



Proposals for the 2022 Congress  
Modifications of the Rules

The texts below are applicable on January 1st, 2023, unless mentioned otherwise.

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P. 1

Article: **o.18.4**

Proposal from: Refereeing Commission

Motivation: The growing number of participants and up to 5 events per day make difficult to serve competitions for one Refereeing delegate

**o.18.4** Veterans World Championships

~~One~~ **Two** Refereeing delegate, one SEMI delegate and two Medical delegates are appointed by the FIE Executive Committee following the recommendations of the respective commissions.

**Refereeing Commission:** In favour.

**Veterans' Council:** In favour.

**Rules Commission:** In favour. The text should be: "**Two** Refereeing delegates...".

**Executive Committee:** In favour of the proposal

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P. 2

Articles : **o.21; o.61; o.101; o.103; t.45; t.170; index.**

Proposal from: Rules Commission

Motivation: The current organization rules only list injuries and medical reasons such as cramp, illness, trauma. The term **medical reason** should take into account all the possibilities.

**o.21**

1 The functions of the medical delegates include the strict and complete organization of the medical aspect. They have the obligation to see that the Rules are adhered to and cannot themselves decide on any departure from the Rules except in circumstances in which it is absolutely impossible to apply them.

2Hence, medical delegates:

a) Verify the medical services and oversee their operation.

b) Supervise the anti-doping control.

c) Evaluate the medical situation and supervise the treatment of any injury or ~~other medical reason~~ ~~cramp~~ in accordance with t.45

#### **o.61**

1 The entry of the names of the fencers and all possible replacements, and the entry of teams, must be made via the FIE website 7 days before the competition at the latest (midnight Lausanne time).

For team entries, the names of the fencers making up the teams may be changed, by informing the organizers, up to the day before the competition, at the latest at the end of the quarter finals of the individual competition. However, a replacement can be made after this stage, and at the latest at the end of the individual event, in the case of injury or ~~other medical reason~~ ~~illness~~ duly certified by the competition medical doctor.

2 Withdrawal of a fencer or team

After the closing deadline for entries, no named fencer or team may be withdrawn except for ~~reasons of injury,~~ ~~medical reason~~ or force majeure: the national federation must inform the FIE and the organizers.

#### **o.101**

If a team does not begin a match they will be disqualified from the competition and thus will not receive any World Team Cup points, unless this is because of an injury or any ~~medical reason~~ ~~illness~~, duly attested by the duty doctor

#### **o.103.**

2 d) Each team may request, before a given bout, the substitution of a fencer. However, in case of injury or ~~other medical reason~~ ~~trauma~~ duly recognized by the medical delegate, the substitution can be immediate, even during the relay.

3 A fencer who has been replaced because of an injury or ~~other medical reason~~ may not fence again during that match. If both a fencer and the reserve, if any, are forced to retire, or if a fencer is excluded, their team is deemed to have lost the match.

~~Injuries~~ ~~Medical reason~~, withdrawal of a competitor

~~Injury or cramp~~ ~~Medical reason~~, withdrawal of a competitor

#### **t.45**

1. For ~~a any~~ sport ~~trauma/injury or cramp or other acute medical incident~~ ~~medical reason~~ which occurs in the course of a bout and which is properly attested by the delegate of the FIE Medical Commission or, in his absence, by the doctor on duty, the Referee will allow a break in the fight lasting no longer than 5 minutes. Only the doctor and/or medical provider on duty can determine the length of time of treatment required when a medical time-out is granted. This break should be timed from the point when the delegate of the FIE Medical commission or, in his absence, the doctor gave his opinion. This break should be strictly reserved for the requisite treatment. If the delegate of the FIE Medical Commission or, in his absence, the doctor on duty considers, before or at the end of the 5 minute break, that the fencer is incapable of continuing the fight, he will decide that the fencer should retire (individual events) and/or be replaced, if possible (team events) (cf. o.99.6.a/b).

All breaks for a sport ~~trauma, cramp, or an acute medical incident~~ ~~medical reason~~ must be noted on the score-sheet for the bout, the pool or the match.

2. During the remainder of the same day, a fencer cannot be allowed a further break unless as a result of a different ~~injury or cramp or acute medical incident~~ ~~medical reason~~.

**t.170**

|     | <b>2nd group</b>   |                                  | <b>1st offence</b> | <b>2nd offence</b> | <b>3rd offence and subseq.</b> |
|-----|--|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2.1 | Use of non-sword arm/hand (*)  | <b>t.29.1. t.30</b>              | <b>RED</b>         | <b>RED</b>         | <b>RED</b>                     |
| 2.2 | Demanding a break for <del>claimed injury/cramp</del> <b>medical reason</b> deemed unjustified by doctor | <b>t.45.3</b>                    |                    |                    |                                |
| 2.3 | Absence of weapon control marks (*)  | <b>t.73.1.a</b>                  |                    |                    |                                |
| 2.4 | -  |                                  |                    |                    |                                |
| 2.5 | Deliberate hit not on opponent (*)   | <b>t.55.3</b>                    |                    |                    |                                |
| 2.6 | Dangerous, violent or vindictive action, blow with guard or pommel (*)                                   | <b>t.121.2 ; t.147 ; t.149.1</b> |                    |                    |                                |

**INDEX TO ARTICLES**

Numbers refer to articles of the Rules.

Match: o.33,o.97, o.99

Medical delegate: o.48, o.99

Medical reason: o.21, o.61, o101, o 103

**Refereeing Commission:** In favour.

**Rules Commission:** In favour with the following revised text:

**o.21**

1 The functions of the medical delegates include the strict and complete organization of the medical aspect. They have the obligation to see that the Rules are adhered to and cannot themselves decide on any departure from the Rules except in circumstances in which it is absolutely impossible to apply them.

2Hence, medical delegates:

a) Verify the medical services and oversee their operation.

b) Supervise the anti-doping control.

c) Evaluate the medical situation and supervise the treatment of any injury or **other medical reason** ~~cramp~~ in accordance with t.45

**o.61**

1 The entry of the names of the fencers and all possible replacements, and the entry of teams, must be made via the FIE website 7 days before the competition at the latest (midnight Lausanne time).

For team entries, the names of the fencers making up the teams may be changed, by informing the organizers, up to the day before the competition, at the latest at the end of the quarter finals of the individual competition. However, a replacement can be made after this stage, and at the latest at the end of the individual event, in the case of injury or **other medical reason** ~~illness~~ duly certified by the competition medical doctor.

2 Withdrawal of a fencer or team

After the closing deadline for entries, no named fencer or team may be withdrawn except for reasons **of injury or other medical reason** or force majeure: the national federation must inform the FIE and the organizers.

### o.101

If a team does not begin a match they will be disqualified from the competition and thus will not receive any World Team Cup points, unless this is because of an injury or **any other medical reason illness**, duly attested by the duty doctor

### o.103.

2 d) Each team may request, before a given bout, the substitution of a fencer. However, in case of injury or **other medical reason trauma** duly recognized by the medical delegate, the substitution can be immediate, even during the relay.

3 A fencer who has been replaced because of an injury **or other medical reason** may not fence again during that match. If both a fencer and the reserve, if any, are forced to retire, or if a fencer is excluded, their team is deemed to have lost the match.

**Injuries or other Medical reason**, withdrawal of a competitor

**Injury or-cramp other Medical reason**, withdrawal of a competitor

### t.45

1. For **a any sport trauma/injury or-cramp-or-other-acute-medical-incident or other medical reason** which occurs in the course of a bout and which is properly attested by the delegate of the FIE Medical Commission or, in his absence, by the doctor on duty, the Referee will allow a break in the fight lasting no longer than 5 minutes. Only the doctor and/or medical provider on duty can determine the length of time of treatment required when a medical time-out is granted. This break should be timed from the point when the delegate of the FIE Medical commission or, in his absence, the doctor gave his opinion. This break should be strictly reserved for the requisite treatment. If the delegate of the FIE Medical Commission or, in his absence, the doctor on duty considers, before or at the end of the 5 minute break, that the fencer is incapable of continuing the fight, he will decide that the fencer should retire (individual events) and/or be replaced, if possible (team events) (cf. o.99.6.a/b).

All breaks for a **sport trauma, cramp, or-an-acute-medical-incident medical reason** must be noted on the score-sheet for the bout, the pool or the match.

2. During the remainder of the same day, a fencer cannot be allowed a further break unless as a result of a different **injury or-cramp-or-acute-medical-incident other medical reason**.

### t.170

|     | 2nd group   |                           | 1st offence | 2nd offence | 3rd offence and subseq. |
|-----|---|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| 2.1 | Use of non-sword arm/hand (*)   | t.29.1. t.30              | RED         | RED         | RED                     |
| 2.2 | Demanding a break for <del>claimed-injury/cramp or</del> <b>other medical reason</b> deemed unjustified by doctor | t.45.3                    |             |             |                         |
| 2.3 | Absence of weapon control marks (*)   | t.73.1.a                  |             |             |                         |
| 2.4 | -   |                           |             |             |                         |
| 2.5 | Deliberate hit not on opponent (*)  | t.55.3                    |             |             |                         |
| 2.6 | Dangerous, violent or vindictive action, blow with guard or pommel (*)  | t.121.2 ; t.147 ; t.149.1 |             |             |                         |

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Medical reason: o.21, o.61, o.101, o.103

In the Spanish version, for “injury” use the term “lesión”:

**Medical Commission:** Medical commission has reviewed proposed changes and has provided comments and revisions to consider.

Rationale: term “injury” is necessary for inclusion regarding t.45 rule as this is the primary reason for medical evaluation within competition. Other medical reason “only” opens the rule to interpretation that any medical reason could warrant a medical timeout. Rule t.45 is a safety precaution to allow athletes the opportunity to have medical attention for injury or other medical reasons during a bout.

#### **o.21**

1 The functions of the medical delegates include the strict and complete organization of the medical aspect. They have the obligation to see that the Rules are adhered to and cannot themselves decide on any departure from the Rules except in circumstances in which it is absolutely impossible to apply them.

