

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, in actually reducing the competition of one day.

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

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 in the foil, using a metallized fabric in practice nowadays to make the electric jacket.

The metallized fabric has to be overlapped with an appropriated sewn to the bib's part that now cover the valid surface of the electric jacket so it must arrive to the jacket's neck. It will be required to interpose between the bib and the metallized fabric a layer of insulating material that will be bigger of the metallized part, inside and outside the bib, so to avoid that the sweat, soaking the fabric, could make the entire mask conductive.

With the goal of ensuring the wiring between the bib and the jacket, considering all the problems that a connection wire bib-jacket could causes, the metallized fabric will be sewed entirely on the bib only on the external surface of the mask, while the internal side will be free in correspondence of the superior rim and sewed only along the external perimetral edge; the insulating coating, on the opposite, 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's not in contact with the jacket at the moment of the first impact.

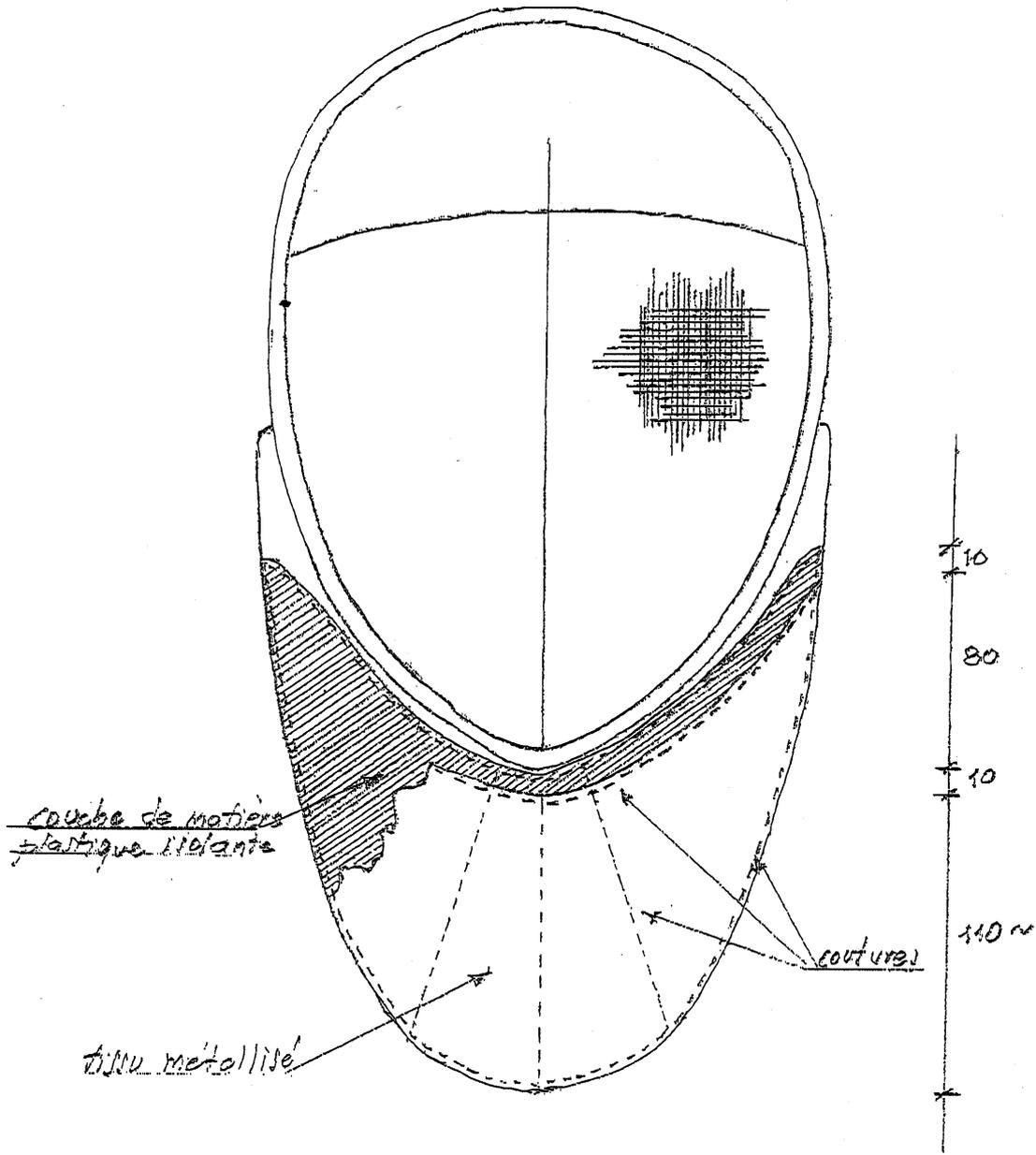
In this case, in fact, the hit bib is pushed against the jacket by the opposing sword restoring the wire and the successive advertising of the valid hit coloured, while the white hit of the first opposing contact weapons-bib could not have had the required time for his advertising.

