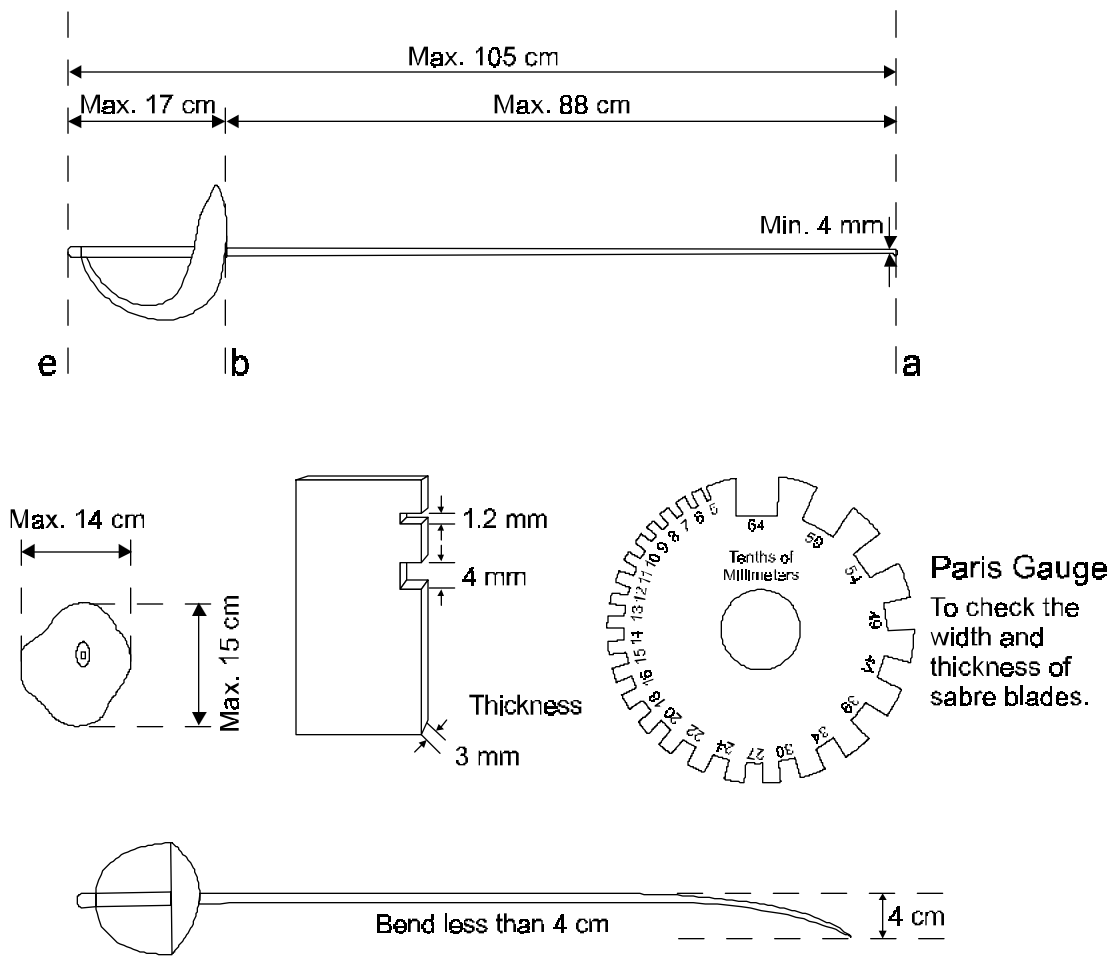


Figure IV-1: Sabre Dimensions

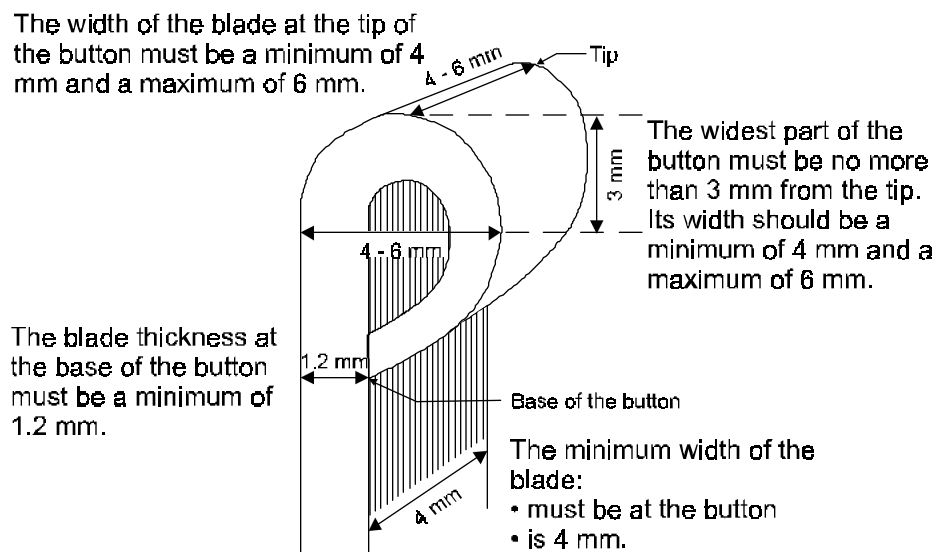


Figure IV-2: Sabre Tip

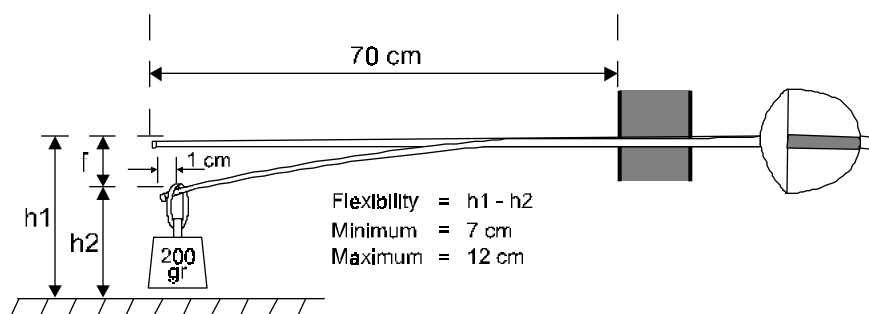


Figure IV-3: Sabre Flex Test

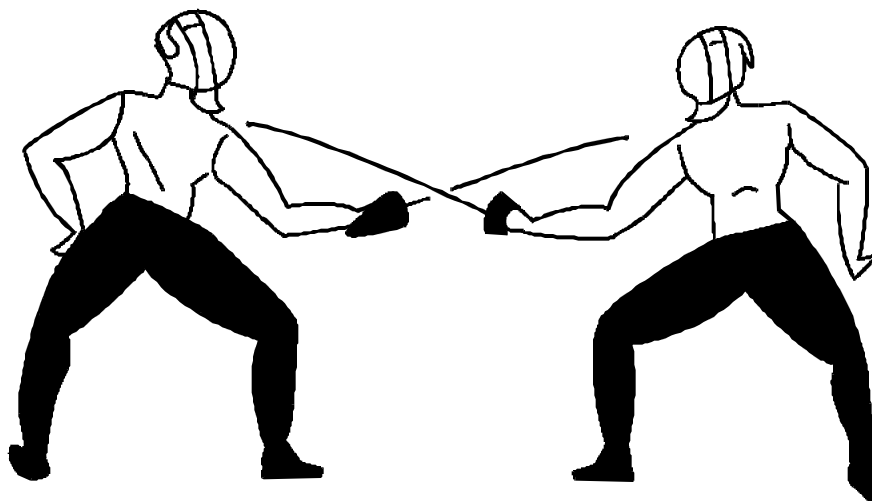


Figure IV-4: Valid Surface for Sabre

by at least 10 cm when the fencer is in the “on guard” position (Cf. 19, 410).

5. The jacket must include a lining making a double layer of material for the sleeve down to the elbow of the sword-arm and covering the flank in the region of the armpit.

Clothing must, in all cases, conform to the safety standards annexed to the rules.

Chapter IV – THE CONVENTIONS OF SABRE FENCING

A) METHOD OF MAKING TOUCHES

409 Sabre is a weapon for thrusting and cutting with the edge and the back edge (Cf. 29).

- a) All touches made with the cutting edge, the side or the back edge of the blade are counted as valid touches (edge cuts and back edge cuts).

It is forbidden to hit with the guard. Any touch caused by hitting with the guard will be annulled and the fencer causing this touch will be penalized as specified in articles 635, 637 and 641 (1st group).

- b) Touches with the point that graze the valid surface or cuts that slip along the opponent’s body (passé touches) do not count.

- c) Touches through the blade, that is to say those that at the same time touch the sabre of the opponent and the vulnerable part [valid surface], are valid whenever the cutting edge, the back edge or point arrives clearly on the valid surface.

B) VALID SURFACE

§ 1. Limitation of the valid surface

410 In sabre, only touches that arrive on the surface designated as valid are counted.

The valid surface comprises the entire body above a horizontal line drawn between the top of the folds formed by the thighs and the trunk of the fencer when in the “on guard” position (Cf. Fig. IV-4, Valid Surface for Sabre).

411 A touch that arrives on a nonvalid surface is not counted; it does not stop the fencing phrase and does not annul subsequent touches.

The referee must penalize a fencer who replaces a valid surface with a nonvalid surface, either by covering or by an abnormal movement.

For such an offense, the referee will penalize the fencer at fault as specified in articles 635, 637 and 641 (1st group).

C) CORPS A CORPS AND FLECHE ATTACKS

412 In sabre, it is forbidden to cause *corps à corps* (even without brutality or violence), *corps à corps* to avoid a touch, or *corps à corps* with jostling. When such an offense is committed, the referee will penalize the fencer at fault as specified in articles 635, 637 and 641 (1st group).

D) NUMBER OF TOUCHES – DURATION OF A BOUT

Note: Articles 413 and 414 are no longer in effect; see the comments following Articles 47 and 49, and the FIE Temporary Provisions, Appendix B of these Rules.

413 In sabre, bouts are fenced for five touches with a duration of six minutes per bout; for direct elimination, either two encounters for five touches with a deciding encounter if necessary, or one bout for a given number of touches (Cf. 554f., 555A).

- 414** When the time limit expires before the bout has been completed:
- if one competitor has scored more touches than the other, the number of touches required to bring it up to the maximum being fenced for must be added to his score, and the same number of touches must be added to his opponent's score.
 - if both competitors have scored the same number of touches, they are counted as having both scored one less than the maximum number of touches and they fence for the last touch without any time limit. They are replaced on guard in the positions that they occupied when the bout was interrupted (Cf. 32).
 - However, if the referee has had to draw lots to give attacking priority (Cf. 423) either before or at the expiration of time, the measures specified in article 423h, "Scoring of the Bout", must be applied.

E) JUDGING OF TOUCHES IN SABRE

I. Materiality of the touch

- 415** 1. In nonelectric sabre, all bouts are judged by a jury (Cf. 61ff). For the materiality of touches, refer to articles 68ff.
2. If the competitions are conducted with the aid of electrical scoring apparatus (mandatory for official FIE competitions), only the indications of the scoring machine may be taken into consideration for judging the materiality of touches. The referee cannot declare a competitor to have scored a touch unless the touch has been properly registered by the machine, except as specified in the rules (Cf. 414, 555A) and in the case of penalty touches (Cf. 72, 626, 709/4).

The referee must, however, take into account possible failures of the electrical equipment; in particular, he must annul a touch that he has just awarded as a result of a touch registered by the

machine, if he establishes, by tests made under his personal supervision, before the bout has effectively recommenced⁶ and without any of the equipment in use having changed (Cf. 71/3 & 5):

- that a touch made by the fencer against whom the touch was awarded is not registered by the machine,
- that the registration of touches made by the fencer against whom the touch was awarded does not remain recorded on the machine,
- that the sabre of the fencer who has scored the touch is not equipped with a sensor, or
- that a touch can be registered on the fencer against whom the touch was awarded without there in fact having been a touch, or by a touch on the weapon or on a nonvalid surface.

If the sabre of the fencer against whom the touch was awarded does not conform to the provisions of article 428 (insulation of the interior and exterior of the guard, of the handle and of the pommel), the touch will not be annulled, even if a touch on the weapon causes the registration of a touch.

The referee must also apply the following rules:

- Only the last touch made before the fault is established may be annulled.
- A fencer who makes any modification in or changes his equipment without being asked by the referee to do so before the referee has given his decision loses all right to the annulment of the touch (Cf. 71/3).
- If the bout has effectively recommenced,⁶ a competitor cannot claim the annulment of a touch awarded against him before the recommencement of the bout.
- The localization of a fault found in the equipment (including the equipment of the competitors) is of no importance for this possible annulment.
- It is not necessary that the failure found should repeat itself each time a test is made, but it is essential that the fault should be established by the referee himself at least once without the possibility of doubt during the tests made by him or under his supervision.
- The fact that the competitor against whom a touch has been awarded has broken his blade cannot alone justify the annulment of that touch.
- The referee must be extremely attentive to touches that are not registered or that are registered abnormally by the machine. Should such defects be repeated, the referee must call for a member of the Commission for Electrical Apparatus and Equipment or the expert technician on duty to verify that the equipment conforms to the rules.
- Whenever accidental causes make it impossible to carry out tests, the touch will be considered doubtful (Cf. 69/5).
- If touches are registered on both sides of the machine, the referee will apply the regulations in articles 422 and 423.

- j) In accordance with the general rules (Cf. 32), the referee must stop the bout, even if no touch is registered by the machine, whenever fencing becomes confused and he is no longer able to analyze the phrase.

VALIDITY OR PRIORITY OF THE TOUCH

§ 1. Preface

416 Whatever method a referee has used to make a decision regarding the materiality of a touch (either with the assistance of a jury or with electrical scoring apparatus), he *alone* then decides as to the validity or the priority of the touch by applying the following basic rules that are the conventions applicable to sabre fencing.

§ 2. Regard for the fencing phrase

- 417** a) Any attack properly executed (Cf. 10) must be parried or completely avoided and the fencing phrase must be followed through.
- b) The attack is an initial offensive action, executed by extending the arm and continuously threatening the valid surface with the point or the cutting edge.
1. An attack with a lunge is correctly executed:
 - as a *simple attack* (Cf. 11) when the arm extends during the lunge and the touch arrives at the latest when the front foot makes contact with the strip.
 - as a *compound attack* (Cf. 11) when, with the arm extending in the correct presentation of the first feint (Cf. 419), the touch arrives at the latest when the front foot makes contact with the strip or immediately afterwards.
 2. A fleche attack is correctly executed:
 - as a *simple attack* (Cf. 11) when the arm extends during the fleche and when the touch arrives at the latest before the rear foot again makes contact with the strip or as it does so.
 - as a *compound attack* (Cf. 11) when, with the arm extending in the correct presentation of the first feint (Cf. 419), the touch arrives at the latest as the front foot again makes contact with the strip.
 3. An attack made with an advance-lunge or an advance-fleche is correctly executed:
 - as a *simple attack* (Cf. 11) when the arm extends before the completion of the advance and when the touch arrives at the latest at the end of the lunge or the fleche (Cf. 417a&b).
 - as a *compound attack* (Cf. 11) when, with the arm extending in the correct presentation of the first feint (Cf. 419) during the advance, the touch arrives at the latest at the end of the lunge or the fleche (Cf. 417a&b).

4. In no case should a fleche attack end in *corps à corps* (Cf. 412). It may be followed by a reprise of the attack, but only after a pause in the action (Cf. 13c).
5. Continuous forward motion with crossing of the feet is forbidden. Any infraction of this rule will result in the penalties set forth in articles 635, 637, and 641 (1st group). A touch made by the fencer at fault will be annulled. On the other hand, a touch correctly made by the opponent will be counted.

418 c) In order to judge the correctness of an attack, the following points must be considered:

1. If the attack is initiated when the opponent has his point “in line” (i.e. with the arm straight and the point threatening a valid surface), the attacker must first deflect the opponent’s weapon. Referees must ensure that mere blade contact is not considered as sufficient to deflect the opponent’s blade.
2. If, when attempting to find the opponent’s blade to deflect it, the blade is not found, the right of attack passes to the opponent.
3. If the attack is commenced when the opponent’s blade is not “in line,” the attack may be completed directly, by a disengagement, by a *coupé*, or even preceded by successful feints (Cf. 419) that oblige the opponent to execute a parry.

419 d) In compound attacks the feint must be correctly presented, i.e.:

1. A feint with the point: the arm extended with the point continuously threatening the valid surface
2. A feint with a cut: the arm extended, the blade and the arm forming an obtuse angle of about 135°, with the cutting edge threatening a valid surface.

e) In a compound attack, if the opponent finds the blade in one of the feints, he has the right to riposte.

f) In a compound attack the opponent has the right to stop hit, but in order to be valid, the stop hit must precede the last movement of the attack by one period of fencing time, i.e. the stop hit must arrive before the attacker has started the last movement of the attack itself.

420 g) Attacks by beats on the blade

1. In an attack by beating on the blade, the attack is correctly executed and retains its priority when the beat is made on the foible of the opponent’s blade, i.e. the distal two-thirds of the blade.
2. In an attack by beating on the blade, when the beat is made on the forte of the opponent’s blade, i.e. the proximal one-third of the blade, the attack is badly

executed and the beat gives the opponent the right to an immediate riposte.

- 421 h) The parry gives the right to riposte; a simple riposte may be direct or indirect, but in order to annul any subsequent action by the attacker, it must be executed immediately, without any hesitation or pause.

Against cuts, the object of the parry is to prevent touches made by the opponent from arriving on the intended valid surface, therefore:

1. The parry is properly executed when, before the completion of the attack, it prevents the arrival of that attack by closing the line in which the attack is to finish.
2. When a parry is properly executed, the opponent's offensive action must be declared parried, and judged as such by the jury, even if, as a result of its flexibility, the extremity of the opponent's weapon makes contact with the intended target.

When analyzing the fencing phrase, the referee must obtain precise answers from the judges, i.e., "Yes," "Yes, but off target," "No," or "Abstain."

He must consistently refuse to accept answers such as "Badly parried," "Insufficiently parried," "Laid on," etc.

§ 3. Judging

- 422 In applying the basic conventions of sabre fencing, the referee must judge as follows:

- 1° When during a phrase both fencers are touched simultaneously, there is either a **simultaneous action** or a **double touch**. The first of these conditions is due to the simultaneous conception and execution of attacks by both fencers; in this case the touches exchanged are annulled for both fencers without prejudice to the provisions of article 423..
- 2° The double touch (*coup double*), on the other hand, is the result of a faulty action on the part of one of the fencers.

Therefore, when there is not an interval of fencing time between the touches:

1. Only the fencer who is attacked is counted as touched if:

- a) he makes a stop hit into his opponent's simple attack made from correct fencing distance;
- b) instead of parrying, he attempts to evade the touch and does not succeed;
- c) after a successful parry, he makes a momentary pause that gives his opponent the right to re-attack (redoublement, remise or reprise);
- d) during a compound attack, he makes a stop hit without being in time; or
- e) having his point "in line" (arm straight and point threatening a valid surface) and being subjected to a beat or a *prise de fer*

that deflects his weapon, he attacks or places his point in line again instead of parrying a direct thrust made by his opponent.

2. Only the fencer who attacks is counted as touched if:

- a) he initiates his attack when his opponent has his point "in line" (arm straight and point threatening a valid surface) without deflecting the opponent's weapon. Referees must ensure that mere blade contact is not considered as sufficient to deflect the opponent's blade.
- b) he attempts to find the blade, does not succeed (because he is deceived) and continues the attack;
- c) during a compound attack in which his opponent finds the blade, he continues the attack while his opponent immediately ripostes;
- d) during a compound attack, he withdraws his arm or makes a momentary pause, during which time the opponent makes a stop hit or an attack, while the attacker continues his own attack;
- e) during a compound attack, he is stopped one period of fencing time before he makes his final movement;
- f) he makes a touch by a remise, redoublement or reprise on his opponent's parry, which has been followed by a riposte that is immediate, simple, and executed in one period of fencing time without withdrawing the arm; or
- g) his fleche attack is not executed in accordance with article 417/2&3 or if the continuation of his fleche attack does not abide by the regulations specified in article 417/4, and the fencer who is attacked executes an offensive or defensive action in the same time.

3. The fencers are replaced on guard each time there is a double touch and the referee is unable to judge clearly from which side the fault has come.

One of the most difficult cases to judge arises when a stop hit is made and there is doubt as to whether it was made sufficiently in time in relation to the final movement of a compound attack. Generally, in such cases, the double touch occurs through the fault of both fencers concerned, which justifies the referee in replacing them on guard. (The fault of the attacker consists of indecision, slowness of execution or the making of feints that are not sufficiently effective; the fault of the defender lies in delay or slowness in making the stop hit.)

§ 4. Simultaneous attacks

- 423 [Double] Touches delivered by simultaneous attacks are not counted.

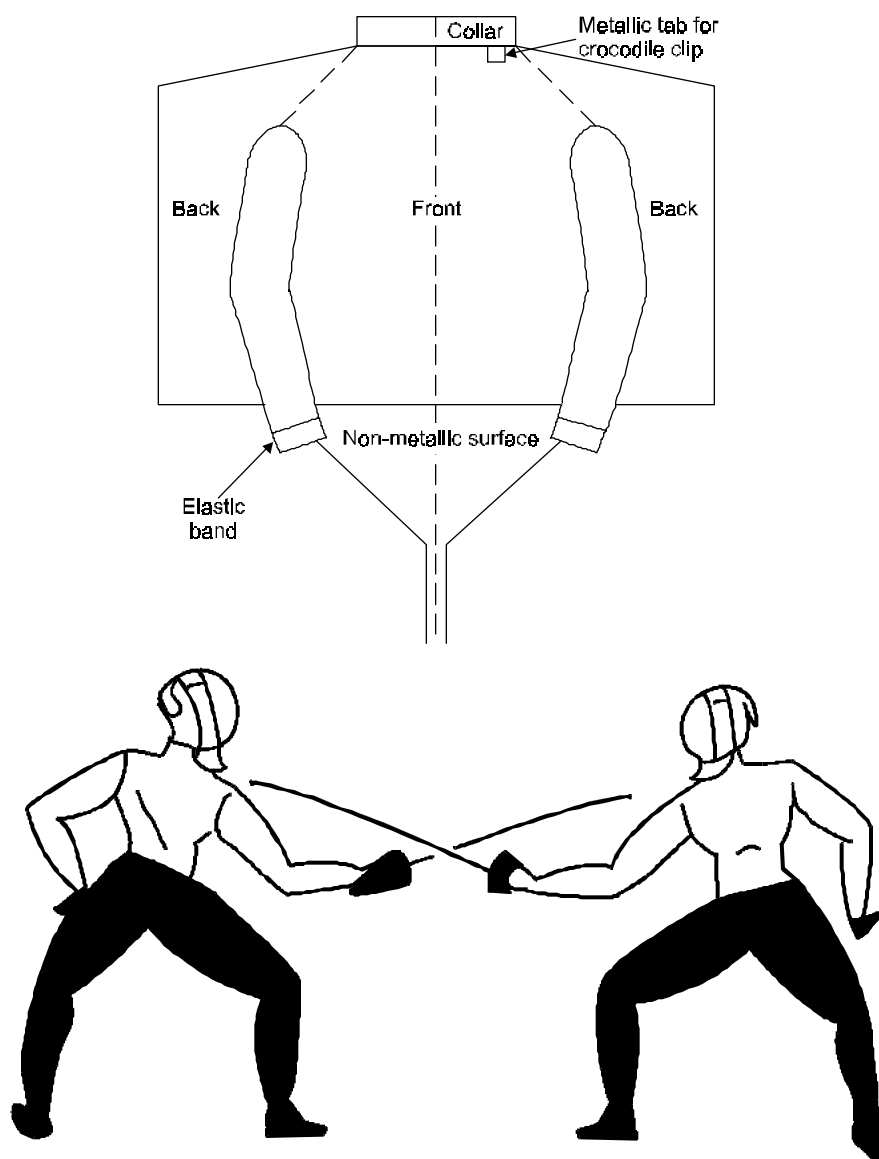


Figure IV-5: Metallic Jacket and Valid Surface for Electric Sabre

Chapter V – SPECIAL CONDITIONS THAT MUST BE MET BY THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE ELECTRICAL SABRE EQUIPMENT

a) Metallic jacket

424 The fencer wears over his jacket a metallic jacket whose conductive surface must cover entirely and without omission the valid surface of the body located above the horizontal line passing around the body through the tops of the folds formed between the thighs and the trunk when the fencer is in the “on guard” position.

The conductive surface covers the arms as far as the wrists. The jacket includes a collar that must be at least 3 cm high. The jacket is equipped in the middle of the back, beneath the collar, with a 2 cm

by 3 cm metallic tab for the attachment of the mask wire crocodile clip.

Whatever the means of fastening used, the metallic material must cover a sufficient area to ensure that it covers the valid surface in all positions of the fencer.

The lamé material must satisfy the conditions required for its verification (Cf. 722).

The sleeves of the metallic jacket must be fixed at the wrists by means of an elastic band. There must be a strap passing between the legs of the fencer to hold the jacket in place (Cf. Fig. IV-5, Metallic Jacket and Valid Surface for Electric Sabre).

b) Body cord and attachment plugs

425 Fencers must use a body cord as specified in article 217, plugged into the guard by any system that satisfies the conditions of manufacture and assembly specified in articles 710, 712 and 717.

- c) Mask**
- 426** The mesh of the mask must not be insulated and must ensure electrical conductivity. The bib and trim must be entirely covered by a metallic material having the same electrical characteristics as the metallic jacket. The trim may also be made from metal. The electrical resistance between the crocodile clip and any point on the mask must be less than 3 ohms. Electrical contact between the metallic jacket and the mask must be ensured by a wire and one or two crocodile clips. The wire must be attached either by a crocodile clip or by soldering to the mesh of the mask and must be between 30 and 40 cm long. The crocodile clip, which must conform in shape and size to the requirements of article 217, must be soldered to the other end of the wire.

- d) Glove**
- 427** The regulation glove on the sword hand must be covered by removable or attached metallic fabric on the back of the hand as far as the fingers and over the entire cuff. The metallic fabric must be folded over to the inside of the cuff to a depth of at least 5 cm. To guarantee good contact with the sleeve of the metallic jacket, it is necessary to use an elastic band, a snap or any system capable of ensuring contact and approved by the SEMI Commission.

- e) Sabre**
- 428** The regulations concerning the dimensions and characteristics of the nonelectric sabre are also valid – without any change – for the electric sabre (Cf. 404ff). Inside the guard there must be a connector into which the body cord may be plugged, whichever system is used. The mounting for the sensor (accelerometer) must be affixed inside the guard and attached firmly to the guard itself. To this mounting must be attached either a four-pin ARCHER (TANDY) socket, type 274001, or a BNC socket. The four pins must be connected to the blade, the guard, the body cord socket and the sensor, according to the attached diagrams (Cf. Fig. IV-6, Circuit Connections for Electric Sabre). The drawing and description that relate to the BNC socket remain as already approved by the SEMI Commission. The interior of the guard must be completely insulated by means of an insulating finish or pad. The exterior of the guard must be insulated for 7 to 8 cm from the pommel. The handle and the pommel must be completely insulated. The guard must be electrically insulated from the blade. The insulation between the guard and the blade that projects from the guard may not be thicker than 0.5 cm and will not be considered as part of the length of the blade.

Sabres without insulation between the guard and the blade are provisionally allowed.

Note: FIE Temporary Provision 4 states:

Sabre scoring machines that function without sensors (capteurs) are authorized on an experimental basis for the 1994-95 season. A definite decision will be made at the 1995 Congress concerning the use of sensors during the 1995-96 season.

The 1995 Congress voted to remove the sensor effective October 1, 1996. Tournaments held during the 1995-96 season may be fenced with or without a sensor.

As of March 1996, the USFA has not made a final decision about the use of sensors.

Notes

- 6 The fact that the referee has said “Fence”, even if some time has thereafter elapsed, does not necessarily mean that “the bout has effectively recommenced,” if the fencers have maintained a passive attitude. For the bout to have effectively recommenced, the fencers must have actually engaged in a fencing phrase that could have affected the equipment in use.

