
SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

2007 CONGRESS

Madrid (ESP), 24-25 November 2007

108 federations participated in the Congress, of which 68 were present and 40 were represented.

A) GENERAL POINTS

1) Report of 2005 Congress in Doha (QAT)

The report of the Congress was unanimously approved.

2) New memberships

The Congress approved the final affiliation of the following federations:

- The Fencing Federation of Bangladesh (BAN)
- The Fencing Federation of Botswana (BOT)
- The Fencing Federation of Cambodia (CAM)
- The Fencing Federation of Mauritania (MTN)
- The Fencing Federation of Myanmar (MYA)
- The Fencing Federation of Namibia (NAM)
- The Fencing Federation of Somalia (SOM)
- The Fencing Federation of Tajikistan (TJK)

3) Awarding of World Championships

The **2010** World Championships have been awarded to Paris (FRA)

The **2008 Veteran** World Championships have been awarded to Limoges (FRA)

4) Candidatures for the organisation of the World Championships

The following candidatures will be submitted to the vote of the 2008 General Assembly in Acireale (ITA):

- Junior/Cadet: **2009** (Belfast, GBR), **2010** (Novi Sad, SRB)
- Senior: **2009** (Copenhagen, DEN), (Istanbul or Antalya, TUR)
- Veteran: **2009** (Moscow, RUS)

Candidatures announced for the 2008 Congress vote:

- Senior: **2011** (Budapest, HUN), (Chicago or Denver or Las Vegas, USA)
- Veteran: **2010** (Curaçao, AHO)

5) 2007 Chevalier Feyerick Trophy

The Chevalier Feyerick Trophy was awarded to the double Olympic champion Timea Nagy (HUN), whose behaviour on the piste has always been outstanding.

6) Congress nominations, proposed by the Honours Commission

Ratifications:

Mr Mario Favia (ITA, MH) was appointed Vice-President of Honour.

Mr Emil Beck (GER) was given the title of Member of Honour posthumously.

The following persons were appointed Members of Honour:

Mr Jean-Claude Blondeau (FRA)
Mr Cesare Salvadori (ITA)
Mr Xiao Tian (CHN)

7) Candidatures for the organisation of the Congresses

2009: Istanbul (TUR), Rome (ITA)

2011: Sintra (POR)

8) Foil

As of 1 January 2008, wireless apparatus and transparent masks are compulsory at foil in the Grand Prix competitions, World Championships and Olympic Games, from the table of 32 onwards.

2) MODIFICATIONS TO THE STATUTES

The following modifications to the articles of the Statutes were passed and come into effect immediately:

1.1 addition of an introduction before “The Aims of the F.I.E. are”

The FIE is recognised by the IOC as the organization which governs the sport of fencing worldwide in accordance with the rules in Chapter 3 of the Olympic Charter.

1.2.6 a)

Nevertheless, competitors of countries which are not members of the F.I.E. may be registered for individual competitions organised by member federations, provided that they are **F.I.E licensees for the current season**. They fence under the banner of the F.I.E.

1.2.7

All bans, suspensions, expulsions, disqualifications or other penalties issued **to a licensee of the FIE** by a member federation should be made known to the Central Office of the F.I.E. **which will inform the** member federations of the F.I.E.

3.2.1

Each year the General Assembly receives the reports on the management of the Executive Committee and on the operational and financial situation of the Federation, **the report on the accounts for the financial year that has ended and the report of the auditors**. It approves the amounts of the fees listed in article 1.6, items 1) to 4) determined by the Executive Committee for the following season.

It votes on the provisional budget.

It approves the report of the auditors.

Should the accounts for the financial year that has ended not be approved by the auditors, the President and the Executive Committee are dismissed from their positions.

The General Assembly appoints professional auditors as auditors for a period of one year, which can be renewed.

3.5.3 Modifications to the Statutes new

The Congress decisions concerning modifications to the Statutes are valid with a majority of 2/3 of the votes of the federations present or represented.

