

Minutes of the SEMI Commission Meeting

Lausanne – 5/6 July 2014

AGENDA

1. Discussion of the proposals given for the Congress 2014.
Preparation of the separate report on present issue.
2. Discussion of the current certification procedure:
 - a) work of "Center" for certification;
 - b) documents of the "Center";
 - c) legal basis of the process.
 - 2.1 Quality control of the certified products.
 - 2.2 Chipping of the certified items.
3. EN 13567 Standard and FIE regulation
4. Weapon control process.
 - a) analysis of the competitions 2013;
 - b) new weapon control book;
 - c) electronic system of registration;
 - d) standard weapon control report form sheet
5. "WS-16" contest.
6. SEMI 1.0 Standard.
7. Electronic appeal system.
8. Homologation of the program items.
9. Joint work with medical commission.
10. Procedure for the CEN examination of the sabre glove.
11. The glove (in the three weapons) is part of clothing or not?
12. Integration of the Rules: padding and fastening system of the mask.
13. Annex A Material Rules – Suggest permanent/temporary removal of section 2.1.2 Transparent Masks.
14. New Leon Paul mask.
15. "RIO-2016".
16. Approval of the logos and pictures by commission?
17. Pascal Teshch's proposal for homologation.
18. Appointments for the competitions 2015.
Additional items
19. Presentation by Nathalie Rodrigues – Development and fashion in fencing
20. Rules commission – Timing equipment difficulties London Olympic Games
21. Use of non FIE equipment Maria EBERL LOPEZ

Meeting opened 09.10 hrs.

Attending Semen RIKHTMAN RUS – President of SEMI
Sarkis ASSADOURIAN IRL (not present until 10.15)
Tarek BEN REJEB TUN
Maria EBERL LOPEZ CHI
Gamil ELZEFTAWI EGY
Gudjon GESTSSON ISL
Atsushi HARINISHI JPN
Janet HUGGINS GBR
Giandomenico VARALLO ITA

Frederic PIETRUSZKA FRA – FIE General Secretary (Morning session 5 July)
Pascal Tech LUX
Krisztian KULCSAR – FIE Sport Director (Part Afternoon session 5 July)

Apologies Daniel De CHAINE USA

Semen Rikhtman

Opened meeting and asked for a short silence to mark our respect for the death of our former colleague Eduardo dos SANTOS and then welcomed Tarek BEN REJEB as our newest member.

A message of support was read from our Comex Representative Wei WANG

Frederic PIETRUSKA addressed the meeting

He stressed that the Olympic Games was very important and that
It is vital that a new “wireless” system is in place for the Rio Games
He also stressed the need for safety for Clothing, Blades and Masks

Semen RIKHTMAN replied

He had been informed that there was no money in the FIE budget for testing of the new
“wireless” systems contest.

Frederic PIETRUSKA said he would speak to Maxim PARAMONOV about funding

Item 1 The meeting then discussed and voted on the Proposals for changes to the rules – decisions of the commission are shown in separate document.

Item 2

a) Work of Center of Homologation

Manufacturers send to Rome lab request form for homologation
Sample sent for preliminary tests if satisfactory – letter sent to manufacturer requesting official samples
Items tested in test house results sent to Giandomenico VARALLO and manufacturer.
Documents sent to SEMI Members for voting – If ok homologation certificate issued, with electronic signature, so that the document cannot be transferred to another item.

Giandomenico VARALLO explained that tests are also carried out on equipment that has been involved in fencing accidents to ascertain if they complied to the homologation standard. Some items did not reach the required standard although bearing the correct homologation label, thus bringing the possibility that the items could be either “fake” or that batches of equipment after the original homologation may be of sub-standard quality.