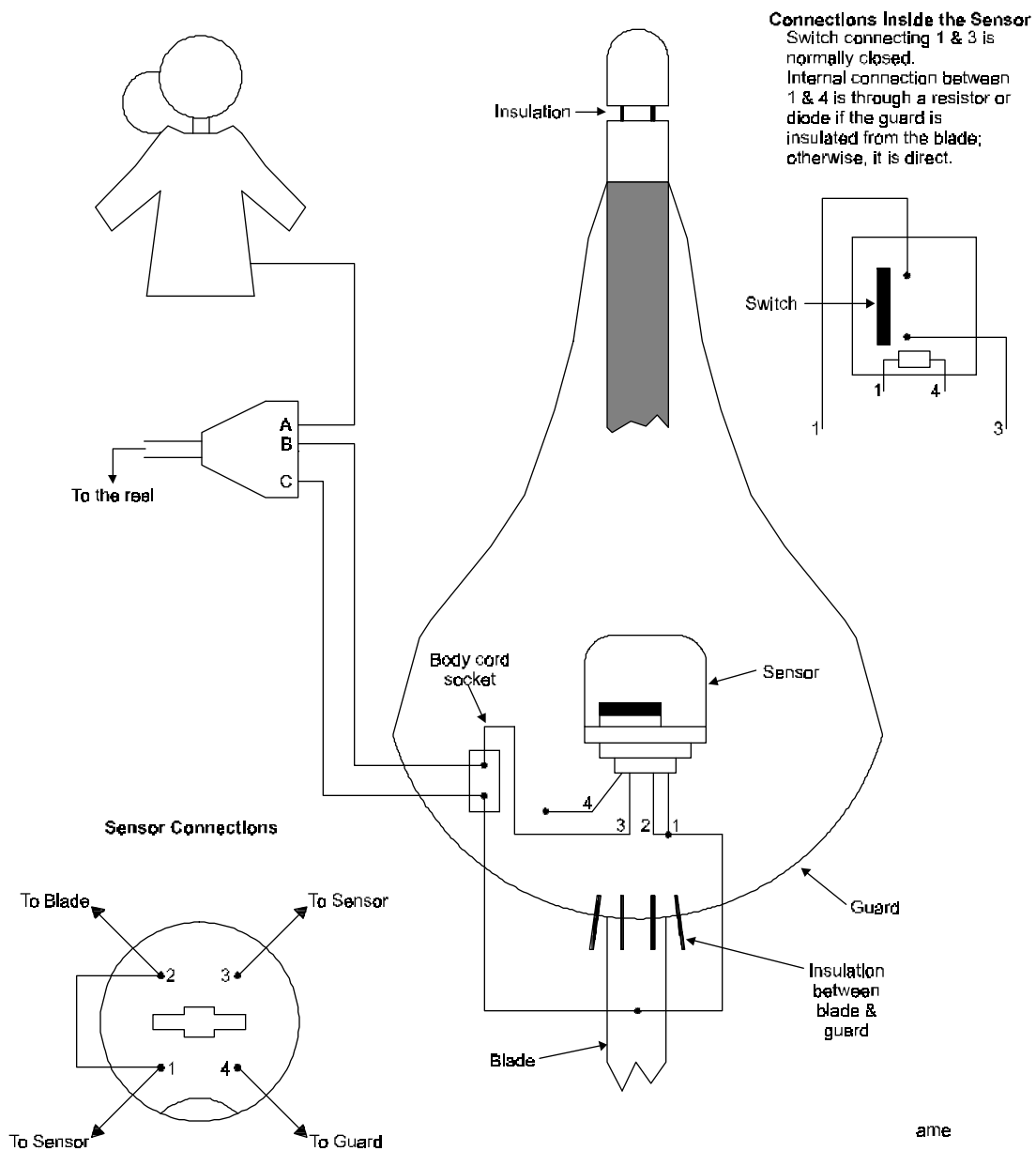


Figure IV-6: Circuit Connections for Electric Sabre

PART FIVE: ORGANIZATION OF COMPETITIONS

Chapter I – COMPETITIONS

501 Official FIE competitions are organized according to special rules (Cf. 570ff). Other international tournaments may include individual or team competitions for women in foil and epee and for men in all three weapons. These tournaments may be organized according to rules other than those for official FIE competitions.

502 Official FIE competitions, as well as other international tournaments, are open to all competitors (individual or team) of countries affiliated with the FIE; every competitor or participant in a competition, irrespective of his status, is required to hold a current international license (Cf. Statute 95).

In particular, a competitor (individual or team) from a national federation affiliated with the FIE may not participate in official FIE competitions or other international tournaments if he refuses to fence against any competitors whatsoever (individual or team) who have been correctly entered in the event.

Should this rule be broken, the competitor concerned (individual or team) will be immediately disqualified and the FIE Executive Committee will consider whether there are grounds, and to what extent, for penalizing the national federation to which the disqualified competitor belongs (Cf. Statute 14/j).

Chapter II – BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANIZATION AND CONTROL

§ 1. The organizing committee (Cf. 616)

503 The organizing committee is the group of persons responsible for organizing a championship or a tournament.

§ 2. The FIE Central Office (Cf. 621)

504 At the Olympic Games, the World Championships, the World Under-20 Championships and the World Cadet Championships, the FIE Central Office controls the activities of the bout committee as described in article 582.

§ 3. The bout committee (Cf. 617)

505 a) The technical organization of competitions is entrusted to a bout committee (mandatory for official FIE competitions) composed of six members for the Olympic Games and the World Championships and five for the World Under 20 Championships and the World Cadet Championships. The bout committee includes one member from the organizing country; the others must be of different nationalities (Cf. 581).

b) For official FIE competitions, the bout committee is appointed by the FIE Central Office, after approval by the Executive

Committee, and in agreement with the national federation that is organizing the tournament.

c) For the Olympic Games, this agreement must be made with the organizing committee for the fencing events appointed by the Olympic Committee of the country that is organizing the Games.

d) The members of the bout committee cannot act in any other capacity at the tournament, such as member of the Jury of Appeal, team captain, official delegate of their federation, competitor, etc. In special circumstances they may act as referees or as judges. Their functions include the strict and complete organization of the different events and the obligation to see that the rules are adhered to; they cannot decide on any departure from the rules except when circumstances arise in which it is absolutely impossible to apply them.

e) For all other international competitions, a bout committee composed of three members, each representing a different country, one of whom represents the country in which the tournament takes place, may be sufficient.

f) For official FIE competitions, when the bout committee has to make a judgment in the case of an appeal against a referee's decision, the decisions of the bout committee may be made by the majority of the members present (there must be at least three) at the moment of the appeal.

§ 4. Jury of Appeal (Cf. 618)

a) Nomination

506 At each international competition in which the representatives of two or more countries take part an international Jury of Appeal composed of one representative of each competing nation must be appointed .

At official FIE competitions, each national federation must nominate in writing, not later than the day before the start of the competition, its representative to the Jury of Appeal, as well as a substitute capable of replacing him in case of absence. In this manner, the federations ensure the presence of one or the other during the entire competition.

A national federation may modify, in writing, the designation of its representative and/or substitute if necessary.

Furthermore, elected members of the FIE Executive Committee who have no official function at the competition are ex-officio members of the Jury of Appeal with voice and vote when they are present at the competition.

Members cannot act if they are involved personally or by reason of their position. No member of the Jury of Appeal may be empowered to vote in the name of an absent colleague.

Members of the Jury of Appeal, with the exception of the President, may not vote in cases involving persons of their own nationality.

b) President

The Jury of Appeal is under the ex-officio presidency of the FIE President or the delegate of the FIE Central Office, who will only vote when a deciding vote is required. In the absence of a delegate of the Central Office, the Jury of Appeal appoints one of its members as its president. In this case the President thus named always votes and, if there is tie vote, his vote is decisive.

c) Jurisdiction

The Jury of Appeal may in no circumstances decide to waive the rules of the FIE even with the agreement of the parties concerned (Cf. 505d); it may only consider complaints and demands that are submitted to it in accordance with the rules.

d) Meetings

The members of the Jury of Appeal who are present when a complaint is lodged are convened forthwith by the bout committee or when necessary by the organizing committee; however, if an urgent decision is not required, the Jury of Appeal may be convened later. For this purpose, the members of the Jury of Appeal should keep the organizing committee informed as to where they can be found in an emergency when they are absent.

e) At the Olympic Games

At the Olympic Games the decisions of the Jury of Appeal are final, except in the case of a **nontechnical** dispute regarding which the final decision rests with the Executive Committee of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), which may intervene on its own responsibility or at the request of a national Olympic Committee, the FIE or the organizing committee (Article 39 of the General Rules for the Olympic Games, 1971 edition) (Cf. 619).

f) Deposit

When submitting a complaint to the Jury of Appeal, the appellant must deposit US \$80, or its equivalent in another currency, which may be confiscated in whole or in part for the benefit of the FIE in the case of a frivolous appeal (Cf. 614).

§ 5. Juries

507 All members of a jury must be appointed in accordance with the provisions of articles 56ff and 610.

The bout committee may (at any time and without having to justify its decision) alter the composition of a jury, in particular for the bouts of a barrage (Cf. 610).

In an emergency, the FIE Central Office may appoint the juries for particular competitions. For individual finals comprising six or more competitors, whenever possible there will be two complete juries (or two referees when judging with electrical apparatus). (This is mandatory for official FIE competitions – Cf. 58).

§ 6. Auxiliary personnel

508 Auxiliary personnel who ensure the correct running of competitions include:

- a) The **scorers** (who keep the scoresheets on which the result of each bout is marked touch by touch, and who make the corresponding entries on the scoreboard) (Cf. 59);
- b) The **timekeeper** (who controls the duration of each bout in accordance with articles 45ff and 59);
- c) The **superintendent of the electrical apparatus** (who concerns himself with the apparatus) (Cf. 60a);
- d) The **experts** (who may be consulted by the referee or the bout committee regarding all matters relating to the electrical apparatus) (Cf. 60b); and
- e) The **technicians** (who are present to repair any damage that may occur to the electrical equipment) (Cf. 60c).

§ 7. Inspection of equipment

509 The inspection of the electrical equipment used by the organizers to ensure flawless functioning at official FIE competitions and the inspection of competitors' equipment must be supervised by the FIE Commission for Electrical Apparatus and Equipment (SEMI Commission).

In order to effect this supervision, two members of this Commission must be appointed to undertake this work. However, when a person competent to undertake the inspection of the electrical apparatus (and approved for this purpose by the FIE Commission) is present in the organizing country, only one member of the Commission will be appointed (Cf. 17, 53, 60b, 508d, 708).

The two delegates each from the SEMI Commission, the Medical Commission and the Fencing Officials Commission – all designated by the FIE Central Office – all have, throughout the duration of the competition, the right to intervene with the referee if they consider that the equipment being used in any bout is dangerous.

Chapter III – ENTRIES FOR COMPETITIONS

510 Entries for international competitions must be sent to the organizers by the competitor's national federation (or the national federation that granted the competitor his international license, if the competitor in question is not resident in his native country).

Members of federations affiliated with the FIE are not allowed to participate in competitions organized by clubs or persons not affiliated with their national federation unless participation in such events is especially authorized by said federation.

Chapter IV – PRE-COMPETITION INSPECTIONS (Cf. 17ff)

Chapter V – TIMETABLE

511 Organizers must see to it that one type of competition is completed before beginning another in order to avoid undue fatigue in the fencers.

512 The schedule must be arranged in such a way that no fencer is obliged to participate in events for more than twelve hours out of twenty-four. In any case, no pool or match may begin after midnight, or at any time when it can be foreseen that there is a likelihood that it will end long after midnight. Whatever format is adopted, the final should start at a time that, considering local customs, will ensure that the results can be communicated to the press, etc., in sufficient time to allow them to be published.

The organizers must allow sufficient time in the schedule for the inspection of competitors' equipment. This requires a minimum of one day for each weapon. If events in two weapons are begun on the first day of competition, the inspection must begin two days earlier.

513 When a tournament includes several individual competitions in immediate succession, those fencers who have fenced in the finals of one competition will, unless they have had twenty-four hours' rest, be exempted from participation in the first round eliminating pools of the succeeding competition.

Those fencers who have actually fenced on a team in the finals of a team competition in one weapon will, if they have not had twenty-four hours' rest, be exempted from participation in the first round of eliminating pools of the individual competition for the same weapon provided this competition takes place after the team event.

Chapter VI – INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

Note: Articles 514 to 584 have been modified by the FIE Temporary Provisions, Appendix B of these Rules.

514 Individual competitions may be organized:

- A) by pools.
- B) by pools with a mixed format of pools of four starting with the last 48, 24 or 12 fencers who qualify from the elimination pools.
- C) by direct elimination throughout.
- D) by direct elimination with a mixed format of one or more rounds of elimination pools, then direct elimination with repechage to qualify six fencers for a final pool.
- E) by direct elimination with a mixed format of one or more rounds of elimination pools, then a direct elimination table and a repechage table to qualify eight fencers for a direct elimination final.

- F) by direct elimination with a mixed format of one elimination round of pools followed by a direct elimination table with repechage from 32 to qualify eight fencers for a direct elimination final.

A) BY POOLS

§ 1. The number of fencers per pool

- 515** a) For one touch (epee), pools consist, in principle, of a minimum of 10 fencers.
- b) For several touches, pools may consist of a lesser number, with a minimum of four.
- c) However, final pools must comprise at least six fencers.

§ 2. Composition of pools

516 For the first round, the competitors must be seeded. The bout committee alone decides which competitors are to be seeded, it being understood that each national federation must indicate on its entry sheet the seeded order of its fencers, for the information of the bout committee.

Seeding on principle should not be thought of only in the singular. In each pool there may be first, second, third, etc. seeds.

From the second round onward, each pool must have the same number of competitors, so as to produce:

- four quarter-final pools of six fencers, or
- three pools of six fencers.

In either case, twelve fencers must qualify to form two semi-final pools of six fencers, each promoting three fencers to the finals.

517 In the second qualifying round and in following rounds, the seeding of fencers in each pool will be based on an order of classification established solely from the indicators earned by each fencer in the previous round.

- 1) The first indicator, serving as the first classification, will be obtained by dividing the number of victories of each fencer by the number of bouts he has fenced in the pool (formula V/B); the highest indicator (maximum 1.00) being the highest classified (Cf. Fig. V-1, Table of Indicators).
- 2) In cases of ties in the first indicator, to separate fencers with the same indicator, a second indicator will be established by calculating the difference between the number of touches scored and the number of touches received by each fencer in the course of the pool (formula Touches Scored – Touches Received: TS-TR).

In cases of a tie in both indicators, the tied fencers will be separated by counting the number of touches received by each fencer in the pool. The fencer who has received the fewest touches will be the highest classified. In the case of another tie, the position of the tied fencers in the classification will be determined by drawing lots.

In cases where a fencer, because of his place in the order, would be placed in a pool where there is

V/B = Ratio of Number of Victories to Number of Bouts Fenced																
Indicator	NUMBER OF BOUTS FENCED															
	V/B	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
NUMBER OF VICTORIES	1	1.000	0.500	0.333	0.250	0.200	0.167	0.143	0.125	0.111	0.100	0.091	0.083	0.077	0.071	0.067
	2		1.000	0.667	0.500	0.400	0.333	0.286	0.250	0.222	0.200	0.182	0.167	0.154	0.143	0.133
	3			1.000	0.750	0.600	0.500	0.429	0.375	0.333	0.300	0.273	0.250	0.231	0.214	0.200
	4				1.000	0.800	0.667	0.571	0.500	0.444	0.400	0.364	0.333	0.308	0.286	0.267
	5					1.000	0.833	0.714	0.625	0.556	0.500	0.455	0.417	0.385	0.357	0.333
	6						1.000	0.857	0.750	0.667	0.600	0.545	0.500	0.462	0.429	0.400
	7							1.000	0.875	0.778	0.700	0.636	0.583	0.538	0.500	0.467
	8								1.000	0.889	0.800	0.727	0.667	0.615	0.571	0.533
	9									1.000	0.900	0.818	0.750	0.692	0.643	0.600
	10										1.000	0.909	0.833	0.769	0.714	0.667
	11											1.000	0.917	0.846	0.786	0.733
	12												1.000	0.923	0.857	0.800
	13													1.000	0.929	0.867
	14														1.000	0.933
	15															1.000

Figure V-1: Table of Indicators

already a fencer of the same nationality, he will be moved down in the classification order one or more places. This rule will be applied for five fencers per country. For other fencers, only indicators will be considered.

In each pool, except for pools of four, the order of fencers in the pool will be decided by lot (however, taking into account article 519).

Example of the composition of a pool:

Starting with the second round, the pools must be established based on the classification of fencers by indicators from the previous round and according to the following example:

Pool	A	B	C	D	E
Fencers classified #:	1	2	3	4	5
	10	9	8	7	6
	11	12	13	14	15
	20	19	18	17	16
	21	22	23	24	25
	30	29	28	27	26

§ 3. Bout order

518 The bout order in each pool is shown as follows:

Pool of 4 fencers:	1-4	2-3	1-3	2-4	3-4
	1-2				
Pool of 5 fencers:	1-2	3-4	5-1	2-3	5-4
	1-3	2-5	4-1	3-5	4-2
Pool of 6 fencers:	1-2	4-5	2-3	5-6	3-1
	6-4	2-5	1-4	5-3	1-6
	4-2	3-6	5-1		
	3-4	6-2			
Pool of 7 fencers:	1-4	2-5	3-6	7-1	5-4
	2-3	6-7	5-1	4-3	6-2
	5-7	3-1	4-6		
	7-2	3-5	1-6	2-4	7-3
	6-5	1-2	4-7		
Pool of 8 fencers:	2-3	1-5	7-4	6-8	1-2
	3-4	5-6	8-7	4-1	5-2
	8-3	6-7	4-2		
	8-1	7-5	3-6	2-8	5-4
	6-1	6-1	3-7	4-8	
	2-6	3-5	1-7	4-6	8-5
	7-2	1-3			
Pool of 9 fencers:	1-9	2-8	3-7	4-6	1-5
	2-9	8-3	7-4	6-5	1-2
	9-3	8-4	7-5		
	6-1	3-2	9-4	5-8	7-6
	3-1	2-4	5-9		
	8-6	7-1	4-3	5-2	6-9
	8-7	4-1	5-3		
	6-2	9-7	1-8	4-5	3-6
	2-7	9-8			

Pool of 10 fencers: 1-4 6-9 2-5 7-10 3-1
8-6 4-5 9-10 2-3 7-8 5-1 10-6 4-2
9-7 5-3 10-8 1-2 6-7 3-4 8-9 5-10
1-6 2-7 3-8 4-9 6-5 10-2 8-1 7-4
9-3 2-6 5-8 4-10 1-9 3-7 8-2 6-4
9-5 10-3 7-1 4-8 2-9 3-6 5-7 1-10

The time allowed for a fencer to rest between two consecutive bouts in a pool or a barrage is three minutes.

519 When a pool contains several fencers from the same country:

- a) If they do not form the majority, they must fence among themselves before meeting competitors of another nationality.
- b) If they form the majority, the bout committee may establish a special bout order, departing as little as possible from the principle specified in article 519a in order to avoid excessive fatigue or exceedingly long delays for the competitors who form the minority.
- c) When competitors classed as “stateless” are included in a pool, they must first fence against the competitors of their original nationality, after the latter have fenced each other, and next against the competitors of the country that grants them their international fencing license.
- d) Examples of the order of fencers of the same nationality in a pool of six:

1° When a pool contains among its six qualified fencers:

- two fencers of nationality A, or
- two fencers of nationality A and two of nationality B,

the fencers are listed on the pool sheet in such a way that those of the same nationality fence each other in their first bout and the bout order for a pool of six is as shown in article 518.

- two fencers of nationality A, two of nationality B, and two of nationality C, the bout order will be:
1-4, 2-5, 3-6, 5-1, 4-2, 3-1, 6-2, 5-3, 6-4, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 2-3, 1-6, 4-5.

2° When a pool contains among its six qualified fencers:

- three fencers of nationality A,
- three fencers of nationality A and two fencers of nationality B, or
- three fencers of nationality A and three fencers of nationality B,

the fencers are listed on the pool sheet in the following way:

- the fencers of nationality A are given numbers 1, 2 and 3;
- the fencers of nationality B are given numbers 4 and 5 or 4, 5 and 6.

3° When a pool contains among its six qualified fencers four fencers of the nationality A and two others of different nationalities, the four fencers of nationality A are listed on the pool sheet as 1, 2, 3

and 4 and the bout order in the pool is as follows: 3-1, 4-2, 1-4, 2-3, 5-6, 1-2, 3-4, 1-6, 2-5, 3-6, 4-5, 6-2, 5-1, 6-4, 5-3.

e) Example of the order of fencers of the same nationality in a pool of seven:

1° When this pool contains among the seven qualified fencers:

- two fencers of nationality A,
- two fencers of nationality A and two fencers of nationality B, or
- two fencers of nationality A, two fencers of nationality B and two fencers of nationality C,

the fencers of the same nationality are listed on the pool sheet so that they fence their first bout against each other while following the bout order specified in article 518 for a pool of seven.

2° When the pool contains among the seven fencers:

- three fencers of nationality A,
- three fencers of nationality A and two fencers of nationality B, or
- three fencers of nationality A, two fencers of nationality B and two fencers of nationality C,

the three fencers of nationality A must be listed 1, 2 and 3 on the pool sheet; the two fencers of nationality B, 4 and 5; and the two fencers of nationality C, numbers 6 and 7.

The bout order for the pool of seven detailed in article 518 is no longer valid and must be replaced by the following order: 1-2, 4-5, 6-7, 3-1, 4-7, 2-3, 5-1, 6-2, 3-4, 7-5, 1-6, 4-2, 7-3, 5-6, 1-4, 2-7, 5-3, 6-4, 7-1, 2-5, 3-6.

520 If a bout in a pool or a team match is interrupted by an accidental cause, and this interruption is likely to be prolonged, the referee **may** (with the consent of the bout committee, or when necessary the organizing committee) alter the bout order in such a way as to allow the competition to proceed.

§ 4. Classification in pools (elimination rounds)

521 The classification in each pool is determined by the number of victories obtained by each fencer. If there is equality of victories between two or more competitors, the classification is determined by the TS-TR indicator (the difference between the total number of touches scored and the total number of touches received in the pool).

In cases of a tie in both indicators, the fencers will be separated by counting the touches received during the course of the pool, with the fencer having received the fewest touches being classified the highest.

In cases of an absolute tie between two or more fencers, they will fence a barrage according to the rules of the pool if such a barrage is necessary to determine promotion; if not, they will be classified as equal.

In cases of a tie in victories in a barrage between more than two fencers, the classification will be determined by applying the formula TS-TR, and touches received, on the touches of the barrage, with the fencer receiving the fewest touches being classified the highest.

There will be only one barrage, but in the case of an absolute tie in victories, TS-TR indicators and touches received in the barrage, the fencers will fence a further barrage.

In epee, in a barrage between only two fencers, these two will fence only one bout for five touches. There will be no double defeat at the expiration of time; the fencers will fence for a deciding touch.

On the other hand, in a barrage with more than two fencers, the rules of the pool and the preceding rules must be observed.

§ 5. Promotion to the next round (qualification)

522 The classification of fencers in each pool determines their promotion to the next round, and this is related to the number of fencers qualifying per pool.

- a) In epee for one touch, 50% of the competitors in the pool will be promoted to the next round.
- b) In all three weapons for bouts of more than one touch, three or four fencers per pool, depending on the circumstances, will be promoted, and a minimum of 50% of the pool. In pools of four at least two fencers will be promoted.

§ 6. Barrages

523 The classification of fencers in a barrage is determined after the new bouts that they have fenced according to the rules of the original pool. In individual competitions, barrages must be fenced immediately after the original pool (Cf. 507).

When there are three competitors in a barrage the bout order is as follows:

For the first bout lots are drawn, unless there are two competitors of the same nationality, etc. (Cf. 519).

Thereafter one of the following alternatives will apply:

- a) If the barrage is for first place in the final, or for promotion where two out of three competitors can be promoted, the bout order must be:
1st bout: fencer A versus fencer B;
2nd bout: fencer C versus the loser of the 1st bout;
3rd bout: fencer C and the winner of the 1st bout. (However, if the barrage is for promotion and C has won the 2nd bout, the 3rd bout will not be necessary.)
- b) If the barrage is for promotion and only one competitor can be promoted, the order is the following:
1st bout: fencer A versus fencer B;
2nd bout: fencer C versus the winner of the 1st bout;

3rd bout: unnecessary if C loses the 2nd bout; otherwise, fencer C versus the loser of the 1st bout.

§ 7. Classification in the final pool

524 In the case of a tie in victories in the final pool, classification will be by means of a barrage, but only for first place. This barrage will be fenced according to the rules of the original pool and will determine the placing of the fencers who take part in it.

There will be only one barrage. In cases of a tie in victories in a barrage between more than two fencers, the final classification will be determined by calculating the TS-TR indicators based on the aggregates of the touches scored and of the touches received in both the pool and the barrage. Should the two indicators be equal, the fencers will be separated according to the number of touches received, with the fencer who has received the fewest touches being placed highest in the classification. If there is an absolute tie in victories, TS-TR indicators and touches received, the fencers will fence a further barrage.

For places other than first place, should there be a tie in victories, the classification will be determined according to the TS-TR indicator of each of the fencers in the final pool. In cases of a tie in indicators the fencers will be separated according to the number of touches received. In cases of an absolute tie, the fencers will be classified as equal, except in the Olympic Games, where fencers who have tied in victories, TS-TR indicators and touches received must fence a barrage to obtain a result without a tie for second and third place.

In epee, if only two fencers are involved in a barrage for first place they will fence a single bout for five touches. There will be no double defeat at the time limit; the fencers will fence for a deciding touch. On the other hand, in a barrage between more than two fencers, the rules of the pool and the rules previously stated will apply.

§ 8. A competitor withdrawing from a competition

a) Fundamental principles

- 525** 1. No one may be disadvantaged by the fact that he has been unable to fence one or more scheduled bouts.
2. No one may gain an advantage from not having met all opponents against whom he would normally have fenced.

b) When only one competitor withdraws

526 When for any reason whatsoever a competitor (individual or team) does not complete an event that has commenced, the bout committee must apply the following rules (without prejudice to any disciplinary action that may be taken).

INTRODUCTION

527 1° When a competitor (individual or team) during an event (pool) does not complete a scheduled bout (or team match) already in progress, if the opponent is leading, that bout

(or match) will be considered as having been fenced to the end (all the remaining touches that should have been fenced for being credited to the competitor who does not withdraw). In all other cases that bout (or match) will be considered as not having been fenced.

- 528 2°** When the competitor who withdraws has obtained no victories before his withdrawal, he will be considered as not having fenced.

EXAMPLES

1. Pool of teams: Match between team X and team Z. Total number of bouts = 16. When the score is: X 9 victories (or even only 6 victories), and Z 2 victories, team Z withdraws. The official score of the match will be X 14 victories, Z 2 victories. But if in this match the score had been 5-5 or 3-2 in favor of Z, the withdrawing team, the entire team match would be annulled.
2. Individual pool for five touches: The bout between A and B has begun; when the score is 3-2 in favor of B, A is obliged to withdraw. For this bout B will be the winner with the official score of 5-2. But if the score had been 3-3 or 3-2 in favor of A, who withdrew, the bout would be annulled.

RULE ONE

- 529** When the event (pool) is completely finished (except for the bouts of the competitor who withdraws) the bout committee will make out two complete classification tables, based on victories, determining exactly the order of the fencers (following the general rules of classification, according to the format that the competition is following):

Table A: Classification including only those competitors who have fenced all the bouts originally scheduled in the pool.

Table B: Classification including only those competitors who have not fenced the competitor who has withdrawn.

RULE TWO

- 530** The order of classification between competitors in the same table is final.

RULE THREE

1. For the finals

- 531** For first place, a barrage must always be fenced between the fencer best placed in Table B and the fencer best placed in Table A when the latter has the same number of victories or one more than the fencer in Table B. Successively, for the final determination of each place (and with the provision that the classification of each table remains final with regard to the competitors appearing in that particular table), the competitor who is – or who remains – best placed in Table B will fence a barrage with the competitor who is – or who remains – best placed in Table A and whose total victories are equal either to his total or to his total plus one. However, there will

be no barrage when the number of touches scored and received is such that, if the event had been finished normally, the fencer in Table B would not have been ranked above the fencer in Table A even had he won the bout not fenced without receiving a touch, or would not have been ranked below that fencer, even had he lost the bout not fenced without scoring a touch.

Example: Pool of 6 fencers (Cf. Fig. V-2, Withdrawal Example I)

Table A		Indicators
1st G	4 victories	+8
2nd V	3 victories	+3
3rd X	1 victory	- 6

Table B		
1st H	3 victories	+3
2nd L	1 victory	- 4

In **Table B** (fencers who have not fenced K, who withdrew), H is the best placed, with one victory fewer than G, who is best placed in **Table A** (fencers who have fenced K, who withdrew). H must therefore fence a barrage with G for first place.

- a) If H is the winner of the barrage: 1st H, 2nd G, 3rd V.
- b) If G is winner of the barrage: 1st G, but for second place, there must be a barrage between V and H (Cf. 531, Rule Three), who both have the same number of victories.
 - If H is the winner of this barrage: 1st G, 2nd H, 3rd V.
 - If V is the winner of this barrage: 1st G, 2nd V, 3rd H.
- c) Similarly, for fourth and fifth places there must be a barrage (Cf. 531, Rule Three) between L and X.
 - If L is the winner he is 4th; X is 5th.
 - If X is the winner he is 4th; L is 5th.

