

FENCING RULES

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United States Fencing Association, Inc.



United States Fencing Association, Inc. 2006

Forward

This American Version of the international rules governing fencing competitions is translated and adapted from the 2001 French edition published by the FIE and incorporates changes made by the FIE Congresses through 2004. Unless otherwise noted here or in the USFA Operations Manual, these rules apply to fencing competitions in the United States.

The publication in electronic format with year and revision dating at the bottom of each page is intended to simplify the incorporation of future changes to the rules. Dated replacement pages will be included in the on-line text as necessary.

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. Where the USFA rules differ from the FIE, a “USFA Note” is provided.

The ongoing publication of an American version of the FIE Rules has been carried out under the auspices of the USFA Fencing Officials Commission. This current edition is based, in large part on the British translation of the FIE Rules. A number of USFA members have been involved in the publication of this book. I would like to thank Ann McBain Ezzell for her work on the previous editions and Nancy Anderson for her advice on French translations. I would also like to acknowledge Peter Jacobs assistance in the English translations from the French, as well as his generous help in keeping track of the myriad changes that occur.

For those interested in such things: The text has been through even more electronic incarnations and now exists in both MacIntosh and PC format as well as PDF and HTML formats. Editing and formatting are currently performed using Microsoft Word XP. Illustrations were scanned directly from the FIE edition.

Bill Oliver, Editor
Boulder, Colorado
September, 2006

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

NUMBERING OF ARTICLES

The articles have been re-numbered along different lines. Articles that begin with "t." are from in first book, "Technical Rules" and have to do with technical descriptions of fencing and its equipment. Articles that begin with "o." are in the second book, "Organizational Rules" and have to do with the organization and control of fencing competition. Articles that begin with "m." are in the third book "Material Rules", and have to do with the weapons and electrical apparatus and their specifications.

Table of Contents

PRELUDE

BOOK 1. TECHNICAL RULES

PART I. GENERAL RULES AND RULES COMMON TO THE THREE WEAPONS

CHAPTER 1. APPLICATION OF THE RULES

Obligatory use of the rules **t.1**

CHAPTER 2. GLOSSARY

A. Competitions

1. Assaults and bouts **t.2**
2. Match... **t.3**
3. Competition **t.4**
4. Championship **t.5**

B. Explanation of some technical terms

1. Fencing time **t.6**
2. Offensive and defensive actions **t.7**
3. Offensive actions **t.8**
4. Defensive actions **t.9**
5. The 'in-line' position **t.10**

CHAPTER 3. THE FIELD OF PLAY **t.11–14**

CHAPTER 4. THE FENCERS' EQUIPMENT

Responsibility of fencers **t.15**

CHAPTER 5. FENCING

1. Method of holding the weapon **t.16**
2. Coming on guard **t.17**
3. Beginning, stopping and restarting the bout **t.18**
4. Fencing at close quarters **t.19**
5. Corps à corps **t.20**
6. Displacing the target and passing the opponent **t.21**
7. Substitution and use of the non-sword hand and arm **t.22–23**
8. Ground gained or lost **t.24–25**
9. Crossing the limits of the strip
(a) Stopping the bout **t.26**
(b) Rear limits **t.27**
(c) Lateral boundaries **t.28**
(d) Leaving the strip accidentally **t.29**
10. Duration of the bout **t.30–32**
11. Accidents, withdrawal of a competitor **t.33**

CHAPTER 6. REFEREEING AND JUDGING OF TOUCHES .. **t.34**

1. The Referee **t.35**
2. Judges **t.36**
3. Attribution of referees
1. Olympic Games and World Championships
(a) Individual competitions **t.37**
(b) Team competitions **t.38**
2. World Cup competitions **t.39**
4. Method of judging touches
(a) Materiality of the touch **t.40–41**
(b) Validity or priority of the touch **t.42**
5. Regulation equipment and checking of equipment by the Referee **t.43–44**
6. Non-regulation equipment **t.45**

PART 2. FOIL

THE CONVENTIONS OF FENCING

A. METHOD OF MAKING A TOUCH **t.46**

B. TARGET

1. Limitation of the target **t.47**
2. Touches off the target **t.48**
3. Extension of the valid target **t.49**

C. JUDGING OF TOUCHES IN FOIL **t.50**

I. Materiality of the touch **t.51–52**

II. Annulment of a touch **t.53–54**

III. Validity or priority of the touch

1. Preface **t.55**

2. Respect of the fencing phrase **t.56–59**

3. Judging of touches **t.60**

PART 3. EPEE

THE CONVENTIONS OF FENCING

A. METHOD OF MAKING A TOUCH **t.61**

B. THE TARGET **t.62**

C. CORPS A CORPS AND FLECHE ATTACKS **t.63**

D. JUDGING OF TOUCHES IN EPEE **t.64**

1. Basic principle **t.65**

2. The annulment of touches **t.66–69**

PART 4. SABRE

THE CONVENTIONS OF FENCING

A. METHOD OF MAKING A TOUCH **t.70**

B. LIMITATION OF THE TARGET **t.71–72**

C. JUDGING OF TOUCHES IN SABRE

I. Materiality and annulment of touches **t.73**

II. Validity or priority of the touch

1. Preface **t.74**

2. Respect of the fencing phrase **t.75–79**

3. Judging of touches **t.80**

PART 5. DISCIPLINARY RULES

FOR COMPETITIONS

CHAPTER 1. APPLICATION

1. Persons subject to these rules **t.81**

2. Maintenance of order and discipline **t.82–83**

3. The competitors

(a) Pledge of honour **t.84**

(b) Refusing to fence an opponent **t.85**

(c) Presence on time **t.86**

(d) Fencing etiquette **t.87**

(e) Personal effort **t.88**

4. The team manager **t.89**

5. The team captain **t.90**

6. The referees and judges **t.91**

7. The instructors, trainers and technicians **t.92**

8. The spectators **t.93**

CHAPTER 2. THE DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITIES AND THEIR COMPETENCE	
1. Jurisdiction	t.94
2. Principle of jurisdiction	t.95
3. The Referee	t.96
4. The Technical Directory	t.97
5. The Executive Committee of the IOC at the Olympic Games	t.98
6. The Executive Committee of the FIE	t.99
7. The Congress of the FIE	t.100
CHAPTER 3. PENALTIES	
1. Classification of penalties	t.101
2. Penalties related to fencing	t.102–105
3. Disciplinary penalties	t.106–112
4. Announcement of penalties	t.113
CHAPTER 4. OFFENSES, THEIR PENALTIES AND THE COMPETENT JURIDICAL AUTHORITIES	
1. The types (groups) of penalty	t.114
2. Competence	t.115
3. The first group of offenses	t.116
4. The second group of offenses	t.117
5. The third group of offenses	t.118
6. The fourth group of offenses	t.119
7. Offenses and penalties	t.120
CHAPTER 5. PROCEDURE	
1. Basic principle	t.121
2. Protests and appeals	t.122–123
3. Investigation — Right of defence	t.124
4. Method of decision	t.125
5. Stay of execution	t.126
6. Repetition of offense	t.127
7. Pardon, remissions and commutation of penalty	t.128
CHAPTER 6. DOPING	
Rules...	
.....	t.129

BOOK 2. ORGANIZATION RULES

CHAPTER 1. COMPETITIONS	o.1–2
CHAPTER 2. BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANIZATION AND CONTROL	
1. The Organizing Committee	o.3
2. The Central Office of the FIE	o.4
3. The Technical Directory	o.5
4. Referees	o.6
5. Auxiliary personnel	o.7–8
CHAPTER 3. ENTRIES FOR COMPETITIONS	o.9
CHAPTER 4. TIMETABLE	o.10
CHAPTER 5. INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS	o.11
1. General rules for the round of pools	o.12
Composition of pools	o.13–19
Withdrawal	o.20
2. General rules for direct elimination	o.21–24
Withdrawal	o.25
Order of bouts	o.26
The final	o.27
Classification	o.28
A. Mixed Formula (Open competitions)	o.29–34
B. Mixed Formula (Junior/Cadet competitions)	o.35–41
CHAPTER 6. TEAM COMPETITIONS	
A. Open and Junior World Championships (and Olympic Games) team events	o.42–44
B. Open World Cup team competition	o.45–47
CHAPTER 7. ORGANIZATION OF OFFICIAL FIE COMPETITIONS	

A. Common conditions	
(a) Program of competitions	o.48
(b) Venues, installations, equipment, accreditation, etc.	o.49
(c) Entries by member federations	o.50–54
(d) Age of participants	o.55
(e) Technical management of major competitions	o.56–62
(f) Supervision by the FIE	o.63
(g) Anti-doping testing	o.64
B. Open World Championships	
1. Annual championships	o.65
2. Candidature	o.66
3. Entries	o.67
4. Referees	o.68
5. Invitations for international officials	o.69
C. Regional Games	
(a) Technical delegates of the FIE	o.71
(b) Technical officials and referees	o.72
D. Junior and Cadet World Championships	
1. Annual championships	o.73
2. Candidature	o.74
3. Entries	o.75
4. Age of the competitors	o.76
5. Referees	o.77
6. Invitations for international officials	o.78
E. World Cup competitions	
1. Introduction	o.79–82
2. Criteria	o.83–85
3. Participation	o.86–87
4. Referees	o.88
5. Team World Cup	o.89
6. World ranking	o.90–91
F. Nations' Grand Prix	o.92
CHAPTER 8. SPECIAL RULES FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES	
	o.93

BOOK 3. MATERIAL RULES

PART 1. FENCERS' WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT

CHAPTER 1. WEAPONS	
1. Characteristics common to all weapons	m.1
A. General description	
A. General description	m.2
B. Dimensions	m.3
C. The grip	m.4
D. The guard	m.5
2. Foil	
(a) Weight	m.6
(b) Length	m.7
(c) The blade	m.8
(d) The guard	m.9
(e) Electric wire	m.10
(f) Point.....	m.11
(g) Method of affixing the barrel.....	m.12
(h) The insulation of the barrel, the blade and the grip	m.13
3. Épée	
(a) Weight	m.14
(b) Length	m.15
(c) The blade	m.16
(d) The guard	m.17
(e) Electric wires	m.18
(f) Point and barrel	m.19
(g) Method of affixing the barrel	m.20
4. Sabre	
(a) Length	m.21
(b) Weight	m.22
(c) The blade	m.23
(d) The guard	m.24

CHAPTER 2. EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING	
1. General conditions	m.25
2. Rules specific to foil	
(a) Glove	m.26
(b) Mask	m.27
(c) Conductive jacket (over-jacket or plastron)	m.28
(d) Bodycord and attachment plugs	m.29
3. Rules specific to épée	
(a) Mask	m.30
(b) Bodycord	m.31
4. Rules specific to sabre	
(a) Mask	m.32
(b) Glove ..	m.33
(c) Conductive jacket	m.34
(d) Bodycord and plugs	m.35
CHAPTER 3. CHECKING OF MATERIAL	
1. Competence	m.36
2. Checking of fencers' equipment	m.37
A. Presentation of equipment to the Weapon	
Checking Centre	m.38-39
B. Checking body	m.40-41
C. Checking personnel and equipment	m.42-43
PART 2. FITTINGS AND MATERIAL PROVIDED BY THE ORGANIZERS	
Introduction	m.44
CHAPTER 1. SCORING APPARATUS	
1. Authorized designs	m.45
2. Approval of designs of apparatus	m.46-50
3. Specifications for all electrical equipment	m.51
4. Number and quality of judging apparatus	m.52
5. Checking of apparatus	m.53-54
CHAPTER 2. REELS, CABLES AND THEIR CONNECTIONS	
	m.55-56

CHAPTER 3. CONDUCTIVE STRIPS	m.57
CHAPTER 4. SOURCE OF ELECTRICAL CURRENT	m.58
CHAPTER 5. EXTENSION LAMPS	m.59-60

APPENDIX A TO THE MATERIAL RULES
Manufacturers' Safety Standards for Fencers' Weapons, Equipment and Clothing

APPENDIX B TO THE MATERIAL RULES
Characteristics of Scoring Apparatus

APPENDIX C TO THE MATERIAL RULES
Score-board for Finals

SUPPLEMENT: FENCERS' PUBLICITY CODE

CHAPTER I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND THE RELEVANT TEXTS

CHAPTER II. COLLECTIVE ADVERTISING CONTRACT

CHAPTER III. INDIVIDUAL CONTRACT

CHAPTER IV. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

CHAPTER V. PENALTIES

APPENDIX D TO THE MATERIAL RULES
SUPPLEMENT -- USFA Rules for Repechage

INDEX

RULES FOR COMPETITIONS

Ignorance of the Rules is no Excuse

PRELUDE

HISTORICAL NOTE

The technical rules of the Fédération Internationale d'Éscrime were unanimously adopted by the International Congress of National Olympic Committees held at Paris in June 1914 for use in all events at the Olympic Games. They were first codified in 1914 by the Marquis de Chasseloup-Laubat and Monsieur Paul Anspach and issued in 1919 with the title of 'Rules for Competitions'.

They were modified by various 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 modernised after the 1958 Congress and renamed 'Rules for Competitions'.

The amendments made by Congress held 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 the new French updated edition published in 1983.