All this doesn't jeopardize, anyway, in case it was believed, the chance of connecting steadily the bib 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 in use nowadays, the bib's electrification to be adjusted to the new rules could be easily reached, handcrafted by families or fencers, according one of the two underwrote suggestions:

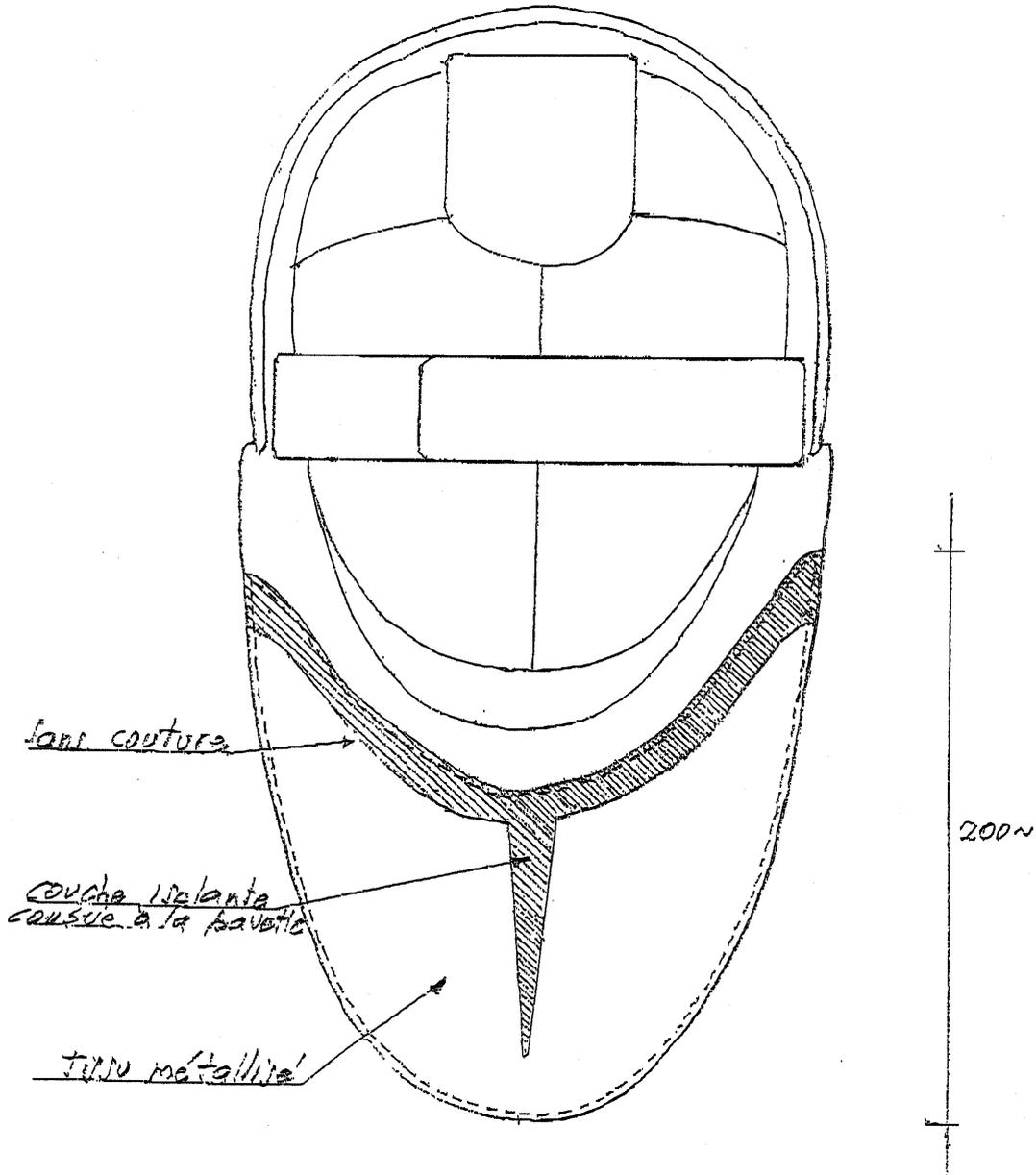
- overlapping to the actual bib the layers insulating and conductive, available at the fencing suppliers, following the position and sewing instructions over mentioned;
- overlapping to the bib a metallized fabric cap, covered in the inside by an insulating material layer, to be fixed at the bib by Velcro, or elastic rings fasten on the safety stripe on the mask's back.