2 Hence, medical delegates:

- a) Verify the medical services and oversee their operation.
- b) Supervise the anti-doping control.
- c) Evaluate the medical situation and supervise the **intervention or recognized** treatment of any injury or **other medical reason** ~~cramp~~ in accordance with t.45

#### **o.61**

1 The entry of the names of the fencers and all possible replacements, and the entry of teams, must be made via the FIE website 7 days before the competition at the latest (midnight Lausanne time).

For team entries, the names of the fencers making up the teams may be changed, by informing the organizers, up to the day before the competition, at the latest at the end of the quarter finals of the individual competition. However, a replacement can be made after this stage, and at the latest at the end of the individual event, in the case of injury or **other medical reason** ~~illness~~ duly certified by the competition medical doctor.

2 Withdrawal of a fencer or team

After the closing deadline for entries, no named fencer or team may be withdrawn except for ~~reasons-of,~~ **injury, other medical reason** or force majeure: the national federation must inform the FIE and the organizers.

#### **o.101**

If a team does not begin a match they will be disqualified from the competition and thus will not receive any World Team Cup points, unless this is because of an injury or **any other medical reason** ~~illness~~, duly attested by the duty doctor

#### **o.103**

2 d) Each team may request, before a given bout, the substitution of a fencer. However, in case of injury or **other medical reason** ~~trauma~~ duly recognized by the medical delegate, the substitution can be immediate, even during the relay.

3 A fencer who has been replaced because of an injury or other medical reason may not fence again during that match. If both a fencer and the reserve, if any, are forced to retire, or if a fencer is excluded, their team is deemed to have lost the match.

Injuries and other medical reason, withdrawal of a competitor

Injury or ~~cramp~~ or other medical reason, withdrawal of a competitor

**t.45**

1. For a any ~~sport trauma/injury or cramp or other acute medical incident~~ other medical reason which occurs in the course of a bout and which is properly attested by the delegate of the FIE Medical Commission or, in his/her absence, by the doctor and/or medical provider on duty, the Referee will allow a break in the fight lasting no longer than 5 minutes. Only the doctor and/or medical provider on duty can determine the length of time of treatment required when a medical time-out is granted. This break should be timed from the point when the delegate of the FIE Medical commission or, in his absence, the doctor gave his opinion. This break should be strictly reserved for the requisite treatment. If the delegate of the FIE Medical Commission or, in his absence, the doctor on duty considers, before or at the end of the 5 minute break, that the fencer is incapable of continuing the fight, he/she will decide that the fencer should retire (individual events) and/or be replaced, if possible (team events) (cf. o.99.6.a/b). If the athlete retires and a medical withdrawal is determined, the FIE Medical delegate or, in his/her absence, the doctor or medical provider on duty must fully complete and submit the FIE Medical Withdrawal form to the DT for its inclusion into the FIE supervisor's final report.

All breaks for a ~~sport trauma, cramp, or an acute medical incident~~ medical reason must be noted on the score-sheet for the bout, the pool or the match.

2. During the remainder of the same day, a fencer cannot be allowed a further break unless as a result of a different injury or other ~~or cramp or acute medical incident~~ medical reason.

**t.170**

|     | 2nd group   |                           | 1st offence | 2nd offence | 3rd offence and subseq. |
|-----|---|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|
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Medical reason: o.21, o.61, o101, o 103

**Executive Committee:** In favour of the proposal as revised by the Medical Commission, but in article t.170, the words “injury or” should not be scratched.

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Article: **o.23**

Proposal from: Legal Commission

P. 3

**Motivation:** To clarify eligibility for the role of Supervisor at Worlds Cups and to ensure consistency between the Statutes and Rules for Competitions regarding this matter. **Proposal linked to the proposal of modification of the Statutes, art. 5.7.1. and 5.7.2**

**o.23**

This supervisor is either:

- A member of a FIE Commission,
- A member of the FIE Executive Committee *other than the members of the Bureau*,
- **A member of a group of persons, appointed by the Executive Committee, available and experienced in the organization of competitions.**

**Rules Commission:** In favour.

**Legal Commission:** Unanimously in favour of the proposal.

**Executive Committee:** In favour of the proposal.

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Articles: **o.24; o.26.1 and 2; o.50.2.f) ; o.54.4.**

Proposal from: Swedish Fencing Federation

P. 4

**Motivation:** It is very important that the process of selecting referees to Olympic Games and World Championships is clear and that the principle of accountability is followed. The Refereeing Commission is responsible for ensuring “good refereeing in the competitions of the FIE” according to the Statutes of the FIE (o.6.5.3 a)). According to the principles of good governance this commission should also be responsible for the designations. The Executive Committee members are not required to be experts on refereeing.

**o.24**

**Refereeing** at World Championships is carried out by referees chosen by ~~the Executive Committee of the FIE at the proposal of~~ the Refereeing Commission.

**o.26.1**

Refereeing at Veteran World Championships is carried out by referees appointed by ~~the Executive Committee of the FIE, selected by~~ the Refereeing Commission on indication of the Organizing Committee and Veterans Council.

Referees must attend the refereeing meeting that takes place the day before the World Championships.

#### o.26.2

For **Senior World Cup, Grands Prix and World Cup team competitions**, 8 referees, ~~proposed by the Refereeing Commission,~~ will be designated by the ~~Executive Committee~~ Refereeing Commission and delegations will not have to provide any referees. The additional referees required (not less than 5) will be provided by the organising committee. **All the referees will be at the expense of the organisers who in return will keep the entry fees.**

#### o.50.2 f)

The referees appointed by the ~~Executive Committee~~ Refereeing Commission of the FIE.

**o.54.4 Neutral referees:** At least two international referees from countries outside the region of the Games, appointed by ~~the Executive Committee of the FIE at the proposal of~~ the Refereeing Commission.

**Legal Commission:** Unanimously opposed to the proposal.

The Statutes clearly note that purview of the Refereeing Commission. As with all Commission, the Refereeing Commission is advisory to the Executive Committee or the Congress. It may not issue decisions on its own. This function of the Refereeing Commission could only be made by changing the Statutes.

**Rules Commission:** Not in favour as Commissions are not decision-making bodies and their function is to make proposals.

**Refereeing Commission:** Not in favour as all commissions incl. RC commission are technical and advisory bodies which have the right to make proposals and recommendations which must be approved by the Executive Committee who takes the final decision and responsibility of it.

**Executive Committee:** Not in favour of the proposal.

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Articles: **o.29; o.39; o.103;**

**P. 5**

Proposal from: **Veterans' Council**

#### Motivation:

The Council considers that **the time is now right to make some bold and exciting changes to the Veteran World Championships** that will respond to what the **fencers are seeking** but that will also invigorate the event itself. Introducing **the 40-49 age category and changing the team format are two things that deliver this solution** and which the Council has considered in detail.

#### Individuals

Introducing the new age category significantly increases the number of participating fencers. The attached documents demonstrate how these might be incorporated **without requiring huge numbers of pistes**. This is an important criteria to enable maximum flexibility to **attract potential host nations**.

**The Criterium de Paris taking place in July 2022 will provide an opportunity for observers to see and even experience this level of competition for all categories from 40 upwards.**

#### Teams

**The current team format** at the World Championships, while hard fought, **is not particularly popular with fencers** who feel that it does not provide the best representation of team fencing.

The introduction of the new age category means that each Nation will be able to enter a Veteran Team (40+50) and a Grand Veteran Team (60+70), **using the 45 hits relay format**. This, more realistic format, while increasing the number of team matches delivers less haphazard strategy and spectacle. It also enables **participation from those nations who may not have the full range of age groups for current teams**.



This format has worked very successfully at the European Championships and the forthcoming **European Team Championships in Hamburg in May will provide an opportunity for observers to see** and even experience competition in this format.

## Conclusion

**The inclusion of 40 year olds in the Veterans ranks is overdue, desirable and reasonable** to implement. Fencers, organisers and **the FIE will profit** from it and the sport will be in step globally.

## Rule changes required in the World Veteran Fencing Championships Handbook

### o.29

6 The age groups in veteran competitions are:

- ~~a) Age group 50-59: Must be at least 50 years old and less than 60 years old in the year of the competition.~~
- ~~b) Age group 60-69: Must be at least 60 years old and less than 70 years old in the year of the competition.~~
- ~~c) Age group 70+: Must be at least 70 years old in the year of the competition~~
- a) Age group 40-49: Must be at least 40 years old and less than 50 years old in the year of the competition.
- b) Age group 50-59: Must be at least 50 years old and less than 60 years old in the year of the competition.
- c) Age group 60-69: Must be at least 60 years old and less than 70 years old in the year of the competition.
- d) Age group 70+: Must be at least 70 years old in the year of the competition

### o.39

1 The programme of the Veteran World Fencing Championships comprises ~~twenty-four~~ thirty-six events, ~~eighteen~~ twenty-four individual – ~~three~~ four categories for each weapon - and ~~six~~ twelve team — male foil, female foil, male epee, female epee, male sabre and female sabre (two categories for each weapon and gender). The programme must be arranged in such a way as to allow any fencer to participate in all weapons. Team events must be held on the day following the last championship of the ~~three~~ corresponding two individual categories of each weapon

2.No changes of dates are allowed for any competition, after the release of the programme.

3 Each competition must be held in one single day, **except for team events for which the round of poules may be achieved the day before direct elimination** avoiding long periods of inactivity

### o.103

1 Participation

Each country may enter one team **per category (Veterans and Grand Veterans)** per gender and per weapon, thus giving a total of ~~6~~ twelve competitions.

The teams shall be composed of fencers who participated in the individual competition of the corresponding weapon, but c.f. o.103.2 b below.

### o.103

2.The rules for team competitions are applicable with the following exceptions:

- ~~a) For each weapon, the teams are composed of three fencers of the same nationality, one from category "A", one from "B" and one from "C", with or without a reserve for each category. A team cannot begin the match if it is not complete.~~

**Veterans** : teams of three composed of fencers belonging to either age group 40-49 or to age group 50-59, with at least one fencer belonging to age group 50-59, plus up to two reserves

**Grand Veterans** : teams of three composed of fencers belonging to either age group 60-69 or to age group 70 and over, with at least one fencer belonging to age group 70 and over, plus up to two reserves

Fencing mode is 45 hits relay described in o.99 with application of passivity rule at any bout.