Subsequent amendments were included in a restructured edition published in 1997.

FOIL

The Rules for Foil were adopted on 12 June 1914 by the Committee for Foil of the FIE 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 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 to the FIE, and to the Franco-Italian rules.

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

EPEE

The Rules for Épée drawn up in 1914 co-ordinated and completed all the various épée rules which existed prior to the foundation of the FIE and which had been evolved from 1892 both in France and elsewhere, notably by:

- The Permanent Committee of la Société d'Éscrime à l'Épée de Paris, l'Académie d'Épée; la Société d'Entraînement à l'Éscrime et au Pistolet; and les Armes de France
- The 1905 International Committee, subject to the laws of each country, regarding the application to duelling
- L'Union des Sociétés Françaises de Sport Athlétiques (USFSA)
- Le Comité National des Sports de France
- The French Olympic Committee
- The Organizing Committees for the Tournaments held at Nice, on the Riviera, at Ostend, etc.

The rules governing épée competitions judged with the electrical judging apparatus were adopted in 1936 and subsequently modified by various later Congresses up to the present date.

The Congress of 1984 approved the introduction of Ladies' Épée; the Congress of 1987 decided that World Championships for Ladies' Épée should be organized from 1989 onwards.

SABER

The FIE Saber Rules include the essential portions of the rules which 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 of the Hungarian rules and were adopted on 12 June 1914 by the Committee for Saber of the FIE assembled in Paris under the chairmanship of Dr Bela Nagy, President of the Hungarian Fencing Federation, who edited the proposed rules.

The rules governing saber events fenced with an electrical apparatus were adopted in 1988.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

In accordance with the decisions taken at the Congresses at Antwerp (1920, 1939), the Hague (1927), Amsterdam (1928), Brussels (1937, 1947), Madrid (1962), Paris (1987), Cape Town (1997), Neuchâtel (1998) and Lausanne (1999), official male and female championships, called Open World Championships (called European Championships until 1936) are held annually under the auspices of the FIE, for both individuals and teams, in foil, épée and saber.

In accordance with the decisions taken by the Congresses held at Paris (1949, 1951, 1959), Venice (1955), Madrid (1962), Gdansk (1963), Paris (1987), Neuchâtel (1998) and Lausanne (1999), World Junior Championships are held annually under the auspices of the FIE, comprising individual and team competitions, both male and female, in foil, épée and saber.

In accordance with the decisions made by the Congress in Paris in 1985 and 1986 and Luxembourg in 1990, a World Cadet Championship, recognized as an official event of the FIE, is held annually. In accordance with decisions taken by the Congress held at Neuchâtel (1998), the World Cadet Championships consist of individual competitions, both male and female, in foil, épée and saber.

BOOK 1. TECHNICAL RULES

PART I. GENERAL RULES AND RULES COMMON TO THE THREE WEAPONS

CHAPTER 1. APPLICATION OF THE RULES

Obligatory use of the Rules

- t.1** These Rules are obligatory without modification for the ‘Official Competitions of the FIE’, viz.:
- The World Championships, in all categories
 - The fencing events at the Olympic Games
 - All World Cup competitions.

CHAPTER 2. GLOSSARY

A. COMPETITIONS

1. Assaults and bouts

- t.2** A friendly combat between two fencers is called an *assault*. When the score of such an assault is kept to determine a result it is called a *bout*.

2. Match

- t.3** The aggregate of the bouts fought 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 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, by their age and by the fact that they are for individuals or for teams.

4. Championship

- t.5** A *championship* is the name given to a competition held to determine the best fencer or the best team at each weapon for a federation, for a specific region or for the world and for a specific period of time.

B. EXPLANATION OF SOME TECHNICAL TERMS COMMONLY USED IN THE JUDGING OF FENCING¹

1. Fencing time

- t.6** *Fencing time* is the time required to perform one simple fencing action.

2. Offensive and defensive actions

- t.7** The *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 target, preceding the launching of the lunge or flèche (cf. t.56ss, t.75ss).

— The *riposte* is the offensive action made by the fencer who has parried the attack.

— The *counter-riposte* is the offensive action made by the fencer who has parried the riposte.

The *defensive actions* are the parries.

¹ It is stressed that this section in no way replaces a treatise on fencing and is only included in order to help the reader to understand the Rules.

— The *parry* is the defensive action made with the weapon to prevent an offensive action arriving.

3. Explanation

t.8 *Offensive actions*

(a) The *attack*

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* when it is executed in several movements.

(b) The *riposte*

The riposte may be *immediate* or *delayed*, depending on what action takes place and the speed at which it is carried out.

Ripostes are:

1. simple, direct

— *Direct riposte*: a riposte which touches the opponent without leaving the line in which the parry was made.

— *Riposte along the blade*: a riposte which touches the opponent by grazing along the blade after the parry.

2. simple, indirect

— *Riposte by disengagement*: a riposte which touches the opponent in the opposite line to that in which the parry was formed (by passing under the opponent’s blade if the parry was formed in the high line, and over the blade if the parry was formed in the low line).

— *Riposte with a coupé*: a riposte which touches the opponent in the opposite line to that in which the parry was formed (the blade always passing over the opponent’s point).

3. compound

— *Riposte with a doublé*: a riposte which touches the opponent in the opposite line to that in which the parry was formed, but after having described a complete circle round the opponent’s blade.

— *Riposte with a one-two*: a riposte which touches the opponent in the same line as that in which the parry was formed but after the blade has first been into the opposite line, by passing under the opponent’s blade.

(c) *Counter-attacks*

Counter-attacks are offensive or offensive–defensive actions made during the offensive action of the opponent.

1. The *stop hit*

A counter-attack made into an attack.

2. The *stop hit made with opposition*

A counter-attack made while closing the line in which the opponent’s attack will be completed (cf. t.56ss, t.64ss and t.76ss).

3. The *stop hit made within a period of fencing time*, i.e. ‘in time’ (cf. t.59, t.79).

(d) Other offensive actions

1. The *remise*

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

2. The *redoublement*

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

3. The *reprise of the attack*

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

4. Counter-time

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

4. Defensive actions

t.9 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 opposite line to that of the attack.

5. The point in-line position

t.10 The point in-line position is a specific position in which the fencer's sword arm is kept straight and the point of his weapon continually threatens his opponent's valid target (cf. t.56, t.60, t.76, t.80).

CHAPTER 3. THE FIELD OF PLAY

t.11 The field of play should have an even surface. It should give neither advantage nor disadvantage to either of the two fencers concerned, especially as regards light.

t.12 That portion of the field of play which is used for fencing is called the *strip*. Competitions at the three weapons are fenced on the same strips.

t.13 The strip is from 1.50 meters to 2 meters wide.

The strip is 14 meters long, so that each competitor being placed at 2 meters from the centre line has at his disposal for retreating a total distance of 5 meters without it being necessary for him to cross the rear limit of the strip with both feet.

t.14 Five lines should be drawn very clearly on the strip at right angles to its length, as follows:

- one *centre line* which must be drawn as a broken line across the whole width of the strip;
- two *on-guard lines* at 2 meters on each side of the centre line. These must be drawn across the whole width of the strip;
- two *lines at the rear limits* of the strip, which must be drawn across the whole width of the strip, at a distance of 7 meters from the centre line. In addition, the last 2 meters of the strip before these rear limit lines must be clearly distinguished — if possible by a different colour of strip — to make it easy for the fencers to be aware of their position on the strip (see Figures 1 and 2).

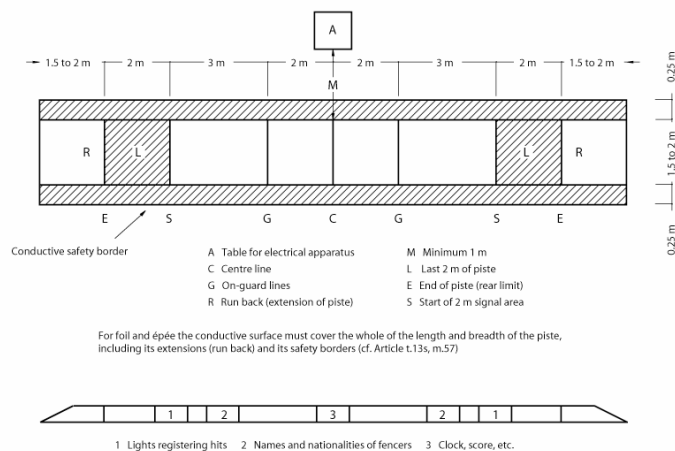
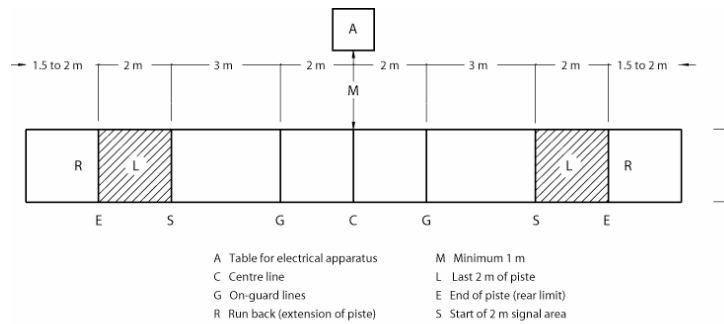


Figure 1. Strip for Semi-Finals and Finals (maximum height 50 cm)



For foil and épée the conductive surface must cover the whole of the length and breadth of the piste, including its extensions (run back) (cf. Article L13s, m.57)

Figure 2. Standard Strip for all three weapons

CHAPTER 4. THE FENCERS' EQUIPMENT (Weapons — Equipment — Clothing)

Responsibility of fencers

- t.15** Fencers arm, equip and clothe themselves and fence at their own responsibility and at their own risk.

The safety measures specified in the Rules and in the standards contained in the Appendix to them and the methods of control laid down in the present Rules (cf. Material Rules) are only designed to *increase* the fencers' safety and cannot *guarantee* it. They cannot, therefore, whatever the manner in which they are applied, impart responsibility to the FIE, or to the organizers of competitions, to the officials or personnel who carry out such organization, or to those who may cause an accident.

CHAPTER 5. FENCING1. Method of holding the weapon

- t.16** With all three weapons, defence must be effected exclusively with the guard and the blade used either separately or together.

If the handle has no special device or attachment or special shape (e.g. orthopaedic), a fencer may hold it 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 be — either permanently or temporarily, in an open or disguised manner — transformed into a throwing weapon; it must be used without the hand leaving the hilt and without the hand slipping along the hilt from front to back during an offensive action.

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

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 in the case of injury to the hand or arm.

2. Coming on guard

- t.17** The fencer whose number is called first should place himself on 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 centre 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 centre of the width of the strip. When placed on guard during the bout, the distance between the two

competitors must be such that, in the position 'point in-line,' the points of the two blades cannot make contact

After the scoring of a valid touch the competitors are put on guard in the middle of the strip. If no touch is awarded they are replaced in the position that they occupied when the bout was interrupted.

At the beginning of each period (in a direct elimination bout) and of any additional minute of fencing time, the fencers are placed on guard in the middle of the strip.

The competitors may not be replaced on guard, at their correct distance, in such a way as to place behind the rear line of the strip a fencer who was in front of that line when the bout was halted.

If he already had one foot behind the rear line, he remains in that position.

If a fencer has crossed the lateral boundaries of the strip, he may be put back on guard at the correct distance even if this places him behind the rear line and thereby causes a touch to be awarded against him.

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 command for fencing 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 saber fencers may not come on guard in the 'in line' position.

3. Beginning, stopping and restarting the bout

- t.18** 1. Beginning the bout

The start of the bout is signalled by the word 'Fence'. No movement made or initiated before the word 'Fence' is counted.

2. Stopping the bout

The bout stops on the word 'Halt', except in the case of special events occurring which modify the regular and normal conditions of the bout (cf. also t.32).

As soon as the order 'Halt' has been given, a competitor may not start a new action; only the movement which has been begun before the order was given remains valid. Everything which takes place afterwards is entirely non-valid (But cf. t.32).

If a competitor stops before the word 'Halt', and is touched, the touch is valid.

The order '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 Referee (cf. t.28, t.55/6 and t.73/j).

3. Leaving the strip

The Referee may not allow a fencer to leave the strip, save in exceptional circumstances. If a competitor does so without permission he is liable to incur the penalties enumerated in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120).

4. Fencing at close quarters

- t.19** Fencing at close quarters is allowed so long as the competitors can wield their weapons correctly and the Referee can, in foil and saber, follow the phrase.

5. Corps à corps

- t.20** Corps à corps is said to exist when the two competitors are in contact; when this occurs the Referee must stop the bout (cf. t.25, t.63).

In foil and saber it is forbidden for a fencer to cause corps à corps (even without brutality or violence). Should such an offence occur, the Referee will penalize the fencer at fault as specified in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120 and any touch scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

In all three weapons it is forbidden for a fencer to cause corps à corps intentionally to avoid being touched, or to jostle the opponent. Should such an offence occur, the Referee will penalize the fencer at fault as specified in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120 and any touch scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

6. Displacing the target and passing the opponent

- t.21** Displacing the target and ducking are allowed even if during the action the unarmed hand comes into contact with the strip.

It is forbidden to turn one's back on one's opponent during the bout.