However, barrages between fencers of **Tables A** and **B** who have the same number of

victories are not necessary when the TS-TR indicator of the fencer in Table B would

always be better than that of the fencer in

Table A even if he had lost 5-0 the bout not fenced against the fencer who withdrew.

When the fencer in Table A has one victory more than the fencer in Table B, the barrage

will not be necessary if the TS-TR indicator of the fencer in Table B would always be lower

than that of the fencer in Table A even if he had won 5-0 the bout not fenced against the

fencer who withdrew (Cf. 533/6).

- d) For the classification of K, who withdrew, Rule Four applies (Cf. 532) if the withdrawal was caused by circumstances beyond the fencer's control.

2. For elimination rounds

Subject to the proviso that the classification of each table remains unalterable for the competitors in that table, the procedure is as for the final, observing, however, the additional rules listed below.

Withdrawal Example I
Pool of 6 fencers, for 5 touches

Fencer	Table A (fenced all bouts)							Table B (fenced all bouts but one)								
	G	X	K	L	V	H	Vic	Def	TS	TR	IND	Vic	Def	TS	TR	IND
G	–	V	V	V	4	V	4	1	24	16	+8					
X	2	–	V	4	3	3	1	4	17	23	-6					
K	2	3	–		V		withdraws					withdraws				
V	3	V		–	3	4						1	3	15	19	-4
L	V	V	4	V	–	4	3	2	23	20	+3					
H	4	V		V	V	–						3	1	19	16	+3

Figure V-2: Withdrawal Example I

Example:

Table A Indicators

1st G 4 victories +8
2nd V 3 victories +3
3rd X 1 victory -6

Table B

1st H 3 victories +3
2nd L 1 victory -4

1st case: four fencers are to be promoted to the next round.

In this case, G, V and H are already qualified and a barrage must be fenced between L and X to determine the 4th fencer to qualify.

If L is the winner he qualifies, but L has fenced one match fewer because he has not met K, who withdrew. To equalize his classification by indicators, which must be established between the fencers promoted to provide the basis for the setting up the pools for the next round, L's V/B and TS-TR indicators must take into account the barrage fenced against X.

If X is the winner he qualifies, but retains his indicators from the pool, as he has fenced all his bouts.

To regularize the classification of H equally, a barrage is fenced between V and H, who both have the same number of victories.

Whatever the result of this barrage:

V retains his indicators from the pool, as he fenced all his bouts.

For H, who has fenced one bout fewer because of K's withdrawal, the V/B and TS-TR indicators must take into account the result of this barrage, as in the case of L.

2nd case: three fencers are to be promoted to the next round.

In this case, G, V and H qualify but a barrage must be fenced between V and H in order to equalize the classification by indicators. The results of the barrage will be included only in

the indicators for H; V retains his indicators from the pool.

RULE FOUR

532 A competitor (individual or team) who is obliged to withdraw due to some cause beyond his control that has been duly recognized by the referee is entitled to the classification resulting from his actual total of points, but should a barrage be necessary with one or another of his opponents he loses the benefit of being able to fence the barrage. In other cases of withdrawal, he loses the right to any classification whatever, without prejudice to possible disciplinary penalties.

c) When more than one competitor does not complete a competition (Cf. 525) (Cf. Fig. V-3, Withdrawal Example II)

533 In order to apply the fundamental principles to these circumstances (Cf. 525ff), the following corollaries are added to the previous rules:

1. When more than one competitor does not complete a pool, the bout committee will, after the pool is completely finished, prepare the following classification tables (the classification order within each table being final):
Table A: including only those competitors who have fenced all the bouts originally scheduled in the pool;
Table B: including only those competitors who have fenced all the bouts originally scheduled less one;
Table C: including only those competitors who have fenced all the bouts originally scheduled less two;
And so on as required.
2. Every fencer who has not fenced one or more bouts must fence a barrage with the fencers who are best placed in the other tables with whom he might have had the same number (or a greater number) of victories (except in those cases where, as specified in Rule Three above, the number of touches received and scored makes the barrage unnecessary (based on the TS-TR indicator)).

Withdrawal Example II
Pool of 9 fencers, for 5 touches

Fencer										Victories/TS/TR/IND			
	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T		Table A	Table B	Table C
L	–	V			V	3			V	withdraws			
M	3	–	V	V		V	1	V	4			4V/28/22/+6	
N		3	–	V		3	3	V	4				2V/23/25/-2
O		0	4	–		V	V	V	0				3V/19/22/-3
P	2				–	V	3	V		withdraws			
Q	V	3	V	3	4	–	V	V	2		4V/32/31/+1		
R		V	V	2	V	2	–	3	3			3V/25/27/-2	
S		1	1	2	2	3	V	–	V			2V/19/32/-13	
T	2	V	V	V		V	V	4	–			5V/31/23/+8	

Figure V-3: Withdrawal Example II

- To determine first place in the final pool, each table having its definitive classification, it is first ascertained which of the fencers best placed in each table has the greatest number of actual victories.

Should he be a fencer in Table A, he must fence a barrage with the fencer best placed in Table B who has the same number of victories, or one fewer, than he, and with the fencer best placed in Table C who has the same number of victories, or one or two fewer, and with the fencer best placed in Table D who has the same number of victories or one, two or three fewer, etc.

Should he be a fencer in Table B, he must fence a barrage with the fencer best placed in Table C who has the same number of victories, or one fewer, than he, and with the fencer best placed in Table D who has the same number of victories, or one or two fewer, etc.

Should he be a fencer in Table C, he must fence a barrage with the fencer best placed in Table D who has the same number of victories, or one fewer, than he, and with the fencer in Table B who has only one victory fewer.

And so on as required.

The competitor who wins this barrage will be placed first in the final; the classification relative to each other of the other competitors in the barrage will be determined by the results of the barrage as fenced, but other competitors may be placed within their rankings.

- For the other places in the final, every fencer who has not fenced one or more bouts in the final will fence a barrage with those fencers in the other tables with whom he might have tied on number of victories (except in those cases

where the number of touches received and scored by the different competitors concerned is such that this barrage is unnecessary).

- For promotion from elimination rounds, after determining which competitors are certain of promotion and which are certain to be eliminated, a barrage will be fenced between all the competitors who might, according to the number of their actual or possible victories, be promoted to the next round.
- In order to equalize the classification by indicators of the fencers from Table B, and possibly from Table C, who have not met the fencer or fencers who withdrew from the competition with the classification of the fencers from Table A (who have fenced all their bouts and as a result retain their original indicators), the bout committee will take the barrage into account when calculating the indicators of the fencers in Tables B and C.

In the final, in the case of a withdrawal, the classification will be made in the same way.

B) BY POOLS WITH A MIXED FORMAT OF POOLS OF FOUR

§ 1. Format of the competition

534 The bout committee will organize one or two qualifying rounds of pools, depending on the number of fencers entered, to arrive:

- at either 48 fencers
- or 24 fencers.

In either case several rounds of pools of four fencers will be held, with two fencers promoted per pool, to arrive at a final of six fencers.

In the first elimination round, the pools may be composed of from four to seven fencers, depending on the number of fencers entered; it should be noted that the size of the pools may only differ by one fencer.

From the second round onward, the pools must all have the same number of fencers, either six for elimination rounds or four for the pools from 48 or 24 fencers.

The bouts will be fenced for five touches with a time limit of six minutes (Cf. 45).

§ 2. Composition of pools

535 In the first round, the competitors must be seeded. The bout committee alone decides which competitors are to be seeded, it being understood that each national federation must indicate on the entry form the ranked order of its fencers, to inform the bout committee.

In the second and subsequent rounds, fencers are placed in pools according to a classification based only on the indicators obtained by each fencer in the preceding round (Cf. 517, definition of indicators).

In the case of equality of the two indicators between two or more fencers, their placement in the classification table is decided by drawing lots. When a fencer would be placed, because of his classification, in a pool where there is already a fencer of the same nationality, he moves down in the order of classification by one or more places. In placing fencers in quarter- and semi-final pools on the basis of their indicators, should there be fencers with the same indicators, the bout committee, instead of drawing lots to decide the order, must take into account the nationality of the fencers.

536 From the second round onward, following the order of classification of fencers promoted and noting the number of pools that the round should have:

Pools	A	B	C	D	E	F
Fencers classified #:	1	2	3	4	5	6
	12	11	10	9	8	7
	13	14	15	16	17	18
	24	23	22	21	20	19

§3. Classification in the pools

a) Elimination rounds

537 In each pool, the number of victories earned by each fencer establishes the classification.

In the case of a tie in victories between two or more fencers, their TS-TR indicators determine their classification in the pool. In the case of a tie in TS-TR indicators, the number of touches received by each fencer during the pool will be taken into account.

When two or more fencers tie exactly on victories, TS-TR indicators and touches received, they will fence a barrage following the rules of the pool if such a barrage is necessary to decide promotion; if not, they will be considered as having tied.

In the case of a tie in victories in a barrage between more than two fencers, their classification will be obtained by the TS-TR indicators based on the aggregates of the touches scored and of the touches received in both the pool and the barrage. In cases of a tie in TS-TR, the touches received by

each fencer in the pool and in the barrage will be taken into account.

There will only be one barrage, but in the case of a further tie in victories, TS-TR indicators and touches received, the fencers must fence a further barrage.

In epee for a barrage between only two fencers, they will fence only one bout for five touches.

There will be no double defeat at the expiration of time; the fencers will fence for a deciding touch.

On the other hand, in a barrage between more than two fencers, the rules for the pool and the previous rules will be observed.

b) Pools of four

538 In each pool, it is the number of victories obtained by each fencer that establishes the classification.

In the case of tie in victories between two or more fencers, their classification will be decided by a barrage.

In a barrage between more than two fencers, if there is a further tie in victories, they will be separated by means of the TS-TR indicators and touches received determined by adding together their touches scored in the pool and in the barrage and their touches received in the pool and in the barrage.

There will only be one barrage, but if there is a further absolute tie in victories, TS-TR indicators and touches received, the fencers will fence an additional barrage.

In epee for pools of four, there will be no double defeat at the expiration of time. If at the end of regulation time the two fencers have scored the same number of touches, or none at all, they will each be assumed to have scored the maximum number of touches (five). They will then fence for one further deciding touch without any time limit, annulling double touches.

The pool sheet will show a result of V/5 and D/5, as appropriate (Cf. 320).

§ 4. Promotion to the next round

539 The classification of the fencers in each pool decides their promotion to the next round, consistent with the number of fencers being promoted per pool.

This number will be three or four, as appropriate, with a minimum of 50% of the fencers in the pool promoted; in pools of four at least two fencers are promoted.

In the pools of four, in the case of a tie in victories, promotion to the next round must be decided by fencing a barrage (Cf. 538).

§ 5. Bout order in the pool

540 For the elimination rounds and the final pool of six, the bout order is as specified in article 518 (however, Cf. 519).

1. In official FIE competitions, the pools of four will be fenced on one single strip and the bout order will be as follows:

1st bout: 1-4 (except when article 519 applies)

- 2nd bout: 2-3 (except when article 519 applies)
Three minutes' rest (Cf. 518)
3rd bout: The winner of the 1st bout versus the loser of the 2nd bout
4th bout: The winner of the 2nd bout versus the loser of the 1st bout
Three minutes' rest (Cf. 518)
If at the end of the first four bouts, only one of the four fencers already has two victories, his 3rd bout must be fenced before the other remaining match.
5th bout: The fencer already having won two victories versus the fencer he has not yet met
6th bout: The remaining bout
If at the end of the first four bouts, the four fencers each have one victory, the order of the last two bouts will be decided by drawing lots (Cf. 519).
2. In other competitions the organizers may, as their choice, apply the following rules for the pools of four: The pools of four may be run in series of two bouts fenced simultaneously on two strips. To allow fencers in one pool to have a rest in between bouts, the bouts of a second pool may be fenced, alternating with those of the first pool, on the same two strips. The bout order will be as follows:
1st series: 1-4 and 2-3, simultaneously on two strips
2nd series: The winners against the losers, simultaneously on two strips.
3rd series: The two remaining bouts.
If at the end of the first two series of bouts only one of the four fencers already has two victories, his third bout must be fenced before the other bout in the third series.
In the pools of four, in both cases (1) and (2) above, the third series must be fenced out even if a result has already been obtained, to establish the indicators, and to calculate points for the seeding of teams.

§ 6. Final pool: classification

- 541 In the case of a tie in victories in the final pool, the classification will be determined by a barrage, but only for first place. This barrage will be fenced in accordance with the regulations for the pool and will determine the classification of the fencers who take part in it.
There will only be one barrage. In the case of a further tie in victories in a barrage between more than two fencers, the classification will be determined by applying the formula TS-TR and touches received, taking into account the touches in both the pool and the barrage. If there should be a further absolute tie in victories, TS-TR and touches received, the fencers will fence a further barrage.
For positions other than first place, the classification when victories are equal will be established

from the TS-TR indicators and the touches received for each of the fencers in the pool. In the case of a tie in these indicators, the fencers will be ranked as tied, except in the Olympic Games where, for second and third places, a barrage will be fenced if victories and TS-TR indicators and touches received are equal, so as to ensure a result without a tie for second and third places.

In epee, if a barrage for first place is between only two fencers, they will fence one bout for five touches. There will not be a double defeat at the expiration of time; rather, the competitors will fence for a deciding touch. On the other hand, in a barrage between more than two fencers, the rules of the pool and the previous rules will apply.

C) BY DIRECT ELIMINATION FOR THE ENTIRE COMPETITION

§ 1. Application

- 542 The general provisions of the FIE *Rules for Competitions* apply without any exception, insofar as they do not conflict with those special rules contained in this Part VIC.

§ 2. Organization of the competition

- 543 The bout committee will organize a first elimination round taking account of seeding and nationalities and exempting from this first round the number of competitors (the "top seeds") necessary in order to preserve, after this first round, a number of competitors that is a power of two (i.e. 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, etc.).

The formula used to arrive at E, the number of competitors exempt from the first round is:

$$E = 2N - P$$

where P is the number of competitors entered, and N the number of competitors who must be preserved to arrive at the direct elimination table (i.e. 4 or 8 or 16 or 32, etc.).

The direct elimination table is then drawn up observing the principles of seeding; those seeded will be placed in the table in order of merit at positions 1, 2, 3, 4, etc., according to the sample tables in article 556.

§ 3. Format of bouts and number of touches

- 544 For all three weapons each individual bout consists either of a given number of touches or of two encounters for five effective touches with a deciding encounter if required. Bouts consisting of two or three encounters are considered equivalent to a single bout for ten effective touches, and any warnings are valid for the whole bout.

§ 4. Duration of bouts (Cf. 45)

- 545 Six minutes per encounter. The encounters are separated by a mandatory rest period of thirty seconds and the fencers change sides.
If in any of the three encounters the fencers are tied at the expiration of regulation time, the encounter will be extended without time limit until a decision is reached.
Bouts for ten touches are ten minutes long; bouts for eight touches are eight minutes long.

§ 5. Withdrawal of a fencer

546 When, for any reason whatever, a fencer cannot fence, or cannot complete a bout, his opponent is declared winner of that bout.

§ 6. Bout order

547 Bouts are always called in the order of the table, starting at the top and finishing at the bottom. In order to save time, the organizers may run several bouts simultaneously on different strips, but the fencers must always be called in the same order.

A rest period of ten minutes must always be allowed between two consecutive bouts of the same fencer.

§ 7. Classification

548 The general classification is obtained as follows:

1st, the winner of the final bout

2nd, the loser of the final bout

When it is not necessary to separate the remaining competitors, the two losers of the semi-final matches tie for 3rd; the four losers of the quarter-final matches tie for 5th; the eight losers of the eighth-final matches tie for 9th, etc.

When it is necessary to divide them, there will be a barrage between the losers of the semi-final matches to determine 3rd and 4th places, a barrage by direct elimination between the losers of the quarter-final matches to determine 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th places, etc.

D) MIXED FORMAT – ELIMINATION POOLS AND DIRECT ELIMINATION TABLE WITH REPECHAGE, TO QUALIFY SIX FENCERS TO A FINAL POOL

§ 1. Rules: format of the competition

549 The competition is fenced with a mixed format of one, two, or several rounds of elimination pools and a direct elimination table with repechage, to qualify six fencers for a final pool.

The direct elimination table of 64, 32 or 16 fencers qualifies four fencers for the final; the repechage table qualifies two.

In the elimination pools and the final the bouts are fenced for five touches for both men and women – the actual fencing time is six minutes (Cf. 45).

In the direct elimination and repechage tables the bouts are fenced for ten touches, ten minutes maximum for men, and for eight touches, eight minutes maximum for women (Cf. 45).

§ 2. Composition of the pools: elimination rounds

550 a) The first elimination round will be fenced in pools; each pool may have five or six fencers, according to the number of entries, it being understood that there may not be a difference of more than one fencer between any of the pools.

The number of fencers who qualify from each pool will be three or four according to the

circumstances, but must be at least 50% of the fencers comprising the pool.

The composition of the first round pools is the responsibility of the bout committee, which must, however, take into account the World Cup ranking of the fencers as of the date of the World Championships and, if necessary, of any information provided by the team captains. The order of the fencers on the pool sheet will be established by drawing lots, except when article 519 is applied where there are fencers of the same nationality.

Pools must be fenced through the last bout, even if the qualifying results have already been determined.

b) From the second round onward, all pools must have the same number of fencers.

For the composition of the pools in the second and subsequent rounds, the bout committee will only take into account the order of classification established by the V/B and TS-TR indicators obtained by each fencer in the preceding round. In cases of equality in both indicators, the fencer who has received the fewest touches will be placed highest. In a case of absolute equality, lots will be drawn between the equal fencers.

As in the first round, the second and subsequent round pools will qualify three or four fencers according to the circumstances, but at any rate 50% of the fencers. The pools must be fenced through the last bout.

Example of pool composition: see article 517. For the bout order, see articles 518 and 519.

§ 3. Classification in the pools: promotion

551 In each pool it is the number of victories obtained by each fencer that decides the classification.

In cases of equality of victories between two or more fencers, their TS-TR indicators decide their classification. In cases of equality of TS-TR indicators, account will be taken of the number of touches received, with the fencer having received the fewest touches being the highest placed.

In cases of absolute equality in victories, TS-TR indicators and touches received between two or more fencers, they will fence a barrage, following the normal rules for the pool, if this barrage is necessary to decide promotion; if not, they will be classified as tied.

In a barrage between more than two fencers, if there is again equality of victories, they will be classified according to the TS-TR indicators obtained by taking the difference between the total number of touches scored and the total number of touches received in both the pool and the barrage. In cases of equality of TS-TR indicators, the touches received by the fencers in both the pool and the barrage will be taken into account, with the fencer having received the fewest touches being the highest placed.

There will be only one barrage, but in the case of another absolute equality in the barrage, the fencers will fence a further barrage.

In epee for a barrage between only two fencers, they will fence a single bout for five touches. There will be no double defeat “at time;” the fencers will fence for one more touch until there is a result, with no time limit. On the other hand, in a barrage between more than two fencers, the rules for the pool and the preceding rules will be observed.

It is the classification of the fencers in each pool that determines their promotion to the next round, according to the number of fencers promoted from each pool.

§ 4. Direct elimination table – composition

552 The promoted fencers’ results from the last two rounds of qualifying pools will be written on a table that summarizes the number of bouts fenced, bouts won, touches scored and touches received by each fencer in each of those rounds.

A seeding order of the 32 or 16 qualified fencers will be established in the following way:

- a) The results written on the summary table will be added to determine the two necessary indicators.
- b) The first indicator, for the initial classification, will be obtained by dividing the number of victories by the number of bouts fenced (formula V/B).
- c) The fencer with the highest indicator (maximum 1.00) will be seeded first.
- d) In cases of equality in this first indicator, a second indicator (formula TS-TR, the difference between the total number of touches scored and the total number of touches received) will be established to separate tied fencers.
- e) In cases of equality of both the V/B and TS-TR indicators, the fencer having received the fewest touches will be the highest seed.
- f) In cases of absolute ties between two or more fencers, their places in the classification table will be decided by drawing lots.
- g) The bout committee will then establish the direct elimination table by placing, as defined in article 556, each fencer at the position in which his seeding order puts him, with the best classified fencer being put as No. 1, the next best as No. 2, and so on.
- h) A single exception will be made for fencers of the same nationality. In principle, they should not be in the same quarter of the table. Each time the application of the rules puts two fencers of the same nationality in the same quarter of the table, whichever of the fencers has the lower classification will drop to the next position in the order that will put him into a different quarter of the table. This rule will not apply to the fifth fencer from a country, in cases where five fencers

from the same country qualify for the direct elimination table.

Moreover, this exception will not be observed for the last few fencers to qualify if the number of places available does not allow its application.

- i) In the case of a withdrawal before the direct elimination table has been established, it is the lowest place in the table (i.e. the 32nd, the 16th or the 8th) which must remain empty.

§ 5. Organization of the bouts – format

553 All the bouts of the direct elimination table will be fenced in the order of the table, beginning at the top and finishing at the bottom, up to Table C, qualifying four fencers for the final pool of six. The bouts will be for:

- ten touches, time limit ten minutes per bout, for the men (Cf. 45).
- eight touches, time limit eight minutes per bout, for the women (Cf. 45).

A rest period of five minutes must always be allowed between two bouts of the same fencer.

§ 6. Repechage – principles, tables, organization of the bouts

554 The principles of the repechage are as follows:

- A fencer cannot be eliminated until he has been beaten twice, once in the direct elimination table and once in the repechage table.
- All bouts in the repechage table are fenced with the same format as in the direct elimination table.
- The repechage table for a direct elimination table of 32 fencers consists of five rounds to determine the two fencers who, with the four fencers qualified from the quarter-finals of the direct elimination table, will compete in the final pool of six fencers.
- a) In the first round of repechage (Table D), the sixteen fencers who were beaten in the first round of direct elimination (Table A) will fence in the order established by the latter.
- b) The second round of repechage (Table E) will be a table of sixteen fencers: the eight fencers beaten in the second round of direct elimination (Table B), who will be placed in numbers 1-8, and the eight winners from the first round of repechage (Table D), who will be placed in numbers 9-16.

The allotting of numbers 1-8 and 9-16 is done with respect to the original classification order of the 32 fencers who qualified. However, in drawing up this table of sixteen fencers, the bout committee must not take into account the nationality of the fencers but rather the possibility of bouts between the same two fencers being repeated.

In a repechage table of 16 fencers, if once the table has been drawn up according to article 554b above, one or more bouts that have already been fenced would be repeated, the fencer in such a bout who has the lower

seeding number in his quarter of the table must change places with the fencer who, in the opposite quarter of the table, has the nearest seeding number to his.

The changes will be made between quarter A of the table on the one hand and quarter B of the table on the other, and in the same way between quarter C and quarter D (Cf. 568). The bouts in this second round (Table E) will be fenced in the order of the table to qualify eight fencers.

- c) The third round of repechage (Table F) consists of the eight winners of the second round of repechage, who will fence among themselves, in the order of the table, to qualify four fencers for the fourth round of repechage.
- d) The fourth round of repechage (Table G) will be a table of eight fencers consisting of the four losers from the direct elimination quarter-finals (Table C), who will be numbers 1-4 in Table G according to their original classifications, and the four winners from the third round of repechage (Table F), who will be numbers 5-8, also according to their original classification order.

The bout committee must not take into account the nationality of the fencers in establishing Table G of 8 fencers, but rather the possibility of bouts being repeated, and must apply the same system of exchanging fencers as in the table for 16 fencers where repeating bouts occur (Cf. 554b). However, in a case where such an exchange would result in the repetition of another bout, there will not be an exchange.

The bouts in Table G (fourth round of repechage) will be fenced in the order of the table to qualify four fencers.

- e) The fifth and final round of repechage (Table H) will consist of two bouts between the winners of Table G to identify the two fencers who, with the four winners of the quarter-final round of the direct elimination table, will fence in the final pool of six fencers.
- f) In the case of withdrawal before the establishment of the repechage table, it is the lowest place in the table that remains empty.

§ 7. Final pool: classification

555 The order of the fencers on the pool sheet is determined by drawing lots by the bout committee, who must, however, apply the exceptions set down in article 519 for FIE competitions.

The rules for the final pool of six fencers are as follows:

Each fencer in the pool will fence all the other fencers in the pool in bouts for five touches, fencing time six minutes (Cf. 45), for men as well as for women, in the bout order specified in articles 518 and 519, whichever applies.

In epee, double defeats “at time” will be counted.

In cases of equality of victories in the final pool, classification will be established by means of a barrage for first place only. The barrage will be fenced following the rules of the pool, and will determine the placing of the fencers who take part in it.

There will be only one barrage. In cases of equality of victories in barrages between more than two fencers, the final order will be obtained by taking into account the TS-TR indicators (the difference between the total number of touches given and the total number received in both the pool and the barrage). In cases of equality of TS-TR indicators, the fencers will be separated by taking into account the number of touches received in both the pool and the barrage. Should there be absolute equality of victories, TS-TR indicators and touches received, the fencers will fence a further barrage. For places other than first place, where there are equal victories, the order will be established according to the TS-TR indicators for each of the fencers in the final pool; in cases of equality of TS-TR indicators, placing will be according to the number of touches received.

In cases of equality of victories, TS-TR indicators and touches received, the fencers will be classified as tied except in the Olympic Games, where a barrage must be fenced between fencers tied on victories, TS-TR indicators and touches received in order to get an order without ties for second and third places.

In epee, if a barrage for first place is between only two fencers, they will fence a single bout for five touches. There will be no double defeat “at time;” the fencers will continue for one more touch until there is a result. On the other hand, in a barrage between more than two fencers, the rules of the pool and the preceding rules will be observed.

E) MIXED FORMAT – ELIMINATION POOLS AND A DIRECT ELIMINATION TABLE WITH REPECHAGE TO QUALIFY EIGHT FENCERS FOR A FINAL RUN BY DIRECT ELIMINATION

Articles 549 and 553 are valid for this format, as well as article 554 with the following modification to the end of article 554: omit paragraphs e and f.

554 The bouts of Table G (4th round of repechage) will be fenced in the order of the table to qualify four fencers who, with the four fencers qualifying in Table C of the direct elimination, will compete in the direct elimination final of eight fencers.

In the case of a withdrawal before the repechage table has been established, it will be the lowest place in the table that must remain empty.

The direct elimination final of eight fencers

555 The order of the direct elimination table of eight fencers is determined on the one hand for the four fencers qualifying through the direct elimination Table C, who occupy places 1 to 4, based on the

initial seeding order in the summary table of classification of qualified fencers; and on the other hand, for the four fencers qualifying through repechage Table G, who occupy places 5 to 8, based on the initial seeding order.

In the establishment of this table, no account will be taken either of the nationality of fencers or of the repetition of bouts.

In the case of a withdrawal before this table has been established, it will be the lowest place in the table that must remain empty.

The bouts will be fenced according to the order of the table of eight, starting at the top, on a single strip.

Each bout will be fenced:

- for men, for ten touches, with a difference of two touches up to twelve touches, and with a time limit of ten minutes.
- for women, for eight touches, with a difference of two touches up to ten touches, and with a time limit of eight minutes.

All bouts must be fenced to a result; there will be no double defeats in epee.

Should the bout not be completed when regulation time has expired:

- a) For all three weapons, if one of the fencers has scored more touches than the other, the number of touches required to reach the maximum is added to his score, and the same number of touches is added to the score of his opponent.

For foil and sabre:

- b) If the two fencers are tied, they are both assumed to have scored one less than the maximum number of touches, and they fence for a deciding touch without time limit. They are placed on guard at the place they occupied when the bout was stopped (Cf. 226 and 414).

For epee:

- c) If the two fencers are tied, they are both assumed to have scored the maximum number of touches, and they fence for a deciding touch without time limit, double touches being annulled (Cf. 321).

The bout to decide 3rd and 4th places will be fenced before the last bout of the final.

For 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th places, the fencers will be classified according to their initial indicators.

Ten minutes rest must always be allowed between two bouts of the same fencer.

Classification of fencers

555 At official FIE competitions, all fencers must be

B ranked and all necessary bouts contested:

- first and second places are determined by the final bout
- at the World Championships, two third places are awarded to those defeated in the two bouts for promotion to the final bout. At the Olympic Games, a bout will be held for third place (bronze medal)

- fencers defeated in the first round of the finals place 5th through 8th
- fencers defeated in Tables D, E, F and G are classified as follows:
 - the four fencers defeated in Table G place 9th through 12th
 - *in a tableau of 16*, the four fencers defeated in Table D place 13th through 16th
 - *in a tableau of 32*, the four fencers defeated in Table F place 13th through 16th
 - the eight fencers defeated in Table E place 17th through 24th
 - the eight fencers defeated in Table D place 25th through 32nd

Each group of fencers eliminated in the first round of the finals (5th – 8th) and in Tables D, E, F and G is classified within itself according to the original places of the fencers in the direct elimination tableau of 32 (or 16) fencers.

