



SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

MEETING OF THE RULES COMMISSION

Lausanne, 11-12 June 2005

Present :

HIGGINSON Stephen, President of the Rules Commission
ROCH René, President of the FIE
BA Abdoul Wahab Barka, Representative of the Executive Committee
ASSADOURIAN Sarkis
BUKANTZ Jeffrey
CARLESCU-BADEA Laura-Gabriela
DI BLASI Antonio
GONZALEZ TIRADOR Julio Cesar
SCHIRRMACHER Lutz
SMITH Helen
THULLBERG Pierre

Absent with apologies :

EL ARABY Tamer Mohamed

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Commission, who were meeting for the first time.

He suggested that the Commission should start by considering the proposal of Arthur Cramer to renumber the Rules and should then proceed to consider the other proposals for the Congress.

He congratulated Arthur Cramer for the immense amount of elaborate and detailed work he had done. The members of the Commission agreed unanimously.

The proposal has three basic elements;

- renumbering
- restructuring certain sections

- changes and clarifications to the technical rules, some of which are quite justified. A document detailing the changes was distributed to the members of the Commission.

René Roch stated that the principle of the proposal had been accepted by the Executive Committee and the Promotion and Refereeing Commissions. The style of numbering proposed by Arthur Cramer is in line with the numbering used by other bodies such as the IOC and AMA.

Abdoul Wahab Ba stated that the FIE was dedicated to evolution and change: fencing must become more comprehensible and its texts must be presented more clearly and accessibly.

Ioan Pop added that we must avoid any overly subjective and therefore personal approach: the work of the Commission should lead us to the best possible result for fencing.

Nathalie Rodriguez handed out extracts from the Anti-doping Code and the Administrative Rules of the FIE which are based on the same style of numbering. A copy of o.54, one of many examples of articles which currently have no sub-divisions at all, was also handed out.

The Chairman asked the members of the Commission for their opinions.

As far as he was concerned, he had already in the past stated that the numbering system of the Rules needed to be developed; the current rules are far from perfect and they cannot therefore be left as they are.

The following comments sum up the opinions of the members of the Commission.

We have to find a balance between the current under-numbering and any excessive numbering.

This proposal, which seeks to bring greater clarity, does not provide the degree of improvement which would justify such extensive changes.

Arthur Cramer's proposal is not only one of renumbering. Before it is presented to the Congress, it will be necessary to examine the additions and changes to the text as well as the restructuring. The project is considered to be overloaded with numbers, bold type and underlinings to the point where the intended objectives (easier comprehension by the referees, greater clarity and ease of use) are not achieved.

The question which has to be answered: is this version more useful, more up-to-date, easier to read?

René Roch stated that the Rules are essentially for use by the referees. He raised the possibility of having the Rules and another document for the referees.

The members of the Commission agree that this is a possibility so long as there is one definitive document which is "the bible": with that as a condition, a separate working document for the referees would not be a problem.

To summarise, the Commission does not question the need for the numbering to be developed and points out that it too has tabled a proposed extended numbering of the Rules for the Congress.

Given the extent of the changes to text and structure, it considers that Arthur Cramer's document cannot be presented to the Congress as it is and proposes to delegate to a sub-committee the work of refining the two proposals so that a single final document can be put to the Congress. The changes proposed by Arthur Cramer will be presented to the Congress as they are.

The Commission then moved on to the other proposals for the Congress.

<p style="text-align: center;">PROPOSITIONS OF THE BRAZILIAN FEDERATION / ARTHUR CRAMER (MH)</p>

Proposition 1.

ADOPT the system of numbering of Rules (Technical, Organisation and Material) and homogenize the tests in accordance with the proposition already presented and distributed to the Executive Committee for the Technical Rules, with the adaptation of the text already included in the Technical Rules (IN DIFFERENT COLOURS) and with the same arguments and motivations as already presented.

The rewording of the Technical, Organisation and Material Rules does not change the Rules but changes the PRESENTATION AND STRUCTURE. They have been tested by the Referees during the last World Championships (starting from 2002) and the 2004 Olympic Games.

The Referees and Delegates to the Refereeing have UNANIMOUSLY signed a document at the Olympic Games, which concerns the new presentation of the Rules :

- Numbering system ;
- Use of colours ;
- Easiness and rapidity of use;
- Schedule of offences and penalties with copy of the texts of Rules;
- And index ;

in comparison with the previous system of Rules (currently official) AND WE CONSIDER THAT THE ONE USED AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES IS VERY PERFORMANT (copy attached).

Opinion of the Commission : dealt with as above.

Proposition 2.

THE POINTS DESCRIBED BELOW SHOULD BE PRECISED BY THE CONGRESS BECAUSE THEY ARE, IN OUR OPINION, NOT CLEAR FOR THE REFEREEING. THE PROCEDURES MUST BE HOMOGENIZED.

1. Abstract terminology.

Motivation : some expressions in the Rules should be completed by practical examples in order to clarify the meaning for referees and fencers.