Should such an offence occur, the Referee will penalize the fencer at fault as specified in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120 and any touch scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

When a fencer goes past his opponent during a bout, the Referee must immediately call 'Halt' and replace the competitors in the positions which they occupied before the passing took place.

When touches are made as a fencer passes his opponent, the touch made immediately is valid; a touch made after passing his opponent by the competitor who has made the passing movement is annulled, but the touch made immediately, even when turning round, by the competitor who has been subjected to the offensive action, is valid.

If during a bout a fencer who has made a flèche attack has a touch registered against him and he continues to run beyond the extreme limit of the strip sufficiently far to cause his reel or the connecting line to his reel to be torn out, the touch which he has received will not be annulled (cf. t.103).

7. Substitution and use of the non-sword hand and arm

- t.22** The use of the non-sword hand and arm to carry out an offensive or defensive action is forbidden (cf. t.114, t.116, t.120). Should such an offence occur, the touch scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

In foil and saber, it is forbidden to protect the target area or to substitute another part of the body for the target area, either by covering or by an abnormal movement (cf. t.114, t.116, t.120); any touch scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

During the bout, the fencer must not, under any circumstances, take hold of any part of the electrical equipment with the non-sword hand (cf. t.114, t.116, t.120); any touch scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

- t.23** If during a bout the Referee notices that one of the fencers is making use of the non-sword arm and/or hand, or is protecting or covering the valid target with a non-valid surface, the Referee can call for the help of two neutral judges who will be designated by the Technical Directory. These judges, one on each side of the strip, will watch all

aspects of the bout and will indicate, by raising their hand or when asked by the Referee, if the non-sword arm or hand has been used, or if the fencer has protected or covered the valid target with a non-valid surface (cf. t.49, t.114, t.116, t.120).

The Referee may also make the fencers change places so that the fencer committing this fault does not have his back to the Referee.

8. Ground gained or lost

- t.24** When the order 'Halt' is given, ground gained is held until a touch has been given. When competitors are replaced on guard, each fencer should retreat an equal distance in order to keep fencing distance (cf. t.17).

- t.25** However, if the bout has been stopped on account of corps à corps, the fencers are replaced on guard in such a position that the competitor who has sustained the corps à corps is at the place which he previously occupied; this also applies if his opponent has subjected him to a flèche attack, even without corps à corps.

9. Crossing the limits of the strip

(a) Stopping the bout

- t.26** When a competitor crosses one of the lateral boundaries of the strip with one or both feet, the referee must immediately call 'Halt'.

If the fencer goes off the strip with both feet, the referee must annul everything that has occurred after the boundary has been crossed, except a touch received by the competitor who has crossed the boundary even after he has crossed it, provided that this touch results from a simple and immediate action. However, a touch scored by the fencer who leaves the strip with one foot only is valid provided that the action was started before the 'Halt'.

If one of the competitors leaves the strip with both feet, only a touch made by the fencer who remains on the strip with at least one foot can be counted valid, even in the case of a double touch.

(b) Rear limits

- t.27** Should a competitor cross the rear limit of the strip completely — i.e. with both feet — a touch will be scored against him/her.

(c) Lateral boundaries

- t.28** A competitor who crosses one of the lateral boundaries of the strip with one or both feet is penalized. When the competitors are replaced on guard, the opponent of the competitor who has crossed the lateral boundary will step forward one meter from the position he occupied when his opponent left the strip; the competitor who is penalized must retreat in order to resume the correct fencing distance.

If the exercise 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 competitor who crosses one of the lateral boundaries of the strip with one or both feet — e.g. when making a fleche — to avoid being touched will be penalized as specified in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120.

(d) Leaving the strip accidentally

- t.29** A competitor who unintentionally crosses one of the boundaries of the strip as the result of any *accidental cause* (such as jostling) incurs no penalty whatever.

10. Duration of the bout

t.30 Duration of the bout is held to mean the *effective duration*, that is the total of the intervals of time between the orders 'Fence' and 'Halt'.

The duration of the bout is registered by the Referee or by a time-keeper. For the finals of all official competitions, as well as for all bouts for which a chronometer is visible to the spectators, the chronometer must be so placed that it is visible to the two fencers on the strip and to the Referee.

The effective duration of a bout is:

- For pools, 5 touches, maximum 3 minutes
- For direct elimination bouts, 15 touches, maximum 9 minutes divided into 3 periods of 3 minutes, with one minute's pause between any two periods.
- For team matches, 3 minutes for each *round* or bout

t.31 The fencers may ask how much time they have left to fence each time that the fencing is interrupted.

Any fencer who attempts improperly to cause or to prolong interruptions to the bout is penalized as specified in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120.

t.32 At the expiration of the regulation fencing time, if the clock is linked to the scoring apparatus (obligatory standard for finals of official FIE competitions), it must set off automatically a loud audible signal, and automatically cut off the scoring apparatus, without cancelling touches registered before the disconnection. The bout stops with the audible signal.

If the clock is not linked to the scoring apparatus, the time-keeper must shout 'Halt' (or operate a sound signal) which stops the bout; in this case, even a 'coup lancé' is not valid.

Should there be a failure of the clock or an error by the time-keeper, the Referee must estimate how much fencing time is left.

11. Accidents, withdrawal of a competitor

t.33 For an accident which occurs in the course of a bout and which is properly attested by the delegate of the FIE Medical Committee or by the doctor on duty, the Referee will allow a break in the bout lasting no longer than 10 minutes. This break should be timed from the point when the doctor gave his opinion and be strictly reserved for the treatment of the accident which brought it about. If the doctor considers, before or at the end of the 10-minute break, that the fencer is incapable of continuing the bout, the fencer must withdraw (individual events) and/or be replaced, if possible (team events) (cf. o.44).

During the remainder of the same day, a fencer cannot be allowed a further break unless as a result of a different injury.

Should a fencer demand a break which is deemed by the delegate of the Medical Committee or by the doctor on duty to be unjustified, the Referee will penalize that fencer as specified in Articles t.114, t.117, t.120.

In team events a fencer judged unable to continue the event by the doctor may, nevertheless, on the advice of the same doctor, fence in subsequent matches on the same day.

The Technical Directory may modify the order of bouts in a pool in order to ensure the efficient running of the competition (cf. o.16).

CHAPTER 6. REFEREEING AND JUDGING OF TOUCHES

t.34 By accepting a position as referee or judge, the person so designated 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 absolute concentration.

Referees may not combine their function with any other activity during the tournament, such as member of the Technical Directory, team captain, official delegate of their national federation, trainer, etc.

1. The Referee

t.35 All bouts in fencing are directed by a Referee who must be in possession of an up-to-date US or international refereeing license. For reasons of expedience, National category Referees who are candidates for the FIE refereeing exams are authorized to referee Junior World Cup competitions.

The Referee has many duties.

The Referee:

- (a) calls the roll of the competitors (cf. t.86).
- (b) directs the bout.
- (c) before each bout he must check the weapons, clothes and equipment of the fencers, according to the regulations described below.
- (d) superintends the proper functioning of the electrical apparatus. Either on his own initiative or when asked to do so by a team captain or competitor, he implements tests necessary to verify the apparatus and locate any faults which may be found. He will prevent the competitors from hindering the tests by unplugging or changing their equipment at the wrong moment.
- (e) directs the judges, time-keepers, scorers, etc.
- (f) positions himself and moves in such a way as to be able to follow the bout while always being able to see the illumination of the signal lamps.
- (g) penalizes faults (cf. t.96).
- (h) awards the touches (cf. t.40ss).
- (i) maintains order (cf. t.96).
- (j) whenever he considers it necessary, he should consult the experts concerning the electrical apparatus (cf. o.7).

2. Judges

t.36 The Referee fulfils his/her functions with the aid of an apparatus for the automatic registering of touches; he/she may also be assisted by two judges watching for the use of the unarmed hand or arm, substitution of the valid target, touches scored on the floor in *épée*, leaving the strip to the side or the rear or any other offence defined in the Rules (cf. t.120).

The judges are obligatory for all individual competition finals (whether of 4 or 8 fencers) and for the final (2 teams) of team events.

The judges are placed on each side of the Referee, on either side of the strip; they watch all aspects of the entire bout.

The judges must change ends halfway through each bout or after each period in direct elimination bouts and after each bout in team matches, so as not to watch the same fencer the whole time.

3. Attribution of referees

1. Olympic Games and World Championships

(a) Individual competitions

t.37 For the rounds of pools and the preliminary direct elimination table, the delegates of the Refereeing Committee select referees by lot.

For the main direct elimination table, the delegates of the Refereeing Committee establish a list of a sufficient number of the best referees present, taking account of their nationalities. These referees are assigned by drawing lots to each quarter of the table to referee the bouts in the order of the table. If it is not possible to proceed in this way, the refereeing delegates may switch over the referees between the different quarters of the table.

At the end of each round, the delegates of the Refereeing Committee may withdraw a referee whose performance was not satisfactory. However, a referee will not be changed in the course of a bout except in exceptional circumstances (e.g. physical disability of the referee). In such a case the decision will be made by the delegates of the Refereeing Committee (this rule is equally valid for team competitions).

For the final, the delegates of the Refereeing Committee provide a list of from 4–8 referees, of whom:

— 2–4 must be entirely neutral;

— 2–4 may be chosen without taking account of their nationality.

For the first four bouts, referees are selected by lot from among the entirely neutral ones.

After the first four bouts, lots are again drawn, taking account of the nationalities of the fencers still qualified.

The drawing of lots is done with the help of a computer.

t.38 (b) Team competitions

The delegates of the Refereeing Committee and the Technical Directory will choose referees who seem to them competent from among the neutral A and B Grade referees present, and lots will be drawn between these referees.

2. World Cup Competitions

t.39 The Technical Directory, assisted for finals by the Official Observer of the FIE, applies the rules described in Articles t.37 and t.38, above.

4. Method of judging touches

(a) Materiality of the touch

t.40 The materiality of the touch is established according to the indications of the apparatus, and when necessary by consulting the judges (cf. t.36).

Only the indications of the electrical apparatus as indicated by its own lamps or by the extension lamps can be taken into consideration for judging touches. Under no circumstances can the Referee declare a competitor to be touched unless the touch has been properly registered by the apparatus (except as provided for in Articles t.49, o.17, o.24 or when a penalty touch has been awarded).

t.41 On the other hand, the Referee should, in the cases enumerated for each weapon, annul a touch registered by the apparatus (cf. t.53ss, t.66ss, t.73).

(b) Validity or priority of the touch

t.42 As soon as the bout has stopped, the Referee reconstructs briefly the movements which composed the last fencing phrase.

For finals, the Referee may make use of a television monitor to check on his decision should he be uncertain.

After reaching his decision regarding the materiality of a touch, the Referee, by applying the rules, decides against which fencer a touch is to be awarded, whether both are touched (épée) or if there is no valid touch (cf. t.55ss, t.64ss, t.74ss).

The Referee would use the following signals (see Figure 3, p. 16).

Hand Signals for USFA Referees

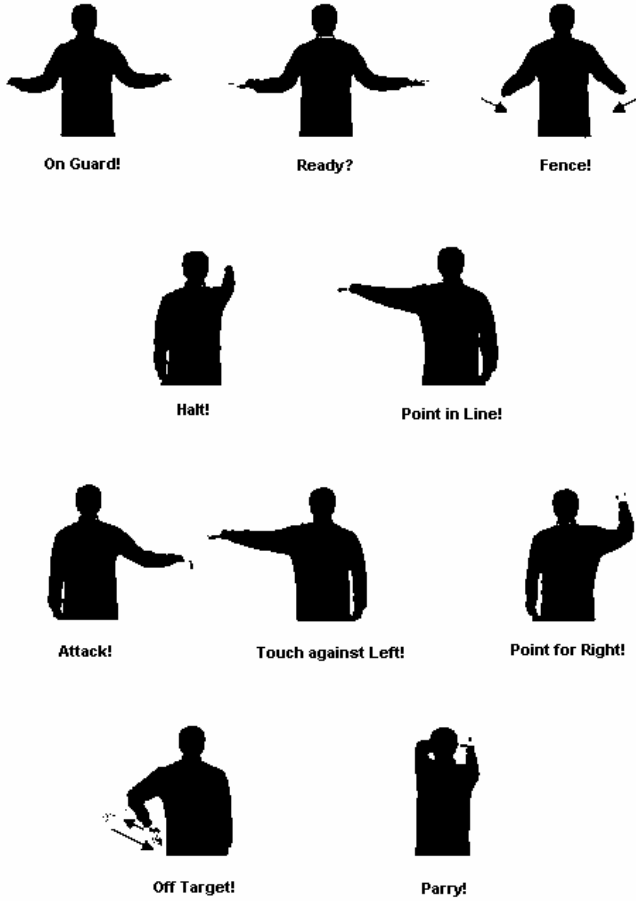


Figure 3a. Referee Hand Signals

Hand Signals for USFA Referees



Double Touch!



Point for Each Fencer!



Simultaneous Attack!



No Touch!



No!



Preparation!