If a fencer withdraws during the course of the direct elimination or repechage table, he retains his place as set forth above, as if he had lost his remaining bouts).

The classification of fencers eliminated in the elimination rounds will be determined, round by round, according to their indicators (V/B, TS-TR, TR) (Cf. 517).

In the case of ties in indicators, the fencers will be classified as tied.

F) MIXED FORMAT – ELIMINATION POOLS AND DIRECT ELIMINATION TABLE WITH REPECHAGE FROM 32 QUALIFYING 8 FENCERS FOR A DIRECT ELIMINATION FINAL

555 One round of elimination pools and a direct
C elimination table with repechage from 32 to qualify eight fencers for a direct elimination final. For the Olympic Games; the Senior, Junior and Cadet World Championships; and category “A” events; the competitions are to be run according to the following format:

Articles 550 to 553, 554 except for paragraph e), 554A, 555A and 555B are applicable, subject to the following modifications:

1) Competition format

The competitions are organized according to a mixed format:

- one round of pools;
- direct elimination without repechage to 32 fencers;
- direct elimination with repechage from 32 to 8;
- final of 8 by direct elimination, consisting of 4 fencers from the direct elimination and 4 fencers from the repechage.

2) Elimination round

Article 550a applies, except for the first two sentences. In the present format, pools will have six fencers. If the number of entrants is not divisible by six, the bout committee may form pools of five, chosen at random. In no case may the number of fencers be four from the start.

In exceptional cases, to avoid having two successive flights of pools, the bout committee may form pools of six and (or) seven fencers. These pools will be chosen at random.

- In category “A” events, the organizing country may add the required number of fencers of its own nationality to balance the pools.
- Bouts are fenced for 5 touches, 6 minutes. A fencer who withdraws or is excluded is deleted from the pool, and his results are annulled as if he had not competed.

3) Classification – qualification

Article 551 is modified as follows:

- A single general classification is established for all of the participants in all of the pools (V/B, TS-TR, TR).
- Before the beginning of the competition, the bout committee will determine and announce the number of fencers to qualify for the direct elimination table. This number must be at least 2/3 and at most 4/5 of the participants (from 20% to 33 1/3% eliminated).
- In the case of an absolute tie between the last qualifiers, there will not be a barrage, and those who are tied will all qualify, even if they are in excess of the anticipated number (Cf. 552f).

4) Direct elimination table – composition

Cf. article 552, completed as follows:

- The table of 32, 64, 128 or 256 may be incomplete.
- The classification of the fencers will be based on the single preliminary round of pools.
- The application of the principle of protection of fencers of the same nationality (Cf. 552h) cannot place a fencer in a position lower than the total number of qualified fencers.

However, in an incomplete table, a fencer who has earned a bye based on his or her classification may not be moved to a position in the table wherein he or she will face an opponent.

5) Progression of bouts in the direct elimination phase

Article 553 is modified as follows:

- Bouts are fenced for the best two of three encounters, each for five touches with a margin of two touches to a maximum of six, in six minutes.

- There will be a rest of 30 seconds between each encounter.
- All warnings and/or penalties are valid for the entire bout (2 or 3 encounters).
- There will be no double defeats in epee; each encounter must be fenced to a result.
- Fencers will not change sides between encounters except in exceptional circumstances (for example, sunshine on the strip).
- Hand judges change sides after each encounter and in the middle of the third encounter.

6) Repechage

Articles 554 and 554A are modified as follows:

- A new table of 32 is not created; the initial table continues, carried out through the repechage.
- The repechage will only start with 32 fencers, regardless of the size of the initial direct elimination table.
- In exceptional cases, the repechage may start with 16 fencers if the number of entries is too small to allow the formation of a table of 32.

7) Final of eight

Article 555A is modified as follows:

- Paragraph 5: bouts are fenced according to 555C/5.
- Point c), 2nd paragraph: There will not be a bout for third place except at the Olympic Games, where the bout for third place (bronze medal) is always fenced.

8) Sample elimination tables:

556 N.B. – On these tables the numbers 1, 2, 3, etc., indicate the places to be assigned in order of merit according to the established seeding.

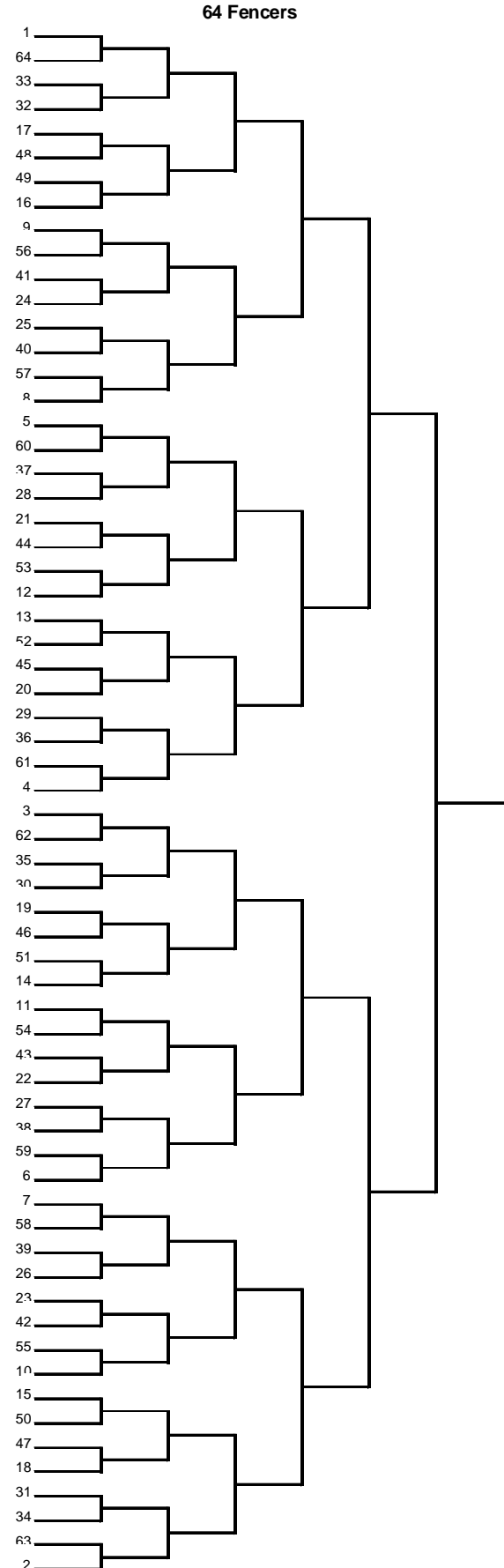
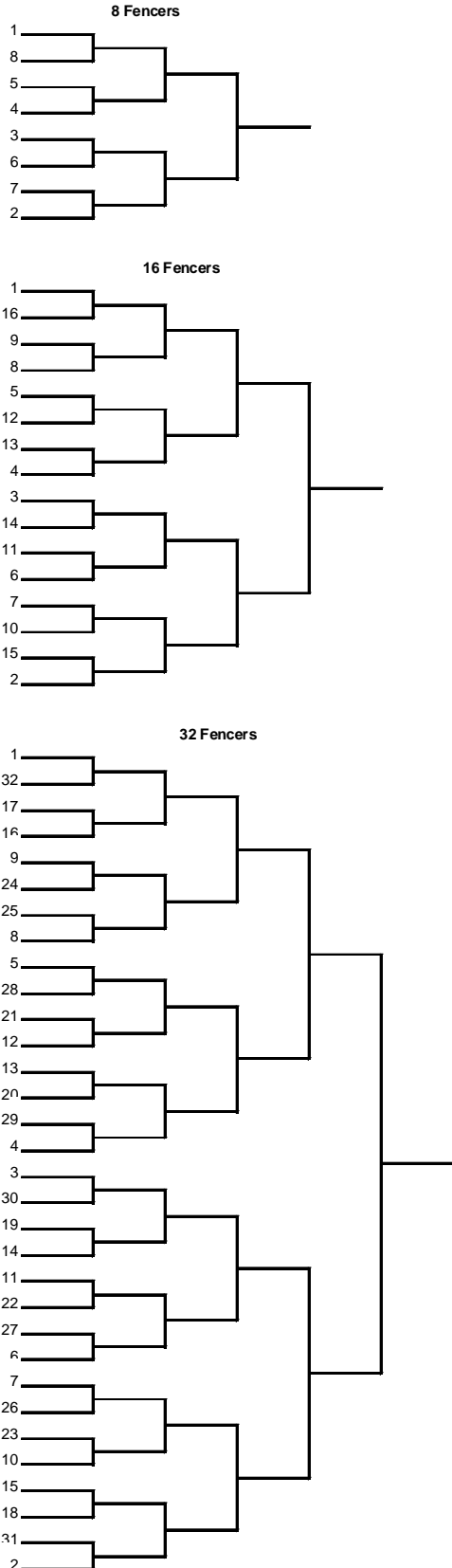


Figure V-4: Sample DE Tables (8, 16, 32, 64)

Direct Elimination Table of 32 Fencers with Repechage

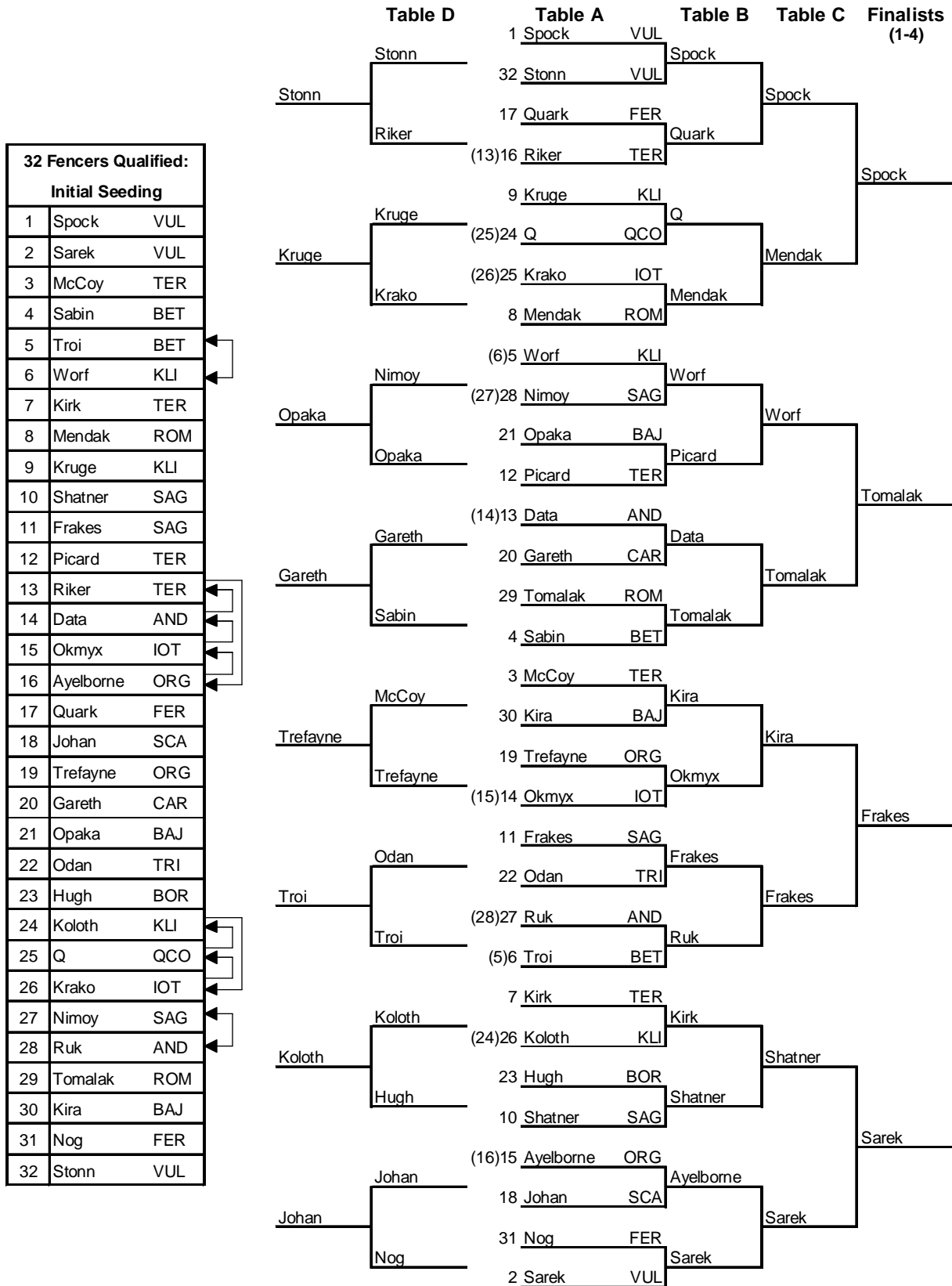


Figure V-5: Sample Direct Elimination with Repechage from 32

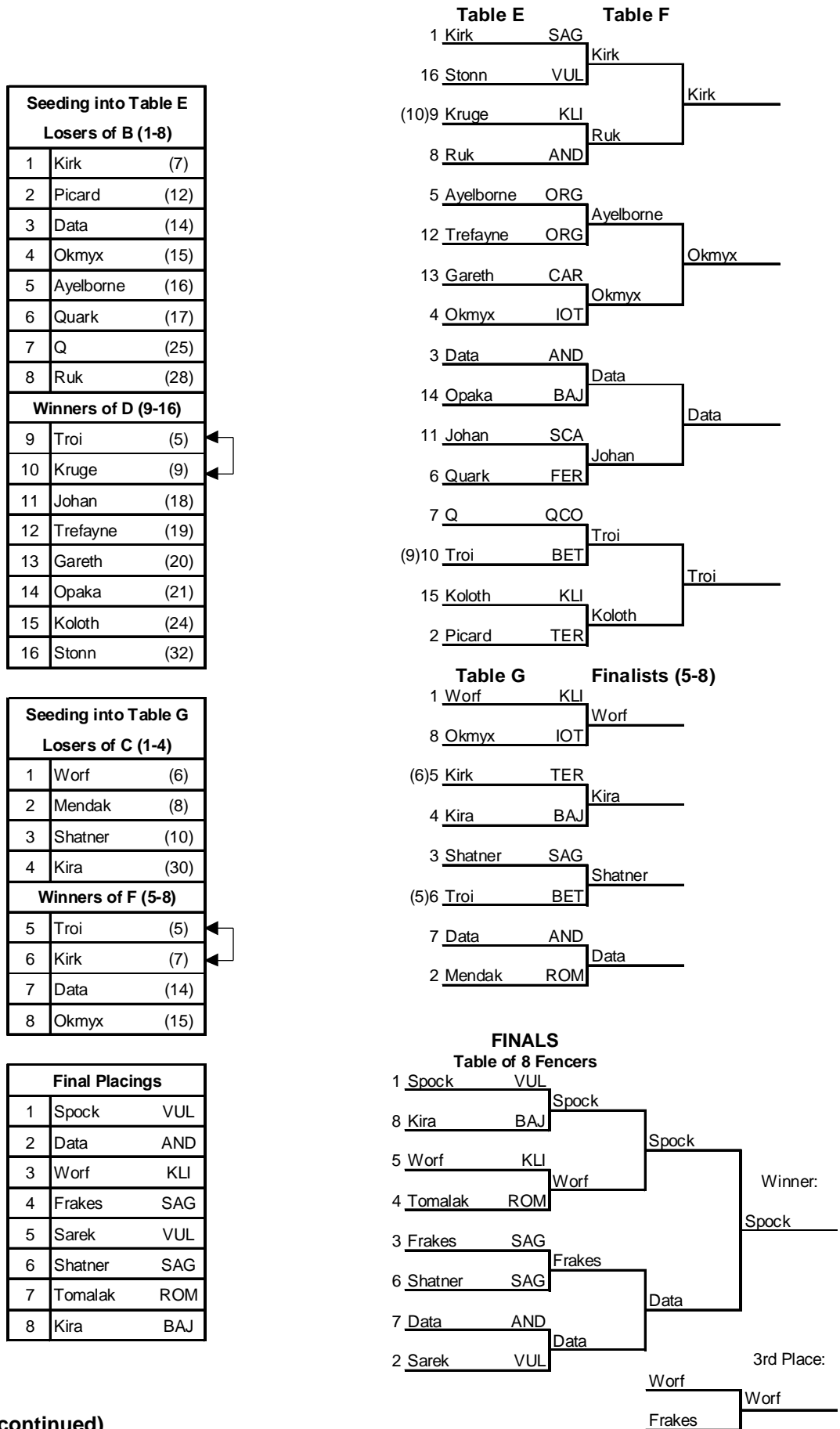


Figure V-5 (continued)

Explanations of sample DE Table:

Table A

To avoid placing two fencers of the same nationality in the same quarter of the table, the rule in article 552h is applied.

Examples:

TROI (#5) is moved to #6 because there is already a fencer of her nationality (SABIN) in the second quarter of the table; WORF (#6) takes the place of TROI.

RIKER (#13) is moved several places (finally he is placed in #16 in the first quarter of the table) as he cannot occupy places 13, 14 or 15 because of the fencers PICARD (second quarter of the table), MCCOY (third quarter of the table) and KIRK (fourth quarter of the table), who are all of his nationality.

Similarly, KOLOTH (#24) is moved to #26 in the fourth quarter of the table because of the presence of his countryman KRUGE in the first quarter. Q (#25) and KRAKO (#26) are each moved up one place.

NIMOY (#27) is moved to #28 to avoid being in the same quarter as his countryman FRAKES. RUK moves up to #27.

The bout between countrymen SPOCK and STONN is unavoidable because STONN is the last in the table and cannot be moved.

Table E

For establishing Table E no account is taken of the fencers' nationalities, but rather the repetition of bouts (Cf. 554b).

This is why TREFAYNE and AYELBORNE (ORG) must meet each other. On the other hand, TROI (#9) must be placed in the adjacent number (#10) in the corresponding table because she has already fenced against RUK (see Table A). KRUGE (#10) takes place #9.

Table G

As in Table E, repetition of bouts must again be avoided. Because of this KIRK (#6), who has already met SHATNER (see Table B) is moved to the adjacent number (#5) in the corresponding quarter of the table.

Finals

In establishing the final table, no account is taken of either the fencers' nationalities (FRAKES/3 – SHATNER/6) or bouts that are repeated (WORF/5 – TOMALAK/4).

Chapter VII – TEAM COMPETITIONS

§ 1. Organization formats

557 Team competitions may be organized:

- A. by pools of teams throughout;
- B. by pools of teams: one round of elimination pools followed by a table of direct elimination of eight or sixteen teams through to the final;
- C. by direct elimination throughout.

When establishing the pools for a team competition (Cf. 6), the bout committee will determine the

seeding by assembling all the facts that may enable them to determine the relative strengths of the teams (Cf. 565ff).

The bouts are fenced in such a way that each fencer of one team meets the fencers of the opposing team in a prearranged order.

The fencers of the two teams will meet each other in the following order:

3-8	6-3	1-6	5-1
4-6	8-1	3-5	6-2
1-7	5-4	2-8	7-3
2-5	7-2	4-7	8-4

§ 2. The composition of teams

558 At official FIE competitions, teams will consist of four or five fencers, of whom four are designated by the team captain for each match.

After lots have been drawn to decide which team is placed on the upper part of the match score-sheet, each team captain will provide, in writing, the order in which his fencers are entered on the scoresheet, as well as the name of the team captain for this match.

A team cannot begin a match if fewer than four members are present and ready to fence. However, a team may complete a match that it has already started with fewer than four fencers.

Exceptionally, if as a result of an accident or some cause outside their control that has been duly recognized, a team is forced to present itself at the start of a match with fewer than four fencers, the bout committee or the organizing committee may authorize a fencer properly entered for another weapon to complete the team.

§ 3. Classification of teams

a) Match between two teams

559 The winner of the match is the team whose members have obtained more individual victories. In the case of a tie in individual victories, the winner is the team that has received fewer touches. If there is equality of individual victories and of touches received, the match is "drawn."

Each victory of one team over another is worth two points.

Each drawn match is worth one point to each of the two teams.

Each defeat counts zero.

b) Classification of several teams in the same pool

560 1st case

In each match the bouts will stop as soon as a result has been obtained.

For foil and sabre, account will only be taken of the number of victories necessary, i.e. normally nine victories in a match between teams of four.

For epee this number may be reduced to eight, seven or six victories, etc., depending on the number of double defeats registered during the match. However, the match should be stopped sooner if the difference in touches is such that the losing team cannot catch up with the other; a bout in progress must be completed.

The general classification is obtained by adding up the points, the winning team being the one with the highest total, and so on.

In the case of a tie in points between two or more teams in the same pool, they will be ranked between themselves according to the difference between the number of individual victories and individual defeats added up for the entire pool: V-D indicator.

In the case of a tie in V-D indicators, the TS-TR indicator for all the touches scored and received by each team throughout the pool will be applied. In the case of a tie in TS-TR indicators, the team that has received the fewest touches will be classified above the others).

If the number of points, the V-D indicators, the TS-TR indicators and the number of touches received are the same for two or more teams, they will be classified as tied.

If it is necessary to differentiate between the teams, for promotion to the next round or for the overall classification, there will be one single barrage bout, fenced immediately after the original event, between fencers nominated by the captains of the teams from among those who have just fenced in the team pool.

561 2nd case

In these matches, all possible bouts (Cf. 557) must be fenced.

The general classification is obtained by adding up the points, the winning team being the one with the highest total, and so on.

In the case of a tie in points between two or more teams in the same pool, they will be ranked between themselves by applying the V-D indicator for the total of all the victories and all the bouts in the entire pool.

In the case of a tie in the V-D indicators, the TS-TR indicator for the total of all the touches scored and received by each team in the pool will be applied. In the case of a tie in the TS-TR indicators, the team that has received the fewest touches will be classified above the others).

In the case of an absolute tie between two or more teams they will be classified as tied.

If it is necessary to differentiate between the teams for promotion to the next round or for overall classification, there will be one single barrage bout, fenced immediately after the original event, between fencers nominated by the captains of the teams from among those who have just fenced in the team pool.

When the classification in a pool has been conclusively determined, the bout committee is allowed to stop the matches (or even the bouts) that remain to be fenced and therefore to halt the match with the result decided.

c) Withdrawal of a member of a team during a match

562 When a member of a team withdraws during the course of a match – without prejudice to possible disciplinary penalties – the results that he has

obtained up to the time of his withdrawal are allowed to stand, and defeats will be counted against him for each of the subsequent bouts in which he should have taken part; that is to say that all of his pending opponents will be considered to have beaten him, without having received a single touch from him.

The fencer who withdraws will retain the benefit of the victories he has won before his withdrawal, as well as the touches scored and received in the bout in which he withdraws.

However, if a member of a team is **obliged** to withdraw during a match, either as the result of an accident, or by reason of some cause beyond his control that has been duly recognized by the referee, his team captain may ask the permission of the bout committee, or failing them, of the organizing committee, to put in a substitute to continue the match at the point where the fencer who was so obliged withdrew, even during a bout in progress.

However, a fencer who is thus replaced cannot take his place in the team back during the same match.

In the course of a match, the team captain may ask to replace a fencer with the substitute named before the start of the match (Cf. 558).

This substitution may only be made at the end of a bout. The fencer who has been replaced may not fence again during that match, even in the case of an accident or unavoidable circumstances in order to replace a fencer on the strip. The announcement that a fencer is to be substituted, which must be made by the referee to the bout committee and to the opposing team captain, must be made at the latest before the beginning of the bout preceding the next bout of the fencer who is to be replaced. If an accident occurs in the bout that follows the request for a substitution, the team captain may annul that request. If the captain of the opposing team has also requested a substitution, this substitution may be implemented or canceled.

d) A team not completing an event

- 563** I. When for any reason whatever a team does not complete an event that has begun, the bout committee will apply the rules specified for a competitor who does not complete an event in an individual competition, each team being considered in its entirety as being a single competitor (Cf. 525ff).
- II. When a team withdraws, it is considered:
- 1° as not completing the event that has begun, if it has already fenced against another team in the pool (Cf. 527ff).
 - 2° as not competing at all in the event, if this is its first match in the pool.

A) TEAM EVENTS ENTIRELY BY DIRECT ELIMINATION

a) Basic principle

564 When organizing team competitions by direct elimination, the applicable rules are the same as those for individual competitions, each team being considered as an individual (Cf. 542, 548, 556).

b) Format for matches

Each match will be fenced so that each fencer of one team will fence each member of the other team, following the bout order shown in article 557.

c) Barrages

When two teams cannot be separated (same number of individual victories and same number of touches), the result will be determined by a single barrage bout that will be fenced to a result between one fencer from each team selected by the team captains from the fencers who have just participated in this team match. The team whose member wins the barrage will win the match.

B) TEAM COMPETITIONS WITH A MIXEDFORMAT: POOLS AND DIRECT ELIMINATION

565 At official FIE competitions, World Championships and Olympic Games, the team events will be fenced with at least one round of pools, followed by a direct elimination table. The following rules specify:

- the way the pools of teams must be composed, taking into account the results obtained in the individual events by the fencers entered to compete in the team events;
- the way the direct elimination table must be prepared, taking into account the preliminary round of pools; and
- the rules for classification of the teams as a result of fencing the direct elimination table.

§ 1. Composition of the pools

566 The pools are established by the bout committee, taking into account when seeding the teams the results achieved by the fencers representing each nation in the individual event, considering at a maximum the results of the four best fencers of each nation who are entered to fence the team event, according to the following system (initial seeding).

§ 2. Point system

567 Points are calculated in the following way:

- Each fencer will receive the number of points equal to his place in the individual competition. Before calculating these points, all fencers who are not participating in the team competition will be removed from the individual rankings and only the rankings of the fencers participating in the team competition will be counted.
- Fencers who did not take part in the individual competition but who are part of a team

will receive four points more than the last placed fencer in the individual competition.

- In the case of a tie in points for two or more teams, priority will be given to the team with the fencer best placed in the individual competition. If the best fencers from the teams were tied, the classification of the second best fencer of each team will decide.

In the case of the exclusion of a fencer from the individual event, the points obtained by that fencer remain valid for the classification of his team in the team event on the condition that he is actually taking part in that event.

The team whose point total is lowest is seeded No. 1, with the other teams following in reverse order to their number of points.

The pools for the teams are set up in the same way as those for individual events, the teams taking the No. 1 place in each pool becoming thus first seeds, the teams taking the No. 2 place in each pool becoming the second seeds, etc., even if the number of teams is not divisible by the number of pools.

If the results of the pools confirm this seeding, the same order of seeding will be used by the bout committee to place the qualifying teams into the direct elimination table.

If the results of the pools do not confirm the seeding, the bout committee will modify the classification established by the pool results by observing the following rules:

After classifying the teams in each pool of teams, according to the results of each pool:

- the winning teams from each pool take the top half of the classification;
- the teams placing second in each pool take the lower half of the classification.

In each half of the classification, the teams will, for the establishment of the direct elimination table, be ranked according to their initial seeding.

Example – 16 teams

A	B	C	D
1	2	3	4
8	7	6	5
9	10	11	12
16	15	14	13

Results of the pools of teams:

A	B	C	D	
1	10	6	5	Placed 1st
8	2	11	4	Placed 2nd
9	7	3	12	Placed 3rd

The classification established for the direct elimination table will be:

- Team No. 1
- Team No. 5
- Team No. 6
- Team No. 10
- Team No. 8
- Team No. 4
- Team No. 7
- Team No. 11
- Team No. 12

§ 3. Direct elimination table

568 When the classification of the teams has been established according to the results of the round of elimination pools, the bout committee will put the

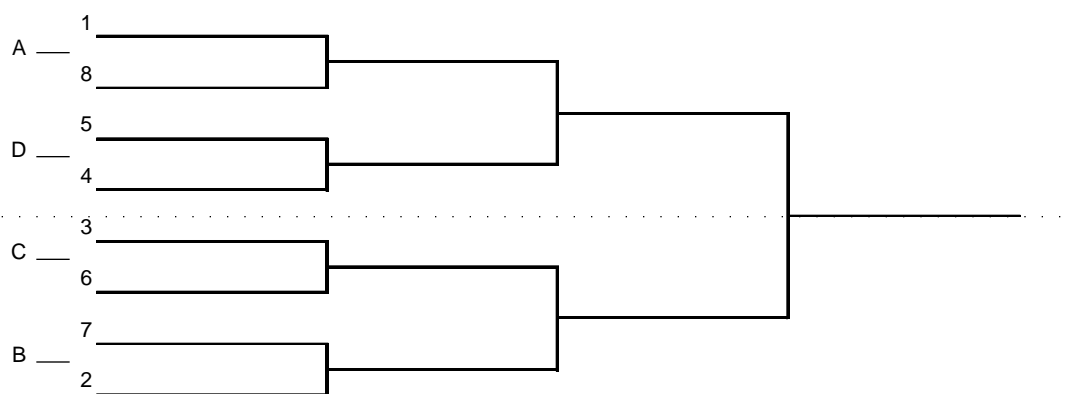


Figure V-6: Team Direct Elimination Table

teams that have qualified into the direct elimination table according to the following systems of drawing lots:

- 1 Between the teams seeded 1st and 2nd.
- 2 Between the teams seeded 3rd and 4th.
- 3 Between the teams seeded 5th and 6th.
- 4 Between the teams seeded 7th and 8th.
- 5 Between the teams seeded 9th and 10th.
- 6 Between the teams seeded 11th and 12th.
- 7 Between the teams seeded 13th and 14th.
- 8 Between the teams seeded 15th and 16th.

