

**THE AMATEUR  
FENCING ASSOCIATION**

PATRON: HIS MAJESTY THE KING.



**RULES  
FOR  
COMPETITIONS.**

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*Authorized Translation of the F. I. E. Rules from  
the French (1950 Edition) by—  
C-L. DE BEAUMONT.*

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*(Adopted by the A.F.A. for use in Great Britain).*

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# Rules for Competitions.

**1950.**

In principle these Rules are only amended every four years. Amendments come into force on 1st January of the year preceding the year in which the Olympic Games are held. 1

It is presumed that everyone is cognizant of the rules.

## INTRODUCTION : Application of the Rules.

These rules are obligatory for : 2

The Olympic Games ;

The Championships of the World ;

Unless "exceptions are made and announced in advance," these rules must be applied at every International Meeting of whatever nature it may be. 3

*Note.*—Throughout these Rules the word "President" means "President of the Jury or Director of the Bout."

### CHAPTER I.

#### Organization of Competitions.

##### A. — General.

1. The Technical organisation of competitions is entrusted compulsorily to an Executive Committee composed of seven members for the Olympic Games and of five members for the World Championships. The Executive Committee is composed compulsorily of two members representing the country in which the meeting takes place, the other members must belong to as many different countries. 4

For other meetings held under the patronage of the International Fencing Federation, an Executive Committee composed of three members each representing a different country, and one of them representing the country in which the meeting takes place, may be sufficient.

For the Olympic Games the members of the Executive Committee are appointed by the Congress of the International Fencing Federation; for the Championships of the World and other official meetings, by the Central Office of the International Fencing Federation by agreement with the Federation which is organizing the meeting.

The members of the Executive Committee cannot act in any other capacity at the meeting, such as member of the Court of Appeal, team captain, official delegate of their federation, competitor, etc. In special circumstances they may act as presidents, or as judges. Their functions include the strict but complete organization of the different events and the obligation to see that the rules are adhered to, they should not be called on to interpret the meaning of the rules; they cannot decide, even previously, and even with the agreement of the interested parties on any departure from the rules.

5 2. For these meetings an International Court of Appeal must be appointed.

The members of the Court of Appeal (Jury d'Appel) must be nominated in writing by their Federation not later than the eve of the meeting; they cannot act if they are involved either personally or by reason of their position. They may not be replaced if unable to attend; no member of the Court of Appeal may be empowered to vote for an absent colleague.

It is under the Presidency *ex officio* of the delegate of the Central Office of the International Fencing Federation. Failing him it appoints its own President. The latter always votes and if there is equality of votes his vote is decisive.

In no circumstances can the Court of Appeal decide on a departure from the Rules of the International Fencing Federation, even with the agreement of the parties interested; its jurisdiction is clearly defined (see Chap. VIII, *Discipline*, para 218); further it can only consider complaints and demands on questions of fact submitted to it by the Authorities enumerated in the Rules.

Before the competitions begin, and according to the daily time table, the Executive Committee will fix three times daily at which members of the Court of Appeal will be convened in order to ascertain whether any question has been submitted for their consideration; outside these times, and in cases of urgency, the delegate of the Central Office of the International Fencing Federation may convene a special meeting of the Court of Appeal.

3. For all other meetings (tournaments, matches, competitions, etc.) the Organizing Committee is at liberty to make exceptions to the provisions contained in the rules. These exceptions should be confirmed by the Federation of the country to which the organizing committee belongs, and should be brought to the notice of those concerned when the announcement of the meeting is published.

In the absence of exceptional regulations, the provisions of the present regulations must be observed.

4. The present regulations are applicable only to competitions with the three weapons as described in Chapter II. 7

However, it is permissible to associate with competitions academic displays or assaults-at-arms with the three weapons.

5. The regulations embrace:

- (a) Team Competitions;
- (b) Individual Competitions

for women and for men.

6. In international competitions, events will be fought off in the following order: Foil, Epée, Sabre. 8

For each weapon, the team competition will take place before the individual competition with the same weapon.

The programme should be arranged in such a way that no fencer is obliged to participate in events for more than twelve hours in twenty-four hours. In any case, no pool may begin after midnight, or at any time when it can be foreseen that there is a likelihood of it ending long after midnight.

9 7. (a) When a meeting includes several individual competitions which immediately succeed each other, those fencers who have fought in the final pool of one competition will, unless they have had twenty-four hours' rest, be exempted from participation in the first round eliminating pools of the succeeding competition.

(b) At the Olympic Games and the Championships of the World, those fencers who have actually fought in a team in the final of a team competition with one weapon will, unless they have had twenty-four hours' rest, be exempted from participation in the first round eliminating pools of the individual competition with the same weapon.

(c) At the Olympic Games and the Championships of the World, those fencers who have actually fought in the teams in the semi-finals of team competitions with two different weapons and who have further fought in the final of an individual competition with one of these weapons, will, unless they have had twenty-four hours' rest, be exempted from participation in the first round eliminating pools of the individual competitions which follow.

**B. — Team Competitions.**

**I. General.**

10 International Team Competitions may be held with three weapons: foil, épée and sabre.

The bouts are fought off in such a manner that each fencer of one team meets all the fencers of the opposing team in a pre-arranged order.

The order recognized is as follows, the fencer called first places himself on the right of the President, except in the case of a bout at foil or sabre between a right and left hander;

1—5	1—6	7—1	8—1
6—2	7—2	2—8	2—5
3—7	3—8	5—3	6—3
8—4	5—4	4—6	4—7

This rule is obligatory at all weapons in order to compensate possible variation in the working of the electrical apparatus on one side or the other, or to equalise advantage of the field of play or the light.

The captain of each team concerned may modify 11 for each match:

1. The composition of his team from among the fencers who have been properly entered as members of the team or reserves.

2. The order in which the members of the team are entered for each match.

Competitions will always be held between complete teams against complete teams and not as individual pools, whatever number of teams are entered. Each team meets all the other teams engaged in succession; however, when six or more teams are engaged, the teams may be divided into two or more groups to which all the rules laid down for individual pools are applied (eliminating rounds finals, etc.) each team being considered as an individual unit, it being understood that matches be always between teams in their entirety, and not by pools of individuals.

When drawing up pools of teams, the Executive Committee need not establish the "têtes de Serie" according to the results of the first round as for pools in individual events. 12

**II. Classification.**

The classification of the results of team matches will be determined as follows: 13

**(A) Match between two teams:**

The number of victories scored individually by all the members of each team are aggregated, and the winner of the match is the team which has the higher aggregate.

When both teams have the same aggregate, the match is drawn; however, in competitions where each bout is fought for several hits, if both teams have the same aggregate of victories, then the hits received by all the members of each team are in turn aggregated, and the winner of the match is the team whose members have the lower aggregate of hits received; the match is declared drawn only when the aggregates under both systems of scoring are the same.

Each victory obtained by a team over another scores two points to the team.

Each drawn match scores one point to each team concerned.

Each defeat counts zero.

14 (B) *Classification of several teams in the same pool :*

The general classification is ascertained by aggregating the points scored by the teams concerned, the winning team is the one which has obtained the greatest total number of points, and so on for the following places.

If there should be equality of the number of points in this aggregate scored by two or more teams in the same pool, the classification is obtained between them by ascertaining the total number of individual victories scored by members of the teams throughout the pool. If there is equality of the number of points scored by two or more teams and also of the total individual victories scored :

(a) For competitions consisting of bouts for one hit, the teams concerned are classed *ex-aequo*.

(b) On the other hand, if bouts have been for several hits, and there is equality of the number of points scored by several teams and of the totals of their individual victories, the number of hits received by each member of each team concerned throughout the pool will be ascertained, and the winning team will be the one which, as a whole, has received the least number of hits. Lastly, if there should be equality of hits received, a final total will be made of the number of hits scored by each member of the teams concerned throughout the pool, and the winning team will be the one which, as a whole, has scored the greatest number of hits. If the number of points scored by the team, the number of individual victories scored, the number of hits received, and the number of hits scored all reach the same total for two or more teams, the teams concerned are classed *ex-aequo*. If there are "obligatory and exceptional reasons" to differentiate between teams thus classed *ex-aequo*, the Executive Committee may cause them to fight off

the tie. In principle the tie should be fought off immediately after the original event and the same day; exceptionally, owing to the length of these events, the tie may be postponed to another time.

It is, therefore, apparent that, even when one team has obtained a victory over another before all the members of the teams concerned have met, *it is essential that the remaining bouts should still be fought with the same attention and concentration, since the result of a single hit in the later bouts may lead to a difference in the general classification of the teams concerned.* (1).

III. Retirement During a Match.

When a member of a team retires during the progress of a match—without prejudice to disciplinary penalties which may later be enforced—the results which have been obtained up to the time of the retirement are allowed to stand, and defeats will be counted against the competitor for each of the subsequent bouts in which he should have taken part, that is to say that each member of the opposing team whom he should have met will be considered to have beaten him, without having received a single hit from him.

However, if a member of a team is "*obliged*" to retire during a match either as the result of an accident, or by reason of some cause beyond his control which has been duly recognised by the president of the jury, the captain of the team concerned may ask the permission of the Executive Committee, or failing them of the Organizing Committee, to put in a reserve to continue the matches at the point where the competitor who was obliged to retire withdrew.

(1) *Note* : In order to gain time it is becoming increasingly common, when the general classification of an eliminating pool of a team event is *ascertained definitely* before all the matches between teams competing in the pool have been fought off, not to fight off the matches the results of which cannot modify the classification in any way. This practice is not contrary to the rules but it should only be applied by the Executive Committee when absolutely necessary and to conform to the time schedule of the programme.

IV. *A Team not completing an Event.*

16 (A). When for any reason whatever a team does not complete an event in which it is taking part, the Executive Committee will apply the rules laid down for a competitor who does not complete an event in an individual competition, each team being considered in its entirety as being a single competitor (see VIII, para. 27).

17 (B). When a team fails to appear against another team it is considered :

1. As not completing the event in which it is taking part, if it has already fenced against another team in the pool (see A. above).

2. As not competing at all in the event, if it is its first match in the pool for which it fails to appear (see Chapter VII, Maintenance of Order, para. 198).

V. *Number of Fencers in a Team.*

18 For competitions in foil, sabre and épée for several hits, teams will consist of four members, without counting reserves.

For team competitions at épée for one hit, teams will consist of five or more members with two reserves.

C. — *Individual Competitions.*

19 Individual competitions at the Olympic Games, and at the Championships of the World, must be contested according to *the system of eliminating pools, followed by a final pool*. They can only be contested according to a system of direct elimination in exceptional circumstances and after a vote of the Congress of the International Fencing Federation (1).

I.—*The number of fencers in a pool (2)*

20 EPEE.—For one hit, pools consist, in principle, of a minimum of ten fencers ;  
For several hits, pools may consist of a lesser number, with a minimum of six fencers.

FOIL AND SABRE.—At least six fencers.

(1). See Rules for direct elimination IX para 44.

(2). For final pools, see IV para. 23.

II.—*There shall be promoted to the next round :* 21

EPEE.—For one hit, at least 50%.

When at épée for one hit, it is not possible to make up pools of at least ten competitors, more than 50% will be promoted, and at least three fencers.

For several hits, at least 33% and at least three fencers.

FOIL AND SABRE.—At least 33%, and not less than three fencers.

In order that a competitor be promoted to the next round there must be a difference of the number of victories between him and those eliminated.

If after one round of the barrage there is still equality of victories between the competitors, they are classified by the total number of hits received—and if necessary by the total number of hits scored—during the original pool, added to the hits received—and if necessary to the hits scored—during the barrage.

III.—*Number of hits with the three weapons at the Olympic Games and the Championships of the World.* 22

EPEE.—Three hits scored (best of 5 hits).

FOIL AND SABRE.—Five hits scored (best of 9 hits).

LADIES FOIL.—Four hits scored (best of 7 hits). 23

IV. — *Composition of pools :*

For the first round, the principle of “*Têtes de série*” (seeding) must be observed. The Executive Committee alone decides which competitors are to be seeded.

Note 1. : The principle of “*Têtes de série*” should not be interpreted in the singular, there may be 1, 2, 3, etc. “*Têtes de série*” in each pool.

2. To assist the Executive Committee, captains of teams have the right to give them a list of their nationals taking part in the individual competitions classified in order of merit, so that the Executive Committee may take this classification into account when making up the pools as supplementary to the “*Têtes de séries.*”

For subsequent rounds, each pool should contain, as far as possible, the same number of fencers who have been placed first, second and third, etc., in the preceding round, avoiding as far as possible placing together in the same pool in the next round competitors who were in the same pool in the previous round.

During all eliminating rounds, competitors of the same nationality should be distributed as far as possible among all the pools of each round. When there are several possible ways of effecting this, lots should be drawn.

The principle of distributing competitors of the same nationality takes precedence of the principle of distributing "Têtes de série."

Final pools for official competitions of the International Fencing Federation must be composed of :

8 or 9 competitors at foil and sabre.

9 or 10 competitors at épée.

For each pool, the order of the competitors will be determined by drawing lots.

V. — Order of assaults :

6 fencers 15 bouts	7 fencers 21 bouts	8 fencers 28 bouts	9 fencers 36 bouts	10 fencers 45 bouts
1-4	1-4	1-5		1-6 2-6 5-3
2-5	2-5	2-6	1-4 1-3	2-7 3-7 9-6
3-6	3-6	3-7	6-2 5-7	3-8 4-8 7-10
5-1	7-1	4-8	3-7 9-2	4-9 9-5
6-2	5-4	6-1	5-8 1-6	5-10 1-2
4-3	2-3	7-2	6-9 3-5	7-1 3-4
1-6	6-7	8-3	7-1 4-6	8-2 6-7
2-4	5-1	5-4	8-2 7-8	9-3 8-9
3-5	4-3	1-7	9-3 9-1	10-4 5-1
2-1	6-2	2-8	4-7 2-3	6-5 2-3
4-5	5-7	3-5	1-5 4-5	1-8 6-10
3-2	3-1	4-6	2-4 6-7	2-9 7-8
6-4	4-6	8-1	3-6 8-9	3-10 4-5
1-3	7-2	5-2	4-8 2-1	4-6 10-9
5-6	3-5	6-3	5-9 3-4	5-7 3-1
	1-6	7-4	8-1 5-6	9-1 2-4
	2-4	1-2	7-2	10-2 6-8
	7-3	3-4	8-3	6-3 7-9
	6-5	5-6	9-4	7-4 5-2
	1-2	7-8	2-5	8-5 8-10
	4-7	3-1	6-8	10-1 1-4
		4-2	7-9	
		7-5		
		6-8		
		1-4		
		2-3		
		8-5		
		6-7		

The order of bouts is determined according to a fixed table which is prepared in advance (see above). The fencer called first places himself on the right of the President except in the case of a bout at foil or sabre between a right and a left hander.

When there are several fencers of the same nationality in a pool, these fencers must fight off the assaults between themselves before meeting the fencers of another nationality. But when it happens (for example in a final pool) that the fencers of one nationality are in the majority, the Executive Committee will make out a different table in order to avoid too great a strain being put on the competitors or there being too long delays.

