



Commission de la Signalisation Electrique, du Matériel et des Installations

S.E.M.I. Commission

Minutes of the meeting of 4 and 5 June 2005

Hôtel de la Paix, Lausanne (SUI)

Were present on Saturday and Sunday : José Eduardo DOS SANTOS (POR) President, Rafaela Gonzalez (CUB - MH) representative of the Executive Committee. And the members : AZIZI Ali Mohammad (IRI), Jacek BIERKOWSKI (POL), Daniel DECHAINED (USA), Maria Wilda EBERL LOPEZ (CHI), Atsushi HARINISHI (JPN), Mehmet KARAMETE (TUR), Gabriela MAYER (CAN), OH Won - Suk (KOR) and his interpreter Nami Meyer-LEE, Semion RIKHTMAN (RUS) ; and Claudia SANCHEZ (recording secretary).

Meeting of Saturday 4 June 2005, from 09.00 to 18.30

Welcome of the participants

The President of the SEMI Commission welcomes all the members and gives the floor to Mrs Rafaela Gonzalez, Representative of the Executive Committee for this Commission, who wishes a good meeting and briefs the Commission on the expectations of the COMEX. The agenda is approved as distributed.

I. Propositions for the 2005 Congress submitted to the SEMI Commission for study

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| PROPOSITIONS OF THE BRAZILIAN FEDERATION / ARTHUR CRAMER (MH) |
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Proposition 3

Reincorporate the bib as valid surface at foil.

Opinion of the SEMI : From a technological point of view, reincorporate the bib as a valid surface is not a problem. However, the aspect of safety should be studied by the Medical Commission and Ad Hoc Commission for foil.

Proposition 4

To add to the article t5.7 : At foil, during the bout (between the orders ON GUARD and HALT), the arm, forearm and unarmed hand must never stand in front of the chest.

Opinion of the SEMI : This proposition should be studied by the Refereeing Commission, the SEMI Commission shall only study the technological aspects related to the increase of the valid surface of arms when they cover the target.

Proposition 6.

Suppression of the lighting of the white lamp at foil : adopt the conclusions of the ad-hoc Commission in respect of the suppression of the non-valid surface at foil.

Opinion of the SEMI :

- The SEMI Commission will adopt the conclusions of the ad hoc Commission and according to their recommendations, will establish what is necessary from a technological point of view.
- A conductive piste at foil will no longer be necessary due to the suppression of the white lamp.
- The circuits will become easier without white lamp, thus will enable the wireless system to be adopted at foil.

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| PROPOSITIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MODIFICATIONS TO THE RULES |
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Proposition 12 : breast protectors/chest protection

m.25 To be added :

The use of breast protectors/chest protection at Foil is authorised for both Men and Women providing that they are worn directly on the skin for Men and over the T-Shirt for Women.

Motivation : Urgent decision of the Executive Committee in order to avoid any misinterpretation of the texts of the Rules.

Opinion of the SEMI : To add to the article m.25 the following text :

« At foil, the use of breast protectors **is authorised for the women** providing that they are worn over the T-Shirt. And **chest protection for the men are authorised only in case of medical prescription** with written evidence handed to the President of the Directoire Technique at the venue by the confirmation of entries».

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| PROPOSITIONS OF THE SEMI COMMISSION RULES MATERIAL |
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Proposition 1 : 4 Rules Specific to Sabre (page 17)

c) **Conductive Jacket – This title is changed for**

c) **Conductive Jacket and conductive T-Shirt**

m.34 becomes m.34.1 with the current text of m.34.

Introduction of a new paragraph

« **m.34.2 At wireless Sabre the fencer must wear a conductive T-Shirt. The conductive part is made with a conductive material, with an electrical resistance measured between any two points of the lamé material, which must not be greater than 5 ohms** »

Alternately, this is possible to insert the text of the T-Shirt in the paragraph m.35

m.35 Conductive T-Shirt for wireless Sabre

In that case, all subsequent paragraphs will need a re-numbering.