Some examples of vague expressions:

- « Incorrect fencing » (at index Art t.87) ;
- « Loyal/dishonest fencing » (Art t.87) ;
- « Abnormal movement » (Art t.22, proposed t5.7.2 / Art t.72, proposed t12.4.2 / Art t.120,;)
- « Irregular movement » (Art t.87, proposed tt15.6.2.c / Art t.120);
- « Offence against sportsmanship » (Art t.101, proposed t17.1.2 / Art t.120 / Art t.127);
- « Dangerous play » (Art t.18) ;
- « Disorderly fencing » (Art t.87 / Art t.120);

Proposition :

7.1. To add « collusion » : « fraudulent agreement », « scheme/arrangement »

7.2. To add practical examples after each expression : « Incorrect fencing », « dishonest fencing », « abnormal movement », « irregular movements », « offence against sportsmanship » (towards the referee or opponent : to do immoral or obscene gestures, to use bad language, to scorn the bout, to dupe), « dangerous play », « disorderly fencing ».

Opinion of the Commission : It is neither feasible nor desirable to weight down the Rules with exhaustive lists of all the possible examples and interpretations.

2. Art t.45

Motivation : There is no detailed procedure to verify the offences and apply the penalties, for example for the practical cases below.

1st) Which penalty should be applied by the Referee if a fencer appears on the piste :

- with a body wire which does not bear the check marks (Art t.45 and t120);
- with a weapon which does not work (Art t.45 et t.120);
- without his protective under-plastron (Art t.45 et t.120).

The Technical Rules does not give a clear procedure to be followed by the Referee in respect of application of penalties, especially if two or more offences are made at the same time. :

Does the Referee start with the most severe offence or the less severe one ? In the case stated above does the Referee award a Red Card and then two other Red Cards ? Or does the Referee award a Yellow Card and then two Red Cards ?

2nd) During the bout a fencer turns back on opponent (Art. t.120) and at the same time jostles his opponent (Art t.120). The Referee says "Halt!" and the guilty fencer gives a hit with the grip with deliberate brutality to his opponent (Art. t.120) which leads to a traumatism.

The Rules is not clear in respect of the procedure to be followed by the Referee :

- two simultaneous offences ;
- a more severe offence (with a Black Card) after the « Halt » of the Referee.

Proposition :

The Referee must sentence all the offences starting with the most severe offence, which is, the most severe penalty, even after the order « Halt ».

Opinion of the Commission :

To the extent that a referee can find himself dealing with a fencer who has committed several faults at the same time, it is right that he should penalise the most serious fault first. However, it should be noted that if the fault has been made possible by a failure of another body or of the organisation over which the fencer has no control (e.g. lack of equipment check), that body or organisation is in part at fault.

Proposition 3.

Reincorporate the bib as valid surface at foil.

Proposition 4.

To add to the article t5.7 : At foil, during the bout (between the orders ON GUARD and HALT), the arm, forearm and unarmed hand must never stand in front of the chest.

Proposition 6.

Suppression of the lighting of the white lamp at foil : adopt the conclusions of the ad-hoc Commission in respect of the suppression of the non-valid surface at foil.

The opinion of the Commission: proposals 3, 4 and 6 are treated together since they are all linked. The Commission suspends any judgement until the tests and comments of the ad hoc Technical Commission are available. However, Prop 4 would require the use of Assessors at all stages of the competition and would therefore be difficult to implement.

PROPOSITIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MODIFICATIONS TO THE RULES

Proposition 1 : Team events.

o.44 3. To be deleted : If this order is altered, intentionally or unintentionally, the team making the alteration loses the match.

Motivation : This is not logical to disqualify a team in case of an inversion of fencers because this is the duty of the referee to check that both fencers on the piste are really the one he called for the bout. This is therefore the referee's responsibility to check that the fencers present on the piste are really the one who are supposed to meet.

Opinion of the Commission : in favour as follows :

No black card for the team. Should the order be changed, all hits after the change to be annulled and the match to be resumed in the correct order.

Proposition 3 : o.48 Cadet World Championships.

The programme of the Junior World Championships comprises 6 individual events and 6 team events : male foil, female foil, male epee, female epee, male sabre and female sabre – **these begin with the junior individual events and end with the team events.**

The programme of the Cadet World Championships comprises 6 individual events : male foil, female foil, male epee, female epee, male sabre and female sabre.

The organisers must submit the programme of events to the Executive Committee for its approval.

Motivation:

Juniors : There will be 3 days of competition for the individual competitions and 3 days of competition for the team events, with eventually a resting day between the two types of events :

⇒ length of the Championships shorter, which incurs a reduction of costs for the delegations and the organisers and the load of work of the officials and referees is better dispatched.

⇒ the team events are spread out over 3 days instead of 2 thus facilitating the organisation.

Cadets : there will be 3 days of competition for the individual competitions. (see proposition 3 concerning the Statutes)

Opinion of the Commission : in favour of the Executive Committee's proposal.

Proposition 4 : Entries and procedure of replacement for the entries on the FIE Web site

o.54 Entries by name for **junior and senior** World Cup competitions **(A Category, Grand-Prix, team competitions) and World Championships.**

For A Category, Grand-Prix and team competitions and the World Championships, the entry of the name of the fencers and all possible replacements, and the entry of teams, must be made **15 days before the first event of the Championships at the latest.**

The entries are to be made via the FIE website.