3.5.4 Dissolution new

The dissolution of the F.I.E may only be pronounced with a majority of ¾ of the votes of the federations present or represented.

The current articles **3.5.3 Right to vote** and **3.5.4 Secret voting** are renumbered **3.5.5** and **3.5.6** respectively.

3.6.3 new

The elections take place in the following order: President, then Executive Committee, and finally Commissions.

The current article **3.6.3** is renumbered **3.6.5**.

3.6.4 new

If a ballot paper contains more votes than the number of positions to be filled, the vote is void.

4.1.4

- 2nd paragraph, add at the end:

A photocopy of an identity document stating the candidate's date of birth and nationality (passport, identity card, driving licence) must be provided with the candidature.

- last paragraph, last line:

In case of urgency, an opinion can be obtained by fax **or e-mail** .

4.4.2

- delete "(Europe)" in the line relating to the Legal Commission.

- A candidate for the Refereeing Commission must be **or have been** an **FIE** referee at least at two weapons **during the 4 years preceding his candidature, or already be a member of the Refereeing Commission (if he is already a referee).**

4.5.7

The voting athletes will personally go to the office of the FIE at the competition site to fill in their voting slip and deposit them in the ballot box, after having verified their identity by presenting their **accreditation** and having signed the attendance sheet.

5.5.16 new

The Executive Committee awards the title of FIE Vice-President of Honour.

6.5.1 *The Legal Commission*

a) It presents a report to the Congress on all the proposals to modify the Statutes submitted for consideration by the Congress.

c) The textual preparation and modification of all annexes to the Statutes, except the Rules for Competitions and its annexes, are submitted to the Legal Commission for an opinion.

d) The Commission remains at the disposal of the Executive Committee for the examination of any legal text.

6.5.2 *The Rules Commission*

Deletion of the following paragraph:

The Commission is also the competent authority for all the annexes to the Rules relating to the organisation and running of the competitions.

c) To this end, **the SEMI Commission may appoint one of its members to represent it, without right of vote, in meetings of the Rules Commission.**

e) The Commission **may appoint one of its members to each of the SEMI and Refereeing Commissions to attend, without right of vote, meetings of these Commissions** during their discussions on the rules or their application.

6.5.3 The Refereeing Commission

Add:

It presents a report to the Congress on all the proposals submitted to it.

a) The duties of the Refereeing Commission are:

- to **develop** the training programme of **international referees** in the various countries;
- to ensure **good** refereeing in the **competitions** of the F.I.E.
- to propose to the Rules Commission any necessary modifications of the Rules relating to refereeing.
- to ensure that the **FIE Rules are applied by referees during the** competitions.

b) ~~deleted:~~

This Commission establishes the list of A or B grade referees approved by the FIE as submitted by Member Federations.

6.5.4 The Disciplinary Commission

The Disciplinary Commission is responsible for handling all offences against the Rules (**except doping cases**), discipline or sportsmanship within the purview of the F.I.E., in conformity with the Disciplinary Code of the F.I.E. (cf chapter 7), except the specific dispositions with respect to discipline at the sites of the competitions to be found in Articles t.114ss. of the Rules for Competitions of the F.I.E.

6.5.5 The Electronic Signalling Equipment and Installations Commission (S.E.M.I.)

b) To examine any suggestions or proposals relating to the equipment **and present a report on these proposals to the Executive Committee;**

c) It presents a report to the Congress on all the proposals submitted to it. The drafting of the Congress decisions, in their final form, **must** be submitted to the Rules Commission for approval by the Executive Committee.

6.5.6 The Promotion and Publicity Commission

Replace the last paragraph by the following text:

It presents a report to the Congress on all the proposals submitted to it. The definitive **formulation of texts** for the decisions taken by the Congress **must** be entrusted to the Rules Commission or the Legal Commission as applicable **for approval by the Executive Committee.**

6.5.7 The Medical Commission

It presents **to the Executive Committee** a report containing its suggestions or recommendations on all these issues.

