

PROPOSALS OF MODIFICATIONS TO THE RULES 2017 CONGRESS

Proposals of the Executive Committee

Proposal 14

Motivation: In 2016, the special working group discussed how to amend the rules in order to avoid non combativity in épée. The working group proposes a new non-combativity rule, which a) will motivate the fencers to engage into action without any negative consequences and b) would eliminate the risks of non-combativity. The concept is about to introduce the 45 second sequences with a priority given to a fencer. The priority rotates between the fencers according to the sequences, and in case there is no hit during a 45-second sequence then a hit is awarded to the fencer who has the priority.

Non-combativity

t.87

Foil and Sabre (pools, direct elimination)

Epee (pools)

4. When both fencers make clear their unwillingness to fight, the Referee will immediately call 'Halt!'

Unwillingness to fight (non-combativity)

If one of the two criteria below is present, there is unwillingness to fight:

1. criterion of time: approximately one minute of fencing without a hit
2. excessive distance (greater than the distance of a step-forward-lunge) during at least 15 seconds.

5. Individual events

- a) If during the **first two periods** of a direct elimination bout both fencers make clear their unwillingness to fight, the Referee proceeds to the next period, without the minute rest.
- b) When both fencers make clear their unwillingness to fight during the **third period** of a direct elimination bout, the Referee proceeds to a last minute of fencing. This last minute, which must be fenced in its entirety, is decisive and is preceded by a drawing of lots to decide the winner, should the scores be equal at the end of the minute.

6. Team events

- a) If both teams make clear their unwillingness to fight during a team match, the Referee proceeds to the next bout.
- b) If both teams make clear their unwillingness to fight during **the last bout**, the Referee proceeds to a last minute of fencing. This last minute, which must be fenced in its entirety, is decisive and is preceded by a drawing of lots to decide the winner, should the scores be equal at the end of the minute

Epee

Only for epee, in direct elimination:

- 7. There is evidence of “**non combativity**” when there are no hits for a period of at least 45 seconds.

8. Individual matches

- a) The maximum time allowed for each match is 10 minutes.
- b) There are two breaks of one minute when any of the fencers reaches the score of 5 and of 10 hits.
- c) If there are no hits for at least 45 seconds, for the first time in the match the referee shall call “halt” and assign one hit to the fencer that has the highest ranking in the Direct Elimination table.
- d) The priority is then passed to the opponent and the chronometer for priority is reset.
- e) If there is a hit, either single or double, the priority changes.
- f) The priority changes also when the score is 14-14 and there is a double hit.
- g) If at the end of the total regulation time of the match the score is even, the rule o.24.3 is applied.

9. Team matches

- a) The maximum time for each relay is 3 minutes.
- b) The priority for the first relay is given to the team that has the highest ranking in the Direct Elimination table. The initial priority is alternated at each subsequent relay.
- c) If there are no hits for at least 45 seconds, the referee shall call “halt” and assign one hit to the fencer that has the initial priority in the relay.
- d) If there is a hit, either single or double, the priority changes and the chronometer for priority is reset.
- e) There is no change of priority if the remaining time for each relay after a hit is less than 45 seconds.
- f) If, at the end of the total regulation time of the match, the score is even, the rule o.44.9 is applied.

The present rules shall be applied for testing during the season 2017/2018.

NOT IN FAVOUR

Coaching council had a long discussion on the matter.

“Non-combativity”, “Passivity”, “Unwillingness to fight” is against the nature of the sport, sportsmanship in general and fencing in particular. Coaches think that having these situations in fencing is unacceptable and dangerous for the sport. “Passivity”, “Non-Combativity” or “Unwillingness to fight” in fencing cannot be used as a tactic and should be considered as **“Anti sporting behavior t 87.2”, “Offence against sportsmanship t 87.2 t 105.1”**, **“Dishonest fencing t 87.1”, “Refusal of a fencer to fence another competitor (individual or team) properly entered t 85.1”**,

Referee must warn the fencers that both fencers must **“fence to his utmost ability”** and if the fencers are still do not fence properly can use – **“t 122.2/4 - Refusal to obey the referee”**.

(t.105. 1. 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.