To be added :

Starting from the deadline for the entries indicated on the FIE Web site and, before the Tuesday preceding the competition, a fencer can be replaced by another one, but no additional entry can be registered. To do so, National Federations must send a written request of fencer's replacement to the FIE (by e-mail or fax). Should a fencer be injured, the rules for the World Championships are applicable.

For the entries of teams, names of the fencers of the team can be modified upon request to the organiser until the day preceding the competition, 12h.

See also o.31

Motivation :

- To allow all the organisers to benefit from the good process of entries via the FIE Web site and therefore facilitate the management of their competitions.
- Standardise the procedures for the entries in order to avoid any misunderstanding or confusion due to different rules.

Opinion of the Commission : In favour, as amended below – moreover, if the proposal is adopted, the 2nd paragraph of o.53 should be deleted :

“After the cut-off date for entries indicated on the FIE website and before the Tuesday preceding the competition, **there can be no further additional entries nor the withdrawal of a name except in cases of properly authenticated injury or force majeure: however, a fencer may be replaced by another.** To do this, the national federations should send to the FIE, in writing (fax or e-mail), a request for a fencer to be replaced. In cases of injury, the rules for World Championships will apply.”

Proposition 5 : Technical management of major competitions.

o.57 b) The Directoire Technique consists of persons being used to organise competitions.

Motivation : As the Directoire Technique is only involved with the technical organisation of the competition, it is not necessary that its members belong to technical commissions.

Decisions related to the application of Rules, Statutes and annexes are taken either by the observer (World Cup and Grand Prix) or by the FIE Bureau (World Championships).

Proposition 6 : Functions.

o.62 To be deleted & replaced by :

The delegate(s) to the refereeing are the only one competent to judge the value of a referee's decision.

In the competitions in which there would be no delegate to the refereeing, the supervisor becomes the one to take this competence.

The supervisor is requested to settle all the disputes during A Category and Grand-Prix competitions.

This is up to the FIE Bureau or one of its representative to settle disputes which arise during World Championships.

Motivation : The main role of the Directoire Technique is to ensure the organisation of the competition and not the settlement of disputes related to the bouts.

Opinion of the Commission : to take the two proposals 5 and 6 together; the Commission agrees with the proposals in the following form.

The Directoire is composed of people having the competence to organise competitions.

It is the Observer who settles any disputes which might arise in Category A and Grand Prix competitions.

It is the responsibility of the Bureau of the FIE or of its representative to settle any disputes which arise at World Championships.

Only the Delegate or Delegates of the Refereeing Commission are empowered to make judgement on the value of any decision made by a referee.

At competitions where there is no Refereeing Commission Delegate, it is the Observer who has this function.

Proposition 7 : Entries.

- o.67** The Open World Championships are open to all FIE member federations.
Entries are limited to four fencers per weapon per nation for the individual events and one team per weapon per nation for the team events.
The number of qualified teams is limited to 16 teams, according to the FIE Official Ranking, plus 16 teams allocated between the different zones, according to Zonal Championship.

Opinion of the Commission : delete the words « open to all member federations.” The text thus becomes “For the Open World Championships, entries are limited... »
The Commission agrees with the proposal provided the 16 teams from the Zones are allocated as follows : 6 from Europe, 4 from America, 4 from Asia and 2 from Africa.

Proposition 8 : Technical delegate of the FIE.

- o.71** The Technical delegate of the FIE, who represents the FIE in accordance with the Olympic Rules for Regional Games, will be chosen by the President of the FIE, **after consultation of the Executive Committee, according to criteria of recognized technical abilities.**

The expenses incurred by this representative (tourist-class air fare, hotel and board) will be paid by the Organising Committee.

Opinion of the Commission : in favour

Proposition 9

- o.76** Competitors in the World Junior Championships, Individual and Team, must be less than 20 years of age on **15 April** of the year in which the World Championship is held.
Competitors in the World Cadet Championships must be less than 17 years of age on **15 April** of the year in which the World Cadet Championship is held

Opinion of the Commission : in favour

Proposition 10 : entries to junior and senior A Category events.

- o.86** **For junior and senior individual A Category competitions, for each weapon, federations may enter a maximum of 12 fencers. The organising country may enter a maximum of 18 fencers.**

Motivation : Simplification and standardisation of the entries by eliminating the complication due to additional quotas granted to federations.
It also allows to have only pools of 7.

Opinion of the Commission : in favour but with the following modification :

For Individual Category A competitions, both Senior and Junior, at each weapon, national federations may enter a maximum of 12 fencers. The organising country may enter up to 20 fencers plus the number needed to make up the pools.
For competitions outside Europe, the organising country may enter up to 30 fencers plus the number needed to make up the pools.

For Grand Prix competitions, entries are limited to a maximum of 8 fencers per weapon per country. The organising country may enter 8 fencers plus a maximum of 12 further fencers, including those needed to make up the pools.

Proposition 11 : rankings

o.90 Suppression of the World Cup ranking. The winner of the World Cup is the first ranked in the official ranking of the FIE.

Motivation : consequence of the suppression of quotas and more understandable for the public and the medias.