Semen RIKHTMAN presented photos of various fencing producers premises and raised concerns that although most producers are genuine there is the possibility that small (garage type) producers may be

making counterfeit equipment. He raised the question of products made in a different country from that of the registered Company/manufacturer, should the items be marked with the country where the product is made

b) Documents

After the death of Eduardo Dos Santos, it was impossible to trace all homologation certification and manufacturers were invited send to Giandomenico Vallaro any relevant paperwork in their possession. Giandomenico VARALLO with this information has set up a record of homologations. Eventually when the software becomes available we hope this database of Homologation records will be accessible the FIE website.

c) Legal basis

Blades – homologated for lifetime of blades

After original homologation the blades should be resubmitted for periodic tests twice in 5 years

Clothing – Item together with technical details document (Sizes – fastenings – material etc)

All homologation certification records must be sent to FIE Head Office archive.

2.1 Quality control of the certified products.

Provision in rules to “*blind*” purchase equipment but no money has been made available for this

2.2 Chipping of the certified items.

Concerns about possible “Black Market” in counterfeit homologated items, has prompted research into the possibility of “Chipping” homologated items. These chips could be programed specifically i.e. mask jacket etc. by FIE before sale to the manufacturers.

Further tests will be required to ascertain their durability in use and where appropriate after washing.

Scanners would have to be available at FIE competitions so that weapon control can be carried out.

Item 3. EN 13567 Standard and FIE regulation

Current CEN Standards are due for revision. Original standards had Fencing Manufacturers All Star and Leon Paul with Jacque De Burgh from SEMI. Giandomenico VARALLO is working with the CEN Working group. Janet Huggins is on the British Standards Institute CEN mirror group.

Frank Messmer and Barry Paul were requested to supply documentation showing the difference between FIE Homologation and CEN regulations, which have been received by SEMI. The aim is to bring the two standards into line.

Item 4. Weapon control process

a) Analysis of competitions 2013, many times there were problems with insufficient staff levels and expertise. The SEMI agreed that it was essential that one of the SEMI delegates should arrive at the competitions 1 or 2 days before the start of weapon control.

b) New Weapon Control Hand Book, attached. Thanks given to Peter and Janet Huggins for their work in drafting this.

The SEMI request that Janet prepares one page summaries for Weapons/Masks/Clothing that can be easily distributed to weapon controllers.

c) Electronic system of registration of items for weapon control, using a touch screen. (This system will be used at Kazan) and saves time for the fencers.

d) Standard weapon control report sheet. Thanks given to Janet Huggins for the compilation of this.

Item 5. "WS-16"contest.

The next round of the wireless contest will be held in Kazan.

Frederic PIETRUSZKA stressed that it must be given highest priority as a new wireless system is essential for the Rio Olympic Games.

He also commented that as Sarkis ASSADOURIAN is a member of the SEMI and that his company is one of the competing developers any conflict of interest should be recorded.

Item 6. SEMI 1.0 Standard.

Report presented by Semen Rikhtman on providing a communication interface for all systems in use at fencing competitions. (Ophart/Allstar/SwissTiming/Video referring/Internet streaming/score boards)

Frederic Pietruszka told the meeting that he had experience of various systems being unable to communicate with each other. He the informed us that the contract for the Rio Olympic games has been awarded to Omega (Swatch) and for the 2015 Senior, Junior/Cadet Word Championships to Swiss Timing/Tissot.

The commission agreed in principal with the SEMI 1.0 Standard but that more technical work was needed. It was suggested that a resume of the work done on this so far be sent to the COMEX

Problems that occurred with the timing clocks at Olympic Games London have resulted in tests of systems that allow for the final minute of the bout to be timed in 10^{ths} of seconds or 100^{ths}

Item 7. Electronic appeal system.

Presentation of refereeing review system, using 3 remotely separately placed video referees, who

in the event of an appeal against the decision of the bout referee would signal their decisions by means of signal lamps. It was suggested that the system should be tried before any decision is made

Item 8. Homologation of the program items.

Gudjon GESTSSON reported that work is progressing well on the homologation process for competition software.

Semen Rikhtman will suggest to the CEO that these special working groups are:-

Software - SEMI (Gudjon GESTSSON and Gamil ELZEFTAWI) and competition organiser (Julis Kraulik).