Yellow Card: Warning
Red Card: 1 Touch Against
Black Card: Exclusion

Notes

- 1st The Referee calls the action and give the hand gestures at the same time.
- 2nd The Referee should refrain from excessive verbage; Use only the appropriate phrase with the gesture i.e. Attack from Left! Parry! Reposte! Touch against Right! Point for Left!
- 3rd After the action is called, the fencers may ask the referee to restate the analysis of the phrase.
- 4th Each gesture should last for 1-2 seconds; be expressive and correct in their execution.

Figure 3b. Referee Hand Signals

Before the start of each pool, team match or bout by direct elimination, the Referee must assemble all the competitors on the strip and verify that (cf.t.35):

- in all weapons, the FIE guarantee label is present on the fencers' equipment (clothing, masks). (See the USFA note below)
- in foil, the conductive jacket conforms to the provision of Article m.28 when each competitor is standing upright, is on guard and is in the lunge position;
- in épée, the material from which the clothing is made has not too smooth a surface, and the competitor is wearing a jacket conforming to the regulations;
- in saber, the conductive jacket conforms to the provision of Article m.34 when each competitor is standing upright, is on guard and is in the lunge position;
- in all three weapons, each fencer is wearing, under his jacket, a regulation protective under-plastron, made of cloth which can resist 800 Newtons. (See the USFA note below)
- in all three weapons, that the fencer is not equipped with any electronic communication equipment which would allow a person off the strip to communicate with the fencer during the bout

For bouts in the direct elimination and the finals of the World Championships and the Olympic Games, and for finals of World Cup competitions, the two fencers in each bout will go to the material checking zone, located near the strip, 30 minutes before they are due on the strip. Their equipment will be checked under the responsibility of the SEMI (or the designated expert for finals of World Cup competitions). If any anomaly is identified the equipment at fault will be changed at once, without any penalty being applied. The SEMI delegate will hand over the bodycords, the masks and the weapons that have been checked to the Referee for the bout. Ten minutes before they are due on the strip the fencers will report to the Referee designated for their bout. The Referee will hand over a bodycord to each of the fencers in the access zone for the strip. He will check that the fencers are wearing regulation under-jacket protection. The Referee and the fencers must stay together in the access zone until they go on the strip. One minute before they go on the strip the Referee will give a weapon to each fencer, for him to plug in his bodycord. No check will be carried out on the strip prior to the bout.

Competition organizers must organize a waiting area where the fencers can warm-up during this checking procedure.

t.44 In addition to the checks mentioned above, the Referee of a bout may at any time, on his own initiative or at the request of a fencer or of a team captain, carry out such checks, or verify the checks already carried out or even carry out, or have carried out, new checks (cf.t.35).

He will in any case, before each bout, ensure that the guarantee label is present on the clothing, the blade and the mask of each fencer, and that the insulation of the wires inside the guard and the pressure of the spring in the point of foils and épées conform with the Rules. Checking the insulation of the wires and the pressure of the spring will be repeated each time a weapon is changed. In all three weapons, he will check that the fencer is not equipped with electronic communication equipment which would allow a person off the strip to communicate with the fencer during the bout.

In épée he will check the total travel and the residual travel of the pointe d'arrêt:

- He will check the total travel by inserting a gauge measuring 1.5 mm between the barrel of the pointe d'arrêt and the tip. This gauge, provided by the Organizing Committee, may have a tolerance of ± 0.05 mm, i.e. from 1.45 mm to 1.55 mm.
- He will check the residual travel by inserting a gauge measuring 0.5 mm between the barrel of the pointe d'arrêt and the tip. The apparatus should not register when the point is depressed. This gauge, provided by the Organizing Committee, may have a tolerance of ± 0.05 mm, i.e. from 0.45 mm to 0.55 mm.

For details of the weight used for the check, see Part 1, Chapter 1 of the Material Rules.

At the beginning of the bout, the Referee will place the reserve equipment that has been checked near the appropriate end of the strip for the fencer concerned.

6. Non-regulation equipment

t.45 In whatever circumstances a fencer on the strip is found to be in possession of equipment which is non-regulation or defective, this equipment will be immediately confiscated and submitted to the experts on duty for examination (cf.m.8, m.9, m.12, m.13, m.16, m.17, m.23).

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 rechecked before it is used again.

1. If a fencer appears on the strip:

- with only one regulation weapon conforming with the Rules (cf. t.86); or
 - with only one regulation bodycord; or
 - with a weapon or a bodycord which does not work or which does not conform with the Rules; or
 - without his protective under-plastron (cf. t.44 above); or
 - with a conductive jacket which does not fully cover the valid target; or
 - with clothing which does not conform with the Rules;
- the Referee will apply the penalties according to Articles t.114, t.116, t.120 (first group).

2. When during a bout an irregularity is found in the equipment which could be caused by conditions during the bout:

Examples:

- conductive jacket with holes in which touches are registered as non-valid,
- weapon or bodycord no longer functioning,
- pressure of the spring in the point too weak,
- the travel in the point no longer regulation,

the referee will apply neither warning nor penalty and any touch scored with the equipment that has become defective will be awarded.

However, even during the course of a bout, any fencer whose weapon, at the moment he presents himself on guard and ready to fence, has a curve, which exceeds that permitted (cf.m.8, m.16, m.23) will be penalized in accordance with articles t.114, t.116 and t.120.

On the contrary, any touch made with the equipment which 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 applied at the preliminary check, the Referee will:
 - annul the last touch, if any, scored by the fencer at fault;
 - penalize him as specified in Articles t.114, t.117, t.120.
 - (b) does not conform to the rules in a way not covered by the preliminary check, the Referee will:
 - penalize him as specified in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120.
 - (c) has been passed by the preliminary check but presents irregularities which could have been made deliberately; or
 - (d) bears the marks of the preliminary check which have been imitated or transferred; or
 - (e) has been altered in any way to allow the recording of touches or the nonfunctioning of the apparatus at will; then, in cases (c), (d), (e) and (f), the Referee must immediately confiscate the equipment (weapon, bodycord and if necessary the conductive jacket, mask, etc) and have it examined by the expert on duty.
 - (f) is equipped with electronic communication equipment permitting a person outside the strip to communicate with the fencer during the bout.

In cases (c), (d), (e) and (f), the referee must immediately confiscate the equipment concerned (weapon, bodywire, if necessary conductive jacket, mask et cetera) and have it examined by the expert on duty.

— in cases e) and f), the Referee will penalize the fencer as specified in Articles t.114, t.119, t.120.

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

Every fencer must appear on the strip with clothing conforming to the rules as follows:

- Name and nationality, in accordance with the rules, on the back of the jacket (application in all FIE competitions, at all stages of the competitions)

- Wearing his national clothing (cf. m.25.3) application as follows:

a) Open, Junior and Cadet World Championships, all bouts, whether in a pool, in the direct elimination or during a team match;

b) Individual senior World Cup competitions, all direct elimination bouts from the 64 onwards;

c) World Cup team competitions, all bouts in every match.

In case of violation of this rule:

For the competitions mentioned in items a) and c) above, the referee shall eliminate the fencer at fault, and he will not be allowed to participate further in the event.

For the competitions mentioned in item b) above, the referee shall penalize the fencer at fault with a Red card (Articles t.114, t.117, t.120, 2nd group). The fencer at fault shall however be allowed to remain on the strip and fence the bout concerned.

USFA Note:

In all three weapons, each fencer's last name must be printed by hand or machine in capital letters between 8 and 15 cm high: either (1) on the back of the uniform or lame between the shoulders; (2) on the front or side of the thigh of the "rear" leg; or (3) on a piece of fabric or lame material that is firmly sewn to the uniform in such a way that it will not detach during fencing or catch the opponent's point. Fabric attached to the uniform must be the same color as the part of the uniform to which it is attached. Conductive materials must be attached in such a way as to not alter the conductivity of the metallic vest or jacket. NAMES PRINTED ON TAPE ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.

The use of an FIE homologated uniform and mask is not required for USFA competitions. However:

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*
 - 4. it does not need to be constructed of 800 Newton material.*
-

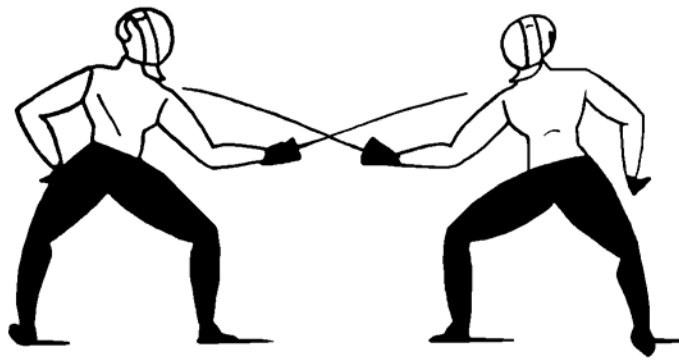


Figure 6. Valid target in saber

PART 4. SABER

THE CONVENTIONS OF FENCING

A. METHOD OF MAKING A TOUCH

- t.70** The saber is a weapon for thrusting and cutting with the cutting edge, the flat and the back of the blade.
- All touches made with the cutting edge, the flat or the back of the blade are counted as good (cuts and back-cuts).
It is forbidden to score a touch with the guard. Any touches scored with the guard must be annulled, the fencer at fault being penalized as specified in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120.
 - Point touches which slip over the valid target, or cuts which merely brush the opponent's target (passé touches) do not count.
 - Touches through the blade, that is to say those which touch the valid target and the saber of the opponent at the same time, are valid whenever they arrive clearly on the target.
 - Placing the point of the weapon on the strip at any time to straighten it is forbidden. Any breaking of this rule will be punished according to Articles t.114, t.116, t.120.

B. LIMITATION OF THE TARGET

- t.71** Only touches which arrive on the target are counted as valid.
The target comprises any part of the body above a horizontal line drawn between the top of the folds formed by the thighs and by the trunk of the fencer when in the on-guard position (see Figure 6, above).
- t.72** A touch which arrives on a non-valid part of the target is not counted as a touch; it does not stop the fencing phrase and does not annul any subsequent touches.
If a fencer substitutes a non-valid part of the target for a valid part, either by covering it or by any abnormal movement, the Referee must penalize him by applying the penalties specified in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120 and any touch scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

C. JUDGING OF TOUCHES IN SABER

Sabre competitions are scored with an electrical scoring apparatus.

I. MATERIALITY AND ANNULMENT OF TOUCHES

- t.73** To judge the materiality of the touch only touches registered by the scoring apparatus may be taken into account. The referee cannot award a touch unless it has been properly registered by the apparatus except for penalty touches. He will disregard touches which are registered as a result of actions started before the word 'Fence' or after the word 'Halt' (cf. t.18).

However, the Referee must take into account any possible malfunctions in the electrical equipment; in particular he must annul a touch he has just awarded in accordance with a signal from the apparatus if it can be established, by tests carried out under his attentive supervision, before the bout has effectively re-started and with no changes having been made to the equipment (cf. t.35/d):

- that a touch made by the fencer judged to have been touched does not cause the apparatus to register;
- that a touch made by the fencer judged to have been touched does not remain fixed on the apparatus;
- that the signal of a touch against the fencer judged to have been touched can be produced either without there having been in fact a valid touch, or by a touch on the weapon or on a non-valid surface.

If the saber of the fencer judged to have been touched does not conform with Article m.24/4 and 24/6 (insulation of the interior and exterior of the guard, of the handle and of the pommel), there will be no annulment, even if a touch on the weapon causes a signal to register.

The Referee should also apply the following rules:

- Only the last touch made before the fault was established can be annulled;
- A competitor who makes any modification in or who 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. t.35/d);
- If the bout has effectively recommenced, a competitor cannot claim the annulment of a touch awarded against him before the said recommencement of the bout;
- The location of a fault in the equipment (including the equipment of the competitors) has no bearing on whether or not a touch should be annulled;
- It is not necessary that a fault should repeat itself every time a test is made; but it is essential that the fault should

- be manifested to the Referee without the possibility of doubt at least once during the tests made by him or under his supervision;
- (f) When a competitor against whom a touch has been registered has broken his blade, the touch must be annulled unless the breaking of the blade has occurred clearly after the touch has been registered.
 - (g) The Referee must pay particular attention to touches which are not registered or are registered abnormally. Should such defects be repeated, the Referee must ask a member of the Committee for Electrical Apparatus and Equipment, or an expert technician on duty, to verify that the equipment conforms to the Rules.
 - (h) Whenever accidental causes make it impossible to carry out tests, the touch will be considered doubtful and therefore annulled;
 - (i) If there are signals on both sides of the apparatus, the Referee will apply the rules in Article t.80.
 - (j) In accordance with the general rules (cf. t.18) the Referee must stop the bout, even if no touch is registered on the apparatus, whenever the fencing becomes confused and he is no longer able to analyse the phrase.

II. VALIDITY OR PRIORITY OF THE TOUCH

1. Preface

t.74 The Referee alone decides as to the validity or the priority of the touch by applying the following basic rules which are the conventions applicable to saber fencing.