But in no circumstances may two teams from the same pool meet each other again in the first round of direct elimination. In any case where the rules do not allow this rule to be applied, the teams placed second in their pools will be exchanged either between quarters A and B of the table, or between quarters C and D (Cf. Fig. V-6, Team Direct Elimination Table).

Additional matches by direct elimination necessary for the establishment of the table will always be considered as the first round of direct elimination. In consequence, for matches in this first round only, the exchanges defined above will take place in order to avoid having teams who have already met in the elimination pools meet again in the first round of direct elimination.

§ 4. Classification of places other than 1st and 2nd

569 A supplementary match between the two teams beaten in the semi-finals will enable the determination of 3rd and 4th places. This match must be fenced before the match to determine first place. Further, if needed, 5th and 6th places may be determined as follows:

- The four teams eliminated in the quarter-final of the direct elimination table will meet each other in two matches, following the order of the table.
- The winners of these two matches will then meet to determine 5th and 6th places.

These three matches will be fenced on a strip other than that to be used for the semi-finals and final of

the event, and must, in all circumstances, be finished before the match to decide first place. For those teams that still have to be classified below 6th place the classification will be established as follows:

- The two teams beaten in the matches to qualify for 5th and 6th places will meet to decide 7th and 8th places.

For the other teams, the classification will be established as follows:

- For teams eliminated in the various direct elimination tables: according to their initial seeding (Cf. 566)
- For teams eliminated in the rounds of pools,
 - 1) by taking into account the number of points for team victories in the pools. However, where there have been pools of three teams and pools of four teams, the bout committee will not take into account the matches with the team placed fourth in the pool, so as to equalize the classification in pools of three and four teams.
 - 2) In cases of a tie in points, the teams will be classified between themselves according to the V-D and TS-TR indicators and touches received. These indicators will be calculated on the total of victories, defeats, touches given and touches received in all the matches in the pools.

If there are several pools of four teams, the order of teams classified fourth in these pools will be established relative to each other by taking into account the team points and the V-D and TS-TR indicators and touches received.

Chapter VIII SPECIAL RULES FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS,⁷ HISTORICAL NOTES

A) INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

§ 1. Annual championships

570 In accordance with the decisions made at the Congresses at Antwerp (1920, 1939), the Hague (1927), Amsterdam (1928), Brussels (1937, 1947), Madrid (1962) and Paris (1987), official individual championships in foil, epee and sabre for men and in foil and epee for women, called **World Championships** (called European Championships until 1936) are held annually under the auspices of the FIE, in principle between 1 July and 15 August.

The fencing events at the Olympic Games are under the direction of the FIE and constitute the World Championships in Olympic years.

§ 2. Candidature

571 Each year, requests to undertake the organization of the World Championships to be held the following year or years must be submitted to the FIE Central Office to be placed on the agenda of the annual Ordinary Congress, within the time limit specified in the Book of Statutes for the submission of items for the agenda (Cf. Book of Statutes).

The Congress will decide to which national federation the organization of these championships will be entrusted for the following year or years, and at the same time fix the date and place where they will be held.

Should the annual Ordinary Congress be unable to decide which national federation will organize the World Championships for the ensuing year because no candidate has come forward, the FIE Central Office may itself decide which national federation will organize these championships if it receives one or more candidates after the Congress has taken place.

The FIE Central Office will have the same powers should the national federation to which the organization was entrusted by the Congress withdraw.

§ 3. Entries

572 Entries are limited to five fencers of the same nationality for each event (three for the Olympic Games).

§ 4. Competition format

573 The individual championships will take place by direct elimination with the mixed format of one or more rounds of elimination pools and a direct elimination table with repechage in order to qualify eight fencers to compete in a final by direct elimination. The rules of this format are detailed in articles 549 to 556 of the present rules.

B) TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

§ 1. Simultaneity

574 The country that has been entrusted with the organization of the individual championships must, at the same time and place, hold team championships in all three weapons for men and in foil and epee for women.⁸

§ 2. Entries

575 Entries are restricted to one team in each weapon from each country, each team to consist of four or five fencers of the same nationality from whom four are selected by the team captain for each match.

In the Olympic Games each country has the right to enter 20 competitors; that is, three teams of five men and one team of five women.

Countries that wish to enter a team in one or more events at the World Championships must so inform the national federation that is undertaking the organization one and a half months before the championships begin, and confirm eight days before the same date the number of teams that can actually be counted on to participate.

At least one month before the championships, the organizers must advise the FIE Central Office of the countries that have entered for each team event.

§ 3. Format (Cf. 565ff)

576 Team events will be fenced with a minimum of one round of pools, followed by a direct elimination table.

The bout committee establishes the pools, taking into account when seeding them the results of the individual fencers of each nation in the corresponding individual event, considering as a maximum the results of the best four fencers of each country entered to fence in the team event, according to the point system defined in articles 567.

Article 567 also details the effect the results the team pools may have on the seeding, if these results do not confirm the seeding established by the bout committee.

Articles 568 and 569 regulate the establishment of the direct elimination table according to the results of the team pools and specify how the direct elimination matches must be fenced.

C) CONDITIONS COMMON TO TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

§ 1. Participants

577 The World Championships are open to all national federations affiliated with the FIE.

§ 2. Entries

578 Countries that wish to send their fencers to the World Championships in either individual or team events must so advise the national federation that undertakes the organization one and a half months before the start of the events.

Eight days before the events begin each participating federation must confirm with the organizers the number and names of the participants in each event. Changes of names due to reasons beyond their control may only be made at the latest 24 hours before the start of each event (Cf. 535, 587). For the Senior and Junior-Cadet World Championships, a delegation must be accompanied by the following minimum number of referees:

- 1 to 4 fencers: 0 referees
- 5 to 12 fencers: 1 referee
- 13 to 20 fencers: 2 referees
- 21 to 30 fencers: 3 referees

These referees will be at the disposal of the bout committee throughout the competitions. Nations taking part in the Olympic Games, the World Championships and the World Under-20 Championships who do not send the number of international referees specified above are required to send to the organizing federation the sum of 2,500 French francs for each missing referee three months before the beginning of the events, and to advise the FIE Central Office accordingly. With this money the FIE will invite substitute referees. A federation that fails to observe the time limit for remitting the required sum or for informing the FIE will be obliged to pay double the specified amount to the FIE Central Office before the end of the calendar year following the passed time limit, on pain of suspension, in accordance with article 85 of the Statutes.

- 1) This rule will be applied unless there is cause beyond the control of the federation in question that justifies the omission.
- 2) The FIE Executive Committee will examine in each case the reasons for the failure to send referees and the violation of article 132 of the Statutes and may decide on measures other than the imposition of a financial penalty.

§ 3. FIE rules

579 Apart from the special rules of the present chapter, the FIE *Rules for Competitions* must be strictly observed during the events of the World Championships.

§ 4. Order of competitions

580 The organizers must submit the schedule of competitions to the [FIE] Executive Committee for approval.

§ 5. Bout committee

581 The technical organization of the Olympic Games and the World Championships is undertaken by a bout committee composed of seven members of different nationalities of whom one represents the organizing country.

The bout committee chair is appointed from among its members by the FIE Central Office.

§ 6. FIE Supervision

582 In order to ensure that the rules are observed, the President [of the FIE] or the member of the FIE Central Office appointed by him has the right to

attend all meetings of the bout committee; the bout committee is required to give him notice of such meetings.

Similarly, if the Jury of Appeal is assembled, its ex-officio president is the FIE President or a delegate of the FIE Central Office (in their absence, Cf. 506b).

§ 7. Number of touches

583 The number of touches for all three weapons is as follows:

- For pools:
 - Women (foil and epee): five effective touches
 - Men (three weapons): five effective touches
- For direct elimination:
 - Women (foil and epee): two encounters of five touches with a third deciding encounter if necessary, or one bout of eight touches.
 - Men (three weapons): two encounters of five touches with a third deciding encounter if necessary, or one bout of ten touches (Cf. 45).

D) THE OLYMPIC GAMES

584 The rules for the World Championships are applicable to the Olympic Games except for points contrary to the Olympic Rules.⁹

Chapter IX RULES FOR THE WORLD UNDER-20 CHAMPIONSHIPS¹⁰

§ 1. Frequency of the World Under-20 Championships

585 In accordance with the decisions made by the Congresses held in Paris (1949, 1951, 1959, 1987), Venice (1955), Madrid (1962) and Gdansk (1963), World Under-20 Championships are held annually under the auspices of the FIE, comprising individual competitions in foil, epee and sabre for men and in foil and epee for women. The control of the FIE is assured, as is the technical direction, under the same conditions as for the World Championships, with the bout committee consisting of five members (Cf. 505).

§ 2. Candidature

586 Each year, requests to undertake the organization of the World Under-20 Championships must be submitted to the FIE Central Office to be placed on the agenda of the annual Ordinary Congress, within the time limit specified for the submission of items for the agenda in the Statutes (Cf. Book of Statutes, article 50).

The Congress will decide to which national federation the organization of these championships will be entrusted for the following year, and at the same time fix the date and place where they will be held.

As a general rule, the World Under-20 Championships are held at Easter.

Should no candidate come forward, or should the national federation to whom the organization is

entrusted withdraw, the same rules will be applied as in the case of the World Championships (Cf. 571).

§ 3. Entries

587 Entries are limited to three fencers of the same nationality for each event.

Countries that wish to send their fencers to the World Under-20 Championships must inform the federation that undertakes the organization one and a half months before the event begins.

Eight days before the event begins, the organizing country must be advised of the number and names of the participants from each country. Substitution of names by countries due to reasons beyond their control may be made at the latest 24 hours before the beginning of the event (Cf. 535, 578).

For the World Under-20 Championships, a delegation must be accompanied by the following minimum number of referees:

- 1 to 4 fencers: 0 referees
- 5 to 12 fencers: 1 referee
- 13 to 20 fencers: 2 referees
- 21 to 30 fencers: 3 referees

§ 4. Age of competitors

588 Participants must be less than 20 years of age on January 1st of the year in which the World Under-20 Championships are held. The age check will be carried out by the bout committee.

§ 5. Rules

589 The rules for the World Championships apply to the World Under-20 Championships. However, the bout committee will decide, depending on the number entered in each event, whether the direct elimination table will begin with 8, 16 or 32 fencers.

590 The bout committee for the World Under-20 Championships consists of only five members of different nationalities, of whom one is a representative of the organizing country.

§ 6. Timetable of events

591 The organizers must submit the schedule of competitions to the [FIE] Executive Committee for approval.

Chapter X RULES FOR THE WORLD CADET CHAMPIONSHIPS

§ 1. Annual World Cadet Championships

592 In accordance with the decisions made by the Congresses held in Paris in 1985 and 1986 and by the Congress at Luxembourg in 1990, the World Cadet Championships are held annually and recognized as an official FIE competition.

This championship consists of an individual competition in each of five weapons.

FIE supervision is in effect as for the other official competitions and the FIE rules apply, subject to the specific provisions that follow.

§ 2. Age of participants

593 Participants must be less than 17 years of age at 00:00 hours on January 1st of the year of the competition. The lower age limit is that which appears in article 119 of the Statutes, i.e. at least 13 years of age at 00:00 hours on January 1st of the year of the competition.

§ 3. Candidature and date of the competition

594 The rules for bids are the same as appear in article 586 for the World Under-20 Championships. The World Cadet Championships should in principle be held in the second trimester of the calendar year.

§ 4. Entries

595 The rules concerning entries are the same as appear in article 587 above for the World Under-20 Championships.

596 The number of referees that each delegation must send to the World Cadet Championships is as follows:

- 1 to 4 fencers: 0 referees
- 5 to 12 fencers: 1 referee
- 13 to 20 fencers: 2 referees
- 21 to 30 fencers: 3 referees

§ 5. Rules

597 The provisions of article 589 above equally apply to the World Cadet Championships, as well as the provisions relating to the bout committee (article 590 above).

§ 6. Order of events

598 The organizers must submit the schedule of competitions to the [FIE] Executive Committee for approval.

§ 7. Officials present

599 The organizers of the events at the World Cadet Championships must at their expense invite the following officials:

- the FIE President or his representative, named by him;
- the members of the bout committee;
- two members of the SEMI Commission named by the FIE Central Office;
- one member of the Fencing Officials Commission named by the FIE Central Office;
- one member of the Medical Commission named by the FIE Central Office; and
- the number of foreign judges necessary for the smooth running of the competition.

Notes

- 7 Chapter VIII, inserted in this technical rule book for reference, has its original text in the book of Statutes of the FIE. It is edited by the Statutes Commission. In the case of material errors or differences in text, the text of the Statutes is considered definitive.
- 8 The title of “Champion” cannot be awarded for team events unless there is a minimum participation of five teams for men’s events and of four teams for the women’s event.
- 9 At the Olympic Games, entries for the individual events are limited to three competitors of the same nationality for each event instead of five as at the World Championships. Further, the number of participants from each nation must not exceed 20.
- 10 Chapter IX, inserted in this technical rule book for reference, has its original text in the book of Statutes of the FIE. It is edited by the Statutes Commission. In the case of material errors or differences in text, the text of the Statutes is considered definitive.

PART SIX: DISCIPLINARY RULES FOR COMPETITIONS¹¹

Chapter I – APPLICATION

§ 1. Persons subject to these rules

601 The provisions of Part VI apply to all persons who participate in or attend an international fencing competition in any capacity whatsoever (organizers, officials, members of the jury, auxiliary personnel, team captains, competitors, trainers, spectators, etc.), whether or not they are amateurs and whatever their nationality. Hereinafter, all these persons are described as “fencers.”

§ 2. Order and discipline

602 Fencers must strictly and faithfully observe the *FIE Rules for Competitions*, the particular rules of the competition in which they are engaged, the traditional customs of courtesy and integrity, and the instructions of the officials.

In particular, they will comply in an orderly, disciplined and sporting manner to the following provisions; all infractions of these rules may entail penalization by the competent disciplinary authorities with or without prior warning, according to the facts and circumstances (Cf. 634 to 641).

Everybody taking part in or present at a fencing competition must remain orderly and must not disturb the smooth running of the competition. During bouts no one is allowed to go near the strips, give advice to the fencers, criticize the referee or the judges or insult them, applaud before the referee’s decision, or attempt to influence him in any way. The referee is obliged to stop immediately any activity that disturbs the progress of the bout over which he is presiding (Cf. 615).

All offenses will be penalized according to articles 635, 639 and 641 (3rd group).

§ 3. The competitors

a) Pledge of honor

603 By the mere fact of taking part in a fencing competition, the fencers **pledge their honor** to respect the rules and the decisions of the judges, to be respectful towards the members of the jury and to obey scrupulously the orders and instructions of the referee (Cf. 635, 637, 641).

b) Presence on time

604 The fencers, completely equipped with materials conforming to the rules (Cf. 21) and ready to fence, must present themselves at the time and place specified for the beginning of each pool, match, or direct elimination bout, and also whenever the referee requires it during the competition.

They must present themselves at the strip to fence their bouts with two regulation weapons (one

spare) in perfect working order (Cf. 21, 635, 637, 641).

For any fencer not present, or any team that does not have all its members present, when called by the referee at the time published for the beginning of the pool, match or direct elimination bouts:

- two repetitions of the call, at one minute intervals, followed by exclusion from the competition by the referee if the fencer or the entire team have not presented themselves by the third call, each call having been made at one minute intervals (Cf. 635, 640, 641).

In the course of the competition (individual or team), when a fencer has been informed that it is his turn to fence, if he does not present himself when called by the referee:

- application of the penalties specified in articles 635, 637 and 641 (1st group).

Equally, if a fencer abandons a bout by leaving the strip (Cf. 32/4):

- application of the penalties specified in articles 635, 637 and 641 (1st group).

c) Method of fencing

605 The competitors must fence faithfully and strictly according to the rules specified in the chapters dealing with the conventions of fencing in general (Cf. 28) and those of each weapon in particular (Cf. 219, 316, 409); all infractions of these rules will incur the penalties specified hereinafter (Cf. 635ff).

d) Acknowledgment of a touch

606 Every competitor is at liberty to acknowledge aloud a touch received at the moment he receives it. However, the jury is not bound by this acknowledgment and may still deliberate on this touch (Cf. 66f., 72ff).

It is, on the other hand, absolutely forbidden for competitors to make any gestures or comments – except the acknowledgment of a touch as allowed – that might influence the decisions of the jury, or to acknowledge, after the referee’s decision, a touch that has not been awarded. (Cf. 635, 637, 641).

e) Personal effort

607 Competitors will expend the same effort and give the same attention to each bout; they will defend their personal chances in a sportsmanlike manner until the end of the competition in order to obtain the best possible classification, without giving touches to or seeking touches from anyone (Cf. 635, 640, 641).

§ 4. Doping

Article 1: GENERAL RULES

608 a) The use of substances intended to increase artificially and temporarily physical and mental ability in the course of sporting activity is forbidden by the FIE. Any breaking of this rule will incur disciplinary action. Doping is the use or application in any form of products foreign to the body and of organic products in abnormal doses or administered in

- abnormal ways in order to increase performance abusively. (Definition established by the World Congress on Doping, Tokyo, 1964). Because of the serious danger that doping presents to the health of licensed fencers, the FIE President, or any other person authorized by the FIE for this purpose, may, under medical supervision, and at any competition organized under the auspices of the FIE, enforce the taking of samples of solids, liquids or gases absorbed or secreted by the body of anyone licensed by the FIE in order to have them analyzed.
- b) The list of forbidden substances is reviewed by the FIE Medical Commission at its periodic meetings. The list is based on that adopted by the IOC.
This list is submitted for approval by the FIE and must be published before the start of the competition. It cannot be modified during a competition.
 - c) The licenses issued by the federations affiliated with the FIE should contain the following clause:
“The holder of this license undertakes not to make use of drugs and to accept any form of testing.”
 - d) If a fencer refuses to submit to the taking of samples as allowed, this refusal must be signed by the fencer, sealed and handed to the organizers responsible for making a decision. All fencers should know that in such a case they will be assumed, a priori, to have made use of a forbidden substance.
 - e) The organizers of any competition must make provision for the taking of samples in their regulations. The costs of drug tests are the responsibility of the association or federation organizing the competition.
 - f) An athlete is considered as being under the influence of drugs when a forbidden substance or one of its derivatives with the same characteristics can be objectively found [in his body] by means of biological analyses made within the framework of an expert opinion and a second opinion.
 - g) On the basis of the results of an analysis proving the use of a forbidden substance, the association or federation organizing the competition must set in motion the penalty procedure through the FIE, which will decide what penalties to impose.
 - h) The method for selecting fencers for examination is determined in advance each time, at the beginning of the competition. At official FIE competitions, it is determined by the delegates of the FIE Medical Commission, with the agreement of the FIE President or his representative. At category “A” competitions, it is determined by the organizers, with the agreement of the FIE observer. In principle, the testing will be performed at individual competitions on the top two in the final and on one fencer chosen at random from the other finalists. For team competitions, one fencer is selected at random from each of the top four teams.
In addition, the doctors responsible for drug testing have the right to submit any athlete to drug testing for medical reasons, but this decision may only be taken by at least two FIE Medical Commission members, and only after they have notified the FIE President (or his representative) or the FIE observer, as well as the bout committee chair.
Finally, the competition organizers have the option of examining one or more fencers at any time during the competition. They must adhere to the following restrictions:
 - 1) Make a random selection in the presence of the FIE President (or his representative) or the FIE observer or the bout committee chair.
 - 2) Deliver a notification form in person to the fencer, as soon as he or she is eliminated.
 - 3) Begin to carry out the drug testing within an hour of the notification.
 The organizers may only perform this unexpected testing if that are assured of the presence of one or more doping control specialists.
 - i) It is forbidden for fencers, as well as nonmedical trainers, to bring to or have in their possession at the competition venue any doping substances. In principle, no attention will be paid to denunciations.
 - j) Any treatment administered during the 72 hours preceding the beginning of the competition must be reported to the doctor on duty by means of an official form. Local anesthetics administered by a doctor in the case of an injury are permitted.
 - k) The result of the test is strictly confidential. Neither the doctor responsible nor the laboratory personnel who carry out the analysis are authorized to release any information, particularly to the press.
 - l) If the result of the analysis is positive, the head of the laboratory must immediately inform the FIE Medical Commission President or his representative through the person responsible for the drug test, and communicate to him the details of the analysis with a minimum of delay. The FIE Medical Commission President or his representative will immediately call a meeting, and invite the doctor responsible for the fencer (or another doctor authorized by the fencer’s delegation). The President of the Medical Commission is responsible for sending the report of the analysis to the FIE President and to the fencer in question.

- m) The fencer may demand in writing from the Medical Commission representative a confirmation of the results, performed on the second sample. This demand must be made in the 24 hours following the receipt of the result. The confirmation should be carried out by the same laboratory. The fencer may nominate a second expert of his choice, who is recognized as competent, to attend the analysis of the second sample. This confirmation must be carried out no more than six days after receipt of the appeal, and it may be carried out under the supervision of one of the FIE Medical Commission members.
- n) In the case of a positive result, the cost of the tests of the confirmation and the travel costs will be paid by the fencer or federation concerned. Should the confirmation of the results produce a negative result, the organizing country will be liable for the costs. A deposit, as security, of US \$200 or its monetary equivalent must be remitted with any request for a second opinion. If a confirmation gives a negative result exonerating the fencer, the deposit will be refunded. If a fencer is accused of doping as a result of the first analysis, he may continue to fence, but chiefs of delegations are warned that, should this fencer take part in the team event and should the second analysis confirm that he was under the influence of drugs, his team will immediately lose its place in the ranking and be eliminated from the competition.
- o) The members of the Medical Commission will send the results of the second test to the President of the Medical Commission. The latter will inform the FIE President, whose responsibility it is to call a meeting of the FIE Central Office members, who will impose the necessary penalties and issue an official notice (Cf. 621).
- p) Penalties
The following penalties are mandatory:
1. Anabolic agents, stimulants, narcotic analgesics, diuretics, and peptide hormones:
 - two year suspension for a first offense,
 - life suspension for a second offense.
 2. Ephedrine, phenylpropanolamine, codeine, etc. (even when administered orally for cough or pain control in association with decongestants and/or antihistamines):
 - three month suspension for a first offense.
 - two year suspension for a second offense.
 - life suspension for a third offense.
- The head of the laboratory accredited by the IOC that has reported the analysis will be consulted.

The fencer may be represented or attend personally.

Before a final decision, the accused fencer will be summoned by the FIE Central Office. He will be allowed, if he so wishes, to present his comments in writing.

- q) Any alteration of the classification of fencers participating in a competition and the publication of those decisions will be made by the FIE Central Office which alone will have the right to bring them to the notice of the member associations. Offenses committed and penalized in one of the member countries of the FIE will be taken into account and applied by all member countries of the FIE.

Article 2: PROCEDURE FOR TAKING SAMPLES

- 608 a) As soon as a fencer who has been randomly selected for testing has finished competing, a representative of the organizing committee will request, by giving him a special form, that he report within the hour to the waiting room of the drug testing station, and that he bring with him a piece of identification. The fencer or his team captain must sign a detachable section of the form that shows the time at which he was notified. Any fencer subject to doping control (Cf. 608h) must confirm with the bout committee chair that he has not been chosen by the random drawing before leaving the competition site. If he fails to do so and has been chosen, he will be considered as having refused the testing. The fencer may present himself for testing accompanied by a team official or doctor.
- A
- b) A representative of those conducting the test receives the fencer and his official on their arrival at the drug testing station. He verifies the identity of the fencer with the help of his identity card and his competition number.
- c) If the fencer does not arrive at the drug testing station within the hour following the delivery of the request, this will be noted on his drug testing form (Form 2).
- d) The only people who are allowed in the medical examination room, other than the fencer and the official accompanying him, are (at most):
- two doctors who are members of the FIE Medical Commission, invited by the organizing committee at the instigation of the FIE President;
 - one doctor from the country organizing the competition;
 - one interpreter, if needed; and
 - the FIE President or, if necessary, his representative.
- e) Each fencer's personal details and the time of his arrival are entered on his drug testing form.

- f) The procedures and materials used cannot be contested if the laboratory that appointed the sample taker and provided the materials is accredited by the IOC.
The number of bottles must exceed the number of anticipated samples.
- g) If a fencer refuses to provide a sample, he must be warned of the consequences of such a refusal (Cf. 608, article 1, paragraph d)). If he persists, his refusal is noted on his individual form.
- h) A breathalyzer test may be carried out to provide evidence of the possible consumption of alcohol by a fencer. In the case of a positive result (an apparent alcohol level of over 0.05%), if the fencer contests this result, he must submit himself to a quantitative measurement. If it is not possible to carry out this measurement using a breathalyzer, a blood analysis will be used. If the fencer refuses to take part in this test, he must be warned of the consequences of this decision. The penalty comes under those described in class 2, article 608, item p).

Article 3: ANALYSIS

- 608** a) The analysis of a sample must, if possible, be carried out in the 24 hours following its arrival at the laboratory.
- B** b) Techniques adopted for analysis will not be contestable in so far as they comply with the rules established by the IOC, even more so if they are carried out by a laboratory accredited by the IOC.
- c) The following are allowed access to the laboratory in addition to the head of the laboratory and his personnel: the FIE Medical Commission members, the person responsible for doping control and, in the event of a test on the second bottle, the observer chosen by the accused fencer.

Article 4: LIST OF PRODUCTS FORBIDDEN IN COMPETITION

- 608** As the list of IOC banned substances and procedures is used as a reference by the FIE, they are attached as an appendix and updated after each IOC revision.
- C** This list points out that certain federations, including the FIE, may request alcohol level testing for fencers at competitions. An alcohol level of greater than 0.05% leaves the fencer susceptible to the penalties specified in the rules.

§ 5. The team captain

- 609** In each international competition, all competitors of the same nationality are under the direction of a team captain (fencer or not), who is responsible to the bout committee or the organizing committee for the discipline, conduct, and sportsmanship of the members of his team.
In team competitions, the team captain has the right to approach the bout committee chair or the

organizing committee, the juries, etc., in order to settle technical matters, register protests, or make observations.

The members of the team who strictly carry out the instructions of their team captain may not be held responsible for them before competent authorities. However, they always remain personally responsible for all actions that they may commit other than by the intervention of their captain, and for all actions that they commit in violation of the provisions of these regulations (Cf. 602ff).

§ 6. The members of the jury

- 610** The members of the jury must fulfill their duties not only with total impartiality but also with the utmost attention (Cf. 55).
The bout committee (or the organizing committee), even if convinced of their perfect good faith, has the power to replace immediately a referee or member of the jury, if it believes that this replacement is necessary either for technical reasons or to maintain the good order of the competition.

§ 7. The coaches, trainers and technicians

- 611** Coaches, trainers and technicians (amateurs or not) are not permitted in the enclosed area near the competitors during the competition.
However, for team events, a team captain has the right to be with his team (Cf. 609).
Each time he deems it necessary, the referee may authorize someone to render temporary assistance to a competitor.
Each nation having a fencer actually participating in the round in progress may designate two persons who have the right to place themselves in the vicinity of the enclosure for the strips, near an entry point. The organizers will provide the space necessary for these persons.

§ 8. The spectators

- 612** Spectators are obliged not to interfere with the good order of a competition, to do nothing that may tend to influence the fencers or the jury, and to respect the decisions of the jury even when they do not approve of them. They must obey any instructions that the referee may deem it necessary to give them (Cf. 641-3rd group).

Chapter II THE DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITIES AND THEIR JURISDICTION

§ 1. Authorities and jurisdiction

- 613** The order and discipline of fencing competitions is the responsibility, in varying degrees, of the following persons or authorities:
- the referee (Cf. 615)
 - the Organizing Committee (Cf. 503, 616)
 - the Bout Committee (Cf. 505, 617)
 - the Jury of Appeal (Cf. 506ff, 618)
 - the IOC Executive Committee at the Olympic Games (Cf. 505, 506, 619)
 - the national federation (Cf. 620)

- the FIE Central Office (Cf. 504, 582, 621)
- the FIE Executive Committee
- the FIE Congress (Cf. 622).

§ 2. Principle of jurisdiction

- 614** a) Whatever competent body has made a decision, this decision may be subject to a possible **appeal** to a higher authority, but to only one such appeal.
- b) However, every decision made on an appeal will give the right to an **“ultimate”** appeal to the FIE Congress (when it concerns an official FIE competition) or to the FIE Central Office (when it concerns any other international competition).