25

VI. — *Classification :*

The classification in each pool is obtained by the number of victories (1). For events in several hits, if there is equality of victories between two or more competitors the classification is determined :

(a) *In eliminating pools:* after a barrage between the competitors who have obtained the same number of victories and who could eventually be promoted to the next round. Should equality of victories exist after one round of the barrage, these competitors are classified by the number of hits received (and if necessary by the number of hits scored) during the original pool added to the hits received and if necessary the hits scored during the barrage.

(b) *In final pools :* only to determine the first place (for the first three places at the Olympic Games) the tie will always be fought off until a result is obtained, according to the regulations which have prevailed in the original pool. (This barrage pool also determines the final classification of the fencers who participate therein. But if these fencers have the same number of victories in the barrage pool, then the classification is determined by a count of hits obtained in the original pool added to those of the barrage pool).

Between fencers who are not in a barrage for the first place (for the first three places at the Olympic Games), by the number of hits received ; if there is equality of victories and of hits received the classification is made by the number of hits scored ; if there is equality of victories and of hits received and scored, the competitors concerned are in a barrage (i.e., they tie) or are classed *ex-aequo* if there is no need to divide them.

26

VII—*Barrages (Ties).*

The classification of competitors who are in a barrage (tie) is determined after further bouts have been fought between them, these bouts are fought

(1) *Note.*—At *épée* for one hit, the double hit is a defeat for each competitor, similarly for several hits, the bout which ends with equality of hits scores a defeat against each competitor.

according to the regulations of the original pool among fencers who have equal results. (1)

In individual competitions, barrages must be fought off immediately and without leaving the field of play after the original pool.

The Executive Committees must arrange their programme as to time in such a way that even allowing the necessary time for barrages the maximum period of 12 hours of actual competition laid down (para. 8) will not be exceeded.

VIII. *A competitor abandoning a competition.*

27

Fundamental principles :

(1) *No one can be placed at a disadvantage* because he has been unable to contest one or more bouts which he would normally have fought.

(2) *No one can gain an advantage* from not having met all the opponents against whom he would normally have fenced.

(1) N.B.—Order of bouts when there are three competitors in a barrage :

For the first bout lots are drawn, unless there are two competitors of the same nationality, etc. (*as provided for in the rules*).

Thereafter one of the following alternatives must be followed :

I.—If the barrage is for the first place in the final pool the order must be :

1st—A bout between A and B. Winner is A.

2nd—The competitor who has not yet fought against the winner, that is C versus A.

3rd—And finally a third bout between C and the loser, that is C versus B.

II. If the barrage is during an eliminating round and only one of the three competitors in the barrage can gain promotion, the order must be as in I, noting that the 3rd bout may be unnecessary.

III. If the barrage is during an eliminating round and two of the three competitors may be promoted, the order must be :

1st. A versus B—Winner A.

2nd. C versus the loser B.

3rd. A versus C (which may be unnecessary).

D

(A). When for any reason whatsoever a competitor (individual or team) abandons an event which has commenced, the Executive Committee must apply the following rules (without prejudice to any disciplinary action which may eventually be taken against the competitor):—

28

*Introduction :*

When a competitor (individual or team) during an event (pool) does not complete one of the bouts in which he is engaged and which he has commenced and when his adversary is leading, that bout, but that bout only, will be considered as having been fought to the end, all the remaining hits in that bout which should have been fought for being placed to the credit of the competitor who does not abandon the bout. In all other cases that bout will be considered as not having been fought at all.

*Example I.*—Pool of Teams : Match between Team X and Team Z. Total number of bouts 16. When the score is : X 9 victories (or even only 6 victories) ; Z 2 victories, team Z withdraws ; the official score of this match will be X 14 victories, Z 2 victories. But if in this match the score was 5—5 or 3—6 in favour of Z, the retiring team, the whole score is annulled.

II. Individual pool for 5 hits. The bout between A and B has begun ; when the score is 3—2 in favour of B, A is obliged to retire ; for this bout B will be the winner with the official score of 5—2. But if the score was 3—3 or 3—2 in favour of A, who retires, the whole score is annulled.

29

*Rule one.*

When the event (pool) is finished (except for the bouts of the competitor who retires) the Executive Committee will make out two score sheets, each showing a complete classification, by victories, determining exactly the places (following the general rules : barrage for first place in the final, or for the fencers who may be eliminated ; total of hits received and scored for the other places, etc.).

*Score Sheet No. 1.*—A. Classification including only those competitors who have fought all the bouts envisaged in the pool.

*Score Sheet No. 2.*—B. Classification including only those competitors who have not fought the competitor who has not completed the event.

*Rule two.*

30

The order of classification between competitors in the same score sheet is final.

*Rule three.*

31

(a) For the final pool.

For the first place a barrage (tie) must always be fought between the competitor best placed in score sheet B and the competitor best placed in score sheet A when the latter has a total number of victories equal to or not exceeding by more than one, the total number of victories attained by the competitor in score sheet B.

Successively for the final determination of each place, and with the proviso that the classification of each score sheet remains final with regard to the competitors appearing in the particular score sheet, the competitor who is—or who remains—best placed in score sheet B will fight a barrage with the competitor who is—or who remains—best placed in score sheet A and whose total victories are either equal to his or to his total plus one ; however, the barrage will not be fought when the number of hits received, or, if necessary, of hits scored is such that, if the event had been completely finished, the fencer in score sheet B would under no circumstances ever have been placed above the fencer in score sheet A even had he won the bout left unfought without receiving a hit, or would never have been classed below the said fencer, even had he lost the bout left unfought without scoring a hit.

*Example :*

Epee pool ; 3 hits ; 10 competitors

*Score Sheet A.*

1st G	victories 7 ;	hits received 14 ;
2nd H	“ 5 ;	“ “ 18 ;
3rd K	“ 3 ;	“ “ 22 ;
4th L	“ 1 ;	hits scored 14

Score Sheet B.

1st V victories 6 ;  
 2nd X „ 6 ; hits received 10 ;  
 3rd Y „ 4 ; „ „ 19 ;  
 4th Z „ 3 ; „ „ 19 ; hits scored 15  
 5th R „ 3 ; „ „ 21 ;

In score sheet B : V is the best placed competitor because according to Rule One, V and X who have the same number of points in this score sheet, must have fought a preliminary barrage for first place in this score sheet. Therefore V ties with G who is best placed in score sheet A.

If G wins ; 1st G ; 2nd V ; 3rd X

If V wins ; 1st V ; then X, who “ remains ” the best placed in score sheet B and who could, had he won the bout left unfought, have obtained a number of points not less than G and been placed above the latter in the classification, ties with G for second and third place.

There will be no barrage between H and Y because Y has already received a number of hits greater than those received by H, so that he could never have been placed above the latter in the classification even had he won the bout left unfought.

Therefore 4th H and 5th Y.

Nor will there be a barrage between K and Z because K has a number of hits which would have prevented him ever being placed above Z even if the latter had lost the bout left unfought without scoring a hit. Actually in this event Z and K would both have received 22 hits, but Z had already scored an extra hit which would in any event have placed him above K.

Sixth will therefore be Z ; while for 7th place a barrage must be fought between K and R, since the numbers of their respective hits are not such that the possible result of the bout which R has not fought might not have affected their respective classification.

There can be no doubt that L will be ninth.

32 (b) For eliminating rounds.

Subject to the proviso that the classification of each score sheet remains unalterable for the competitors in that score sheet, the procedure is as for the final with this difference that no barrage will be fought between competitors appearing in different score sheets whose classification assures their promotion to the next round.

Example : Pool of 12 competitors of whom 6 are to be promoted to the next round.

Score Sheet A.

1st A ..... 9 victories      4th D ..... 6 victories  
 2nd B ..... 7 „      5th E ..... 2 „  
 3rd C ..... 6 „      6th F ..... 1 victory

Score Sheet B.

1st G ..... 8 victories      4th K ..... 6 victories  
 2nd H ..... 8 „      5th L ..... 1 victory  
 3rd I ..... 6

In any case E, L, F are eliminated.

In any case A, G, H, B are qualified for promotion.

But B, although certain of promotion, must fight a barrage with I (who beat K in a barrage) because I has a right to his chance against all possible opponents.

If I wins, K must in turn fight a barrage with B, and if he also wins A, B, G, H, I, K are promoted.

If, on the other hand, B wins against I, C (who beat D in a barrage) must fight a barrage with I ; according to whether C or I wins, the loser fights a barrage with D or with K for the sixth place.

If B wins against K, it will be for K to fight a barrage with C to determine the sixth place.

Rule four.

A competitor (individual or team) who has to retire by reason of some cause beyond his control, which has been duly recognized by the President of the Jury, is entitled to the classification resulting from his actual total of points ; but should a barrage be necessary with one or other of his adversaries, he must obviously lose the benefit of being able to fight the barrage. In other cases, without affecting possible disciplinary penalties to be inflicted later, he loses the right to any classification whatever. 33

\*\*

- 34 (B). When more than one competitor abandons a competition :—

*The fundamental principles on which the above rules are based remain in force, so that no one can be placed at a disadvantage because he has been unable to contest one or more bouts which he would normally have fought, and no one can gain an advantage from not having met all the opponents against whom he would normally have fenced.*

*In order to apply these principles when several competitors abandon an event, the following supplementary rules will be applied to the previous rules :—*

- 35 1. When more than one competitor fails to complete an event, the Executive Committee will, after the event is finished, prepare the following score sheets (each being complete and final in itself) :

*Score Sheet A, including only those competitors who have fought ALL the bouts envisaged for the pool ;*

*Score Sheet B, including only those competitors who have fought all the bouts envisaged LESS ONE ;*

*Score Sheet C, including only those competitors who have fought all the bouts envisaged LESS TWO.*

*And so on as required.*

- 36 2. Every competitor who has not fought one or several bouts must fight a barrage with the competitor who is best placed in the other score sheets with whom he might have had the same number (or a greater number) of victories (except in those cases where, as laid down in rule 3 above, the number of hits received and scored makes the barrage unnecessary).
- 37 3. To determine the first place in the final pool, each score sheet having its final classification, it is first ascertained which competitor best placed in each score sheet has the greatest number of actual victories.

*Should he be a competitor in Score Sheet A, he must fight a barrage with the competitor best placed in score sheet B who has the same number of victories, or one less, than himself, and with the competitor best placed in score sheet C who has the same number of victories or one or two less, than himself, and with the competitor best placed in score sheet D who has the same number of victories, or one, two or three less, than himself, etc :*

*Should he be a competitor in Score Sheet B, he must fight a barrage with the competitor best placed in score sheet C who has the same number of victories, or one less, than himself, and with the competitor best placed in score sheet D who has the same number of victories or one or two less, than himself, etc. :*

*Should he be a competitor in Score Sheet C, he must fight a barrage with the competitor best placed in score sheet D who has the same number of victories, or one less, than himself and with the competitor in score sheet B who has only one victory less than himself.*

*And so on as required.*

*The competitor who wins this barrage will be placed first in the final : the classification of the other competitors in the barrage, as between themselves, will be determined by the result of the barrage as fought, but other competitors may be placed between them.*

4. For the other places in the final, every competitor who has not fought one or more bouts in the final will fight a barrage with those competitors in the other score sheets with whom he might have tied on number of victories or even surpassed in number of victories (except in those cases where the number of hits received and scored by the different competitors concerned is such that this barrage is unnecessary). 38

5. For promotion from eliminating rounds, after determining which competitors are certain of promotion, and which are certain to be eliminated, a barrage will be fought between all the competitors who might, according to the number of their victories, actual or possible, be able to gain promotion to the next round. 39

EXAMPLE: Table I.  
Pool of 10 Competitors, for 5 hits. Score Sheets A, B and C (see page 20).

	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	A	B	C
L	×	V.3	L	V.2	V.1	V.1	V.1	V.0	L	—		6V.8.3*	
M	L	×	V.3	V.1	V.1	V.0	V.1	—	L	—			5V. 6.4
N	V.2	L	×	V.1	V.1	L	L	V.1	L	L	4V. 5.8		
O	L	L	L	×	V.2	V.2	L	—	V.3	—			3V. 7.6
P	L	L	L	L	×	V.3	V.3	—	V.2	—			3V. 8.5
Q	L	L	V.1	L	L	×	V.2	—	L	L		2V. 3.8	
R	L	L	V.3	V.2	L	L	×	L	L	L	2V. 5.7		
S	L	—	L	—	—	—	V.0	×	L	V.3	abandons		
T	V.1	V.1	V.1	L	L	V.2	V.0	V.1	×	—		6V. 6.5	
U	—	—	V.0	—	—	V.0	V.0	L	—	×	abandons		

\*—Only Hits against and hits scored in victories and defeats respectively.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE: Table II.  
Pool of 9 Competitors, for 5 hits. Score Sheets A, B and C (see page 20).

	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	A	B	C
L	×	—	—	—	V.2	L	—	—	V.2	abandons		
M	—	×	V.3	V.0	—	V.3	L	V.1	L			4V. 7.5
N	—	L	×	V.4	V.2	L	L	V.1	L		3V. 7.13	
O	—	L	L	×	—	V.3	V.2	V.2	L			3V. 7.4
P	L	—	L	—	×	V.4	L	—	—	abandons		
Q	V.3	L	V.3	L	L	×	V.2	V.3	L	4V. 11.12		
R	—	V.1	V.3	L	V.3	L	×	L	L		3V. 7.10	
S	—	L	L	L	—	L	V.3	×	V.4			2V. 7.7
T	L	V.4	V.4	V.0	—	V.2	V.3	L	×		5V. 13.6	

**42 Example : Table I.**

For first place; preliminary barrage between L and T to decide which will fight barrage with M for first place. These three competitors will be placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd according to the results obtained between themselves.

For 4th place, barrage between N and O (best placed in score sheet C).

If N wins he is placed 4th, followed by O and P. If O wins he is placed 4th and N and P will fight a barrage for 5th and 6th places.

Q will be 7th and R 8th; the difference of hits making a barrage unnecessary.

If U who has three victories has the right to be classified (e.g., if he abandons owing to an injury) he will be placed immediately after P; the latter being regarded as having obtained a victory over U (who cannot fight off the barrage) and thus having one victory more than U.

**43 Another Example : Table II.**

For first place, barrage between T and M which will decide 1st and 2nd places (because if M loses to T he has such an advantage on hits over Q that he will be placed above him without a barrage).

For next places : I. Barrage between O, Q and N (better placed than R).

*1st possibility* : The result of the barrage is Q, N, O : placed respectively 3rd, 4th and 5th and R and S fight a barrage for 6th and 7th places.

*2nd possibility* : The result of the barrage is N, Q, O : N will be third but R fights barrage with Q for 4th and 5th places and O will be 6th and S 7th.

*3rd possibility* : The result of the barrage is O, Q, N : then O will be 3rd ; S will fight a barrage with Q for 4th and 5th places ; N will be 6th and R 7th.