Video systems – SEMI (Sarkis ASSADOURIAN, Maria EBERL LOPEZ and Atsushi HARINISHI)

Consultation will be made with the Executive and the Refereeing Commissions.

Item 9. Joint work with medical commission. A joint meeting of all of the SEMI Commission and the following 5 members of the Medical Commission WOLFGARTEN Wilfried, DEFOLIGNY-RENAULT Catherine, HALSTED Clare, HARMER Peter RUIJSCH VAN DUGTEREN George: was held after lunch on the Sunday 6 July 2014

a) Sabre Gloves

Following several severe accidents involving penetration by unbroken sabre blades. Peter Harman had submitted drawings to the working group for the suggested design of the new sabre glove no questions were referred back to him. The Medical commission will not be supporting the Proposed rule change put forward by the SEMI as they feel that the design does not meet their original specifications. The original design had no top seam on the fingers. Medical are also concerned that the strength requirements on the seams is inadequate.

The working group looked at the balance between, comfort and strength and these reduced specifications may have been a compromise, but medical are not happy with these.

Suggested modifications could include reversing the direction of the finger seams making the seams external rather than internal thus reducing the chance of seams splitting.

Giandomenico VARALLO said that the original gloves sent for testing met the standard required but that he has tested gloves from subsequent batches of production and they have been below standard.

b) Maraging sabre blades

At the moment there is no money available for the testing of the blades. There have been 3 penetration incidents which have gone through 800n jackets and plastrons and it is possible that maraging blades would because of their extended life reduce the incidence of broken blade injuries.

The Medical commission will send a proposal to SEMI that will recommend the use of maraging sabre blades for FIE Competitions. A joint proposal should be made by the SEMI and Medical commissions as the risk of breakage is reduced.

c) Leon Paul Masks

I have added the minutes for this part of the meeting at the end of Item 14.

d) Allstar signalling system to call doctor to piste

The system has the approval of the Medical Commission and they ask for the support of the SEMI to request this type of system be put into the FIE Handbook for major events. SEMI will support the Medical commission on this addition to the Handbook.

Item 10. Procedure for the CEN examination of the sabre glove.

This is in progress but may take some time to reach fulfilment.

Item 11. The glove (in the three weapons) is part of clothing or not?

SEMI agreed that the glove should be part of the clothing, proposal for next congress to be drafted by Giandomenico VARALLO

Item 12. Integration of the Rules: padding and fastening system of the mask. refer item 14

Item 13. Annex A Material Rules – Suggest permanent/temporary removal of section 2.1.2 Transparent Masks.

SEMI agreed that section of the rules should be removed from the rule book. Proposal for next congress.

Item 14. New Leon Paul Mask

This item was discussed several times during the meeting. I have with the assistance of the Digital Voice Recordings I made during the meeting sessions placed them in chronological order.

During the discussion of Proposed Changes to Rules Proposal 24

(A01/10 1h13m11 sec) Frederic PIETRUSZKA brought up the question of Leon Paul Masks:-

“We have been in discussion yesterday with LEGAL Commission we have to do something for Kazan.

1. We suggest to write to Federations that they must check that the masks are a good size for the fencers
2. Weapon control to control the quality of the Velcro
3. Referee to check mask fit before the beginning of the match”

He said it would be difficult to cancel all the Leon Paul Masks for Kazan, but he said we need to do something and said that opinion of Medical and SEMI was needed.

The SEMI then voted on the rule change Proposal 24, but no decision was given on the Leon Paul Masks at this time.

Sunday 6 July 2014 09.05hrs

(A08/10 0h02m15sec – A08/10 0hr m sec)

Barry & Ben PAUL made a presentation of their new mask security system to the SEMI. They provided the SEMI with a complete mask and several examples of the secondary strap fitted to the bib which passes behind the neck fastening with a magnetic catch. They reinforced the point that it is essential for all makes of mask that the fencer ensures that they are wearing the correct size for their head, as any masks that is too large is in danger of coming off.

They acknowledged that problems have occurred with their masks, but that masks of other manufacturers have on occasions have had similar problems.

