



Explanatory document for the implementation of t.124 and Frequently asked Questions (FAQ) – Unwillingness to Fight (U2F)

This FAQ aims at facilitating a common understanding and implementation of the new rule on U2F by all concerned. Please do not hesitate to contact the FIE Sport Department for any additional questions that might arise from the future competitions. This FAQ will be updated and published on the FIE website.

I. Preamble

P1. Definition of P-cards:

- There are three different P-Cards: P-Yellow, P-Red and P-Black.
- P-Yellow is a warning.
- P-Red is a penalty hit.
- P-Black is a penalisation, the consequence of which is the possible losing of the bout or match. There is no 60-day suspension for P-Black cards.

P2. Use of P-Cards:

- P-Cards are only to be used in the context of t.124. The sanctions awarded for U2F are not cumulative with any other sanctions awarded.
- In individual competitions, P-Cards are awarded to each fencer **separately** starting with a P-Yellow card.
- If the fencers receive P-Black cards simultaneously and their scores are equal, the fencer with the higher initial seeding in the competition, which is based on the FIE ranking, wins the bout.
- In individual competitions, if the fencers receive P-Black cards simultaneously, and their scores are not equal, the fencer with the higher score wins the bout.
- If a P-Black card is given to both teams simultaneously and neither of the teams can make a replacement and their scores are equal, the team with the higher initial seeding in the competition, which is based on the FIE ranking, wins the match.
- If a P-Black card is given to both teams simultaneously and neither of the teams can make a replacement and their scores are not equal, the team with the higher score wins the match.
- In team competitions, P-Yellow and P-Red cards are awarded to each team **separately**, starting with a P-Yellow card.
- In team competitions, the P-Black card is awarded to the fencer and not to the team.
- After the replacement of a fencer following the receipt of a P-Black card, a further occurrence of U2F leads to a further P-Black card and the team in question loses the match.
- In both individual and team competitions, the period/relay continues after the awarding of a P-Yellow or a P-Red card.
- In team competitions, after a replacement following the awarding of a P-Black card, the relay in question continues.
- No P-cards (Y, R, B) at all can be awarded in individual at 14:14 or in teams at 44:44.

P3. Validity of P-Cards:

- P-Cards are only valid for the bout/match (throughout the 9 relays) in question. They are not transferable to the next bout/match.
- Replacement of fencers awarded P-black:
In the team events a fencer who has received a P-Black card can be replaced by the reserve fencer, if there is one and if the replacement has not already been made previously for tactical or medical reasons.

P4. Calling U2F:

- In case of U2F, it is up to the referee to call "Halt" as a decision of fact.

- The one minute should be restarted after each hit, each hit off the target, each hit cancelled and each penalty hit.
- In any additional minute as defined in t.40.3 and t.41.5, t.124 does not apply since the priority will decide the winner in case no hit is scored during the minute.

P5. **Ranking and points after P-Black:**

- For both individual and team competitions, fencers/teams who lose the bout/match as a result of receiving a P-Black card, will be ranked in the final results of the competition as having lost the bout/match. They receive the corresponding points.

II. Questions

Q1. Is there an easy way to escape from this lovely rule?

- YES – do not practice U2F...

Q2. Is there only one definition for U2F?

- YES, the definition is one minute of fencing without a hit or without a hit scored off the target. In order to win a bout, which should be the goal, a fencer should score hits...

Q3. What does “When one or both fencers make clear their unwillingness to fight” mean?

- The rule defines it as meaning that there has been one minute without a hit or without a hit scored off the target.

Q4. If the referee awards P-Yellow or P-Red– does the bout/match move to the next period/relay?

- NO – the bout/match continues and there is no more moving to the next period/relay.

Q5. Should t.162 be updated to consider the new P-cards?

- The rule voted clearly states that the sanctions awarded for U2F are **not cumulative with any other sanction awarded.**
- In order to avoid any confusion, the following text could be added to t.162: “See exceptions for P-cards in article t.124.”

Q6. Bob must replace his weapon during the bout: the referee checked it and it failed the test. Bob has already received a P-Yellow card. Does Bob get a yellow card or a red one?

- P-Cards are not cumulative with any other sanction awarded and therefore, Bob gets a Yellow card (provided it is the first time his equipment has failed, and he has not received any other Yellow card warning).

Q7. What happens if both fencers do not fence, e.g. by retreating to their respective ends of the piste?

- The referee should stop the match and inform the fencers that if they continue they will be penalised according to t.112 (refusal to obey the referee). Fencing means fighting, not resting on the piste.
- Fencers must fence during the whole time and not decide for themselves when they want to go to the break.
- It is the duty of the referee to apply the rules strictly. Referees should NOT accept that fencers stop before the end of the official time and should therefore apply sanctions whenever required.

Q8. Can John get a P-Red card without having received a P-Yellow card?

- No!

Q9. Can John get a P-Black card without having received two P-Red cards?

- No!

Q10. In the text for team events in English, c) mentions “fencers” though the lines before and after mention “teams”. The French and Spanish rules mention “teams”. Is it a typing mistake?

- It is indeed a typing mistake in the English version of c) which will be corrected.

Q11. Where should the fencers be put on guard when the bout resumes after the referee has awarded a P-Yellow card?

- The bout will continue at the position fencers were in when the referee stopped the bout with the command “Halt”.

Q12. The Referee shows P-cards for U2F to fencers and teams who know what they mean and imply. But how can we make these P-cards visible and understandable for the media and spectators?

- As with any new rule, we will have to communicate about it. P-cards will soon be displayed separately and clearly on the score-boards.