



REPORT OF MEETING, 16-17 JULY, 2005

Present at the meeting on both days were:

Ao, Jie – FIE Office Liaison
Cramer, Arthur – Representative of the Executive Committee
El Motawakel, Mohamed – Member of the Refereeing Commission
Ferjani, Salah – Member of the Refereeing Commission
Janka, Claus – Member of the Refereeing Commission
Kim, Chang Gon – Member of the Refereeing Commission
Kolombatovich, George – President of the Refereeing Commission
Plasterie, Serge – Member of the Refereeing Commission
Pop, Ioan – Technical Director of the FIE
Roch, Rene – President of the FIE
Sakhvadze, Morris – Member of the Refereeing Commission
Salhi, Ferial Nadira – Member of the Refereeing Commission
Smith, Keith – Member of the Refereeing Commission
Tanaka, Yumiko – Member of the Refereeing Commission

- 1) Grand Prix World Cups: After much discussion about the many problems (no airline tickets, changes of referees, e-tickets sent either after the departure date or for the incorrect airport with insufficient time to get to that airport, no letters to get visas, no communication, etc.) that delegates and referees had to deal with this season, it was announced by President Roch that for this upcoming season Jie Ao will be handling the details of the referees and delegates to the Grand Prix World Cups. The Commission is very pleased to have Jie Ao working with us to improve these important events.
- 2) To avoid the great majority of the problems with the Grand Prix World Cups, it was decided to recommend the following to the Executive Committee:
 - a) All communications between Jie Ao, the Organizing Federation, and the Delegate of the Refereeing Commission are to be copied to all.
 - b) Organizing Federation may not change a Referee
 - c) Referee's Federation may not change a Referee
 - d) The FIE is requested to supply to the members of our Commission the contact information (postal address, telephone numbers, e-mail address) for all referees with licenses.
 - e) Organizing Federation is to contact the seven FIE Designated Referees and the Delegate of the Refereeing Commission at least four months before the first day of the event to arrange transportation.
 - f) Referees and Delegate are to be scheduled to arrive at their respective hotel(s) no later than 18h00 the day before the first day of the competition. If a referee or delegate has to stay any night before or after the competition, that

referee is to be paid \$100 for each additional day and is to have a pre-paid hotel room.

- g) A Referee who does not confirm her or his presence within two weeks after receiving transportation information will be replaced.
 - h) A Referee who cannot attend is to contact Jie Ao who will advise the President of the FIE Refereeing Commission. The President of the FIE Refereeing Commission will provide a list of possible replacements to the President of the FIE. The President of the FIE will select the replacement Referee.
 - i) If the Organizing Federation is unable to contact a Referee or the Delegate of the Refereeing Commission, the Organizing Federation is to immediately contact Jie Ao.
 - j) The Organizing Federation is to send to Jie Ao and the Delegate of the Refereeing Commission the travel itineraries for all FIE-Designated Referees, Organizing Federation's FIE-Licensed Referees, and the Refereeing Commission Delegate at least five weeks prior to the first day of the event. If this is not done, the FIE travel agency will be contacted and arrange all travel with the invoice being sent to the Organizing Federation.
 - k) The FIE Designated Referees and the Organizing Federation's Referees are to meet in a meeting room at the referee's hotel on the evening before the competition starts at 19h00.
 - l) The Delegate of the Refereeing Commission is to confirm all arrangements with the Organizing Federation at least four weeks prior to the first day of the event.
 - m) All FIE assigned personnel are to be paid the morning of the first day of the event.
 - n) An Organizing Federation that owes a referee any money will not be permitted to obtain any FIE Licenses or enter its fencers in any FIE competition until payment has been made.
- 3) To insure that all have the information as to activity and appreciation of all referees at World Championships and Grand Prix Tournaments it was decided that every delegate is to send the report to every other member of the Commission and to Jie Ao. The report is to be sent no later than ten days after the event.
- 4) It is requested that the Executive Committee assure that the Federacion Venezolana de Esgrima pay Referee Derek Cotton the \$435.00 they should have paid him in June, 2003. Mr. Cotton was an assigned FIE Referee to the Grand Prix World Cup in Caracas and, despite numerous requests to and promises from the Federacion Venezolana de Esgrima, he has still not been paid.
- 5) Proposals to be presented to the FIE Congress: The Refereeing Commission's sentiment is listed after each proposal.

**PROPOSITIONS OF THE BRAZILIAN FEDERATION /
ARTHUR CRAMER (MH)**

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).

