



## **SUMMARY OF DECISIONS**

### **MEETING OF THE RULES COMMISSION**

**Lausanne, 26-27 May, 2007**

#### **Present :**

<b>ROCH René</b>	<b>President of the FIE</b>
<b>HIGGINSON Stephen</b>	<b>President of the Rules Commission</b>
<b>ASSADOURIAN Sarkis</b>	
<b>BUKANTZ Jeffrey</b>	
<b>CARLESCU-BADEA Laura-Gabriela</b>	
<b>DI BLASI Antonio</b>	
<b>GONZALEZ TIRADOR Julio Cesar</b>	
<b>SCHIRRMACHER Lutz</b>	
<b>SMITH Helen</b>	
<b>THULLBERG Pierre</b>	
<b>RODRIGUEZ M.-H. Nathalie</b>	

#### **Absent with apologies :**

<b>BA Abdoul Wahab Barka</b>	<b>Representative of the Executive Committee</b>
<b>EL ARABY Tamer Mohamed</b>	

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The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Commission. He then proceeded to the study of the proposals submitted to the Commission.

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## 1) PROPOSITIONS

### Fencing Federation of Belarus (BLR)

2. In order to improve the technical process of running the competitions organised by the Confederations and in order to improve the methods of organizing and running the tournaments by Zonal Confederations, we propose to:

- delegate the right of running Zonal Confederations' tournaments to the Organizing Committees to be formed by Confederations themselves and Organizing member-federations – in compliance with basic requirements of IFF/FIE Rules and Regulations;

**Opinion of the Rules Commission** : not in favour and dealt with the proposition of South Africa.

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### Fencing Federation of Brazil (BRA)

#### Proposition 2 (deferred from the 2005 Congress)

Reincorporate the bib as valid surface at foil.

#### MOTIVATION.

Provides greater safety for fencers  
Reduction of non valid hits during matches  
Reduction of interruptions during matches  
Makes the refereeing easier.

**Opinion of the Rules Commission** : unanimously in favour of the motivations and proposals, which will also help solve the problems of fraud. The cost should not be an obstacle as current bibs can be covered with conductive cloth at little cost. A bigger bib will cover a larger surface and therefore increase safety.

#### Proposition 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.

### 3.2. MOTIVATION.

See example below.

#### 3.2.2. Conclusion.

In order to establish an overall ranking table after the round of pools, **in cases of equality of the indices V / M**, we consider that it is more appropriate to calculate the performances (number of HS and HR) of fencers based on the percentages of the maximum possible total of hits given and received in each pool. Consequently, the best ranked must be the fencers who obtained :

1) The highest percentage of the maximum possible total of indicators HS-HR, that is, **the highest arithmetical average of HS-HR in the bouts actually recorded in the pool.**

2) In cases of equality of the two preceding indicators, the highest percentage of the maximum possible total of HS, that is, **the highest arithmetical average of HS in the bouts actually recorded in the pool.**

It is thus demonstrated mathematically that we can adopt the above draft for the article « o.19, 2, d) » and « o19, 2, e) »

#### 3.2.1. Examples

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)
Example Nr.	Fencer	Pool of X fencers	V	V/M	Maximum of HS HR	HS	HR	S - HR	Actual ranking	(HS-HR) / Max HS-HR = (9) / (6)	Proposed ranking	(HS) / Max HS = (7) / (6)	Proposed ranking	Average HS in bouts	Average HR in bouts	Average (HS- HR) in bouts	Comments
1	A	7	6	1	30	29	10	19	1 <sup>er</sup>	33,3%	1 <sup>er</sup>	A	x	4,83	1,67	3,16	
	B	7	6	1	30	30	17	13	2 <sup>eme</sup>	33,3%	3 <sup>eme</sup>	x	x	5	2,83	2,17	
	C	6	5	1	25	25	13	12	3 <sup>eme</sup>	48%	2 <sup>eme</sup>	x	x	5	2,6	2,4	
2	D	7	6	1	30	30	12	18	1 <sup>er</sup>	60%	1 <sup>er</sup>	00%	1 <sup>er</sup>	5	2	3	draw lots
	E	6	5	1	25	25	10	15	2 <sup>eme</sup>	60%	1 <sup>er</sup>	00%	1 <sup>er</sup>	5	2	3	
	F	3*	4	1	20	20	8	12	3 <sup>eme</sup>	60%	1 <sup>er</sup>	00%	1 <sup>er</sup>	5	2	3	
3	G	7	6	1	30	27	11	16	1 <sup>er</sup>	33,3%	3 <sup>eme</sup>	x	x	4,5	1,83	2,67	
	H	6	5	1	25	25	10	15	2 <sup>eme</sup>	60%	1 <sup>er</sup>	x	x	5	2	3	
	I	3*	4	1	20	19	8	11	3 <sup>eme</sup>	55%	2 <sup>eme</sup>	x	x	4,75	2	2,75	
4	J	7	6	1	30	30	15	15	1 <sup>er</sup>	50%	3 <sup>eme</sup>	00%	3 <sup>eme</sup>	5	2,5	2,5	draw lots
	K	7	6	1	30	27	12	15	2 <sup>eme</sup>	50%	3 <sup>eme</sup>	90%	3 <sup>eme</sup>	4,5	2	2,5	
	L	3*	4	1	20	18	3	15	3 <sup>eme</sup>	75%	1 <sup>er</sup>	x	x	4,5	0,75	3,75	
	M	6	5	1	25	25	12	13	4 <sup>eme</sup>	52%	2 <sup>eme</sup>	x	x	5	2,4	2,6	
	N	7	6	1	30	29	19	10	5 <sup>eme</sup>	33,3%	7 <sup>eme</sup>	x	x	4,83	3,17	1,66	
	O	3*	4	1	20	20	10	10	3 <sup>eme</sup>	50%	3 <sup>eme</sup>	00%	3 <sup>eme</sup>	5	2,5	2,5	draw lots
	P	3*	4	1	20	16	6	10	7 <sup>eme</sup>	50%	3 <sup>eme</sup>	80%	3 <sup>eme</sup>	4	1,5	2,5	
	Q	7	6	1	30	30	25	5	3 <sup>eme</sup>	6,7%	0 <sup>eme</sup>	x	x	5	4,17	0,83	
	R	6	5	1	25	25	20	5	3 <sup>eme</sup>	20%	3 <sup>eme</sup>	00%	3 <sup>eme</sup>	5	4	1	
S	6	5	1	25	22	17	5	0 <sup>eme</sup>	20%	3 <sup>eme</sup>	88%	3 <sup>eme</sup>	4,4	3,4	1		

\* Case in which there is a withdrawal of a fencer during the pool, that is, where the fencers have fenced one bout less than the total of bouts possible at the beginning of the round of pools.