*4th possibility* : Result of the barrage is O, N, Q ; then O will be 3rd ; S will fight a barrage with N. If S wins he is 4th ; N 5th ; Q and R fight a barrage for 6th and 7th.

If N wins he is 4th ; Q and R fight a barrage for 5th and the loser with S for 6th and 7th places.

**IX. Special Rules for individual competitions contested according to the system of direct elimination.**

**44**

**A. Introduction**

The general provisions of the rules are applicable without exception, in so far as they do not conflict with those of the special rules hereunder which are

solely applicable for individual events by direct elimination.

**B. Principle of matches and number of hits. 45**

At all three weapons each individual match consists of two bouts for five effective hits each (best of nine hits) with a deciding bout if required. For ladies, each bout is for four effective hits (best of seven hits) with a deciding bout if required.

**C. Duration of matches. 46**

At foil and sabre, ten minutes for each bout.

At épée, fifteen minutes for each bout. For ladies, eight minutes for each bout.

There will be compulsorily a period of rest of two minutes duration between bouts.

If in any of the three bouts the time laid down expires and the fencers have scored an equal number of hits, the bout will be continued without time limit until a decision is reached.

Similarly at épée, if both competitors reach 5-5 by reason of a double hit, one or more further hits will be fought for without time limit until a decision is reached.

**D. Organisation of events. 47**

**(a) Complete System :**

The Executive Committee will organise a first eliminating round by exempting from this first round as many competitors as is necessary in order to preserve, after this first round, a number of competitors which is a power of two (i.e., 4—8—16—32—64—128, etc., competitors). The "Têtes de série" are by right exempt from the first round, which is itself arranged with due allowance for the principles of "Têtes de série" and that of nationality.

The formula used to arrive at the number of competitors exempt from the first round E is :

$$E = 2N - P$$

Where P is the number of competitors entered, and N the number of competitors who must be preserved to arrive at the match plan (i.e. 4 or 8 or 16 or 32, etc.).

The match plan for direct elimination is then drawn up, the principle of "Têtes de série" being duly observed as indicated in the example.

48 See examples of match—plans at Annex page 86.

49 (b) Mixed system :

The Executive Committee will organise one or several rounds of eliminating pools in order eventually to reach a round where there will be 2, 4 or 8 pools from each of which the four first placed competitors can be promoted to a match plan for direct elimination for 8, 16 or 32 competitors.

In this case those placed first in each pool are "Têtes de série" and are placed on the match plan by drawing lots for positions 1—2 (or 1—2—3—4), etc.

Those placed second go to positions 3—4 (or 5—6—7—8), etc.

Similarly for those placed third and fourth in each pool.

The Executive Committee should, as far as possible, avoid fencers of the same nationality meeting in the first, or even the second, round of matches.

50

#### E. Classification.

The general classification is obtained as follows :

1st. The winner of the final match.

2nd. The loser of the final match.

3rd and 4th. After barrage between the losers of the two semi-final matches.

5th, 6th, 7th, 8th. After barrage by direct elimination between the losers of the quarter-final matches. The match plan will be drawn up according to the classification obtained by these competitors in the eliminating pools. The two fencers who had the best placings in these pools will meet the two who were less well placed.

The remaining competitors will be placed 9th *ex aequo*.

## CHAPTER II.

### Weapons, Equipment, Clothing.

51

#### A. — General.

Fencers arm, equip and clothe themselves on their own responsibility and at their own risk, the only condition being that the weapons, equipment and attire must conform to these regulations.

Fencers are, therefore, responsible in all respects for any accidents which they may cause or suffer.

The Executive Committee, or, failing them, the Organizing Committee, shall appoint a special delegate whose duty it will be to verify the weapons, equipment and clothing used.

The delegate appointed is bound to refuse to sanction any weapon which does not conform to the regulations. He is further bound to exclude from participation any competitor whose equipment or clothing appears to him to be insufficient.

When there has been a verification of weapons prior to a competition, a fencer who *appears* on the piste with a weapon which does not conform to the regulations will be warned on the first occasion and the next time his weapon will be confiscated. If necessary, he will be obliged to finish the event with a weapon provided by the organisers.

When no verification of weapons has been effected prior to a competition, no sanction can be imposed, but the fencer will not be permitted to use his weapon until it has been made to conform to the regulations.

When it is observed that a weapon is irregular *after one or several hits have been exchanged*, this observation is not in itself sufficient to justify the annulment of the hits made with the irregular weapon, but should result in the application of the warning, confiscation, etc., as stated above. In the case of flagrant repetition by the fencer concerned, the last hit given by him, but only this hit, may be annulled by the President of the Jury. The penalties laid down in Chapter VIII may also be applicable.

B. — Weapons.

I. EPEE.

1. *General Description.*

52 All kinds of épées are authorised, providing that they conform to the regulations.

The weapon should be so constructed that it can neither injure the user nor his opponent.

The total weight of the épée ready for use shall be less than 770 grammes (27 $\frac{3}{8}$  ozs.).

The total maximum length of the weapon is the distance between two parallel lines drawn at right angles to the axis of the straight blade.

The first of these lines is drawn at the extreme point of the weapon, that is to say at the forward extremity of the point if there is one, or of the button covered with waxed thread if there is one, or of the *pointe d'arrêt* if there is one.

The second of these lines is drawn at the extreme end of the weapon, that is to say at the rear extremity of the locking nut if there is one, or of the pommel if there is no locking nut, or of the handle if there is neither locking nut nor pommel. The total maximum length of the weapon is less than 1,100 millimètres (43 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches).

53 2. *The Blade.*

The blade is triangular in section; it neither cuts nor is it whippy; it is not too rigid; it should be as straight as possible; it should be mounted with the groove uppermost. The curve of the blade must be in any case less than 10 millimètres ( $\frac{3}{8}$  inch), it is only allowed in the vertical plane.

The length of the blade is the distance between two parallel lines drawn at right angles to the axis of the blade.

The first of these lines is drawn at the extreme point of the blade, that is to say, at the forward extremity of the point if there is one, of the button covered with waxed thread if there is one, or of the *pointe d'arrêt* if there is one.

The second of these lines is drawn at the point where the axis of the blade meets the front or convex surface of the guard (*coquille*).

The maximum length of the blade is less than 900 millimètres (35 $\frac{3}{8}$  inches).

The maximum width of any of the three sides of the blade is less than 24 millimètres ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ths of an inch), and the blade must have no sudden projections.

3. *The Mounting.*

54

The mounting includes or may include the tang of the blade, the guard, the padding, the handle, by which is meant the part of the hilt which alone is intended to be held by the hand, the pommel, the locking nut and the attachment or *martingale*.

No part of the mounting has a greater diameter than that of the guard; it is so made that it can injure neither the user nor his opponent.

The mounting must be able to pass through the same gauge as the guard, the gauge having a diameter of 135 millimètres (5 $\frac{5}{16}$  inches) and being made of a material the thickness of which is between 5 millimètres ( $\frac{3}{16}$  inch) and 50 millimètres (2 inches), it being understood that while the weapon is being passed through the gauge the axis of the blade need not necessarily be kept in any predetermined direction.

When the mounting is eccentric the amount of eccentricity is the actual shortest distance between, on the one hand a line drawn from the centre of the guard parallel to the axis of the blade, and on the other hand the point where the broad end of the blade is nearest to the said line.

The eccentricity shall be less than 35 millimètres (1 $\frac{3}{8}$  inches).

In practice it is sufficient to determine that the distance between the centre of the guard and the point where the broad end of the blade is nearest to the said centre is less than 35 millimètres (1 $\frac{3}{8}$  inches).

Either separately or conjointly at the will and entire risk of the competitor concerned all possible and conceivable types of mounting with or without transverse bars, lengthwise bars, bosses, pistol grips, notches, grooves, rings, pommels, locking nuts, grips for the hand, handles moulded to the hand, etc., are allowed, always provided that they conform to the regulations which have been framed with a view to placing on the same footing of absolute equality the various types of weapons, while preventing the competitor from committing the following irregular actions :

transforming the *épée*—either permanently or temporarily, in either an open or a concealed manner—into a sort of throwing weapon ;

unduly increasing—in either an open or a concealed manner, either permanently or temporarily—the effective length of the weapon while retaining the power to use the weapon in a manner which is equally effective to that which obtains when the hilt is held in a normal manner, that is to say, close to the interior of the guard ;

giving the hand and the wrist of the competitor, by any means whatever, greater protection than is normally obtained by a guard—either eccentrically mounted or not—which has the maximum regulation diameter and depth.

55 4. *The Guard (Coquille).*

The guard is the only part of the mounting which normally protects the hand and wrist of the competitor. It has a convex or conical form to the front, and a smooth but not too bright surface, the whole being so made that it can neither hold nor catch the opponent's point. It must not have a raised rim.

The diameter of the guard must be less than 135 millimètres ( $5\frac{5}{8}$  inches). The curve or depth of the guard must be between 30 millimètres ( $1\frac{3}{16}$  inches) and 55 millimètres ( $2\frac{3}{16}$  inches).

5. *The Padding.*

56

The padding inside the guard must have a thickness which is less than 20 millimètres ( $\frac{1}{2}$  inch) and must not be made in such a way as to increase the protection which the guard affords the hand.

6. *The hilt, handle and pommel.*

57

The length of the hilt is the extension of that side of the hilt, or those outer edges of the hilt, whose length is visibly nearest to the long axis of the hilt between the two following points :

the first is the point of intersection of the axis of the hilt and the inner or back face of the guard ;

the second is the hindmost point of the axis of the hilt, that is to say the hindmost point of the axis of the locking nut if there is one, or the hindmost point of the pommel if there is no locking nut, or the hindmost point of the axis of the handle if there is neither locking nut nor pommel.

The length of the handle is the extension of that side of the handle or those outer edges of the handle whose length is visibly nearest to the length of the axis of the handle between the two following points :

the first is the point of intersection of the axis of the handle and the inner or back surface of the guard.

the second is the hindmost point of the axis of the handle.

In order to place, as far as possible, on the same footing of absolute equality all the different types of mounting of hilts and handles, as well as the different schools and methods of fencing, all systems and types of hilts and handles are allowed, providing they conform to the following conditions or restrictions :

1. The hilt must have an inclusive length which is less than 232 millimètres ( $9\frac{1}{8}$  inches) measured from the inner surface of the guard ;

58

- 59 2. That part of the hilt which has an uneven surface and is so made as to allow the competitor's hand to have a firm hold, must have a total length which is less than 180 millimètres ( $7\frac{1}{8}$  inches) measured from the inner surface of the guard. Generally, the above-mentioned 180 millimètres ( $7\frac{1}{8}$  inches) only include the handle—that is the part of the mounting which is usually alone held by the hand—while the pommel which is normally intended to balance the weapon and not to increase its effective length, has a form and a surface which do not give a firm hold to the competitor's hand.

However, the above-mentioned 180 millimètres ( $7\frac{1}{8}$  inches) may, should the competitor so choose, include the whole of the hilt where there is a short handle and pommel, when the latter have a form and surface which give a firm hold to the competitor's hand. For example, a mounting which consists of a handle 158 millimètres ( $6\frac{1}{4}$  inches) long and a pommel 20 millimètres ( $\frac{1}{2}$  inch) long with an uneven surface and a form which gives the competitor's hand a firm hold, is allowed because the total thus made up has a length which is less than 180 millimètres ( $7\frac{1}{8}$  inches).

- 60 3. Whatever part of the hilt there may be which is between 180 millimètres ( $7\frac{1}{8}$  inches) and 232 millimètres ( $9\frac{1}{8}$  inches) from the inner surface of the guard must have neither a form nor a surface which allows it to be held easily and firmly by the fingers or in the hollow of the hand, this part of the hilt being intended to balance the weapon only.

This stipulation is only concerned with the construction of the weapon and cannot be interpreted as forbidding a fencer to hold this part of the hilt with his hand provided the hilt is constructed according to the regulations.

- 61 4. The mounting must not be of any type which allows the competitor to slide the weapon through the hand before or during a thrust, afterwards catching it by the extremity of the pommel.

5. The mounting must not include any device which can increase in any manner whatever the protection which the guard affords the hand and wrist of the competitor. A cross bar which extends beyond the edge of the guard is absolutely forbidden. 62

6. Further, if the mounting includes any device—or combination of devices used conjointly—which determines and fixes the position of the hand on the hilt, this device—or combination of devices—must conform to the following two conditions: 63

(a) The device—or combination of devices—must determine and fix one, and only one position for the hand on the hilt.

(b) When the hand occupies the one and only position fixed by the device—or combination of devices—the extremity of the thumb when completely extended must be less than 20 millimètres ( $\frac{1}{2}$  inch) from the inner surface of the guard. The following are regarded as having devices which determine and fix one position for the hand on the hilt:

- (a) A hilt which is sufficiently uneven to prevent the hand changing position;
- (b) A hilt which is coated with wax or similar substances;
- (c) A glove the inner portion of which is coated with wax or similar substances;
- (d) Any device such as a pocket, pad, etc., which makes it possible to clamp the hilt of the weapon, or to increase the power of gripping the weapon which is obtainable with an ordinary glove.

#### 7. Attachments. 64

All forms of attachments—used separately or conjointly—are allowed provided they conform to the restrictions cited above, which may be summarised by the following conditions:

1. They oblige the competitor's hand to remain close to the guard, in such a manner that the extremity of the thumb when completely extended is less than 20 millimètres ( $\frac{1}{2}$  inch) from the inner surface of the guard.

2. They must not form any loops in which the opponent's point can be caught up.

3. They do not protect the hand or wrist; they must not be made of any substance which may cause the opponent's point to glance off.

65 8. *Martingales.*

When the hand is not specially fixed to the hilt by a fixing device, the martingale is obligatory: it consists of a supple leash which keeps the weapon freely attached to the hand so that, should the fencer be disarmed, the weapon cannot injure anyone else.

66 9. *Pointes d'arrêt and buttons.*

All types of *pointes d'arrêt* with multiple branches are allowed, provided they conform to the following conditions (1):

Under the *pointe d'arrêt* there must always be a metal button which has been made in one piece of metal with the blade; it must have a flat outer surface; in section it must be at least 5 millimètres ( $\frac{3}{16}$  inch) square if it is square, or if round, have a diameter of at least 6 millimètres ( $\frac{1}{4}$  inch). The total length of the *pointe d'arrêt* including the support must be less than 20 millimètres ( $\frac{1}{2}$  inch).

The length of the points must be less than 5 millimètres ( $\frac{3}{16}$  inch).

The exposed part of the points must be less than 2 millimètres ( $\frac{1}{16}$  inch).

The outer surfaces of the points must be parallel; the diameter of the circle formed by the points must be between 6 millimètres ( $\frac{1}{4}$  inch) and 8 millimètres ( $\frac{5}{16}$  inch).

(1) When the electrical épée is not employed the point used should be of the "sazie" model with three branches.

In order that the multiple points may not form a punch, there must be a space between the effective parts of two consecutive points equal to at least twice the volume of the effective part of one of the points; and between two consecutive points this space must be filled with waxed thread, or material forming a plug.