The competition begins with a round of poules of 3 and 4 teams -established according to o.103 c) - and followed by a direct elimination phase according to o.103 7

Particular cases depending on the number of teams :

- only 1 team: the organisers must inform all nations that there will be no competition at that weapon.
- 2 teams: only one match between these two teams.
- 3 teams: one poule of three followed by D.E. from an incomplete tableau of 4.

- 4 teams: one poule of four followed by D.E. from a tableau of 4.
- 5 teams: one poule of five followed by D.E. from an incomplete tableau of 8.

The losers of the semi-finals have to fence for the Bronze medal

#### **o.103**

d) ~~There can only be one substitution per team per match.~~ There can be up to two substitutions of reserves per match but must maintain compliance with the age category representation requirement

~~4 The relay system is always applied. The three fencers of a team fence against their opponent of the same category. Each fencer fences his/her opponent twice giving a total of 6 bouts. The bouts are for 5 hits (5-10-15-20-etc.). Exceptionally, a relay may end at more than 5,10,15-etc. if a fencer scores a valid last hit of the relay and is at the same time awarded an additional penalty hit: in this case both hits will be counted; the maximum time for each bout is 3 minutes.~~

~~5 The team that first reaches the maximum score of 30 hits, or that which has scored the greatest number of hits after the expiry of regulation time, is the winner.~~

~~6 The order of categories for each match is established by the referee with the captains on the piste prior to the start of the match: The referee will draw lots and the winning captain will choose the first category in the order. The losing captain will choose the second category.~~

**Rules Commission:** In favour, but applicable in 2025 as organisers have already been appointed for 2023 and 2024.

**Women and Fencing Council:** Agree in principle - but this should not be forced on organisers who have already bid under previous rules. Recommend that a pilot is run in agreement with organisers to assess practicality and impact.

**Veterans' Council:** In favour.

**Executive Committee:** In favour in principle but a test should be run in 2025 in order to assess the implementation, consequences and impact on the organisers.

#### **Article: o.67**

**P. 6**

#### **Proposal from: Rules Commission**

**Motivation:** Experience has highlighted the problems when you end up with pools of 6 and the absence of fencers on call. In order to ensure the fairness of the pools, the Rules Commission proposes the following text:

#### **o.67**

1. In all competitions for which the formula includes a round of pools, these pools consist of 7 fencers if the number of participants is divisible by 7. Otherwise, the pools are of 7 and 6. In no case may the pools be of fewer than 6 fencers.

If, however, as the result of the absence of one or more fencers, one or more pools were to be reduced to 5 or fewer fencers, the **DT organisers** must add to these pools one or more fencers from other pools of 7 fencers in the same round of pools, taking into account the initial ranking of the fencer(s) being replaced.

Depending on the number of participants, the pool round may take place over several rounds.

The DT must then provide for each pool round, pools of 7 and 6 (if applicable) in order to balance one or more pools in the event of fencers absent at roll call in pools of 6.

**Rules Commission:** In favour.

**Coaches Council:** In favour.

**Athletes' Commission:** In favour.

**Executive Committee:** In favour of the proposal.

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**Article:** o.87

P. 7

**Proposal from:** Rules Commission

**Motivation :** complete o.87

To clarify when the draw for the 16 exempted should be made, some software programs make the draw after the pool round and before the T248 or T124 preliminary table has started and then post it on their website. As a general rule, the drawing of lots and the allocation to the table are carried out after the end of the preliminary table.

**o.87**

- 1 **Should one of the 16 exempted fencers** who had been entered **not present himself** to fence (cf. o.85), his position in the table will remain empty and his federation will be required to pay to the FIE a fine (cf o.31, table of financial penalties and fines) unless his absence is caused by circumstances duly justified as being outside his control.
- 2 **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).
- 3 **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.
- 6 The drawing of lots and allocation of the qualified fencers in the main table (T64) shall be made at the end of the preliminary table in the presence of the DT President.

**Rules Commission:** In favour.

**Executive Committee:** In favour of the proposal.

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**Article:** o.108.1

P. 8

**Proposal from:** Rules Commission

**Motivation:** Supplementing o.108.1 c). The cancellation of many competitions during the 2020/2021 season has caused points allocation problems.

**o.108.1**

c) For both Senior and Junior rankings, the ranking is rolling.

~~The first Grand Prix event of the current year cancels out the first Grand Prix event of the previous year and so forth for the remainder of the Grand Prix events.~~

~~The first World Cup individual event of the current year cancels out the first World Cup individual event of the previous year and so forth for the remainder of the World Cup events in the season.~~

~~The first satellite competition of the current year cancels out the first satellite competition of the previous year and so forth for the other satellite competitions.~~

~~The points allocated for a competition cancel out the points attributed to the corresponding competition in the previous season.~~

~~If a competition does not take place in the current season, the points obtained at the same competition in the previous season are deleted on the anniversary of the competition.~~

The competitions are numbered in order of the dates provided in the calendar and by competition category (World Cup, Grand Prix or Satellite events).

The points awarded in event 1 of the current season replace the points awarded in event 1 of the previous season and so on.

If an event is cancelled during the current season, the points acquired during the corresponding event of the previous season will be deleted on the date assigned to this event in the calendar of the current season.

**Rules Commission:** In favour.

**Coaches Council:** In favour, but it should be always the correct number of the competitions in the rolling system.

**Athletes' Commission:** In favour.

**Executive Committee:** In favour of the proposal.

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**Article:** o.108.2

P. 9

**Proposal from:** Fencing Federations of Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Senegal

**Motivation:** The continental competition (zone championship) is the 2nd most important competition after the world championships it is a great continental gathering very important for the fencers it allows to improve their FIE ranking, to have more chance to qualify to the Olympics, unfortunately by reducing the coefficient of the zone championship and make it at the level of a world cup has limited the chances to qualify to the Olympics for America, Asia, Oceania and Africa to the detriment of other continents which organize more than 75% of the competitions.

For all these reasons we propose to return to 1,5 coefficient of zone championship.

Organization  
Rules

o.108.2

b) Points obtained in an individual World Cup competition ~~and a Zonal Championship~~ are multiplied by a factor of 1.

c) Points obtained in a Grand Prix ~~and a Zonal Championship~~ competition of the FIE are multiplied by a factor of 1.5.

**Rules Commission:** Not in favour as there are guaranteed quotas for each zone in the qualification system for the Olympic Games (for individual qualification). If the aim is to have guaranteed quotas also for team qualification, then the qualification system for teams might have to be revised (currently it is necessary to be ranked within the first 16).

**Coaches Council:** Not in favour.

**Athletes' Commission:** Not in favour.

**PCM:** In favour.

**Executive Committee:** Not in favour of the proposal, as the Qualification System provides compulsory quotas for all FIE zones (with one specification for team qualification). Therefore, increasing the coefficient for the Zonal championships would not provide more qualifications to each zone.

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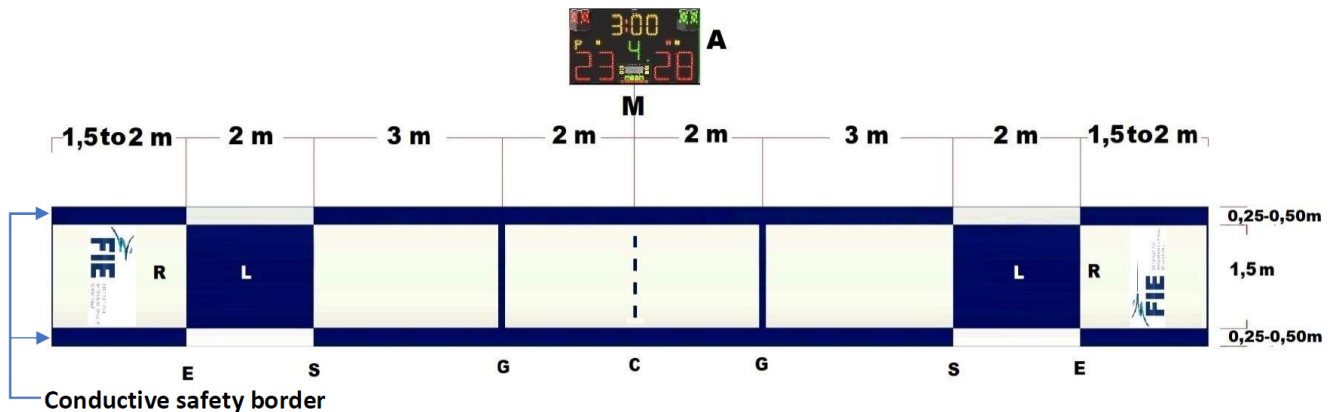
**Art.:** t.18;

**Proposal from:** Rules Commission

**Motivation:** drawing

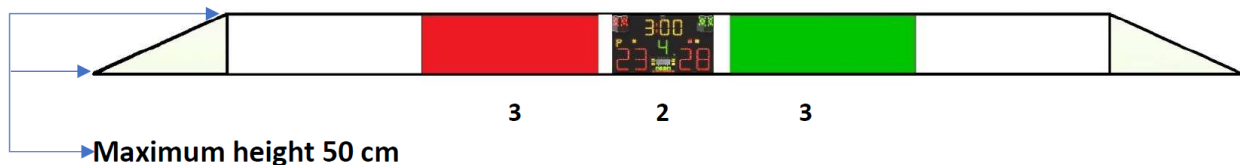
**P. 10**

Figure 1 - Piste for semi-finals and finals (maximum height 50 cm)