Opinion of the Commission : in favour

o.91 a) Principle

The official Open ranking of the FIE takes into account the best six results ... **and the Continental Championship.**

Motivation : Increase the participation of athletes in Zonal Championships, by taking into account their results in the official FIE ranking and, in addition, a factor of multiplication identical to the one of the GP competitions.

Opinion of the Commission : in favour, but replace the word "continental" by "zone".

- The official Junior ranking of the FIE takes into account the best six results with a limit of no more than 3 from any one continent, as well as the World Championships **and the Continental Championships if organised.**

Opinion of the Commission : but replacing "takes into account the best 6..." by "takes into account the best 4..." and "with a limit of no more than 3 on the same continent" by " with a limit of no more than 2 on the same continent".

Motivation : Taking into account the standardisation of the number of competitions included in the Junior Calendar with the Senior Calendar, it is necessary to adjust the number of competitions to be taken into account for the calculation of points.

b) Scale of points, **to be added :**

Zonal Championships have a factor of multiplication of 2.

Opinion of the Commission : in favour

Proposition 13 : Presence on time.

t.86 **To be deleted in application after the 2004 OG :**

During a team match, should there be a modification in the order of bouts in the match, either intentionally or unintentionally, the team which has made the modification loses the match.

Motivation : This is not logical to disqualify a team in case of an inversion of fencers because this is the duty of the referee to check that both fencers on the piste are really the one he called for the bout. This is therefore the referee's responsibility to check that the fencers present on the piste are really the one who are supposed to meet.

Opinion of the Commission : already dealt with earlier.

Proposition 14 : Fencing Etiquette.

t.87 To be deleted :

Immediately after the end of a pool, the fencers must sign the pool score sheet, under the responsibility of the Referee who must check the accuracy of the results on this score sheet. Before the score sheet is returned to the Directoire Technique, the Referee must indicate in writing if a fencer refuses to sign it. No subsequent appeal relating to the results will be allowed.

Immediate application.

To be added :

The Referee meets with both fencers, at the end of a bout, to announce clearly the score, which will be transmitted to the Directoire Technique.

He must clearly say : « Mister X won against Mister Y with the following score »

Motivation : The signature is currently requested to the fencers in pools and direct elimination. This represents a loss of time which does not give satisfaction as fencers sometimes sign without understanding the score.

Opinion of the Commission : in favour

Proposition 15 : article t.97 The Directoire Technique.

t.97 To be deleted b) and d)

To be added :

c) It must also ensure the maintenance of order and discipline during the competition.

Opinion of the Commission : in favour with the modification made below :

c) It is also responsible for maintaining order and discipline during competitions and may use the sanctions specified in the Rules.

If the proposal is adopted, add to the beginning of t.97 “For the official competitions of the FIE” and delete point e) from Article t.96.

Proposition 16 : article t.120 Offences and penalties.

To be deleted t.86.

Opinion of the Commission : in favour

Proposition 17 : articles t. 114, 118, 119, 120 black cards.

A fencer or a team receiving a black card is excluded from the event, suspended for the rest of the tournament and for the next FIE official tournament at the concerned weapon. They will also be sanctioned by the loss of 50 points in the FIE official ranking.

Motivation: the black card is inflicted in case of severe offences and must be dissuasive. The consequences of black card must be uniform.

Opinion of the Commission : in favour of a sanction which acts as a deterrent, with suspension from all competitions for a period of two months of the active season, including the World Championships if the sanction is imposed on or after 1st May.

The Commission is in favour of the following text :

A fencer or any other person who receives a black card is excluded from the remainder of the tournament and for the following two months of the active season (1st January – 30th June), including the World Championships if the sanction is imposed on or after 1st May. « However, a team excluded from a tournament because of a black card imposed on one of its members is not excluded as a team from the following competitions, but it may not select the fencer sanctioned. »

The Commission indicated that the non-presentation on the piste 10 minutes before the match or the lack of fencer's entries via the Internet FIE Web site must be penalised by an exclusion from the competition and not a black card.

Proposition 18 : At foil, make the hit to the unarmed arm valid and carry out tests in considering the armed arm as a valid surface :

This proposition is based on the fact that fencers have more and more incorrect on guard positions and leave the unarmed arm pending in front of the valid surfaces.

It seems therefore useful to make the hit to the unarmed arm valid in order to suppress the possibility to contravene to the spirit of our sport.

It would be also interesting to make a test in considering the hit to the armed arm valid and in this case, suppress the white light in case of non valid hit.

It would make our sport more comprehensible for the public and give back to foil the rules it used to have originally.

Opinion of the Commission : very interested in the changes proposed, but is waiting for the tests and conclusions of the Technical Commission before giving an opinion.

PROPOSITIONS OF THE SPANISH FEDERATION

Prop. 1. SYSTEMS OF COMPETITION ADAPTED TO FOUR PISTES

REMINDER:

The new adaptation of A Category and Grand Prix competitions on four pistes raises numerous problems which will be described below as well as the possible solutions.

It seems to us that the competition on four pistes increases the interest of the public and the media and is also favourable to the fencers who know in advance the serie in which they will participate, as well as the exact time of their participation. It is established that this measure is without doubt beneficial for all.