**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.

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### Sam Cheris (MH, USA)

1. Add at the end of m.33:

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

2. Add to m.25 (7), following the third paragraph, a new sentence:

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.

3. Add to m.32 (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 30 cm. when the cable is at rest.

I would like to note that these are items were in the previous rule book, but somehow appear to have been dropped when the rulebook was re-organized prior to the 1999 publication. Rationale: These items will help improve both the safety and the smooth functioning of bouts.

**Opinion of the Rules Commission** : the Commission did not find any trace of those texts in the versions of the Rules previous to 1999. Should the SEMI Commission consider these texts as up to date, the Commission agrees to incorporate them.

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### Proposals of the FIE Executive Committee

#### **Prop. 1) 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. **If as a result of protection or substitution of a valid surface, a hit correctly executed does not register, the fencer at fault will be penalised as specified for offences of the 1<sup>st</sup> group and the hit will be added by the referee.**

**Executive Committee, motivation** : not penalise a fencer not at fault for an offence committed by his opponent.

**Opinion of the Rules Commission** : in favour of the text amended as follows :

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 not registered , the fencer at fault will be penalised as specified for offences of the 1<sup>st</sup> group (cf. also t.49.1, t.72.2) and the hit will be awarded by the referee. In cases of repetition of the offence, the fencer at fault will be penalised with a red card and in addition the hit will be awarded by the referee.**

Furthermore, the Commission requests the Executive Committee to take an urgent decision for the following modification of the article t.22.1 : The use of the **non-sword hand** and **arm** to carry out an offensive or defensive action is forbidden (cf. **t.114, t.117, t.120**). Should such an offence occur, the hit scored by the fencer at fault is annulled **and this latter will be penalised as specified for offences of the 2<sup>nd</sup> group (red card).**

**Prop. 2) t.45.3.b)**

- in **case iii)**, the referee will penalise the fencer at fault as specified **for offences of the 3<sup>rd</sup> group (cf. articles t.114, t.118, t.120)**, and annul the last hit, if any, scored by the fencer at fault ;

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

**Executive Committee, motivation** : standardisation of texts in order to refer to the group to which the offence belongs, and not to the penalty.

**Opinion of the Rules Commission** : the commission is in favour of the penalties specified for the cases iv), v) and vi). Concerning the case iii), it proposes the deletion of the current text which is vague, subjective and impossible to determine, and replace it by "is fraudulent". 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).

**Prop. 3) t.75**

**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 at the end of the lunge.

**Executive Committee, motivation :** clarified and comprehensible definition of the attack.

**Opinion of the Rules Commission :** in favour and modifies t.75.4.b) as follows : 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.

**Prop. 4) 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.**

**Executive Committee, motivation :** the list of the persons concerned as well as their role are useless as the text specifies that the regulations apply to all persons.

**Opinion of the Rules Commission :** in favour.

**Prop. 5) 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 4<sup>th</sup> group will be applied (cf. t.114, t.119, t.120).

**Executive Committee, motivation :** change of group of the offence and standardisation of texts in order to refer to the group to which the offence belongs, and not to the penalty.

**Opinion of the Rules Commission :** in favour.

**Prop. 6) 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; 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 4<sup>th</sup> group (cf. t.114, t.119, t.120).

**Executive Committee, motivation :** change of group of the offence and standardisation of texts in order to refer to the group to which the offence belongs, and not to the penalty.

**Opinion of the Rules Commission :** delete "unarmed" before hand and in favour of the replacement of "opponent" by "opponent fencer".

**Prop. 7) 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).**

**Executive Committee, motivation :** make a difference between the exclusion from the competition and the expulsion from the competition venue.

**Opinion of the Rules Commission** : in favour.

**Prop. 8) 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**.

**Executive Committee, motivation** : delete « (expulsion from the competition venue) » after « BLACK CARD » because the expulsion is not the consequence of a black card.

**Opinion of the Rules Commission** : in favour with the following text :

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

**Prop. 9) t.120**      **Modification of the schedule of offences and penalties**

New presentation of the schedule.

**Executive Committee, motivation** :

- the offences 0.1, 0.2, 0.3 are moved to the beginning of t.120, as they impose a special penalty : elimination from the competition ;
- in each group, the offences were not all listed in order of the articles (1.6, 1.10, 1.17, 2.3, 4.1, 4.7) ;
- the articles of offences 0.1 and 2.3 were completed ;
- the 3<sup>rd</sup> group was restructured in order to cancel subgroups ;
- the offences 4.2, 4.3, 4.5 moved from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> group (see proposals).
- the offence 3.6 does not impose a black card anymore.
- the offences of the 4<sup>th</sup> group are all penalised with a black card.
- the offence 3.5 a was corrected in order to reflect that :
  - the referee may warn, expel or exclude (black card) the person at fault, depending on the gravity of the disturbance ;
  - the repetition of offence imposes automatically a black card and not the expulsion ;
  - the explanations at the end concerning the penalties were given prominence.

**Opinion of the Rules Commission** : in favour of the new presentation.

**Prop. 10) o.27** The final

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

**Executive Committee, motivation** : standardisation of the presentation of competitions.

**Opinion of the Rules Commission** : in favour.

**Prop. 12) o.77.3** 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.

**Executive Committee, motivation** : compensate for the lack of observers in certain competitions, in particular junior.

### **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 Cup ( one per category)
- 6 Grand Prix (one per category)
- 1 World Championship (all categories)

#### **4 CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Continental Championships will be hold in the first half of January and will be organized with the same requirements of the World Cup however, only four athletes will be allow to participate per country in each category. The points 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 cup will start in the second half of January and will end in June. The maximum number 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 points system will remain the same used for the World Cups. Four athletes in each Cup will classify for the Grand Prix, which 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 final; 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 points system as for the World Championship.



## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The World Championships will continue with the current system.

## TEAM COMPETITION

The competitions of teams will include 4 stages:

- 1.- World Championship stage.
- 2.- Zonal stage.
- 3.- World stage.
- 4.- Final stage Grand Prix for teams

### First stage

The first 8 teams will classify for 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 those classified in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> stage we would have 24 teams. For the formation of groups we must take into consideration a distribution according to the geographical situation and the order of strength. Also we could adjust the groups regarding the number of participants, for example, 3 groups in Europe and classify the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 as 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 | each category for the individual competition.