The following Improvements to the Leon Paul security system have been made.

- a) Double sandwich system for the Velcro examples of which were passed round and proved to be virtually Impossible to pull apart.
- b) Stronger/firmer chin padding, fixing the chin more firmly in the mask
- c) Second strap attached to exchangeable bib, which passes behind the fencer's neck. This strap is adjustable for length and is easy to close with the non-sword hand by means of a ceramic magnet, which will not release without mechanically operating the catch.
- d) Optional addition padding in the top of the mask, which again holds the mask more securely on the head.

The sizing of the mask is very important and Leon Paul are providing potential purchasers with detailed instruction on how to choose the correct size both pictorial and video.

It was suggested that a change in the rules making a secondary independent safety system mandatory.

Krisztian KULCSAR asked if the existing masks could be retro-fitted with this additional strap, this can be easily done as the old exchange bib is slid out and the new bib with the fixing for the strap is slid into place.

There followed a long discussion on the use of this new system.

Semen RIKHTMAN said it is not possible to give FIE certifications for this mask

Barry PAUL said that it is necessary that CEN regulations be updated as at present they do not require any back straps on masks

(A08/10 0h49m40sec)

Krisztian KULCSAR asked if we can give a temporary homologation for the new strap

Semen RIKHTMAN said there was no homologation certificate for the mask

Ben and Barry PAUL said that they had letters from the previous head of the SEMI saying the masks are approved and also have CEN certificates. The masks appear on the homologation lists including a mention for the sliding bib.

Janet HUGGINS made the point that when we were discussing Item 2 b) yesterday Giandomenico VARALLO said that Homologation certificates for the masks from another manufacturer were also missing, this he confirmed was correct, he said it was the same situation. Janet then said that we cannot treat them differently.

Ben PAUL said that Leon Paul have always followed the certification procedure set down by the FIE

Semen RIKHTMAN said that there was no certificate from KRITT test house

Barry PAUL said that Critt was not the only test house and that Leon Paul had used one of the other approved test centres (ITV) Denkendorf Germany.

(A08/10 0h 53m56sec)

Frederic PIETRUSZKA asked that we all worked together for the good of fencing.

Semen RIKHTMAN asked Giandomenico VARALLO as head of the Centre for Homologation if it was possible to give homologation to the mask. He said yes it would be possible to give provisional homologation for 6months /one year, if all is ok we can give the final certification, but we need the opinion of the Medical Commission.

Krisztian KULCSAR said that the next step is to make an Urgent Letter decision to allow fencers to use masks using 2 separate safety systems and that the SEMI Commission has to accept the second strap. With only 1 strap will be refused at weapon control.

(A08/10 1hr 04m30sec)

It was pointed out that we removed visor masks from use. However when this was applied the fencers were given a period of time to purchase replacements, a period of grace was also given for the implementation of the new sabre gloves.

Krisztian KULCSAR

Suggested wording URGENT DECISION MASK SECURITY

From the start of the 2014/2015 season 01.09.2014 only masks with 2 independent security systems will be allowed for use at FIE events.

Until this date 01.09.2014 previously homologated masks with only 1 security system can be used at FIE events, provided that the fencer concerned signs a waiver to the effect that they do so at their own risk. In the event of a fencer under the age of majority this waiver must be signed by the parent or guardian of the fencer concerned.

Frederic PIETRUSZKA suggested that in Kazan extra care must be taken with special regard to the following points:-

1. Letter to the federations asking them to make sure of the fit of the masks for their fencers
2. Weapon control must check the condition of the Velcro
3. The referee must check the fit of the mask on the fencer before the bout.
4. Any problems experienced with masks on the piste must be reported.

We must take into consideration the attempt of Messrs Leon Paul to deal with the problem.

(A08/10 1h36m00sec)

When the meeting reconvened after lunch on Sunday, Krisztian KULCSAR and Frederic PIETRUSZKA had taken further advice regarding disclaimers for use of Masks with only one security system. They had been advised that this is not possible for such disclaimers to be used. So only the use of Masks with 2 separate security systems will be accepted.

