

FIE SEMI Commission 2010 meeting.

FIE SEMI COMMISSION

Minutes of the LAUSANNE MEETING

11th AND 12th SEPTEMBER 2010 - HOTEL DE LA PAIX

COMPTE RENDU DE LA REUNION SEMI

Present:

Mr. WANG Wei (CHN) representative of the COMEX

Ms. SHAO Jing (CHN) translator of Mr. Wang Wei

Mr. Ali Mohammad AZIZI (IRI) Member

Mr. Jacek BIERKOWSKI (POL) Member and Coordinator of the Meeting

Mr. Daniel DE CHAINE (USA) Member

Mr. Gamil ELZEFTAWI (EGY) Member

Mr. Atsushi HARINISHI (JPN) Member

Ms. Janet HUGGINS (GBR) Member

Ms. Maria Wilda Eberl LOPEZ (CHI) Member

Mr. Gianandrea NICOLAI (ITA) Member and Secretary of the Meeting

Mr. Semen RIKHTMAN (RUS) Member

Absent: Mr. José Eduardo DOS SANTOS (POR) President, excused.

Guests: asked and were authorized to attend with a consultant voice: Mr. Nicolino Alvaro (Nasycon)

1. Welcome words of the representative of the COMEX and Vice President of the FIE, Mr. Wang Wei.

Mr. Wang wishes a good work session, remembering how fencing is growing in new countries and emphasizes how important is the weapons' control and the calling room that are in the responsibility of SEMI Delegates and the SEMI Commission. Mr. Wang informs the SEMI Commission that in China there are at this moment seven Manufactures of fencing products; most of these firms came into existence in recent years, and now produce to high standards of quality.

2. The Agenda.

The President of the SEMI Commission, Eduardo Dos Santos sent, some days before the date of this meeting, the Agenda, and adds a new point concerning the topics proposed by mail on Friday 10th by the General Secretary of FIE, Maxim Paramonov.

3. Proposals of the Federations.

a. British Fencing Federation Proposals.

Proposal 1: 1. Articles m.2.3/m.5.2, padding inside the guard, for consistency. The proposal is approved by the SEMI Commission.

Proposal 2: 2. Article m.5.3.d, to ensure secure retention of body wires. The proposal is approved by the SEMI Commission.

Proposal 3: 3. Articles m.8.5, 16.5.b, 23.5.b: Weights: Provide tolerances in the specifications of the 200 g weight used to check the flexibility of blades. The proposal is approved by the Commission, the tolerance +/- 1 g is correct for the weight of 200g, in order to check the flexibility of blades.

Proposal 4: 4. Articles m.11.1.4 and m.19.4.a/b: Gauges for foil and épée points, (tolerances: +- 0,05 mm to be moved from t.44 to m.11.1). The proposal is approved.

Proposal 5: 5. Article m.13.1, insulation of foil pommel not needed. The SEMI Commission agrees that modern electronic components used in apparatus can record valid hits, even if the pommel is put in contact with electrical jacket. The proposal is approved.

Proposal 6: 6. Article m.24.2, sabre guard size and control. In the opinion of the SEMI Commission, it is not necessary to modify this rule if the control is done in the correct way. The proposal is not approved.

Proposal 7: 7. Article m.27.3: Mask wire at foil. The SEMI Commission approves the proposal and informs Comex that, in the same time, it is necessary to modify the article m.32.5 for sabre rules. The SEMI Commission proposes to add to the article m.32.5 the following words: "The wire must be white-colored or clear".

Proposal 8: 8. Diagrams, add a note below each diagram stating that 'This diagram is for guidance purposes only. In case of any doubt the wording of the appropriate text takes precedence'. The proposal is approved and the SEMI Commission recommends that in any case, if there are different interpretations, the written version is the official fencing rule and the diagram is for reference. The French version is the official text of FIE Rules.

b. German Fencing Federation Proposal.

Proposal 1: Delete the obligation to use the transparent visor mask for all weapons.

The proposal is not approved by the SEMI FIE Commission, because SEMI Competition thinks that, for sabre competitions and training, transparent masks might

be used in the future with the same rules that are used at this moment. In the SEMI Commission's opinion, a new complete study is not necessary: there was some years ago a special Commission for Transparent Masks; the chairman was Marcello Baiocco, who was at that time the President SEMI FIE Commission, and members of the Commission for Transparent Masks were persons belonging to Medical and SEMI Commissions. The SEMI Commission can collect old and recent reports, studies and tests done with transparent masks, in order to obtain the complete history and why the Commission agrees to stop using the transparent mask in foil and épée, but continuing to use transparent masks for sabre competitions.

c. Italian Fencing Federation Proposals.