Add:

It presents a report to the Congress on all the proposals submitted to it. The drafting of the Congress decisions, in their final form, must be submitted to the Rules Commission or Legal Commission as applicable for approval by the Executive Committee.

6.5.9 *The Advisory Athletes Commission*

The mission of the Advisory Commission of Athletes is to examine all questions of interest to the athletes and to present suggestions or recommendations **to the Executive Committee.**

It may not present proposals to the Congress. On the other hand it may present proposals **to the Executive Committee or** to the other Commissions of the FIE and for this reason it has the right to assign one of its members to represent it in each of the other Commissions.

7.1.4 Penalties g), add at the end of the paragraph:

The penalties will be published on the FIE website and in the official magazine of the FIE.

7.1.5

In the case where a similar or more serious offence is committed within the two-year period, **the suspension will be automatically revoked**, and the sentence incurred will be added to the sentence pronounced for the repetition of an offence.

7.2.4

In case of a refusal to testify or to communicate documents, the Panel refers the matter to the president of the Disciplinary Commission who has the power to penalise the persons withholding material with a fine of **500 to 5 000 CHF** after having summoned them to receive an explanation.

7.2.6.2

In the case of a manifestly frivolous complaint, the Disciplinary Commission **will charge** the complainant **for all the expenses** of the defendant.

9.1.1 The current text is replaced by the following text:

Being licensed obliges the national federation and the athlete to respect the Rules and Statutes of the FIE. Notably, the athletes who participate in FIE competitions commit to respecting the FIE anti-doping Rules, to use neither prohibited substances nor prohibited methods, and agree to submit to any in-competition and out-of-competition testing.

9.1.5 a)

The licences are ordered by national Federations on the FIE Web site **for those holding the nationality of and entitled to membership with the federation.**

10.2.2

A member federation which is not up to date **with its financial obligations towards the FIE at midday the day before the opening of a Cadet, Junior, Senior or Veteran World Championship** may not participate in **this World Championship, unless exception is justified and granted by the Executive Committee.**

11.1.3

The award will be made known to the Congress, which will ratify it. **The award ceremony will be held according to the details provided for in the Administrative Rules.**

11.4 a) The Grand Prix of Nations (Junior and Senior)

- delete the letter "a)"

- **The FIE gold medal**, the Grand Prix of Nations, is awarded **each year to the federation which has** obtained the best results **at the Junior and Senior** World Championships. **This medal is awarded during a formal ceremony, the organisation of which (including determining the date and the place) is the responsibility of the Executive Committee.**

C) MODIFICATIONS TO THE RULES

The following modifications to articles of the Rules were passed and will come into effect as of the 2008-2009 season, unless otherwise specified:

TECHNICAL RULES

t.22.2

At foil and sabre, it is forbidden to **protect** the target area or to **substitute** another part of the body for the target area, either by covering or by an abnormal movement (Cf. **t.114, t.116, t.120**); any hit scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

a) If, during the fencing phrase, there is protection or substitution of a valid surface, the fencer at fault will be penalised as specified for offences of the 1st group (cf. also t.49.1, t.72.2).

b) If, during the fencing phrase, as a result of protection or substitution of a valid surface, a hit correctly given is registered as non valid, the fencer at fault will be penalised as specified for offences of the 1st group (cf. also t.49.1, t.72.2) and the hit will be awarded by the referee.

t.33

Modify the title as follows:

Injuries or cramp, withdrawal of a competitor

t.33. 1. For an **injury or cramp** which occurs in the course of a bout and which is properly attested by the delegate of the FIE Medical Committee or by the doctor on duty, the Referee will allow a break in the fight lasting no longer than 10 minutes. This break should be timed from the point when the doctor gave his opinion and be strictly reserved for the treatment of the **injury or cramp** which brought it about. If the doctor considers, before or at the end of the 10-minute break, that the fencer is incapable of continuing the fight, he will decide that the fencer should retire (individual events) and/or be replaced, if possible (team events) (cf. o.44.11.a/b).