Bavette électroscopique ou fleurée



*Vue antérieure
Echelle 1:2*

Bavette électrifiée soufflée



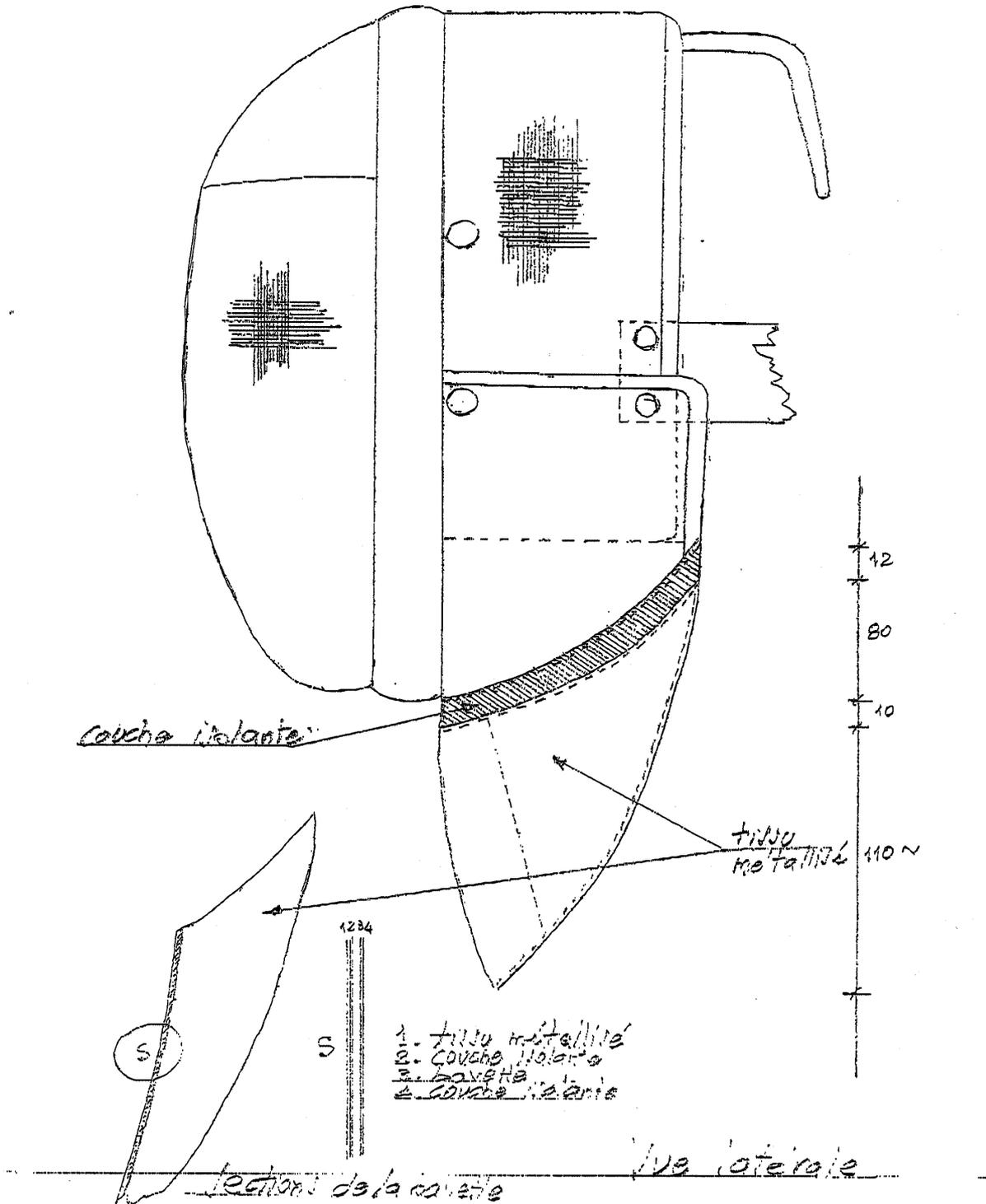
*Vue postérieure
Echelle 1:2 réel, mm.*

16.Mar. 2007 14:40

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Commission de la C.I.P.
Le Président