During the Men's Epee competition held in Stockholm, as well as in other competitions in Spain organised with this system, we have faced a big problem. In case of a high number of participants in the competition, it is necessary to organise three or four series for the first round. The fencers who have finished their pool in the preliminary phase (about 10h00 in the morning) must wait until the end of the remaining pools of the preliminary phase (around 19h00) to find out whether they are directly qualified for the final table of 64 of the following day or not, or whether they have to participate in the preliminary table in order to be qualified or have been directly eliminated.

Fencers who must participate in the preliminary table, must start over the competition after a waiting time of seven or eight hours.

Our proposition is to change each of these four pools of the 1st round in independent quarters of direct elimination table, in such a way that at the end of this round of pools of four, we already know exactly

in this group who is directly qualified for the final table (in taking the places between 17 and 32), who is eliminated from the competition and who must fence bouts to complete the final table of 64 in order to take the places between 32 and 64.

This ranking system will be direct in such a way that bouts of direct elimination of the preliminary table will immediately take place after the end of its serie of pools. So, everyone will know the fencers directly qualified, the fencers qualified by the preliminary table and the fencers directly eliminated.

This is immensely beneficial for the fencers as once their round is over, they know whether they are qualified or not for the direct final elimination table of the following day.

The system to be used to reach this objective is very simple :

- A. We maintain 16 exempted as in the current formula.
- B. Taking into account the final number of entries of fencers, we complete the total number of participants with fencers from the organising country. On one side, it is guaranteed that pools have the same number of fencers and on the other side, with this addition from the organising country, the total number of participants can be determined in order that the total number of pools to be constituted for the 1st phase, be a multiple of 4, 8 12, or 16.
- C. Once the total number of pools is known, we know for each group of 4, the number of qualified fencers, the ones who make up the table of 64 and the ones who are eliminated, by just applying an arithmetical formula.

We think that this formula allows a development of the competition on four pistes and at the same time respects the schedule and is comfortable for the sportsmen.

Regardless of this formula of four, we think that the best configuration, in also using the formula presented above, would be a development on eight pistes with the drawings.

It would enable the organisation of the first rounds on eight pistes, even at weapons of longer length, and also the first direct elimination bout of 64, to carry on with the table of 32 on the four coloured pistes.

Concerning the colours of the pistes, we think, according to the experience gained during World Cups and World Championships, that the red, blue and green colours for the pistes are really appropriate but not the yellow one, due to its lightness it gets very quickly dirty and produces a very bad effect on the spectators, media and fencers.

Our proposition is to substitute yellow with another colour available on the market of industrial carpets, which could be orange, in order to avoid the problems presented above.

PROPOSITION

Organisation of the 1st round of pools and also first direct elimination bout on eight pistes.

During Grand Prix competitions that we wish to organise on four pistes, adaptation of the Rules for competitions in order to qualify and eliminate fencers once each elimination rounds of pools is over.

Change the yellow colour with the orange colour of carpets of four pistes for the final table.

Opinion of the Commission : not in favour

PROPOSITIONS OF THE HUNGARIAN FENCING FEDERATION

Proposition Nr. 4

The Hungarian Fencing Federation proposes to **cancel the national quotas starting from the 2005/2006 season** in order to allow fencers ranked from 1 to 128 to participate in World Cups.

Opinion of the Commission : in favour of the first part and absolutely against the second part.

Proposition Nr. 5

The Hungarian Fencing Federation proposes to modify the formula of Team Competitions for the World Cups, World Championships and Olympic Games.

The proposed formula:

- 3 + 1 fencers – 45 hits – everyone fences against everyone
 - 3 periods: the first: 1 to 15 hits 1 point
 - the second: 16 to 30 hits 1 point
 - the third: 31 to 45 hits 1 point
- It is necessary to win 2 periods of the event = 2 points

Opinion of the Commission : not in favour.

Proposition Nr. 7

Re-establish **AT SABRE** the blocking times at 300-350 milliseconds (instead of the current 120 milliseconds).

*Motivation : The introduction of the current Rule at 120 milliseconds is unfavourable to a fencer, who executes a **parade-riposte** because his opponent who attacks, after the parade, in leaving his blade on the valid surface (by a « remise ») always precedes such a riposte executed so quickly. The new Rule reduces the moderated actions of this weapon.*

Opinion of the Commission : not in favour : however, some members of the Commission confirm that the problem as described does exist and would be in favour of a slight increase in the blockage time.

PROPOSITIONS OF THE POLISH FENCING FEDERATION

Proposition 1 : Change in match of Team World Cups

- a competition are playing in groups in phase of elimination
- 8 first teams in World Championships ranking are exempted from first round of elimination.
- 1 round – every continent carry out an elimination, from which are qualified to next match in every weapon : 12 teams from Europe, from America and Asia – 5 teams each, 2 teams from Africa,

- II round – 8 teams are exempted and 24 teams from elimination create 8 groups, 4 teams each. From every group go on further 2 teams each.
 - III round - 16 qualified teams create 4 groups, 4 teams each. From every group are qualified 2 teams each.
 - IV round – FINAL GALA – 8 teams fight in system of direct elimination.
- After acceptance of the playing system, it is necessary to work out a particular rule.