There would be an announcement for the team competition of long and short relay.

#### Individual Classification

- 4 classified by the points ranking of FIE
- 4 best per continent by the points ranking of FIE
- 4 classified, one for each zone
- 24 classified from the team competition

Total 36 individual fencers.

Total participation: 216

#### Team Classification

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

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 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

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### Danish Fencing Federation (DEN)

The fencing federations of Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, the Netherlands, and Denmark propose an adjustment of the counting for the world ranking list through the inclusion of points earned in satellites.

In the current system fencers can only count points gained in two satellites, and the fencer must forfeit these points after having won A grade points. This holds even if the number of points scored in A grades is lower than the number scored in satellites.

An example: Fencer Smidt wins an epee satellite in Croatia and one in Finland. This gives him two times 4 world cup points, i.e. 8 points. He then fences two A grades, and finishes in the top 64 in both. Now his satellite results are omitted from the count and substituted with his A grade points, so he falls from 8 points to 4 points on the world ranking list.

We propose that a fencer can count the six best results (with a maximum of three per zone) in tournaments, regardless of whether they are grand prix, A grade, or satellite, plus the championships points.

Proposal for rule o.83.1.a

*Le classement officiel de la F.I.E. tiendra compte des six meilleurs résultats d'épreuves de Coupe du Monde ou Grand Prix ou Satellite auxquelles le tireur aura participé, dans la limite de 3 sur le même continent, plus les Championnats du Monde ou les Jeux Olympiques et les Championnats de zone.*

On behalf of the proposing federations

**Opinion of the Rules Commission :** in favour of the following text :

The **official Open ranking** of the FIE takes into account the best six results of the World Cup, or Grand Prix competitions **or Satellite** 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.

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### French Fencing Federation (FRA)

#### **PROPOSITIONS ABOUT THE REFEREEING**

- The hit made just before, during and after a fall, is annulled.

**Opinion of the Rules Commission :** article t.87.2 the Commission deletes "just before" and keeps the status quo by bringing the following modification : ***(hit made during and after a fall)***.

- At sabre : delete « or immediately afterwards » in article t.75.3.b  
Motivation : it gives too much subjectivity for the decision of the referee. The referees do not all have the same interpretation of « immediately ».

**Opinion of the Rules Commission :** already dealt with in the proposition 3) of the Executive Committee.

- At sabre : delete the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence of article t.75.5 and replace it by « the forward movement, the fleche and any forward movement with the rear foot crossing completely the front foot, is forbidden ».  
Motivation : the text seems more understandable for everybody.

**Opinion of the Rules Commission : t.75.5** in favour of the following text : The forward movement, the fleche and any forward movement **of the rear foot crossing completely the front foot, is forbidden.**

- Delete the warning « simple corps à corps at foil and sabre ».

Motivation : if there is a corps à corps, it means that there is intention from one of the fencer (or even both). It is very difficult, not to say impossible, to judge the fault as « a simple corps à corps » or a « corps à corps to avoid a hit ». Furthermore, in order to simplify and standardise the rules which govern refereeing, one single warning for the « corps à corps » at all the weapons seems easier.

**Opinion of the Rules Commission :** in favour of the following text, delete the article t.20.3 and modify the article t.63.1 :

**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.63.1**

**When** at epee a fencer, either by a fleche attack or by advancing vigorously, causes a **corps à corps**, even several times in succession, **the referee stops the match and replaces the fencers on guard.** (cf t.20.1/3, t.25).

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

Motivation : this is an offence of combat and as for all offences of combat of the first group : yellow card, then red card in case of repetition of offence.

**Opinion of the Rules Commission :** the article t.28.1 becomes :

A competitor who, **during a fencing phrase, crosses completely one of the lateral boundaries with one or both feet, will be penalised according to the articles t.114, t.116, t.120.**

The articles t.28.2 and t.28.3 are deleted.

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

Motivation : as for all the offences of combat, it seems unbelievable to win a match while the fencer commits an offence in crossing the limit of the piste with a foot.

**Opinion of the Rules Commission :** in favour, therefore, in article t.120, add an asterisk to the offence 1.8 and the article t.28.3 becomes t.28. However, the Commission thinks that this will create problems with the flèche attacks where the fencer is forced either to jostle his opponent, or cross the boundaries of the piste. As long as the flèche is admitted as legitimate action, it seems impossible to penalise it for crossing the boundaries of the piste.

## **A DEFINITION OF THE GUARD IN THE FIE RULES FOR COMPETITIONS**

I – Reasons that justify the inclusion of a definition of the guard in the FIE Rules for competitions :

The FIE Rules for competitions does not define the guard, because it is not a fencing treaty. Nevertheless, it is often referred to it : it therefore implies that to know what the rules mean by « guard », the fencers consulted a fencing treaty.

But the purpose of a treaty is not the same as that of the rules. The treaty considers technical gestures in the perspective of a better efficiency of the fencer, the rules are established to guarantee equity in the competition.

The treaty advises, the rules oblige.

So, the following definition, found in a treaty, recommends a certain position which will be 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)

The rules should add a complement to this definition, which would consider the interest of the opponent of the fencer to whom the above definition applies and, of course, the fencer himself.

The assault brings together two conflicting interests: the one of the attacker and that of the defender. The rules have to guarantee both.

For example, if fencer A respects the definition of Master Cléry, he may have in front of him an opponent who adopts a posture in such a way that the targets are extremely reduced, that the choice of an impact point to make a hit becomes problematic and sometimes even impossible. Moreover, the rules express their own deficiencies, when it requests fencers to be on guard « correctly » (t.17) or when it mentions abnormal movements or positions ( t.22-t.49-t.87 ) : but correct or abnormal with regard to what?

The definition of the guard would be a positive contribution to the rules for competitions, because it would contribute to an application of a better presented convention. By limiting the number of faults of combat, thanks to an accurate written standard, the bout would gain in clarity.

This definition would allow us to limit abuses and fix the minimal requirements of this fundamental position of the activity. It should, in the same way as the definition of the attack, be one of the criteria of judgement, in particular at conventional weapons.

## II – Inclusion of the definition of the guard in the rules for competitions :

### **1) Where to insert it :**

In the second part : Foil – the conventions of fencing (it would be good to examine if the same procedure would fit at sabre), which would be subdivided as follows :

- Method of making a hit,
- Valid targets,
- The guard,
- Judging of hits.