Dishonest fencing t 87.1

Refusal to obey the referee 122.2/4

Anti sporting behavior t 87.2

Refusal of a fencer to fence another competitor (individual or team) properly entered t 85.1

Offence against sportsmanship t 87.2 t 105.1)

As stated by one of the top fencers, “Passivity is a silent agreement between two fencers”. In this particular situation both fencers must be penalized for that “agreement”. In the case of “losing fencer” do not want to make any efforts to change the situation on the piste, fencer must be warned and then penalized according to the rules of fencing.

All fencing community, with the help of Coaching Council, Fair Play committee, Refereeing Committee, Fencing Promotion Committee should promote spirit of the combat and the competition. “Passivity” must become “Not cool”, “Bad manners”, Inappropriate behavior on the piste”.

Proposals of the Members of Honour

Proposal 8 (Sam Chervis)

Motivation: To create clarity and consistency in refereeing when dealing with the issues of covering with the head or the back arm.

Argument: The attempt to eliminate covering with the back arm by passing t. 18.5 has not been successful. Referees are finding it extremely difficult to interpret and enforce the rule in a consistent manner. There has been an aversion by some referees to call covering by the mask and back arm, especially at or near the end of a close bout. Additionally the counter-attacker has figured out how to use his/her head to eliminate access to the valid target area, while keeping his/her head facing the opponent. By including the mask and rear arm as target the attacker will have target available to touch and the defender/counter-attacker will not be able to use the mask and rear arm to eliminate the availability of valid target area. This should positively affect the game, since the attack and riposte will have valid target available to touch. The extended target should speed up the game, making foil more exciting, without losing any of the major traditions of the weapon.

Target - Limitation of the target

t.47

1. At foil, only hits which arrive **on the target** are counted as valid.

2. **The target** at foil excludes the ~~limbs and the head~~ **weapon arm**. It is confined to the trunk, the upper limit being the collar up to 6 cm above the prominences of the collar bones; at the **weapon arm** sides to the seams of the sleeves, which should cross the head of the humerus; and the lower limit following a horizontal line across the back joining the tops of the hip bones, thence by straight lines to the junction of the lines of the groin, **the non-weapon arm and the head**. ~~It also includes the part of the bib beneath a horizontal line 1.5 - 2 cm below the chin, which, in any case, may not be lower than the line of the shoulders~~ (see Figure 4).

Attention:

In case the proposal is approved, figure 4 needs to be re-drawn showing valid target to include the entire mask and the rear arm.

NOT IN FAVOR

Proposal 9

t.18

~~5. At foil it is forbidden, during the course of fencing, to advance the shoulder of the non-sword arm in front of the shoulder of the sword arm (cf.t.19). If a competitor does so he is liable to incur the penalties enumerated in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120.~~

IN FAVOR

Proposals of the Refereeing commission

Proposal 1

Motivation: a) This article prevents close combat and allows the fencer who causes the corps à corps to benefit from this article.

b) After his parry, fencer A attempts to hit fencer B, who closes the distance and looks for the corps à corps in order to avoid the riposte; the only solution for fencer A is to reverse the line of the shoulders by pulling back the shoulder of the sword arm in order to score a hit.

c) We have seen some excellent and very spectacular hits annulled by the referee because of this article.

t.18

5. The order 'Halt!' is also given if the play of the competitors is dangerous, confused, or contrary to the Rules, if one of the competitors is disarmed or steps off the piste, or if, while retiring, he approaches too near the spectators or the Referee (cf. t.26, t.54.5 and t.73.4.j).

~~At foil, it is forbidden, during the course of fencing, to advance the shoulder of the non-sword arm in front of the shoulder of the sword arm (cf.t.19). If a competitor does so, he is liable to incur the penalties enumerated in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120. Any hits scored by the fencer at fault while committing this offence will be annulled.~~

IN FAVOR

Proposal 6

Motivation: In the event of any non-combativity during the last period of an DE match or the last match in a team event and after drawing lots, we propose adding only 15 seconds instead of one minute, as this would avoid any attempted non-combativity aimed at gaining time.

t.87.5

b) When both fencers make clear their unwillingness to fight during the third period of a direct elimination bout, the Referee will proceed to ~~last minute of~~

~~fencing. This last minute*~~, fifteen seconds of fencing, which will be fenced in ~~its~~ their 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~~ these fifteen seconds.

