

DECEMBER 2017: DECISIONS AT THE 2017 CONGRESS

Note : Restructured versions of books t. and o. of the Rules will be in use from the start of January, 2018 (a restructured book m. will follow at a later date).

This list of Rule changes has been formatted to make it easy for anyone up-dating the printed version to cut-and-paste items into their book

References to articles in this document therefore give both the old and, in red, new restructured article numbers.

A) IMMEDIATE APPLICATION (1st JANUARY 2018)

t.1: Remains t.1 : MODIFY as follows:

These Rules are obligatory **without modification** for the ‘Official Competitions of the FIE’, viz.:

- The World Championships, in all categories
- The fencing events at the Olympic Games
- All World Cup competitions.
- The Zonal Championships.
- The Satellite competitions

t.13.3: New t.18.3: Re the piste :ADD as follows:

3. The conductive safety borders, indicated in Fig 1, the diagram of the pistes for finals and semi-finals, do not form part of the piste.

t.18.5: New t.23.5: MODIFY as follows:

5.The order ‘Halt!’ is also given if the play of the competitors is **dangerous, confused, or contrary to the Rules**, if one of the competitors is **disarmed or steps off the piste** (cf. t.26, t.54.5 and t.73.4.j). (New references cf. t.33, t. t.58).
(Phrases at end deleted)

t.21.1: New t.27.1: MODIFY as follows:

Displacing the target and ducking are allowed even if during the action the unarmed hand and/or the knee of the rear leg comes into contact with the piste.

t.33. 1-4: New t.45.1-4: MODIFY as follows:

1.For an injury or cramp **or other acute medical incident** which occurs in the course of a bout and which is properly attested by the delegate of the FIE Medical Commission or, **in his absence**, by the doctor on duty, the Referee will allow a break in the fight lasting no longer than 5 minutes. This break should be timed from the point when **the delegate of the FIE Medical Commission or, in his absence**, the doctor gave his opinion and be strictly reserved for the requisite treatment. If **the delegate of the FIE Medical Commission or, in his absence**, the doctor **on duty** considers, before or at the end of the 5 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 cramp **or acute medical incident**.

3.Should a fencer demand a break which is deemed by the delegate of the Medical Commission or, **in his absence**, 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 delegate of the FIE Medical Commission or, in his absence**, by the doctor **on duty** may, nevertheless, on the advice of the same **delegate of the FIE Medical Commission/doctor**, fight in subsequent matches on the same day.

t.35.1: New t.47.1: DELETE second sentence, so as to read:

1. All bouts at fencing in official FIE competitions are directed by a referee who must be an FIE referee licensed for the current season.

t.43.1.b and t.43.1.d: *New t.64.1 and t.64.4: Re checking of equipment by the referee : MODIFY as follows:*

- b. at foil, the conductive jacket conforms to the provision of Article m.28 when each competitor is in the 'on guard' position
- d. at sabre, the conductive jacket conforms to the provision of Article m.34 when each competitor is in the 'on guard' position;

t.45.5 *New t.75: Current text becomes t.45.5.a and a new para b. is ADDED as follows:*

- b. If an item of a fencer's clothing bearing the name and nationality or the national logo becomes dangerous (e.g. tear, burst seam), the fencer must put on spare clothing, which conforms to the rules. If this clothing does not bear the name and nationality or the national logo, the fencer has until the next stage of the competition, as detailed in the preceding article, to get them printed on it. If this is not done and except in cases of force majeure, the referee will eliminate the fencer.

t.53.3: *See new t.80: DELETE THIS SUB-ARTICLE*

t.99.4: *New t.143.4: MODIFY as follows:*

In urgent cases, the **FIE Bureau** may take the **preliminary** administrative measures necessary for the suspension of the licence of the accused in accordance with the

t.119: *New t.169: RENUMBER it as t.119.1 and ADD the following new para 2:*

2. Furthermore any black card awarded at a competition of the FIE or at any competition organized by any Confederation which has subscribed to the FIE disciplinary code shall be reported within 10 days to the President of the F.I.E., for him to assess whether the severity of the offence committed warrants the sending of the report made by the FIE supervisor or by the Directoire Technique to the president of the Legal Commission, requesting him to establish a Disciplinary Tribunal to determine if penalties in addition to those imposed at the competition should be imposed.