### **2) Definition :**

The guard is the initial position, taken by the foil fencer at the beginning of a match or assault and at each time that the bout has to be 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.

### 3) Criteria of judgement :

- The fencer on guard must have a well-balanced attitude. He has to adopt a posture " in the amble ", with the chest vertical (shoulders at the same height, on the same horizontal line and situated as much as possible in the axis of the piste).
- The non-sword arm, without contact with the chest, cannot be used to cover or protect the valid surfaces.
- The sword arm holds the weapon, in compliance with article t.16 (chapter 5). The guard cannot be taken with the arm stretched out. (pointe in line t.10).
- The fencer can take his guard in the fencing position he wishes (in quarte, sixte, octave, septime or other).
- Ducking is a movement which allows a fencer to avoid a hit given by an offensive or counter-offensive action. The execution of a ducking movement leads to the abandon of the on guard position.
- If the ducking is incomplete, it is authorized ( t.21 ).
- If it is incomplete, the related non-valid hit, must be considered as valid, in favour of the fencer who executed the attack or counter-attack ( t.49 ).
- If there is no hit, both fencers must be put back on guard.
- The positions or abnormal movements, stipulated in paragraphs t.22-t.49-t.89 are evaluated with regard to the definition of the guard.  
**The following will be penalised : the flexing of the head and chest, contortions, which allow protection with the arms and jumping (yellow card).**
- Generally, all the positions and actions, which lead to the loss of balance must be penalised if they are voluntary, and corrected, if they are not intentional.

**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 in 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.**

The Commission requests the Refereeing Commission to insist that referees apply strictly the penalties concerning the substitution and covering of the valid surface.

## British Fencing Association (GBR)

### PROPOSAL, MODIFIED TEXT, PUBLICITY CODE, p.10.1 (MANUFACTURERS' MARKS).

**AIM :** *to bring these rules up to date, taking account of the fact that, typically, the marks on clothing are a combination of the manufacturer's mark, the FIE Quality Label (for which, up to now, there is no maximum height specified) plus the CEN label. The inclusion of the FIE and CEN labels is responsible for the great part of the increases proposed.*

*The proposal takes into account clothing on the market today, which is therefore currently worn by the fencers.*

#### p.10. Position and sizes

1. The articles of the fencers' **equipment** may carry the following visible marks:

**a) Mask, main structure.** One or more mark(s) (1), on the rear of the spring or the sides of the mask, maximum combined size ~~6.0 cm x 5.5 cm~~ 50 sq.cm, or on a label fixed to the inside of the mask (2); these dimensions include the FIE quality label. (Pre-2008 masks need not so carry an FIE quality label if they are furnished with a CEN level 2 label (2)). In addition the rear safety strap may feature the name and/or mark of the manufacturer, maximum size 50 sq.cm. (3)

**b) Mask, bib.** One mark, maximum size 50 sq.cm (4) , in the corner of the bib; this dimension includes the FIE quality label. If no FIE quality label is included, the maximum size is 10 sq.cm.

**c) Jacket** One or more mark(s) (5) at the bottom of the jacket on the hip on the side of the non-sword arm, maximum combined size ~~4.5 cm x 2 cm~~ 75 cm<sup>2</sup> sq. cm., including the FIE quality label. In addition, one mark on the collar, maximum size 30 sq.cm if in the form of a script or 20 sq.cm if in the form of a label (6).

**d) Breeches.** One or more mark(s) ~~at the bottom of the leg~~ on the side of the breeches, on one side only, combined maximum size ~~4.5 cm x 2 cm~~ 75 cm<sup>2</sup> sq. cm., including the FIE quality label (7).

**e) Stockings** One mark on each stocking, maximum size ~~4.5 cm x 2 cm~~ 10 sq.cm. when laid flat (8).

**f) Shoes** The name of the brand on each shoe, maximum size ~~4.5 cm x 2 cm~~ 10 sq.cm, or the normal badge or insignia (e.g. bands).

**g) Gloves** ~~No mark~~ one mark on the gauntlet, maximum size 10 sq.cm (9).

**h) Weapon.** No mark visible from any distance. On sabres, the name of the manufacturer is permitted on the insulated part of the guard (10).

On jackets, breeches and gloves the size of mark(s) is calculated by measuring the piece(s) of cloth sewn or otherwise attached to them containing the mark(s)

#### EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR THE PROPOSAL

(1) *Manufacturers can separate their logo and the FIE Quality label onto two marks.*

(2) *On any design of mask without a metal back spring, the mark(s) and Quality Label are to be included in an interior label which also carries the CEN marks. As some of these*

**masks do not currently display the FIE Quality Label we propose an exemption from displaying this be allowed until 2008 if the CEN label is displayed.**

**(3) Some manufacturers display their name on the safety strap, in particular when there is no rear spring.**

**(4) Some manufacturers display a mark including the FIE Quality label on the bib.**

**(5) Manufacturers can use two labels side-by-side to display their mark and the FIE quality label.**

**(6) The approval of a mark on the collar of the jacket a number of years ago was never formalized in the Publicity Code.**

**(7) Common practice seems to be to attach the marks to the side of the breeches rather than to the bottom of the leg.**

**(8) Minor increase in dimensions to ensure compliance.**

**(9) Some manufacturers are already fixing marks to gloves.**

**(10) Some manufacturers put their name on the insulated part of sabre guards .**

CODE DE LA PUBLICITÉ, MARQUES DES FABRIQUANTS

	Actuel (en principe sans compter le label FIE)	Proposé, marques (label FIE inclus inclus) cm2	SITUATION COURANTE:-						PBT	
			Allstar		Negrini		Paul		dimensions	inclus
			dimension	inclus	dimensions	inclus	dimension	inclus		
<b>Veste</b>	4.5cm x 2cm (1 marque)	75	47.5	Marque Label FIE Label CEN	74.8	Marque Label FIE Label CEN	31.5	Marque Label FIE Label CEN		A suivre - to follow
<b>Pantalons (culotte)</b>	4.5cm x 2cm (1 marque)	75	47.5	Marque Label FIE Label CEN	74.8	Marque Label FIE Label CEN	31.5	Marque Label FIE Label CEN		
<b>Masque, structure principale</b>	6.0cm x 5.5cm (1 marque)	50	35	Marque Label FIE Label CEN	25 + 11 + 11 47	Marque FIE total	12.8	Marque Label FIE	Masque A Masque B Rien. La masque ne comprend pas un ressort. Label a l'intérieur pour CEN, depuis 2008 avec label FIE aussi.	
<b>Masque, att.de sécurité</b>		50					43.2	Marque		
<b>Bavette</b>	Approuvé mais sans dimensions	50 avec label FIE, 10 sans label FIE	47.5	Marque Label FIE Label CEN	21*	Marque (*chaque de 2 marques)	26.3	Marque Label FIE Label CEN		
<b>Bas</b>	4.5cmx2.0cm	10 (a plat)								
<b>Chaussures</b>	4.5cmx2.0cm	10	A noter: la marque de 47.5 cm2 comprend approximativement:		A noter: la marque de 74.8 cm2 comprend approximativement:		A noter: la marque de 31.5 cm2 comprend deux marques circulaires			
<b>Gant</b>	Rien	10	12.5cm2 2.0cmz	Marque fabriq label FIE label CEN	13.8cm2 42.6cmz	Marque fabriq label FIE label CEN	10 marque fabriq, et label FIE/CEN de approx. 10.0cmz chacune dans des espaces carrés d'environ 15.8cm2.			
<b>Arme</b>	rien visible de loin	rien visible de loin. Au sabre, le nom sur la partie isolée.	10cm2	label CEN	11.2cm2	Marge autour				