This is the revised *Suggested wording* for the *URGENT DECISION MASK SECURITY*

From the start of the 2014/2015 season 01.09.2014 only masks with 2 independent security systems will be allowed for use at FIE events.

For the World championships Kazan the following controls were implemented:

- a mask with two elements of protection (Velcro+ magnetic fastener) is accepted for control;
- a mask with one element of protection (only Velcro) is accepted for control only with a guarantee letter from an athlete;
- after a championship in Kazan, a mask with one element of protection is banned to use at all the fencing events including training;
- weapon control service and referee commission will be given special instructions on additional control of LP masks at competitions in Kazan;
- SEMI commission together with Leon Paul company will hold a certification of the mask with the magnetic fastener within a short time.

The joint meeting of the SEMI and Medical Commission also discussed this subject at length and in order to provide continuity I have place these minutes here.

(A10/10 1h04m24sec)

Krisztian KULCSAR said that following further discussions the decision that only masks with 2 separate security devices can be used by fencers at FIE events must now come into immediate effect and masks with only a single safety system can no longer be used.

Clare HALSTED pointed out that if an incident occurs where a conventional mask i.e. with a metal tongue and Velcro strap comes off a precedent has been established and it may then necessitate the immediate exclusion of such masks.

Peter HARMER said that there have been actual injuries from broken sabre blades but these have not been banned. The masks that have come off have been pushed off not due to a failure of the masks but as a result of the mask being too large.

Krisztian KULCSAR confirmed that he has a text confirmation from Ben PAUL that they will accept this decision. Peter HARMER commented that Leon Paul have been told several different things from the SEMI and this has again changed. In a text message from Ben Paul we were informed that they had not agreed but later they decided they would have to accede to this decision.

Semen Rikhtman said that this was not a decision made by the SEMI Commission and asked who's decision it was.

Krisztian KULCSAR confirmed that it was his decision that would have to be ratified by the President.

Peter HARMER and Clare HALSTED both commented that if a conventional mask comes off in Kasan consideration will have to be made to ban this type immediately. A risk assessment procedure for this type incident should be put in place. This decision is setting a precedent that could become a problem for the FIE.

Clare HALSTED said that the statistical risk of one incident where the mask was lifted was one in probably 1 million athlete exposures is very small and at least one athlete involved in such an incident has said that they would continue to use the mask.

The Medical Commission do not agree with the decision on the Leon Paul mask as they do not think there is any underlying problem with the mask

Janet HUGGINS asked for a vote on this subject but Semen Rikhtman refused to allow a vote to take place.

Medical Commission said they as SEMI would not propose this they would submit the following proposal
"Suggested wording URGENT DECISION MASK SECURITY

From the start of the 2014/2015 season 01.09.2014 only masks with 2 independent security systems will be allowed for use at FIE events."

Semen Rikhtman still refuse to hold a vote when asked for a second time.

After Krisztian KULCSAR and the Medical commission had left Semen Rikhtman added additional complaints about the new mask which he had not brought up at any time during the meeting. He also changed his mind about the timing for the provisional homologation. He said that we only had the agreement for the use of the Leon Paul mask with 2 separate security system for Kazan only, which is not what had been agreed earlier. *Semen RIKHTMAN asked Giandomenico VARALLO as head of the Centre for Homologation if it was possible to give homologation to the mask. He said yes it would be possible to give provisional homologation for 6months /one year, if all is ok we can give the final certification, but we need the opinion of the Medical Commission.*

Item 15. "RIO-2016".

Semen RIKHTMAN expressed concerns that the scoring apparatus to be used at Rio Olympic Games is not the most up to date.

Frederic PIETRUSZKA explained that the responsibility for the equipment is that of the main contractor for the Games. The contract has already been awarded to Swiss Timing and they will be responsible for the choice of equipment.

Item 16. Approval of the logos and pictures by commission?

SEMI suggest that this is a task more suited to the PP Commission, the SEMI will of course enforce the logos at weapon control.