t.120.1.17 *New t.170.1.17: MODIFY to:*

Unjustified appeal, casting doubt on the decision of the referee on a point of fact. (new refs: t.172, t.173, t.174)

t.120.1.19 *New t.170.: Re 1st group of penalties (yellow cards): Reversing line of shoulders): DELETE*

t.120.4.3 *New t.170.4.3: ADD a reference 'm.5.5.d' (new ref. t.73.1.f, m.5.5.d)*

t.120.4.5 *New t.170.4.5: MODIFY the reference 't.87.2' to 't.87.2/3' (new ref. t.121.2, t.122, t.123, t.149.1).*

t.120 *New t.170: 'EXPLANATIONS' DELETE the second item relating to black cards that starts 'A fencer only receives ...'*

t.122.1 and 2: *New t.172.1 and 2: MODIFY as follows:*

1. **No appeal can be made** against the decision of the Referee regarding a point of fact **except as permitted in t.42.3 for video refereeing** (cf. t.95.1/2/4, t.96.2).
2. If a fencer infringes this principle, **casting doubt** on the decision of the Referee on a point of fact during the bout, he will be penalised according to the rules (cf. t.114, t.116, t.120). However, if the Referee **is ignorant of or misunderstands a definite rule**, or applies it in a manner contrary to the Rules, an appeal on this

matter may be entertained. A point of fact includes, but is not limited to, any ruling by the referee analysing what happened on the piste, such as the validity or priority of a hit, whether a fencer left the side or end of the piste or if a person's behaviour is a Group 3 or Group 4 offence.

t.123.2: New t.176: MODIFY as follows:

If a complaint or protest contests a decision initially taken by the Directoire Technique or an official FIE delegate, it should be addressed to the FIE Bureau in accordance with Articles 7.2 of the Statutes and t.97.6 (new ref. 7.2 of the Statutes and t.140).

t.124: DELETE THIS ARTICLE

t.125: New t.177: MODIFY as follows:

The decisions of the Directoire Technique are by majority vote, the chairman (president) having the casting vote in case of a tie.

o.13.1 and o.13.2 New o.68.1 and 2: REPLACE by:

1. The pools are composed taking account of the latest official FIE ranking and by drawing lots among any fencers who are not in the ranking. The composition is made using the following method:

Pool	A	B	C
Fencer ranked	1	2	3
	6	5	4
	7	8	9
	12	11	10
	13	14	15
	18	17	16
	19	20	21

2. The allocation of fencers in the pools must be made in such a way as to place fencers of the same nationality in different pools, as far as possible. If a fencer is placed in a pool where there is already a fencer of the same nationality, he is moved one or more places down the ranking until he is placed in a pool without a fencer of the same nationality. If this is not possible, he must remain in the original pool.

o.28.4: New o.82.4 : REPLACE with:

The remainder are placed, in each round of the tableau:

- a) Competitions with a round of pools: according to the ranking for the drawing of the direct elimination tableau following the pools.
- b) Competitions with no round of pools: according to the ranking preceding the drawing of the initial tableau and before any drawing of lots if that is required.

o.50.3: New o.51 : Re official invitations for competitions : MODIFY as follows:

3. For World Cup and Grand Prix competitions, it must be sent out at least two months before the competition in question.

If an organising federation fails to comply with the above mentioned deadlines, it will be sanctioned with a fine amounting to 1000 €, paid to the FIE.

o.57.1: New o.16.1: Re the DT at World Championships/Olympic Games : MODIFY as follows:

The Directoire Technique is composed of people who have the experience and competence to organise competitions.

1.World Championships and Olympic Games.

- a) **For the Olympic Games** the Directoire Technique is composed of **six** members of different nationalities, one of whom must represent the organising country.
- b) **For the World Championships**, the Directoire Technique is composed of **8** members of different nationalities, one of whom must represent the organising country
- c) The **Directoire Technique** (the President and the remaining members, one of whom will be in charge of the protocol) are appointed by the Executive Committee of the FIE.

o.63: New o.12: Re FIE supervisory role at World Championships and Olympic Games: MODIFY 2nd paragraph as follows:

- o.12.2** It is the responsibility of the Bureau of the FIE or of its designated representative to settle any disputes, **other than concerning discipline**, which arise at World Championships. **With respect to disciplinary actions, please see t.99.4 and t.123.2 (new ref. t.143.4 and t.175.2).**

o.67.2., New o.48.2 : section b onwards: Re those to be invited to World Championships by the organisers : MODIFY as follows:

- b) **Eight members of the Directoire Technique** appointed by the Executive Committee of the FIE, of whom one must belong to the organising country and one is Head of Protocol.
- c) **Three members of the SEMI Commission**, appointed by the Executive Committee of the FIE.
- d) **Six members of the Refereeing Commission**, one of whom is designated principal delegate, appointed by the Executive Committee of the FIE.
- e) **Three members of the Medical Commission**, appointed by the Executive Committee of the FIE.
- f) The **referees** designated by the Executive Committee **at the proposal of the Refereeing Commission in accordance with the Handbook of Regulations.**

o.81.1.a: New o.25.1: MODIFY as follows:

The number of FIE A or B Grade referees that must accompany teams to junior A Grade competitions and satellite competitions is:

1–4 fencers:	no obligation to provide a referee
5–9 fencers:	1 referee
10 or more fencers:	2 referees
1 Junior Team	1 referee

For junior A Grade competitions and satellite competitions, the name(s) of the referee(s) (who must have an FIE category in the weapon of the competition for which they are entered) must be notified via the FIE website 7 days before the competition (midnight, Lausanne time).

o.83.1.c New o.108.1.c : MODIFY as follows:

- c) For both Senior and Junior rankings, the ranking is **kept permanently up to date.**

The first Grand Prix event of the current year cancels out the first Grand Prix event of the previous year and so forth for the remainder of the Grand Prix events.

The first World Cup event (individual and team) of the current year cancels out the first World Cup event (individual and team) of the previous year and so forth for the remainder of the World Cup events in the season.

The first satellite competition of the current year cancels out the first satellite competition of the previous year and so forth for the other satellite competitions.

The points allocated for a competition cancel out the points attributed to the same competition in the previous season.

If a competition does not take place in the current season, the points obtained at the same competition in the previous season are deleted on the anniversary of the competition.

o.92.2.a: New o.103.2.a: now READS:

a) For each weapon, the teams are composed of three fencers of the same nationality, one from category "A", one from "B" and one from "C", with or without a reserve for each category. A team cannot begin the match if it is not complete.

o.93: New o.26. 2: REPLACE by:

Referees

Refereeing at Veteran World Championships is carried out by referees appointed by the Executive Committee of the FIE, selected by the Refereeing Commission on indication of the Organizing Committee and Veterans Council.

Referees must attend the refereeing meeting that takes place the day before the World Championships.

o.94: New o.50: Re those to be invited to Veteran World Championships by the organisers : ADD new point f) and MODIFY below as follows:

f) The referees appointed by the Executive Committee of the FIE.

The officials a) to e) should preferably be selected from the Zone in which the Championships are being held.

m.12.2 and m.20: Re fixing of button to point : DELETE the word 'insulating'.

m.16.3. MODIFY as follows

2. The maximum length of the blade is 90 cm (cf. m.3).

m.25.3.c. Re clothing that must resist 800Newtons: MODIFY 1st line as follows:

c. Jackets, under-plastrons, breeches and trousers must be made entirely

m.25.3.f: MODIFY as follows:

f) Logos (national strips) worn on the national clothing must be approved by the FIE Executive Committee; they are then published on the FIE website and may thereafter be used in official FIE competitions.

m.25.4.c: MODIFY as follows (application Date: from the 2018 J & C World Championships in April in Verona):

c) At all weapons, the use of a breast/chest protector (made of metal or some rigid material) is compulsory for women and optional for men. At foil, this breast/chest protector must be worn below the protective plastron.
At foil, the protector will have the following characteristics: The entire outside of the chest protector (the side facing the opponent) must be covered with a soft material as E.V.A. (Ethylene-vinyl acetate) of four mm thickness and density of 22kg/m³. (The material can be attached to the current plastic models or incorporated into the manufacture of new chest protectors). The material must have the SEMI technical mark at the centre of the upper edge.

m.25.6. ADD a second sentence as follows:

Under no circumstances, should there be any hole in the hand of the glove, even to allow the passage of the body wire.

m.25.7.f. Re mask safety systems : REPLACE with the following :

Timing : compliant masks compulsory at FIE events:

- At 2018 Junior and Senior World Champs.