t.33.2. During the remainder of the same day, a fencer cannot be allowed a further break unless as a result of a different injury **or cramp**.

t.45.3.a.iii)

has been passed by the preliminary check but **is fraudulent**.

t.45.3.b)

Delete:

- in **cases iii) and iv)** the referee will penalise the fencer at fault as specified in articles t.114, t.118, t.120, and annul the last hit, if any, scored by the fencer at fault.

Modify:

- in **cases iii), iv), v) and vi)**, the referee will penalise the fencer at fault as specified **for offences of the 4th group** (cf. articles t.114, t.119, t.120).

- in the article t.120, delete the offence 3.1 and in the offence 4.2, delete "manifest" before cheating and add the case iii).

t.47.2, comes into effect as of 1st January 2009

The **target** at foil excludes the limbs and the head. It is confined to the trunk, the upper limit being the collar up to 6 cm above the prominences of the collar bones; at the sides to the seams of the sleeves, which should cross the head of the humerus; and the lower limit following a horizontal line across the back joining the tops of the hip bones, thence by straight lines to the junction of the lines of the groin (see Figure below, to be modified). **It also includes the part of the bib below a horizontal line that is 1.5 - 2 cm lower than the chin and which, in any case, cannot be lower than the line of the shoulders.**

t.75 clarification, comes into effect immediately

3 An attack with a lunge is correctly carried out:

- a) in a "simple attack" (Cf. t.8.1) **when the beginning of the straightening of the arm precedes the launching** of the lunge and the hit arrives at the latest when the front foot hits the piste;
- b) in a "compound attack " (Cf. t.8.1) **when the beginning of the straightening of the arm, on the first feint (Cf. t.77.1), precedes the launching of the lunge and** the hit arrives at the latest when the front foot hits **the piste**.

4 An attack with a step-forward lunge is correctly carried out:

- a) in a "simple attack" (Cf. t.8.1) **when the beginning of the straightening of the arm precedes** the step-forward and when the hit arrives at the latest **when the front foot hits the piste**.
- b) in a "compound attack " (Cf. t.8.1) **when the beginning of the straightening of the arm for the first feint (Cf. t.77.1) precedes the** step-forward, **followed by the lunge, and** the hit arrives at the latest **when the front foot hits the piste**

t.75.5

The **forward movement**, the **fleche** and any **forward movement of the rear foot crossing completely the front foot, is forbidden**. Any offence will be penalised as specified **for offences of the 1st group** (cf. t.114, t.116, t.120). Any hit scored by the fencer at fault will be annulled. However, any hit correctly executed by his opponent is valid.

t.81.1

The regulations laid down in this Part apply to **all persons** who take part in or attend a **fencing competition, including the spectators**.

The rest is deleted.

t.85.1

No fencer (individual or team) from an FIE member national federation may take part in an official competition if he **refuses to fence** against any other fencer whatsoever (individual or team) correctly entered in the event. **Should this rule be broken, the penalties specified for offences of the 4th group will be applied (cf. t.114, t.119, t.120).**

t.87.2

All bouts must preserve the **character of a courteous and frank encounter**. All **irregular actions** (flèche attack which finishes with a collision jostling the opponent, disorderly fencing, irregular movements on the piste, hits achieved with violence, **hit** made **during or after a fall**) are strictly forbidden (cf. **t.114-t.120**). Should such an offence occur, any hit scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

t.87.3

Before the beginning of each bout, the two fencers must perform **a fencer's salute to their opponent**, to the Referee and to the spectators. Equally, when the final hit has been scored, the bout has not ended until the two fencers have saluted each other, the Referee and the spectators: to this end, they must remain still while the referee is making his decision **and place themselves on the on-guard line**; when he has given his decision, they must again perform a fencer's salute and must shake **hands** with their opponent. If either or both of the two fencers refuse to comply with these rules, the Referee will **penalise** him/them **as specified for offences of the 4th group** (cf. **t.114, t.119, t.120**).