Motivation : Fencers wear conductive T-Shirt at wireless Sabre, this is therefore necessary to precise the technical specification of the electrical resistance as this T-Shirt will have to be presented at the checking of material.

Opinion of the Executive Committee : replace “electric” by “ohmic”

Opinion of the SEMI : “electrical resistance” must be kept, because the electrical theory indicates the definition formula of this resistance, which is measured in ohms.

Proposition 2 : ANNEXE A - WEAPON 1. THE BLADES (page 31)

Instead of

6.9 Fatigue resistance test – The test consists of bending the blade without exceeding the limit of elasticity of the material, i.e. to the point where the bend in the blade is the equivalent of a shortening of the blade by approximately 0.25 m, and then allowing it to straighten, **in alternate directions (i.e. first in one direction, then in the other).**

Adopt the new following text :

« 6.9 Fatigue resistance test (by bending or flambement cycliques)

The test consists of bending the blade without exceeding the limit of elasticity of the material, it means to the point where a fleche of approximately 220 mm, is the equivalent of a shortening of the blade by approximately 250 mm, and then allowing it to straighten. »

Motivation : none of the 2 test benches of the blades allows and shall not allow that the blade straightens in alternate directions (first in one direction, then in the other).

Opinion of the SEMI : adopt the new text.

II. Agenda, apart from the propositions for the Congress

1. Wireless fencing (epee, foil, sabre)

Status of the wireless systems:

At the 2005 FIE General Assembly, which was held in Linz before the Junior World Championships (22 March 2005) Mr. Frédéric MARCIANO, in liaison with the SEMI, made a demonstration of his wireless system at epee (with conductive jacket, gloves and breeches) and half transparent mask (this mask is transparent from the mouth and up, and is more appropriate at foil). In this system, the registering of the hit is reversed (the light is lit on the mask of the hit person). This demonstration interested many representatives of the nations present.

At the Assembly, the representatives of the STM Company, Messrs. Andrey MAKARUCHENKO and Yuri LERER, the designers of the wireless system at Sabre used in Grand Prix, World Championships and Olympic Games – have accepted the FIE challenge to produce a wireless system at foil. On Saturday 28 May 2005, at the Sabre Grand Prix of Senegal, this Company made a demonstration of this system, with Senegalese Sabre fencers on the piste, before the final, which was a great success. The system is ready to be implemented.

STM is currently selling the conductive T-Shirt necessary for their wireless system at Sabre at approximately EUR 32, while Allstar is selling it at EUR 38. This T-Shirt is the same as the one used for the wireless system at foil.

There are currently three manufacturers leading the market in respect of hit recording apparatus without winding system, which are called wireless : Marciano, Zivkovic and STM.

The leader companies mentioned above should not have the monopole of wireless apparatus. The other companies, which are also interested in this system, should also propose their ideas.

Thanks to close and regular contacts of the SEMI with these manufacturers, their projects can be followed. We are thinking of organising a public exhibition for the manufacturers during the 2005 Congress in Qatar.

2. Transparent mask

The mask with transparent visor can be used at foil, epee and sabre. But if the mask becomes totally transparent, it will be appropriate at foil but no longer at epee, because of its slippery surface.

If sole the visor is transparent, there is no problem neither at foil nor at epee.

The SEMI decides to notify in writing all the manufacturers that all the masks must be sold together with a certificate of cloth of 1600 newton.

3. Refereeing video system

The use of the video to help the refereeing is a priority for the IOC and the FIE. The SEMI tested at the CIP in Paris, at Senior Men's Foil (21-23 January 2005) and at the Tokyo Grand Prix at Senior Women's Foil and Men's Foil (11-13 March 2005) a professional system of Sony, which includes a camera, a monitor, a hard disk engraver and a controller enabling slow motion. This system offers the possibility to view the passed action at any requested speed while the on-going actions keep to be recorded.