II. — FOIL.

The specifications for the foil are the same as cited above for the épée, substituting the word "foil" for the word "épée," with the following differences only: 67

1. The total weight of the foil ready for use must be less than 500 grammes ( $17\frac{5}{8}$  oz.). 68

2. *The Blade.* 69

The blade which is rectangular or square in section, may be very flexible without, however, being too whippy.

3. *The Mounting.* 70

Eccentric mounting is forbidden.

4. *The Guard (Coquille).* 71

The maximum diameter of the guard must be less than 120 millimètres ( $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches), that is to say that the guard must pass through a circular gauge which has a diameter of 120 millimètres ( $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches).

The "bell" guard may be replaced by a double loop guard providing that the outer surface of the latter be covered in leather, and that the whole so formed is arranged in such a manner that the opponent's point cannot be caught up in it.

5. *Attachments and martingales.* 72

Binding the hand and wrist of the competitor to the hilt of the weapon by means of even a long leash is allowed. *Otherwise the martingale is obligatory.*

6. *Pointes d'arrêt and buttons.*

- 73 Except where special regulations for a competition so provide, the foil must not be fitted with a *pointe d'arrêt*. *The point must be covered.*

III. — SABRE.

- 74 The specifications for the sabre are the same as cited above for the *épée*, substituting the word "sabre" for the word "*épée*" with the following differences only:

- 75 1. The total weight of the sabre ready for use must be less than 500 grammes (17 $\frac{5}{8}$  ozs.)

The total maximum length of the weapon must be less than 1,050 millimètres (41 $\frac{3}{8}$  inches).

2. *The Blade.*

- 76 The blade must have a maximum length of 880 millimètres (34 $\frac{5}{8}$  inches), and a minimum width of 5 millimètres ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ths of an inch) which must be at the button. The thickness also immediately below the button must be at least 1.2 m.m. ( $\frac{1}{32}$  of an inch). The extremity of the blade is rounded. Blades which are too rigid or too whippy are forbidden, as are sabres having shapes out of the ordinary. If there is a curve it must be a distinct curve which must be continuous, the deflection must be less than 40 millimètres (1 $\frac{9}{16}$  inches). Blades with sharply bent extremities or which curve in the direction of the cutting edge are forbidden.

3. *The Guard (Coquille).*

- 77 The guard must be smooth, full in shape and in one piece. It must have a convex form which is continuous, without rim, nor having holes which are large enough to catch the opponent's point.

The length in the direction of the cutting edge of the blade must not be more than 150 millimètres (5 $\frac{7}{8}$  inches) and the width at right angles to the cutting edge of the blade must not be more than 140 millimètres (5 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches). In other words, the whole of the guard should be able to pass through a rectangular gauge measuring 150 by 140 millimètres (5 $\frac{7}{8}$  inches by 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches) the flat of the blade being parallel to the side of the gauge which measures 150 millimètres (5 $\frac{7}{8}$  inches).

C — Equipment and Clothing.

The equipment and clothing must conform to the following conditions: 78

1. The competitor must have the maximum protection compatible with the freedom of movement necessary for fencing.

Ladies equipment must include breast protectors in metal or of other rigid material.

2. It must not be possible for the opponent to be obstructed or injured by the equipment; nor for the opponent's weapon to be caught up or deflected by the equipment which in consequence must have neither buckles nor openings in which the opponent's point may be caught up—except by accident.

3. The judging of hits should be facilitated as far as possible (1); the material from which the equipment is made must not have a surface which is smooth enough to cause the *pointe d'arrêt*, the button or the opponent's hit to glance off. Thus the use of materials such as silk or satin, etc., is forbidden.

4. All clothing must be white for ladies as well as men, and of strong material. The bib, and, for *épée* and sabre, also those parts of the mask which may come into contact with the opponent's weapon (wire, supports, padding, bib) as well as the external surface of the eye shade which, if used, must always be fixed inside the mask, must be white or of a very pale buff colour. On the other hand, the internal surface of the wire, supports, padding, bib and eye shade may be of any colour.

5. For foil, the mask must be of such a design that the lower portion is not more than 2 centimètres ( $\frac{1}{4}$  inch) below the chin;

For sabre, masks must be well padded, have strong wirework and bibs which are large enough and strong enough to prevent accident.

(1)—It is recommended that for foil and sabre the jacket (for men and women) be cut in such a way as entirely to cover the target (as described in paras. 106-8).

6. For foil, gloves may be slightly padded; excessively large gloves which can act as a shield, and extremely large gauntlets which can also in some measure act as a shield are forbidden.

For sabre, the wrist or sleeve portion of the glove must not be made of leather which is hard or of patent leather, since it would be apt to make the blade glance off.

7. For sabre, the elbow guard may be made of hard leather.

8. For foil as well as épée, ladies' clothing must include wide (full) breeches closed below the knee or the divided skirt.

### CHAPTER III.

## The Field of Play (Terrain).

### (a) GENERAL.

79 The field of play should have a good surface. It should give neither advantage nor disadvantage to either of the two fencers concerned, especially as regards slope and light.

That portion of the field of play which is used for fencing is called the piste (strip or board).

Épée competitions may be held in the open air.

Official foil and sabre competitions are held indoors on linoleum or cork pistes.

When announcing the particulars of a competition, the organizers must always state the nature of the field of play on which the competition will be fought.

### (b) EPEE.

80 The width of the piste must be from 1m 80 (5 ft. 11 inches) to 2 metres (6 ft. 7 inches).

The length of the piste must be 24 metres (78ft. 9 inches), so that each competitor being placed at 2 metres (6 ft. 7 inches) from the centre line has at his disposal for retreating, a total distance of 10 metres (32 ft. 10 inches), without it being necessary for him to cross the limit of the piste with both feet.

Five lines should be drawn on the piste parallel to its width. The centre line in the middle, two lines at which the competitors are placed on guard 2 metres (6 ft. 7 inches) from the centre line, and

the lines at which the competitors are warned 2 metres (6 ft. 7 inches) from the rear limit of the piste.

### (c) FOIL.

The width of the piste must be from 1m 80 (5 ft. 11 inches) to 2 metres (6 ft. 7 inches). 81

The length of the piste must be 12 metres (39 ft. 4 inches), so that each competitor being placed at 2 metres (6 ft. 7 inches) from the centre line has at his disposal for retreating a total distance of 4 metres (13 ft. 2 inches) without it being necessary for him to cross the limit of the piste with both feet.

The same lines should be drawn on the piste parallel with the width as is laid down above for épée except for the line at which warning is given which, for foil, must be at 1 metre (3 ft. 3 inches) from the rear limit of the piste.

### (d) SABRE.

The width of the piste must be from 1m 80 (5 ft. 11 inches) to 2 metres (6 ft. 7 inches). 82

The length of the piste must be 24 metres (78 ft. 9 inches) so that each competitor being placed at 2 metres (6 ft. 7 inches) from the centre line has at his disposal for retreating, a total distance of 10 metres (32 ft. 10 inches) without it being necessary for him to cross the limit of the piste with both feet.

The same lines should be drawn on the piste parallel with the width, as is laid down above for ~~foil~~ *épée*.

(e) To enable the competitor who is about to cross the limit of the piste to retire over a level surface, the length of the field of play should in practice be extended a distance of 2 metres (6 ft. 7 inches) at each end.

In any case the length of the piste must not be less than 10 meters (32 ft. 10 inches) (1).

### (1) Note: Illustration.

When A retires once over the limit of the piste and then B also retires once over the limit of the piste, in fact A has regained then the ground lost and the two competitors are considered at that moment as having the full length of their piste, because the bout is always being fought over the full length of the piste.

CHAPTER IV.  
**The Assault.**

83 The President is in charge of the direction of the assault; he alone gives the orders. However, any other member of the jury may give the command "Halt," but only if he thinks that there is an accident. Except in this case, the other judges can only advise the President when they see, or think that they see a hit. They should do so by raising a hand.

1. *Putting on Guard.*

84 The fencer whose number is called first should place himself on the right of the President, except in the case of a bout between a right and a left-hander at foil and sabre.

The President places each of the two competitors in such a way that the foot of each which is in front is 2 metres (6 ft. 7 inches) from the centre line of the piste.

Competitors are always put on guard, whether at the beginning of the bout or subsequently, in the centre of the width of the piste.

Competitors come on guard when the President gives the order "On Guard," after which the President asks:

"Are you ready?"

On receiving an affirmative reply from both competitors he gives the signal for the assault to commence with the word:

"Play."

2. *The Assault.*

85 As soon as the word "Play" has been pronounced the competitors may assume the offensive. Any movements initiated before the word "Play" are not counted.

The competitors may fence in their own ways and at their own risk with the one condition that they must observe the fundamental rules of fencing.

The assault commences on the word "Play," and stops on the word "Halt," except in the case of special events occurring which modify the regular and normal conditions of the assault (see Chapter "Maintenance of Order," para. 195).

Directly the order "Halt" has been given, the competitor may not commence a new action; only the movement which has been begun before the order was given remains valid.

Everything which takes place afterwards is entirely invalid.

If a competitor stops before the word "Halt," and is hit, the hit is valid. *Exceptionally, however, if the competitor has stopped in good faith, and a sufficient interval of time has elapsed without action, the President decides whether the hit is valid or not.* (See para. 195.)

The order "Halt," is given not only when the assault is normally at an end, but also if the play of the competitors is dangerous or contrary to the rules, if one of the competitors entirely leaves the piste, or if, when retiring, he approaches too near the spectators or the jury.

After each valid hit is scored the competitors are put on guard in the middle of the piste. If the hit is not allowed by the jury they are placed in the position which they occupied when the assault was interrupted, thus retaining the ground gained. The competitors are put on guard, and the assault is recommenced under the conditions cited above.

For assaults taking place in several hits, the competitors will change ends;

in the open air, after every hit scored;

indoors, when one of the competitors has received half the maximum number of hits which he can receive.

However, at épée with the electrical judging apparatus competitors do not change ends during the bout.

3. *Fencing at close quarters (Combat rapproché).*

"Fencing at close quarters" is said to exist when the two competitors have their guards in contact, or when the guard of one comes into contact with any part of the limbs or body of the other, or when the arms or legs of the competitors touch, or when their bodies are momentarily in contact.

Fencing at close quarters is allowed to continue and is subject to the general rules previously laid down; it may go on so long as it preserves the

character of a regular assault with the weapon, and with the weapon only, wielded with one hand only, in the manner in which the regular assault has been defined above.

#### 4. *Corps à Corps.*

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The "corps à corps" is said to exist when the two competitors, after having engaged in fencing at close quarters, or after having passed, even very rapidly, through one of the phases of fencing at close quarters, come into collision, and remain in contact through intentional action on the part of one or both of them, without being able either to break away or to use their weapons in accordance with the rules which define and regulate the assault with the weapon alone wielded with one hand. When the corps à corps manifestly exists it must be stopped by the President.

At *épée* a fencer who either by a *flèche* attack or by vigorous attacks brings about a corps à corps even several times in succession—(with neither brutality nor violence) does not transgress the basic conventions of fencing, and commits no fault thereby (1).

At foil and sabre, when a fencer systematically causes the corps à corps—even with neither brutality nor violence—he must be penalised by having one hit scored against him after he has been warned (2). This rule must also be applied when *flèche* attacks are made which systematically end in a corps à corps.

(1) The "flèche ending systematically in a corps à corps" referred to in para. 87 above, must not be confused with the "flèche resulting in a shock which jostles the opponent" which is considered as an act of voluntary brutality at all three weapons and is punished as such in Chapter VII, Maintenance of Order, para. 196.

On the other hand the "flèche which is made by running past the opponent" and without a corps à corps is not forbidden; the President should not call "halt" too soon, in order not to annul a possible riposte; if when making such a running *flèche*, the fencer who makes the *flèche* systematically crosses the lateral boundaries of the piste he must be punished as laid down in para. 92.

(2) In order to impose this penalty, repetition of the offence must have been committed in the course of the same bout during which the warning was given.

#### 5. *Reversing of Positions.*

EPEE.

Movements which result in the reversal of the original positions of the competitors are allowed on condition that they are executed without jostling the opponent. The reversed position is secured if the reversal is more than half executed when the president of the jury gives the order "Halt." 88

#### FOIL AND SABRE.

Displacing the target, side stepping, turns or half turns are allowed; but reversing of positions is not allowed, that is to say that if the original positions are actually reversed, the competitors are again placed in the positions which they occupied when the movement resulting in the reversal of the positions was initiated.

#### 6. *Ground gained or lost.*

Ground gained is held until a hit is scored: when therefore competitors are again put on guard (without a hit having been scored) they are placed about the middle of the width of the piste at such a point that each competitor loses or gains the same length of piste. 89

However:

(a) When the assault has been stopped on account of a corps à corps, the fencers are again put on guard in such a position that the competitor who has sustained the corps à corps is at the place which he previously occupied.

(b) The competitors must not be again put on guard in such a way that a fencer who was in front of the warning line at the moment when the assault was stopped is placed behind this line.

(c) The competitors must not again be put on guard in such a way that the fencer who was already behind the warning line at the moment when the assault was stopped, is caused to lose ground.

(d) At épée, should a reversal of positions be properly executed and secured, the competitors are again put on guard at the on guard lines, but with reversal of the previous positions.

7. *Crossing the limits of the Piste.*

(a) *Stopping the bout.*

90 When a competitor crosses one of the boundaries of the piste with both feet, the President must immediately call "halt" and annul everything which has occurred after the boundary has been crossed, except a hit on the competitor who has crossed the boundary provided that this hit is made immediately as part of the movement in the course of which he crossed the boundary.

When one of the competitors leaves the piste only a hit made by the fencer who remains on the piste can be counted valid, even in the case of a double hit.

91 (b) *Rear limits and warning lines.*

When the rear foot of a competitor reaches his warning line the President gives the order "Halt," and advises the fencer as to how much ground remains before he will cross the extreme limit of the piste. He will repeat this warning each time the competitor, having regained ground, may be in doubt as to his position on the piste.

Competitors must not be warned of their position at any other part of the piste.

The competitor who thereafter crosses—i.e., crosses with both feet—the rear limit of the piste, for the last time, according to the length of the piste, has one hit scored against him. However, if a competitor crosses the rear limit of the piste without having been warned, he is again put on guard at the warning line.

~~The President will repeat the warning each time the competitor, having regained ground, again reaches the warning line with his rear foot.~~

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(c) *Lateral boundaries.*

A competitor who crosses with both feet one of the lateral boundaries of the piste, is not regarded as having been hit, and is again put on guard about the centre of the width of the piste, with a penalty which consists of the loss of 1 metre (3 ft. 3½ ins.) of ground at foil and of 2 metres (6 ft. 7 ins.) at épée and sabre. When the infliction of the said penalty of 1 metre (3 ft. 3½ ins.) or of 2 metres (6 ft. 7 ins.) places the competitor concerned with both feet beyond the extreme limit of the piste, the competitor is considered as having been hit.

A competitor who crosses one of the boundaries of the piste, as the result of an "accident" such as a collision incurs no penalty whatever.