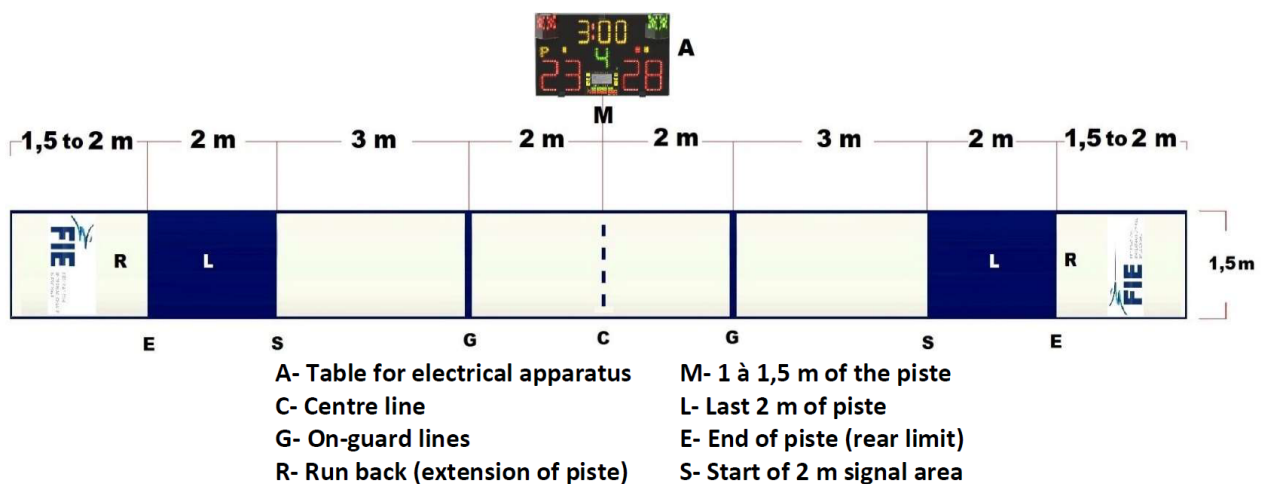
- |                                   |                              |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| A- Table for electrical apparatus | M- 1 à 1,5 m of the piste    |
| C- Centre line                    | L- Last 2 m of piste         |
| G- On-guard lines                 | E- End of piste (rear limit) |
| R- Run back (extension of piste)  | S- Start of 2 m signal area  |

For foil and epee the conductive surface must cover whole of the length and breadth of piste, Including its extension (run back) (Cf. Article t.18, m.57)



- 2 Appareil de Signalisation  
3 Lampes de répétition des touches

Figure 2 - Standard piste for all three weapons



**SEMI Commission:** In favour.

**Rules Commission:** As the Commission is in favour of proposal 11, the design in proposal 10 must be changed in order to reflect the new distance (up to 5 m).

**Refereeing Commission:** IN FAVOUR with modification: "M – 1 a 5 m" as per P.11 of SEMI commission.

**Executive Committee:** In favour of the proposal and of the modification to the design.

---

P. 11

**Article:** t.18.4

**Proposal from:** SEMI Commission

**Motivation:** Change the second measure from 1.5 meters to 5 meters. The original proposal of the SEMI Commission was: "The distance between the score machine table or stand and the edge of the piste should be a minimum of 1 metre".

Rationale: The amendment giving a second distance of 1.5 meters could be read as a maximum, this could be a problem when setting up finals for major competitions, anyway makes sense to have also a maximum distance.

**t.18.4**

The distance between the score machine table or stand and the edge of the piste should be between 1 meter and ~~1.5~~ 5 meters.

Application: season 2022-2023

**Rules Commission:** In favour.

**Refereeing Commission:** In favour.

**SEMI Commission:** in favour with the additional wording regarding slave scoring machines:

The distance between the score machine table or stand and the edge of the piste should be between 1 meter and 1.5 5 meters. Any slave score machine must not be placed nearer than 5meters from the edge of the runback area.

**Executive Committee:** In favour of the proposal, with the addition from the SEMI Commission.

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P. 12

**Article:** t.47

**Proposal from:** Refereeing Commission

**Motivation:** discrimination of other genders

2 ~~The Referee has many~~ duties ~~of referees:~~

- a) ~~He~~ The Referee calls the roll of the competitors (cf. t.114, t.118, t.119).
- b) ~~He~~ The Referee directs the bout.
- c) Before each bout, ~~he~~ the Referee must check the weapons, clothes and equipment of the fencers, according to the regulations below.

- d) ~~He~~ The Referee 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~~ the Referee implements tests necessary to check the apparatus and locate any faults which may be found. ~~He~~ the Referee will prevent the competitors from hindering the tests by unplugging or changing their equipment prematurely.
- e) ~~He~~ The Referee directs the judges, time-keepers, scorers, etc.
- f) ~~He~~ The Referee 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) ~~He~~ The Referee penalises faults (cf. t.164).
- h) ~~He~~ The Referee awards the hits (cf. t. 54ss).
- i) ~~He~~ The Referee maintains order (cf. t.137).
- j) Whenever he considers it necessary, ~~he~~ the Referee should consult the experts concerning the electrical apparatus (cf. o.28).
- k) The Referee should also supervise the state of the conductive piste; ~~he~~ must not allow the bout to commence or to continue if the conductive piste has holes in it which might affect the proper registering of hits.

**Rules Commission:** In favour, and in favour of revisions in j) and k). For the future, it will be necessary to verify all the modifications related to gender for all kinds of officials and all rules books:

- j) Whenever ~~he considers it~~ necessary, ~~he~~ the Referee should consult the experts concerning the electrical apparatus (cf. o.28).
- k) The Referee ~~should must~~ also supervise the state of the conductive piste ~~he and must~~ not allow the bout to commence or to continue if the conductive piste has holes in it which might affect the proper registering of hits.

**Refereeing Commission:** In favour.

**Executive Committee:** In favour of the proposal, with the revisions from the Rules Commission.

**Article:** t.56

P. 13

**Proposal from:** Refereeing Commission

**Motivation:** to make clear that a hit made during or after a fall must be annulled in any case regardless it was intentional or accidental

t.56

10. Hit made during or after a fall must be annulled

**Rules Commission:** In favour.

**Refereeing Commission:** In favour.

**Coaches Council:** Not in favour.

Only hits made after the fall must be annulled.

**Athletes' Commission:** In favour.

**Executive Committee:** In favour of the proposal.



**Article:** t.63

**Proposal from:** Refereeing Commission

**Motivation:** hand signals are not up to date

1. Add pictures for:

- “changing decision” after video-analysing

- “technical touch” for crossing rear line

2. Change:

- “No hit or warning” to “No hit or abstention”

**Refereeing Commission:** In favour.

**Rules Commission:** In favour of introducing additional drawings to be supplied by the Refereeing Commission.

**Coaches Council:** In favour.

**Athletes’ Commission:** In favour.

**Executive Committee:** In favour of the proposal.

**Note:** All drawings have been redesigned and are appended at the end of the proposals.

P. 14

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**Article:** t.121

**Proposal from:** Rules Commission

**Motivation:** complete t.121.2

t.121.2 sanctions also falls that occur as a result of an accident and does not distinguish between an intentional and an accidental fall. A fall can be a result of an accident like a twisted ankle or an accidental glide on a piste.

**t.121**

- 2 All bouts must preserve the character of a courteous and frank encounter. All irregular actions (fleche attack which finishes with a collision jostling the opponent, disorderly fencing, irregular movements on the piste, hits achieved with violence, blows struck with the guard, hits made during or after an intentional fall) or anti-sporting behaviour are strictly forbidden (cf. t.158-162, t.170). Should such an offence occur, any hit scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

**Rules Commission:** The proposal is no longer necessary because of proposal 16 from the Refereeing Commission.

**Refereeing Commission:** In favour.

**Coaches Council:** In favour.

**Executive Committee:** In favour of proposal 16 below.

P. 15

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**Article:** t.121.2

P. 16

**Proposal from: Refereeing Commission**

**Motivation: only an intentional fall down to avoid the touch must be penalised but not by accidental cause (injury, pushing of opponent, loosing balance, etc.)**

- 2 All bouts must preserve the character of a courteous and frank encounter. All irregular actions (fleche attack which finishes with a collision jostling the opponent, disorderly fencing, irregular movements on the piste, hits achieved with violence, blows struck with the guard, ~~hits made during or after an intentional fall down to avoid the touch~~) or anti-sporting behaviour are strictly forbidden (cf. t.158-162, t.170). Should such an offence occur, any hit scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

**Rules Commission:** In favour.

**Refereeing Commission:** Irrelevant as P.16 is similar to P.15, agree with expression in P.15.

**Coaches Council:** In favour.

**Executive Committee:** In favour of the proposal.

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**Article: t.124**

**P. 17**

**Proposal from: Executive Committee**

**Motivation: Simplification of the process after the experience gained and increased consistency in the application.**

**Unwillingness to fight (Non-combativity)**

There is unwillingness to fight when there is one minute of fencing without a hit or without a hit scored off the target.

~~When one or both fencers make clear their~~In the event of unwillingness to fight, the Referee will immediately call 'Halt!' ~~as a decision of "fact"~~ (cf.t.136.2).

**1 Individual events – Direct elimination**

P-yellow cards and P-red Cards are awarded ~~to each fencer separately~~ to both fencers simultaneously, starting with a P-Yellow card, followed by ~~two a~~ P-Red cards~~s.and finally by a~~ The P-Black card is awarded as described in 1c) below.

a) When, for the first time, there is one minute of unwillingness to fight, the Referee sanctions ~~one or~~ both fencers with a P-yellow card.~~as follows:~~

- ~~a) If the fencers are equal: the Referee sanctions both fencers with a P-yellow card.~~  
~~b) If the fencers are not equal: the Referee sanctions the fencer who has the lower score with a P-yellow card.~~

b) When, for the second ~~and third~~ times, there is one minute of unwillingness to fight, the Referee sanctions ~~one or~~ both fencers with a P-red card.~~as follows:~~

~~If the fencers are equal: the Referee sanctions both fencers with a P-red card.~~  
~~If the fencers are not equal: the Referee sanctions the fencer who has the lower score with a P-red card.~~

c) When, ~~for from~~ the ~~fourth-third~~ time, there is one minute of unwillingness to fight, a P-black card is awarded as follows: ~~one or both fencers who have already received two P-red cards, receive a P-black card~~

ie) If the scores of the two fencers ~~receive P-Black cards simultaneously and their scores~~ are equal, the Referee sanctions the fencer with the lower initial seeding in the competition, which is based on the FIE ranking, with a P-Black card. ~~The~~ fencer with the higher initial seeding in the competition, which is based on the FIE ranking, wins the bout.

ii) If the scores of the two fencers ~~receive P-Black cards simultaneously, and their scores~~ are not equal, the Referee sanctions the fencer with the lower score with a P-Black card. ~~The~~ fencer with the higher score wins the bout.