This ultimate appeal is to be sent to the FIE President by registered mail within a month of when the appealed decision took effect.

When it concerns a decision made during a competition, the public announcement of the decision is considered sufficient notification. The ultimate appeal must include a summary of the facts, the arguments supporting the appeal and the desired outcome.

The appeal is communicated to the other interested parties who may, within a month, present their own viewpoint. These responses will be communicated, for information, to the party who has made the appeal.

- c) No decision on a matter of **“fact”** may be reversed (Cf. 661).
- d) An appeal regarding a decision only **suspends** that decision when it can be judged immediately. On the other hand, an **“ultimate appeal”** does not suspend the decision, except when the authority that has made the decision agrees to suspend it.
- e) **Every appeal must be accompanied by a deposit of US \$80 or its monetary equivalent, and every ultimate appeal must be accompanied by a deposit of US \$160 or its monetary equivalent.** These sums may be confiscated in whole or in part for the benefit of the FIE if the appeal is rejected on the grounds that it is a **“frivolous appeal”**; this decision will be made by the authority responsible for ruling on the appeal. However, appeals regarding decisions of the referee do not require the deposits mentioned above (Cf. 506f, 661f.).

§ 3. The referee

- 615** a) The referee is responsible not only for the direction of the bout, the judging of touches and the checking of equipment, but equally for the **maintenance of order** of the competitions at which he presides (Cf. 53).
- b) In his capacity as director of the bout and arbiter of touches he may, in accordance with the rules, penalize the fencers, either by refusing to award a touch that has actually been made on the opponent, by awarding against them a touch that they have not in fact

received, or by excluding them from the competition at which he is presiding, all, according to the circumstances, with or without prior warning. In these circumstances, and if he has judged on a matter of **“fact,”** his decisions are irrevocable (Cf. 661). All warnings (Yellow Cards), Group 3 penalty touches (Red Cards), and exclusions (Black Cards) must be noted on the scoresheet.

- c) By reason of the right of jurisdiction that he has over all the fencers who participate in or attend a competition at which he is presiding, he may also recommend to the bout committee the expulsion of spectators, trainers, coaches and other persons who accompany the competitors from the competition venue (Cf. 635, 639, 641).
- d) Finally, he may **recommend** to the bout committee (or, in its absence, to the organizing committee) all other penalties that he believes are merited (exclusion from the entire competition, suspension or disqualification) (Cf. 617).
- e) The bout committee (or, in its absence, the organizing committee) is the authority competent to deal with appeals regarding decisions of the referee (Cf. 616f., 661).

§ 4. The organizing committee (Cf. 503)

- 616** In disciplinary matters, the organizing committee is only competent to act when there is no bout committee and it assumes the functions of the bout committee; in these circumstances it must undertake all the obligations incumbent on the bout committee (Cf. 617).

§ 5. The bout committee (Cf. 505)

- 617** a) The bout committee has jurisdiction over all the fencers who take part in or attend a competition that it directs. When necessary it may intervene on its own initiative in all disputes. It may impose, either on its own initiative or at the request of the referee, all the penalties that are applicable during competitions.
- b) It is the authority that deals with appeals regarding decisions of the referee. In such circumstances, however, if it is not international (Cf. 505), it is obliged to co-opt one representative of each country participating in the competition.
- c) The decisions of the bout committee are subject to appeal before the Jury of Appeal (Cf. 506, 618), except, however, those decisions that it has itself taken on an appeal level and that may only be subject to an ultimate appeal (Cf. 614).
- d) The bout committee is obliged, when necessary, to refer complaints, protests or requests for appeal that it receives in the prescribed form to the Jury of Appeal.
- e) Further, at official FIE competitions, it sends direct to the FIE Central Office notification of

disciplinary penalties levied during the competition, as well as any requests for censure, suspension, extension of penalty, permanent suspension, or ultimate appeals.

- f) The bout committee ensures the execution of any penalty pronounced finally, or that is not subject to suspension (Cf. 614).

§ 6. The Jury of Appeal (Cf. 506)

- 618** a) The Jury of Appeal must be assembled by the bout committee (or when necessary by the organizing committee), either on its own initiative or at the request of a team captain, an official delegate of the federation concerned, a referee, or an FIE Central Office delegate (Cf. 582), immediately after the competition(s) resulting in the appeal. In no case may a Jury of Appeal be assembled during the course of the competition.
- b) Decisions of the Jury of Appeal, being always made at the appeal level, are only subject to an ultimate appeal to the FIE Central Office or Congress (Cf. 614).

§ 7. The IOC Executive Committee at the Olympic Games

- 619** The International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Committee is the final arbiter for all disputes of a nontechnical nature that may arise during the Olympic Games. It may intervene either on its own initiative or at the request of a national Olympic Committee, the FIE or the organizing committee (see article 39 of the General Rules for the Olympic Games, 1971 edition) (Cf. 505, 506).

§ 8. The national federation

- 620** a) The national federation is the competent body for all fencing events organized in its territory; it has jurisdiction, through its normal disciplinary procedures, over all fencers who reside, even transiently, within its territory.
- b) It may impose within the limits of its territory all penalties listed here.
- c) It may propose to the FIE Central Office the extension beyond its own territory of penalties that it has imposed.
- d) It deals with complaints that reach it through the regular channels; it has the right to bring up directly, at whatever stage the matter may be, the question of any offense listed here committed within its territory.
- e) When a foreign fencer not normally under its jurisdiction is concerned, the federation may only impose the penalty after consultation with the national federation to which the person concerned normally belongs. The federation in question must give its opinion within one month, not including the time required for normal postal delay. If no opinion has been given at the expiration of this period, the penalty is imposed.

In the case of a disagreement between the two federations, the file on the matter is forwarded to the FIE Central Office.

§ 9. The FIE Central Office (Cf. 504, 582)

- 621** a) The FIE Central Office, within the limits of the territories governed by the FIE, is the competent body to deal with all matters sent to it by a national federation, a Jury of Appeal or the bout committee of an international tournament.
- b) In particular it is the authority that judges “ultimate appeals” of decisions made during international competitions other than official FIE competitions (Cf. 614b).
- c) The FIE Central Office may impose all specified penalties. It may confirm, increase or annul penalties imposed by lower authorities.

§ 10. The FIE Congress

- 622** The FIE Congress has the same rights as the Central Office, especially regarding matters concerning official FIE competitions (Cf. 614).

Chapter III – PENALTIES

§ 1. Categories

- 623** There are distinct categories of penalties applicable to the different types of offenses (Cf. 635ff).
- 1° Penalties related to fencing, applicable to offenses committed while fencing, which are:
- loss of ground on the strip,
 - refusal to award a touch actually made,
 - awarding of a touch that has not actually been received,
 - exclusion from the competition.
- 2° Disciplinary penalties applicable to offenses against the maintenance of order, discipline or sportsmanship; these are:
- awarding of a touch that has not actually been received,
 - censure,
 - exclusion from the competition,
 - exclusion from the tournament,
 - temporary suspension,
 - permanent suspension,
 - disqualification,
 - expulsion from the competition venue.

§ 2. Penalties related to fencing

- a) **Loss of ground on the strip (Cf. 43)**
- 624** A fencer who crosses the lateral boundaries of the strip may be penalized by the loss of ground of one meter.
- b) **Refusal to award a touch actually made**
- 625** Although a fencer may in fact have touched his opponent on a valid surface, this touch may be disallowed, either because it did not arrive during the period of time in which fencing is allowed, because the fencer had crossed the limits of the strip, because of defects in the electrical equipment, because violence was involved in the making of the

touch, or because of another reason specified in the rules (Cf. 28, 30, 32, 35, 38ff, 42, 47, 73f., 230f., 237, 324ff, 422, 635, 641).

c) Awarding of a touch that has not actually been received

626 A competitor may be penalized by a touch that he has not in fact received, either because the time limit for the bout has expired (penalty against both competitors), because he has crossed the rear limit of the strip, or because he has committed an offense that has prevented his opponent from fencing (fleche with jostling, *corps à corps* in foil or sabre, use of the unarmed hand, etc.) (Cf. 30, 40, 48f., 224, 226, 321, 325, 412, 414, 635, 641).

d) Exclusion from the competition

627 A fencer who, while fencing, commits certain violent or vindictive actions against his opponent, who does not honestly defend his personal chance, or who profits from a fraudulent agreement with his opponent may be excluded from the competition.

A fencer who is excluded from a competition cannot continue to take part in that competition, even if he is already qualified for promotion to the next round; he loses the right to his individual place and the place that he occupied will remain empty; however, the points obtained by that fencer up to the moment of his expulsion remain valid for the classification of the team in the team event, provided that he actually takes part in that team event.

In a team event, this penalty does not necessarily involve the disqualification of the whole team, but all touches that remain to be fenced for in the bout in progress, as well as all touches that remain to be fenced for in the remaining bouts by the competitor concerned, will be awarded against him.

The referee will decide whether the fencer concerned will be excluded only from the **match** in progress or whether he will recommend to the bout committee that the fencer be excluded from all the matches that his team has left to fence (in which case he may be replaced by a substitute for the remaining matches) (Cf. 562).

§ 3. Disciplinary penalties

e) Exclusion from the competition

628 Exclusion from a competition may also be imposed for a disciplinary offense (failure to appear on the strip as required, weapons not conforming to the rules, reprehensible attitude towards a judge, etc.).

The consequences of such exclusion for the fencer are the same as those described in article 627.

f) Exclusion from the tournament

629 A fencer excluded from a tournament will no longer be allowed to participate in any

competition during that tournament, either in the same weapon or in another.

When this penalty is applied to a team, the positions of each of the team members must be examined individually, and the members of that team may, according to the circumstances, be subject to different disciplinary measures (Cf. 609).

g) Suspension

630 A suspended fencer cannot take part in any international competition during the period of his suspension.

All other suspended persons may not exercise their functions within the time and place limits specified by the suspension.

h) Permanent suspension

631 Permanent suspension involves the same consequences as suspension, but is permanent (except for the special provisions for clemency specified in article 667).

i) Disqualification

632 The disqualification of a fencer (for example, for a breach of the amateur rules, or because he does not conform to the rules regarding age, qualification, etc., required for the competition) does not necessarily incur his suspension or permanent suspension, if he has acted in good faith; a request for supplementary penalties for fraudulent intention may, however, be filed against the fencer.

A team that has utilized a fencer who is disqualified perforce shares his fate and is also disqualified.

If the disqualification occurs in the course of a pool or match, the fencer or team is considered as having withdrawn from the competition (Cf. 525ff).

If it occurs after a competition, the fencer (or team) is removed from the classification, all other competitors are maintained in their respective classifications, and this elimination will not have a retroactive effect on previous qualification competitions.

j) Expulsion from the competition or tournament venue

633 All participants or noncompetitors (coaches, trainers, technicians, supporters, officials, spectators) may be subject to expulsion, which has the effect of forbidding them access to the venue for the duration of the competition or tournament.

In no circumstances may the application of this penalty give cause for redress to anyone.

k) Censure

633 In a case that does not justify a more severe disciplinary penalty, the fencer or official may be penalized by censure.

§ 4. Announcement of penalties

634 The organizing committee is obliged without delay to communicate a decision made by itself, by the bout committee or by a Jury of Appeal to the

national association to which it belongs. The national association must register the penalty and immediately advise the FIE Central office. At official FIE competitions, the bout committee is obliged to inform the FIE Central Office without delay of penalties applied during the competition and their reasons (Cf. 617e, 620 c & e). At the Olympic Games, where the FIE assumes the role of organizing committee, the Central Office must advise the Olympic Games Committee.

Chapter IV OFFENSES, THEIR PENALTIES AND THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

Nature of the penalties

635 There exist three types of penalty applicable in the cases listed in the table in article 641. They are cumulative and valid for the bout (long with one or more encounters, or short) – with the exception of the Black Card, which signifies exclusion from the competition. Certain offenses may result in the annulment of a touch scored by the fencer at fault. During the bout, only touches scored in conjunction with the offense are annulled (Cf. 641). The penalties are as follows:

- **warning**, represented by a Yellow Card with which the referee indicates the fencer at fault. The fencer thus knows that every further offense on his part will result in a penalty touch.
- **penalty touch**, represented by a Red Card with which the referee indicates the fencer at fault. One touch is added to his opponent's score; if it involves the last touch, this results in the loss of the encounter or bout. In addition, any Red Card may only be followed by another Red Card or a Black Card, depending on the nature of the second offense (Cf. 641).
- **exclusion from the competition or tournament, depending on the offense (fencer), OR expulsion from the site of the competition (anyone disturbing order)**, represented by a Black Card with which the referee indicates the fencer or person at fault.

Competence

636 The offenses and their penalties, listed in various articles of the rules, are summarized in the attached list (article 641); they are divided into four groups (Cf. 637-640).

All these offenses are within the competence of the referee, although the bout committee always retains the right to intervene (Cf. 617a).

Offenses in the first group

637 In the first group, the first infraction, regardless of the offense, is penalized by a Yellow Card (warning). If the fencer commits another offense in this group during the same bout, the referee will penalize him each time with a Red Card (penalty touch). If the fencer at fault has already been

penalized with a Red Card as the result of an offense in the second or third group, he will receive a further Red Card for the first infraction within the first group.

All warnings (Yellow Cards) must be noted on the bout scoresheet.

Offenses in the second group

638 In the second group, each offense is penalized, from the first infraction, by a Red Card (penalty touch).

Offenses in the third group

639 In the third group, a first infraction is penalized by a Red Card (penalty touch), even if the fencer at fault has already received a Red Card as the result of an offense in the first or second group. Any Red Card in the third group must be noted on the bout scoresheet.

If the fencer commits, during the same bout, another offense in this group, the referee will penalize him with a Black Card (exclusion from the competition).

The exclusion (Black Card) must be noted on the bout scoresheet and, if necessary, on the pool or team scoresheet.

For any person disturbing order off the strip, there is:

- for the first infraction, a warning that must be noted on the bout scoresheet and registered with the bout committee.
- for the second infraction during the same competition, a Black Card (expulsion from the site of the competition).

In the most severe cases concerning disruptions on or off the strip, the referee may exclude or expel the offender immediately.

Offenses in the fourth group

640 In the fourth group, the first infraction is penalized by a Black Card (exclusion from the competition or the tournament, according to the case). The exclusion (Black Card) must be noted on the bout scoresheet and, if necessary, on the pool or team scoresheet.

The offenses and their penalties

641 See the penalty chart on the next page.

Offenses

Articles Penalty Cards

First Group:	1st	2nd	3rd
Non-conforming equipment, ⁽¹⁾ no spare regulation weapon, no name on uniform 21, 27	Y E L L O W C A R D	R E D C A R D	R E D C A R D
Simple corps à corps (F,S)..... 34, 224, 412			
Corps à corps to avoid a touch, jostling, falling, disorderly fencing, reversing shoulders (F) ⁽²⁾ 28, 34, 224, 318, 412			
Raising the mask before the halt 28			
Covering or substitution of valid target (F,S) 30, 411			
Using the non-weapon arm or hand ⁽²⁾ 30			
Touching/holding the electrical equipment 30			
Leaving the strip without permission 32			
Turning the back on the opponent ⁽²⁾ 35			
Crossing the side of the strip to avoid a touch..... 43			
Delaying the bout 48			
Placing the point of the weapon on the strip during the bout; straightening the weapon on the strip at any time (F,E) 211, 316			
Grounding the weapon on the lamé (F) ⁽²⁾ 230			
Voluntary touch not on the opponent (F,E)..... 230, 325			
Touch scored with the guard (S) ⁽²⁾ 409			
Disobedience 602f., 606, 609			
Not present when called by the referee during the competition 604			
Unjustified appeal 661			
Forward motion with crossing of the legs (S) ⁽⁹⁾ 417/5			
Second Group:	R E D	R E D	R E D
Absence of inspection marks ^(1,3) 21			
Violent, dangerous or vindictive act, hit with guard or pommel ⁽²⁾ 28			
Unjustified claim of injury ⁽⁴⁾ 50			
Voluntary touch not on the opponent in final minute (F,E) 230, 325			
Third Group:	R E D	B L A C K	
Falsified inspection marks, modification of equipment ^(1,3,4,5) 21			
Dishonest fencing ^(2,5) 28			
Fencer disturbing order on the strip ^(5,8) 602			
Offense concerning publicity code ⁽⁵⁾ Publicity Code			
Anyone disturbing order off the strip; (1st: warning; 2nd: expulsion) ^(7,8) 602			
Fourth Group:	B L A C K		
Not present to fence at beginning of competition/pool/direct elimination bout/ team match, after 3 calls at 1 minute intervals ⁽⁵⁾ 604, 650			
Obvious fraud in the equipment ^(1,2,4,6) 21			
Intentional brutality ^(2,5) 28			
Unsportsmanlike conduct ^(2,5/6) 605			
Favoring the opponent, profiting from collusion ⁽⁵⁾ 607			
Doping ⁽⁶⁾ 608			

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) Confiscation of non-conforming equipment. | (6) Exclusion from the tournament. |
| (2) Annulment of touch scored by fencer at fault. | (7) Expulsion from the site of the competition. |
| (3) Annulment of last touch scored by fencer at fault, even if fencing has recommenced. | (8) In the most severe cases, the referee may exclude or expel the offender immediately. |
| (4) Consult medical/technical experts. | (9) Annulment of touch scored by fencer at fault; however, touch correctly scored by opponent is counted. |
| (5) Exclusion from the competition. | |

A fencer cannot receive a YELLOW CARD after receiving any RED CARD in the same bout.

A fencer does not receive a 3rd group BLACK CARD without already having received a 3rd group RED CARD in that bout.

Articles 642-650 and 652 are deleted.

651 The referee and the bout committee, on their own initiative or at the request of an official delegate of the FIE or the organizing committee, have the obligation to expel from the site of the competition, with or without a warning, any fencer, spectator, trainer, escort, etc.... or auxiliary personnel or official who, by gestures, attitudes or statements, disrupts the smooth running of the competition.

Chapter V – PROCEDURE

§ 1. Basic principle

660 The various penalties are imposed by the competent authorities who will reach their decisions fairly, without being restricted by any regulation procedure, and will take into account the gravity of the offense and the circumstances in which it was committed (but Cf. 663f.).

§ 2. Protests and appeals

a) Against the decision of the referee

661 No protest may be made against a decision of the referee regarding a matter of “fact” (Cf. 614c, 615b).

If a fencer violates this principle, by questioning a referee’s decision concerning a matter of “fact” during the bout, he will be penalized according to the provisions of the rules (Cf. 635, 637, 641-1st group). However, if the referee ignores a definite rule or makes a decision contrary to the rules, a protest on this matter may be entertained.

This protest must be made:

- by the fencer for individual events, or
- by the fencer or team captain for team events,

without formality, but courteously, and should be made verbally to the referee immediately and before any decision regarding a subsequent touch.

If the referee persists in his opinion, the bout committee (or the organizing committee) has the authority to rule on an appeal (Cf. 615). If such an appeal is judged unjustified, the fencer will receive the penalties specified in articles 635, 637, and 641-1st group.

b) Other protests and appeals

662 Complaints and protests must be made in writing within a maximum period of one hour after the offending occurrence; they must be addressed to the bout committee or the organizing committee.

Protests regarding the compositions of the pools may only be made up to 2 pm of the day before the event, the official posting of these pools being mandatory 22 hours before the beginning of the competition (Cf. 505).

§ 3. Investigation – right of defense

663 No penalty may be imposed until after an inquiry has been held in the course of which the parties

concerned have been called on to give their explanations of the occurrence either verbally or in writing, within a reasonable interval of time suited to the time and place. After this time limit has expired, the penalty may be imposed.

§ 4. Deliberation

664 The decisions of all competent bodies are made according to the vote of the majority; in case of equality, the referee has the deciding vote.

§ 5. Reprieve

665 If the party involved has not previously incurred a penalty of disqualification or suspension, either for the same offense or for one that is effectively the same, with or without a reprieve, the authority that imposes the penalty may at the same time grant a reprieve, the duration of which is double that of the imposed suspension.

If, during the time of the reprieve, from the time the decision imposing the penalty was announced, the party concerned incurs no further penalty, the original penalty is annulled. In the contrary case, the original penalty is enforced and is added to the new penalty.

§ 6. Repetition of an offense

666 For offenses against sportsmanship, order or discipline, a fencer is said to repeat an offense if he commits a new offense, other than violation of the rules governing bouts,

- within two years, if he has previously been censured, or subjected to exclusion, disqualification or suspension.

For the repetition of an offense, the penalty to be imposed is:

- a) exclusion from the competition, if the previous penalty was censure.
- b) disqualification from the tournament, if the previous penalty was exclusion or disqualification from a competition.
- c) suspension for double the time of the previous penalty, or permanent suspension, if the previous penalty was suspension.

§ 7. Pardon, remission and commutation of penalty

667 In exceptional cases, the FIE Central Office and the FIE Congress, or a national federation, may, after special consideration, pardon a fencer whom they have punished, remit the remainder of his penalty, or commute the same.

Notes

- 11 Penalties relating to the Fencers’ Publicity Code are contained in Appendix A of these rules.

PART SEVEN: AUTOMATIC SCORING EQUIPMENT

Chapter I RULES APPLICABLE TO ALL AUTOMATIC SCORING EQUIPMENT

§ 1. Authorized designs

701 Only electrical apparatus with wires connecting the fencers to the central scoring machine and registering touches by light signals with auxiliary audible signals are authorized; this expressly excludes apparatus based on radio waves and those with audible signals only.

2. Definition of equipment

702 All electrical scoring equipment includes:

a) Equipment provided by the organizers of a competition, i.e.:

- 1° The central scoring machine, with extension lights (Cf. 709, 713ff, 723ff).
- 2° The reels, with cables and connecting plugs (Cf. 710/7).
- 3° The metallic strip that grounds touches made on it (Cf. 711).
- 4° The source of electrical current (storage batteries) (Cf. 709/7, 716, 729).
- 5° For finals of official FIE competitions, a clock that counts down the time and that can be connected to the audible signal generator and the electrical scoring machine (Cf. 47, 709/8&9).
- 6° For electric sabre competitions, a sufficient number of sensors (Cf. 17, 19, 428, 761ff).

b) The equipment provided by the fencers themselves:

- 1° The weapon, furnished with a connecting socket inside the guard and with a special point at the extremity of the blade for registering touches (Cf. 712, 718ff, 731ff);
- 2° The body cord with plugs for connecting to the reel and to the weapon (Cf. 710/6);
- 3° The metallic vest (for foil and sabre) (Cf. 424, 722).

§ 3. Approval of apparatus designs

703 Scoring apparatus for use in an official competition must have been approved by the FIE Commission for Electrical Apparatus and Equipment (SEMI Commission).

In order to obtain this approval, the apparatus that is proposed for use must be submitted complete, with reels, connections, etc., for an examination by the Commission, at a place and date to be agreed upon with the Commission at least six months before the date of the competition.

The apparatus must be accompanied by a detailed drawing showing its construction.

704 Approval is given for the use of the apparatus in one specific official competition. However, the Commission is willing, as far as it is able, and without charge, to examine prototypes of apparatus submitted by designers even if the use of such apparatus is not planned for an imminent official competition.

705 Approval is given for only one established design of apparatus that conforms to the furnished diagram, and is not given as a general approval for all products made by a certain manufacturer. The latter may state in their publicity only the fact that the type of apparatus offered for sale has been used at a specific official competition (if this in fact is the case), but they themselves must guarantee that this apparatus conforms to the approved design.

706 Approval of an apparatus by the Commission as well as its acceptance (Cf. 708) implies no guarantee against possible faults in construction, or against its use with a source of electrical current other than storage batteries (Cf. 709/7).

707 All expenses incurred by the SEMI Commission for the examination of apparatus are the responsibility of the persons concerned.

§ 4. Inspection of apparatus before each competition

708 Before each official FIE competition, the proper functioning of the apparatus intended for use and its conformity to the approved design must be checked by an FIE SEMI Commission representative; this inspection is in addition to the approval of the design detailed above (Cf. 705). All the apparatus must be submitted to this representative at least 48 hours before the competition begins.

§ 5. Specifications for all electrical equipment

a) Central scoring machine (Cf. 713ff, 723ff)

- 709**
1. A touch made on the metallic strip or on the metallic parts of the weapon must not be registered by the machine and must not prevent the registering of a touch made simultaneously by the opponent. In foil a touch made on a part of the foil may register if an uninsulated part of the weapon of the fencer is in contact with his metallic vest.
 2. The machine must not have any device whereby anyone other than the person detailed to supervise it can interrupt its working during a bout.
 3. Touches are registered by light signals. The signal lights are placed on the top of the machine, so as to be simultaneously visible to the referee, the competitors and the superintendent of the apparatus. By their positions, they must clearly show from which side the touch was made. It must be possible to connect extension lights to the exterior of the machine in order to increase the visibility of the signals. However, only the lights on the machine itself are considered as correct if they differ from the extension lights.

4. Once the signal lights are lit, they must remain lit until the machine is reset, without any tendency to go out or flicker as a result of subsequent touches or vibrations.
5. The visual signals are accompanied by audible signals (see under each weapon) (Cf. 713/3, 728).
6. The control switches must be placed either on the top or the front part of the machine.
7. For official FIE competitions, the source of power must always be storage batteries. The wiring of the machine powered in this way must be designed so that it is impossible for the box to be connected by mistake to the main AC electrical supply.
All fencing salles, clubs, etc., and the organizers of training sessions or competitions involving weapons using electrical equipment may use the current supplied by the main AC electrical supply on condition that they adhere strictly to the technical standards specified on the subject by their countries and international communities.
8. If the clock is not incorporated into the scoring machine, the machine must have a system for linking in an external clock. This clock must be powered by a 12 volt storage battery. Disconnection of the cable linking the clock to the apparatus must simultaneously cause blocking of the scoring machine, prevention of any change in the machine's current state, and stopping of the clock.

There must be a switch inside the machine to change its operating mode and allow the machine to be used when not connected to the clock (Cf. 47, 702).

9. For the finals of official FIE competitions, the clock must be equipped with a system for the connection of external displays with large luminous numbers, and with another system for the connection of an audible signal generator. These two connection systems must be separated from the circuits inside the central scoring machine by means of opto-couplers (Cf. 47, 702).
10. When the cable connecting the audible signal generator to the clock is disconnected, the audible signal generator must emit a sound of between 80 and 100 decibels (measured at the center line of the strip) lasting between 2 and 3 seconds, but the central scoring machine must not be blocked and the clock must not stop (Cf. 47, 702, 709/9).

b) Reels, floor cords and connecting plugs (Cf. 717, 730)

- 710**
1. The maximum electrical resistance of each wire of the reel, measured from plug to plug, must be 3 ohms.
 2. Even when the reel is in full rotation, no interruption of electrical contact may be tolerated. To ensure this, the contact rings will

have double brushes. The wire connected to the ground circuit of the weapon will be connected to the frame of the reel.

3. The reels must allow the extension of 18 to 20 meters of cable without straining the springs.
4. The reel cable socket that is designed to receive the plug on the body cord at the fencer's back must include a safety device that meets the following conditions:
 - it must be impossible to fasten it unless the plug is correctly put in;
 - it must be impossible for it to come undone during the bout; and
 - it must be possible for the fencer to verify that the two foregoing requirements are satisfied.
5. The resistance of each of the three wires in the floor cords may not exceed 2.5 ohms.
6. The plug used to connect the body cord to the reel wire and the floor cords to the reels and the scoring machine must have three prongs of 4 mm diameter arranged in a straight line. The outside prongs must be spaced 15 and 20 mm from the center prong. The body cord and the floor cords have plugs (male connectors); the reel cables and the central scoring machine have the sockets for them (female connectors).
7. The use of suspended cables instead of reels is permitted, provided that the requirements of the preceding paragraphs are satisfied.

c) The metallic strip

- 711**
1. The metallic conducting strip is made from metal, metallic mesh or some substance with a metallic base. The electrical resistance of the strip, from one end to the other, may not exceed 5 ohms.
 2. The metallic strip must cover the entire width and length of the field of play, including its extensions.
When the competition is fenced on a raised platform the metallic strip must cover the entire width of the platform (mandatory for official FIE competitions).
 3. Because the amount of wire that the reels can carry is limited, the metallic strip is designed for use on a strip 14 meters long; an extension of 1.5 to 2.0 meters is added at each end of the strip on which the competitors can retreat. The metallic strip must therefore be 17 to 18 meters long.
 4. It is preferable to lay the metallic strip on a wooden surface with some flexible material between. It must be provided with some device that enables it to be kept well stretched.
 5. The paint used to draw the lines on the metallic strip must not interfere with electrical conductivity, so that a touch made on the strip at a point where a line occurs is still grounded.
 6. Organizers must ensure that soldering equipment is available, permitting immediate

repair of any hole that may appear in the metallic strip (Cf. 231/8, 328).

d) Weapons (Cf. 428, 718ff, 731ff)

- 712 1. Inside the guard there must be a cushion sufficiently large to protect the electrical wires from the competitor's fingers. The connections must be arranged so that it is impossible for the fencer to break or make contacts while fencing (Cf. 26).
On foils, the wire must be protected by an insulating sheath.
On epees, the two wires must be protected by two insulating sheaths, one for each wire. The wire and the insulating sheath go all the way to the fixed socket.
In no case may uninsulated wires project beyond the socket (Cf. 217, 314).
2. Any connection system inside the guard is allowed, provided that it satisfies the following conditions:
- it must be easy to disconnect and connect;
 - it must be able to be checked with simple devices such as a penknife or coin;
 - it must allow easy application of the tip of the opponent's weapon to the part connected to the ground circuit;
 - it must be equipped with a security device preventing disconnection during the bout;
 - it must ensure the complete connection of the electric wires: even a momentary break in contact while the plugs are connected must be impossible;
 - it must not include any part that allows electrical contact to be made between the plug sockets.
3. The electrical resistance required for weapons is specified under each weapon.
Those who wish to assemble electrical weapons, without the means to perform electrical tests, are advised that the specified limits for electrical resistance for the circuits of each weapon have been chosen so that any assembler who is reasonably careful in his work can meet them.
They are advised:
- to deoxidize the external surface of the guard and the connecting surfaces inside it thoroughly;
 - not to destroy the insulation of the wires, especially where they pass along the groove in the blade at the point and at the guard; and
 - to avoid accumulations of glue in the groove of the blade.