Arguments:

1. Reduction of the costs. Instead of 6 World Cups there will be 4 rounds.
2. Regular teams order – one defeat not eliminate from coming in to final.
3. Now the same teams fight each of them in the World Cup successively and the ranking not change.
4. There will be appointed a winner of the World Cup and a champion of World.
5. More right formation of the teams to the Olympic Games.
6. Chance to organize Final-Gala in 6 towns where there are a lot of propaganda possibilities.

Opinion of the Commission : not in favour.

PROPOSITIONS OF THE PORTUGUESE FENCING FEDERATION
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Proposition 1 : Page 18 Organisation Rules Edition December 2004

0.85 Directoire Technique

The Directoire Technique shall consist of three suitable members from the organising country or invited by it.

To add the following paragraph :

« For Grand Prix competitions, one of the three members of the DT will be designated by the FIE. »

Motivation : in view of the importance of FIE Grand Prix (in respect of media and ranking), they must be perfectly organised. The DT is constituted on the venue of the competition in the case of World Cups (GP included). A member of the Directoire Technique designated by the FIE will ensure that a member of the DT will be present from the beginning to the end of the competition. This person must fulfil the following criteria : be able to communicate in at least 2 official languages of the FIE, know perfectly the Rules, have a practical experience in organisation of fencing competitions. Should there be such a person in the organising country, it will be designated by the FIE.

Opinion of the Commission : in favour as modified below :

« For Grand Prix competitions, one of the three members of the Directoire Technique is designated by the Executive Committee of the FIE, taking into account the principle of geographic proximity. If the organising country has an appropriate person, the FIE will nominate that person. »

Proposition 2 : Page 20 and 21 Organisation Rules Edition December 2004, 0.91 Official FIE individual ranking

a) Principle

To add : « The official FIE individual ranking shall take into account Zonal Championships.»

b) Scale of points

To add : « The points obtained in a Zonal Championship are multiplied by a factor of 1 (or from 1 to 2 according to the study of the COMEX and decision of the Congress).

Motivation : increase the interest, the importance, the level and number of participants in each Zonal Fencing Championship.

Opinion of the Commission : already dealt with.

PROPOSITIONS OF THE FENCING FEDERATION OF QATAR

Proposition 2. Official ranking of the FIE

The FIE should analyse a system in order to allow the competitor to obtain FIE points while competing at competitions organised by the different Confederations when the event is sanctioned by the FIE.

Opinion of the Commission : already dealt with.

PROPOSITION OF THE RULES COMMISSION

Draft to renumber the Rules.

Opinion of the Commission : already dealt with.

PROPOSITIONS OF THE SLOVAK FENCING FEDERATION

Proposition 1 : The deadlines for entries to World Championships

Motivation: in view of all the procedures required for the preparation of World Championships, including accreditation cards, we think that the deadline for entries stated in the FIE Rules should be moved forward. The following articles should therefore change, reason why

Proposition :

o.53 Entries for World Championships

Two and half months before the start of the event, Federations which will have sent their entries, will receive from the Organising Committee a second entry form and/or code to enable them access to the Web site of the Championships, in order to specify the number of fencers and teams participating in each event of the Championships.

These entries for the competitions, on the official form, must be sent back to the organisers two months before the start of the competitions. No additional fencers will be accepted after this date.

o.54 Entries by name for all official events

Federations which have announced their intention to compete, will receive, from the Organising Committee, entry forms by name for each event.

For the World Championships, the entry of the names are to be made exclusively via the FIE Website and must be completed with the names of each fencer participating in the competition, at least 1 month before the start of the first event, together with the payment of the individual and team entry fees perceived by the Organisers of the Championships for all the participants. Changes of name, for reason of "force majeure" or injury, can only be made up to 24 hours before the start of each event.

By the same date, digital photos of all entered fencers and persons authorised by the FIE Rules must be submitted electronically or exceptionally by mail to the given address to be dealt with later on.

For World Cup competitions, the names of those entered must reach the organisers no later than midnight, local time, of the Tuesday preceding the week-end on which the competition is taking place. The name of the team manager must be identified on this document, as well as, the name and category of each referee being brought.

Opinion of the Commission : already dealt with, but in Article o.53, the sending out of the documents should take place 3 months before the Championships and they should be returned by the Federations 2 months before the Championships.

Proposition 3: Bring together Zonal Championships and World Championships

Motivation: in view of the difficulty to reconcile World Cup events (and Junior), with zonal championships and World Championships (also Junior), one solution could be to bring together the Championships within a common period, which would allow a better and easier planning of the FIE calendar and national events calendar.

Proposition:

Zonal Championships and Junior/Cadet World Championships would be organised within one month – for example April of each year. Zonal Championships and Senior World Championships would also be held within a limited period of one month.

Opinion of the Commission : in favour.