2. Respect of the fencing phrase

- t.75** (a) Any attack properly executed (cf. t.7) must be parried, or completely avoided, and the phrase must be followed through.
- (b) The attack is correctly carried out when the extending of the arm, with the point or the cutting edge continuously threatening the valid target, precedes the initiation of the lunge.
1. *An attack with a lunge is correctly carried out:*
 - in a *simple attack* (cf. t.8) when the arm is extended with the lunge and the touch arrives at the latest when the front foot touches the strip;
 - in a *compound attack* (cf. t.8) when, with the arm extending in the correct forming of the first feint (cf. t.77), the touch arrives at the latest when the front foot touches the strip or immediately afterwards.
 2. *An attack with a step-forward-lunge is correctly carried out:*
 - as a *simple attack* (cf. t.8) when the arm is extending before the completion of the step-forward and when the touch arrives at the latest at the end of the lunge;
 - as a *compound attack* (cf. t.8) when, with the arm extending in the correct forming of the first feint (cf. t.77) during the step-forward, the touch arrives at the latest at the end of the lunge.
 3. The flèche and any forward movement crossing the legs or feet is forbidden. Any offence will be penalized as specified in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120. Any touch scored by the fencer at fault will be annulled. However, any touch correctly executed by his opponent is valid.

- t.76** (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' (cf. t.10) the attacker must first deflect his opponent's weapon. Referees must ensure that a mere grazing of the blades 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 (*dérobement*), 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 either direct, or by a disengagement or by a cutover, or else be preceded by feints (cf. t.77) which oblige the opponent to parry.

- t.77** (d) In compound attacks the feint must be correctly carried out, i.e.:
1. A feint with the point, with the arm extended and the point threatening the target continuously.
 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 part of the target.
- (e) If during a compound attack the opponent finds the blade during 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.

t.78 (g) Attacks by beats on the blade

1. In an attack by beating on the blade, this attack is correctly carried out and retains its priority when the beat is made on the *foible* of the opponent's blade, i.e. the two-thirds of the blade furthest from the guard.
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 one-third of the blade nearest the guard, the attack is badly executed and the beat gives the opponent the right to an immediate riposte.

- t.79** (h) The parry gives the right to riposte; a simple riposte may be direct or indirect, but in order to annul any subsequent movement by the attacker, it must be carried out immediately, without any hesitation or pause.

Against cuts with the cutting edge, the flat or the back of the blade, the object of the parry is to prevent touches made by the opponent arriving on the valid target; therefore:

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

3. Judging of touches.

t.80 In applying these basic conventions of saber fencing, the Referee should judge as follows.

When during a phrase both fencers attack simultaneously there is either a *simultaneous action* or a *double touch*:

1. The first of these conditions is due to simultaneous conception and execution of an attack by both fencers; in this case the touches exchanged are annulled for both fencers.
2. The double touch (*coup double*) on the other hand, is the result of a clearly faulty action on the part of one of the fencers.

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

1. *The fencer who is attacked is alone counted as touched:*
 - (a) If he makes a stop hit on his opponent's simple attack.
 - (b) If, instead of parrying, he attempts to avoid the touch and does not succeed in so doing.

- (c) If, after making a successful parry, he makes a momentary pause (delayed riposte) which gives his opponent the right to renew the attack (redoublement, or remise or reprise).
 - (d) If, during a compound attack, he makes a stop hit without being in time.
 - (e) If, having his point 'in line' (cf. t.10) and being subjected to a beat or a taking of the blade (prise de fer) which deflects his blade, he attacks or places his point in line again instead of parrying a direct touch made by his opponent.
2. *The fencer who attacks is alone counted as touched:*
- (a) If he initiated his attack when his opponent had his point 'in line' and without deflecting the opponent's weapon. Referees must ensure that a mere grazing of the blades is not considered as sufficient to deflect the opponent's blade.
 - (b) If he attempts to find the blade, does not succeed (because of a derobement) and continues the attack.
 - (c) If, during a compound attack, he allows his opponent to find the blade, and continues the attack while his opponent ripostes immediately.
 - (d) If, during a compound attack, he bends 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) If, during a compound attack, he is stop-hit one period of fencing time (temps d'escrime) before he makes his final movement.
 - (f) If he makes a touch by a remise, redoublement or reprise following a parry by his opponent which has been followed by a riposte which is immediate, simple and executed in one period of fencing time without withdrawing the arm.
3. When there is a double touch (coup double), and if the Referee is unable clearly to judge from which side the fault has come, *he must replace the competitors on guard.*

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 replacing them on guard. (The fault of the attacker consists of indecision, slowness of execution or the making of feints which are not sufficiently effective. The fault of the defender lies in delay or slowness in making the stop hit.)

PART 5. DISCIPLINARY RULES FOR COMPETITIONS²

CHAPTER 1. APPLICATION

1. Persons subject to these rules

- t.81** The regulations laid down in this Part apply to all persons who take part in, or who are present in any capacity whatsoever at an international or United States Fencing Association competition (organizers, officials, referees, fencers, auxiliary personnel, team captains, trainers, spectators, etc.), whatever their nationality or affiliation.

Hereinafter, all these persons are described as 'fencers'.

2. Maintenance of order and discipline

- t.82** Fencers must observe strictly and faithfully the Rules and the Statutes of the FIE, the particular rules for the competition in which they are engaged, the traditional customs of courtesy and integrity and the instructions of the officials.

In particular they will subscribe, in an orderly, disciplined and sporting manner, to the following provisions; all breaches of these rules may entail punishments by the competent disciplinary authorities after, or even without, prior warning, according to the facts and circumstances (cf. t.113–t.120).

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 (between the command "Fence" and "Halt,") no one is allowed to go near the strips or to give advice to the fencers. At no time is one allowed to criticize the Officials or their decisions, to insult them or to attempt to influence them in any way. Even the team captain must remain in the space assigned and may only intervene in the situations and in the manner provided for in Article t.90 of the Rules. The Referee must stop immediately any activity which disturbs the smooth running of the bout which he is refereeing (cf. t.96).

Smoking in competition halls is forbidden. Smoking will be considered as a disturbance of the smooth running of the competition (cf. t.83).

Any breach of the rules will be punished as laid down in Articles t.114, t.118, t.120.

- t.83** The Referee and/or the Technical Directory, on their own authority or at the request of an official delegate of the FIE or of the Organizing Committee, can decide to expel from the competition venue, with or without a warning, any person who by his gestures, attitude or language disturbs the good order or smooth running of the event.

3. The competitors

- (a) Pledge of honor

- t.84** By the mere fact of entering a fencing competition, the fencers pledge their honor to observe the regulations and the decisions of the judges, to be respectful towards the members of the jury and to scrupulously obey the orders and injunctions of the Referee (cf. t.114, t.116, t.120).

- (b) Refusing to fence an opponent

- t.85** No fencer (individual or team) may take part in an official competition if he refuses to fence against any other fencer whatsoever (individual or team) correctly entered in the event. Should this rule be broken, the competitor concerned, individual or team, shall immediately be disqualified and the USFA shall consider whether there are grounds, and to what extent, for taking sanctions against the national federation to which the disqualified competitor belongs (cf. FIE Statutes 1.2.4 and Rules Article t.120).

- (c) Presence on time

- t.86** The fencers, completely equipped, with all equipment conforming with the regulations (cf. t.43–t.45) and ready to fence, must be present at the time and place appointed for the beginning of the pool, match, or bout of direct elimination, or at the time appointed for the checking of their equipment before their bout (cf. t.43), as well as during the competition, whenever the Referee requires it.

Before the start of the pool, the team match or the bouts of direct elimination (individual or team) or in the course of the competition (individual or team), when a fencer does not present himself on the strip, ready to fence, when ordered to do so by the Referee:

- the fencer or team member not present will be penalized with a Yellow Card;

² The penalties relating to the Publicity Code appear in that appendix.

- (c) If, after making a successful parry, he makes a momentary pause (delayed riposte) which gives his opponent the right to renew the attack (redoublement, or remise or reprise).
 - (d) If, during a compound attack, he makes a stop hit without being in time.
 - (e) If, having his point 'in line' (cf. t.10) and being subjected to a beat or a taking of the blade (prise de fer) which deflects his blade, he attacks or places his point in line again instead of parrying a direct touch made by his opponent.
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 - (e) If, during a compound attack, he is stop-hit one period of fencing time (temps d'escrime) before he makes his final movement.
 - (f) If he makes a touch by a remise, redoublement or reprise following a parry by his opponent which has been followed by a riposte which is immediate, simple and executed in one period of fencing time without withdrawing the arm.
3. When there is a double touch (coup double), and if the Referee is unable clearly to judge from which side the fault has come, *he must replace the competitors on guard.*

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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 (between the command "Fence" and "Halt,") no one is allowed to go near the strips or to give advice to the fencers. At no time is one allowed to criticize the Officials or their decisions, to insult them or to attempt to influence them in any way. Even the team captain must remain in the space assigned and may only intervene in the situations and in the manner provided for in Article t.90 of the Rules. The Referee must stop immediately any activity which disturbs the smooth running of the bout which he is refereeing (cf. t.96).

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Before the start of the pool, the team match or the bouts of direct elimination (individual or team) or in the course of the competition (individual or team), when a fencer does not present himself on the strip, ready to fence, when ordered to do so by the Referee:

- the fencer or team member not present will be penalized with a Yellow Card;

² The penalties relating to the Publicity Code appear in that appendix.

- a second call will be made, one minute after the first call, followed by a Red Card for the fencer or team member not present;
- a third and last call will be made, one minute after the second call, followed by the elimination from the competition for the fencer not present in an individual competition or for the whole team in a team competition.

Should a fencer abandon a bout by leaving the strip (cf. t.18/3), he will be penalised as specified in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120.

(d) Fencing etiquette

- t.87** The competitors must fence faithfully and strictly according to the rules laid down in these Rules. All breaches of these rules will incur the penalties laid down hereinafter (cf. t.114–t.120).

Before the beginning of each bout, the two fencers must perform a fencing salute to their opponent, to the referee and to the spectators. Equally, when the final touch has been scored, the bout has not ended until the two fencers have saluted each other, the referee and (to) the spectators - to this end, they must remain still while the referee is making his decision; when he has given his decision, they must again perform a fencing salute and must shake hands with their opponent, with the unarmed hand.

If either or both of the two fencers refuses to salute or shake hands in compliance with these rules, the referee will penalize him/them with a Group 3 Red card, followed by a Black Card upon a second failure to salute. (cf. t.114, t.119, t.120). The points or titles obtained at the moment of the offence remain acquired.

Individual events

When both fencers make clear their unwillingness to fence:

For 10 or 15 touch Bouts by Direct Elimination:

- a) For the first time, the referee will issue a yellow card to each of the two fencers and will proceed to the next period, without the minute rest.
- b) For the second time, the referee will issue a red card to each of the two fencers and will proceed to the next period, without the minute rest.
- c) However, when both fencers make clear their unwillingness to fence during the final period of a direct elimination bout, the referee will issue a yellow card or a red card respectively against each of the two fencers and will proceed to the overtime minute of the bout. This minute, which will be fenced in its entirety, will be decisive and will be preceded by a drawing of lots to decide the winner should the scores be equal at the end of the minute.

Team competitions

When both teams make clear their unwillingness to fence:

- a) For the first time during a match, the referee will issue a yellow card to both of the teams and will proceed to the next bout.
- b) For each subsequent time during a match, the referee will issue a red card to both of the teams and will proceed to the next bout.
- c) However, when both teams make clear their unwillingness to fence during the ninth bout of a match, the referee will issue a yellow card or a red card respectively to both teams and will proceed to the last minute of the time allowed for the bout. This minute, which will be fenced in its entirety, will be decisive and will be preceded by a drawing of lots to decide the winner should the scores be equal at the end of the minute.

When the final touch has been scored, the bout is not ended until the two fencers have saluted each other, the audience and the Referee. To this end, they must remain still while the Referee is making his decision. When he has given his decision, they must proceed with the fencer's salute, which is performed by lifting the weapon guard up to the chin, and must shake hands with their opponent, with the unarmed hand.

The fencer, whether on or off the strip, must keep his mask on until the Referee calls halt. He may under no circumstances address the Referee until the Referee has made his decision (cf. t.114, t.116, t.120).

Under no circumstances may fencers remove their clothes on the strip, even to change their bodycord (cf. t.114, t.116, t.120).

Immediately after the end of a pool or a direct elimination bout the Referee must bring together the two fencers, to announce clearly the score. He must say clearly: « Mister X won against Mister Y with the following score » fencers must then sign the pool or bout score sheet, under the responsibility of the Referee who must check the accuracy of the results on this score sheet. Before the score sheet is returned to the Technical Directory, the Referee must indicate in writing if a fencer refuses to sign it. No subsequent appeal relating to the results will be allowed.

(e) Personal effort

- t.88** Competitors must fence to their utmost ability in a sportsmanlike manner until the end of the competition in order to obtain the best possible classification, without giving away touches or seeking to be favoured by being given touches by anyone (cf. t.114, t.119, t.120).

4. The team manager

- t.89** In all competitions, all competitors of the same nationality must be under the direction of a team manager (who may or may not fence), who is responsible to the Technical Directory or the Organizing Committee for the discipline, conduct, and sportsmanship of the members of his team.

5. The team captain

- t.90** In team events, only the team captain has the right to be placed with his fencers in the Strip Enclosure and to approach the President of the Technical Directory, the referees, etc., in order to decide technical matters, or to register protests.