Chapter II SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE VARIOUS PARTS OF THE ELECTRICAL FOIL EQUIPMENT

A) STATIONARY EQUIPMENT

§ 1. The central scoring machine (Cf. 709)

a) Principles

- 713 1. The machine works by the breaking of the current in the foil circuit; that is to say that an electrical current that is constantly flowing in the foil circuit is broken when a touch is made.
2. The machine will show a red signal on one side and a green signal on the other for touches on a valid surface. The signal will be white on both sides for touches on a nonvalid surface. It must also show a yellow signal if a machine with yellow lights is being used when an uninsulated part of the foil of the fencer who is touched is in contact with his metallic vest (Cf. 645/3).
The second part of this article is not enforced in the case of antiblocking machines.
3. The audible signals will give either a short ring or a continuous note automatically limited to two seconds, one or the other occurring whenever a visual signal appears. The audible signal must be the same for the two sides.
4. After registering a nonvalid touch, the machine must be able to register a subsequent valid touch on the same side.

Note: Article 229 has been modified to read: "if a nonvalid touch occurs, the machine does not register a possible valid touch on the same side." As noted in Part Two, this rule has not yet been adopted by the USFA.

5. Conversely, after the registration of a touch on a valid surface, the machine must not register any subsequent touch arriving on the same side on a nonvalid surface.
6. No priority must be indicated between a touch registered against one competitor and a touch registered against his opponent.
7. Conversely, after a certain time "X" (which bears no relationship to "fencing time," which is the basis of judging according to the conventions governing foil fencing) following the first signal given by the machine, the latter must block out all signals for subsequent touches. The central scoring machine must be capable of being regulated for the period of time "X" between 700 and 800 milliseconds.
- ##### b) Sensitivity and regularity
- 714 1. Any touch must cause a signal whatever the resistance in the circuits external to the scoring machine; the duration of a break in contact that must always ensure that a signal is registered is 5 milliseconds.

- Depending on the increase in the resistance, the machine may register:
- 1) valid touch only;
 - 2) valid touch and nonvalid touch simultaneously; or
 - 3) nonvalid touch only.
- The resistance must always be less than 500 ohms for 1 and 2.
2. Registration of a valid touch must be ensured in the following conditions:
 - The duration of a break in contact that causes a valid touch to be signaled must never be less than one millisecond.
 - The maximum limit for the duration of the break in contact that must register a valid touch depends on the resistance in the return circuit through the opponent's metallic vest as follows:
 - 0-250 ohms: 5 milliseconds;
 - greater than 250 ohms: 500 milliseconds.

A machine will be rejected if the registration of a valid touch is possible with a speed of less than 1 millisecond.

On the other hand, the registration of touches must always be possible below 5 milliseconds, even with an external resistance of up to 250 ohms.
 3. A nonvalid touch must be registered for a break in contact of 2 to 10 milliseconds' duration when the exterior resistance is between 0 and 200 ohms.
 4. The scoring machine must be capable of tolerating an increase in the resistance in the closed circuit of the foils of up to 200 ohms, without causing a "nonvalid" signal to register.
 5. Even if the resistance in the foil ground circuit is increased up to 100 ohms, none of the following irregular phenomena must occur:
 - registration of touches on the guard or the strip;
 - registration of a touch merely by contact of the blade or the tip (without depressing it) on the metallic vest of either opponent.
 6. If faulty insulation of one of the competitors causes a current leakage between his metallic vest on the one hand and his weapon or the metallic strip on the other, corresponding to a resistance that could go down to 250 ohms, the machine must nevertheless continue to register normally touches exchanged, whether valid or nonvalid.
 7. When the blades are in contact, irrespective of the electrical resistance between them, the machine must be capable of normally registering the touches exchanged, valid and nonvalid.
 8. A specification for tests of apparatus under different conditions will be supplied on request by the FIE Commission for Electrical Apparatus and Equipment.
 9. A specification for tests also exists for the inspection of the functioning of the yellow lights.
 10. The FIE Congress has authorized the SEMI Commission to modify or complete the above requirements whenever technical improvements allow the construction of apparatus that can ensure improved operation of the electrical foil scoring apparatus.
 - c) **Extension lights (Cf. 709/3)**

715 Extension lights external to the scoring machine are mandatory for official FIE competitions. The lights are placed about 1.80 meters above the strip. The two lights of the same group must not be further than 15 cm apart and each group must be at least 50 cm from the other. The white and colored extension lights must be arranged horizontally or vertically on either side of the machine, and the luminous panels must be visible from all directions (Cf. 713/2). Yellow extension lights must be included on the extension light stand but they must not be placed near the lights that register valid or nonvalid touches (Cf. 747). Lights showing the number of touches may not be placed alongside the extension lights.
 - d) **Source of electrical current (Cf. 709, 729)**

716 1. The apparatus must be based on a 12 volt supply or, if the sources of current for each side of the apparatus are separate, on 2 x 12 volts or possibly 2 x 6 volts (separation of the current supply is recommended; it can simplify a number of problems encountered in the construction of foil apparatus).

2. The apparatus may include indicator lights to show that the power is switched on. Such lights should be colorless.
- § 2. Reels, floor cords and connecting plugs (Cf. 710)**
- 717** In foil, the connection of the various wires to the three sockets of the reel is as follows:
- socket 15 mm from the central socket: to the metallic vest,
 - center socket: to the wire in the foil,
 - socket 20 mm from the central socket: to the foil ground circuit and the metallic strip.
- The crocodile clip of the body cord must be of a strong type and ensure excellent contact with the metallic vest.
- This clip must conform to the conditions of manufacture and assembly specified in article 217. The wire joining the crocodile clip to the rear plug of the body cord must have a free length of at least 40 cm and must be soldered to the crocodile clip. The solder must not be covered by any insulation or any other substance. The body cord and connecting plugs must satisfy the conditions of manufacture and assembly specified in article 217.

B) WEAPONS (Cf. 712)

§ 1. Principle

718 The foil has a single wire, glued in a groove cut the length of the blade, which permanently connects the point to the corresponding socket inside the guard. At rest the tip is also in contact with the metallic part (ground circuit) of the foil. When a touch is made, this contact must be broken.

§ 2. Points and tips

- 719** 1. The diameter of the tip is between 5.5 and 7.0 mm; the diameter of the body of the point including its exterior insulation must not be more than 0.3 mm less than that of the tip.
2. The tip is cylindrical; its front surface is flat and perpendicular to its axis.
Its edge will either be rounded with a radius of 0.5 mm or have a 0.5 mm chamfer at 45°.
3. The pressure required on the tip in order to break the contact and cause the machine to register a touch must be more than 500 grams; that is to say that this weight must be lifted by the point spring (Cf. 211). The weight of 500 grams supplied by the organizing committee may have a tolerance of ± 2 grams, i.e. from 498 to 502 grams.
4. The travel of the tip required to cause the scoring machine to register a touch, called the "lighting stroke," may be infinitesimally short; the total travel of the tip is a maximum of 1 mm.
5. The tip must be retained in the point at at least two evenly spaced places, or by any other method approved by the Commission for Electrical Apparatus and Equipment.

§ 3. Method of affixing the point

- 720** If the base of the point is not made in one piece with the blade, or if it does not permit the flattened end of the blade to be retained, it must be screwed on to the end of the blade, which must be cut and threaded for this purpose, meeting the following conditions:
1. Normally, only attachment by metal to metal is allowed. Nevertheless, attachment by means of an insulating material providing great mechanical strength may be allowed after approval by the Commission for Electrical Apparatus and Equipment.
 2. All soldering or brazing or in general any heating that may affect the temper of the blade are forbidden. Only soldering with soft solder and a soldering iron solely to prevent the point from coming loose is authorized.
 3. Before threading, the end of the blade must not have a diameter at any point that is less than 3.5 mm, and this without anything being wrapped around it, a process that is strictly forbidden.
 4. For a steel barrel, the diameter of the core of the thread must not be less than 2.7 mm (SI

3.5 x 0.60 thread). The threading must be very tight.

The part of the blade on which the barrel is fixed must be 7 to 8 mm long and entirely covered by the barrel. Threading only the half of this length at the end of the blade is recommended. On the other half the barrel will have a smooth surface of 3.5 mm diameter into which the corresponding part of the blade must be introduced with some force.

5. When a barrel made of light alloy is used, instructions should be sought from the SEMI Commission.
6. At the point where the wire passes into the point, the width of the groove must not exceed 0.5 mm, and its depth must not exceed 0.6 mm, measured on the diameter of the core of the thread, in order to weaken the section of the blade as little as possible.
7. Only members of the SEMI Commission or the bout committee may require the verification of the above points.

§ 4. Insulation of the point and the blade

721 The body of the point and the foil blade for a length of 15 cm from the point, as well as the pommel or the rear extremity of the handle, must be entirely covered with insulating material (electrical tape, adhesive tape, cellophane tape, plastic or varnish) (Cf. 211).

The flange of the sleeve that slides in the base of the point and within which is fixed the tip must be of a smaller diameter than the insulated head of the tip itself, to prevent accidental contact with the metallic vest when a touch is made.

C) METALLIC VESTS, MASKS AND BODY CORDS

- 722** 1. The metallic vest must cover entirely and without omission the fencer's valid surface. Details of its dimensions are given in Part II (Cf. 216, 220).
2. The interior of metallic vests must be electrically insulated by a lining or an adequate treatment of the lamé material.
 3. The lamé material used must have metallic thread in both warp and weft; regarding electrical conductivity, it must meet the following conditions:
 - a) The electrical resistance measured between any two points of the lamé material must not be greater than 5 ohms. The resistance will be measured by using a 500 gram copper or brass weight that has a hemispherical end with a radius of 4 mm. This weight, placed on this end and moved over the lamé material, must maintain continuous contact, with a maximum resistance of 5 ohms.
 - b) In no case will holes, patches of oxidation or other defects that may prevent the registration of a valid touch be tolerated.

- c) A metallic vest that is considered to be unusable will be so marked with a very visible colored paint by a member of the FIE Commission for Electrical Apparatus and Equipment.
- 4. The wire mesh of the mask must be insulated internally and externally by an insulating material resistant to shocks, applied before the mask is made up.
- 5. Masks and metallic vests conforming to the above specifications are mandatory for FIE official competitions.
- 6. In any case, if for any reason whatever a fencer's equipment does not conform to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 above, article 231 will not apply if a valid signal results from a touch on a nonvalid surface.
- 7. The body cord, its connecting plugs and its crocodile clip must meet the conditions of manufacture and assembly specified in article 217.

Chapter III

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE VARIOUS PARTS OF THE ELECTRICAL EPEE EQUIPMENT

A) STATIONARY EQUIPMENT

§ 1. The central scoring machine

a) Principles

723 The machine registers when contact is made between the wires forming the circuit in the epee, thus allowing current to flow.

b) Timing

724 The machine must register only the first touch that arrives. If the interval between two touches is less than 40 milliseconds (1/25th of a second), the machine must register a double touch (both signal lights must light up simultaneously). Above 50 milliseconds (1/20th of a second), the machine must register only one touch (only one signal light is lit). The tolerance allowed for the machine timing is between these two limits (1/25th and 1/20th of a second).

c) Sensitivity

725 When the external resistance is normal (10 ohms), the registration of touches must be ensured with a duration of contact of from 2 to 10 milliseconds. With an exceptional external resistance of 100 ohms, the machine must still register a touch, but without any specific duration of contact. The machine must not register signals of less than 2 milliseconds duration.

d) Nonregistration

726 The machine must not register touches that are made on grounded material (guard or metallic strip) even when there is a resistance of 100 ohms in the ground circuit.

e) Visual signals

- 727**
1. Visual signals include at least two light bulbs on each side, so designed that if one bulb does not function it does not prevent the other from lighting up, nor cause an excessive current through the latter.
 2. The signal lights must give a red signal on one side of the machine and a green signal on the other.
 3. The machine must have an indicator light to show that it is switched on. This light should be dim and colorless.
 4. The machine may include lights that indicate leakage to ground. These are orange in color.
 5. The light bulbs indicating touches are usually covered with translucent shades. However, it must be possible to remove these shades and use bare bulbs when the ambient lighting conditions make it preferable to do so (strong sunlight or outdoors).

f) Audible signals

728 The apparatus' audible signal must be loud. It may include a device that allows the audible signal to be stopped before the machine is reset.

g) Source of electrical current (Cf. 709, 716)

- 729**
1. The apparatus must be based on a 12 volt supply. The electrical connection on the apparatus provided to connect it to the power supply must be so constructed that it is impossible to connect the apparatus by mistake to the main AC electrical supply.
 2. If the apparatus is constructed for use with dry cell batteries, it must be equipped with a voltmeter or other device allowing checking of the state of the batteries at any time. Nevertheless, the apparatus must always be provided with the electrical connections described above to enable it to be powered by storage batteries.

§ 2. Reels, floor cords, connecting plugs and body cords (Cf. 710)

- 730** In epee, the connection of the various parts by three-prong plugs and sockets on the reels and floor cords is as follows:
- the prong 15 mm from the central prong: to the wire in the epee that is most directly connected to the tip;
 - the center prong: to the other wire in the epee;
 - the prong 20 mm from the central prong: to the epee ground circuit and the metallic strip.
 - The epee body cord and its connecting plugs must meet the requirements for manufacture and assembly specified in article 314.

B) WEAPONS (Cf. 712)

§ 1. Principle

- 731** The epee has two electrical wires, glued in a groove in the blade, connecting the point, as stated above, to two of the connecting plugs inside the guard and forming the active circuit of the epee.

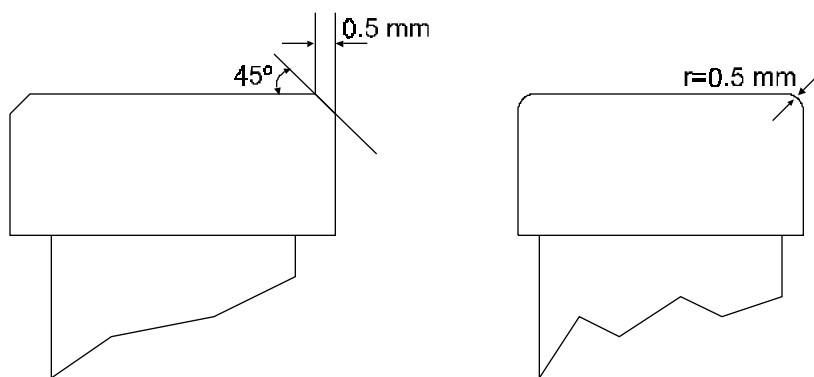


Figure VII-1: Epee Points and Tips

The body of the epee (ground circuit) is connected to the third socket.

§ 2. Points and tips (Cf. 311)

(Cf. Fig. VII-1, Epee Points and Tips)

732 1. (Article under revision)

The tip is cylindrical. Its front surface is flat and perpendicular to its axis. Its edge will either be rounded with a radius of 0.5 mm or have a 0.5 mm chamfer at 45°.

The diameter of the crown of the tip is 8.00 mm, with a tolerance of ± 0.05 mm. The diameter of the barrel must not be less than 7.7 mm.

The flange (collar) that guides the tip as well as any insulating washer must be sufficiently recessed in relation to the crown (it is recommended that it be recessed in diameter by 0.3 to 0.5 mm) so that it will not be possible to cause a touch to be registered merely by sliding the depressed tip against the convex surface of the guard (Cf. Fig. VII-2, Epee Point on Guard) (Cf. 326/2a).

The Tollbom point, quite different in conception from that specified above, may be used in official FIE competitions and in other international competitions.

The diameter of the crown of this tip is 8.00 mm, with a tolerance of $\pm .05$ mm.

Its lighting stroke (travel) must be greater than 1.0 mm, as for the normal point (Cf. 732/4).

2. The pressure required on the tip in order to establish the circuit in the epee and thus cause the machine to register a touch must be more than 750 grams; that is to say that this weight must be lifted by the point spring (Cf. 311).
3. The weight used to inspect competitors' epees on the strip consists of a metal cylinder drilled part of the way along its axis to form a hole parallel to its sides; this hole, into which is inserted the end of the blade, must have an insulating lining to prevent its metallic parts from coming into contact with the epee blade, which would then give a false result to the test. This 750 gram weight supplied by the organizing committee may have a tolerance of ± 3 grams, i.e. from 747 to 753 grams.
4. The distance traveled by the tip in order to cause the machine to register a touch by completing the circuit of the epee, called the "lighting stroke," must be greater than 1.0 mm. The further distance that the tip may travel must be less than 0.5 mm. (This

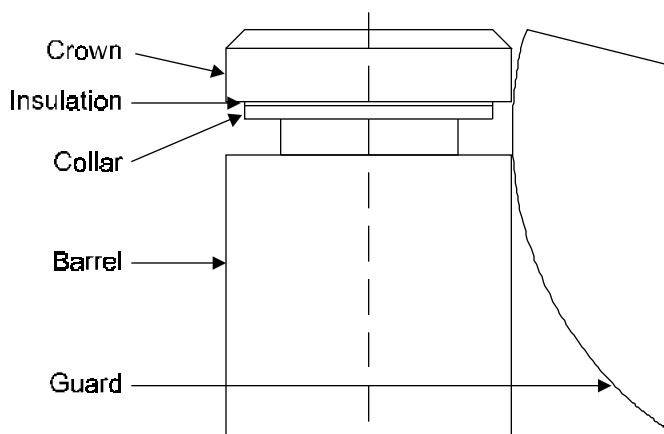


Figure VII-2: Epee Point on Guard

requirement is just as essential as that for the lighting stroke).

To enable an inspection to be made on the strip, the total travel of the point must be greater than 1.5 mm (Cf. 18).

It is forbidden to adjust the "lighting stroke" after the point has been assembled on the weapon, by means of screws or any other external device.

An external screw or similar device is only allowed if it serves to secure the assembling of the point.

The head of such a screw or device must never project beyond the flat top surface of the point, and its housing in the flat surface must not exceed 2 mm in diameter.

5. The tip must be retained in the point at at least two evenly spaced points, or by another system approved by the SEMI Commission.
6. Only points that are capable of maintaining unchanged their initial characteristics inspected at the beginning of the competition as specified in the rules, even if they are subjected to numerous and different trials, regardless of angle or intensity, and that correspond to the attached design, will be approved.

§ 3. Method of affixing the point

733 If the base of the point is not made in one piece with the blade, or if it does not permit the flattened end of the blade to be retained, it must be screwed on to the end of the blade, which must be cut and threaded for this purpose, meeting the following conditions:

1. Normally, only attachment by metal to metal is allowed. However, attachment by means of an insulating material providing great mechanical strength may be authorized after approval by the SEMI Commission.
2. All soldering or brazing or in general any heating that may affect the temper of the blade are forbidden. Only soldering with soft solder and a soldering iron solely to prevent the point from coming loose is authorized.
3. Before threading, the end of the blade must not have a diameter at any point that is less than 4 mm, and this without anything being wrapped around it, a process that is strictly forbidden.
4. The diameter of the core of the thread at the end of the blade must not be less than 3.05 mm (SI 4.0 x 0.70 thread).

The part of the blade on which the barrel is fixed must be 7 to 8 mm long and entirely covered by the barrel. Threading only the half of this length at the end of the blade is recommended. On the other half the barrel will have a smooth surface of 4 mm diameter into which the corresponding part of the blade must be introduced with some force.

5. The groove enabling the wires to enter the point must be cut in such a way that it weakens the section of the blade as little as possible.
6. Only members of the SEMI Commission or the bout committee may require the verification of the above points.

Chapter IV SPECIAL CONDITIONS THAT MUST BE FULFILLED BY THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE ELECTRIC FOIL EQUIPMENT (continued from Chapter II)

STATIONARY APPARATUS

1. Main recording machine with the addition of yellow lights (for the detection of faults in the insulation)

741 This machine must satisfy the requirements of articles numbered:

- 701-709 inclusive
- 713-716 inclusive.

742 The addition of yellow lights to the foil scoring machine allows the implementation of the measures specified in article 230, paragraph 3.

Basic principles

- 743** 1. The yellow lights, called warning lights, function whenever a metal part of the foil or the metallic strip comes into electrical contact with that same fencer's metallic vest.
2. However, if this contact is only momentary, the yellow light or lights should light up automatically without an audible signal and should go out again as soon as the contact is broken.
3. On the other hand, when there is contact between a fencer's foil and his metallic vest at the moment when his opponent makes
 - a touch on a valid surface, or
 - even a touch on a part of the weapon, the yellow light or lights must light up automatically and activate an audible signal. The yellow light or lights must then remain lit.
4. They may only be switched off manually.
5. Only yellow light signals accompanied by audible signals may cause the referee to apply penalties.
6. For resetting of the yellow lights, the machine must have a special manual switch, visible to the referee, which must be located either on the top or the front of the machine.
7. The signals of the yellow lights must not cause or influence the registering or non-functioning of the lights that register touches, whatever the external resistance may be.
8. Conversely, the lights for registering touches must not cause or influence the registering or

nonfunctioning of the yellow lights, whatever the external resistance.

Adjustment

- 744 1. The yellow light on the side of a fencer must automatically light up and remain lit as soon as the resistance between the metallic vest of the that fencer and his weapon is between 0 and 450 ohms; above 475 ohms, the yellow light must never light up.
2. The yellow light on the side of a fencer must automatically light up and remain lit as soon as the resistance between the metallic vest of that fencer and the metallic strip is less than 150 ohms.
3. When the blades of both fencers touch and remain in contact with a resistance of less than 150 ohms, the yellow lights must not indicate contact between the metallic strip and either the metallic vest or the metal parts of the foil of one of the fencers.
Tests of the apparatus will be carried out with a resistance of 100 ohms.
4. The yellow light must not light up if the contact is of less than 5 milliseconds. It must light up if the contact is longer than 10 milliseconds.
This difference between 5 and 10 milliseconds represents the permitted technical tolerance.

Light signals

- 745 1. The yellow lights will have at least two bulbs placed on the side of each fencer in such a way that if one fails to function, this neither prevents the lighting up of, nor overloads, the other.
2. The yellow lights may be part of the central scoring machine, or in a separate piece of equipment connected to the central machine.
3. In the latter case, the separate equipment must have an indicator light to show that it is switched on. This light must be dim and colorless.
4. The yellow lights must be placed either on the top or on the two sides of the machine, easily visible to the referee, but quite **separate from the lights for registering touches**.

Electrical supply

- 746 As far as the power source is concerned, any separate yellow light equipment must respect articles 709/7, 716 and 729.

Extension lights

- 747 Yellow extension lights should be fitted to the extension light standards only if the scoring machine is one that signals the blocking at the moment a valid touch is scored, by means of the yellow light remaining illuminated and by emitting an audible signal.

Chapter V SPECIAL CONDITIONS THAT MUST BE FULFILLED BY THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE ELECTRICAL SCORING APPARATUS FOR FOIL (continued from Chapters II & IV)

STATIONARY EQUIPMENT

Scoring machine with antiblocking system

- 751 This apparatus must conform to the requirements of the rules set out in articles:
- 701-709 inclusive
 - 713-714/5 inclusive
 - 714/7-716 inclusive
- 752 Even if a fault in the insulation in a fencer's equipment causes a leakage of current between the metallic vest on the one hand and the weapon on the other, the machine should nevertheless be capable of registering both valid and nonvalid touches.
- 753 In the case specified in article 752, the machine must register touches on the ground circuit of the foil of the fencer with the insulation fault if the resistance of this current leakage is between 0 and 100 ohms, but if the resistance in the return circuit of the opponent's foil increases to 200 ohms, in no case may there be an absence of registration of touches.
- 754 The machine must be equipped with two yellow lights and regulated as specified in article 744/1.
- 755 These yellow lights serve only to indicate insulation faults.
- 756 If one or both of the yellow lights remain lit up, the referee must stop the bout and call the technical experts on duty to remedy the fault. The yellow lights need not necessarily indicate contact between the fencer's metallic vest and the metallic strip.
- 757 The yellow lights need not be duplicated on the extension light standards.
- 758 There must be no signal from touches made on the metallic strip if the resistance in series between the scoring machine and the metallic strip does not exceed 150 ohms.
If both fencers touch the metallic strip at the same moment and if one of them has a current leakage between his foil and his own metallic vest, no signal is permitted.

Chapter VI SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE VARIOUS PARTS OF THE ELECTRICAL SABRE EQUIPMENT

A) STATIONARY APPARATUS

Central scoring machine

a) Principles

- 761 1) The machine functions with the aid of a sensor (shock detector / accelerometer) and by

contact between the sabre blade and the opponent's metallic surface.

- 2) Each machine is designed for use with a particular type of sensor. Therefore, the latter is an integral part of the scoring machine and must be attached to the sabre at the moment of use.
- 3) The sensor attached to the sabre is sensitive to cuts (including back edge cuts and cuts with the flat of the blade) as well as thrusts. It causes the machine to register a touch.
- 4) The machine shows a red signal on one side and a green signal on the other side for touches registered on the valid metallic surface.

If the guard or the blade of a fencer is in contact with the metallic part of his equipment (yellow light illuminated), valid touches by this fencer must always be registered.

- 5) The audible signal will consist either of a short ring or of a continuous tone of 1 to 2 seconds' duration, simultaneous with the illumination of the lights. The sound will be the same for both sides.
- 6) Contact or a possible hit with the bell guard on the valid surface of the opponent must never register a touch.¹²
- 7) Touches on non-metallic surfaces must not be registered.
- 8) Touches are registered when contact between the blade and the metallic surface of the opponent occurs in conjunction with the triggering of the sensor.
- 9) The machine will be equipped with two yellow lights – one on each side – that indicate faults in the circuit, particularly contact between the guard or blade of a fencer and a metallic part of his own equipment.
- 10) The machine will be equipped with two white lights, identical to those for the foil apparatus, which indicate by their constant illumination, accompanied by an audible signal, any abnormal change in the electrical state of the sensor's circuit.
- 11) The machine must not register a “whipover” touch, hitting the opponent across the blade or the guard.
- 12) After a touch is registered, a subsequent touch in the opposite direction will only be registered within a maximum of 2 seconds.
No priority will be indicated between a touch registered against one fencer and a touch registered against his opponent.
- 13) When the two blades are in contact, all other rules remain in effect.

The SEMI Commission reserves the right to change the rules concerning the apparatus to simplify or improve its functioning.

b) Sensitivity and regularity

- 762** 1) While the sensor is triggered, registration of a valid touch must always be ensured if the resistance between the blade and the oppo-

nent's valid surface is between 0 and 250 ohms. Above 350 ohms, touches must not be registered.