However, the competitor who "systematically" crosses one of the boundaries of the piste with both feet—e.g. when making a flèche—to avoid a hit, will, after one warning, be penalised by having one hit scored against him (1). The hit which he receives immediately as part of the movement in the course of which he crossed the boundary—as described in the first para: of this para. 7—will be scored against him without question of any warning (2).

8. *Time Limits and rests.*

(a) The duration of the bouts and of the rests must be registered exactly by a stop watch. At the Olympic Games and the Championships of the World, the Executive Committee will appoint time-keepers who will fulfil their functions in all contests.

By duration of a bout is meant the actual duration, that is the total of the intervals of time

(1) In order to inflict this penalty, repetition of the offence must occur during the same bout during which the warning was given.

(2) It is apparent from the whole of this paragraph that any hit made by a competitor who has executed a flèche attack, when he is outside the boundaries of the piste, is annulled, while a hit which he makes while he is on the piste is valid, even if he crosses the boundaries of the piste after making the hit and that in the latter event there is no question of a warning or penalty.

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during which the competitors actually fence or are at liberty to fence, deduction being therefore made for the time taken for the deliberations of the jury and other interruptions.

The duration of the bouts shall be as follows :

For Epée : bouts for one hit, five minutes of actual fencing.

Bouts for three hits, ten minutes of actual fencing.

For Foil and Sabre : bouts for five hits, ten minutes of actual fencing.

For Foil (Ladies) : bouts for four hits, eight minutes of actual fencing.

The President must warn the competitors concerned two minutes and one minute before the expiration of the time limit fixed for actual fencing. The President may, during the bout, penalise by a warning, then by scoring one hit against the competitor and finally by exclusion from the competition a competitor who endeavours improperly to cause or to prolong interruptions during the bout.

94 (b) When the time fixed for one hit (épée) has expired without either of the competitors having been hit, one hit is scored against each and a defeat is scored against each.

For all three weapons when the time fixed for an assault in several hits expires and neither of the competitors has received the maximum number of hits which he should have received to be defeated, there must be added to the number of hits actually scored against each competitor, the difference between the maximum number of hits being fenced for and the actual number of hits scored against the competitor who has received most hits in the assault itself. The last-mentioned competitor will be regarded as having received the maximum number of hits which were being fenced for, while his opponent will be declared the winner with, as difference in the number of hits scored between them, the difference in the number of hits actually exchanged between them.

95 If when the time fixed for an assault in several hits expires, neither of the competitors concerned

has received the maximum number of hits being fenced for, and the same number of hits has actually been scored against each :

(1) For foil and sabre the competitors concerned will fight for a deciding hit without any time limit, and the score for the bout, whatever the number of hits the fencers have actually arrived at may be, shall always be 4 to 5 (for ladies 3 to 4). 96

(2) For épée a defeat shall be scored against each of the competitors concerned and the maximum number of hits being fenced for will be scored against each as though their bout had ended by one or more double hits (1). 97

(c) If a competitor is the victim of an accident which has been duly recognised, the President may allow him an interval of time in order that he may recover sufficiently to continue the assault. 98

If a competitor is indisposed and this has been duly recognised, the President may act as stated above, but he may only grant such a period of rest once and that for a maximum time of ten minutes.

## CHAPTER V.

### The Judging of Hits.

#### A. — Method of Judging.

(1) The jury consists of a President and four judges, who must always be amateurs and holders of amateur licences when acting at meetings officially recognized by the International Fencing Federation. 99

For the finals of individual competitions with foil and sabre at the Olympic Games and the Championships of the World, two complete juries will be constituted which will judge a quarter of the number of bouts each and which will alternate each quarter of the number of bouts. (1).

(2) By accepting a position on a jury, each of the members concerned, by so doing, pledges his honour to respect the regulations and to cause them to be respected, and to carry out his duties with the strictest impartiality and most sustained attention. 100

(1) Therefore a drawn match (match nul) can no longer occur with any weapon.

The President, who should be placed as nearly as possible 4 metres (13 ft. 2 inches) from the piste and equidistant from the two competitors, should more especially pay attention to the play as a whole and to the phrases of the assault.

The two judges placed on the President's right hand should watch the fencer who is placed on the President's left hand and especially verify the arrival of hits which this competitor may receive.

Similarly, the two judges placed on the President's left hand should watch the fencer who is placed on the President's right hand and especially verify the arrival of hits which this competitor may receive.

As soon as a judge sees a hit (whether on a valid surface or not) arrive on the fencer whom he is watching he *must* raise his hand in order to advise the President.

101 (3) When the judges are questioned regarding the arrival of a hit they must reply "yes," "yes but not valid" (1) "no" or "I abstain" (2).

When counting votes, abstentions are not taken into consideration.

Should a count of votes be taken, each judge is entitled to one vote; the President has one and a half votes and he must vote last. Both the Presi-

(1) The application of this rule is recommended for other meetings whenever conditions allow.

(3). Example:

(1). Judge A says "no"; Judge B says "hit too low"; even the President considers the hit valid, the judgment must be "no hit"; but in this example, since one Judge and the President agree that there has been contact with the point on the opponent, after the decision "no hit" anything which occurs thereafter must be annulled.

(2) Judge A says "yes"; Judge B says "on the arm," the President abstains; he cannot therefore score the hit since there is a doubt as to whether it arrived on a valid surface or not; however, since both judges are agreed that there was contact with the point on the opponent, after the decision "no hit" anything which occurs subsequently must be annulled.

(2) The judge who replies "yes, but not valid" should, if necessary add "Parried off" or "Parried down."

(4) See para. 195. Vote in spite of a Competitor acknowledging a hit.

dent and the judges must vote aloud from the positions which they occupy (3).

(4) The judging of hits is carried out in the following order: 102

1. First the President reconstructs aloud the last fencing phrase which occurred before the order "halt" (this formality is not obligatory at *épée*), asking the two judges best placed to see whether each action enumerated in his analysis of the fencing phrase resulted in a valid or non-valid hit on the competitor they are watching (4).

If the two judges who are watching one competitor agree in their judgment the president must accept it.

If one of the judges has a definite opinion and the other abstains, the President gives his opinion which in all cases prevails; if the president has no opinion, then the opinion of the one judge who has given his opinion is counted.

If the two judges who are especially watching a competitor abstain, the President may ask the two other judges should they be better placed to see a hit (for example: a riposte on the back made on a fencer who has made a *flèche* attack and passed his opponent).

(1) The judge who replies "yes but not valid" should if necessary add; "Parried off" or "Parried down."

(2) example:

(i) Judge A says "no"; Judge B says "hit too low"; even if the President considers the hit valid the judgment must be "no hit"; but in this example, since one judge and the President agree that there has been contact with a point on the opponent, after the decision "no hit" anything which occurs thereafter must be annulled.

(ii) Judge A says "yes,"; Judge B says "on the arm" the President abstains; he cannot therefore score the hit since there is a doubt as to whether it arrived on a valid surface or not; however since both judges are agreed that there was contact with the point on the opponent, after the decision "no hit" anything which occurs subsequently must be annulled.

(3) See para. 195. Vote in spite of a competitor acknowledging a hit.

(4) This formality must be observed.

If the two judges concerned are positive but contrary in their opinions—(Judge A says “hit,” Judge B says “parried”)—or if both abstain, the President makes the decision according to his own observations ; if the President has formed no opinion there is uncertainty as to whether or not there has been contact with the point on the opponent and the hit is regarded as “doubtful.”

When the arrival of a hit is *thus* regarded as “doubtful” it is not scored against the fencer who might have received it ; but the benefit of the doubt which is thus granted to the competitor, annuls any action which he has made afterwards or simultaneously in the same phrase of the assault ; it does not annul the remise, the renewed attack or the counter riposte which hits him after the doubtful hit, if there has been nothing previously which has been annulled on his opponent.

- 103 2. The President alone decides according to the rules and conventions for each weapon, as to the actual validity of a hit for foil or sabre and as to the priority on time of a hit for épée.

If he has no opinion, for foil and sabre he must put the fencers again on guard ; for épée he must declare a double hit (coup double), that is to say a hit against each.

- 104 3. At Epée when the President is of opinion that there is a double hit, but has to annul this double hit because the hit made on the fencer who is leading in the bout is doubtful, while that made on his opponent is established, the former will have the right to insist on the doubtful double hit being scored or to accept its annulment.

- 105 (4) In spite of anything in the foregoing to the contrary, at the Olympic Games and the Championships of the World épée competitions (both team and individual) will be judged by using the electric judging apparatus.

(See Chapter VI, para. 144—Special Rules for the use of the electric judging apparatus.)

## B. — The Target.

### 1. EPEE.

The target consists of every part of the competitor 106 without any exception.

Thus any point which arrives counts as a hit whatever part of the body (trunk, limbs or head), the clothing or the equipment it reaches.

### 2. FOIL.

The target is the surface between the top of the neck and, in front, the lines of the groin, on the back and sides down to a horizontal line across the top of the hip bones then joining the top of the lines of the groin, with the exception of the arms up to the shoulders, where the seams of the jacket should cross the head of the humerus. For ladies the target is only down to a line across the top of the hip bones. 107

### 3. SABRE.

The target comprises the part of the body above a horizontal line drawn between the tops of the folds formed by the thighs and by the trunk of the fencer when in the “on guard” position. 108

4. *The possible extension* of the valid target for foil and sabre.

Hits which arrive off the target, are counted as valid whenever either intentionally, or by reason of an abnormal position, the fencer who is hit has substituted a part of his body which is not counted as target for a part which is : 109

- (a) Whenever the fencer has covered either permanently or temporarily, that is to say has shielded the target with a part of his body which does not constitute the target ;
- (b) Whenever by reason of an alteration of his position, he has been hit on one of the parts of his body not normally included in the target, by a hit which would have reached the target if this alteration in position had not taken place, that is to say, whenever even by reason of a movement which is perfectly legitimate in itself, he substitutes a part of his body which is not counted as target for a part which is.

The displacements of the target which are peculiar to the Italian methods of fencing, "*passata sotto*", "*in quartata*", etc., are formally authorised, and the hand of the fencer which does not hold the weapon may come into contact with the piste when executing these actions.

But it must be understood that should a fencer with the foil while executing the displacement in a low line, known as the "*passata sotto*", receive on his head a hit which would have reached his target without this displacement, he has the hit scored against him, the hit being regarded as valid because, by reason of the displacement, he has been hit on a part of his body which is not counted as target by a hit which, but for the said displacement, would have arrived on the target; in other words the fencer, by reason of the alteration in his position, has substituted a part of his body which is not counted as target for a part which is.

On the other hand, for the side-step or "*in quartata*", the fencer who, with the foil, is hit on the mask, or, with foil or sabre, is hit on the legs, does not have the hit scored against him because, if he had not side-stepped, the hit in question would not have arrived on the target; in other words, he has not substituted a part of his body which is not counted as target for a part which is, he has only altered the position of a part of his body which is not the target, which is not at all the same thing.

**C. — General Rules and Conventions of Fencing.**

**I. — GENERAL RULES.**

110 (1). Every bout must preserve the character of a courteous and frank encounter.

All violent actions (flèche attack which ends by a shock jostling the opponent, hits delivered with undue violence, or hits delivered intentionally with the sabre at *parts* of the body which do not constitute the target, etc.) are absolutely forbidden (1).

(1) See Chapter VII, Maintenance of Order, para. 196.

All systems and methods of fencing, drawing back and displacing the body, side-stepping, turning, etc., are allowed.

(2). The épée and the foil are thrusting weapons 111 only. Attacks with these weapons must be made with the point, and with the point only.

(3) The sabre is a weapon for thrusting and for 112 cutting with the edge and the back, and consequently hits with the point or the edge are equally valid, whatever part of the target they reach.

(4) Every thrust with the point at épée, foil or 113 sabre must reach the target clearly and distinctly to be counted as a hit.

Grazes with the point are not therefore counted as valid hits nor do they annul anything which may happen afterwards.

(5) For sabre :

(a) Hits which are scored with any part of the 114 cutting edge are called cuts, those scored with the first third part of the back edge are called back edge cuts. No hits scored with any other part of the weapon (except the point) or with the flat of the blade are counted ;

(b) Hits with the point which graze the target and slip along the opponent's body with the edge or the back edge (hits which pass) do not count even as cuts ;

(c) Hits through the blade, that is to say those which touch at the same time the target and sabre of the adversary, are valid whenever the cutting edge arrives cleanly on the target.

(6) With all three weapons, defence must be effected exclusively with the guard and the blade used either separately or together.

(7) The weapon must not be—either permanently 115 or temporarily, or in an open or concealed manner—transformed into a throwing weapon ; it must be used without the hand leaving the hilt, and without the hand being slipped along the hilt afterwards catching it with the fingers with the help of a special device.

- 116 (8) The weapon must be used with one hand only, and with the same hand until the end of the assault, unless the President gives special permission to the contrary because of the hand or arm being wounded; the use of the hand and arm which are not used for holding the weapon to carry out an offensive or defensive action is forbidden. (1).

II. — CONVENTIONS.

1. *EPEE*.

- 117 The *épée* is a duelling weapon only; therefore, when both competitors are hit, the question of the priority of the hits is raised only when there is an appreciable difference of time between the hits.

118 2. *FOIL AND SABRE*.

Fencing with the foil or the sabre is conventional fencing. The conventions are:

I. — Limitation of the Target.

- 119 (a) The target and possible extensions of the target. (See above same Chapter, paras 106-9.)

- 120 (b) All hits made direct by one of the competitors on a part of the body other than the target, stop the phrase and annul all hits which are scored thereafter.

If a thrust which is made towards a part of the body where hits are valid is parried, but the hit arrives after the parry on a part of the body where hits are not counted, the hit in question does not stop the phrase, and the rest of the assault is not annulled.

II. — Observance of the Fencing Phrase by the two Fencers.

- 121 (a) All correctly executed attacks must be parried or completely avoided (2), and the phrase must be followed through. The fencer who ignores this basic rule, does so at his own risk.

(1) The penalty for transgression of this rule is the scoring of one hit after previous warning during the same bout.

(2) For methods of avoiding hits see above "Extension of the valid Target," para. 109.

In order to judge as to the correctness of an attack the following points must be considered:

1. If the attack is initiated when the opponent has his "point in line" (i.e., "with the arm straight and the point threatening the target") the attacker must first divert his opponent's weapon. 122

2. If, when attempting to find the opponent's blade to divert it, the blade is not found (*dérobement* or *trompement*), the right of attack passes to the opponent. 123

3. If the attack is commenced when the opponents' blade is not in line, the attack may be completed either direct, or by one disengagement, or else be preceded by successful feints which oblige the opponent to form a parry. 124

- (b) The parry gives the right to riposte: the simple riposte may be direct or indirect, but to annul any subsequent action by the attacker, it must be executed immediately, without indecision or delay. 125

- (c) If a composed attack is made and the opponent finds the blade during one of the feints, he has the right to riposte. 126

- (d) When composed attacks are made, the opponent has the right to stop hit; but to be valid the stop hit must precede the conclusion of the attack by an interval of time (*temps d'escrime*); that is to say that the stop hit must arrive before the attacker has begun the final movement of the attack. 127

III. — Judging of Hits at Foil and Sabre.

In order to explain and show the application of the conventions it is necessary to define some points: 128

When, during a phrase, both fencers are hit simultaneously, there is either a simultaneous action (*tempo commune*) or a double hit (*coup double, in contro*).

