

RAPPORT DU CONSEIL DES ENTRAÎNEURS DE LA FIE **FIE COACHES COUNCIL REPORT** **INFORME DEL CONSEJO DE LOS ENTRENADORES DE LA FIE**

Date, lieu et heure de la réunion : Date, place and time of the meeting: Fecha, lugar y horario de la reunión:	FIE Coaching Council meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DATE: 7th JULY – 8th JULY 2023 ONLINE MEETING TIME: 13H00 LAUSANNE TIME
Participants: Participants: Participantes:	Present: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> HAIBIN WANG - Executive Committee Member, Executive Committee Representative/ Coaches TYSHLER GENNADY - RSA LEI SHENG - CHI NATALIA CONRAD – UKR AOKI YUSUKI - JPN
Absences (indiquer si l'absence avait été annoncée) : Absent (indicate if the absence had been announced): Ausencias (indicar si la ausencia fue anunciada):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> GUICHOT PIERRE - FRA SAUCEDO GUILLERMO - ARG DMITRII GLOTOV - RUS LEE HYUN-SOO – KOR MASSIALAS GREGORY - USA SOMLAI BELA - HUN

INTRODUCTION **INTRODUCTION** **INTRODUCCIÓN**

The member of FIE COMEX, Mr. HAIBIN WANG, welcomes everybody to the FIE Coaches Council meeting. The agenda for the meeting was circulated. Thank you to all members present for making it possible to meet during the preparation period for the World Championship 2023.

RAPPORT DE LA RÉUNION **MEETING REPORT** **INFORME DE LA REUNIÓN**

Point 1 / Item1 / Punto 1:

G. Tyshler gave a short report on the year of work of the coaching council. Mr. Guillermo Sausedo sent his apologies that he is not able to attend the meeting today because of family issues. We do not have many points to discuss in our session today. We have sent the request to FIE for a joint meeting with the Athletes and Refereeing commissions. The refereeing commission did not respond to our request. As we do not have many points to discuss, finishing the meeting in one day instead of two days was proposed. The minutes of the previous council meeting were circulated and approved via email.

The Coaching Council President reports on the Council's work in 2022 – 2023.

Unfortunately, many projects were put on hold or canceled because of the COVID and current political issues in FIE. FIE did not approach the Council with any questions or requests for expertise on any matters during

the period from the last meeting. Dr. G. Tyshler proposed to follow up on all previous work done in the earlier years and the Council's prior proposals.

Point 2 / Item 2 / Punto 2:

Report of the COMEX representative, Mr. HAIBIN WANG - Executive Committee Member on COMEX meetings in 2022 – 2023.

Mr. H. Wang proposed that FIE allow two people to be in the “coaches box” during the individual and team competitions. It is essential, as many countries use foreign coaches and need a translator with the coach at the box.

There is a lot of politics in the FIE concerning the Russian and Belorussian athletes. It was many discussions involving the lawyers, etc. The proposal is to concentrate on our job as coaches and members of the coaching council to keep our sport alive. After the Paris Olympics COMEX, the newly elected will deal with all political problems.

One of the important matters is the Calendar for seniors and Junior fencers, especially for the period after the Paris Olympic Games. Our Council must actively create a new Calendar, including the Olympic qualification system for the next Olympic Games.

The Council needs to keep working and concentrating on our projects and decisions.

We have another year to go.

Unfortunately, the FIE refereeing committee does not want to meet with us.

Point 3 / Item 3 / Punto 3:

Proposals for FIE Congress

Proposals were discussed. Coaches opinions on the proposals are attached in a separate document.

Point 4 / Item 4 / Punto 4:

General discussion on fencing development and coaching council goals and targets.

Proposals – Decisions

1. Two people should be allowed to be in the “coach box” during the individual and team competitions.
2. Coaching Council requests that meetings in person for Council members be organized at least once a year. Zoom meetings cannot substitute in-person meetings and can be only additional follow-up meetings.
3. Representatives from the Coaching Council must be included in the working group for creating the Fencing Calendar after the Paris Olympic Games and discussing the Olympic qualification system.
4. During the competition, the scoring machines must operate only in “competition mode,” not in “training mode”; when the scoring apparatus automatically adds points to the score, it is unacceptable.
5. The coaching council and FIE must follow up on proposals and decisions sent to COMEX considerations.

Point 5 / Item 5 / Punto 5:

Follow up on the previous proposals

1. THE AGE OF PARTICIPANTS AT CADETS AND JUNIOR EVENTS

The age of participants at Junior and Cadet competitions during the Junior and Cadet season was discussed. All coaches have the same vision on the cadets and junior participation. The rule o.30 should be strictly applied. The Council decided to approach the rules commission and legal commission to clarify the definition of the Junior and Cadets season.

“It is unfortunate, but every few years we have a problem with the age of participants at the junior and cadet local competitions in different countries.

Age of participants: o.29, o.30

We discussed the matter at the coaching council meeting and all coaches agree with the rule o.30. However, we have parents and fencing officials who have never fenced and interpret the rules differently.

Please help with correcting the interpretation of the rules or help us to find the place in the rules that clarifies the situation.

Maybe we need to add a definition for Junior fencing season to the rules. From Junior WC to the next Junior WC, or from April to April, or that the junior fencing season starts from the first Junior competition after the World championship.