NOT IN FAVOUR

Proposal 7

t.87.6

b) If both teams make clear their unwillingness to fight during the last bout, the Referee will proceed to ~~a last minute of fencing. This last minute*~~, fifteen seconds of fencing which will be fenced in ~~its~~ their 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~~ these fifteen seconds.

NOT IN FAVOUR

Proposals of the Coaches Council

Proposal 1

Motivation: The Turning of the Shoulder is something that has been very much opposed by the international foil community ever since its introduction after Rio Olympics. It is very difficult to understand how much “the shoulder of the non-sword arm” should be advanced “in front of the shoulder of the sword-arm” and for all referees and fencers to maintain the same understanding of this rule.

There are enough penalties in the rules for covering the target, turning, irregular movements on the piste, use of non-sword arm, etc. Proposal was discussed. All members of the Council are in favour of this proposal. This rule should be cancelled.

Special comments: Refereeing commission should be advised to use the rules of fencing in “close quarters” more consistently.

t.18. ~~5. In foil it is forbidden, during the course of fencing, to advance the shoulder of the non-sword arm in front of the shoulder of the sword-arm (cf.t.19). If a competitor does so he is liable to incur the penalties enumerated in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120. Any hits scored by the fencer at fault while committing this offence will be annulled.~~

Proposal 2

Motivation: To investigate possibility of reducing the gap (tolerance) in blocking time in sabre from 20 milliseconds to 3-6 milliseconds. All coaches present supported the proposal.

ANNEX B TO THE MATERIAL RULES C SABRE

a.8

After a hit has been registered, a subsequent hit made by the other fencer will only be registered if it occurs within a maximum of 170 ms (± 10 3 ms).

Proposals of the Belgian Fencing Federation

Proposal 1

Motivation: this article leads to decisions being made by referees who do not reflect the spirit of the rule, if the article is strictly applied. This article is not needed, since the referee has other methods of justifying a penalty (turning one's back, covering, substitution, etc.)

t.18

5.The order 'Halt!' is also given if the play of the competitors is **dangerous**, **confused**, or **contrary to the Rules**, if one of the competitors is **disarmed** or **steps off the piste**, or if, while retiring, he approaches too near the spectators or the Referee (cf. t.26, t.54.5 and t.73.4.j).

~~At foil it is forbidden, during the course of fencing, to advance the shoulder of the non-sword arm in front of the shoulder of the sword arm (cf.t.19). If a competitor does so he is liable to incur the penalties enumerated in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120. Any hits scored by the fencer at fault while committing this offence will be annulled.~~

t.120

1.19

Reversing the line of the shoulders at foil* Application: starting season 2016-2017	t.18.5	YELLOW	RED	RED
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Proposal 2

Motivation: Even if the proposal is rejected, it would still be a good idea to correct the index.

Index To Articles

Reversing the line of the shoulders (foil) t.18.5

IN FAVOR

Proposal 8

Motivation: One of the criteria for deciding whether or not there is non-combativity is that there should be no hit during one minute: at foil, it is quite possible to have quite vigorous activity, which produces no valid hit but one or more non-valid hits. We therefore propose the following addition to t.87.4:

t.87

4. When both fencers make clear their unwillingness to fight, the Referee will immediately call 'Halt!'

Unwillingness to fight (non-combativity)

If one of the two criteria below is present, there is unwillingness to fight:

1. criterion of time: approximately one minute of fencing without a hit
2. excessive distance (greater than the distance of a step-forward-lunge) during at least 15 seconds.

(At foil, a hit made off the valid target is counted as a hit.)

IN FAVOR

MODIFICATION PROPOSAL -

1. criterion of time: approximately one minute of fencing without a hit **OR OF TARGET HIT**

Proposals of Swedish Fencing Federation

Proposal 2

Motivation: In order to minimise the period of inactive fencing it is suggested to reduce the time criterion in from 1 minute to 30 seconds for the second and any subsequent cases of unwillingness to fight in an individual direct elimination match or team match. Article t.87.4.1 should be amended as follows:

t.87

4

1. criterion of time: approximately one minute of fencing without a hit. **After the first instance of unwillingness to fight (non-combativity), however, this time is**

reduced to 30 seconds for any subsequent unwillingness to fight (non-combativity) during the same direct elimination match or team match.

NOT IN FAVOUR