The first of these conditions which is due to simultaneous conception and execution of an attack by both fencers, may fairly be regarded as involving

the commission of no fault: in this case the hits exchanged are annulled for both fencers even if one of them has been hit off the target.

The double hit (*coup double*) on the other hand, is the result of a distinctly faulty action on the part of one of the fencers; and consequently the ruling must be against the fencer who has put himself in the wrong.

Therefore, when a double hit (*coup double*) occurs without there being a sufficient interval of time (*temps d'escrime*) between the hits:

**A. The fencer who is attacked is alone counted as hit:**

- 129 (a) If he makes a stop hit on his opponent's simple attack;
- 130 (b) If, instead of parrying, he attempts to avoid the hit (*passata sotto*, in *quartata*, etc.) and does not succeed in so doing;
- 131 (c) If, after a parry is effected, he makes a momentary pause which gives his opponent the right to re-attack (*redoublement*, or *remise* or renewed attack);
- 132 (d) If, during a composed attack, he makes a stop hit without being in time (*temps d'escrime*).
- 133 (e) If, having his "point in line" (arm straight and point threatening the target) and being subjected to a beat or a bind (*prise de fer*) which deflects his blade, he attacks or places his point in line again instead of parrying a direct thrust made by his opponent.

**B. The fencer who attacks is alone counted as hit:**

- 134 (a) If he initiates his attack when his opponent has his point in line (arm straight and point threatening the target) without deflecting the opponent's weapon;
- 135 (b) If he attempts to find the blade, does not succeed (*dérobement* or *trompement*) and continues the attack;
- 136 (c) If, during a composed attack, he allows his opponent to find the blade, and continues the attack while his opponent ripostes immediately;

(d) If, during a composed attack, he makes a momentary pause, during which time the opponent makes a stop hit while the attacker continues his attack; 137

(e) If, during a composed attack, he is stopped in time (*temps d'escrime*) before he begins his final movement; 138

(f) If he makes a hit by a *remise*, *redoublement* or *reprise d'attaque* on his opponent's parry, which has been followed by a *riposte* which is immediate, simple, and executed in one period of fencing time without withdrawing the arm. 139

**C. In conclusion:**

When there is a double hit (*coup double*), each time the President is unable clearly to judge from which side the fault has come, he must annul the hit, and replace the competitors on guard. 140

(One of the most difficult problems to solve arises when a stop hit is made and there is doubt whether it was sufficiently before the final movement of a composed attack. Generally, in such a case, the double hit occurs through the fault of both fencers, which justifies the President in replacing them on guard. The fault of the attacker consists of indecision, slowness of execution, or the making of feints which are not sufficiently effective, while the fault of the defender lies in delay or slowness in making the stop hit.)

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**Explanation of some Technical Terms commonly used in judging fencing.**

1. *Offensive Actions.*

Attack or Riposte	{	Simple: by one movement	{	direct: in the same line.	141
		composed: by several movements.		indirect: in another line.	
Riposte	{	immediate	{	depends on what action takes place and the speed at which it is carried out.	
	delayed				

Examples: *Simple direct ripostes:*

*Straight riposte:* a riposte which hits the opponent without leaving the line in which the parry was formed;

*Riposte along the blade* : a riposte which hits the opponent by grazing along the blade after the parry (coulé);

*Simple indirect ripostes* :

*Riposte by disengagement* : a riposte which hits the opponent in the opposite line to that in which the parry was formed by passing under the opponent's blade;

*Riposte with a coupé* : ditto by passing over the opponent's blade.

*Composed ripostes* :

*Riposte with a double* : a riposte which hits the opponent in the opposite line to that in which the parry was formed, but after having described a complete circle round the opponent's blade.

*Riposte with a one, two* : a riposte which hits the opponent in the same line in which the parry was formed, but after the blade has first been in the opposite line by passing under the opponent's blade. etc., etc.

142 2. Counter Attacks.

(a) The *Time* or *Time Hit* is made on a composed attack by closing the line in which the attack is to be completed and at the same time hitting the opponent (the time hit should carry the opponent's blade outside the target).

(b) The *Stop Hit* : every other counter attack is a stop hit. It is made on all forms of attack (simple, composed, *en marchant*, etc.). It must arrive *clearly before* the final movement of the attack (with an interval of time (*temps d'escrime*) which is appreciable).

(c) The *Counter Time* (second intention) is every action made by the original attacker on a time hit or stop hit made by his opponent.

3. Varieties of Offensive Actions.

143 (a) The *Remise* is a simple and immediate offensive action which follows the original attack, *without withdrawing the arm*, after the opponent has parried or retreated, when the latter has either quitted contact with the blade without riposting or has made a riposte which is delayed, indirect or composed.

(b) The *Redoublement* is a *new* action, either simple or composed, made on an opponent who has parried without riposting or who has merely avoided the first action by re-treating or displacing the target.

(c) The *Reprise d'attaque* is a new attack executed immediately after a return on guard which may even be momentary.

CHAPTER VI.

Special Rules for the use of the Electric Judging Apparatus for Epée.

1. The Judging Apparatus.

ARTICLE 1.—The Judging Apparatus to be used in official competitions of the I.F.F. (1) must be of a type recognised by the I.F.F. 144

A model of each of the types of apparatus which the Organizing Committee wishes to use in such a competition must be sent, at least six months before the commencement of the competition, to the Commission of the I.F.F. for the Electrical Judging Apparatus, who will give its decision within three months as to the possibility of using it.

The apparatus must be delivered complete with drums, connections, etc. They must also be accompanied by a technical drawing and explanation of their characteristics.

The acceptance of an apparatus by the Commission for the Electrical Judging Apparatus implies no guarantee against possible faults of construction and cannot be used commercially by the manufacturers to assist them in selling it.

ART. 2.—The apparatus must register a double hit (coup double) when two hits are made between 1/20ths of a second (longest limit) and 1/25th of a second (shortest limit). The allowance for regulation being entirely between these two extremes. 145

ART. 3.—A hit made on the metallic piste or on the metallic parts of the épée of a fencer should not be registered by the apparatus, nor should it prevent the registering of a hit made simultaneously by the opponent on the target. 146

ART. 4.—The apparatus must not have any device whereby the President can interrupt its working during the bout. 147

ART. 5.—The plugs of the connecting wires which receive the prongs on the plugs of the body wires at 148

(1) International Fencing Federation.

the fencer's back must have a safety device which fulfils the following conditions :—

1. The impossibility of fitting the system properly if the plugs are not correctly joined ;
2. Making it impossible for the plugs to separate during the bout ;
3. Making it possible for the fencer to verify if the two above-mentioned conditions have been fulfilled.

## 2. The Fencer's Personal Electrical Equipment.

The personal electrical equipment consists of the electrified épée and the body wire. The following rules are applicable to these :—

149 ART. 6.—The electrical resistance of the live circuit of the épée, measured from prong to prong, with the pointe d'arrêt depressed, must not be greater than 3 Ohms.

The electrical resistance of the earth circuit, measured from any point of contact on the blade or the guard to the earthing prong of the épée must not be greater than 2 Ohms.

The insulation measured between any two of the three prongs with the pointe d'arrêt at rest, must not be less than 50,000 Ohms.

Those who wish to assemble épées but who are not equipped to undertake electrical tests are advised that the limits laid down above have been framed so that they may be attained by any assembler who applies the minimum care to his work.

It is advisable :

thoroughly to de-oxidise the external surface of the guard (coquille) and the surfaces of the contacts inside it.

not to destroy the insulation of the wires, especially where they pass along the groove in the blade at the pointe d'arrêt and at the guard.

to avoid accumulations of glue or similar material in the groove of the blade.

ART. 7.—The pressure which must be made on the pointe d'arrêt in order to cause the electrical apparatus to register a hit must be more than 750 grammes (26.45 oz.), that is to say that this weight must be resisted by the spring of the point. 150

ART. 8.—The course or stroke which the pointe d'arrêt must travel back in order to cause the electrical apparatus to register a hit, which is called the " lighting stroke," must not be less than 1 millimetre (.039 inch). The further course which the pointe d'arrêt may travel must not be over 0.5 millimetre (.0195 inch). 151

ART. 9.—The pointe d'arrêt may have three or four points. The outer edges of the points must form a cylindrical surface the diameter of which is from 6 to 8 millimetres (.234 to .312 inch), but which must not be greater than the diameter of any other part of the pointe d'arrêt. The ridges which join two neighbouring points of the electrical *pointes d'arrêt* must be rounded as to at least half of their length. 152

ART. 10.—The electrical point must be affixed to the blade in a way which gives every guarantee of security. 153

The best methods are those which allow the usual flattened end of the blade to be retained or which involve the use of blades specially made so as to end in a cylindrical portion which is made in one piece of metal with the blade and is grooved to receive the electrical point.

The method of affixing by screwing on blades the ends of which are cut and threaded is allowed under the following conditions :—

1. Only the affixing by metal to the point of the blade is allowed. Affixing by insulating material (fibre, etc.) is not permitted. Electrical *pointes d'arrêt* must be held in place by two screws diametrically opposed).

2. All light alloys which are brittle are forbidden as well as a steel which is too brittle.

3. All methods of soldering or brazing which may affect the temper of the blade are forbidden. Soldering by very fusible tin, made with a soldering iron to fix the thread, is alone authorised.

4. The end of the blade must not, at any point, be less than 3.5 millimetres (.136 inch) in diameter, and this without anything being wrapped round it, a process which is strictly forbidden.

5. The diameter of the core of the thread at the end of the blade must not be less than 2.6 millimetres (.097 inch) (thread S.I. 3.5 x 0.6). The thread must be cut very finely.

6. The thread cut at the end of the blade must not be less than 6 millimetres (.234 inch) in length and must be entirely covered by the body of the pointe d'arrêt.

7. The groove necessary for the wiring must be cut in such a way that it weakens the section of the blade as little as possible.

Epées however carefully constructed which do not conform to the above regulations are not allowed.

154 ART. 11.—In the plugs which attach the fencer to the apparatus, the two external prongs must be at a distance of 20 millimetres (.78 inch) and 15 millimetres (.585 inch) respectively from the central prong. The prong which is 20 millimetres (.78 inch) from the central prong should be wired to the fencer's guard (coquille), that which is 15 millimetres (.585 inch) from the central prong must be wired as directly as possible to the pointe d'arrêt.

In those electrical points where the pointe d'arrêt is neutral when stationary, the prong which is 15 millimetres (.585 inch) from the central prong is wired to that one of the two electric wires with which the pointe d'arrêt first makes contact when a hit is made.

155 ART. 12.—The inner portion of the guard (coquille) should be arranged in such a way that it is impossible for the fingers of the fencer to be in contact with the wires while fencing.

### 3. Control to be Effected Before a Competition.

156 ART. 13.—Before the commencement of the competition at the Olympic Games and the World Championships, the conditions laid down in Articles 1 to 5 for the functioning and regulation of all the electrical apparatus and the accessories to be used must be controlled under the supervision of the Executive Committee.

ART. 14.—At the Olympic Games and the World Championships, and preferably at all other important international meetings, all the épées of all the competitors must be carefully controlled before the competition begins to make sure that they are in accordance with all the regulations applicable to épées. This control of the material must be organised by the Executive Committee or the Organizing Committee. 157

ART. 15.—In view of its special importance, the controller should direct particular attention to the question of the method of affixing the electrical pointe d'arrêt to the blade (Art. 10 para. 153). He must be careful to reject any épée which does not conform to the rules or which has any peculiarity which may make it dangerous. The épées which are not in order and which cannot be put in order, must be destroyed before returning them to the competitors. 158

ART. 16.—The members of the Commission for the Electrical Apparatus of the I.F.F. have the right to control the way in which the épées are verified from an electrical point of view, including the method of affixing the electrical pointes d'arrêts. They are entitled to alter any method which does not, in their opinion, appear to conform to the requirements of the regulations. 159

### 4. Field of Play.

ART. 17.—For the official competitions of the I.F.F. the use of insulated tracks entirely covering the piste and its extensions (see Chapter III para. 79 et seq. of General Rules) is obligatory. 160

ART. 18.—The table on which the judging apparatus is placed must be placed well apart, and the President must see that its isolation is maintained by the officials, the competitors and the spectators. The same table must not be used by the persons who score, keep the time, etc. 161

### 5. The Director of the Bout.

- 162 ART. 19.—The bout is directed by a President who has all the responsibilities and prerogatives laid down in the general rules for the President of the Jury. Further, he is responsible for the strict application of all the Articles of these special regulations. For the official competitions of the I.F.F., the President must be an International President of the Jury for Epée and holder of an international licence.
- 163 ART. 20.—The President should place himself opposite the apparatus and should follow the bout so as to be always level with the two competitors.
- 164 ART. 21.—Preferably, and at least each time one of the competitors or his team captain requests it, the President should, before placing the competitors on guard for each new bout, verify the resistance of 750 grammes (26.45 ounces) of the points of the épées and make sure that there is a "lighting stroke" which appears to him to be sufficient. In any doubtful cases he must have the épée which is under suspicion controlled again.
- 165 ART. 22.—The President will superintend the proper functioning of the electrical apparatus. Either on his own initiative or when asked to do so a competitor, he will have the necessary tests made in order to verify the apparatus and localise any fault which may be found as described in Article 37 below, para. 180. He will prevent the competitors complicating the tests by unplugging or untimely changing of their material.
- 166 ART. 23.—Each time the President considers it necessary, and each time one of the competitors requests it, he should consult the Experts for the electrical judging apparatus (see Article 27 para 170).
- 167 ART. 24.—If a competitor prevents the pursuance of the normal course of the competition by demanding continually and without cause tests of the material or consultations with the Experts, the President may refuse to accede to his claims and finally, after a warning, may score a hit against the competitor in question.

### 6. The Superintendent of the Apparatus.

- ART. 25.—The working of the electrical apparatus is effected by a Superintendent of the Apparatus. The Organizing Committee, under their own responsibility, must choose qualified persons to act as Superintendents of the Apparatus, who should follow the working of the apparatus with careful attention, in order that they may be able to advise the President as to what their apparatus has registered and warn him, even during the course of a bout, as to all abnormal phenomena which may arise
- ART. 26.—During a bout the Superintendent of the Apparatus must remain definitely apart from the apparatus and can only touch it when asked to do so by the President.
- ### 7. The Experts.
- ART. 27.—For each meeting the Executive Committee or the Organizing Committee must appoint Experts in matters relating to Electrical Judging. These Experts should be chosen from fencers who are competent regarding the working of the material used.
- ART. 28.—The Experts may be consulted, separately or conjointly, by the Presidents regarding all questions relating to the electrical apparatus. They will assist the latter to determine facts regarding the material, to localise breakdowns which may occur and will give them explanations regarding the different matters which arise and the conclusions to be drawn therefrom.
- ART. 29.—The Experts may also be called upon to furnish the same explanations to the Executive Committee, the Organizing Committee, the Court of Appeal (Jury d'Appel) or the Central Office of the I.F.F.
- ART. 30.—The Experts only have a consultative capacity in all cases and cannot give their opinions in those cases in which a fencer of their own nationality is involved.

