



**Dear President,**

**Death of Rafal Sznajder (POL)**

It is with utmost sorrow that we inform you of the sudden passing of Rafal Sznajder (POL), on April 13, 2014, at the end of the Junior and Cadet World Championships in Plovdiv (BUL).

Internationally renowned sabre fencer, and multiple medallist, he participated in the:

- World Championships, in Essen (GER) in 1993, the Hague (NED) in 1995, Cape Town (RSA) in 1997, La Chaux-de-Fonds (SUI) in 1998, Seoul (KOR) in 1999, Nîmes (FRA) in 2001, Lisbon (POR) in 2002, Havana (CUB) in 2003, Leipzig (GER) in 2005 and Turin (ITA) in 2006;
- as well as the Olympic Games, in Atlanta (USA) in 1996, Sydney (AUS) in 2000 and Athens (GRE) in 2004.

At the end of his athlete's career, he successfully passed the international referee exams in all three weapons in 2008 and 2009.

He refereed numerous junior and senior FIE competitions, as well as the European Championships, and the FIE Refereeing Commission quickly recognised his great qualities and talent. He was then designated a referee for the Junior and Cadet World Championships in Baku (AZE) in 2010 and at the Dead Sea (JOR) in 2011.

He then refereed at the 2012 Team World Championships in Kiev (UKR), the 2012 Olympic Games in London (GBR) and the 2013 World Championships in Budapest (HUN).

At Junior and Cadet World Championships in Plovdiv (BUL), he refereed all three weapons in an exemplary and brilliant manner. He was held in very high esteem by his colleagues and the FIE Refereeing Commission, which saw him as a future elite referee.

In 2008, he was elected Executive Committee member of the Polish Fencing Federation, and re-elected in 2012.

Rafal Sznajder was 41 years old. The FIE and the sport of fencing have lost a remarkable fencer and referee of great merit, who was appreciated and respected by all.

To his family and friends, and to the Polish Fencing Federation, we express our most sincere condolences and our profound sympathy.

**Alisher Usmanov  
President**