

Urgent Letter 9-08
June 13, 2008

Video-refereeing

LETTRE URGENTE DE LA FIE

Dear Mr/Madam President,

As you know, video-refereeing is very popular with the athletes and referees alike. It is currently obligatory at foil and sabre, and we have noticed that when the video-refereeing system was used at épée, the athletes and referees turned to it. Furthermore, a large number of fencers have complained that épée is being left to one side and is not benefiting from it.

Moreover, Swiss Timing has just proposed a contract to the FIE to set up a video website that would transmit and archive the video-replay images. If we do not have any images for épée, we will only be able to provide and store foil and sabre images.

Taking this into account, the FIE Executive Committee was consulted in writing in order to determine if it was necessary to make video-refereeing compulsory at all three weapons as of the 2008-2009 season. The Executive Committee was in favour of this decision. As a result, the following changes have been made to the rules relating to video-refereeing:

For Grand Prix competitions, at all three weapons, video-refereeing is compulsory and must be used as soon as the timetable allows the competition to be run on only 4 pistes, and in any case from the table of 64.

For World Cup team competitions, at all three weapons, video-refereeing is compulsory from the table of 32 onwards including the matches for 3rd place but excluding the other ranking matches.

For individual and team competitions of the open World Championships, video-refereeing is obligatory from the beginning of the competition onwards. 8 pistes equipped for video-refereeing are thus necessary.

Sincerely,

René Roch
President