ADDITIONAL PROPOSITIONS OF ARTHUR CRAMER (MH)
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La Commission a rendu un avis favorable (avec modifications parfois) aux propositions ci-dessous :

**1) Technical Rules, article 6.8.4 (old t.45, 4th paragraph, page 16)
to be replaced :**

Current text :

If a fencer appears on the piste for a bout (whether in a pool, in the direct elimination or during a team match) with clothing not conforming to the rules, in that he is :

- not correctly showing his name on his back (application – all official FIE competitions, all stages); and/or;
- not wearing his national colours (application as follows) :
 - a) Open, Junior and Cadet World Championships, all bouts, in a pool, in the direct elimination or during a team match;
 - b) Senior World Cup Individual competitions, all direct elimination bouts from the last 64 onwards;
 - c) World Cup Team competitions, all bouts in every team match;

The Referee shall penalise him with a Red Card (Articles t.114, t.117, t.120, 2nd group). The fencer at fault shall however be allowed to remain on the piste and fence the bout concerned.

Proposed text: Art 45 at the end.

t6.8.4 6.8.4. At presentation on the piste or during a bout : irregularities of the clothing.

t6.8.4.1 1) Examples of irregularities at fault

t6.8.4.1.a a) Not correctly showing the name and nationality on the back of the jacket, at all stages of all official FIE competitions :
- the name of the fencer or the nationality is missing on the back of the jacket.
- the name of the fencer or the nationality is not written or fixed in conformity with the Rules **(Cf. m.5.9)**.

t6.8.4.1.b b) To wear clothing with logos not in conformity with the ones deposited by the national federation and approved by the FIE Executive Committee, and identical for all the fencers of a same Federation, for the following events :

- World Championships, Junior/Cadet World Championships, Team World Cups : all bouts at all stages of the competition.
- Senior World Cup Individual competitions : all direct elimination bouts from the last 64 onwards.

t6.8.4.2 2) The Referee shall inflict the penalties described in the articles **18.(1.1.b / 1.2 / 2.2 / 2.4 / 3.1 / 5 / 8 G2 F3). The fencer at fault shall be allowed to remain on the piste and fence the bout concerned.**

Opinion of the Commission : a revised text for this part of t.45 should read : Every fencer must present himself on the piste with clothing which satisfies the Rules in the following respects :

- name and nationality, as specified in the rules, on the back of the jacket (application: all the official competitions of the FIE, at all stages of these competitions);

- he must wear the national strip (application as follows):

a) World Championships and World Junior and Cadet Championships, every match, in the pools, in the direct elimination and in team matches;

b) Individual senior World Cup competitions, all direct elimination matches from the 64 onwards;

c) World Cup team competitions, all bouts in every match.

In cases of any infringement of these rules, the referee will penalise the fencer at fault with a red card (Articles t.114, t.117, t.120, 2nd group). However, the fencer at fault has the right to remain on the piste and fence the match concerned.

2)) Material Rules, Article m5.3.5 (old m.25), item 3, last line to be replaced :

Current text :

3. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CLOTHING : Fencers' clothing must be made of sufficiently robust material and be clean and in good condition. The material from which the equipment is made must not have a surface which is smooth enough to cause the pointe d'arrêt, the button or the opponent's hit to glance off (cf. m.30). Clothing must be made entirely in cloth able to resist a pressure of 800 Newtons. Very particular attention must be paid to the way the seams under the armpits, if there are any, are made. An under-garment consisting of a protective under-plastron covering the vital upper areas of the body (following the design given in Annex A to these Rules, "Safety norms for manufacturers") resistant to 800 Newtons is also obligatory. Fencers' clothing may be of different colours, but on the body it must be a single colour, white or a light shade.

New proposed text :

m5.3.5 5.3.5. The colours

Fencers' clothing may be of different colours, apart from black and grey.

Opinion of the Commission : in favour.

3) Material Rules, Article m5.9 (old m.25) , to add at the end :

m5.9 5.9. The national clothing

m5.9.1 5.91. The composition

The national clothing shall include the socks, the breeches, the jacket and the conductive jacket at foil and sabre. (Cf. m.28, m.34).

Opinion of the Commission : in favour, but add the mask.

m5.9.2 5.9.2. National clothing

m5.9.2.1 National clothing shall be unique and must be identical for all the fencers representing a national Federation in the official FIE events.

Opinion of the Commission : in favour, but add ...in FIE team competitions. This text is already in the Publicity Code.

m5.9.2.2 2) National clothing shall be approved by the FIE Executive Committee at least 30 days before it is used for the first time in an official FIE competition.

Opinion of the Commission : in favour, but replace 30 days by 15 days.

m5.9.3 5.9.3. The designs and colours of national clothing

The designs of national clothing :
m5.9.3.1 1) shall include the logos of the national federation on the two thighs at least.

m5.9.3.2 2) the material may be of different colours.

m5.9.3.3 3) the name of the fencer shall be on the shoulder blade on the back of the jacket with the logo of the national federation below. They shall be printed directly on the jacket or on a cloth carefully sewn on the jacket. The letter shall be in dark blue capital, between 10 cm and 8 cm high, and between 1 cm and 1,5 cm wide, according to the length of the name, in conformity with the figure below :

Opinion of the Commission : in favour, but replace 30 days by 15 days, and delete the width dimension. Refer to the text of the Publicity Code for the article m5.9.3.1: « The designs of national colours (logos) are compulsory and must be identical on both legs of the athletes, they are optional on the arm(s) and must be identical for all the fencers of the same federation for the following events :... »

4) Material Rules, Article m5.8 (old m.25, item 7), to add :

m5.8 5.8. The mask

- m5.8.4 4) The mask may have coloured drawings subject to the approval of the FIE Executive Committee at least 30 days before it is used for the first time in an official FIE competition.