- 2) The duration of contact during which registration is ensured must be from 0.1 ms to a maximum of 1 ms. These values may be modified after laboratory tests carried out by the SEMI Commission. An apparatus will not be approved if the registration of touches is possible with a speed of less than 0.1 ms (value subject to change).
- 3) The scoring machine must accommodate, without any problems, an increase in the resistance of the external connections of up to 100 ohms.
- 4) When defective insulation, down to 0 ohms resistance, causes a current leakage between a fencer's metallic surface and his weapon, the machine must still register all touches exchanged. The insulation fault must be indicated by the illumination of the yellow light on the side of the fencer at fault for values of resistance from 0 to 450 ohms. Registration of a valid touch on the guard or the blade of the fencer at fault will be allowed if the electrical resistance between the guard or the blade and the valid surface is less than 250 ohms.
- 5) When the blades are in contact or there is contact between the blades and the guards or between the two guards of the fencers, the proper functioning of the apparatus must be ensured.
- 6) Contact between the blade and the metallic surface of the opponent must be retained in memory for 50 ms (± 25 ms).
- 7) If contact between the blade and the opposing target occurs “through the blade,” the whip-over touch
 - will register between 1 and 5 ms (± 1 ms)
 - will not register between 5 and 10 ms (± 1 ms)
 - will always register from 10 ms to 210 ms.
- 8) In the case of a non-registered “whipover” touch, whatever the method used to prevent registration of the touch, after 25 (± 5) ms from the “whipover” contact with the valid surface (the time for registering the “whipover”), unless there has been another touch, the machine must permit the normal registration of subsequent touches.
- 9) In order to prevent registration of *passé* touches, if the blade comes in contact with the opponent's metallic surface and the sensor is not triggered within the delay specified in 762/6 after such contact, no touch may be registered unless the contact between the blade and the metallic surface is interrupted for at least 50 (± 5) ms.

B) SENSOR

a) General conditions for the sensor

- 763 1) Dimensions: The outer casing of the sensor must be cylindrical in shape with a maximum diameter of 2.5 cm and maximum length of 6 cm, including the plug.
- 2) Construction: The sensor may only be adjusted if the external case or protective covering has been destroyed. No adjustment from the outside is permitted.
The sensor's case must enclose in an inaccessible fashion the part that ensures electrical contact with the guard.
- 3) Before each tournament, the sensors to be used must be inspected by the organizers so as to ensure that their settings are the same, within the limits fixed by the rules.
- 4) Organizers must provide three sensors for each strip, available at the inspection table, and two sensors per strip, in reserve, available in the armory room.

b) Adjustment of the sensor

- 764 All measurements being performed on the FIE prototype apparatus, the impact is made on the cutting edge of the blade, 6 cm from the tip, by dropping the blade.

The change in state of the sensor allowing registration of a touch must be ensured in the following cases:

- 1) Dropping onto a hard surface:
- a fall from a height of less than 1 cm may not trigger the sensor.
 - a fall from a height of more than 2 cm must trigger the sensor.
 - for a fall from between 1 and 2 cm, the sensor may or may not be triggered.
- 2) Dropping onto a soft surface:
- the limits are 1.5 cm and 3 cm, respectively.
- 3) Thrusts (where the sabre's hitting the target is comparable to its being dropped vertically):
- if the distance between the tip and the target is less than 0.5 cm, the sensor must not be triggered.
 - if the distance is greater than 1 cm, the sensor must always be triggered.

The surfaces are those on the prototype apparatus. The hard surface is comparable to the trim on a mask.

The soft surface is the hard surface, placed on a spring that supports its weight (maximum 100 grams).

For thrusts, the target is a hard, fixed surface.

Notes

- 12 Provision 6 is only valid for weapons with insulation between the blade and the guard (Cf. 428, last sentence.)

Appendix A: FIE Fencer's Publicity Code

The Publicity Code was adopted 21 May 1983 by the 64th FIE Ordinary Congress, in Alghero, under the presidency of Mr. Gian Carlo Brusati, MH. The proposed text, edited by Mr. Jacques Hochstaetter, President of the Special Commission, had previously been submitted for approval to the International Olympic Committee. The IOC, in its letter of approval of 12 April 1983, confirmed that the Publicity Code conformed to the existing rules on amateurism.

I. General Principles

1. For all Olympic and pre-Olympic competitions, only the rules of the Olympic Charter are applicable, particularly rules 26 & 53 and the applicable texts.
2. The present code applies, under the terms of the rules of the IOC, to all fencing competitions, whoever is responsible for organizing them (FIE, national federation, regional organization or club).
3. Advertising in the places where fencing takes place is the responsibility of the organizers. It is permitted to the extent that, in the opinion of the bout committee, it does not inconvenience the fencers, the judges or the public.

Television requirements must be respected.

4. This code is not concerned with the naming of a tournament.
5. The IOC has reiterated that, according to the rules of the European Economic Community, no sanctions can be imposed on a fencer who refuses to participate in an advertising contract entered into by his national federation.

II. Collective Advertising Contract

A) The parties

A collective advertising contract is agreed between:

1. The *sponsor*: a commercial, industrial or philanthropic concern that proposes to support, under certain conditions, a team, group of fencers, club, regional organization, federation or the organizer of a tournament.
2. A *sporting group* officially recognized according to the standards of the FIE or a national federation.
 - a) A contract for the exploitation of a fencer's image (Cf. IV B) may only be entered into by the FIE, the national Olympic Committee or the national federation of the team concerned (Cf. Article 93 of the Statutes and Rule 26 of the IOC).
 - b) A contract for publicity materials to be worn (Cf. IV C) may be entered into by the FIE, the national Olympic Committee, the national federation, the regional organization or the club of the team concerned.
 - c) An organization may only enter into a contract within its own competence.

In any case of conflict between different contracts, the order of priority is as follows: FIE, national federation, region, club, group, and team.

In the context of the Olympic Games and their preparation, arrangements made by a national Olympic Committee take priority over those made by a national federation, a region or a club.

3. A *fencer* may not enter into an individual publicity contract nor receive any remuneration related to publicity without the agreement of his national federation, according to the provisions of Article 93.2.b of the Statutes and of Chapter III below.

B) Procedure

1. The contract must be in written form and signed by the parties, and accepted by the fencers concerned.
2. National federations are responsible to their national Olympic Committees and to the FIE for the regularity of contracts entered into by regions and clubs, and may specify procedures for checking or approving these contracts.
3. In any case of litigation or breaking of the rules, the FIE, or the Central Office on its behalf, may demand from the national federation, region or club all relevant details, including the contract itself with the exception of the economic and financial clauses.

C) Position of the fencer

1. No fencer may personally receive any remuneration relating to an advertising contract entered into by a group of which he is a member.
2. No fencer may be made to participate against his will in an advertising contract, even one in which there is an exclusivity clause.
3. No fencer may be omitted from selection or from a sporting activity solely because he does not wish to participate in any advertising activity.
4. A fencer may be refused a share in a grant (for travel, maintenance, equipment, etc.) that is financed by an advertising contract in which he does not wish to participate.
5. A fencer who has been selected may not refuse to wear and use standard equipment as specified by his national federation for the whole of a national team for a particular competition.

III. Individual Contract

A) Principle

A fencer may enter into a contract with a company or institution capable of aiding him - including financially - in his preparation, but only with the express and written agreement of his federation.

B) Restrictions

The contract can only relate to the exploitation of the image of the fencer. In particular, it cannot contain any provision relative to the fencer's method of training or to the choice of competitions in which he participates. To be approved by the national federation concerned,

the contract must expressly state that the requirements of the federation or club systematically and in all cases override those of the company or institution that has signed the contract.

Any money destined for the fencer must pass through his national federation.

IV. Specific Regulations

A) Trademarks

a) Definition

The *trademark* is the name or logo that identifies the origin, the manufacturer or the seller of a particular piece of the fencer's equipment.

As soon as the trademark exceeds the normal or authorized dimensions, it becomes an *advertisement* and comes under the jurisdiction of the regulation below (Cf. IV C).

b) Position and sizes

1. The articles of the fencers' equipment may carry the following visible trademarks:

Mask: one trademark on the spring at the rear.
Maximum size: 6 x 5.5 cm.

Jacket: one trademark at the bottom of the jacket on the hip on the side of the unarmed hand. Maximum size: 4.5 x 2 cm.

Breeches: one trademark at the bottom of the leg, on one side only. Maximum size: 4.5 x 2 cm.

Stockings: one trademark on each stocking of size 4.5 x 2 cm.

Shoes: the name of the brand on each shoe.
Maximum size: 4.5 x 2 cm or the normal insignia (e.g. stripes).

Glove: no trademark.

Weapon: no trademark visible from any distance.

The article of equipment may not have any distinctive trademark (stripe, design, border, etc.) other than those authorized above.

Date of application: 1 January 1992 for the trademarks of dimension 4.5 x 2 cm.

2. Ancillary equipment may carry the following manufacturer's trademarks:

Warm-up suit: the normal nonverbal trademark as it appears on all articles by the same manufacturer (e.g. stripes for Adidas) and one logo, maximum size 10 x 10 cm, on the left-hand side of the chest or the name, maximum size 10 x 4 cm, on the left-hand side of the chest.

Fencing bag: no limitation.

Sports bag: no limitation.

B) Exploitation of a fencer's image

a) Definition

This heading concerns advertising contracts that propose:

- exploitation of the presence of a fencer
- exploitation of the name of a fencer
- exploitation of the likeness of a fencer
- exploitation of the statements of a fencer

- exploitation of a fencer's performance
- any other exploitation of the image or fame of a fencer for publicity purposes.

b) Regulations

The measures outlined above (Cf. II) are alone applicable, as well as Article 93 of the FIE Statutes and Rule 26 of the IOC.

C) Advertising worn or carried

a) Definition

1. Advertising worn or carried refers to any name or logo other than the trademark (Cf. IV.A) that appears on a fencer's main or ancillary equipment and that comes from a firm other than the manufacturer or distributor of the equipment in question.
2. A trademark that is larger than the sizes that are usual or specified above (Cf. IV.A) constitutes advertising.
3. All advertisements for alcoholic drinks, tobacco and any others against the sporting ethos are forbidden.

b) Fencing clothing and material

No advertising is permitted either on the clothing or the equipment of a fencer (weapon, mask, etc.), nor any other display (logo, name, etc.) other than the trademarks authorized above (Cf. IV.A), with the exception of the mask, which may bear, if the organizers so provide, a self-adhesive label for the current competition (Cf. D, below).

However, on the condition that the rules relative to the electrical apparatus and the fencers' equipment are scrupulously observed, fencers must wear their name and their nationality written in capital letters, on their back or on the front of their thigh on the side of the non-weapon arm. The letters must not be taller than 10 cm and must be navy blue.

If the federation and/or the fencer has signed a sponsorship contract with a commercial or other company, a sponsor's logo of 50 cm² maximum may be placed at the top of the fencing jacket sleeve (non-weapon arm) or on the side (left or right) of the breeches. For sabre, there may not be a logo on the sleeve.

The logos may not number more than two (and may be identical).

c) Warm-up suit and clothing

1. One advertisement is permitted on the back of the official warm-up suit of the national federation, between the shoulders:
 - either one line not exceeding 10 cm in height
 - or a logo not exceeding 15 x 15 cm.Furthermore, the logo of a sponsor of the national federation or the weapon concerned may be placed horizontally on the right side of the front of the warm-up suit. This logo may not exceed the following dimensions: 50 cm². In addition, if the fencer has signed a sponsorship contract with a corporation or other

- enterprise, the official warm-up suit may bear the same logos as the fencing uniform.
2. Only the official warm-up suit of the national federation is allowed at the World Championships (Cf. point 1).
At other competitions (except on the podium at category “A” tournaments), advertising on warm-up suits, robes and all other clothing is without limitation, except as delineated by the national federation to which the fencer belongs.
 3. During the introduction of the finalists and the awarding of prizes at the World Championships and category “A” events, fencers must present themselves on the podium in fencing uniform or complete official national warm-up suit (jacket and pants) (Cf. point 1). The jacket must remain completely closed during the entire official ceremony.
Fencers must present themselves on the strip dressed exclusively in complete, fastened fencing uniforms.
- d) Ancillary material
Advertising is allowed without limitation on fencing bags and equipment bags.
 - e) Television
When a competition is being televised, the wishes of the television company are paramount, and the organizers must make clear, in the conditions of entry for the competition, if appropriate, the way in which advertising material worn or carried by the fencers will be permitted
- D) Leg band or self-adhesive label**
- a) Principles
 1. The organizers of a competition may identify the fencers by issuing them with a number on a *leg band* or *self-adhesive label*.
 2. The wearing of this band or label is then mandatory for the fencers.
 3. The self-adhesive label must be of a rough material that will not cause the point to slip.
 4. The leg band or self-adhesive label may have on it advertising material within the limitations of the following rules.
 5. The circular announcing the details of the competition must make clear what bands or labels the fencers are to wear, and what publicity will be on them.
Entering the competition implies an acceptance by the fencer of the obligation to wear the band or label in question.
 - b) Position and size
 1. The leg band must be attached to the thigh on the side of the non-weapon arm.
The maximum size of the leg band is 20 x 20 cm. The fencer’s number must be at least 10 cm high and 15 cm in width.
 2. The self-adhesive labels must be affixed to each side of the mask, on the lateral surfaces. The maximum size of the label is 10 cm wide by 15 cm high. The fencer’s number must be not more than 8 cm high by 8 cm wide. Only the label of the current competition must be worn by foil and epee fencers.
3. In both cases, the advertising, words or logo, must be placed below the number and not exceed 35 mm in height.
- c) The self-adhesive mask label and the leg band need not bear a number, and may be used exclusively for advertising.
- V. Penalties**
- A) Individual contract (IIIA and B)**
In the case of nonobservance of the rules regarding individual contracts, the penalty is suspension of the fencer according to the conditions of Article 87 of the Statutes. If, at the end of the period of suspension, the fencer again commits an infraction, he will lose his amateur status and his license will be revoked.
- B) Non-conforming trademark (IV.A-b) 1.)**
— obligation to change immediately the article of equipment and
— warning, then penalty, according to Article 635, 639, 641-3rd group
- C) Advertising on clothing (IV.C-b)**
— obligation to change immediately the article of equipment and
— application of Articles 635, 639, 641-3rd group (on the strip) or 633.j (off the strip).
- D) Advertising not conforming to the rules or not authorized (IV.C-c)**
— obligation to remove the offending article from view and a warning.
— in the case of a repetition of the offense in the course of the competition, application of Articles 635, 639, 641-3rd group.
- E) Leg bands and self-adhesive labels (IV-D)**
1. A fencer who refuses to wear the leg band or label when its wearing has been duly announced beforehand will be excluded from the competition and will not appear in the overall classification of the event.
In addition, Articles 526 and those following will be applied as necessary.
 2. If the leg bands or labels do not conform to the rules, the organizers must withdraw them; if they fail to do so, they are liable to a fine of US \$500 to the national federation.
If it is a competition that counts towards the World Cup (Category “A”), the fine is US \$1500 to the FIE and the competition automatically loses its Category “A” status for the following year.
In the case of a repetition of the offense within 5 years, the fine is doubled and the competition will not appear on the International Calendar for 3 years.
- F) Image advertising (IV-B)**
- a) Penalties
 1. The first offense concerning exploitation of the fencer’s image other than by a properly

executed contract is penalized by a warning from the national federation or the FIE.

2. The first repetition is penalized by a suspension of 6 months.
3. The second repetition is penalized by a suspension of 1 year.
4. Any subsequent repetitions are penalized by a suspension of 2 years for each offense.

b) Responsibility

1. The fencer concerned is assumed to be at fault.
2. If the fencer denies his responsibility for the offense, he must give the FIE every authority to proceed with the necessary investigations and must cede to the FIE his rights to act against the party guilty of misuse of his image.
If he does not, point b) 1. above automatically applies.

c) Competence and procedure

1. The FIE Central Office is the body competent to deal with these matters.
2. The parties concerned have a period of 30 days dating from reception of notification of the decision during which they may appeal to the Executive Committee. There can be no appeal regarding a decision by the Executive Committee (Cf. Article 614-a).
3. The suspension is effective from the time the decision is made definitive.
4. The FIE has the right to investigate and punish any offense on its own initiative.
5. The FIE will notify the national federations of all decisions that have become definitive.

Updated 7/95

Appendix B: FIE Temporary Provisions

Temporary Provision 1

1. As a result of the 1993 Congress in Paris, the formats for the organization of official FIE competitions are, beginning 1 October 1993, as follows:

A) OLYMPIC GAMES

- a) The total participation shall not exceed 220 fencers.
- b) The individual competition will be held completely by direct elimination without repechage, from beginning to end, with a direct elimination table (complete or incomplete) of 64 fencers.

For the placement of fencers in this table, an initial ranking will be established according to the following rules:

- 1') The highest places in this ranking will be occupied in order by the fencers appearing on the official FIE ranking as of the date of the Olympic Games.
- 2') There may not be ties in this initial ranking. If fencers actually participating in the competition are tied in the official FIE ranking as of the date of the Olympic Games, their relative ranking will be determined randomly [before the competition starts].
- 3') Any fencers not having an official FIE ranking will be placed randomly in the remaining positions in the initial ranking.

Fencers are placed in the table randomly in pairs, according to the initial ranking [1-2 or 2-1; 3-4 or 4-3; etc.].

The principle of protection by nationality will not be applied when setting up this table.

- c) The team competition is open, in each weapon, to the participation of a maximum of 12 teams, each composed of three fencers. The participating teams will be placed in an incomplete direct elimination table of 16, taking their relative places according to the sum of the points of the team members in the official FIE ranking after the individual competition of the Olympic Games. In the case of a tie, teams will be ranked randomly.
- d) Apart from the particulars stated here, the rules to be applied are the same as those for the World Championships.

B) SENIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

- a) Participation in the Senior World Championships is limited to four fencers per weapon per country, and one team per weapon per country.
- b) Format for individual competitions:

The individual competition for each weapon consists of two phases: one preliminary and the other main, each being carried out in one day of competition.

Preliminary Phase

The preliminary phase consists of a round of pools, eliminating from 20 to 30% of the participants in that round (according to their overall ranking after the round of pools), and a preliminary direct elimination table with no repechage.

From among those fencers actually present, the top 16 fencers in the official FIE ranking as of the date of the World Championships are considered the "top seeds" and are exempt from the preliminary phase. Confirmation of the presence of these top seeds must be made by each fencer directly, or through his or her chief of delegation.

In the case of a tie in the official FIE ranking between two or more fencers for the 16th exempted place, a random selection will be made to determine which of these fencers will benefit from exemption from the preliminary phase.

In drawing up the pools the principle of protection of nationality, as well as (so far as is possible) the principle of homogeneity, must be taken into account. The number of fencers should be seven, unless using pools of six better follows these principles. Otherwise, the pools will be of seven and six fencers.

A pool bout is finished when:

- one of the fencers has scored five touches, or
- four minutes of actual fencing time have elapsed. There will be no warning for the final minute.

In the case of a tie at the end of regulation time, before allowing an additional minute to decide between the two fencers by the first decisive touch, the referee will randomly designate which fencer will be the winner should the tie persist after the additional minute. After this random selection, and before the bout recommences, a visible indication (in writing or by a light) of which fencer has the priority must be made.

The score shall be noted on the scoresheet as follows:

V 5 – D 4: If a touch is scored during the time of the bout,

- V 5 – D 5: a) If the random selection chose the winner, or
b) If in epee the score was 5/5 at the expiration of the time of the bout.

The highest 16 fencers in the overall ranking after the round of pools are exempt from the preliminary table. In the case of a tie between two or more fencers for the 16th place, they

will be separated by a five touch barrage (maximum time four minutes).

A direct elimination table without repechage will be drawn up for the remaining fencers advancing from the pools; the fencers will be placed in the table according to their overall ranking from the pools. This table, complete or incomplete, will be fenced until only 32 fencers remain.

The principle of protection of nationality will not be applied when drawing up this table.

The direct elimination bouts are for 15 touches, with a maximum time of nine minutes, divided into three periods of three minutes, with one minute of rest between periods. During this minute, a coach designated before the bout can address the fencer. The scoring apparatus blocks itself at the end of each three minute period. There is no warning for the final minute.

The bout ends when:

- one of the fencers has scored 15 touches, or
- nine minutes of actual fencing time have elapsed.

The fencer having scored the greater number of touches is declared the winner.

In the case of a tie at the end of regulation time, before allowing an additional minute to decide between the two fencers by the first decisive touch, the referee will randomly designate which fencer will be the winner should the tie persist after the additional minute. After this random selection, and before the bout recommences, a visible indication (in writing or by a light) of which fencer has the priority must be made.

In this case, the score shall be noted on the scoresheet as V/14.

Main Phase

The main phase consists of a direct elimination table without repechage, run on four strips, one quarter of the table on each strip. However, for reasons having to do with the organization of the competition, the first round of the table of 64 may be run on eight strips.

The top seeds exempted from the preliminary phase take places 1 to 16 in this table, randomly in pairs, in order of their official FIE ranking.

In the case of the absence of a top-seeded fencer whose participation was confirmed the day before the competition, that place in the table will remain empty, and the fencer's federation will be obliged to pay the FIE a 1,000 F fine.

The top 16 fencers after the round of pools (those exempted from the preliminary table) take places 17 to 32 in this table, in order of their ranking.

The 32 fencers advancing from the preliminary table take places 33 to 64 in this table. The principle of protection of nationality will not be applied when drawing up this table.

The direct elimination bouts are for 15 touches, with a maximum time of nine minutes, divided into three periods of three minutes, with one minute of rest between periods. During this minute, a coach designated before the bout can address the fencer. The scoring apparatus blocks itself at the end of each three minute period. There is no warning for the final minute.

The bout ends when:

- one of the fencers has scored 15 touches, or
- nine minutes of actual fencing time have elapsed.

The fencer having scored the greater number of touches is declared the winner.

In the case of a tie at the end of regulation time, before allowing an additional minute to decide between the two fencers by the first decisive touch, the referee will randomly designate which fencer will be the winner should the tie persist after the additional minute. After this random selection, and before the bout recommences, a visible indication (in writing or by a light) of which fencer has the priority must be made.

In this case, the score shall be noted on the scoresheet as V/14.

c) Team competition

1' The competition is carried out completely by direct elimination; the table may be incomplete.

Teams are placed in the table in order of their points. The number of points for each team is calculated by adding the points earned by each of the three team members most highly placed in the official FIE rankings following the individual competition at the World Championships.

2' All places down to 16th will be fenced off. 17th place and below will be determined by the seeding of the teams into the table.

3' The format will be as follows:

3.1 A relay format will be used for each weapon.

3.2 Each team is composed of three fencers with or without a substitute, each of whom will fence the three opposing fencers (nine relays).

3.3 The bouts of each match are fenced in the following order:
3-6, 5-1, 2-4, 6-1, 3-4, 5-2, 1-4, 6-2, 3-5

3.4 The teams are placed on the scoresheet in random order; then the team

- captain determines the order of the fencers.
- 3.5 Substitution of fencers is as provided for FIE team competitions.
 - 3.6 The relays are fenced to multiples of five touches (5-10-15-20-etc.); the maximum time for each relay is four minutes.
 - 3.7 The two first fencers fence until one has reached a score of five touches, within a maximum time of four minutes.
The next two opponents fence to ten touches, within a maximum time of four minutes, and so on in successive relays of five touches.
 - 3.8 If the intended score for a relay has not been reached by the end of four minutes, the following two fencers start with the existing score and fence to the score intended for the next relay, within a maximum of four minutes.
 - 3.9 The winning team is that which first reaches the maximum score of 45 touches (9 x 5 touches), or that which has scored more touches at the end of regulation time.
 - 3.10 In the case of a tied score at the end of regulation time for the final relay, one additional minute will be given to the last two fencers to fence for a decisive touch. Before restarting the bout, the referee will randomly determine which fencer will be the winner should the tie persist at the end of the final minute. After this random selection, and before the bout recommences, a visible indication (in writing or by a light) of which fencer has the priority must be made.
 - 3.11 If a fencer and the possible substitute are forced to withdraw, or if a fencer is excluded, their team loses the match.

C) JUNIOR AND CADET WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

- a) The individual competition takes place in one day per weapon.
- b) Format of the individual competition:

Round of Pools

All fencers present participate in a round of pools of seven or of six fencers if the pools can be even, or of pools of seven and six if they cannot, to eliminate 20 to 30% of the fencers according to an overall classification. The principle of protection of nationality is applied when creating the pools.

The pool bouts follow the same rules as for the Senior World Championships.

In drawing up the pools for the Cadet World Championships, the bout committee takes into account the following, in order:

- 1/ the top eight at the previous year's Cadet World Championships,
- 2/ the first 64 fencers in the Junior World Cup standings,
- 3/ the fencers placing 9th through 32nd at the previous year's Cadet World Championships,
- 4/ the fencers ranked 65th to last place in the Junior World Cup standings,
- 5/ the rankings established by the national federations,
- 6/ the decision of the bout committee.

Direct Elimination

The top 16 qualifiers from the pools are placed in order in positions 1 through 16 of a direct elimination table that need not be complete. The remaining fencers are placed in the table according to the results of the pools (Note: the random placement within groups of four was revoked by the 1995 Congress). This direct elimination table is fenced straight through without repechage to the finals. Each quarter of the table will be contested on one strip; the direct elimination from 32 will be contested on four strips.

The principle of protection of nationality is not applied when drawing up the table.

The bouts in the direct elimination and in the finals follow the same rules as for the Senior World Championships.

- c) Format for team competitions:

A Youth Team World Championship is held during the Junior and Cadet World Championships, at the same time and place, the day following the last individual final.

Each team consists of five fencers, one from each weapon, and may include five substitutes (one for each weapon). The five team members, as well as the five substitutes, may be either juniors or cadets.

The team captain will register the names of the five team members, as well as any substitutes, the evening before the competition.

The competition will be run entirely by direct elimination, with a complete or incomplete table, from beginning to end.

Teams are seeded into the table based on the sum of the points earned in the individual competitions by the fencers named to the team. If a fencer competed in both the junior and cadet championships, he is awarded points for the higher result. For this purpose, the scale of points is the same for cadets as for juniors.

In the case of a tie in points between two or more teams, they will be placed in the table in random order.

The first four places will be contested; the other teams will be ranked after the competition within each round of the table according to their original seed into the table.

Each match will be fenced to 25 touches, divided into five sections of five touches, one for each weapon.

The order in which the weapons will be fenced will be randomly determined before the match.

The two fencers in the first weapon will fence until one (or both) has reached a score of five, within four minutes of fencing time. The two fencers in the second weapon will start with the score attained by the first two fencers and fence until one (or both) has reached a score of ten, within four minutes of fencing time, and so on up to 25 touches.

When four minutes of fencing time have expired in a given section within one (or both) fencer's having reached the maximum number of touches for that section (5, 10, 15, 20, or 25 touches), the score of each team is incremented equally until the leading team has a score equal to the maximum number of touches for that section.

A team member may only be replaced by a substitute in the case of an injury confirmed by the FIE Medical Commission delegate. Only one substitute per fencer is allowed during the competition.

If, as a result of a new injury confirmed by the Medical Commission delegate, a substitute cannot finish the bout that he has started, as well as in the case of withdrawal of a fencer during the bout, the score of that fencer's team remains as it was at the time of the injury or withdrawal, and the score of the opposing team is incremented by the number of points necessary to reach the maximum for that section.

A team may only begin a match with five fencers.

In the case of a tie at the end of regulation time, the rules for the Senior World Championship team competitions must be applied (Temporary Provision 1, section 1 B) c) 3.10).

D) CATEGORY "A" COMPETITIONS

- a) Senior Category "A" competitions follow the same rules as the individual competitions at the Senior World Championships.
 - b) Junior Category "A" competitions follow the same rules as the individual competitions at the Junior and Cadet World Championships.
2. Until the reorganization of the Rules for Competition, the Statutes, and the FIE Administrative Rules, the rules listed above have precedence over the articles of the Rules: 45 to 47, 49, 225, 226, 319 to 321, 413, 414, 514 to 584; of the Statutes: 119 to 121; and of the Administrative Rules: Chapter II, A) § 2.

Temporary Provision 2

During the 1993-94 season and until scoring machines include a system for blocking the colored light after the illumination of the white light on the same side as provided in Article 229, machines using the old system of blockage remain acceptable for use.

Temporary Provision 3

Rules for the Senior Team World Cup Competitions

1. The Senior Team World Cup is contested according to the following rules.
2. Each organizer of the Senior World Cup may organize a team competition the day following the individual competition.
3. The team must be entered at the same time the individual entries are submitted.
4. The competition will only be held if at least five teams are entered.
5. A team consists of three fencers of the same nationality, with or without a substitute.
6. Team composition may be modified during the fencing season.
7. The first eight places will always be completely fenced out.
World Cup points will be awarded according to the current rules for the first eight finishers.
Teams finishing 9 through 16: 8 points.
Teams finishing 17 through 32: 4 points.
8. For the Team World Cup standings, the best four results will be counted, with a maximum of three results earned in the same continental zone.
9. Teams are seeded into the table in order of points: Each team's points are calculated by summing the points earned by each of the three best-placed team members in the official FIE standings before the individual competition held the day before the team competition.
10. Organizers must submit their candidacy with the same forms and deadlines as for the individual Category "A" competitions.
For the 1994-95 season, the entry deadline is August 31, 1994.

Temporary Provision 4

Sabre scoring machines that function without sensors (capteurs) are authorized on an experimental basis for the 1994-95 season. A definite decision will be made at the 1995 Congress concerning the use of sensors during the 1995-96 season.

Note: The 1995 Congress voted to remove the sensor effective October 1, 1996. Tournaments held during the 1995-96 season may be fenced with or without a sensor.

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