In fencing, tests carried out with the video have shown that only 3 seconds back are necessary to establish the weapon's phrase.

Wrestling is using a simple camera, which allows slow motion.

Tests will carry on during the 2005 Leipzig World Championships.

4. Homologations

Blades : The President indicates that there is a lack of criteria in respect of homologation of regular blades. Regarding the mark of the manufacturer, a digital photo will be required for cold stamping on the blade, when the manufacturer will be asking for the certificate of homologation. Mrs Rafaela Gonzalez shall transmit this information to the Executive Committee as well as the other decisions.

In the current year, 11 blades have been homologated up to now.

Marking of the blades

In order to facilitate the understanding and blade checking operations in competitions, it is decided to modify the paragraph concerning the marking of the blades (8 Marking, page 32 of the Material Rule), to which will be added the following paragraph : « Starting from 2006, the marking of the date of manufacture will be the same date than the year of homologation and it will be constituted of 4 numbers, as for example 2006 for all the blades homologated and manufactured in the year 2006. ».

A clarification is given on the reasons why the blades have not a limit of validity of 5 years anymore.

The list of homologated blades was distributed and up-dated at the end of the meeting with the identification marks of manufacturers.

In order to avoid cuts with the extremity of the pointe, it is decided that sabre blades be rounded off of approximately one half-millimetre, such as foil blades. This will be transmitted in writing to manufacturers.

Masks with transparent visor

Up today, 4 masks with transparent visors have been homologated by the Institutes and FIE-SEMI : the 2004 models of the following companies : Allstar, Leon Paul, PBT and Gajardoni. This has also been indicated in the list approved by the Medical Commission.

2006 re-homologation for all the masks

It is suggested that all the masks be once again homologated to for 2006.

Each manufacturer will be required to send to the SEMI the results of the initial test of homologation of the Institute, the certificate of cloth of 1600 newton (to be obtained by the cloth company) and the certificate received from the FIE-SEMI. They will be advised that there will be a large request from national federations for masks with transparent visor at three weapons, sabre, foil and epee after the 2005 World Championships. Of course, all the masks will need to be homologated.

In view of the difficulties of production in the beginning of the season, the SEMI Commission proposes to the FIE Executive Committee that masks with visors be compulsory for the 2005/2006 season, at three weapons for the Senior.

Pistes

The SEMI has in 2005, up to now, homologated 3pistes.

A new material for the conductive piste of 2 mm thick, made of PVC and conductive cloth is presented. This piste is homologated with recommendations that it has to be properly installed on the appropriate floor and with a fixation in such a way that wave effect can not occur.

For conductive carpet, the wave effect can be considerably reduced by the increase of thickness of the PVC zone.

It had been decided (see minutes of the 2003 SEMI) that :

- For World Championships and Olympic Games, the pistes must be in aluminium plates and homologated
- For Grand Prix competitions, World Championships and Olympic Games, metallic pistes in aluminium plates are compulsory.
- For the other World Cup competitions, metallic and metallic mesh pistes can also be used.
- The roughness control (slip) of each non-homologated piste in other competitions apart from Grand Prix, World Championships and Olympic Games, must be checked . These pistes are approved with reserve that the roughness be in compliance with the Rules.

Taking into account the current conductive piste, the text changes for :

At Grand Prix, World Championships and OG, homologated pistes are approved either in conductive carpet or aluminium plates.

Precision : non homologated pistes and mesh pistes are forbidden in Grand Prix, World Championships and Olympic Games.

Measurement device for the roughness of the piste

The American device SLIP METER 725 (ASM 725- Static coefficient of friction tester) is approved for the measure of the roughness of the piste and the accepted value will be of 65, more or less 5 % of tolerance (62 to 68) according to the scale of this device.

The tests carried out with the SLIP METER ASM 725 have established that the desirable value for the measure of the roughness, be situated approximately around 65. A piste of this value is neither slippery nor blocking, and happens to be ideal for fencing competitions.