Proposal 1: Characteristics of Scoring Apparatus, time for foil, new time of 500 ms (± 25 ms tolerance) to ignore all signals for subsequent hits.

Proposal 2: Characteristics of Scoring Apparatus, time for foil, new contact time of 8 ms (± 1 ms tolerance).

Proposal 3 Characteristics of Scoring Apparatus, time for sabre, new time of 250 ms (± 10 ms tolerance) to ignore all signals for subsequent hits.

From a technical point of view, all the solutions presented are available and can be done, changing in the apparatus an internal chip, not expensive – only few Euro. So the SEMI Commission cannot give an opinion, but works with other Commissions actually involved: first of them are Refereeing and Coaches Commissions. Tests will be done for foil and sabre in Budapest, next week, 18th and 19th September, with Magyar fencers; a new electronic apparatus made by Italian Firm Favero can manage two different timings. Marcello Baiocco, Membre d'Honneur and Past President of the SEMI FIE Commission will be present, invited by Comex. The results of this test will be transmitted to SEMI Commission.

d. United States Federation Proposals.

Proposal 1: To clarify the date of fabrication on the transparent visor. The SEMI Commission recommends the following system: Month (two digits), Year (four digits). Example: 09-2010.

Proposal 2: To ensure that there are no sharp edges on the tip which could injure opponents, tear their uniforms, or damage the transparent visor, the edges should be chamfered to 0,5 mm. The SEMI Commission approves.

4. Rules Commission Proposals.

Proposal 8: Add to t.86.4: "Should a fencer for any reason need another weapon or body-wire, the referee may allow him a maximum of 10 minutes to procure the necessary equipment. If the fencer is unable to obtain the equipment within that time, he or his team will be eliminated from the competition.

satisfy the conditions laid down for testing (cf. m.28.5).”

The SEMI Commission voted not to recommend this proposal.

Instead the SEMI Commission recommends to COMEX to create rules for the Call Room regarding the minimum of equipment required for fencers; for example the SEMI Commission suggests the minimum number of three weapons, three body wires, two electric jackets, two gloves. If this condition does not exist, the SEMI Commission Delegate or the Observer FIE must inform Directoire Technique, who will make the decision to remove the fencer or not.

5. Other proposals.

Proposal 1 : “Transparent masks are not compulsory in saber and they are forbidden in foil and epee”. The SEMI Commission agrees and suggest to add a second part to the phrase: “Those sabre fencers using visor masks must accept full responsibility for the care, maintenance and conformity with the regulations. See Annex A to the Material Rules 2.1.2 transparent masks, 3. Safety standards”.

Proposal 2 : “Wireless, video arbitrage, plasma displays are not compulsory”.

The SEMI Commission agrees to this for international competitions, except for the Olympic Games and World Championships.

6. Presentation of Nasycon products by Mr Nicolino Alvaro.

The SEMI Commission listened to the presentation given by Mr. Alvaro and received a general idea about the plastic weapons (foil, épée and now also sabre) and had an opportunity to view many different types of plastic masks. Even if at the moment the SEMI FIE Commission is not involved for these plastic products, maybe in the future for safety of young fencers SEMI Commission will be asked to control and give an homologation for plastic weapons and masks.

7. Presentation concerning the weapons’ control at the Youth Olympic Games in Singapore, by Gamil Elzeftawi.

The SEMI Commission listened to the report presented by the SEMI Delegate at the first edition of Youth Olympic Games 2010 and thanks him for the job well done.

8. Report from EFC SEMI Commission from Leipzig in July, by Jacek Bierkowski.

The SEMI Commission listened to the report presented by the President of SEMI EFC/FEE Commission. The SEMI Commission thanks the President of the European SEMI Commission and hopes to receive more detailed information when the European Meeting will take place. Two new apparatuses were presented by the

German firms Ingenieurburo GmbH, Gravis AG, and IB Electronic GmbH; in each case it was a first prototype, a second version will be ready at the beginning of next new year.

9. Information from the Russian Federation.

Semon Richtman informed the SEMI Commission about three new projects that are currently been studied and financed by the Russian Federation.

- a. A new gabarit using electronic testing and including currents of Foucault;
- b. A new apparatus to test scoring machines;
- c. A new apparatus to test the entire resistance from the weapon tip to the scoring machine

These apparatuses will be used in Russia during the next international competitions, at the beginning GP FIE, later European Junior Championship, Universiades and Senior European Championship.

10. Meeting of the two Commissions: Medical and SEMI.

SEMI and Medical Commission Members had a meeting in the SEMI Commission Conference Room. Jacek Bierkowski asked the President of Medical Commission, Wilfried Wolfgarten, to introduce the two topics: transparent masks and gloves.