Opinion of the Commission: in favour, but replace 30 days by 15 days.

5) Material Rules, Article m5.4.2.3 (old m.25, item 4) , to add at the end:

- m5.4.2.3 3) Ladies' equipment must, furthermore, include breast protectors made of metal or some rigid material. The same equipment is facultative for men. In any case, breast/chest protectors must be worn between the jacket and the T-shirt for the women and directly on the skin for the men.
- m5.4.2.3 3) L'équipement des dames doit comporter, en outre, dans la veste, un protège poitrine en métal ou toute autre matière rigide. Pour les hommes le même équipement est facultatif. Dans tous les cas ; le protège poitrine doit être porté entre la veste et le T-shirt pour les femmes et directement sur la peau pour les hommes.

Opinion of the Commission : see the proposal by the Executive Committee.

6) Technical Rules, Articles t16.2.1, t16.4.5, t16.5.2, t16.7.2, t19.2.1.4 (old t.94, t.95, t.97, t.99, t.122), replace the crossed texts with the proposed texts and add the others in red

- t16.2.1 [t.94] 1) The order and discipline of competitions is the responsibility, in varying degrees and depending on the competitions, of the competent disciplinary authorities (individual or organism) :
- the referee [Cf. t16.4].
 - the ~~Directoire Technique~~ the Refereeing Commission Delegate(s) or the Supervisor (if no Delegate) [Cf. t16.5, o.56 à o.62]
 - the Executive Committee of the IOC at the Olympic Games [Cf. t16.6].
 - the Central Office of the FIE [Cf. t16.7.(1 / 4), o.63]
 - the Executive Committee of the FIE . [Cf. t16.7.5].
 - the FIE Disciplinary Commission [Cf. t16.7.2] and its Court.
 - The Sports Arbitration Tribunal and the Court of Arbitration for Sports [Cf. t16.7.3]
- t16.4.5 5) The ~~Directoire Technique~~ Refereeing Commission Delegate(s) or the Supervisor (if no Delegate) is the authority of appeal to the referee's decisions. [Cf. t16.5.2, t19.2.1].
- ~~t16.5.2 2) It is the juridical authority to deal with appeals against the decisions of referees.~~
- t16.7.2 2) The FIE Disciplinary Commission is the juridical body of the FIE that, within the limits of the territories over which the FIE has authority, settles all disciplinary matters referred to the FIE and judges all appeals against decisions taken by the ~~Directoire Technique~~ Refereeing Commission Delegate(s) or the Supervisor (if no Delegate) [Cf. ~~16.5.2~~ 2.1].
- t19.2.1.4 4) If the Referee persists in his opinion, the ~~Directoire Technique~~ Refereeing Commission Delegate(s) or the Supervisor (if no Delegate) has authority to settle in appeal [Cf. t16.5]. If such an appeal (complaint) is deemed to be unjustified, the fencer shall receive the penalties settled in the articles [Cf. t18.(1.1.a / 1.1.b / 2.1 / 2.4 / 3.1 / 4 / 8 G1 F13)].

Opinion of the Commission :

t.16.2.1 =t.94 : replace 'The Sports Arbitration Tribunal' with 'The Sports Tribunal'.

t.16.4.5 =t.96,5 : in favour as follows:- The Delegate of the Refereeing Commission or the Observer (if there is no Delegate) is the authority competent to deal with appeals against the decisions of the referee.

t.16.5.2 =t.97,b : in favour.

t.16.7.2 =t.99,2 : in favour as follows : The Disciplinary Commission of the FIE is the juridical body of the FIE that, within the limits of the territories over which the FIE has authority, settles all disciplinary matters referred to the FIE and judges all appeals against decisions taken by the Delegate of the Refereeing Commission, or the Observer if there is no Delegate.

t.19.2.1.4 =t.122,4 : in favour as follows : If the referee maintains his opinion, the Delegate of the Refereeing Commission or the Observer (if there is no Delegate) has the authority to settle an appeal (Cf. t.97). If such an appeal is deemed to be unjustified, the fencer will be penalised in accordance with Articles t.114, t.116, t.120.

7) Technical Rules Article t13.1 (old t.73), to add at the end:

t13.1 13.1. Materiality of hit : fundamental rules

t13.1.1 **1)** Competitions at sabre are judged with the help of an electric apparatus registering hits.

t13.1.2 **[t.73]** **2)** To judge the materiality of hit, only hits registered by the registering apparatus are deemed true.

t13.1.3 **3)** In no case may the Referee award a hit unless it has been properly registered by the apparatus (except as laid down in the Rules Cf. o.17, o.24 and for penalty hits).

Opinion of the Commission: in favour, as amended below :

The Referee cannot award a hit unless it has been properly registered by the apparatus (except for penalty hits).