## 2 Team events

P-Yellow, ~~and~~ P-Red cards are awarded to the two ~~each~~ teams ~~separately simultaneously~~, starting with a P-Yellow card and followed by ~~two~~ P-Red cards. The P-Black card is awarded ~~to the fencer. as described in 2c)~~ below.

a) When, for the first time, there is one minute of unwillingness to fight, the Referee sanctions ~~one or~~ both teams with a P-yellow card. ~~as follows:~~

~~a) If the teams are equal: the Referee sanctions both teams with a P-yellow card.~~

~~b) If the teams are not equal: the Referee sanctions the team with the lower score with a P-yellow card.~~

b) When, for the second ~~and third~~ times, there is one minute of unwillingness to fight, the Referee sanctions ~~one or~~ both teams with a P-red card. ~~as follows:~~

~~c) If the teams are equal: the Referee sanctions both teams with a P-red card.~~

~~d) If the teams are not equal: the Referee sanctions the team which has the lower score with a P-red card.~~

c) When, ~~for from~~ the ~~fourththird~~ time, there is one minute of unwillingness to fight, a P-Black card is awarded as follows: ~~a P-black card is given to the fencer on the piste of either or both teams which have already received two P-red cards.~~

i) If the scores for the two teams are equal, the Referee sanctions the team with the lower initial seeding in the competition, which is based on the FIE ranking, with a P-Black card. The team with the higher initial seeding in the competition, which is based on the FIE ranking, wins the match.

ii) If the scores for the two teams are not equal, the Referee sanctions the team with the lower score with a P-Black card. The team with the higher score wins the match.

~~e) A team in which a fencer has received a P-black card may use their reserve fencer, if they have one and if the replacement has not already been made previously for tactical or medical reasons. If a replacement is made following receipt of a P-black card, no further replacement may be made, even for medical reasons.~~

~~If no replacement can be made following receipt of a P-black card (because there is no reserve fencer or because the reserve fencer has already been used previously), the team in which a fencer has been sanctioned by a P-black card loses the match.~~

~~Following the replacement of a fencer after the awarding of a P-Black card, the relay in question continues. Any further occurrence of unwillingness to fight results in a further P-Black card and the team in question loses the match.~~

~~f) If a P-Black card is given to the fencers on the piste in both teams simultaneously and neither of the teams can make a replacement and their scores are equal, the team with the higher initial seeding in the competition, which is based on the FIE ranking, wins the match.~~

~~g) If a P-Black card is given to the fencers on the piste in both teams simultaneously and neither of the teams can make a replacement and their scores are not equal, the team with the higher score wins the match.~~

### 3 In both individual and team competitions

~~In case of unwillingness to fight, it is up to the referee to call "Halt" as a decision of fact (cf. t.136.2).~~

a) The P-yellow (warning), P-red (penalty hit) and P-black (the possible losing of a bout or match) cards received during any one bout or match (during all 9 relays) are valid only for that bout or match. They are not transferable to the following bout or match.

No P-card (yellow, red or black) may be awarded in individual competitions at 14-14 or in team matches at 44-44.

b) In both individual and team competitions, fencers and teams who have lost the bout/match following the award of a P-Black card, will be ranked in the final results of the competition as having lost the bout/match. They receive the corresponding points.

c) In both individual and team competitions, the period/relay continues after the awarding of a P-Yellow or a P-Red card.

d) The minute starts again after each hit, each hit off the target, each hit annulled, each penalty hit and at the beginning of each period or relay.

e) The referee must record these P-yellow, P-red and P-black cards separately on the score sheet. The sanctions awarded for unwillingness to fight are not cumulative with any other sanction awarded.

f) In both individual and team competitions, if, at the end of the regulation time, there is equality of scores, article t.124 does not apply and articles t.40.3 and t.41.5 will apply.

**Refereeing Commission:** In favour.

**Coaches Council:** not in favor.

NON – COMBATIVITY rule was discussed by different FIE commissions and councils for 2 years. Special working group was established to help making the correct decision, from top epeeist. If we give P cards to both fencers, then we can just cancel the P – cards. No changes should be made to this rule without new working group be established.

**Athletes' Commission:** In favour.

**PCM:** In favour.

**Rules Commission:** In favour. In addition, the sentence below in yellow should be added, and t.170 should be updated:

#### Unwillingness to fight (Non-combativity)

There is unwillingness to fight when there is one minute of fencing without a hit or without a hit scored off the target.

~~When one or both fencers make clear their~~ In the event of unwillingness to fight, the Referee will immediately call 'Halt!' as a decision of "fact" (cf.t.136.2).

Unwillingness to fight is sanctioned as follows:

|     |  |       |                                  |  |   |
|-----|--|-------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| 0.5 | Unwillingness to fight: the sanctions imposed are shown by specific P- cards which are not cumulative with any other sanction awarded. | t.124 | 1 <sup>st</sup> time<br>P-Yellow | 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> times<br>P-Red | From 3 <sup>rd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> time<br>Penalisation |
|-----|--|-------|----------------------------------|--|---|

|  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|

**Executive Committee:** In favour of the proposal, with the additions from the Rules Commission.

**Art:** m.25.3.g)

**P. 18**

### For Urgent decision

**Proposal from:** Rules Commission

**Motivation:** Remove the inconsistency between t.74 and m.25.3 g). Propose an urgent decision for May 2022, as the decision only impacts juniors.

### m.25.3

g) ~~For the following events~~ For all official FIE competitions, the wearing of national strips (logos) is **compulsory** on both legs, optional on the arm(s) ~~(cf. t.45.4).~~ (cf. t.74). They must be identical for all the fencers of the same federation.

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

ii) ~~Individual Senior World Cup competitions and in individual Senior Zonal Championships: all bouts, whether in a pool or in the direct elimination bouts;~~

iii) ~~Teams: Senior World Cup team competitions and Senior Zonal Championships: all bouts in every match.~~

~~They must be identical for all fencers of the same federation for the competitions i) and iii) above.~~

**Rules Commission:** See revised text in Urgent decision n. 1

**Refereeing Commission:** In favour.

**PCM:** In favour.

**Executive Committee:** In favour of the revised text in Urgent decision n. 1.

**Article:** m.25.3

**P. 19**

**Proposal from:** Refereeing Commission

**Motivation:** contradicts t.74

**t.74** For all official FIE competitions, every fencer must appear on the piste with clothing conforming to the rules as follows:

- 1 Name and nationality, in accordance with the rules, on the back of the jacket.
- 2 Wearing his national uniform and logo (cf. m.25.3).

**m.25.3.g)** ~~For the following events,~~ For all official FIE competitions the wearing of national strips (logos) is compulsory on both legs, optional on the arm(s) ~~(cf. t.45.4)~~. All the logos worn by any one fencer must be identical ~~for all fencers of the same federation for the competitions.~~

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

~~ii) Individual Senior World Cup competitions and in individual Senior Zonal Championships: all bouts, whether in a pool or in the direct elimination bouts;~~

~~iii) Teams: Senior World Cup team competitions and Senior Zonal Championships: all bouts in every match.~~

~~They must be identical for all fencers of the same federation for the competitions i) and iii) above~~

**Rules Commission:** See revised text in Urgent decision n. 1

**Refereeing Commission:** Irrelevant as P.19 is similar to P.18.

**PCM:** In favour.

**Executive Committee:** In favour of the revised text in Urgent decision n. 1.

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P. 20

**Article:** m.28; m.34

**Proposal from:** SEMI Commission

**Motivation:** Conductive T-shirt is no longer mentioned in the text.

m.28 and m.34. Delete from the title conductive T-shirt

Delete also from the Summary page. 2 and the Index page. 91 and 93.

**m.28; m.34**

Conductive jacket ~~and conductive T-shirt.~~

**Rules Commission:** In favour.

**SEMI Commission:** In favour.

**Executive Committee:** In favour of the proposal.

---

**Article:** m.34.1

**Proposal from:** SEMI Commission

**Motivation:** Delete from the article m.34 the text concerning the T-shirt.

For compliance of the T-shirt's electrical resistance with a wireless manufacturer's requirements.

Proposal: Make this rule more inclusive of wireless scoring systems, rather than just for StM's. Rationale: As wireless technology improves, there will be more systems which may or may not rely upon the use of the conductive t-shirt. Deleted rule m.28.8 foil already deleted m.34.8 sabre already deleted but both to be add instead to StM Requirements document

P. 21

#### **m.34.1**

The fencer must wear, over his jacket, a **conductive over-jacket**, the conductive surface of which must cover entirely and without omission the valid surface of the body above a horizontal line which, when the fencer is on guard, joins, round the fencer's trunk, the tops of the two hip bones. ~~At wireless sabre the fencer must wear a conductive t-shirt. The conductive part is made of a conductive fabric: the maximum electrical resistance between any two points of the electrically conductive t-shirt fabric (including both flaps for crocodile clip connections) must be not more than 15 Ohms. These checks must be carried out by a wireless equipment manufacturer.~~

**Rules Commission:** In favour.

**SEMI Commission:** in favour.

**Executive Committee:** In favour of the proposal.

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**Article:** Annex A 4 Label of quality, Material Rules (see Urgent letter 2/2022)

**P. 22**

**Proposal from:** SEMI Commission

**Motivation:** The installation of this RFID into the fencing clothing (mask, under plastron, jacket and breeches) is suspended until further notice.

Therefore, the manufacturers will be allowed to use for 2022 (is yearly dated) the old technical FIE mark (round). It will also be necessary to postpone the final date at which all the equipment must have the RFID and the new quality seal, from the season 2026/2027 to the season 2027/2028.

Due to the current situation, the orders to the company and deliveries of RFID are currently suspended. In the meantime, we are trying to find other companies that can produce and deliver these chips.

#### 4. LABEL OF QUALITY

2. Chip and label installation requirements.  
Page 80

From 01.03.2021, the **obligatory** chipping of new fencing equipment (jacket, trousers, plastron mask) has been introduced. **It will be mandatory from 01.01.2023.**

Both variants of the FIE seal of quality are acceptable up to and including the **2026/2027** ~~2025/2026~~ season. For the **2027/2028** ~~2026/2027~~ season, masks, jackets, breeches and plastrons must have the new quality seal with a chip securely located underneath.

