



**PROMOTION AND PUBLICITY COMMISSION
REPORT OF THE MEETING OF
21-22 JUNE 2003, CHÂTEAU D'OUCHY, LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND**

Presents:	Claus Janka (GER - President) Ismail Atef (EGY) Carl Borack (USA) Lioniero Del Maschio (ITA) Marie-France Dufour (CAN) Bernard Gauthier (FRA) Sergio Groupierre (ARG) Ali Hussain (KUW)	Observers:	Nathalie Rodriguez Sunil Sabharwal
	René Roch (FIE – <i>ex-officio</i>)	Absent :	Frantisek Janda (CZE) M. Mohammadzadeh (IRI)

1) Review of past minutes/report

The discussion concerned the situation of fencing towards the IOC and the need to wait a little before pursuing the steps relative to the team format (on the other hand, an attempt of a new formula will take place at the Junior World Championships).

Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the last meeting.

2) Review of World Junior Championships in Trapani

The Commission extended its congratulations to the organizers of the World. Mr. Janka shared with Commission members the statistics pertaining to the last few Championships and the report submitted by Mr. Kralik, Chairman of the D. Mr. Borack expressed the USFA's gratitude to the organizers for the security measures that were put in place to insure the safety of their team.

One of the major problems encountered was due to the fact that many fencers still did not have their FIE licenses at the time of the event. Fortunately, these problems will now be eliminated with the implementation of the new FIE online registration process (active 1st September).

A review of the softwares used for the running of competitions revealed programming errors and several measures taken in order to reduce the eventuality of the re-occurring of problems.

In order to better highlight the FIE growing successes to the IOC, It was proposed that the FIE office should contribute this sort of material to the regular IOC newsletter.

Was underscored the work we still need to do with protocol followed at finals which needs to be improved. A new protocol must be established in order to accelerate the proceedings and to make the whole process run more smoothly.

3) Review of propositions received for the Leipzig Congress

6) Issues surrounding the 2004-05 calendar

- **German Federation proposal concerning promotional space**

We must be vigilant to avoid situations where there may be conflicting sponsor information during major sponsored events. All danger of this will likely be averted by the careful and meticulous control by the SEMI.

Commission unanimously supports this proposal with the above stated caveats.

- **Proposal concerning a new team format at Junior Worlds**

Commission unanimously supports this proposal.

- **Registration procedures for FIE events**

The Commission proposed to submit an amendment to the proposal to read as follows:

*« For **Grand Prix** competitions it is recommended that delegations send their entry forms at least three weeks before the date of the event. The names of those entered **including the alternate if any** must reach the organisers no later 15 days prior to the event. The name of the chief of delegation must be identified on this document, as well as the name and category of each referee being brought.*

***For individual World Cup competitions**, the organizers must, at the risk of penalties, refuse any entry of fencers who would not appear on lists corresponding to this recommendation, any entry which would not be requested by a federation and any entry of fencer or referee not holding an FIE licence valid for the current season. “*

Commission unanimously supports the amended proposal.

- **Composition of Directoire Technique**

Commission recommends this proposal be forwarded to the Legal Commission for review.

- **Number of referees required for FIE events**

Commission does not support this proposal, but rather recommends upholding the status quo for a year and draft a new proposal addressing the problem for the Congress following the Olympic Games.

Was discussed the impact on and cost differential incurred by organizers if they were obliged to financially support the services of all referees used. Mr Roch will consider having the FIE provide some support under criteria it will set.

The Commission supports this initiative and recommends it be included as a line item on next year's FIE budget.

- **Proposal concerning the Grand-Prix-Arbitres**

After some discussions, it was proposed to submit an amendment to the proposal to read as follows:

*For the competitions for which referees are designated by the Executive Committee (GP-Arbitres), on the proposal of the Refereeing Commission and **with a consultation of the organiser**, delegations will no longer have to bring referees. 8 referees will be designated by the Executive Committee, at the expense of the organisers, who will receive an entry fee of **100 CHF**.*

Commission unanimously supports the amended proposal.

- **Sanction fees charged for missing referees**

There was clear agreement, however, the text must be modified slightly by deleting reference to “Grand Prix”, as such a provision cannot apply to this category of event.

Commission unanimously supports the amended proposal.

- **Use of coloured mask**

Any mask design submitted to the FIE needs to be done so by the National Federation, except promotional logos.

Commission unanimously supports this proposal.

- **Name and publicity appearing on apparel and national colours**

The Commission agrees on the proposal but this will require an amendment of the current *Règlement in the list of offences which requires a red card*

Commission unanimously supports the proposal.

- **Theatrical fencing**

The Commission recommends to have the final match of the Theatrical Fencing Championships fenced during the opening ceremony of World Fencing Championships.