t.114.3 The **penalties** are as follows:

- c) **exclusion from the competition**, suspension from the remainder of the tournament and for the following two months of the active season, whether current or forthcoming, **demonstrated** by a BLACK CARD by which the Referee identifies the person at fault.
- d) **expulsion from the competition venue (any person disturbing the order of the competition)**.

t.118.3

Any **person not on the piste who disturbs the good order** of the competition receives:

- b) at the second infringement** during the same competition, a **BLACK CARD and/or** expulsion from the competition venue.

t.120

New table attached, comes into effect as of the 2008-2009 season.

ORGANISATION RULES

o.27

Replace the current text with the following text:

The final, which is by direct elimination, shall consist of 4 fencers.

o.77.3

Replace the current text with the following text:

This supervisor is either :

- a member of a FIE Commission,
- a member of the FIE Executive Committee,
- **a member of a group of persons, appointed by the Executive Committee, available and experienced at organising competitions.**

He will be appointed by the Executive Committee of the FIE, at the suggestion of the FIE Bureau.

o.83.1.a

The **official Open ranking of the FIE** takes into account the best six results of the World Cup, ~~or~~ Grand Prix **or Satellite** competitions in which the fencer has participated, with a limit of no more than three from any one continent, plus the World Championships or Olympic Games and the Zonal Championships.

In the Administrative Rules of the FIE, the 2nd paragraph in article 9.3.3 is deleted.

MATERIAL RULES

m.25.7 f) new

The mask must contain a horizontal safety strap at the rear of the mask, with the two ends of the strap firmly affixed to the two sides of the mask. This strap may be elastic or other material which may be approved by the S.E.M.I Commission.

m.27.2 new

The part of the bib, which is below a horizontal line 1.5 - 2 cm lower than the chin, must be entirely covered with a material that has the same conductive characteristics as the conductive jacket.

m.27.3 Connecting methods: text in progress.

m.32

Add to the fifth paragraph, following "...and must be between 30 and 40 cm. long."

In the case of a coiled cable, the maximum length of the free cable must not exceed 25 cm in length, with a tolerance of ± 5 cm.

m.33

Add at the end of the article:

When a conductive overglove (manchette) is worn, the overglove must contain a device which fixes the position of the overglove on the arm so that its position on the arm cannot be changed during the bout.

D) PUBLICITY CODE

p.4

2 d) new

A sports organisation as organiser of a sporting event may invite any kind of sponsor to support the event, as long as its activity is not in contradiction with the FIE rules and the Olympic Charter.

E) PROPOSALS DEFERRED

Fencing Federation of Brazil (BRA)

Proposal 3

3.1. NEW CRITERIA FOR THE INDICES IN CASES OF EQUALITY OF INDICES V / M IN THE POOLS.

Article o.19 , 2 d) Organisation Rules :

d) In **cases of equality of this first indicator**, and to separate fencers with equal first indicators, a second indicator will be established { (HS-HR) / maximum possible HS-HR } in the pool of each fencer, in the bouts actually recorded at the end of the pool. The fencer with the highest indicator { (HS-HR) / maximum possible (HS-HR)} is seeded highest.

e) In **cases of equality of the two indicators V/M and { (HS-HR) / maximum possible (HS-HR) }**, a third indicator will be established { HS / maximum possible HS } in the pool of each fencer, for the bouts recorded at the end of the pool. The fencer with the highest indicator { HS / maximum possible HS } is seeded highest.

f) In **cases of absolute equality of the three indicators** above, the seeding order of the classification table will be decided by drawing lots.

