

PROPOSAL OF URGENT DECISION 2

NON-COMBATIVITY

The problem of non combativity might put fencing in a dangerous position in the next Olympic Games if not efficiently resolved. The General Secretary has asked to propose a change in the rules that could be urgently approved in the next Comex.

The present rules are no more capable to avoid the tactical choice not to fence, because of the absence of any sanction and the growing attitude of coaches and fencers to concentrate all the risk into the last moments of the match.

There is no need to emphasize that this behaviour is against the spirit of our sport and it is necessary to demonstrate that adopting it will result in a heavy penalty.

First of all we must distinguish two different situations:

- The first is a situation in which the fencers are actually fighting, more or less intensively, but they do not succeed or they do not really try to hit for at least a minute. It does not necessarily imply a voluntary intention, but for image reasons it must be eliminated.
- The second is the evidence of the unwillingness to fight by keeping an excessive distance or even lowering the weapons for some seconds (the present rule indicates 15 sec.). This case implies a voluntary common decision not to fence.
- A sanction is necessary in both cases.

In both cases, unwillingness to fight is always considered a common responsibility of both fencers.

The rules can be amended as follows:

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Present text	New proposal
Unwillingness to fight 4. When both fencers make clear their unwillingness to fight, the Referee will immediately call 'Halt!'	4. If either of the two criteria for non-combativity below is present, the referee should call halt and the following rules and sanctions will apply. 1. Absence of hits Criterion of time: one minute of fencing without a hit; 2. Unwillingness to fight Excessive distance (greater than the distance of a step-forward-lunge) or the fencers lowering their weapons for 15 seconds.
Unwillingness to fight (non-combativity) If one of the two criteria below is present, there is unwillingness to fight: 1. criterion of time: approximately one minute of fencing without a hit	

<p>2. excessive distance (greater than the distance of a step-forward-lunge) during at least 15 seconds.</p>	
<p>5. Individual events</p> <p>a) If during the first two periods of a direct elimination bout both fencers make clear their unwillingness to fight, the Referee will proceed to the next period, without the minute rest.</p> <p>b) When both fencers make clear their unwillingness to fight during the third period of a direct elimination bout, the Referee will proceed to a last minute of fencing. This last minute, which must be fenced in its entirety, will be decisive and will be preceded by a drawing of lots to decide the winner should the scores be equal at the end of the minute.</p>	<p>5. Individual matches</p> <p>a) If, during the first two periods of a direct elimination bout, there is non-combativity, the Referee will sanction both of them with a yellow card and proceed to the next period, without the minute rest. If this situation is repeated during the same bout, the Referee will disqualify both fencers.</p> <p>b) If non-combativity occurs for the first time during the third period of a direct elimination bout, the Referee will sanction both of them with a yellow card and proceed to a last minute of fencing. This last minute, which must be fenced in its entirety, will be decisive and will be preceded by a drawing of lots to decide the winner, should the scores be equal at the end of the minute.</p>
<p>6. Team events</p> <p>a) If both teams make clear their unwillingness to fight during a team match, the Referee will proceed to the next bout.</p> <p>b) If both teams make clear their unwillingness to fight during the last bout, the Referee will proceed to a last minute of fencing. This last minute, which must be fenced in its entirety, is decisive and is preceded by a drawing of lots to decide the winner should the scores be equal at the end of the minute</p>	<p>6. Team events</p> <p>a) If there is non-combativity during a team match, the Referee will sanction both teams with a yellow card and proceed to the next bout. If this situation is repeated during the same team match, the Referee will disqualify both teams.</p> <p>b) If non-combativity occurs for the first time during the last bout, the Referee will sanction both teams with a yellow card and proceed to a last minute of fencing. This last minute, which must be fenced in its entirety, will be decisive and will be preceded by a drawing of lots to decide the winner, should the scores be equal at the end of the minute.</p>