Commission unanimously supports in principle this proposal

- **Spanish and Hungarian Federations proposals concerning the World Cup Circuit**

The stated target of our Commission is to reduce the overall number of official FIE competitions starting in the 2004-05 season. Selection of competitions chosen to be retained will take into account the following criteria:

- to maintain the concept of universality, therefore representation is required on all continents;
- make every effort to retain those countries currently hosting no more than 1-2 events a year; and

- use qualitative criteria to eliminate events occurring in countries that currently host more than 2 events.

The Commission is therefore proposing the following for the 2004-05 World Cup season:

- a maximum circuit of 14 events per weapon, divided into 9 World Cup events (4 Europe, 2 America, 2 Asia, 1 Africa) and 5 Grand Prix events (2 Europe, 1 America, 1 Asia, 1 Africa), where the Grand Prix must necessarily include a team event;
 - events will be weighted, with World Cups receiving a coefficient of 1, Grand Prix 2, and World Championships 3;
 - for ranking purposes, only 6 results will be retained, plus the World Championship result, with a maximum of 3 World Cup or Grand Prix events by continent;
 - participation in the Grand Prix events will be limited to a maximum of 8 fencers per weapon per nation, and, for the organizing nation, any other fencer(s) they may have in the top 32 of that weapon, based on the final World Cup ranking established following the last World Championships;
 - participation in World Cup events will remain the same as currently practiced.
- **Hungarian proposal concerning awards to winners of Veterans' Championships**

Commission agrees in principle, but supports the Executive Committee to the effect that organizing National Federations are responsible for providing the prize money.

- **Israeli proposal concerning ranking of fencers on the World Cup Circuit**

The proposition is groundless because the name of all the fencers are entered the data base for the ranking. Although these names appear on the screen, they do not appear on lists published due to money saving reasons (only those fencers having gained points appear on it).

It was agreed that using top 32 fencers from the ranking as a criteria for selection would not be either conclusive or determining; and a major criteria must be the quality of the technical organization of a competition, including the mandatory production of a cassette of the event for the media in the case of the Grand Prix.

Commission therefore proposes that, for the next Olympic cycle, the responsibility for observing Grand Prix events be shared equally between the Refereeing Commission and the Promotion and Publicity Commission.

4) **Update on FIE Internet Project**

Testing and translation of content will continue throughout July and August and online registration for the World Championships will be operational for this on 1 September, with general launch of the remainder of the site scheduled for 1 October.

This will eliminate the problems encountered regularly at the World Junior Championships due to late registrations, and will allow automatic control and verification of the age of any participant. The Commission plans to request federations provide the FIE with short biographies of their Olympic fencers for the upcoming Olympic Games page on the website. The Commission thanked Mrs. Rodriguez for the efforts and work done to date.

5) **Review of Observer reports**

The analysis prepared by Janka and Dufour allowed to concentrate on major trends. It was felt that observers do not always take their responsibility seriously and the report on-line on the new web site should help to eliminate the lacks that were observed. Janka and Dufour will prepare a draft version of a new report and submit it for Commission approval by mid-August.

Those observers who did not submit their reports this year to Mr. Roch will not be considered for assignments this coming season.

If and when an organizer refuses to follow the observer's instructions with regards to this situation, then the observer must draft an immediate report to the FIE; the delinquent organizer will not be allowed to hold his event the following season. And it will be mandatory next season for the referee in question to present a card, or any other form of documentation, attesting to their national qualifications and issued by their national federation.

An FIE delegate will be dispatched 1-2 days ahead of the event to assist with the technical aspects of mounting a quality event.

7) **Issue of Commission involvement with Continental Federations**

As the Continental Federations are independent bodies, not members of the FIE, the Commission will only seek to work closely with them.

8) **Other Business**

- Janka and Dufour will prepare a straw budget for the Commission's consideration.
- The Commission discussed the principles that will guide our selection in future, and the criteria required for the fencing events in this O.G. in Beijing.

The Commission recommends to the Executive Committee of the FIE that the following criteria be considered in selecting the teams: 1) respect of gender equity, 2) attractiveness to the media, and 3) participation worldwide.

Commission recommends that Women's Épée be rotated out of the team roster for Beijing, that Men's Épée team be retained so as to maintain the presence of this weapon in the team event, and that the second team weapon to be rotated out be a men's event, selected based on the principles outlined above.

The Commission needs to do more to promote the team events on the FIE circuit with the organizers. To this effect, any team event currently slated to be held on a Monday will need to move to a day where media coverage will be better guaranteed. It is proposed that individual events be run on the Friday-Saturday, with the team to be held on the Sunday.

Next meeting

Ad hoc sessions at both the World Championships in Cuba and, possibly, at the Congress in Leipzig, depending on members availability. Or in January in Doha, Qatar or in Paris. At this time, we will finalize our recommendations to the Executive Committee for the Calendar meeting held in April.