Opinion of the Rules Commission: the Commission is in favour of the proposal:

d) in **cases of equality of this first indicator**, and to separate fencers who are equal, a second indicator will be established { (HS-HR) / maximum possible HS-HR} for each fencer in the pool, in the bouts recorded at the end of the pool. The fencer with the highest indicator { (HS-HR) / maximum possible HS-HR} is seeded highest.

e) in **cases of equality of both indicators V/M and { (HS-HR) / maximum possible HS-HR}**, a third indicator will be established {HS / maximum possible HS } for each fencer in the pool, in the bouts recorded at the end of the pool. The fencer with the highest indicator {HS / maximum possible HS } is seeded highest.

f) In **cases of absolute equality** between two or more fencers, their position in the ranking will be drawn by lots.

Fencing Federation of Cuba (CUB)

The objective of this proposal is an approach to the systems applied in the Olympic Games seeking equity, universality and an acknowledgement as the best for the best in the world.

With the goal to achieve what we are suggesting this is our request:

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

- 4 Continental Championships (one per continent)
- 8 World Cups (one per category)
- 6 Grand Prix (one per category)
- 1 World Championship (all categories)

4 CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Continental Championships will be held in the first half of January and will be organized with the same requirements of the World Cup however, only four athletes will be allowed to participate per country in each category. The score system will be the same used in the World Cup.

Four fencing athletes would classify in each event for the Grand Prix, for a total of 16 fencing athletes classified in each category.

8 WORLD CUP INDIVIDUAL

The world cups will start in the second half of January and will end in June.

The maximum amounts of World Cups to be held are two in the same month and Continent. Each country will be able to participate with a maximum of 8 athletes and the host country 12.

The score system is the same used for the World Cups.

Four athletes in each Cup will classify for the Grand Prix, what would give a total of 32 athletes classified in each category.

GRAND PRIX, ONE PER CATEGORY

The Grand Prix would be the event to gather the best fencing athletes of each category as follows:

- The best 16 classified in the prior World Cups.
- The best 16 classified in the Continental Cups.
- The best 32 classified in the World Cups.

The organizing countries for these events would only need 4 floors of different colors and one for the end; it would be in one day. The proposal is for July or August and it would be a magnificent show for the media. The competition system would be a direct qualification system of 64. This event would provide the opportunity of using the same competition requirements as in the Olympic Games. The same score system of the World Championship.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The World Championships will keep on with the current Summon.

TEAM COMPETITION

The competitions of teams will include 4 stages:

- 1.- World Championship stage.
- 2.- Areas stage.
- 3.- World stage.
- 4.- Final stage Grand Prix per teams

First stage

The first 8 teams will classify in the third stage.

Second stage

In this stage will only participate the Continents and would not be present the 8 first teams of the World Championship. The groups in the geographic areas would be gathered taking into account the strength of the participating countries and will be organized as follows:

- Europe: 6 groups Classifies the first of each group
- America: 4 groups " " " " "
- Asia: 4 groups " " " " "
- Africa: 2 groups " " " " "

Adding the classifications in the 1st and 2nd stage we would count with 24 teams. For the formation of groups we must take into consideration a distribution according to the geographical situation and the physical fitness. Also could be adjusted the groups regarding the amount of participants, for example, 3

groups in Europe and classify the 1st and the 2nd, but the amount of classifications can not vary. Each group would have a different host.

Third stage

This stage would be disputed among the 8 teams of the World Championship and the 24 of the second stage for a total of 32 teams and would gather 4 groups of 8 from which we would obtain the first four places for the Grand Prix. The competition of each group would take place in different facilities.

Fourth stage.

The Grand Prix will be held with the 4 best teams classified and could take place at the same time of an individual event.

Proposal for the competition system per teams:

- Traditional System.
- Mix System of long relay.
- Mix System of short relay.

The mix system can be hold in the same facility.

Mix System of long relay: teams would include 6 masculine or feminine athletes. 2 in each category.