**Opinion of the Rules Commission :** the size of the manufacturer's mark must be the one authorised by the IOC. Any increase of the size of the manufacturer's mark must be part of a sponsoring contract with the athlete.

The quality label (which must be the FIE emblem) must be separated from the manufacturer's mark.

### Italian Fencing Federation (ITA)

#### Proposal 1

Thinking about the possible solutions concerning the Olympic qualification for the team competitions after Beijing and towards London 2012, and awaiting for further details, let me propose the following :



the possibility to organise relay team competitions by sex at the 2008 Junior World Championships in order to have technical estimations to be discussed starting from the month of January 2009.

Two athletes per weapon should participate in the team competition at 60 hits. That is for the men's team : two foil fencers, two sabre fencers, two epee fencers.

For the women's team : two foil fencers, two sabre fencers, two epee fencers with the possibility to use a reserve.

Therefore concerning the 2008 Junior World Championships, 6 medals could be awarded for the individual competitions and two medals for the team competitions, actually reducing the competition by one day.

With the hope that this proposition will give opportunities of discussion and more perspectives for our sport.

**Opinion of the Rules Commission : in favour the testing of a new formula in team in Acireale with two fencers at each weapon, for both men and women.**

## **Proposal 2**

### **BIB FOIL MASK'S ELECTRIFICATION**

The attached drawings clearly show the way to realize the electrification of the bib part that could become a valid target at foil, using a metallized fabric used nowadays in the manufacture of the electric jacket.

The part of the bib which currently covers the valid surface must be covered by having metallic tissue sewn over it so that it is covered up to the collar of the actual plastron. It will be necessary to interpose between the bib and the metallized fabric a layer of insulating material that will be bigger than the metallized part, inside and outside the bib, so as to avoid that sweat, soaking the fabric, could make the entire mask conductive.

With the aim of ensuring the electrical connection between the bib and the jacket, considering all the problems that a wire connecting bib and jacket could cause, the metallized fabric will be sewed entirely on the bib only on the external surface of the mask, while the internal side will be unattached along its upper edge and sewed only along the external edge; the insulating coating, on the other hand, will be entirely sewed on the inside as on the outside.

Concerning the wiring cable we must say that the current rules on the foil's contact times allowed the signal of the valid hits on the bib even if it is not in contact with the jacket at the moment of the first impact.

In this case, in fact, the hit bib is pushed against the jacket by the opponent's weapon, restoring the contact and the signalling of the coloured valid hit light while the white lamp caused by the first contact between the opponent's foil and the bib will not have had time to signal.

Anyway, all this doesn't prevent, the possibility of connecting the bib firmly to the jacket with a wire, a metallic button, a stripe of metallic fabric or whatever system could be adopted.

Concerning the use of the foil masks being used now, the bib's electrification to conform with the new rules could be easily achieved, handcrafted by families or fencers, according to one of the two following suggestions:

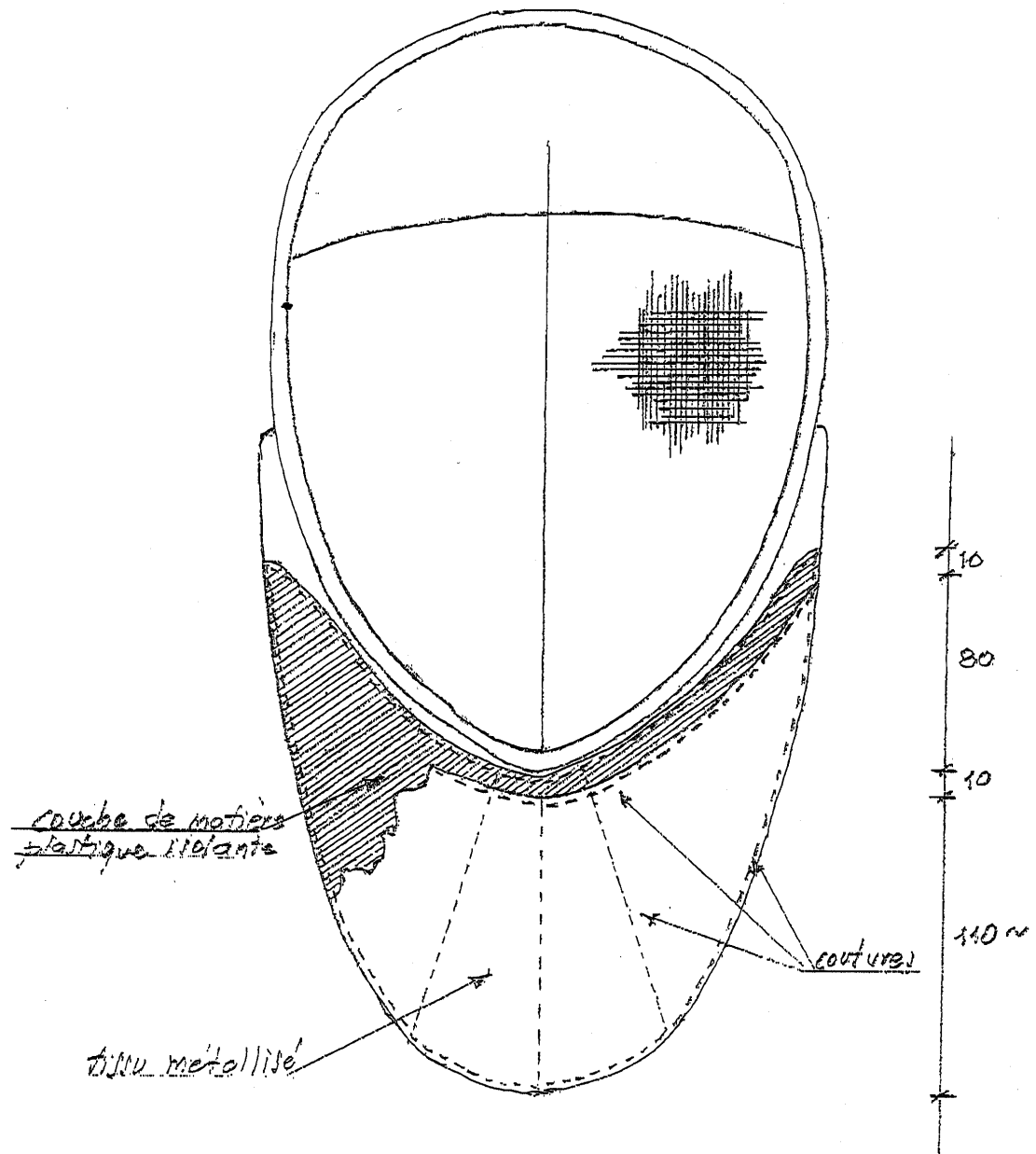
- covering the current bib with layers of insulating and conductive material available from all retailers of fencing equipment, in accordance with the indications as to position and sewing given above;