Arthur Cramer and Stephen Higginson have met during the meeting of the Refereeing Commission, and have subsequently agreed to withdraw the proposition 1 (Renumbering of the Rules) of Arthur Cramer and the proposition 1 (Renumbering of the Rules) of the Rules Commission, on the following conditions :

- adoption of the numbering system of Arthur Cramer for the establishment of the Referees' Handbook, on which Mr. Higginson proposed to collaborate.

- adoption of the extensive numbering system of the Rules Commission for the FIE Rules. This system does not modify the texts of the Rules.

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 ».

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 ».

The Refereeing Commission is in favor of this proposal.

Proposition 3.

Reincorporate the bib as valid surface at foil.

The Refereeing Commission is in favor of this proposal if the manufacturers are able to make it work safely.

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.

The Refereeing Commission is against this proposal. If the proposal were changed to “(entre les commandements de ALLEZ et HALTE)”, the Commission would be in favor.

Proposition 5.

STATUTES : candidates to the Refereeing Commission must be FIE Referees, at least at two weapons.

The Refereeing Commission is in favor of this proposal.

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 Refereeing Commission requests an examination of this system in competition conditions before rendering an opinion on this proposal.

<p>PROPOSITIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Modifications to the Rules</p>

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.

The Refereeing Commission is in favor of this proposal.

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

1.

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.

The Refereeing Commission is in favor of this proposal with the condition that arriving late is changed from a Black Card to simply being unable to compete.

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.

The Refereeing Commission requests an examination of this system in competition conditions before rendering an opinion on this proposal.

PROPOSITIONS OF THE SPANISH FEDERATION

Proposition 2. REFEREEING SYSTEM

REMINDER:

In our opinion, one of the big problems of world fencing is the transparency of the refereeing in order to give to the public and the IOC a guarantee of a fair refereeing. This problem could compromise our presence at future Olympic Games.

We are aware of the current concern of the International Fencing Federation in respect of refereeing and think that the possibility to complete the decision of the Referee with the help of the video, although it represents a possible alternative, is not the most appropriate.

In our opinion, the subsequent observation of a referee's decision with the video, presents the following problems :

- 1.- The organisation of the competition becomes more expensive for the organisers.
- 2.- Slowing down of the competition for the spectators and above all for the media, due to the decision, which would lead to a new observation of the judged action and possible consequences.
- 3.- The observation of a fencing action through the video changes the nature of the action itself, as it is not in real time and the decision will, therefore, always be very complicated.

All these elements convince us to propose an alternative proposition, which guarantees a better refereeing without resorting to new technologies.

Our proposition is to have, once the competition has started on the four pistes, (either from the 1st round, or the final table of 64, as well as the final) the presence of a group of three referees officiating in the following manner :

1. The Directoire Technique would designate the three referees coming from different countries before the beginning of, either the pools, or each direct elimination match.
2. The designated referees would take the number of referee 1, referee 2 and referee 3.
3. The referee 1 will lead the bout and the referees 2 and 3 will immediately **ratify** the decision.
4. The referees 2 and 3 will be posted on each side of the piste, in such a way that none of them can see the decision taken by the other referee.
5. The method to be used could be a green light to agree with the decision and a red light to disapprove it. This electronic system could be changed, as in other sports (taekwondo, judo, etc.), with a red and green flag or card.
6. Once the decision has been taken by the main referee, the two additional referees ratify or not the decision according to the following criteria : judgement of the main referee, hit on the right, ratification by the two additional referees with two green flags, hit given to the right.

Judgement of the main referee, hit on the right, one of the secondary referee lifts a red flag, and the other one lifts a green flag, it means a ratification of the decision 2 to 1, the hit on the right is given. Judgement of the main referee, hit on the right, the 2 secondary referees lift the red flag, the decision of the main referee is not ratified, the hit is not given, we replace on guard and carry on.

7. In case of a double non-ratification of the decision taken by the main referee, during a bout or direct elimination match, the referee 2 replaces immediately the main referee and the latter takes the position of the additional referee.

We think that this system guarantees a much more efficient refereeing for the following reasons :

1. Any decision, which is according to the two other referees erroneous, would not bring total prejudice to fencers on the piste.
2. A bad judgement of the referee, based on whatever ground, would be immediately corrected with the annulment of the given hit.
3. A repeated bad decision would immediately lead to the changing of the main referee, which guarantees a positive evolution of the refereeing during the bout.
4. The decisions would always be taken by expert referees, in direct and in real time.
5. Once the system is automated, it would be quick, efficient, easily understandable and would be a big guarantee for the fencers.

PROPOSITION :

Refereeing based on a system of three referees, a main and two additional ones who ensure a better and more efficient refereeing. A quick refereeing system, which is understandable by the public and the medias.

The Refereeing Commission is not in favor of this proposition, but it requests that it be tested at many competitions with reports being sent to the Commission. (This system has been tried in the past, and it has produced inconsistent analyses of many actions.)