Boîte électrique au fibre



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;

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.

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.

** **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 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.

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 stand in front of the chest.

Fencing Federation of Belarus (BLR)

2. With the purpose to improve technical process of providing the competitions made by the Confederations and in order to ameliorate 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;
-

Fencing Federation of Brazil (BRA)**Proposition 2 (deferred from the 2005 Congress)**

Reincorporate the bib as valid surface at foil.

MOTIVATION.

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

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 :**

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- d) In cases of equality of this first index**, and to separate fencers with equal first indices, a second **index** will be established { (HS-HR) / maximum possible HS-HR} in the pool of each fencer, for the bouts actually counted **at** the end of the pool. The fencer with the highest **index** (HS-HR) / maximum possible (HS-HR) is seeded highest.
- e) In cases of equality of the two indices V/M and { (HS-HR) / maximum possible (HS-HR) }**, a third **index** will be established {HS / maximum possible HS } in the pool of each fencer, for the bouts counted at the end of the pool. The fencer with the highest indice {HS / maximum possible HS } is seeded highest.
- f) In cases of absolute equality of the three indices** above, the seeding order of the classification table will be decided by drawing lots.

3.2. MOTIVATION.

See example below.

3.2.2. Conclusion,

To establish a summary classification table after the round of pools, **in cases of equality of the indices V / M**, we consider that it is more appropriate to estimate 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 indices HS-HR, that is, **the highest arithmetical average of HS-HR on the bouts actually counted in the pool.**
- 2) In cases of equality of the two preceding indices, the highest percentage of the maximum possible total of HS, that is, **the highest arithmetical average of HS on the bouts actually counted in the pool.**

It was 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 or HR	HS	HR	HS - HR	Actual ranking	$\frac{HS-HR}{Max HS-HR} = \frac{(9)}{(6)}$	Proposed ranking	$\frac{HS}{Max HS} = \frac{(7)}{(6)}$	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 ^{er}	63,3%	1 ^{er}	x	x	4,83	1,67	3,16	
	B	7	6	1	30	30	17	13	2 ^{eme}	43,3%	3 ^{eme}	x	x	5	2,83	2,17	
	C	6	5	1	25	25	13	12	3 ^{eme}	48%	2 ^{eme}	x	x	5	2,6	2,4	
2	D	7	6	1	30	30	12	18	1 ^{er}	60%	1 ^{er}	100%	1 ^{er}	5	2	3	Dra w lots
	E	6	5	1	25	25	10	15	2 ^{eme}	60%	1 ^{er}	100%	1 ^{er}	5	2	3	
	F	6*	4	1	20	20	8	12	3 ^{eme}	60%	1 ^{er}	100%	1 ^{er}	5	2	3	
3	G	7	6	1	30	27	11	16	1 ^{er}	53,3%	3 ^{eme}	x	x	4,5	1,83	2,67	
	H	6	5	1	25	25	10	15	2 ^{eme}	60%	1 ^{er}	x	x	5	2	3	
	I	6*	4	1	20	19	8	11	3 ^{eme}	55%	2 ^{eme}	x	x	4,75	2	2,75	
4	J	7	6	1	30	30	15	15	1 ^{er}	50%	3 ^{eme}	100%	3 ^{eme}	5	2,5	2,5	Dra w lots
	K	7	6	1	30	27	12	15	2 ^{eme}	50%	3 ^{eme}	90%	5 ^{eme}	4,5	2	2,5	
	L	6*	4	1	20	18	3	15	3 ^{eme}	75%	1 ^{er}	x	x	4,5	0,75	3,75	
	M	6	5	1	25	25	12	13	4 ^{eme}	52%	2 ^{eme}	x	x	5	2,4	2,6	
	N	7	6	1	30	29	19	10	5 ^{eme}	33,3%	7 ^{eme}	x	x	4,83	3,17	1,66	
	O	6*	4	1	20	20	10	10	6 ^{eme}	50%	3 ^{eme}	100%	3 ^{eme}	5	2,5	2,5	Dra w lots
	P	6*	4	1	20	16	6	10	7 ^{eme}	50%	3 ^{eme}	80%	6 ^{eme}	4	1,5	2,5	
	Q	7	6	1	30	30	25	5	8 ^{eme}	16,7%	10 ^{eme}	x	x	5	4,17	0,83	
	R	6	5	1	25	25	20	5	9 ^{eme}	20%	8 ^{eme}	100%	8 ^{eme}	5	4	1	
S	6	5	1	25	22	17	5	10 ^{eme}	20%	8 ^{eme}	88%	9 ^{eme}	4,4	3,4	1		