The members of the team who have scrupulously abided by his decisions may not be held responsible by the relevant authorities. However, they are personally responsible for any actions they commit for which their team captain has not taken authority and for any offence committed by them in violation of the present Rules.

6. The referees and judges

- t.91** The members of the jury must fulfil their duties not only with total impartiality but also with the utmost attention (cf. t.34).

7. The instructors, trainers and technicians

- t.92** The instructors, trainers and technicians are not allowed to remain near their fencers in the Strip Enclosure during the competition.

The Referee may, whenever he considers it necessary, authorize a person to come briefly to the assistance of a fencer.

Each nation which has a fencer taking part in the round of the competition in progress may designate a maximum of two people who have the right to be positioned near the Strip

Enclosure, *outside it* but close to a point of access. The organizers must provide the necessary space for these people.

In team competitions, there must be enclosures reserved for the team members. Only the team captain and one coach have the right to be with the team fencers inside the team enclosures, which must be clearly marked out by yellow lines on the ground or some other method. They should be 9 m² in area and be located at a distance of between 2 and 6 m. from each end of and outside the Strip Enclosure, which is 18 x 8 m.

During team matches, the team members not actually fencing must remain within their Team Enclosure.

During team competitions, no one has the right to enter the Strip Enclosure without the referee's permission. In the case of such an offence, the referee will penalize the offending team as provided for in Articles t.114, t.116 and t.120. A warning imposed on a team is valid for the complete team match. Should a fencer, within the same match, commit another offence from the first group, the referee will penalize him on each occasion with a red card.

8. The spectators

- t.93** Spectators are obliged not to interfere with the good order of a competition, to do nothing which may tend to influence the fencers or the Referee, and to respect the decisions of the latter even when they do not agree with them. They must obey any instructions which the Referee may deem it necessary to give them (cf. t.82, t.118, t.120).

CHAPTER 2. THE DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITIES AND THEIR COMPETENCE

The following articles only regulate discipline at competition venues. Depending on the gravity of the offences established, they do not exclude the application of the Disciplinary Code of the FIE (Chapter VII of the Statutes of the FIE), which complete or, if the case arises, take priority over the following articles.

1. Jurisdiction.94 The disciplinary authorities are the following:

- the Referee (cf. t.96)
- the Directoire technique (USFA Note: Bout Committee) (cf. t.97, o.56–o.62)
- the Head Referee (Cf t.96, 5)
- the Executive Committee of the IOC at the Olympic Games (Cf t.98)
- the Bureau of the F.I.E. (Cf t.99.1/4, t.127.h, o.63)
- the Executive Committee of the F.I.E. (Cf t.99.5)
- the Disciplinary Commission of the FIE and its Tribunal
- the Court of Arbitration for Sport and the Sports Arbitration Tribunal.

See also the Disciplinary Code of the FIE (Chapter VII of the FIE Statutes).

2. Principle of jurisdiction

- t.95** (a) Whatever juridical authority has taken a decision, this decision may be subject to an *appeal* to a higher juridical authority, but only to one such appeal.
- (b) No decision on a question of *fact* can be the subject of an appeal (cf. t.122).
- (c) An appeal against a decision only *suspends* that decision when it can be judged immediately.

- (d) Every appeal must be accompanied by the deposit of a guaranty of US\$80, or its equivalent in another currency; this sum may be confiscated for the benefit of the USFA if the appeal is rejected on the grounds that it is 'frivolous'; this decision will be taken by the juridical authority responsible for hearing the appeal. However, appeals against the decisions of the Referee do not require the deposit of the guarantees mentioned above (cf. t.122).

3. The Referee

- t.96** (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* in the bouts which he is refereeing (cf. t.35/i).
- (b) In his capacity as director of the bout and arbiter of touches, he can, in accordance with the rules, penalize the competitors, either by refusing to award a touch which they have in fact made on the opponent, or by awarding against them a touch which they have not in fact received, or by excluding them from the competition in which he is refereeing, 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. t.122).
- (c) By reason of the right of jurisdiction which he has over all the fencers who participate in, or are present at a competition which he is refereeing, he can also propose to the Technical Directory the expulsion from the venue of the competition of the spectators, trainers, instructors and other persons who accompany the competitors (cf. t.114, t.118, t.120).
- (d) Finally, he may *recommend* to the Technical Directory all other penalties which he considers appropriate (exclusion from the whole competition, suspension or disqualification) (cf. t.97).
- (e) The Head Referee is the authority competent to deal with appeals against the decisions of the Referee (cf. t.97ss, t.122).

4. The Technical Directory (cf. o.56–o.62)

t.97 For Official FIE Competitions

- (a) The Directoire Technique has jurisdiction over all the fencers who take part in or are present at a competition which it is running.
- When necessary it can intervene on its own initiative in all disputes.
- It may impose, either on its own initiative or at the request of a referee, all the penalties which are applicable during competitions.
- (b) It is the juridical authority to deal with appeals against the decisions of referees.
- (c) It sends direct to the Central Office of the FIE announcements of disciplinary penalties pronounced during the competitions, as well as any requests for censure, suspension, extension of penalty or permanent suspension, and requests for ultimate appeals. It is also responsible for maintaining order and discipline during competitions and may use the sanctions
- (d) The decisions of the Technical Directory that it takes spontaneously or in its own right (as the first level of authority) are subject to appeal to The Disciplinary Commission of the FIE'.
- All the decisions of the Technical Directory are immediately enforceable. No appeal against a decision can suspend that decision during a competition.

5. USFA - National Office, Disciplinary Commission, Executive Committee

t.99 All disciplinary matters referred to the USFA by a USFA member, a Technical Directory or any other competent body on the occasion of an official USFA competition are addressed to the National Office of the USFA. This latter transmits them to the competent body.

The Disciplinary Commission of the FIE is the juridical body of the FIE that, within the limits of the territories over which the FIE has authority, settles all disciplinary matters referred to the FIE and judges all appeals against decisions taken by the Directoire Technique or the Head Referee..

The Sports Arbitration Tribunal in Lausanne (TAS) judges all appeals against the decisions of the tribunals of the Disciplinary Commission.

In urgent cases, the FIE Bureau may take the administrative measures necessary for the suspension of the license of the accused in accordance with the Disciplinary Code.

The Executive Committee ensures that the decisions of the Disciplinary Commission are respected and carried out.

See the Disciplinary Code of the FIE (Chapter VII of the FIE Statutes).

CHAPTER 3. PENALTIES

1. Classification of penalties

t.101 There are two distinct categories of penalty applicable to the two sorts of offence (cf. t.114ss).

1. Penalties related to fencing, applicable to offences committed while fencing. These are:

- the loss of ground on the strip
- refusal to award a touch actually made
- awarding a touch which has not in fact been received
- exclusion from the competition

2. Disciplinary penalties applicable to offences concerned with maintenance of order, discipline or sportsmanship. These are:

- awarding a touch which has not in fact been received
- exclusion from the competition
- exclusion from participation in the whole tournament
- expulsion from the venue of the competition
- disqualification
- censure
- fine
- temporary suspension
- permanent suspension

The competent authorities at a competition - the referee and the Technical Directory, can apply all these penalties, except permanent suspension.

Temporary suspension can only be applied by these authorities only in the case of a fencer refusing to salute (cf. t.87, t.120).

See the Disciplinary Code of the FIE (Chapter VII of the FIE Statutes).

2. Penalties related to fencing

(a) Loss of ground on the strip (cf. t.28)

t.102 A competitor who crosses the lateral boundaries of the strip with one or both feet is penalized by the loss of one meter of ground.

(b) Refusal to award a touch actually made

t.103 Although a competitor may in fact have touched his opponent on the target, this touch may be disallowed, either because it did not arrive

during the period of time during which fencing is allowed, or because the competitor had crossed the boundaries of the strip, or because of defects in the electrical equipment, or because violence was involved in the making of the touch, or because of other reasons as laid down in the Rules (cf. t.18, t.20–t.22, t.26ss, t.32, t.41, t.45, t.46, t.53s, t.60, t.66ss, t.70, t.73, t.80, t.87, t.114, t.120).

(c) Award of a touch which has not in fact been received

t.104 A competitor may have a touch awarded against him which he has not in fact received, either because he has crossed the rear limit of the strip (cf. t.27), or because he has committed an offence which has prevented his opponent fencing (a *flèche* attack which jostles the opponent, a *corps à corps* in foil or saber, the use of the unarmed hand while fencing, etc.) (cf. t.120).

(d) Exclusion from the competition

t.105 A competitor who, while fencing, commits certain violent or vindictive actions against his opponent, or who does not fence to his utmost ability, or who profits from a fraudulent agreement with his opponent, may be excluded from the competition.

A competitor who is excluded from a competition may not 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 classification and the place that he occupied remains unfilled; but the points obtained by the fencer up to the moment of his expulsion remain valid for the classification of the team in the team event, providing that he actually takes part in that team event.

3. Disciplinary penalties

(e) Exclusion from the competition

t.106 Exclusion from a competition may also be imposed for a disciplinary offence (failure to appear on the strip as required, weapons not in accordance with the rules, reprehensible attitude towards a judge, etc.).

The consequences of such exclusion for the competitor are the same as those described in Article t.105 above.

(f) Exclusion from participation in the whole tournament

t.107 *Tournament* is the name given to a number of competitions held at the same place, at the same period and under the same aegis.

A competitor who is excluded from a tournament will no longer be allowed to participate in any competition during that tournament, either in the same weapon or another.

When this penalty is imposed on a team, the position of each member of that team must be examined individually, and the members of that team may, according to the circumstances, have different penalties imposed on them (cf. t.90).

(g) Expulsion from the venue of the competition or the tournament

t.108 All participants or non-competitors who participate in or are present at a competition (instructors, trainers, technicians, supporters, officials, spectators) may be expelled. Such expulsion has the effect of forbidding them access to the venue for the duration of the competition or tournament (cf. t.120).

In no circumstances can the imposition of this penalty give cause for redress to anyone.

(h) Disqualification

t.109 Disqualification of a competitor (for example, 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 made against the competitor.

A team which has included a competitor who is disqualified necessarily incurs the penalty of that member and is also disqualified.

The consequences of disqualification are the same as those for exclusion from the competition (see Article t.105 above).

(i) Censure

t.110 In cases where a more severe disciplinary sanction is not justified, the fencer or the official may be sanctioned by censure.

(j) Temporary suspension

t.111 A competitor who is suspended cannot take part in any official FIE competition during the time he is suspended.

All other persons who are suspended are debarred from exercising their functions within the limits of time and place fixed when the suspension is imposed.

(k) Permanent suspension

t.112 Permanent suspension involves the same consequences as suspension, but is permanent (except for the special provision for clemency laid down in Article t.128 below).

4. Announcement of penalties

t.113 The Technical Directory is required to inform the Central Office of the FIE, without delay, of penalties applied during the competition and their reasons (cf. t.97/c).

At the Olympic Games, the Technical Directory must advise the IOC via the Organizing Committee.

CHAPTER 4. OFFENCES, THEIR PENALTIES AND THE COMPETENT JURIDICAL AUTHORITIES

1. The types (groups) of penalty

t.114 There are three types of penalty to be applied in the cases indicated in the table in Article t.120. If a referee must penalize a fencer who has committed several faults at the same time, he should penalize the less serious fault first. They are cumulative and they are valid for the bout with the exception of exclusion, which is indicated by a Black Card. Certain offences can result in the annulment of the touch scored by the fencer at fault.

During the bout, only touches scored in circumstances connected with the offences may be annulled (cf. t.120).

The penalties are as follows:

— a *warning*, indicated by a Yellow Card with which the Referee identifies the fencer at fault. The fencer then knows that any further offence on his part will result in a penalty touch.

— a *penalty touch*, indicated by a Red Card with which the Referee identifies the fencer at fault. A touch is added to the score of his opponent and may, if the last touch is at stake, lead to the loss of the bout. Furthermore, a Red Card can only be followed by another Red Card or by a Black Card, depending on the nature of the second offence (cf. t.120).

— *exclusion*, from the competition or the whole tournament as applicable (for a fencer), or *expulsion* from the competition

venue (any person disturbing the order of the competition), demonstrated by a Black Card by which the Referee identifies the fencer or person at fault.

All warnings (Yellow Cards), penalty touches (Red Cards) and exclusions (Black Cards) must be noted on the score sheet of the bout, the pool or the match, together with the group to which they belong.

2. Competence

t.115 The offences and their penalties which appear in different articles of the Rules are summarized in the list that follows in Article t.120; they are divided into four groups (cf. t.116–t.119).

All these penalties are within the competence of the Referee, although the Technical Directory still retains the right to intervene on its own initiative (cf. t.97).

3. The first group of offences

t.116 The first infringement, in this first group, is penalized by a Yellow Card (*warning*). If during the same bout the fencer commits the same or a different offence in this group, the Referee penalizes him, on each occasion, with a Red Card (*penalty touch*). If the fencer at fault has already been penalized by a Red Card because of an offence listed in the second or third group, he receives a further Red Card for his first infringement relating to the first group.

4. The second group of offences

t.117 Every offence in the second group, including the first infringement, is penalized by a Red Card (*penalty touch*).