- putting over the current bib a detachable cover made from metallic tissue, with an insulating layer on the inside, to be fixed to the bib itself by means of velcro or perhaps by elastic bands hooked round the security strap of the mask.

**Opinion of the Rules Commission** : in favour of the incorporation of the bib as valid surface at foil. This proposal concerns the technicalities of application and should be submitted to the SEMI Commission. The article t.47.2 must be modified as follows :

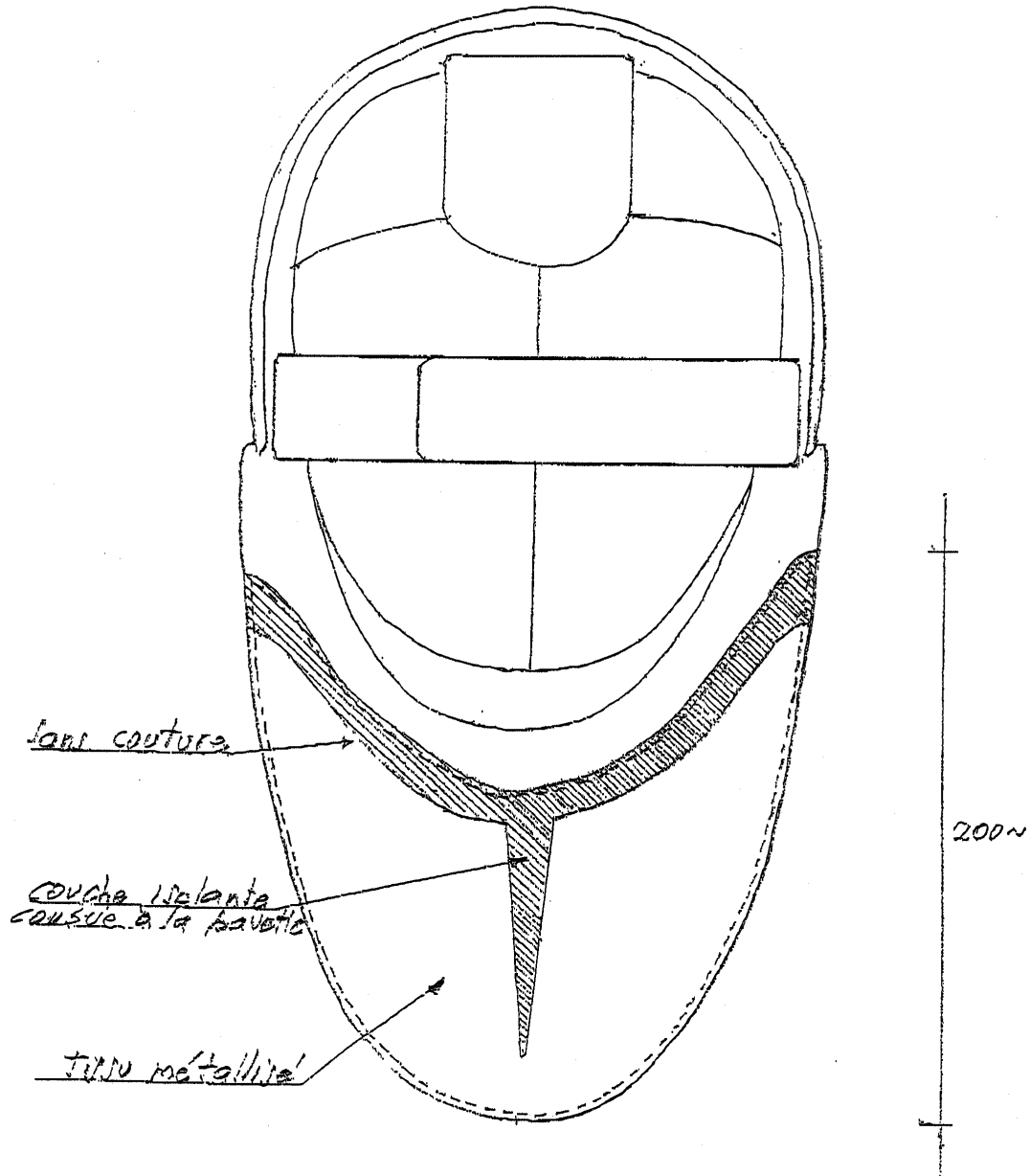
“The **target** at foil excludes the limbs and the head. It is confined to the trunk, the upper limit being the collar up to 6 cm above the prominences of the collar bones; at the sides to the seams of the sleeves, which should cross the head of the humerus; and the lower limit following a horizontal 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 4, above). **It also includes the entire bib of the mask**”.