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

Sam Cheris (MH, USA)

1. Add at the end of m.33:

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.

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 cannot 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.

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 1st 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.

Prop. 2) t.45.3.b)

in **case iii)**, the referee will penalise the fencer at fault as specified **for offences of the 3rd 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 4th 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.

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, at 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.

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.

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 4th 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.

Prop. 6) t.87.3 Before the beginning of each bout, the two fencers must perform a **fencing 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 fencing salute and must shake hands with their opponent, with the unarmed hand. 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).

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.

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.

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.

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 3rd group was restructured in order to cancel subgroups ;
- the offences 4.2, 4.3, 4.5 moved from 3rd to 4th group (see proposals).
- the offence 3.6 does not impose a black card anymore.
- the offences of the 4th 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 brought to the fore.

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.

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 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 en each category.

8 WORLD CUP INDIVIDUAL

The world cup will start in the second half of January and will end in June. The maximum amounts of World Cup to be held are two in the same moth 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 or 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 Gran 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 adjust 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 | 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

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

French Fencing Federation (FRA)

PROPOSALS ABOUT THE REFEREEING

- The hit made just before, during and after a fall, is annulled.
- 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 ».
- At sabre : delete the 1st 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.
- 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.
- 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 all offences of combat of the first group : yellow card, then red card in case of repetition of offence.
- 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 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.

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 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 opposite fencer to the one who applies the definition above, and naturally, the one of the fencer itself.

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

For example, if the A fencer 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 self-express its deficiencies, when it requests fencers to be on guard « correctly » (t.17) or when it evokes 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 the convention, which is better supervised. By limiting the number of faults of combat, thanks to an accurate written standard, the assault would win in brightness.

This definition would allow to limit the 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, after an interruption, that the bout has to be resumed.

It has to be such, that the fencers cannot, in any circumstances, withdraw the valid surfaces from the offensive or against the opposite offensive 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).
- The ducking is a movement which allows 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 take back the 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.

Will be penalised : the flexing of the head, chest, the contortions, which allow the protection with the arms and jumps (yellow card).

- Generally, all the positions and actions, which lead to lose the balance must be penalised if they are voluntary, and corrected, if they are not intentional.

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 cm² 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 cm² 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:-						Paul		PBT	
			Allstar		Negrini		dimension	Inclus	dimension	Inclus	dimensions	Inclus
			dimension	Inclus	dimensions	Inclus	cm2	cm2	cm2	cm2	cm2	cm2
Veste	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				
Pantalons (culotte)	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				
Masque, structure principale	6.0cm x 5.5cm (1 marque)	50	35	Marque Label FIE Label CEN	25	Marque + 11 + 11 47	12.8	Marque Label FIE	Masque A Masque B Rien. Le masque ne comprend pas un ressort. Label a l'intérieur pour CEN, depuis 2006 avec label FIE aussi.			
Masque, att.de sécurité		50					43.2	Marque				
Bavette	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				
Bas	4.5cmx2.0cm	10 (a plat)										
Chaussures	4.5cmx2.0cm	10										
Gant	Rien	10										
Arme	rien visible de loin	rien visible de loin. Au sabre, le nom sur la partie isolée.	10cm2	Marque fabriq label FIE label CEN	13.8cm2 42.8cm2	Marque fabriq label FIE label CEN	15.8cm2	Marque fabriq label FIE/CEN 99 approx. 10.1cm2 chacune dans des espaces carrées d'environ				