**Rules Commission:** In favour but in case a solution cannot be found on time for 01.01.2023, the Executive Committee might decide a new deadline, based on a proposal from the SEMI Commission.

**SEMI Commission:** In favour. Suggest additional wording: **These dates may be subject to further changes if required.**

**Executive Committee:** In favour of the proposal and of the comment and additions from the Rules and SEMI Commissions. If a suitable solution cannot be implemented by the end of 2022, the dates will have to be further postponed.

**Article:** Annex A 4 Label of Quality and Chip, Material Rules, due to the amendment by the Rules Commission.

**Proposal from:** SEMI Commission

**Motivation:** To avoid misunderstanding with manufacturers and weapon controllers.

**Annex A 4 Label of Quality**

In the LOGO zone, the ~~name~~ brand of the equipment manufacturer is indicated in a label with the dimensions allowed from the Publicity code art. p.10.

**Rules Commission:** In favour.

**SEMI Commission:** In favour.

**Executive Committee:** In favour of the proposal.

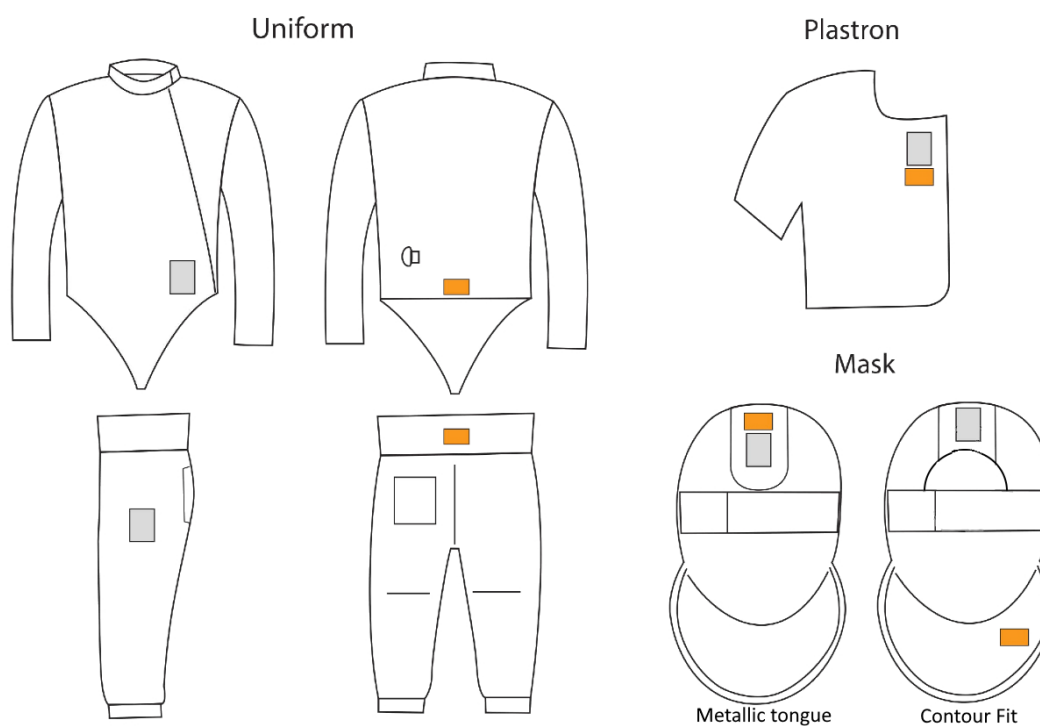
**Article:** Annex A 4 Label of quality, Material Rules

**Proposal from:** SEMI Commission

**Motivation:** Annex 4 Figure 3 Add an alternative position of the chip on the metallic tongue on the back.

*In the actual position the chip is located in a position that is too subject to blows or to be constantly subject to bending when the fencer takes off the mask. Original positioning on bib can be used for masks without metal tongue.*





**Rules Commission:** In favour.

**SEMI Commission:** In favour.

**Executive Committee:** In favour of the proposal.

**Article:** Annex A page 60 art. 3.1, Material Rules

**P. 25**

**Proposal from:** SEMI Commission

**Motivation:** not coherent indication, the correct technical indication is minor or equal to 0.05

#### Annex A page 60 3.1 table II Chemical composition

Element Al (aluminium)

|    |                   |
|----|-------------------|
| Al | <del>0.05-0</del> |
| Al | $\leq 0.05$       |

**Rules Commission:** In favour.

**SEMI Commission:** In favour.

**Executive Committee:** In favour of the proposal.

**Articles : Material Rules :**

- Annexe A, 1, weapons, 6.4
- Annexe A, 1, weapons, 3.1, Table I
- Annexe A, 1, weapons, 2
- Annexe A, 1, weapons 6.8
- Annexe A, 1, weapons 6.9
- Annexe A, 1, weapons, 4.4 and 6.4

**Proposal from : SEMI Commission****Motivation :****MARAGING BLADES IN SABER**

The work started at the beginning of July 2020 with 20 sabre blade samples collected from 6 brands. To have a comparison 2 normal blades StM and Dynamo (branded Allstar) were purchased.

The tests were carried out by Franchini Blades in Brescia under the supervision of Alberto Franchini, Giandomenico Varallo e Giovanni Rivolta.

Alberto Franchini is a blade manufacturer, past good foilist, owner of one of the well-known steel forges in Europe (see <https://www.franchiniacciai.com/>)

Giovanni Rivolta is the former chief of the Breda Laboratory for steel, he worked by the US and Italian Army long time and is one of the best experts in Maraging Steel in Italy, and now is an independent consultant.

All the blades have been weighed, measured, checked in their flexibility and in the shape of the curl of the tip according to the rules of the materials rulebook.

2 brand-new Sofranel machines were used for the fatigue test and the calibration. Each test needs about 8/9 hours and the constant assistance from a person when the machine is running.

The machine is stopped after a fixed number of cycles to measure if the resistance point (the maximum of the bending) is changed from the normal condition.

After the first attempts we decided to cease the measuring because the table shows that, the results are not significant.

As per rules, the distance of the fracture from the tip was detected.

Some abnormal breakage in the blade were registered.

A letter should be sent to all manufacturers asking for the process concerning the curl of the point, because, as

above, some abnormal breakages were found in blades done by Leon Paul and Blaise Freres. The breakage is so near to the curl and can be very dangerous for the fencers. It is strongly suspected that they do make the curl on the finish blade with another thermic treatment that can change the quality of the heated steel.

During the investigations some mistakes in the Rulebook were found, probably due to later and sometimes misunderstood transcripts, so some corrections are needed.

In order to better understand the changes for fencers, for the moment we are not considering the changing of the flexibility of the blade.

See the table below for the result of the tests:

FIE SEMI  
PROTOTYPES OF MARAGING SABER BLADES

| ID Inventario | Manufacturer  | Data test  | Weight gr (avg.) | Blade bending at 0 cycles | Blade bending at 2000 cycles | Blade bending at 5000 cycles | Blade bending at 7000 cycles | Number of cycles to blade fracture | Distance of the fracture from the tip | Length. mm | Flexibility | Gabarit |
|---------------|---------------|------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|-------------|---------|
| IN0001        | Blaise Freres | 14/07/2020 | 160,20           | 42,44                     | 42,55                        | 42,58                        | 42,71                        | 45.724                             | 865                                   | 878        | 6,5         | SI      |
| IN0002        | Blaise Freres | 23/07/2020 | 160,00           | 44,88                     | -                            | -                            | -                            | 26.224                             | 693                                   | 877        | 6,5         | SI      |
| IN0003        | Blaise Freres | 25/08/2020 | 164,00           | -                         | -                            | -                            | -                            | 10.774                             | 866                                   | 878        | 6,0         | SI      |
| IN0004        | Elsior        | 08/07/2020 | 178,10           | 42,03                     | 42,33                        | 42,48                        | 42,59                        | 23.749                             | 735                                   | 877        | 6,0         | SI      |
| IN0005        | Elsior        | 29/07/2020 | 181,00           | -                         | -                            | -                            | -                            | 25.123                             | 742                                   | 877,5      | 6,0         | SI      |
| IN0006        | Elsior        | 21/07/2020 | 181,00           | 47,40                     | -                            | -                            | -                            | 23.192                             | 720                                   | 877,8      | 6,0         | SI      |
| IN0007        | Lammet        | 08/07/2020 | 152,70           | 42,34                     | 42,45                        | 42,56                        | 42,59                        | 26.250                             | 632                                   | 876/879    | 7,0         | SI      |
| IN0008        | Lammet        | 22/07/2020 | 162,00           | 46,95                     | -                            | -                            | -                            | 26.627                             | 665                                   | 877,5      | 6,5         | SI      |
| IN0009        | Lammet        | 30/07/2020 | 162,00           | -                         | -                            | -                            | -                            | 17.178                             | 702                                   | 877,5      | 7,0         | SI      |
| IN0010        | Franchini     | 09/07/2020 | 159,00           | 42,56                     | 42,58                        | 42,60                        | 42,66                        | 23.718                             | 722                                   | 878        | 6,0         | SI      |
| IN0011        | Franchini     | 27/07/2020 | 159,00           | 43,65                     | -                            | -                            | -                            | 26.042                             | 664                                   | 878        | 6,0         | SI      |
| IN0012        | Franchini     | 12/08/2020 | 159,00           | -                         | -                            | -                            | -                            | 23.850                             | 707                                   | 878        | 6,0         | SI      |
| IN0013        | Leon Paul     | 14/07/2020 | 163,00           | 43,45                     | 45,52                        | 45,67                        | 45,76                        | 16.938                             | 864                                   | (877) 878  | 7,0         | SI      |
| IN0014        | Leon Paul     | 20/07/2020 | 164,00           | 44,78                     | -                            | -                            | -                            | 46.290                             | 865                                   | 878        | 7,0         | SI      |
| IN0015        | Leon Paul     |            | 160,00           |                           |                              |                              |                              | >50.000                            |                                       | 877,7      | 7,5         | SI      |
| IN0016        | STM           | 02/09/2020 | 169,00           | -                         | -                            | -                            | -                            | 28.804                             | 629                                   | 878,8      | 6,5         | SI      |
| IN0017        | STM           | 03/09/2020 | 168,00           | -                         | -                            | -                            | -                            | 11.641                             | 526                                   | 877,30     | 6,50        | SI      |
| IN0018        | STM           | 07/09/2020 | 169,00           | -                         | -                            | -                            | -                            | 23.140                             | 645                                   | 878,50     | 6,50        | SI      |