Bavette électrifiée au fleuret



Vue antérieure  
Echelle 1:2

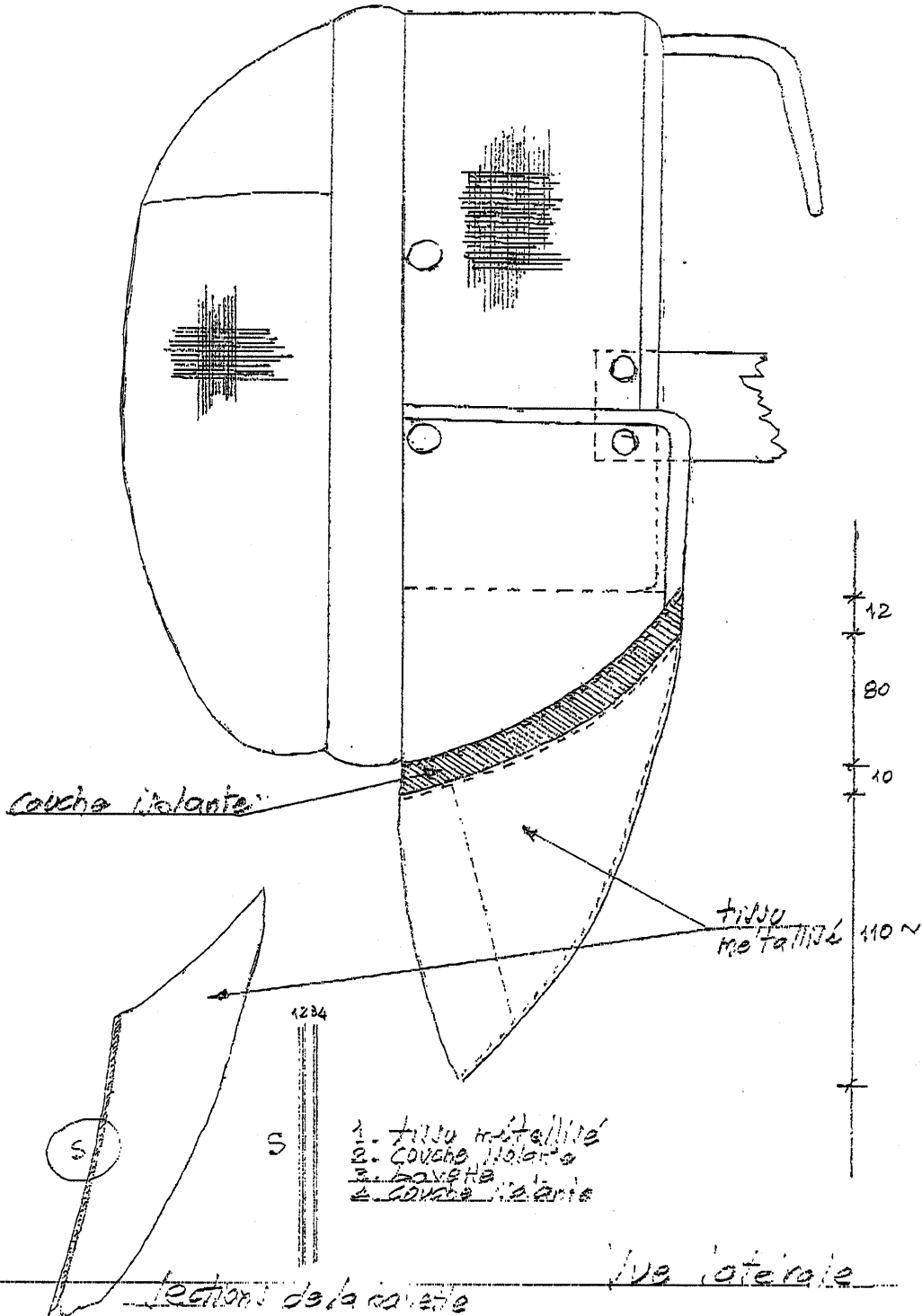
Bavette électrisée au feu



Vue postérieure  
Echelle 1:2 nat, nat.

Construcția de p. e. t. a.  
- e. Feinwerk -

Bobină electrică cu fibră



## South African Fencing Association (RSA)

### 2. Administrative Rules and Rules for the Competitions

With the purpose of improving technical process of providing the competitions run by Zonal Confederations and in order to develop means of organizing and running Confederations' competitions, it is proposed to introduce corresponding provisions to the Statutes:

a) delegate the running of Zonal Confederations' tournaments to the Organizing Committees to be formed by Confederations themselves and Organizing member-federations – in accordance with basic requirements of IFF/FIE Rules and Regulations;

**Opinion of the Rules Commission** : not in favour and already dealt with the Belarus proposition.

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## Ukraine Fencing Federation (UKR)

### **1. Publicity Code :**

To add in Cf.2 c) as second proposition the following sentence :

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.

Motivation: to allow companies selling alcohol to be invited as sponsors.

**Opinion of the Rules Commission** : the commission is not in favour and leaves it to the study of the Promotion Commission.

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## President of the FIE Medical Commission

### **Proposal to modify FIE Rule t.33**

#### **Introduction:**

A recent high-profile incident at the Asian Games, during which a fencer experienced severe incapacitating muscle cramp causing disruption of the bout, brought to light a deficiency in FIE Rule t.33 which only deals with **injuries**, and makes no reference to the handling of acute non-traumatic medical conditions (ref. report on Asian Games by Dr Ezequiel Rodriguez).

The Executive Committee of the FIE has given the Medical Commission the task of drafting a proposition for the Congress which will:

- provide a clear definition of **cramp** and
- **modify art. t.33** so as to permit the medical delegate to intervene at any time when he notices that because of a physical problem (not necessarily an injury) a fencer is no longer able to fence.

#### **Historical Background:**

Although muscle cramp is not mentioned by name in the rules, it has become synonymous with the one condition for which “time” may not be given. Cramp is not caused by direct physical trauma and therefore cannot qualify as an “injury” under the present rule t.33.

In the past, probably because cramp was less well understood than today, it was regarded by many as a “deficiency”, a “weakness”, or “lack of fitness” which was the fencer’s fault. For this reason, and because fencers at times feigned muscle cramp in order to obtain a few minutes of unjustified rest in the middle of a bout, cramp was intentionally excluded as a condition for which “time” could be given.

**Rationale** for modification of t.33:

Cramp is a very real physical condition.

It is clearly defined (see definition) .

It is possible to tell clinically if severe cramp is real or feigned.

If cramp is left untreated, the problem may be compounded, causing real injury to the affected muscle(s).

The public spectacle of a fencer incapacitated by cramp, in agony, who is offered no assistance “because rule t.33 does not allow intervention”:

- is most embarrassing,
- amounts to medical neglect and is unethical, and
- is morally indefensible.

There is therefore no question that an athlete with incapacitating muscle cramp deserves to receive treatment, which is relatively quick and simple.