### 8. The Repairers.

174 ART. 31.—The Organizing Committee must, for each international meeting, ensure the presence of competent Repairers to remedy faults which may arise during the competition to the personal equipment of the fencers, and, if necessary, to the rest of the electrical apparatus.

### 9. Ground Judges.

175 ART. 32.—If, in less important meetings, insulated tracks are not used, it is necessary to appoint two ground judges for each piste, who will take up the positions assigned to them by the President and who will constitute a Jury with him to decide whether a hit, registered by the apparatus, was made “on the ground” or not.

### 10. The Judging of Hits.

176 ART. 33.—*Fundamental Principle.*

**Only the indications of the electrical apparatus can be taken into consideration for judging hits. Under no circumstances can the President declare a competitor to be hit unless the hit has been properly registered by the apparatus.**

(Except as a penalty as laid down in the regulations).

On the other hand, the President should, in certain cases enumerated below, annul a hit registered by the apparatus.

177 ART. 34.—*Hits made before “Play” or after “Halt.”*

The President should annul all hits registered as a result of actions which are made at times not authorised for fencing. (See Chapters IV and VII of the General Rules).

178 ART. 35.—*Surface which is not valid.*

The President should annul the hit which is registered each time such registration is the result of the contact of the points of the épées or of a hit made on the ground outside the insulated track, on the connecting wire, on the body of the competitor himself who has made the hit, that is to say, generally on any object except the opponent and his equipment (including his body wire).

ART. 36.—At those meetings which are held without insulated tracks, the Jury, which is constituted in accordance with Article 32 para 175, reaches its decision regarding the question “on the ground” or not in accordance with the General Rules, each ground judge having one vote and the President one and a half votes. If, when a double hit is registered by the apparatus, one hit is on a valid surface and the other hit on a non-valid one, the hit on the valid surface should be held to be good. (1).

ART 37.—*Failure of the Apparatus. Principles.*

The Director of the bout should annul the hit last registered during the bout, but never more than that last hit, each time that a failure of the electrical apparatus places the competitor against whom the hit was registered at a disadvantage. This failure must be determined solely by tests made immediately after the bout was stopped under the supervision of the President and without changing anything whatever of the material in use.

These tests are not made in order to reconstruct what actually happened during the bout, which is immaterial to reach a decision, but are made in order to ascertain whether there was a material possibility of there being an error in the judgment by reason of a failure the localisation of which in the apparatus, including the personal equipment of either competitor, is similarly unimportant in reaching a decision. The annulment of the last hit is granted to the competitor who is found to be at a disadvantage by reason of the failure provided, naturally, that the apparatus has registered a hit against him.

A competitor who makes any modification in, or changes his material without being asked by the

(1) Only the two judges, who each have one vote, and the President, who has one and a half votes, decide if a hit has been made on the ground or not. If they cannot reach a majority decision that this is so (three abstentions or the two judges of different opinions and the President abstaining) the hit must be considered doubtful and be annulled. In no circumstances may the President take account of the opinions of other persons.

President to do so, before a judgment is pronounced, loses his right to the annulment of the hit. Similarly after again coming on guard and after the bout has effectively recommenced, a competitor cannot claim the annulment of a hit registered against him during a previous phase of the bout.

As soon as the judgment is pronounced, tests will be made to *localise* the fault in order to repair it. In order to effect this, all necessary modifications and exchanges can, of course, be made.

It is not necessary, in order to justify the annulment of a hit, that the failure found should repeat itself each time a test is made, but it is essential that the fault should be manifested without the possibility of doubt at least once.

When a double hit is registered, if an annulment is decided on, the hits on both sides will naturally be annulled, but this annulment is only obligatory, in the case of a failure *on one side only*, if the competitor who is alone at a disadvantage owing to the failure demands it. If this competitor accepts the double hit registered, it will be scored.

Example: A is leading 2—0 against B. The apparatus then registers a double hit. (A would thus win 3—1) but a fault is discovered (such as (c) in Article 38) which is to the disadvantage of A only. A then has the right to demand that a double hit shall be scored.

181 ART. 38.—*Definition of Specific Instances.*

The failures, determined by tests as laid down above, which may justify the annulment of the last hit registered are as follows:—

- (a) If a hit made on the guard (*coquille*) of the competitor against whom the hit was registered causes the apparatus to register a hit.
- (b) If a hit properly made by the competitor against whom the hit was registered does not cause the apparatus to register a hit.
- (c) If the apparatus fortuitously registers a hit on the side of the competitor against whom the hit

was registered. Example: after a beat on the blade, by any movements of his opponent, by vibrations on the piste which are transmitted to the central electrical apparatus or as a result of any cause other than a properly made hit.

- (d) If the registering of a hit made by the competitor against whom the hit was registered.
  - (1) does not prevent the registering of a subsequent hit made by his opponent after a lapse of time greater than that required to register a double hit.
  - (2) is even annulled by a subsequent hit made by his opponent.

In applying these rules the following points must be borne in mind:—

- (1) If the incidents (a) and (b) occur as a result of the unplugging of the contacts of the body wire of the competitor either near the hand, or at the back of the competitor, they cannot justify the annulment of the hit registered.

However, if the safety device as prescribed in Article 5 does not function or is missing, the competitor cannot be held responsible for the securing of the plugs at his back, and, in consequence, the annulment should be allowed if the unplugging of the contacts at his back occurs.

- (2) The fact that the épée of the competitor shows on the guard, on the blade or elsewhere large or small areas of insulation formed by oxidation, gum, paint or by any other materials, on which his opponent's hit may be registered, cannot justify the annulment of hits registered against that competitor.
- (3) The fact that the competitor against whom a hit is registered has broken his blade cannot *alone* justify the annulment of the hit registered, unless the latter results from a hit initiated by his opponent after "halt" or after the latter could have recognised the accident which occurred (see Chapter IV, "The Assault" para. 85 and

Chapter VII, "Maintenance of Order," para. 195). However, a verification will be made to see whether, by coincidence, there is another fault in the apparatus which may in itself justify the annulment of the hit. In order to do this, the broken end of the blade will be examined, and tests will be made by substituting a good épée for the broken one.

### 11. Penalties.

- 182 ART. 39.—Any competitor who, either deliberately or through negligence, abuses the above rules regarding the annulment of hits is liable to penalties. Thus :—
- 183 ART. 40.—Any competitor who, during a bout, voluntarily places his point on the ground outside the limits of the piste or on the piste itself, if the latter is not insulated, on his own body or on any surface other than that of his opponent, with the object of causing the apparatus to register, may, after one warning which is sufficient for the whole pool in which he is engaged, be penalised either by one hit each time he is guilty of this infraction or even the other sanctions laid down in Para. 204, Chapter VIII, of the General Rules.
- 184 ART. 41.—Each time that, after one of the incidents described in Article 38, Para 181 has occurred, the fault has been traced to the personal equipment (épée or body wire) of a fencer, the President will warn the competitor that he must repair or replace the equipment in question.
- 185 ART. 42.—If, during the same pool, the competitor again presents himself on the piste with an equipment which has the same defects and which causes the same incident during the bout (the case of damage to those portions of the épée which are situated in front of the guard (coquille) which may occur during a bout being excepted), the President should confiscate this equipment, which will only be returned to the competitor, after being put in order by the competent Repairers and against payment of the cost of such work.

ART. 43.—Further, in the case of a repetition 186 during the same pool, the competitor will no longer have the right to the annulment of the hit registered, unless he can prove extenuating circumstances (which must be carefully verified).

ART. 44.—If it is a case of (c), Article 38 Para. 181, sudden registering of the apparatus caused by the equipment of the competitor (possibly a case of a more serious fault owing to the fact that the defects in the equipment may be to the advantage of the fencer himself), the confiscation of the defective equipment is made for the duration of the competition and, as a penalty, if the fault is repeated, the competitor shall be obliged to finish the competition with an equipment which is entirely (épée and body wire) supplied to him by the organisers at the expense and entire risk of the competitor unless the latter can prove extenuating circumstances (which must be carefully verified).

ART. 45.—If the President observes that a competitor against whom a hit is registered acts in such a way as to destroy his own equipment in order to obtain the annulment of a hit, or that he has previously tampered with his equipment in such a way as to be able, at will, to cause either the registering of the apparatus or the non-functioning of his equipment, he should confiscate the equipment used by the competitor and put the case immediately before the Executive Committee or the Organizing Committee, who will have the facts examined from the electrical point of view by the Experts. Thereafter, if necessary, the case will be submitted to the Court of Appeal (Jury d'Appel) who can apply all the penalties laid down in the Rules. 188

### 12. Weapons which are Contrary to the Regulations.

ART. 46 —Each time a control of épées has been 189 organised before a competition, any fencer who arrives on the piste with an épée which does not conform to the Rules shall, the first time, receive a warning ; the second time his épée will be confiscated for the duration of the competition ; the third

time the competitor will be obliged to finish the competition with épées supplied by the organisers at his own expense and entire risk, unless he can prove that his épée has not been altered since the control was made and that, therefore, the error existed when the control was made.

190 ART. 47.—When a control of épées has not been organised before a competition, the above penalties cannot be applied, but, each time a case of non-conformity with the Rules is found, the épée in question will be confiscated and only returned to the competitor after it has been put in order by the Repairers who may be present, and this against payment for the expenses incurred.

191 ART. 48.—If the non-conformity to the Rules of an épée is only discovered after a hit has been registered, this discovery is not enough to justify the annulment of the hit, but, of course, this does not prevent the application, if necessary, of the repressive measures enumerated in Articles 46 and 47 para. 189 and 190.

192 ART. 49.—The Rules laid down in Articles 46, 47 and 48 paras. 189—191, are applicable to non-conformity with the Special Rules for the Electrical Apparatus. If a case arises of non-conformity of an épée with the General Rules the latter are applicable, that is to say the case will be submitted to the judgment of the disciplinary authorities. In such a case, therefore, it may thus be also a question of the annulment of hits.

### 13. General Rules.

193 ART. 50.—The General Rules of the I.F.F. remain in force on all points which are not contrary to these special regulations. Regarding this it should be noted :—

1. That the body wire replaces the martingale provided that it is properly affixed to the épée by a safety device ;
2. That the competitors retain the places assigned to them during the whole bout and even after a turning movement, unless the President considers it his duty to decide otherwise ;

3. That the Rule that competitors are responsible for their own equipment laid down in Chapter II., A, para. 51, is wholly applicable to the electrical equipment.

## CHAPTER VII.

### Maintenance of Order.

ARTICLE 1.—In all competitions between nations, 194 the competitors of the same nationality must be under the direction of a **TEAM CAPTAIN** (who may or may not fence), who is responsible to the Organizing Committee for the discipline, conduct, and sportsmanship of these competitors. The members of his team must give him absolute obedience, under pain of action on the part of the National Federation. The team captain alone has the right to approach the Organizing Committee, the juries, etc., in order to decide technical matters, register protests, or make observations. The members of the team who strictly carry out his instructions—in so far as they do not constitute a violation of the Rules for Competitions—cannot be held responsible for them before the competent authorities. However, they always remain personally responsible for all actions which they may commit apart from the intervention of their captain, and for all actions which they commit which violate the provisions of these regulations.

ART. 2.—Competitors must obey strictly the 195 orders given by the President of the jury ; they must fence with their weapons only ; they must initiate no offensive action before the order “Play” is given ; they must make every effort to avoid making any action of offence after the order “Halt” has been given, or after they perceive that their opponent is absolutely unable to defend himself by reason of any occurrence which radically modifies the normal and initial conditions of the assault, e.g., disarmament, unintentional fall, the breaking of a blade, the raising of the bavette, the displacement of the mask, etc.

No thrust or hit made by a competitor against his opponent after the order "Halt" has been given, or after the occurrence of anything which modifies the regular and normal conditions of the assault, is valid if, on the one hand, between the giving of the order to halt, or the occurrence in question and, on the other hand, the thrust or hit which is made, there has elapsed a sufficient interval of time to allow the competitor to notice the accident which has happened to his opponent and to withhold his thrust or hit.

Every competitor is at liberty to acknowledge aloud a hit which he has received at the moment he receives it. (1). It is absolutely forbidden for fencers to acknowledge a hit which they have received, after the President of the jury has given his decision, and to make any gestures or communications (*except the acknowledgment of the hit as allowed*) which might influence the decisions of the judges.

The President must warn a competitor who does not fence in a straightforward and correct manner and should there be a repetition of the offence, he may cause the exclusion of the competitor concerned from participation in the competition.

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ART. 3.—By the mere fact of taking part in a competition, a fencer pledges his honour to observe the regulations and the decisions of the judges, to be respectful towards the judges, to expend the same vigour and give the same attention in each assault, and to defend his personal chance in a sportsmanlike manner until the end of the competition without giving away hits or seeking to be favoured in scoring hits by anyone whatever, and so to conduct himself as to obtain the best personal position in the classification which he can, unless he is prevented from so doing by reason of material or physical impediments duly recognised by the President.

The President must exclude any competitor who, after having been warned once, *in his opinion*

(1). But this acknowledgment must not necessarily override the Jury who can still deliberate on the hit.

manifestly endeavours to favour the play of his opponent. He must take similar action against the latter if there is collusion between them.

The President must exclude a competitor who, after having been warned once, continues, either by his play, or by his movements, or by his changes of position to cause harm to his opponent, the jury or the spectators.

At all three weapons the President must exclude a competitor who, after being warned once, commits a vindictive action (such as hits made with undue violence, or a cut with the sabre made intentionally on a part of the body not included in the target).

At all three weapons the President must exclude a competitor who, after having been warned once, provokes the *corps a corps* with intentional violence, throws himself violently on his opponent, or, when fencing at close quarters, intentionally hits his opponent with the guard, hilt or poommel.

At all three weapons the "flèche attack" which ends by a shock which jostles the opponent, is considered as an act of intentional violence; when such a "flèche attack" results in a hit before any warning is given, the hit remains valid; a hit made in the same manner, but after a warning, will be annulled and the competitor should be penalised by one hit or should be expelled; the warning remains in force during the whole of the pool.

On the other hand, the "flèche attack made by running" past the opponent and without jostling him is not an act of violence (1). However, if the competitor who makes a "flèche by running" crosses the lateral boundaries of the piste he may be punished as laid down in Chapter IV., No. 7, "Crossing the limits of the piste" (para. 92).

ART. 4.—All forms of "doping" of a competitor during or before an event are absolutely forbidden. *Doping is the use of all stimulants of abnormal usage with the object of increasing the athletic powers of a competitor beyond the normal.*

197

(1). In this event the President should not prevent the *reposte* being made, even on the back, by calling "Halt" too quickly.

A medical commission will decide which materials are dopes and which are normal refreshments. (1).