Uniforms of 800 and 350 newton

It has been decided that in order to obtain the authorisation to use the FIE logo of 800 and 350 newtons on their uniforms, manufacturers will have to send to the SEMI a copy of the tests conducted, as well as the certificate of the cloth. Manufacturers will be notified in writing and if they comply with the Rules, they will receive the certificate of conformity from the FIE-SEMI.

Conductive jacket

Two conductive jackets, one for sabre and the other one for foil, made of slippery cloth had been received by the SEMI for opinion : the use of a conductive jacket made of a slippery cloth is not problematic at sabre but is not advisable at foil.

Homologated material for big competitions

Note for the organisers : at **big fencing competitions** – World Championships, Grand Prix, Zone Championships, Universiades, Masters etc. – organisers **must strictly use material and equipment homologated by the FIE SEMI.**

Furthermore, the FIE SEMI must receive a copy of the list of all the material and equipment that will be used.

5. Institutes and Laboratories, latest news

The President makes a brief on the recent meetings, correspondence and discussions held with the representatives of the approved laboratories by the FIE SEMI : CRITT ; ITFH ; Denkendorf ; Visti, Sofranel.

He indicates that the SEMI manages all what is related to the equipment of fencing competitions and is an organism of control at an international level (let's say intermediary) between the manufacturers, the Institutes and the consumers, and the production must always respect the FIE Rules.

6. Material Rules– revision by the SEMI members

It is strongly recommended to the new SEMI members to duly consult and study the material rules and indicate their comments.

All members are required to establish and propose corrections and modifications for the next meeting of the Commission.

7. Sub-commissions of SEMI to study specific technical aspects

Under the supervision of the SEMI President, Eduardo DOS SANTOS, the following sub-commissions are constituted :

- Sub-commission to complete, according to the FIE Rules, the « equipment sheet with the list of non-conformity » used at World Championships. Members are : AZIZI, HARINISHI, OH Won Suk and Maria EBERL LOPEZ. Then, they will have to give back the sheet to the President of the Commission.
- Gabriela MAYER and Mehmet KARAMETE will complete the sheet related to the procedure for the checking of weapons, according to the document used at the Olympic Games. All this should be done before the end of July and the other members will receive a final document.
- Mehmet KARAMETE will be responsible for reviewing the procedure in respect of the homologation of the pistes.
- Daniel DE CHAINE will establish a document describing the checking process for the organisers of World Championships.
- Sub-commission of analysis of microbreaks occurred during contact times, which disturb the proper working of some judging apparatus of some manufacturers, composed by the following members: Jacek BIERKOWSKI, Daniel DE CHAINE, Semion RIKHTMAN.
This sub-commission will re-write the test protocole for these apparatus.

8. Results of meetings, telephone discussions and exchange of correspondence between the SEMI President and the manufacturers

The President has met with all the manufacturers and suppliers present at the Linz World Championships : Allstar, PBT, EuroScherma, Glisca, Prieur ; Marciano, STM and Kabcom. The result of the meeting is reported to the members. He strongly recommends the members to visit the Internet Web site of manufacturers to get acquainted with their latest and new products.

The company Paul has requested an opinion on the use of the grip Gardère : the SEMI Commission considered in the past the grip as dangerous and it still is at present. See paragraphs m.4.6, m.4.6.a, m.4.6.b, the grip Gardère does not respect any of the mentioned rules.

Upon proposal of Mr. Jacek Bierkowski, **SEMI takes the following decision :
Manufacturers and suppliers will be requested to obtain the ISO 9000 certification.**

The SEMI Commission will be sending out letters to manufacturers to inform them of the decisions taken during this meeting, as well as a copy of the minutes in order to enable them consider and be informed of the decisions and recommendations.

9. SEMI documents available on the FIE Web site www.fie.ch

The President proposes to add the new lists of homologated blades and masks on the FIE Web site as well as publish them in the Magazine « Escrime Internationale ».