5. The third group of offences

t.118 The first infringement in the third group is penalized by a Red Card (*penalty touch*), even if the fencer at fault has already received a Red Card as a result of offences in the first or second groups.

If during the same bout the fencer commits the same or a different offence in this group, he is penalized with a Black Card (*exclusion from the competition*).

Any person not on the strip who disturbs the order of the competition receives:

— On the first infringement, a warning, indicated by a Yellow Card, valid for the whole of the competition, which must be noted on the bout score sheet and recorded by the Technical Directory;

— At the second infringement during the same competition a Black Card (*expulsion from the competition venue*).

In the most serious cases concerning disturbance either on or off the strip, the Referee may exclude or expel the person at fault immediately.

6. The fourth group of offences

t.119 The first infringement in the fourth group is penalized by a Black Card (*exclusion from the competition or the whole tournament*, as applicable).

7. Offences and penalties

t.120 See the Schedule of Offences and Penalties, pp. 43–45.

OFFENSE	ARTICLE	PENALTIES		
		1st	2nd	3 rd and add'l
1st group				
Leaving the strip without permission	t.18/3			
Simple Corps à corps (foil and sabre) *	t.20			
Corps à corps to avoid a touch *	t.20, t.63			
Turning the back to the opponent *	t.21			
Using the non-weapon arm or hand *	t.22	Y	R	R
Touching/taking hold of electrical equipment*	t.22	E	E	E
Covering/Substitution of valid target *	t.22, t.49, t.72	L	D	D
Crossing the side of the strip to avoid being touched	t.28	L		
Delaying the Bout	t.31	O	C	C
Placing the weapon on the strip to straighten it	t.46, t.61, t.70/d	W	A	A
Clothing/equipment not working or not conforming; absence of second regulation weapon or bodycord	t.45/1 et 3.b		R	R
Bending/dragging weapon point on conductive strip (F,E)	t.46, t.61	C	D	D
Grounding the weapon on the metallic vest (F) *	t.53	A		
In Saber, touch scored with the guard*; any forward movement crossing the legs or feet*	t.70, t.75/3	R		
Refusal to obey the Referee	t.82, t.84	D		
Jostling, disorderly fencing * ; taking off mask before the Referee calls 'Halt'; undressing on the strip	t.87			
Unjustified appeal	t.122			
Abnormal fencing action *				
Touches with brutality or while falling *				
Fencer or team member not present upon 1 st and then second call. If still not present at 3 rd call Elimination from the competition.				

2nd group				
Interruption of bout for claimed injury not confirmed by doctor	t.33	R	R	R
Absence of equipment control mark(*)	t.45/3.a	E	E	E
Dangerous, violent or vindictive action, blow with guard or pommel *	t.87	D	D	D
Deliberate touch not on opponent	t.53, t.66			
Absence of name on back, absence of National colors where required	t.45			
3rd group		1 st Offense		2 nd Offense
Falsified weapon inspection marks, intentional modification of equipment *	t.45/3.(c), (d)	R		B
Fencer disturbing order on the strip (4)	t.82, t.83	E		L
Dishonest fencing:(*) refusal to salute before the beginning of the bout (only one fencer).	t.87	D		A C
Offence against publicity code	Publicity Code			K (1)
Any person not on strip disturbing order	t.82, t.83	1 st ; Warning (YELLOW CARD) or (4) 2 nd Expulsion (3) or (4)		
Refusal of one fencer to salute the opponent after final touch scored	t.87	Winner: Annulment of Touch Scored Loser: Suspension (5)		
Changing the order of bouts in a team match, intentionally or unintentionally	t.86	Loss of Match		
4th group				
Manifest cheating with equipment (2)	t.45/3.e	B		
Offense against sportsmanship (1) or (2)	t.87	L		
Deliberate brutality (1), refusal of both fencers to salute: before the bout (1); after the final touch scored (5)	t.87, t.105	A		
Profiting from collusion, favoring an opponent (1)	t.88, t.105	C		
Doping (2)	t.129	K		
Fencer equipped with electronic communication equipment permitting him to receive communications during the bout	t. 45/3 (f) (1) or (2)			

* Annulment of any touch scored by the fencer at fault.

Yellow Card = Warning (valid for bout, whether one or several encounters). Red Card = Penalty touch. Black Card = Exclusion or expulsion.

(1) Exclusion from competition. (2) Exclusion from whole tournament. (3) Expulsion from competition venue. (4) In serious cases, Referee may exclude/expel immediately. (5) Suspension for two competitions. (6) Disqualification.

If a fencer commits an offence in the First Group after having been penalized with a Red Card, for whatever reason, he or she receives a further Red Card. A fencer only receives a Black Card in the Third Group if he or she previously committed an offence in this Third Group (demonstrated by a Red Card).

CHAPTER 5. PROCEDURE

1. Basic principle

t.121 The various penalties are imposed by the competent authorities who will reach their decisions in an equitable manner, and will take into account the gravity of the offence and the circumstances in which it was committed (cf. t.94ss, t.114ss, t.124ss).

2. Protests and appeals

(a) Against a decision of the Referee

t.122 No appeal can be made against the decision of the Referee regarding a point of fact (cf. t.95/c, t.96/b).

If a fencer infringes this principle, casting doubt on the decision of the Referee on a point of fact during the bout, he will be penalized according to the rules (cf. t.114, t.116, t.120). But if the Referee is ignorant of or misunderstands a definite rule, or applies it in a manner contrary to the Rules, an appeal on this matter may be entertained.

This appeal must be made:

- in individual events, by the fencer;
- in team events, by the fencer or the team captain.

This appeal should be made courteously but without formality, and should be made verbally to the Referee immediately and before any decision is made regarding a subsequent touch.

If the Referee maintains his opinion, the Head Referee has authority to settle an appeal (cf. t.97). If such an appeal is deemed to be unjustified, the fencer will be penalized in accordance with Articles t.114, t.116, t.120.

(b) Other protests and appeals

t.123 Complaints and protests must be made in writing without delay; they must be addressed to the Technical Directory.

Protests over the composition of the first round at World Championships and the Olympic Games may only be made up to 7 p.m. of the day before the event (cf. o.10).

3. Investigation — Right of defence

t.124 No penalty can be imposed until after an enquiry has been held in the course of which the parties concerned have been called on to give their explanation 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. Method of decision

t.125 The decisions of the juridical authorities of competitions are by majority vote, the chairman (president) having the casting vote in case of a tie.

6. Repetition of offence

t.127 For offences regarding sportsmanship, good order or discipline, a fencer is said to repeat an offence if he commits a new offence, other than violation of the rules governing bouts, within two years of being censured, or subjected to exclusion, disqualification or suspension.

For the repetition of an offence, the penalty which must be imposed is:

- (a) Exclusion from the competition, if the previous penalty was a censure.
- (b) Disqualification from participation in the whole tournament, if the previous penalty was exclusion or disqualification from a competition.

See also the Disciplinary Code of the FIE (Chapter VII of the FIE Statutes).

CHAPTER 6 MEDICAL AND ANTI-DOPING CONTROLS

1. Medical Controls

t.128

Women competitors must submit to gender tests prescribed by the IOC at the Olympic Games or prescribed by the FIE (Executive Committee or Technical Directory).

2. Anti-Doping Code

t.129 (a) Doping is the use by an athlete of a prohibited substance or the use of a prohibited method or technique as defined in the Olympic Movement Anti-Doping Code.

(b) Doping is forbidden by the FIE. Any breaking of this rule will incur disciplinary action.

(c) The FIE reserves the right to conduct doping control during any competitions under its control, as well as out-of-competition.

(d) The FIE agrees to adhere to the Olympic Movement Anti-Doping Code, and adopts in full the 'Prohibited Classes of Substances and Prohibited Methods' Appended to the Code.

In addition, the FIE has determined that both alcohol and cannabinoids shall be prohibited in competition.

(e) Each fencer participating in official competitions of the FIE or at the Olympic Games must submit himself to the anti-doping controls performed according to the Anti-Doping Code of the FIE or, when at the Olympic Games, the IOC/WADA Anti-Doping Code.

(f) The International Licences issued by the FIE shall contain a clause stipulating that licence holders undertake not to use prohibited substances or prohibited methods, and agree to submit to doping control when requested, whether in- or out-of-competition.

(g) The organizers of any official FIE competition must make provision for doping control in their regulations to ensure correct procedures are adhered to during the competition. This includes ensuring fencers are escorted from when they receive the doping control notification until they arrive at the doping control station.

The costs of doping control are the responsibility of the Federation organizing the competition.

(h) The anti-doping controls must be carried out in an IOC/WADA-accredited laboratory. The observer must make sure of this and point it out in his report. Any organizer not respecting this obligation will be penalized by the cancellation of the competition for the following season.

(i) At World Championships — Open, Junior and Cadet — the method of selection for doping control is determined by the delegates of the FIE Medical Commission in agreement with the President of the FIE or his representative. At A Grade competitions, the selection is determined by the organizers in agreement with the FIE Observer.

In individual competitions doping control will in principle be carried out on three fencers: those placed first and second in the final, plus one more chosen by drawing lots among the remaining six finalists, in the case of a final of 8 fencers, and among the remaining two finalists, in the case of a final of 4 fencers.

In team events, one fencer will be drawn by lots from among each of the first four teams.

(j) Before leaving the competition venue, every fencer liable for doping control (cf. t.129 (g)) must obtain confirmation from the President of the Technical Directory that he has not been selected for testing. If a fencer does not do so and he is

BOOK 2. ORGANIZATION RULES*

CHAPTER 1. COMPETITIONS

- o.1** The official competitions of the FIE are organized according to the following rules.
- o.2** The official competitions of the FIE are open to fencers (individual or team) of all FIE member countries; every competitor or participant in a competition, irrespective of his or her status, is required to be a holder of a current international licence (cf. Statutes, Chapter IX).

CHAPTER 2. BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANIZATION AND CONTROL

1. The Organizing Committee

- o.3** The Organizing Committee is the group of persons responsible for organizing the competition.

2. The Central Office of the FIE

- o.4** The Central Office of the FIE controls the activities of the Technical Directory at the Olympic Games and at the Open, Junior and Cadet World Championships, as described in Article o.63.

3. The Technical Directory

- o.5** The technical organization of competitions is entrusted to a Technical Directory, the functions and scope of whose activities are described in the Rules (cf. t.97, o.56–62).

4. Referees

- o.6** Referees must be appointed in accordance with the provisions of Articles t.37–t.39. They must possess current refereeing licences, national or international

5. Auxiliary personnel

- o.7** The organizing committee will appoint:

- (a) Scorers and time-keepers

The organizers will appoint, on their own responsibility, scorers whose duty it will be to keep the score-sheet for the bout, the pool or the match and maintain the score-boards, and a time-keeper whose duty it will be to keep time for the duration of the bouts (cf. t.30ss).

For finals, the Technical Directory may appoint a delegate or a referee, neutral wherever possible, to supervise the time-keeper, the scorer and the person responsible for the scoring apparatus.

- (b) Superintendents of the apparatus

The Organizing Committee must choose qualified persons, who pay careful attention to the signals given by the apparatus in order that they may be able to advise the Referee as to what the apparatus has registered, and warn him, even during the course of a bout, as to any abnormal phenomena which may occur.

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

* *USFA Note: This section is provided largely for the benefit of those persons attending FIE Competitions (World Cup, World Championship and the Olympic Games.) The Operations Manual of the USFA is the primary document for the organization and running of all USFA competitions.*

- (c) One or more experts

For each tournament, the Organizing Committee must appoint experts in matters relating to the electrical apparatus. These experts are placed under the supervision of the Technical Directory.

The experts may be consulted, separately or conjointly, by the referees or by the Technical Directory regarding all questions relating to the electrical apparatus.

Members of the Committee for Electrical Apparatus and Equipment of the FIE (SEMI) are *ex officio* qualified to act as experts.

- (d) The technicians

For each tournament, the Organizing Committee must ensure the presence of competent technicians to remedy faults in the electrical apparatus and, possibly, in the personal electrical equipment of the fencers.

- (e) Checking of equipment

- o.8** The checking of the organizers' equipment, as well as the equipment of the fencers, must be carried out in accordance with the rules to be found in the Material Rules.

CHAPTER 3. ENTRIES FOR COMPETITIONS

- o.9** Entries must be sent to the organizers by the competitor's national federation (for the Olympic Games by their national Olympic Committee).

CHAPTER 4. TIMETABLE

- o.10** (a) The program should be arranged in such a way that no fencer is obliged to participate in events for more than 12 hours in 24. In any case, no pool, bout or match may begin after midnight, or at any time when it can be foreseen that there is a likelihood that it will end after midnight.

Whatever program is adopted, the final should start at a time which, having regard to local routines, will ensure that the results can be communicated to the media in sufficient time to allow them to be published.

In their timetable the organizers must allow sufficient time for it to be possible to carry out the checking of the fencers' equipment, i.e. a minimum of one day per weapon.

- (b) The first round of all the individual and team competitions for the World Championships and Olympic Games must be displayed by 4 p.m. at the latest the day before the competition (cf. t.123).

CHAPTER 5. INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

(USFA Note: The procedures and guidelines for the conducting of USFA competitions are contained in the Operations Manual. The articles contained in this chapter refer exclusively to FIE competitions and are for informational purposes only.)