Jacek Bierkowski, as chairman of Commission for investigation of transparent masks following the accident in the Foil competition in the European Junior Championship in Odense DK, November 2009. He described the studies done but explains that the investigation is not yet completed. Sabic, a Dutch Firm, made studies and investigations, analyzing the broken transparent masks. Also others independents experts, firms sent own comments – opinions that the material (polycarbonic) which were used is not a Lexan. Starting with February 2010 FIE Comex stopped the use in training and foil competitions of the transparent mask. At least five accidents took place in recent last years using transparent masks in foil and épée. Comparison between mesh masks accidents and transparent masks shows that in the same period no accidents happened with traditional mesh masks.

Gloves accidents, the SEMI Commission prefers at the present time not to introduce new or changed rules about material, strength, and so on.

11. Discussion of topics proposed by Gamil Elzeftawi.

The SEMI Commission received some Material Rule Proposals from the Colleague Gamil Elzeftawi. The SEMI Commission approves the following proposals, should be presented to COMEX:

- The line before m.28.1; should read “Conductive jacket and conductive t-shirt”;
- m.28.4 Add: “And the foil conductive jacket must have a conductive flap, minimum 2cm to 3 cm in the middle of the back, just below the collar, to which the crocodile clip from the mask can be attached”;
- Add m.28.8: ”For compliance of T-shirt electric resistance with STM requirements -maximum electric resistance:
 - a. between any two points of the electrically conductive belt on the T-shirt (including both flaps for crocodile clip connection) should be not more than 15 Ohm;
 - b. between any two points on the electrically conductive fabric-belt portion of the T-shirt (including both flaps for the alligator - clip connection) and any point of the electrically conductive fabric on the sleeves or on the neck, should be not more than 50 Ohm.
- m.34. 1. The fencer must wear, over his jacket, a conductive over-jacket, the conductive surface of which must cover entirely and without omission the valid surface of the body above a horizontal line which, when the fencer is on guard, joins, round the fencer’s trunk, the upper points of the creases formed by the thighs. At wireless sabre the fencer must wear a conductive t-shirt. The conductive part is made of a conductive fabric with maximum electric resistance between any two points of electrically conductive t-shirt fabric (including both flap for alligator clips connection) should be not more than 15 Ohm.
- m.34.2 add: “minimum” between the words “flap” and “2 cm”.

Management Proposals.

The SEMI Commission decided to transmit to COMEX a request to modify the FIE Observer Report:

- 1- To modify the report of the FIE observer via FIE web site to include the new question regarding the wireless system especially in foil & sabre.
- 2- All these data to be sent to the SEMI Commission to be analyzed and to be sent to STM for feedback and comment.

“Black list” for Manufacturers who not comply with FIE regulations:

The SEMI Commission proposes a system to organize and manage a sort of “black list” for suppliers who are proved not to comply with FIE Rules and who use the FIE logo without any permission. But before taking any action, the SEMI Commission asks the COMEX to request advice from the FIE Legal Commission.

12. Discussion of topics proposed by Jacek Bierkowski.

To Jacek Bierkowski received a letter from Mr. Wladimir Husarek, asking that his position as corresponding member of the SEMI Commission will continue. The

SEMI Commission recognized his expertise in non-destructive controls for blades and agreed to continue his position, as corresponding member of SEMI. Furthermore the SEMI Commission requests to COMEX and the Organizing Committee that **Courants de Foucault testing will be utilized in Weapons' Control at the World Championship and at the Olympic Games.**

Jacek Bierkowski noted that the Internet FIE site has a section called "Handbooks of specification"; in this section there are information and rules, for example, to television, press and medical activities. He says it is necessary that the SEMI Commission should write a "Handbook for Technical Requirements". The SEMI Commission agrees and asks to Members to think about this new Handbook, and each Member could prepare a proposal of contents. Before the end of this year, 2010, a draft will be prepared by a Group; Daniel De Chainé will be the person who can receive ideas from Colleagues and he will write a first draft.

New CD/DVD for Weapons' Control.

The SEMI Commission agrees that a DVD be made containing all procedures for weapon control in order to help the organizers to understand the procedure if they do not have enough experience. Janet Huggins will write a draft plus DVD DEMO and will send it to SEMI Commission Members. This will include such items as a rejection list, submission list, instructions for each control table, procedures, etcetera.