CYCLES

|                                     |               |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Average Total                       | 23.626        |
| Average Central Value               | 28.250        |
| Minimum                             | 10.774        |
| Maximum                             | >50.000       |
| Standard deviance of the population | 9.724         |
| <b>HARMONIC MEDIA</b>               | <b>21.755</b> |

BREAKAGE DISTANCE (mm)

|                                     |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Average Total                       | 725        |
| Average Central Value               | 739        |
| Minimum                             | 526        |
| Maximum                             | 865        |
| Standard deviance of the population | 98         |
| <b>HARMONIC MEDIA</b>               | <b>712</b> |

|        |                     |            |        |   |   |   |   |        |     |       |     |    |
|--------|---------------------|------------|--------|---|---|---|---|--------|-----|-------|-----|----|
| IN0019 | ALLSTAR NO MARAGING | 08/09/2020 | 170,00 | - | - | - | - | 11.225 | 648 | 879,8 | 5,5 | SI |
| IN0020 | STM NO MARAGING     | 08/09/2020 | 167,00 | - | - | - | - | 11.431 | 685 | 880   | 6,0 | SI |

Last year the Congress already approved the following proposal that it was included in the project done the first voice of the checkbox

➤ To insert the Periodical test into the Rulebook as follows: **ALREADY DONE LAST YEAR**

Pag 65 Annex A second paragraph: (new text added)

The blades, after the first homologation remain valid, under the condition that the manufacturers send the blades for a periodical test at least once every two years. These periodical tests have to be carried out at least once every two years in simplified mode: 3 blades will be tested for the following:

Fatigue resistance (by bending) quality of the steel  
Chemical test  
Traction test  
Tensile test  
Test of fracture resistance (K1°C)

If the periodical tests are not done for 4 years, the blade will be scratched from the FIE official blades list. The manufacturer can ask for a new complete homologation process.

**Application: season 2022-2023**

This requirement is only found at the beginning of the list of the blades, official FIE document, but not expressly into the

Rulebook and with a strange formulation that can be ambiguous (2 times in 5 years).

We resume below the remaining suggestions for the changing of the rules:

- To correct the tensile test from K1°D to K1°C (for all weapons)
- To write in the rules the reference STM (European standard ISO) of the quality of steel.
- To fix the number of cycles for the characterization test in 20.000 cycles.
- To fix a minimum distance of the fracture from the tip of the sabre in 12 cm.
- To correct in the table of our rulebook the name KCU in KV and to reduce the value to 27 joule/cm<sup>2</sup>
- To ask for the characterization a square little bar f 25mm by side and with the length of 350mm, deleting the drawing in the rules.
- To forbidden completely the manipulation on the blade (for the 3 weapons) as, for sample, heating to bend the thread, the grinding of the groove (common practice for the armours to facilitate gluing of the wire).
- We need to add the name of the Breda Laboratory into the rulebook

- To correct the tensile test from K1°D to K1°C (for all weapons)

Pag 64 Annex A 6.4

Bottom of page 3rd row — Test of fracture toughness, ~~K1D~~ K1C

#### Test of strength at the fracture point, K1D

The ~~K1D~~ K1C value must be established by testing on the traction test samples. ~~with a groove in the form of a 'Charpy V', with dimensions as indicated at the end of this annexe (Table VIII).~~

**Motivation:** text no more needed.

Pag 58 Table I. Mechanical characteristics of steel

We need to correct the value of K1C from 120 to 70 (MPa not Mpay-m)

**Motivation:** This kind of test is a tensile test very similar to the K1°D that we have in the rules for the other weapons but is actually more used from the stealers to judge the quality of the steel. The test K1°D is fall into disuse actually, so it can be also difficult to find labs that carry on this test. The addition of this new test into the periodical check, it would prevent some manufacturers from changing the quality of steel after the first homologation, as we suspect has happened in the past in some cases.

- To write in the rules the reference STM (European standard ISO) of the quality of steel.

Pag 58 Annex A #2

#### 2. General conditions

The steel used for the manufacture of fencing blades must have the ability to withstand high levels of exertion, a high degree of resistance to breaking and a low susceptibility to corrosion. Please refers to the Standard table STM about the quality.

**Motivation:** the STM Standard table is the actual table of the quality of the different steels currently produced.

- To fix the number of cycles for the characterization test in 20.000 cycles.

Pag. 65 # 6.8

Add at the end: — not suitable for saber blades

**Motivation:** this kind of test is not possible for the saber blade because of his different shape

Pag. 65 # 6.9

Add at the end: — 20,000 cycles for sabre blades

**Motivation:** at the end of all the tests it seems reasonable to fix this quantity of cycles to have a saber blade of good quality.

➤ To fix a minimum distance of the fracture from the tip of the sabre in 12 cm.

Pag. 65 # 6.9

Add at the end:

For the test to be considered positive it is necessary that at least 8 blades exceed the given values.

For sabre blades, it's mandatory that at least 8 blades break at  $\geq$  of 120 mm from the tip.

**Motivation:** The breakage is too near to the curl and can be very dangerous for the fencers. We have the strong suspicion that they do the curl on the finish blade with another thermic treatment that can change the quality of the heated steel. It can be good to write a letter to all manufacturers asking for the process concerning the curl.

➤ To correct in the table of our rulebook the name KCU in KV and to reduce the value to 27 joule/cm<sup>2</sup>

Pag 60 #3.1 Table I. Mechanical characteristics of steel

We need to correct the label ~~KCU~~ into KV and to correct the value of KV from  $\geq$  ~~30~~ to 27 Joule/cm<sup>2</sup>

Table I. Mechanical characteristics of steel

| Rp 0.2                  | Rm                | A        | Z          |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------|------------|
| <del>KCU</del> KV       |                   | KIC      |            |
| HV                      |                   |          |            |
| N/mm <sup>2</sup>       | N/mm <sup>2</sup> | %        | %          |
| Joule/cm <sup>2</sup>   | Mpa               | m        |            |
| $\geq$ 1900             | $\geq$ 2000       | $\geq$ 7 | $\geq$ 35  |
| $\geq$ <del>30</del> 27 | $\geq$ 120        |          | $\geq$ 500 |

**Motivation:** Range of value incompatible

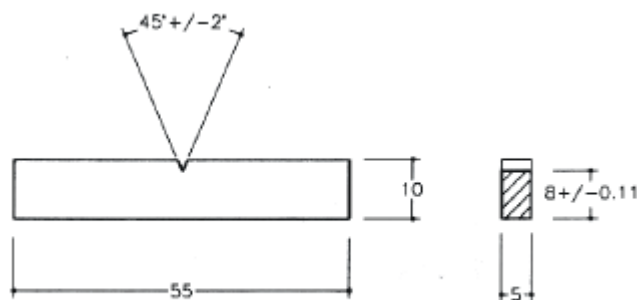
➤ To ask for the characterization a square little bar of 25mm by side and with the length of 350mm, deleting the drawing in the rules.

Pag 62 Annex A 2 #4. (new text to add at the end of paragraph):

The manufacturers have to send to the Laboratories also a square bar of 25mm by side and with the length of 350mm.

deleting the drawing A.8 at page 83:

~~Test device for tensile strength~~



deleting the sentence: ~~"The test must be conducted on ductility samples with a groove in the form of a 'Charpy V', with dimensions as indicated at the end of his annexe (Table VIII)."~~

**Motivation:** no more necessary.

- To forbidden completely the manipulation on the blade (for the 3 weapons) as, for sample, heating to bend the thread, the grinding of the groove (common practice for the armours to facilitate gluing of the wire).

See Art. 1.1.3 already in the Rules but add:

3. The weapon should be so constructed that it cannot normally injure either the user or his opponent. All methods of treating a blade between the guard and the tip (button) **including the groove**, by grinding, filing, **heating** or other methods, are forbidden.

**Motivation:** This kind of manipulation removes the aged surface layer of the maraging and discovers the softer core.

- We need to add the name of the Breda Laboratory into the rulebook

Pag. 55 # 3 to add:

3) The Manufacturer and the independent Institute of his choice should both send the laboratory compliancy test results to the President of the SEMI Commission, together with the request for homologation. The only specialized institutes approved by the SEMI are CRITT, Denkendorf and IFTH for clothing (jackets, breeches and under-plastrons) and masks; and **CRITT, RTM BRED, Sofranel and Visti** for blades.

**Motivation:** CRITT is no more interested in steel characterization, RTM Breda has been approved 1 year ago from the SEMI commission.

**Rules Commission:** In favour, and in agreement with the SEMI Commission, the names of the specialized institutes stated in the paragraph below will not appear in the rules but in a separate document, which will be updated regularly and communicated to the Executive Committee:

3) The Manufacturer and the independent Institute of his choice should both send the laboratory compliancy test results to the President of the SEMI Commission, together with the request for homologation. The **list of only specialized institutes approved by the SEMI will be updated regularly and communicated to the Executive Committee. are CRITT, Denkendorf and IFTH for clothing (jackets, breeches and under-plastrons) and masks; and CRITT, RTM BRED, Sofranel and Visti for blades.**

**SEMI Commission:** in favour .

With the following amendments to paragraphs:

1) Page 65 Annex A

**One of these tests should be made between 9 – 6 months before the Olympic Games.**

The blades, after the first homologation remain valid, under the condition that the manufacturers send the blades for a periodical test at least once every two years. One of these tests should be made between 9 – 6 months before the Olympic Games. These periodical tests have to be carried out at least once every two years in simplified mode

2) Page 58 Annex A #2 add (European standard ISO)

## 2. General conditions

The steel used for the manufacture of fencing blades must have the ability to withstand high levels of exertion, a high degree of resistance to breaking and a low susceptibility to corrosion. Please refers to the Standard table STM (European standard ISO ) about the quality.

3) Pag. 55 # 3 to add: The list of ~~only~~ specialized institutes approved by the SEMI will be updated regularly and communicated to the Executive Committee.