- o.11** Individual competitions may be organized:

A. By direct elimination with a mixed system consisting of one round of eliminating pools and a preliminary direct elimination table, followed by a main direct elimination table of 64 fencers to qualify 8 or 4 fencers for a direct elimination final.

B. By direct elimination with a mixed system consisting of one round of eliminating pools, followed by a direct elimination table to qualify 8 or 4 fencers for a direct elimination final.

C. By direct elimination throughout. (This formula, applicable at the Olympic Games, is contained in an appendix.)

1. GENERAL RULES FOR THE ROUND OF POOLS

- o.12** In all competitions for which the formula includes a round of pools, these pools will consist of 7 fencers if the number of participants is divisible by 7. If not, they will consist of 6 fencers if the number of participants is divisible by 6. Otherwise the pools will be of 7 and 6.

At World Cup competitions the organizing country may add the necessary number of fencers of their own nationality for all the pools to consist of 7 fencers.

Composition of pools

- o.13** **The composition of pools must, except where there are contrary provisions in these Rules, take account of the latest official FIE ranking, drawing lots among any fencers who are not ranked.** The allocation of fencers in the pools must be made in such a way as to place fencers of the same nationality in different pools, as far as possible.

The order of fencers on the pool sheet is decided by drawing lots.

The pools must be fenced up to the last bout.

- o.14** The order of bouts in the pools is 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 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
3 5-2 6-9 8-7 4-1 5-3 6-2 9-7

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
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

- o.15** When there are several fencers from the same country in a pool:

- (a) If they do not form the majority of the competitors in the pool, they must fence off the bouts between themselves before meeting competitors of another nationality.
- (b) If they form the majority of the competitors in the pool, the Technical Directory may establish a special order of bouts, departing as little as possible from the principle laid down in (a) above, in order to obviate excessive fatigue or delays for the competitors who form the minority in the pool.

- (c) When competitors classed as 'stateless' are included in a pool, they must first fence against the competitors of the nationality to which they originally belonged, after the latter have fenced each other, and thereafter against the competitors of the country which grants them their international fencing licence.

- (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 the same nationality A, or
— two fencers of the same nationality A and two of the same nationality B,
the fencers' names are placed on the pool sheet in such a way that those of the same nationality fence each other in their first bout and the order of bouts of a pool of six is that shown in Article o.14 above.

When a pool contains among its six qualified fencers two fencers of the same nationality A, two of the same nationality B, and two of the same nationality C, the order of the bouts 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 the same nationality A, or
— three fencers of the same nationality A and two fencers of the same nationality B, or
— three fencers of the same nationality A and three fencers of the same nationality B,

the fencers' names are placed 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.

The order of bouts will be as laid down in Article o.14.

3. When a pool contains among its six qualified fencers four fencers of the same nationality A and two others of different nationalities, the four fencers of nationality A are placed on the pool sheet as 1, 2, 3 and 4 and the order of bouts 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 fencers,
— two fencers of nationality A, or
— 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 order of bouts laid down in Article o.14 above for a pool of seven fencers.

2. When the pool contains
— three fencers of nationality A, or
— 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, 6 and 7.

The order of bouts for the pool of seven, detailed in Article o.14, 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.

- o.16** If a bout in a pool is interrupted by an accidental cause, and this interruption is likely to be prolonged, the Referee may (with the consent of the Technical Directory, or possibly the Organizing Committee) alter the order of bouts in such a way as to allow the normal progress of the competition to proceed.

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

- o.17** In the pools a bout ends when:

- (a) One of the fencers has scored 5 touches. In this case the score registered on the score-sheet is the final score of the bout ($V5 - Dn$, where n = the number of touches scored by the losing fencer).

In *épée*, if the two fencers reach a score of 4—all, they must fence for a deciding touch, up to the time limit. Any double touch will not be counted (and the fencers will therefore remain where they are on the strip).

- (b) Three minutes of effective fencing time have passed. (There is no warning for the last minute.)

— If when the time limit expires there is a difference of at least one touch between the scores of the two fencers, the fencer who has scored the greater number of touches is declared winner. The score registered on the score-sheet is the actual score achieved in the bout ($VN - Dn$, where N = the number of touches scored by the winning fencer and n = the number of touches scored by the losing fencer).

— If at the end of regulation time the scores are equal, the fencers fence for a deciding touch, with a maximum time limit of one minute. Before the fencing recommences, the Referee draws lots to decide who will be the winner if scores are still equal at the end of the extra minute.

In this case the score registered on the score-sheet is always the actual score achieved in the bout:

- $VN - Dn$ if a deciding touch is scored within the time limit for the bout.
— $V4/D4$ or $V3/D3$ or $V2/D2$ or $V1/D1$ or $V0/D0$ if the winner is designated by drawing lots.

- o.18** Before the competition starts, the Technical Directory will decide on and announce the number of fencers who will be eliminated based on the general index. This number may not be lower than 20% nor higher than 30% of the total number of participants in the pools.

- o.19** After the pools, a single general ranking will be established of all the fencers who have taken part in the pools, taking account, successively, of the indices V/M , $HS - HR$, HS .

(V = victories; M = bouts; HS = touches scored; HR = touches received.)

A summary classification table shall then be made in the following way:

- (a) The results written up on the summary table will be added up to ascertain the two indices required.
- (b) The first index, for the initial classification, shall be obtained by dividing the number of victories by the number of bouts fought, using the formula V/M .
- (c) The fencer with the highest index (maximum 1) will be seeded first.
- (d) In cases of equality in this first index, and to separate fencers with equal first indices, a second index will be established, using the formula $HS - HR$, the difference between the total number of touches scored and touches received.
- (e) In cases of equality of the two indices V/M and $HS - HR$, the fencer who has scored most touches will be seeded highest.

- (f) In cases of absolute equality between two or more fencers, their seeding order will be decided by drawing lots.

Should there be absolute equality among the last to qualify there will not be a barrage, and the fencers with equal indicators will all qualify, even if they are in excess of the number decided on.

Withdrawal

- o.20** A fencer who withdraws, or who is excluded, is scratched from the pool, and his results are annulled as if he had not taken part.

2. GENERAL RULES FOR DIRECT ELIMINATION

- o.21** The direct elimination table (bout plan) is established taking account of the classification table and the special rules for each competition (see Figure 7a, p. 74). The principle of protection of nationality will not be applied.

- o.22** The organizers of a competition must publish the direct elimination bout plan, showing on it the scheduled time for each bout from the table of 64 onwards.

- o.23** The direct elimination bouts are for 15 touches, maximum 9 minutes, divided into three periods of three minutes, with a one minute rest between each period. As an exception, at *saber*, the first period ends either at the expiry of the three minutes or when one of the fencers has scored eight touches. During this rest a person, named before the bout, may have access to the fencer.

A clock, incorporated into the electrical scoring apparatus, blocks the latter at the end of each period

- o.24** The bout ends when:

— One of the fencers has scored 15 touches; or

— 9 minutes of effective fencing time have passed.

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

If at the end of regulation time the scores are equal, the fencers fence for a deciding touch, with a maximum time limit of one minute. Before the fencing recommences the Referee draws lots to decide who will be the winner if scores are still equal at the end of the extra minute.

In this case the score recorded on the score-sheet is the real score achieved in the bout.

Withdrawal

- o.25** When, for whatever reason, a fencer cannot fence, or cannot complete his bout, his opponent is declared winner of that bout. A fencer who withdraws does not lose his place in the overall classification of the competition.

Order of bouts

- o.26** In each round of the direct elimination table (256, 128, 64, 32, 16, 8 or 4), the bouts are always called in the order of the bout plan, starting at the top and ending at the bottom.

This rule must also be applied for each quarter of the table, when the direct elimination is taking place simultaneously on 4 or 8 strips.

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

The final

- o.27** The Technical Directory must decide and announce, before the beginning of the competition, whether the final will consist of 4 or 8 fencers.

Classification

- o.28** The general classification is obtained as follows:
 First: the winner of the bout for the first place
 Second: the loser of the bout for the first place
- The two fencers who lose the semi-final matches are placed equal third, when it is not necessary to separate them.
- When it is necessary to separate them, a bout for third and fourth places will be held between the two losers of the semi-final matches.
- The remainder are placed, within each round of the direct elimination, in accordance with their classification for the composition of the direct elimination table.
- The fencers eliminated in the round of pools are classified according to their classification in this round and they are classed after those who qualified for the direct elimination.

A. Mixed Formula

One qualifying round of pools, a preliminary direct elimination table, a main direct elimination table of 64 fencers to qualify for a final by direct elimination (Open World Championships and Open World Cup competitions)

- o.29** This formula is used for the individual competitions of the Open World Championships and for the Open World Cup competitions.
- o.30** Apart from the details that follow, the general rules for pools and direct elimination described above apply.
- o.31** The competition consists of two phases, a preliminary phase and a main phase, each of which are run on one day.
- The 16 fencers actually present who are classed highest in the most recent official FIE classification are exempt from the preliminary phase. **Confirmation of the presence of the exempted fencers is made with the entering of the fencers.**
- In the case of a tie in the official FIE ranking between two or more fencers for the 16th exempt place, lots will be drawn to decide which of these fencers will benefit from exemption from the preliminary phase.
- o.32** The preliminary phase consists of one round of pools, from which 20%–30% of the participants in the pools are eliminated, based on the indices of all competing in them, and a preliminary direct elimination table.
- After the round of pools, the 16 fencers classed highest on the general index (cf. o.19) are exempt from the preliminary direct elimination table. Should there be a tie between two or more fencers for the 16th place, their FIE ranking will be used to separate them.
- The remainder of the fencers qualifying from the pools will make up a preliminary integral direct elimination table. This will be based on the indices of the fencers in all the pools (in the case of a tie on indices, the fencers will be separated by drawing lots). This table, be it complete or incomplete, will be fenced until only 32 fencers remain.
- o.33** The main phase consists of an integral direct elimination table, which is fenced on four strips, one quarter of the table per strip. The first round of the table of 64 may, however, if required for the organization of the competition, be fenced on eight strips.
- The seeded fencers exempted from the preliminary phase occupy places 1–16 in this table, drawing lots in pairs in the order of their official FIE classification.
- Should one of the fencers whose participation was confirmed the day before not present himself to fence (cf.o.31) his position in the table will remain empty and his federation will be required to pay a fine of FF1000 to the FIE. This penalty will not apply if his absence is caused by circumstances outside his control that occur after the initial roll call.
- The 16 fencers who have the highest indices after the round of pools and who are thus exempt from the preliminary direct elimination table will take places 17–32, classified in the order of their indices (in the case of a tie on indices, the fencers will be separated by drawing lots).

The 32 fencers qualifying from the preliminary direct elimination table will occupy places 33–64, classified according to their indices after the round of pools.

- o.34** There will be no bout for the third place. The two fencers who lose the semi-final matches will be placed equal third.

B. Mixed Formula

One qualifying round of pools, a direct elimination table to qualify for a final by direct elimination (Junior and Cadet World Championships and Junior World Cup competitions)

- o.35** This formula is used for the individual competitions of the Junior and Cadet World Championships and the Junior World Cup competitions.
- o.36** Apart from the details that follow, the general rules for pools and direct elimination described above apply.
- o.37** The competitions are run on one single day per weapon.
- o.38** The competition consists of one round of pools, in which all the fencers present take part, and an integral direct elimination table.
- o.39** When drawing pools in the World Cadet Championships, the Technical Directory will take account of the following orders of strength:
1. The top 8 in the previous year's World Cadet Championships
 2. The 64 highest ranked in the World Junior Cup
 3. Those placed 9–32 in the previous year's World Cadet Championships
 4. Those ranked in the World Junior Cup, placed 65 onwards
 5. The seeding provided by the national federations
 6. The DT's decision
- o.40** All the fencers qualifying from the round of pools are placed in a direct elimination table, complete or incomplete, according to the indices resulting from the pools. This table is fenced right through to the final.
- From the last 32 the direct elimination bouts will take place on 4 strips, with each quarter of the table fenced on one strip.
- o.41** There will be no bout for the third place. The two fencers who lose the semi-final matches will be placed equal third.

CHAPTER 6. TEAM COMPETITIONS

A. Open and Junior World Championships (and Olympic Games) team events

- o.42** At each weapon teams consist of three fencers, with or without a reserve.
- A team may only begin a match if it is complete.
- o.43**
- a) The competition is run by integral direct elimination with a direct elimination table which may be incomplete (see Figure 7b, p. 75).
 - b) At the Open World Championships the teams will occupy the places in the table according to the most recent official team ranking of the FIE, drawing lots in pairs (this will be done on the day before the team championships). The teams that are not classified will occupy the last places in the table, and will be separated by drawing of lots. All places in the table up to 16 th place will be fought for. From 17 th place onwards teams will be classified, within each round of the table, according to their initial place in the table.
 - c) At the Junior World Championships the teams will occupy places in the table according to their ranking. This ranking is arrived at by adding together the positions obtained by their best three team members in the Junior individual event. On the other hand, if a fencer did not take part in the individual competition, but is participating in the team event, he will be assigned points equal to the total number of fencers appearing in the adjusted individual junior ranking plus one.