The only question is whether the fencer should be given the chance to receive treatment and resume the bout (i.e. the normal procedure as applied to an injury under t.33), or whether he or she should be excluded from the bout simply because he has cramp ?

It is felt that the time is ripe for the FIE to reappraise the situation and consider an appropriate modification to Rule t.33 for active intervention in a case of cramp.

**CRAMP.**

**Definition:**

*Cramp is the painful spasmodic involuntary contraction of skeletal muscle occurring during or immediately after physical exercise.*

**Cause:**

The cause of exercise-associated muscle cramp is not fully understood. Recent evidence indicates that it is related to the development of fatigue in a specific muscle or muscle group brought on by exhaustive exercise. Studies suggest that an alteration in the electrical signals passing to fatigued muscles results in a disturbance of the normal balance between activation and inhibition of muscle contraction.

The still-popular theories that muscle cramps are caused by dehydration or serum electrolyte disturbances no longer seem valid.

**Clinical Features:**

- cramp usually occurs during a period of intense or prolonged exercise.
- it is often preceded by muscle fasciculation and discomfort.
- it is typically confined to one or two muscle groups.
- the person experiences obvious distress and pain.
- the hard contracted muscle is visible and palpable.

- fasciculation is usually visible over the muscle belly.
- normally there are no other abnormalities or disturbance of vital signs.
- the cramp is quickly relieved by passive stretching.

**Treatment:**

This consists of passive stretching of the affected muscle groups.

Hold the limb so as to keep the muscle under stretch until fasciculation stops and cramp is relieved.

General supportive measures may also be given: supply oral fluids if required.

Admit to a medical facility if severe cramps persist.

**Medical Commission proposal for Modification of FIE Rule t.33**

This proposal is submitted for consideration by the FIE Congress on behalf of the Medical Commission by Dr. George Ruijsch van Dugteren on 21 March 2007.

(changes to the existing text of rule t.33 are underlined):

**Accidents or illness, withdrawal of a competitor**

**t.33. 1.** For an **injury or an acute medical condition** 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 accident or illness 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).

**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 illness.

**3.** Should a fencer **demand a break** which is deemed by the delegate of the Medical Committee or by the doctor on duty to be **unjustified**, the Referee will penalise that fencer as specified in Articles t.114, t.117, t.120.

**4. In team events** a fencer judged unable to continue the bout by the doctor may, nevertheless, on the advice of the same doctor, fight in subsequent matches on the same day.

**5.** The Directoire Technique may **modify the order of bouts** in a pool in order to ensure the efficient running of the competition (cf. o.16.1).

This proposal makes it possible for the medical delegate or duty doctor to deal decisively with a case of severe cramp in a way that is fair and according to a standard protocol.

**Opinion of the Rules Commission :** in favour of the modification of the article t.33 as proposed by the President of the Medical Commission.



\* **Guidelines** for dealing with trauma or illness on the piste will be discussed during the meeting of the Medical Commission in June 2007, and a Guidelines document will be drawn up for inclusion in the Medical Guidelines/Cahier Medical (it would be inappropriate to include them in the Rules of Competition)

These guidelines will include a list of examples of (non-traumatic) medical conditions which could qualify for “time” during a bout (examples would include muscle cramp, nose bleed, epileptic seizures etc) , and will provide recommendations for managing these conditions in order to fairly assist the athlete and to reduce the disruption of a fencing bout to a minimum.

**QUESTION** :What could happen if the proposed modification is not introduced ?

Consider the following scenarios:

The Gold Medal individual foil Final in the Beijing Olympic Games.

President Jacques Rogge sitting with President Rene Roch watching the spectacle seen by Television viewers world-wide: a Chinese versus an Italian !

The Chinese fencer is leading 12:8 when he suddenly develops severe cramp in his thigh. He is in agony as he falls to the ground. His coach and team doctor leap up to assist him but the Medical Delegate announces he has cramp.

Scenario #1: (t.33 as it is today): he is not be allowed to receive assistance; he must choose: fence on or withdraw from the fight..... Under these circumstances, he has no option – national pride demands that he fence on. While it is well-known that a few minutes of passive stretching would help relieve the cramp and allow him to continue the bout, this is denied him. He goes on to lose the Gold medal to his Italian opponent because he is unable to defend himself.

Scenario #2 (t.33 as per today’s proposal): The same rules apply as for injuries; the doctor assesses he has severe cramp and he is allowed a break of 10 minutes max. The FIE rules are seen to be logical and fair. The doctor confirms he has severe cramp, he receives immediate assistance, passive stretching clears up the cramp within minutes, and he resumes the bout. He goes on to win the Gold medal for China.

The underlying principle is that the rules are standardised: the fencer has a right to receive treatment for an acute incapacitating medical condition whether it is an injured knee, a sprained ankle, or severe muscle cramp.

If, in the scenario depicted above, the cramp returns and he cannot continue, at least he has been given a chance, he has been treated fairly in exactly the same manner as any other incapacitating physical condition, and he has to accept that he cannot continue.

### **Alternative modification to t.33**

This is option is not supported by the Medical Commission. It is included here for completeness’ sake, in the unlikely event that the FIE Executive remains of the opinion that the existence of severe cramp is unacceptable and rule t.33 must be modified so that the medical delegate or duty doctor has no choice but to summarily exclude a fencer who develops severe muscle cramp from the competition (without the option of any medical attention).

Under these circumstances the modified rule t.33 would look like this:

### **Accidents, withdrawal of a competitor**

**t.33. 1a.** For an **injury** 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 accident 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).

**1b.** For a non-traumatic medical condition 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 not allow a break in the fight. If the doctor considers 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).

(Sub-sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 of rule t.33 would remain unchanged).

It is strongly advised that in an important issue such as this, the FIE Executive and the Medical Commission should take the opportunity to work together to reach a consensus which is acceptable to all. In this way it is hoped we will be able to present to the Congress a non-controversial proposal which will be implemented for the good of all.

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## **PROPOSITIONS DEFERED FROM THE 2005 CONGRESS**

### **Fencing Federation of Brazil (FRA) /Arthur Cramer, t.46.3**

To add : At foil, **during the fencing phrase**, the arm, forearm and unarmed hand must never come in front of the chest.

**Opinion of the Rules Commission** : the Commission is in favour of the idea as presented, but finds that this question has already been dealt above in an appropriate manner.

<b>2) URGENT DECISIONS</b>
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**Opinion of the Rules Commission** : the Commission reviewed the urgent decisions and fully approve them for submission to the Congress.