Your help will be greatly appreciated.”

“First of all I want to thank everybody who is taking part in this discussion. Special thanks to Bruno Gares for the time he spent on putting together all pieces of the “Age of participants” matter from different parts of the rules into one document.

The FIE is not a closed corporation or business. The FIE is a Sports Federation and the main aim of the FIE is “to promote the development of fencing in the world” and “to improve the practice of our sport in every way”. The Federation should look not only after fencers who have paid the license, but for all fencers in the world including those, who are between 13 and 15 years old, with parents as their representatives.

Dear Nathalie, you are absolutely right in what you’ve written, taking extracts from the FIE rules. But this is the problem that we are talking about.

- Request to look at this matter is not coming from the amateurs or volunteers, but from the FIE Coaching Council, the FIE experts committee, that represents the fencing community from professionals at the international level and coaches working with the fencers on the ground. We have discussed the matter with other coaches from different countries and discussed it during the FIE Coaching Council meeting in June 2022. All members of the Council have the same opinion on the matter.
- Sport season. I am not going to talk about other sports, but in fencing, season is the period from one main FIE competition of the year, World Championships (Olympic Games) to the next one the following year. From July of one year to July of the next year, for example. A

Sport season is divided into periods. The transitional period (in our case it is August), the preparation period, the pre competition period and the competition period. Periods are divided in to macro cycles and then micro cycles. The Senior fencing season is from July to July. The Junior and Cadet fencing season is from April to April. Please do not mix the competitions Calendar with the fencing season.

- Calendar. Junior FIE competitions calendar is from November to April. This does not mean that juniors do nothing for the rest of the year. Fencers are training, having training camps, different kinds of competitions and other events. Cadets FIE competitions calendar has only one competition. But it does not mean that fencers, cadets, do not fence during the year or do not have a fencing season. Cadets and Juniors can take part in Senior competitions as well.
- The most serious cheating in the sport is doping and manipulating with age. This is absolutely clear to anybody who fenced as a cadet and a junior, or fencers and their representatives (coaches, parents of fencers) who took part in “ranking” and “selection” competitions. It is especially important in fencing, where we have direct elimination system, seeding before competitions and after the pools.
- Dear Nathalie, you are absolutely right o.30 rule is correct. o.30. Only fencers who are of an age to qualify for the next Junior World Championships may fence in the official FIE Junior competitions, individual or team, of the current season. This is exactly what we’re all talking about, but we need to clarify this rule clause for the WORLD FENCING community, especially for people who learned fencing “from the book” and have never fenced cadet or junior competitions themselves, that we have a Senior season AND a Junior and Cadets season, And that the fencer, who moved to the senior category after his last Junior World Championship in April, should not take part in any Junior ranking and selection competitions any more. New cadets and junior age groups should start training and competing together, preparing for the next major event.
- The Current situation is unfair for the younger kids and does not meet safeguarding requirements. The situation is opening possibilities for “manipulation of results” and “corrupt conduct”. As participants who are “over age” (not eligible for selection for the next world championship) can manipulate the ranking, results and selection. To make it straight forward, they can sell their bout to fencers who need the ranking and selection.

We need to and can help Confederations, Federations, THE WORLD of fencing by putting a few words in the FIE rules to make this absolutely clear. This will not have any impact on the current FIE procedures and will not harm anybody. I think that the FIE rules and legal committees can find the right way to address the problem.

Example:

o.30. Only fencers who are of an age to qualify for the next Junior World Championships may fence in the official FIE Junior competitions, individual or team, of the current JUNIOR season (1st May to 31st of April next year).

2. JUNIOR AND CADETS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION PROGRAM

Coaches discussed the program for the Cadets and Junior World Championships. All agreed that the Cadets event should be organized before the Junior event.

3. HALL SET UP AT MAJOR FIE EVENT

The most important person in sports is the athlete. During competitions everything should be done to help the fencers compete comfortably and achieve the best possible results. It has come to our attention that at the last few competitions, organizers, during the preliminary stage of the competition, blocked all competition areas with a fence, not allowing fencers access to their coaches between the bouts during preliminary pools stages. This situation is unacceptable. Fencers should have easy access to their coaches advice between their bouts during pools. Additionally, the blocked area was very big and the lights on the scoring apparatus were not visible from all directions. We want to mention that pools are the preliminary stage of the event and the official competition will start only after the opening ceremony with direct elimination and spectators.

A coach usually has 4 fencers competing in the pools. Easy passage should be organized from one side of the arena to another.

We think that the matter is clear, competitions should be organized according to the rules, handbook of regulations and traditions of our sport.

Another solution may be to allow the coach at the piste during the bout of his fencer as is during direct elimination.

Point 6 / Item 6 / Punto 6:

Joint meeting with FIE Athletes commission.

The coaching council had a joint meeting with the Athletes Commission. The meeting went well. Everybody agreed that athletes and coaches must cooperate more and create joint proposals for the FIE.

CONCLUSION

Dr. G. Tyshler thanked everybody for the work done. A draft of the minutes will be circulated by the president to all members for comments. The date for the next meeting will be announced.

Meeting closed.

7th July 2023