3) The Manufacturer and the independent Institute of his choice should both send the laboratory compliancy test results to the President of the SEMI Commission, together with the request for homologation. The list of ~~only~~ specialized institutes approved by the SEMI will be updated regularly and communicated to the Executive Committee. ~~are CRITT, Denkendorf and IFTH for clothing (jackets, breeches and under-plastrons) and masks; and CRITT, RTM BRED, Sofranol and Visti for blades.~~

**Executive Committee:** In favour of the proposal, with the revisions from the SEMI and Rules Commissions.

A blurred background image of a fencer in a white uniform, captured in a dynamic pose during a competition. The fencer is wearing a mask and holding a foil, with their body angled towards the left. The background shows a blurred fencing strip and a wooden floor.

## ***A project for the Veterans***

### ***Summary***

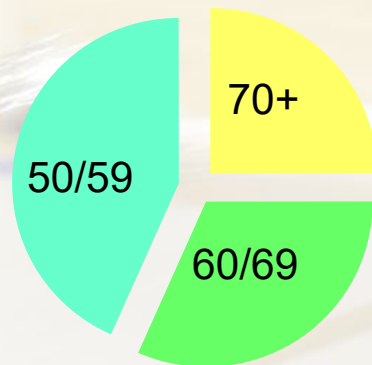
- **World Veterans championships**
- **Introducing the 40's**
- **The team event**
- **Implementation**
- **Expected benefits**



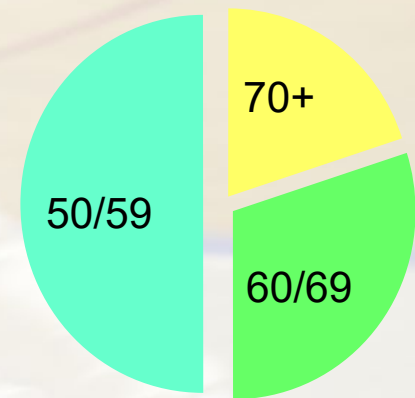
## ***World Championships' history***

- **1999 : First World championships**
  - ✓ Two categories : 50/59 and 60+
  - ✓ 200 participants, 20 Nations
- **2009 : Introduction of 70+**
  - ✓ 450 participants, 35 Nations
- **2014 : Creation of Team events**
  - ✓ 650 participants, 45 Nations

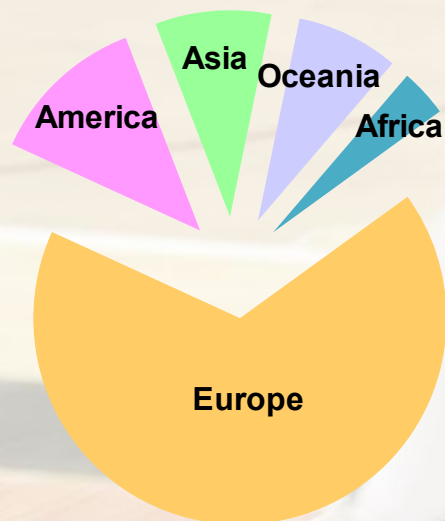
## ***Current participation at World Championships***



**600 MEN**



**300 WOMEN**



**900 fencers**  
coming from  
**60 countries**

## *Introducing the 40's at individual*

- An expectation of the fencers
- A valuable operation for FIE
- An interesting increase of participation :

|       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|
|       | 40/49 | 350   |
| 400   | 50/59 | 420   |
| 300   | 60/69 | 320   |
| 200   | 70+   | 210   |
| <hr/> |       | <hr/> |
| 900   | ➔     | 1300  |

# Evolution of the Team event

## Currently :

A Team is composed of 3 fencers, one of each category «50/59», «60/69», «70+».

Each fencer faces twice his/her opponent of the **same** category in a 3min 5 hits relay. The goal : to reach **30 hits**, or being ahead

*Note : this format will be still be implemented at Daytona 2023 and Dubaï 2024*

## New format :

Creation of **two** categories :

- Veterans : «40/49» and «50/59»
- Grand Veterans «60/69» and «70+».

For each, 3 fencers, at least one from the oldest group, will face in a classical format of **45 hits** relay

*Note : this format is implemented in European Team Championships since 2018*

one round of poules of 3 or 4 teams, followed by a D.E. with no classification matches, except 3rd place.

## 20 Nations

## 70 TEAMS

## 30 Nations

## 160 TEAMS



# Implementation

|             | Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 | Day 5 | Day 6         | Day 7 |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|-------|
| Men 40/49   | SABRE |       | FOIL  |       | EPEE  |               |       |
| Men 50/59   | SABRE |       | FOIL  |       | EPEE  |               |       |
| TEAM        |       | SABRE |       | FOIL  |       | EPEE (poules) | EPEE  |
| Men 60/69   |       | FOIL  |       | EPEE  |       | SABRE         |       |
| Men 70+     |       | FOIL  |       | EPEE  |       | SABRE         |       |
| TEAM        |       |       | FOIL  |       | EPEE  |               | SABRE |
| Women 40/49 |       | EPEE  |       | SABRE |       | FOIL          |       |
| Women 50/59 |       | EPEE  |       | SABRE |       | FOIL          |       |
| TEAM        |       |       | EPEE  |       | SABRE |               | FOIL  |
| Women 60/69 | FOIL  |       | EPEE  |       | SABRE |               |       |
| Women 70+   | FOIL  |       | EPEE  |       | SABRE |               |       |
| TEAM        |       | FOIL  |       | EPEE  |       | SABRE         |       |

- **Balanced repartition (weapon, categories, gender)**
  - **200 Individual and 25 Teams per day**
  - **25 pistes and 35 referees**



## ***Expected benefits***

- **For fencers**
  - ✓ Smooth transition after senior category
  - ✓ Expectation of real quality matches
- **For organizers**
  - ✓ A more attractive competition
  - ✓ A profitable event
- **For FIE**
  - ✓ Consistency with other sports
  - ✓ Gratefulness of fencers

***A win-win project !***



For the fencers to adopt the on guard position



To find out if the fencers are ready



To start and restart the fencing



To stop the fencing before a hit is scored, because of the fencer on the Referee's right. Without removing the hand if there is a valid or non-valid hit.



Point in line position from the right towards the fencer on the left



Attack or stop hit (counter-attack) from the fencer on the Referee's right



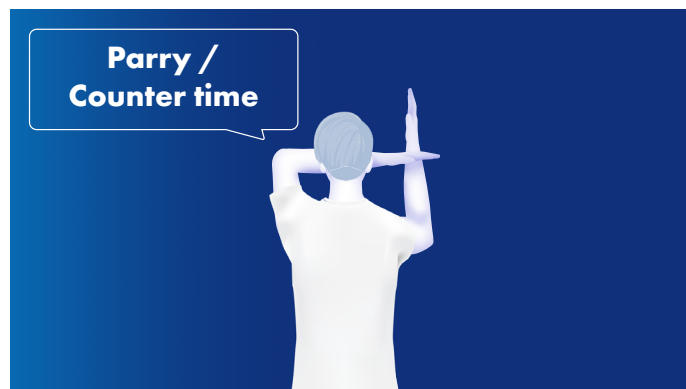
A hit is given against the fencer on the Referee's left



One hit scored by the fencer on the Referee's right



An off-target hit on the fencer on the Referee's left



A parry or counter-time carried out by the fencer on the Referee's right



Both fencers are hit



Each fencer scores a hit



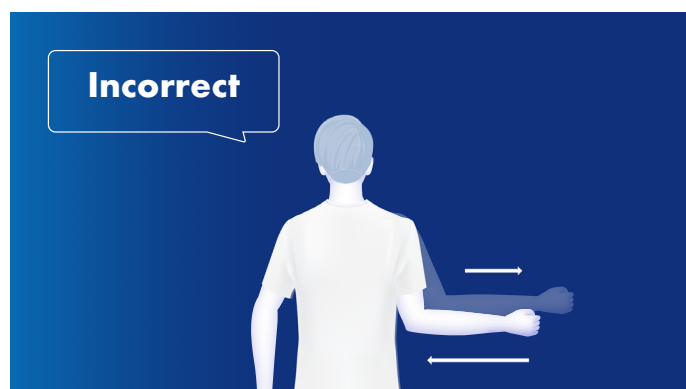
Simultaneous attacks or remises



No hit or abstention



Offensive action from the fencer on the Referee's right; too short and does not hit

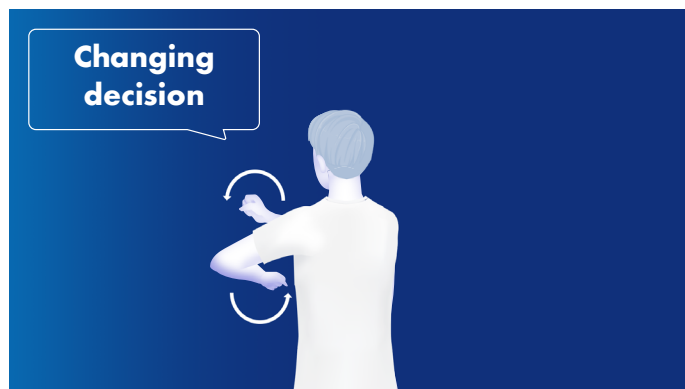


Incorrect attack or riposte from the fencer on the Referee's right: bend the sword arm or withdraw the point





Crossing the rear limit of the piste with both feet from the fencer on the referee's left.



Changing the decision of referee after video analysis upon request of fencer on the referee's left.



By mimicry, the Referee demonstrates the offence of the fencer on the right and shows the card corresponding to the offence concerned



Winner: At the end of the bout or match, the referee must announce the winner and the score. The fencers will be in the middle of the piste.

## Notes

1. The Referee announces his decisions by means of the signals and words above.
2. In following the fencing phrase the Referee uses the following words without making the signals: "Riposte!", "Counter-riposte!". The gesture "Attack" will also be used for the actions of "Remise!", "Reprise!", "Redouble!"
3. The fencers may politely ask the Referee for a more complete analysis of the fencing phrase.
4. Each signal must last 1-2 seconds, be expressive and be correctly made. Above they refer to the fencer on the Referee's right

**Figure 3 Referee signals and commands**