PROPOSITIONS OF THE HUNGARIAN FENCING FEDERATION

Proposition Nr. 6

The best referees must be designated for the World Championships and Olympic Games, upon proposition of the Refereeing Commission. A maximum of 2 referees per nation.

The Refereeing Commission is not in favor of this proposal.

6) Seminars and Examinations

- a) The use of PowerPoint for all seminars will be attempted. It is requested that the Commission be given the tapes of all actions previously used in seminars so that they may be digitized for use on DVD or CD.
- b) Examiners
 - i) Two members of the Refereeing Commission are required to give examinations. If an assigned examiner cannot attend, the President of the Refereeing Commission will suggest possible replacements to the President of the FIE. The President of the FIE will make the final selection.
- c) Change format to use of DVD or CD
 - i) Digital video that already exists or new video can easily be transferred to a DVD or CD.

- ii) Less expensive for all
 - (1) Equipment provided by Organizing Federation (Available almost everywhere)
 - (a) Computer with Microsoft PowerPoint
 - (b) Projector
 - (c) Screen
 - (2) Examiner has to bring only one or more DVD or CD to give seminar and examinations.
 - iii) Examiner can easily change order of actions to make testing even more objective.
 - iv) Allows for precise starting and stopping of video
 - d) Develop uniform point system for practical and theoretical examination based on difficulty. What is of great importance or of little importance will vary for any examiner. The Refereeing Commission currently faces a significant problem regarding the credibility of the examination process. Some will consider the correct analysis of less importance than others, while some will not consider the gestures of sufficient importance.
 - e) A committee of the Refereeing Commission has been established to determine the specific point value of each part of an examination. This committee consists of:
Keith Smith (Chairman), Ferial Salhi, Morris Sakhvadze, and George Kolombatovich.
- 7) The system of using replay of video to assist the referee was discussed at length. It was decided that:
- a) The system will be used during the finals at the World Championships in Leipzig.
 - b) The monitor will be placed behind the referee.
 - c) The delegates of the Refereeing Commission will designate one person – a delegate or a referee – to watch the monitor.
 - d) The referee is the only person who may decide to look at the video in case of doubt as to the determination of a phrase.
 - e) The referee may consult with the designated person at the monitor regarding the phrase being watched.
- In extreme situations, the delegates of the Refereeing Commission are to apply Rule t.37 to remove a referee who is obviously incapacitated. « A l'issue de chaque tour, les délégués à l'arbitrage peuvent retirer un arbitre dont la prestation n'aurait pas été satisfaisante. Par contre, un arbitre ne sera pas changé en cours de match, sauf cas exceptionnel (tel qu'empêchement physique de l'arbitre). Dans ce cas, la décision motivée sera prise par les délégués à l'arbitrage (règle applicable également pour les épreuves par équipes). »
- 8) A discussion as to the analysis of sabre actions with the new timing took place. It was agreed that:

- a) When a fencer makes a clear parry and both lights come on simultaneously, it would be extremely unlikely that it is an insufficient parry.
- b) When there is a situation of attack and counter-attack and there are two lights on with one of the lights caused by a properly executed attack, the attack would have priority.

A discussion took place regarding the FIE Administrative Rules vis-à-vis being a Referee and a National Coach. It was voted to strictly follow Rule 3.2.3. "Referees who are fencing masters for their national team or national trainers are not permitted to referee at World Championships (Open, Junior or Cadet) or at the Olympic Games." This decision was later changed.

9) Schedule of Commission Meetings

- a) The next meeting of the Refereeing Commission will be 10-11 December 2005. At this meeting the Commission will select the referees and delegates to recommend to the Executive Committee for assignment to the 2006 Junior/Cadet World Championships. The Commission will also finalize the presentation of seminars and the giving of examinations.
- b) The following meeting of the Refereeing Commission will be 22-23 July 2006. At this meeting the Commission will select the referees and delegates for the 2006 Senior World Championships and the Grand Prix events for the 2006-07 season.

10) Select Referees and Delegates to be recommended to the Executive Committee:

- i) Referees for the 2005 Senior World Championships – This is attached as a worksheet in the Excel File: 2005-06 FIE Referees to GP & Leipzig 17 Jul 05.xls.
- ii) Referees and Delegates for the 2005-06 Grand Prix events – This is attached as a worksheet in the Excel File: 2005-06 FIE Referees to GP & Leipzig 17 Jul 05.xls.

11) The Refereeing Commission decided to adopt the Code of Ethics – This is attached as the Word File: FIE Referee Code of Ethics - Adopted 17 Jul 05.doc.

Respectively submitted by George Kolombatovich, 26 July 2005