Mix System of short relay: teams would include 3 feminine or masculine athletes 1 per category.

CLASSIFICATION FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES:

For the Olympic Games would participate maximum two athletes per country I each category for the individual competition. There would be an announcement for the team competition of long and short relay.

Individual Classification

- 4 classified due to the score of FIE
- 4 best per continent of FIE
- 4 classified, one of each area
- 24 classified from the team competition

Total 36 individual shooters.

Total participation: 216

Classification per team

- 4 classified teams in the World Championship.
- 4 classified teams by the Grand Prix system
- 4 classified teams one per area.

Total: 12 teams.

Classified countries for the team competitions will be able to participate in the short relay events, plus those countries that have individual athletes classified and be able to constitute a team.

ADVANTAGES

There will be a greater possibility to increase the quality and quantity of the competitors.

There will be more time to train and study

There would be a better access to countries with poor economical resources

A guaranty of a sports show for the media

Maintenance of all medals in the Olympic Games

Equity of men and women participating in the Olympic Games

A great universality

All categories in the Olympic Games participate

Opinion of the Promotion Commission: decision which should be dealt by a special commission which has to be created (Mr Groupierre).

Opinion of the Rules Commission: the Commission is conscious that modifications are necessary, but this proposal involves fundamental and radical changes. The Commission wishes that this proposal and similar proposals be studied by an ad hoc commission.

Fédération Française d'Esgrime (FRA)

1) Delete the warning "simple corps à corps at foil and sabre".

Opinion of the Rules Commission: in favour of the following text, revised after the 2007 Congress:

t.20.1

Corps à corps is said to exist when there is physical contact between the two fencers.

t.20.2

At all three weapons, should a corps à corps occur, the referee stops the match and replaces the fencers on guard.

t.20.3

It is forbidden for a fencer to cause a corps à corps with violence or by pushing his opponent. Should such an offence occur, the Referee will penalise the fencer at fault as specified for offences of the 2nd group, and any hit scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

With the text above, there is no change to **article t.25**; however, the **article t.63.2** becomes superfluous and can be deleted, and **t.63.3** and **t.63.4** become **t.63.2** and **t.63.3** respectively.

2) In order to standardise refereeing, award a yellow card when a fencer crosses the boundaries of the piste with one or both feet.

3) In the same spirit: annul all the hits of the fencer who crosses the boundaries of the piste with one or two feet and warning (yellow card).

Opinion of the Rules Commission: following the debates these proposals raised during the 2007 Congress, which caused them to be deferred and led to a request for them to be reviewed, the Rules Commission will be consulted again. Its opinions on these proposals, and its reasons, will therefore be provided at a later date.

4) Definition of the guard

The following definition, found in a treatise, recommends a certain position which is then described :
"The guard is a balanced position, specific to each fencer, allowing him to be ready to execute at any time, and in a time as brief as possible, all the actions and movements necessary to execute the assault of fencing".

(M.R.CLERY-Que sais-je n° 1490 – P.U.F 1973)

Definition:

The guard is the initial position that the foil fencer takes at the beginning of a match or a bout and every time the bout is resumed after an interruption.

It has to be such that the fencers cannot, in any circumstances, withdraw the valid surfaces from the opponent's attack or counterattack by covering them.

Opinion of the Rules Commission : in favour of a definition of the guard as follows, to be inserted in the article t.10 which becomes " the guard and the point in line positions" and the text of the current article becomes t.10.2:

1) The guard is a balanced position, specific to each fencer, allowing him to be ready to execute at any time, and as quickly as possible, all the actions and movements required in a fencing bout. It has to be such, that the fencers cannot, in any circumstances, withdraw the valid surfaces from the offensive or counter-offensive movements of their opponents by covering them.

F) URGENT DECISIONS

The urgent decisions sent to the national federations between January 2006 and June 2007 were unanimously ratified by the Congress.