As laid down in Chapter VIII, paras. 202—207 below any "fencer" knowingly acting in this way, or knowingly assisting in this way shall be disqualified immediately, be suspended or expelled from the meeting without prejudice to later suspension or permanent disqualification.

198 ART. 5.—At the appointed time, the President commissioned by the Organizing Committee or the Executive Committee, must call over the names of the fencers or of the teams who are to fence before him. If, when the name is first called, a competitor or a team is not present, or if a team is incomplete, the name will be called twice more at one minute intervals. The fencer or the team not actually present when the third call over is made will be irrevocably excluded from the competition con-

(1). The Federation Internationale Medico-Sportive considered the question of "doping" at its Paris Meeting in September, 1948, it was unanimously decided that "doping" should be forbidden. The conclusions were :—

"Any substance taken, or treatment applied on the day of the competition" which can artificially or fraudulently increase the true performance of an athlete is considered as "doping." However, anything which is done during training with a view solely to re-establish the physiological equilibrium is not considered as "doping."

It was not considered necessary to enumerate the substances the use of which is forbidden; a study was made of the substances, diets and practices which are designed to improve the performance of athletes by placing them in the best physiological condition or the best possible form. Any system which improves form and muscular performance in a lasting manner is allowable.

However, innumerable substances give a momentary stimulation and improved performance over a very short period; these should be forbidden; for example: strychnine, caffeine, cocaine, atropine, nitro-glycerine, morphine and its derivatives, as well as other products of opium, arsenical salts, camphor, etc. Many other basic products found in a multitude of specialities based on coca, kola, caffeine, heroin and especially benzidrine, pervitine, etc.

*During training*, if required the functional imperfections to which an athlete is subject, can be corrected by therapeutic treatment to provide the basis necessary for the sport for which the athlete is being trained.

cerned, and no appeal against this ruling must be entertained.

During a competition, each bout will be clearly announced in advance in order to give the competitors concerned time to get ready.

After this announcement, if a competitor due to fence does not present himself at the first order to do so by the President, he will be excluded irrevocably from the competition in question.

Similarly, a competitor who abandons a match by leaving the piste must be excluded irrevocably from the competition in question unless he presents himself again at the first order to do so from the President, the said order to be given without delay.

Should a case which is recognised as being beyond the control of the competitor arise (for example the breaking of a blade, disarrangement of the clothing, accident, illness, etc.), the President is authorised to allow the necessary delay before giving his order to resume.

Should a member of a team withdraw at the moment when a match is to be fought he may incur disqualification.

ART. 6.—Spectators are expected not to interfere 199 with the good order of a competition, to do nothing which may tend to influence the fencers or the jury, and to respect the decisions of the jury even when they do not approve of them. They must obey any instructions which the President may deem it necessary to give them.

Unless the spectators conform to this rule, the President has the right to have them expelled, and the enforcing of this measure does not give anyone whomsoever the right to any redress.

ART. 7.—It is the *duty* of the Organizing Com- 200 mittee, or the Executive Committee immediately to find a substitute for a President or for a member of the jury, when they think that, for any reason whatever, even without question of their perfect good faith, such a substitution is necessary, either

on technical grounds, or to maintain the good order of the competition.

201 ART. 8.—No appeal can be made against the decision of a President regarding the materiality and the validity of a hit. But if the President ignores a definite rule or makes a decision contrary to the rules, an appeal on this matter may be entertained.

This appeal should be made by the competitor or his team captain, without formality and should be made verbally to the President *immediately and before any decision is made regarding a subsequent hit.*

### CHAPTER VIII.

## Discipline.

### A. Introduction.

202 ARTICLE 1.—The regulations laid down in the present chapter apply to all persons who take part in, or who are present in any capacity whatever at an international fencing meeting (organizers, officials, team captains, competitors, spectators, trainers, etc., whether amateurs or not, and of all nationalities). These persons are described as "fencers" hereinafter.

### B. Classification of Offences.

203 ART. 2.—The actions included in the following categories are regarded as offences and are punished according to their gravity :

(a) Violation of the technical regulations governing assaults ;

(b) Violation of the regulations and decisions of the Organizing Committees or of the International Fencing Federation ;

(c) Lack of respect towards the members of the jury or their decisions ;

(d) Manifestations made in any way whatsoever which may compromise the proper order and the discipline of a competition, or which may prejudice the interests of fencing.

### C. — Nature of Penalties.

ART. 3.—The following penalties are applicable 204 to the offences enumerated above :

(a) *Applicable to competitors, team captains or 205 teams :*

During competitions { Warning.  
Penalty of one hit.  
Exclusion from the competition.  
Disqualification from participation in the meeting.

After the competitions { Suspension { Penalties inflicted by the National Federation or the Central Office of the International Fencing Federation according to their jurisdiction (see ARTS. 17 and 18 para. 221—222).  
Permanent dis-qualification

(b) *Applicable to officials :* 206

During competitions { Censure.  
Suspension for duration of meeting.

After the competitions { Extension of the suspension { National Federation or Central Office of the International Fencing Federation (see ARTS. 17 and 18 para. 221—222).  
Permanent dis-qualification

(c) *Applicable to spectators or trainers :* (the 207 spectators or trainers to whom sections (a) or (b) above apply are governed by the penalties enumerated therein).

During competitions { Warning.  
Expulsion.

ART. 4.—*Exclusion* from a competition means 208 that the person or the team so excluded cannot continue to take part in it no matter what classification may have been obtained.

ART. 5.—*Disqualification* from participation in a 209 meeting, means that the team or the fencer so disqualified is definitely eliminated from the meeting concerned, that is to say from the competition

which was taking place at the time of the disqualification, and from all subsequent competitions of the same meeting.

210 ART. 6.—When a penalty has been inflicted on a team, the position of each member of that team must be examined individually, and the members of that team may, if necessary, have different penalties inflicted on them. (see chapter VII, ART. 1, para. 194).

211 ART. 7.—*Expulsion* means that the person expelled will no longer have the right to be present at the meeting concerned.

212 ART. 8.—*Suspension* means that the person suspended will no longer have the right to exercise his functions within the limits of time and place fixed when the suspension is inflicted.

213 ART. 9.—*Permanent disqualification* implies the same consequences as suspension, but it is final unless the special clemency provided for in ART. 24, para. 232, hereunder, is exercised.

214 ART. 10.—The Organizing Committee is obliged without delay to inform the National Association to which it belongs as to its decision, and the latter must register the penalty and immediately advise the Central Office of the International Fencing Federation of it. The latter will also register the decision arrived at and will ensure the publication of it in the official journal.

215 ART. 11.—At the Olympic Games where the International Fencing Federation assumes the duties of Organizing Committee, the Central Office must advise the Olympic Games Committee.

#### D. Jurisdiction.

216 ART. 12.—The duty of noting the offences enumerated above and of inflicting the relative penalties is vested in:

The president of the jury in charge of the competition;

The Court of Appeal (*jury d'appel*);

The Organizing Committees;

The National Federations;

The Central Office of the International Fencing Federation;

The Congress of the International Fencing Federation;

At the Olympic Games, the Championships of the World and meetings under the patronage of the International Fencing Federation, in the Executive Committee.

At the Olympic Games, in the Court of Honour (*jury d'honneur*), under the conditions laid down in article 16, para. 220 below.

ART. 13.—The violations of the technical regulations for assaults are penalised by the president of the jury in charge of the competition, in accordance with the provisions of the rules for competitions. 217

The president of the jury in charge of a competition has jurisdiction over all the fencers who take part in or are present at a competition over which he is presiding; he can, without referring to his assistants, pronounce a warning, a penalty of one hit, a penalty of exclusion (against the competitors), or of expulsion (against the spectators or trainers). His decisions regarding questions of fact are not subject to appeal. He recommends to the Executive Committee or to the Organizing Committee all other penalties which he deems advisable.

ART. 14.—The Court of Appeal (*jury d'appel*) has jurisdiction over all fencers who take part in or are present at a meeting. 218

The Court of Appeal (*jury d'appel*) must immediately be assembled (1) by the Organizing Committee or by the Executive Committee either on their own initiative or at the request of the team captains, the official delegates of the Federations concerned, the presidents of the juries, or the delegate of the Central Office of the International Fencing Federation.

(1). See Chapter 1, Art. 2, para. 5.

It may inflict all the penalties enumerated in ART. 3 for the duration of the competition. It may recommend to the Central Office of the International Fencing Federation a suspension, the extension of a suspension, or a permanent disqualification.

- 219 ART. 15.—The Organizing Committee, and finally the Executive Committee, have jurisdiction over all the fencers who take part in, or who are present at, a meeting which they organize or direct. They may inflict all the penalties enumerated in ART. 3 para. 205—207, for the duration of the meeting. If it should be necessary, they advise the Court of Appeal (*jury d'appel*) of the complaints and protests which they receive. They may intervene in all disagreements, either at the request of the Court of Appeal (*jury d'appel*) or on their own initiative, when it is absolutely necessary.

The Executive Committee sends direct to the Central Office of the International Fencing Federation requests for suspensions, extensions of suspensions, or permanent disqualifications. When there is no Executive Committee, the Organizing Committee sends these requests to its National Federation.

The Organizing Committee fulfils the functions of the Court of Appeal (*jury d'appel*) when it is not possible to form the latter.

It is obliged to ensure the execution of any penalty which is inflicted.

- 220 ART. 16.—The Court of Honour (*jury d'honneur*) at the Olympic Games is appointed by the International Olympic Executive Commission and functions according to the dispositions of the General Rules governing the holding of these Games.

- 221 ART. 17.—The National Federation is the competent body for all fencing events organized in its territory; it has jurisdiction by its regular disciplinary procedure over all fencers who reside, even transiently, within its territory.

It may inflict within the limits of its territory all the penalties enumerated in ART. 3, paras. 205—207.

It may propose to the Central Office of the International Fencing Federation the extension beyond its own territory of penalties inflicted by itself.

It deals with complaints which reach it through the regular channels; it has the right to bring up directly, at whatever stage the matter may be, the question of any offence enumerated in ART. 2, para. 203, committed in its territory.

When a foreign fencer, not normally under its jurisdiction, is concerned, the Federation can inflict the penalty only after receiving advice from the National Federation which would normally be concerned. The latter must give its opinion within one month, not including the time required for normal postal delay. If no opinion has been given at the expiration of this period, the penalty is inflicted. Should there be disagreement between the two Federations concerned, the file containing all particulars regarding the matter is forwarded to the Central Office of the International Fencing Federation.

- ART. 18.—The Central Office of the International Fencing Federation within the limits of the countries under its jurisdiction, is the competent body to deal with all matters which it may receive from a National Federation, a Court of Appeal (*jury d'appel*) or the Executive Committee of an international meeting. 222

The Central Office of the International Fencing Federation may inflict all the penalties enumerated in ART. 3, paras. 205—207, it may confirm, increase or annul the penalties inflicted by the lesser authorities.

The parties concerned will always have the right to defend themselves either orally or by written statement within the time limit allowed by the Central Office.

223 ART. 19.—The Congress of the International Fencing Federation has the same rights as the Central Office. It may be advised of any matter which may arise either by the Central Office or by one of the affiliated groups.

**E.—Complaints and Protests.—Procedure.**

224 ART. 20.—The various penalties are inflicted by the competent authorities who will reach their decisions in an equitable manner, without being restricted to any regulation as to procedure, and will take into account the gravity of the offence and the circumstances in which it was committed.

However, as far as possible, the following principles should be observed :

225 (a) Complaints and protests must be made in writing within a maximum period of one hour after the occurrence giving rise to them (1); they must be addressed to the Organizing Committee, and finally to the Executive Committee ;

226 (b) No penalty can be inflicted until after an enquiry has been held in the course of which the parties concerned have been called on to give their explanation of the occurrence either verbally or in writing within a reasonable interval of time suited to the time and place. After this time limit has expired, the penalty may be inflicted ;

227 (c) The decisions of the Court of Appeal (*jury d'appel*) are made according to the vote of the majority, in cases of equality the president has the casting vote ;

228 (d) The appeal against a penalty, when it is possible, does not itself suspend the penalty.

**F. Stay of Execution.**

229 ART. 21.—If the party involved has not previously incurred a penalty of disqualification or suspension, either for the same offence or for one which is practically similar, with or without stay of execution, the authority which inflicts the

(1). Except as laid down in Art, 8, Chapter VII, para. 201.

penalty may, at the same time, grant a stay of execution the duration of which is double that of the suspension inflicted.

If, during the time of the stay of execution, from the time the decision inflicting the penalty was announced, the party concerned incurs no further penalty, the original penalty is annulled. If the contrary should be the case, then the original penalty is enforced and is added to the new penalty.

**G. Repetition of Offence.**

ART. 22.—A fencer is said to repeat an offence 230 if he commits a new offence, other than violation of the rules governing assaults :

Within two years, if he has previously been censured or warned ;

Within five years, if he has previously been suspended, or subjected to exclusion, or disqualified.

ART. 23.—If there is a repetition of an offence, 231 the minimum penalty which must be inflicted is :

(a) Exclusion from the competition (competitors), suspension during the meeting (officials), expulsion (spectators), if the previous penalty was a warning or censure.

(b) Disqualification from participation in the meeting if the previous penalty was exclusion from the competition.

(c) Suspension for double the time of the previous penalty, or permanent disqualification, if the previous penalty was suspension (competitors or officials).

**H. Pardon, Remission and Commutation of Penalty.**

ART. 24.—In exceptional cases, the Central 232 Office or the Congress of the International Fencing Federation, or a National Federation, may, after special consideration, pardon a fencer whom they have punished, remit the remainder of his penalty or commute the same.

ANNEX

Match-Plans for Direct Elimination  
for Individual Competitions.

MATCH PLAN FOR:—

8 Competitors	16 Competitors	32 Competitors
{ 1 _____	{ 1 _____	{ 1 _____
{ 8 _____	{ 16 _____	{ 32 _____
{ 5 _____	{ 9 _____	{ 17 _____
{ 4 _____	{ 8 _____	{ 16 _____
_____	{ 5 _____	{ 9 _____
{ 3 _____	{ 12 _____	{ 24 _____
{ 6 _____	{ 13 _____	{ 25 _____
{ 7 _____	{ 14 _____	{ 8 _____
{ 2 _____	_____	{ 5 _____
	{ 3 _____	{ 28 _____
	{ 14 _____	{ 21 _____
	{ 11 _____	{ 12 _____
	{ 6 _____	{ 13 _____
	{ 7 _____	{ 20 _____
	{ 10 _____	{ 29 _____
	{ 15 _____	{ 4 _____
	{ 2 _____	_____
		{ 3 _____
		{ 30 _____
		{ 19 _____
		{ 14 _____
		{ 11 _____
		{ 22 _____
		{ 27 _____
		{ 6 _____
		{ 7 _____
		{ 26 _____
		{ 23 _____
		{ 10 _____
		{ 15 _____
		{ 18 _____
		{ 31 _____
		{ 2 _____

N.B.—on these Match-Plans the Nos. 1, 2, 3, etc., indicate the places to be assigned to the "Têtes de série" in order of merit.

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