Item 17. Pascal Tech had been invited by the FIE President to suggest a new system for homologation. He was asked by the executive to address the meeting with his views on the following points relating to the work of the SEMI.

- a) Logistics and Process Management
- b) Evolution of systems
- c) Legality of checks made

He said that we have made a good start with the evolution he is still working on his draft proposals for revisions of the Homologation but it will not be completed until August 2014

The system for homologation started last season is working well and the feeling of SEMI is that it does not need to be changed for change sake, but the commission is open to constructive suggestions of anything that would improve the existing system.

Item 18. Appointments for the competitions 2015

The following SEMI members are proposed by the commission for ratification by COMEX

World Championships Junior/Cadet	Tashkent	02.04.15 - 11.04.15	Sarkis ASSADOURIAN/Tarek BEN REJEB/ Daniel De CHAINE
World Championships Senior	Moscow	15.07.15 - 22.07.15	Semen RIKHTMAN/Janet HUGGINS/ Atsushi HARINISHI
World Championships Veterans	Limoges/USA	20.10.15 - 25.10.15	Giandomenico VARALLO
Universade	Korea	4-10 July	Gudjon GESTSSON
PAN AM GAMES	Toronto	10-20 July	Maria EBERL LOPEZ

Gamil ELZEFTAWI will act as reserve if any member is unable to fulfil their obligations.

Item 19. Presentation by Nathalie Rodrigues – Development and fashion in fencing

Development of new ideas and materials for fencing clothing. A working party is to be set up to investigate how to bring new innovation to fencing clothing, to increase the profile of fencing. Asked for SEMI to put forward a member of the commission to help with this.

20. Rules commission – Timing equipment difficulties London Olympic Games

Representatives from the Rules Commission and Krisztian KULCSAR to discuss the timing equipment problems experienced at the London Olympic Games.

Problems that occurred with the timing clocks at Olympic Games London have resulted in tests of systems that allow for the final minute of the bout to be timed in 10^{ths} of seconds or 100^{ths}.

SEMI suggest that 100^{ths} is only necessary for OG and World Championships initially, we also talked about the fact that remote control is more secure when it is hardwired but this is not acceptable for the referee at major events.

Item21. Use of non FIE equipment

Maria EBERL LOPEZ raised concern that in some nations that use of 350N is allowed in competitions.

The SEMI agreed that if Countries allow the use of this level of equipment in their domestic events it is their responsibility but at FIE events held in that Country full FIE Equipment must be used.

Janet HUGGINS

SEMI Commission Member

22.07.2014

PROPOSALS FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE RULES

SEMI Commission

Samuel Cheris

Proposal 1 (Chest protectors)

Time is required to set an approved standard and set up appropriate testing procedures

Rules Commission

Proposal 4 (time keeping in the last minute of the bout)

In principal in favour

Further technical tests are to be carried out at the World Championships in Kazan and technical proposals will be submitted by Semen Ricketman after these tests.

SEMI Commission

Proposal 1 (Sabre Glove)

In favour

SWEDISH Federation

Proposal 1 (Realignment of the rules management of competitions)

In favour.

Would suggest that at least one member of SEMI delegate should arrive at least 2 days before commencement of weapon control to oversee the weapon control set up.

EXECUTIVE Committee

Proposal 17 (articles on Commissions and Councils)

In favour

Proposal 20 (Approval of designs and colours)

Not in favour

Suggest this should be moved to the jurisdiction of the PP Commission

Proposal 24 (clarification of current text – Commissions)

Not in favour

Proposal 25 (responsibility of Executive and use of experts)

Not in favour

Proposal 26 (rules on expenses following previous proposal)

Not in favour

Proposal 29 (report to Executive)

Not in favour

If second sentence and third sentences removed

“c) It presents to the Executive.....to it. The drafting of the Congress decisions.....Committee”

SEMI Commission would be

In favour

Womens Council

Proposal 1

In favour

Italian Federation

Proposal 2

No Opinion

Decisions of the SEMI Commission 05.07.2014