

**THE BRITISH
FENCING ASSOCIATION**

PATRON: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

**THE FIE RULES
FOR COMPETITIONS**

2004 EDITION

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THE BRITISH FENCING ASSOCIATION

The British Fencing Association is the Governing Body for fencing in the United Kingdom. Among the many services which it provides is making available the official English text of the RULES FOR COMPETITIONS issued by the Fédération Internationale d'Esgrime.

These rules are available only from:

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AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES

The FIE makes amendments to the RULES FOR COMPETITIONS from time to time.

When this happens the amendments will be posted on the BFA website (www.britishfencing.com) and printed sheets, listing the amendments, will also be available, either from the British Fencing Association or from Leon Paul Equipment Ltd.

RULES FOR COMPETITIONS

Nobody may claim ignorance of the Rules

PRELUDE

HISTORICAL NOTE

The technical rules of the Fédération Internationale d'Escrime were unanimously adopted by the International Congress of National Olympic Committees held at Paris in June 1914 for use in all events at the Olympic Games. They were first codified in 1914 by the Marquis de Chasseloup-Laubat and Monsieur Paul Anspach and issued in 1919 with the title of 'Rules for Competitions'.

They were modified by various FIE Congresses and were revised after the 1931 Congress and again after the 1954 Congress when they were renamed 'Technical Rules'. They were revised and modernised after the 1958 Congress and renamed 'Rules for Competitions'.

The amendments made by Congress held between 1964 and 1972 were incorporated in the new updated edition published in 1972. The amendments made by Congress between 1973 and 1983 inclusive were incorporated in the new French updated edition published in 1983.

Subsequent amendments were included in a restructured edition published in 1997. This translation includes all amendments made before July 2004, including those to be implemented from 1 October 2004.

FOIL

The Rules for Foil were adopted on 12 June 1914 by the Committee for Foil of the FIE at a meeting in Paris under the presidency of General G. Ettore, representing the Italian Fencing Federation, who edited the proposed rules.

They were basically the same as those drawn up by Monsieur Camille Prévost, President of the Académie d'Armes and President of the Technical Committee for Foil of the French National Federation. They also conformed to the rules drawn up by the Marquis de Chasseloup-Laubat for 'Les Armes de France', to the various earlier international regulations drawn up by the different countries affiliated to the FIE, and to the Franco-Italian rules.

The rules governing foil competitions judged with the electrical judging apparatus were adopted in 1957 and modified by various later Congresses up to the present date.

EPEE

The Rules for Epée drawn up in 1914 co-ordinated and completed all the various épée rules which existed prior to the foundation of the FIE and which had been evolved from 1892 both in France and elsewhere, notably by:

- The Permanent Committee of la Société d'Escrime à l'Épée de Paris, l'Académie d'Épée; la Société d'Entraînement à l'Escrime et au Pistolet; and les Armes de France
- The 1905 International Committee, subject to the laws of each country, regarding the application to duelling
- L'Union des Sociétés Françaises de Sport Athlétiques (USFSA)
- Le Comité National des Sports de France
- The French Olympic Committee
- The Organising Committees for the Tournaments held at Nice, on the Riviera, at Ostend, etc.

The rules governing épée competitions judged with the electrical judging apparatus were adopted in 1936 and subsequently modified by various later Congresses up to the present date.

The Congress of 1984 approved the introduction of Ladies' Épée; the Congress of 1987 decided that World Championships for Ladies' Épée should be organised from 1989 onwards.

SABRE

The FIE Sabre Rules include the essential portions of the rules which were adopted at the Olympic Games in London in 1908 and in Stockholm in 1912. They also conform to the basic principles of the Ostend rules and of the Hungarian rules and were adopted on 12 June 1914 by the Committee for Sabre of the FIE assembled in Paris under the chairmanship of Dr Bela Nagy, President of the Hungarian Fencing Federation, who edited the proposed rules.

The rules governing sabre events fenced with an electrical apparatus were adopted in 1988.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

In accordance with the decisions taken at the Congresses at Antwerp (1920, 1939), the Hague (1927), Amsterdam (1928), Brussels (1937, 1947), Madrid (1962), Paris (1987), Cape Town (1997), Neuchâtel (1998) and Lausanne (1999), official male and female championships, called Open World Championships (called European Championships until 1936) are held annually under the auspices of the FIE, for both individuals and teams, at foil, épée and sabre.

In accordance with the decisions taken by the Congresses held at Paris (1949, 1951, 1959), Venice (1955), Madrid (1962), Gdansk (1963), Paris (1987), Neuchâtel (1998) and Lausanne (1999), World Junior Championships are held annually under the auspices of the FIE, comprising individual and team competitions, both male and female, at foil, épée and sabre.

In accordance with the decisions made by the Congress in Paris in 1985 and 1986 and Luxembourg in 1990, a World Cadet Championship, recognised as an official event of the FIE, is held annually. In accordance with decisions taken by the Congress held at Neuchâtel (1998), the World Cadet Championships consist of individual competitions, both male and female, at foil, épée and sabre.