The SEMI Commission recommends to COMEX that:

1. one month before the World Championships and Olympic Games the chief of the SEMI Team should visit the Venue;
2. the chief or a member the SEMI Team should give a session about Weapons' Control to the Control Staff and must ensure that there will be necessary equipment to perform a proper Weapons' Control;
3. Local Organizers must prepare and send to the SEMI Commission plans, with details and dimensions.;
4. The SEMI Commission must approve (or create) the necessary forms for control;
5. Three days before the beginning of the World Championship the chief of the Semi Delegation must be on the place and to ensure that all preparations (weapon control room, instruments to weapons control, staff of weapon control and etc.) are correct and complete.

13. Nomination of SEMI Delegates at Competitions.

In Jordania, 4th – 14th April 2011, there will be Junior and Cadets World Championship; the SEMI Commission proposed that Officials for SEMI will be Ali Mohamed Azizi (Asia, Iran), Gamil Elzeftawi (Africa, Egypt), Gianandrea Nicolai (Europe, Italy); reserve Maria Wilda Eberl Lopez (America, Chile).

14. **Topics proposed by Maxim Paramonov.**

The SEMI Commission received the day before the meeting an e-mail sent by the General Secretary FIE, with three questions.

The SEMI Commission discussed the first question, white lamps in foil competition. As a first consideration, the SEMI Commission observed that the question of white lamps in foil concern the philosophy of foil fencing, and therefore the SEMI Commission cannot accept the responsible for changing FIE rules of foil fencing or introduce a sort of a “new weapon”, without the consent of Congress. Our responsibility is to produce the technical requirements for any approved system. Furthermore, the SEMI Commission would like to observe and underline that most white lamps are due to the bad quality of the material used by fencers; so for the personal material, the responsibility remains with each fencer; the Weapons’ Control checks material, but after only few minutes an approved body wire can fail. And a third consideration concerns the wireless system: the high resistance of the general electric circuit can produce the lighting of the white lamps.

Concerning the second point presented by Maxim Paramonov, the Semi Commission is informed by Semen Rikhtman what he observed, while looking at the Kabcom system used in World Junior Championship (2010) in Belfast. He observed that this system does not conform to the FIE rules, well defined in articles m.45, m.51.2 and .3, m.59.1.6. There is an FIE certification for this Kabcom apparatus, but the SEMI Commission doesn’t know which Institute controlled this Kabcom apparatus. As the apparatus made by Kabcom does not conform to these FIE Rules, the FIE Commission suggests to the COMEX that they do not use the Kabcom system and apparatus in the Official FIE Competitions, unless Kabcom can make changes so as to conform to the current FIE Rules.

The last point requested by the General Secretary concerns the homologation procedure for material. The SEMI Commission agrees that all activities involved in homologation must be revisited; but the SEMI Commission thinks that all homologations requested by Manufacturers (blades year 2010 and 2011, masks) must continue to be tested by the SEMI Commission, and it would not be correct to postpone any homologation processes. In order to organize a rapid work, Daniel De Chaine will write a draft for testing procedure for personal material of fencers and Semen Richtman will prepare a procedure for testing scoring apparatuses before homologation. Gianandrea Nicolai can organize and collect and the requirements for the testing of other materials. The objective for the SEMI Commission is to prepare a draft version of testing procedures before the end of the year 2010, and later, during the first months of 2011, to send to COMEX a document with the Homologation Procedures. At the same time the SEMI Commission will produce questions to be

sent to the CE Commission for Safety in the Sport, in order to assist the FIE and SEMI Commission to organize and write correct Homologation Procedures.

16. Other topics.

Semen Richtman noted that for Olympic Games there is a General Contractor for Fencing for London 2012, IOC has assigned this task to Swiss Timing. **The SEMI Commission asks to COMEX, in consideration of the importance of the Olympic Games, to put pressure on the IOC to insure that Swiss Timing will choose the best firms for each of the requirements in order to guarantee the highest quality of each of these services, for example, pistes , scoring apparatuses, information systems, etcetera.**

Also, Semen Richtman informed us that the wireless apparatus and the ” black box” of STM system was controlled about ten years by Marcello Baiocco and by himself, and it was found a resistance over 20 ohms, would cause the system too malfunction. Also he demonstrated a system for checking the apparatus on the piste, using variable resistances. He also proposed making random tests for foil and épée.

Gamil Elftezawi proposed that SEMI meet at least two times every year. The SEMI Commission decided to ask COMEX for this second meeting. Jacek Bierkowski proposed a meeting between FIE SEMI and EFC/CEE SEMI Commissions at Klagenfurt (Austria), during the European Cadet Championship, from 28th February to 6th March 2011. EFC/CEE will pay the expenses for Jacek Bierkowski and Semen Richtman at this meeting.

Mr. Wang closed our meeting and congratulate for a successful and useful job for our sport.

Gianandrea Nicolai

Secretary of the Meeting