- Start 2018-19 season : all FIE competitions

f) The mask must contain **two different safety systems** at the rear of the mask, with the two ends of the straps of the systems firmly affixed to the two sides of the mask.

These straps must meet the following requirements approved by the S.E.M.I. Commission :

Mask with metallic tongue

- The central band (strap) should not be less than 45 mm wide.
- The strap must be positioned low enough across the rear of the cervical region that the position of the strap on the head ensures that the mask cannot slide off.
- The band must be in solid material : when stretched the material should not sustain permanent plastic deformation and should quickly return to its original shape and size
- The fastening system must be doubled: it must be closed with a double security system (this means that the Velcro™ has to be attached at least twice).
- The Velcro™ must have a minimum breaking strain of 750 N/cm
- The tags to which the strap is attached by Velcro must be secured to each side of the mask with the same breaking strain.

Mask without metallic tongue

- The position of the main strap must be low enough to ensure that the mask cannot slide off; the correct distance should be decided by the manufacturer (typically 25/30 mm).
- The strap must incorporate 3 fixing points.
- The use of a magnetic strap, already existing, remains mandatory.

m.44.5: Re current for judging equipment : MODIFY as follows:

5. The source of electrical current should be 12 V DC via AC/DC converter or through VRLA (valve-regulated lead-acid) batteries (cf. m.58).

m.51.7.a): MODIFY as follows:

- a) For official competitions of the FIE the **source of power** must always be secured through external batteries or UPS (Uninterruptible power supply) in order not to interrupt the load during the match if any interruption occurs in the normal electricity supply. The wiring of the apparatus to be powered in this way must be designed so that it is impossible for the apparatus to become connected by mistake directly to the mains supply.

m.52.4 MODIFY as follows:

For official FIE competitions (cf. t.1) the apparatus must obligatorily be powered through external batteries or UPS (Uninterruptible power supply) with minimum 5 minutes backup time.

m.58.3: MODIFY as follows:

If the apparatus is constructed to operate with dry batteries, it must be equipped with a voltmeter or some other device enabling the power in the batteries to be checked at any moment. However, the apparatus must always be equipped with either a socket, to allow it to be powered either by 12 V DC via AC/DC converter or through VRLA batteries

m.58.4: MODIFY as follows:

Generally, if the apparatus is powered by batteries or UPS (Uninterruptible power supply), the minimum backup time for the external batteries or UPS is 5 minutes.

m. Annexe A, section 2.1.2: DELETE THIS ENTIRE SECTION

M, AnnexeA, section 2.2 (TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF FENCING MASKS)

ADD as follows:

4. Essential constituent elements

The essential elements of the mask, as shown in Figure A.3, are:

- (a) frontal grille protecting the face;
- (b) lateral grille protecting the neck and the nape of the neck;
- (c) strip for reinforcement and to connect the grilles;
- (d) bibs.

The other parts, such as the interior protecting facings, padding, elastic bands and the safety retaining devices, whose production is entrusted to the manufacturer, must entirely conform to the conditions required for their use.

In particular, the rear fixing devices must ensure that the mask is located in the correct position on the fencer's head and that it remains in a perfect position, even after blows or shocks (see details in m.25.7).

Mechanical systems for this rear device are not allowed at the moment.

B) APPLICATION 1st SEPTEMBER 2018

t.33.1: New t.45.1: ADD to the end as follows:

All breaks for injury or cramp must be noted on the score-sheet for the bout, the pool or the match.

t.42.3.b: New t.61.4: ADD a para.4 as follows:

b.iv. At the finals of the Olympic Games and at the finals of the Senior, Junior and Cadet World Championships, the replays of an action under review must be shown on a screen so as to be visible to the spectators.

t.45.1: New t.71: ADD as follows:

If a fencer appears on the piste:

- with only **one** regulation **weapon** (cf. t.86.1/2); or
- with only **one** regulation **bodywire**; or
- with only **one** regulation **mask wire**; or
- with a weapon or a bodywire which does not work or which does not conform with the Rules; or
- without his **protective under-plastron** (cf. t.43.1.e); or
- with a **conductive jacket** which does not fully cover the valid target; or
- with a **mask** whose 2nd security device is not securely fixed to the body of the mask; or
- with **clothing** which does not conform with the Rules;

t.45.2: New t.72: ADD to the end of this section as follows:

Similarly, even during the course of a bout, any fencer whose mask, at the moment he presents himself on guard and ready to fence, is not securely held on his head by the 2nd security device, commits an offence in the first group and will be penalised in accordance with articles t.114, t.116 and t.120 (new t.158-t.162, t.165, t.170).

t.114.3 New t.162: and t.120 New t.170: 'EXPLANATIONS' at bottom of second page: In both these articles, which quote the sanctions associated with a black card, where there is reference to length of sanction as '2 months' CHANGE this to '60 days'.

t.114.2: New t.159: MODIFY as follows:

Penalties are **cumulative and they are valid for the bout** with the exception of those indicated by a BLACK CARD, which means exclusion from the competition, suspension for the remainder of the tournament and for the following **60 days** of the active season (1 **September** – World Championships for the Juniors, and 1 **September** – World Championships for the Seniors), whether current or forthcoming **or both** (cf.t.119.2) (new ref : t.169.2).

t.119: New t.169: MODIFY current t.119, renumbering it as t.119.1 as follows:

1. The first infringement in the Fourth Group, is penalised by a BLACK CARD (exclusion from the competition, suspension from the remainder of the tournament and for the following **60 days** of the active season (1 **September** – World Championships for the Juniors, and 1 **September** – World Championships for the Seniors), whether current or forthcoming **or both**. However, a **team** excluded from a tournament because of a BLACK CARD imposed on one of its members is not excluded as a team from the following competitions, but it may not select the penalised fencer.

t.120, New t.170: footnote re black cards at end of article: MODIFY as follows:

Exclusion from the competition, suspension from the remainder of the tournament and for the following 60 days of the active season (1st September – World Championships for the juniors and 1st September – World Championships for the seniors), whether current or forthcoming or both.

o.17.1 and 2 New t.38.1 and 2: Re when a bout in a pool ends : REPLACE by:

1. a) One of the fencers **has scored 5 hits**. In this case the score registered on the score-sheet is the final score of the bout ($V - n$, where n = the number of hits scored by the losing fencer)
- b) At **épée**, if the two fencers reach a score of 4–all, they must fence for a deciding hit, up to the time limit. Any double hit will not be counted (and the fencers will therefore remain where they are on the piste).
2. **Three minutes of effective fencing time** have passed. (There is no warning for the last minute.)
 - a) If **when the time limit expires** there is a difference of at least one hit between the scores of the two fencers, the fencer who has scored the greater number of hits is declared winner. The score registered on the score-sheet is the actual score achieved in the bout ($VN - n$, where N = the number of hits scored by the winning fencer and n = the number of hits scored by the losing fencer).
 - b) If **at the end of regulation time the scores are equal**, the fencers fence for a deciding hit, with a maximum time limit of one minute. Before the fencing recommences, the Referee draws lots to decide who will be the winner if scores are still equal at the end of the extra minute.
 - c) In this case the score registered on the score-sheet is always the **actual score achieved in the bout**:
 - $VN - n$, if a deciding hit is scored within the time limit for the bout.
 - $V4 - 4$ or $V3 - 3$ or $V2 - 2$ or $V1 - 1$ or $V0 - 0$ if the winner is designated by drawing lots.

o.20: New o.74: REPLACE with:

1. A fencer who **is not present at the start of the pool** is scratched from the pool and is recorded without a classification at the end of the final classification list with the information “Did Not Start”.
2. A fencer who **is excluded during the pool phase** is scratched from the pool, and his results are annulled as if he had not taken part. The fencer is recorded without a classification at the end of the final classification list with the information “Excluded”

o.25: New o.79: REPLACE with:

- 1 At any stage of the competition, if for whatever reason, a fencer **does not fence, or is unable to fence, or does not complete his bout**, his opponent is declared winner of that bout. A fencer who withdraws does not lose his place in the overall classification of the competition **and is recorded in the result list with the information “Did Not Finish”**
2. A fencer who **is excluded** is scratched from the direct elimination table and his results are annulled as if he had not taken part. The fencer is recorded without a classification at the end of the final classification list with the information “Excluded”.

o.55.1: *New o.29.1: Re minimum age : REPLACE with:*

1. No fencer may obtain an FIE licence, enabling him or her to enter for an official FIE competition, until he or she has reached their 13th birthday.

o.83.2.a. *New o.108.2.a: Re scale of points for FIE ranking: ADD to the end of this section:*

97 th -128 th	0.5 point
129 th -256 th	0.25 point