He mentions the articles published in the FIE Magazine concerning the commission and lists of homologated material (Magazine 45 page 44 and 45, and Magazine 48 new rules). The Magazine is available in “pdf format” on the Web site www.fie.ch. He handles a sample of lists.

10. Logos on fencing clothing

Initially SEMI had proposed to the COMEX that logos be compulsory on both arms and both legs and must be identical on both sides. At its meeting held in April, the COMEX decided that logos of National Federations on athlete's clothing be compulsory on both legs, and optional on the arm(s).

The Allstar company requested a confirmation that logos must be identical on both legs, what has been confirmed.

11. Checking device for judging apparatus at foil

The President explains the functioning of a portable device to check the scoring hit apparatus and informs that the manufacturer of this device is ADASH.

This portable is currently adapted to check foil but a software to check sabre and epee is under development.

12. Checking device for judging apparatus at three weapons

The President contacted an engineer of the National Scientific Research Centre, (CNRS), Mr. Christian Ferrandez, to create a new device adapted to the new rules and three weapons.

The device is constituted of a "box" which needs to be connected to a computer and the recording apparatus. Orders for the tests are given from the computer.

13. Judging apparatus

In the course of the 2004-2005 season, more than 3000 apparatus, in the entire world, have been modified in order to comply with the new norms at Sabre and Foil (according to the manufacturers). It is therefore not easy to modify the norms.

Alarming e-mails in respect of non-recorded hits are sometimes sent by people, who do not know well the material.

25 years ago, Mr. Tibor Szekely had already given explanations on the non-recorded hits because of microbreaks, which already occurred long time ago. Nowadays, only very few hits are not recorded. Fencers must get used to a new way of scoring hits with the new timing.

The question to be raised is whether the apparatus should be adapted to the fencers or vice-versa.

Some apparatus of some manufacturers, which do have microbreaks problems are currently under study.

The President reads a letter sent by the fencer Salvatore SANZO concerning the new rules at foil and the increase of the valid surface.

All the members of the Commission will receive a copy of the procedure to test the judging apparatus at sabre, to enable them study the electrical judging apparatus and propose possible changes in the testing procedure.

The meeting is raised by 18.30, to be carried on the next day.

Meeting of Sunday 5 June 2005, from 9.00 to 14.30

14. Checking device for blades employing Foucault currents

The Company Sofranel shall soon give a quotation for a checking device employing Foucault currents to explore for surface faults on fencing blades.

Mr. Semion Rikhtman has also been requested to find a quotation for a device produced in Russia.

15. Testing of apparatus for the 2005 World Championships

The tests for the judging apparatus of the STM company and its wireless system for Sabre, which will be used during the Leipzig World Championships, have been carried out on 29 March in Thies (SEN).

New available judging apparatus of the companies Allstar / Uhlmann, which will be used at the Leipzig World Championships, will be tested at the end of July in Lisbon.

16. Testing of Allstar / Uhlmann and STM apparatus at World Championships

Tests for the judging apparatus Allstar / Uhlmann and STM at the venue of the 2005 World Championships will be conducted with portable devices.

17. Hazard control operations of blades, at the 2005 World Championships

For the hazardous control of blades at the 2005 World Championships, the SEMI will take one or three blades on a shop or stand and will check it/them immediately in one of the Institute approved by the FIE SEMI. The manufacturer will have to pay for this expense whatever is the result.

Manufacturers will be consulted in order to agree in writing on a procedure.

18. Minutes of the last meeting of the SEMI Commission (2003)

Some decisions stated in the minutes of the SEMI Commission's meeting of 21-23 June 2003 are discussed. A copy is distributed to the new elected members (AZIZI ; LOPEZ ; MAYER ; KARAMETE).

