



SECRETARY GENERAL COMMISSIONS AND COUNCIL MEETINGS

Rules and Refereeing Commissions

8 May 2026

Online

Present:

Gulnora Saidova	FIE Secretary General
Nathalie Rodriguez	FIE CEO
Paolo Azzi	Representative of COMEX in Referee's Commission
Nikolay Mateev	Representative of COMEX on Rules Commission
Ziad Feriani	Sport Director / President of Rules Commission
Irina Knysch	President of Referees Commission
Giuseppe Cafiero	Rules Commission
Roxana Barladeanu	Rules Commission
Mariya Sinyavskaya	Rules Commission
Dieter Lammer	Rules Commission
Varga Katalin	Referee Commission
Marius Florea	Referee Commission
Chang Gon Kim	Referee Commission
Vladislav Shamis	Referee Commission

Agenda of the meeting:

1. Sofia Meeting – Plan and Strategic Outlook
2. Action Plan and KPIs Until Year-End
3. Sustainability and Environmental Initiatives
4. Questions and Answers

1. Rule Development and Refereeing

Participants discussed the importance of making fencing more understandable, transparent, and attractive for spectators, media, athletes, and broader audiences.

Concerns were raised regarding inconsistent interpretation of actions and refereeing decisions during competitions. Participants emphasized the need for greater consistency, standardization, and clarity in the application of rules.

It was agreed that additional work is required on:

- standardization of rule interpretation;
- referee education and development;
- clarification of technical actions and decisions;
- improving communication and understanding of refereeing decisions for athletes, coaches, and audiences;

- increasing transparency and consistency in officiating.

Participants also discussed the importance of balancing the traditions of fencing with modernization and development of the sport.

The General Secretary proposed sending all proposals received before the Sofia meeting to the responsible commissions and councils in advance, in order to collect feedback beforehand and allow discussions and decisions to be more productive during the Sofia meeting itself.

2. Communication between Commissions

The meeting highlighted insufficient communication and coordination between commissions, councils, coaches, athletes.

Participants agreed that stronger and more structured cooperation is necessary in order to improve efficiency, transparency, and decision-making processes.

The following points were discussed:

- Insufficient communication between commissions, councils, coaches, and athletes was highlighted.
- More formal cooperation and regular exchange of proposals and feedback is required.
- introducing formal communication procedures;
- setting reasonable timelines for replies and comments on proposals (approximately 10–14 days);
- ensuring better follow-up on pending matters.

Participants emphasized that communication between commissions should become more operational, proactive, and development-oriented.

3. Sofia Meeting – Preparation and Strategic Outlook

The Rules Commission informed participants that additional proposals from commissions and councils are still awaited before the Sofia meeting.

Joint working discussions between the Rules and Refereeing Commissions are planned during the Sofia meeting in order to improve coordination and efficiency.

Participants agreed that future meetings should focus not only on approval of proposals, but also on:

- strategic development of fencing;
- modernization of rules and refereeing;
- cooperation between commissions;
- long-term planning and educational initiatives;
- development of measurable objectives and implementation strategies.

Additional preparation for the Sofia meeting was considered necessary in order to improve the effectiveness of discussions and decision-making.

The participants proposed that the Refereeing Commission prepare:

- a detailed working plan and agenda for the Sofia meeting;
- a summary of activities and work completed since the previous meeting;
- measurable KPIs and evaluation of achieved progress;
- strategic priorities and development objectives for the next period.

Participants emphasized the importance of introducing more structured planning and measurable evaluation of commission activities.

4. Educational Program and Refereeing Academy

The participants discussed the creation of an educational program and Refereeing Academy under the FIE structure. The proposed project aims to:

- improve referee education internationally;
- standardize interpretation of actions;
- create educational and video materials;
- improve the overall quality and consistency of officiating;
- establish continuous educational opportunities for referees worldwide.

The Refereeing Commission raised several organizational and technical questions regarding implementation, structure, educational methodology, and possible expert involvement. Participants agreed that practical work on the creation of the Refereeing Academy should begin as one of the strategic priorities for the upcoming period.

The Academy could include:

- referee certification and evaluation systems;
- online and in-person seminars;
- video analysis platforms;
- educational libraries and materials;
- mentoring and development programs for young referees;
- cooperation with experienced international experts.

Further proposals and detailed planning will be developed in cooperation with the relevant commissions and the FIE administration.

5. Action Plans and KPIs until Year-End

Participants discussed the necessity of defining clear action plans and measurable KPIs for the remainder of the year. Suggested priorities included:

- progress on rule clarification and standardization;
- educational program development;
- communication improvements between commissions;
- preparation of educational materials and seminars;
- increased cooperation with coaches and athletes;
- development-oriented meetings and workshops;
- preparation of Sofia meeting objectives and implementation follow-up.

The importance of measurable objectives, accountability, and regular progress evaluation was emphasized.

Participants agreed that commissions should provide more structured reporting regarding completed activities, ongoing projects, and achieved results.