19. Report of the SEMI delegates at the 2005 Junior World Championships in Linz

Delegates present at these championships were : Jacek BIERKOWSKI, Semion RIKTHMAN and Daniel De CHAINE. Their report includes some propositions, which have been added to the agenda of this meeting, such as reviewing the recommendations on the blades "N". These three members will study the distinction of marking for the maraging and non-maraging blades. And they will also submit a proposition for a clearer marking.

The members had received a copy of this report by e-mail.

20. Several issues suggested by the SEMI members

The President will send the minutes of this meeting to all members by e-mail.

He proposes that the next meeting of the SEMI Commission be held at the end of the Junior World Championships, as the delegates designated as well as members travelling with their delegations will be present, thus reducing the costs for the FIE. It will also enable members to use the checking weapon centre on the spot and also arrange a meeting with the manufacturers present (a similar meeting was organised at the 1997 World Championships in Cape Town). It will be submitted to the Executive Committee.

It is recommended to the Korean Fencing Federation (organiser of the 2006 Junior World Championships) to invite manufacturers of fencing equipment to be present.

The other issues have already been discussed during the meeting, except for :

The lighting stroke and the weight will not be part of the initial weapon's check, because athletes will still have access to these weapons, it will be done before fencing. It will also be checked by controllers starting from the table 32.

The procedure for weapon and equipment check for the table 32 will be submitted by the SEMI to the organisers of the Senior World Championships in the three official FIE languages, before the end of July, together with the list of non-conformity.

21. Commission in charge of the study of foil in liaison with the SEMI.

The SEMI will liaise with the new Commission in charge to study the foil and is ready to approve the conclusions of the said ad hoc commission, composed by :

Mr. Arthur Cramer, President ; Mr. Eduardo DOS SANTOS ; Mr. Serguey Goloubitsky ; Mr. Stephen HIGGINSON ; Mr. Ioan POP ;

The SEMI shall approve the possible changes, and recommends that the technology be used as a mean to obtain a more classical foil, easier to understand and with its own identity.

22. Competences of communication (languages) of the SEMI members

It is essential to speak fluently one of the FIE working languages, ideally two, to be designated for World Championships.

It is necessary to deeply know the Rules and also be able to explain and interpret it. The members must be able to hold discussions with other fencing actors such as the DT members, fencing masters and fencers. Explanations are required during official competitions.

The President advises members, who do not speak fluently any of the official languages (French, English or Spanish) to learn one of them or improve their knowledge. He strongly recommends all the members to develop their competences in communication.

23. Designation of SEMI members for the 2006 Junior World Champ. in Korea

In the late morning, the SEMI Commission proposed :

- Mr. OH Won Suk (KOR);
- Mr. Atsushi HARINISHI (JPN);
- Mr. Daniel DE CHAINE (USA)

24. Internet possibilities

A power point presentation on the Linz World Championships and the possible use of Internet is made by Mr. ALGER.

25. Speech of the FIE press officer

The FIE press officer, Mr. Jochen FAERBER, who is in charge of the media, visits the SEMI and goes around the new technologies, which will be used during the 2005 Leipzig World Championships, in respect of scoring board systems.

He underlines the need for the SEMI to establish a communication procedure for the manufacturers of apparatus. A clarification is given by the SEMI, as the Swiss Timming Company has its own procedure.

According to him, it is necessary for the future, that scoring boards include information on the cards, number of cards and when they were awarded. Apparatus must also transmit hits.

The SEMI finds essential that this type of information be available as quick as possible for the media. It will contact manufacturers of judging apparatus and ask them to think about an apparatus that would give this information.

26. Visit of the FIE President

The SEMI Commission is honoured by the visit of the FIE President at around 14.00.

Mr. René Roch greets the members and immediately presents his expectations for the future work of the SEMI Commission. A short summary of the decisions taken by the Commission is presented. He indicates his satisfaction in respect of the way the SEMI managed to follow the need of technological development in our sport.

As all the items on the agenda have been covered and no more questions are being raised, the meeting ends at 14.30