

1994 F.I.E. Congress

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Report from Carl Schwende, M.H., FIE, President de la Commission des Reglements (our Canadian FIE Representative and the CFF Past President)

1994 F.I.E. Congress

Athens, Greece

Carl Schwende

This year's Congress was organized just following the World Championships from July 8 to July 12 (Executive and Commission meetings prior to Congress).

With a record participation of athletes during the World Championships we also registered a record participation of 60 countries at the Congress.

The major changes submitted and agreed upon during the Congress:

1. Last minute warning modification of Art. 46&47 (Page 22)

"No warning nor audible signal to indicate the start of the last minute with or without a clock (chronometer) visible to the two fencers."

2. Equality at the end of regulation time

"In case of equality of score at the end of regulation time, add one supplementary minute up to the first decisive hit. Before resuming the match again the Referees draws a lot to determine who the winner will be in case a tie persists after the supplementary minute.

This text will be valid in all cases namely, pools and direct elimination matches including the match for the finals, and the team matches."

Note: a technical vote was used.

3. Format

Several proposals were received from Federations who wished to go back to the former D.E. format i.e. 3 x 5 hits or 5 x 7 hits or 2 x 8 hits. However, the Congress followed the commissions recommendation and voted the status quo. We also eliminated the knock out regulation that was proposed. It was proposed that after one fencer led another by 10 hits that the fencer with the overwhelming lead in a 15 hit bout would automatically win. We felt after the experience at the recent World Championships that all matches must go to the finish whatever the results.

4. On guard at the reprise of the match (Art. 36)

Replacing of the two fencers at the start of the second and third periods must take place in the middle of the Piste (behind the Guard lines).

5. Sabre (Art. 417 to 422)

The step forward crossing over the legs, the fliche and every advance crossing over the legs are not allowed. Every infraction will lead to the penalties described in Art. 636, 637 & 641 (1st group). Any hit scored by the fencer at fault will be annulled. On the other hand, any hit correctly executed by the opponent will be counted. Art. 423, hit made in simultaneous attacks do not score, but any incorrectly timed stop hit into such an action should not be counted.

6. 2 Meter Warning line

The proposal to reestablish the 2 meter warning line was refused.

7. Coloured fencing clothing (Art. 27)

Fencers may wear coloured fencing clothing, of one single lightly-shaded colour.

8. Brassard

The proposal to keep the brassard (arm bands) for finals was accepted.

9. Auto collant (numbered mask stickers)

The utilization of numbers on the masks is no longer required but these stickers can still be used for publicity purposes.

10. Random Selection by 4

Random selection by sections of 4 (from the 17th to 64th place was eliminated).

11. Random Selection by 2

Random selection by sections of 2 instead of 4 for the first 16 places (1&2, 3&4, 5&6, etc.)

12. FIE Rules for Competition reorganization

To reorganize the FIE Rules for Competition and suggest the following sub-sections:

1. General Rules of Fencing
2. Rules for Competition
3. Reference formulas for other than official FIE competitions, (Historical background and experiences)

13. More courteous behaviour by fencers:

Before the start of a bout, both fencers must salute their opponent, Referee and the audience (if such an audience is present). If no salute is made, a penalty (red card followed by a black card) is awarded. After the last hit is scored, the bout is not ended until both fencers have again saluted in the same fashion. If either or both fencers fail to salute, they are excluded from the competition and suspended from the subsequent two competitions.

14. Team World Cup Cat. A

The principle of a World Cup by teams (of 3 fencers) was accepted and the Commission proposed the following basic working rules.

The Team World Cup will be determined in the following fashion:

- a. Each organizer of an Individual World Cup, can organize on the following day (2nd or 3rd day) a competition of the Team World Cup.
- b. The four (4) best results are counted for a World Cup Team Ranking (3 max. per Zone)
- c. The points are being awarded in accordance with the present rules in force. All places from 1 to 8 being fenced off.
- d. Only one team per country is allowed to participate.
- e. The organizers must state in their invitation that a team and an individual competition will take place. Application for a Team World Cup must be made to the FIE at the same time as the application for an Individual World Cup.
- f. The registration for teams must be made at the same time as the registration for individual participants.
- g. If there are less than 5 teams then the competition is canceled.
- h. The teams are made from 3 fencers with or without a replacement.
- i. Every countries team composition can be changed without limits during the season.
- j. F.I.E. rules will be applicable.

15. Athlete Representation

An athlete representative will be invited to the meetings of the Rules Commission.

16. World Cup Organization

World Cups must be organized in two (2) days, first day - preliminaries and second day starting with the principal table of 64.

If however a World Cup "A" tournament is organized in one (1) day it must have:

- a. a pause of 3 hours before starting the principal table of 64.
- b. the finals must start at the latest by 19:00 hours.

17. Bout order

The order of bout of the team competition for 3 competitors will be:

3-6	6-1	1-4
5-1	3-4	6-2
2-4	5-2	3-5

(confirmation of the decision made by Executive Committee in Oct. 1993 and noted in "L'aménagement des Textes de la F.I.E. 1993)

18. Numbers of Referees accompanying delegations:

For World Cups "A":

1 to 4 fencers	0 referees
5 to 9 fencers	1 referee

10 or more fencers 2 referees

For combined World Championships of Juniors and Cadets the Commission proposed not to double the required number of referees. The following outlines the referee requirements for such a combined Junior/Cadet or Senior World Championships:

1 to 4 fencers	0 referees
5 to 12 fencers	1 referee
13 to 20 fencers	2 referees
21 to 30 fencers	3 referees

19. Force calculation for World Cups

The submission to calculate the force of events (World Cups) was not accepted.

20. Width of fencing pistes

The width of the fencing piste may be from 1.50 m to 2.00 m (change page 8 and art. #15, 202, 302 and 402.)

21. Earning of World Cup points

A fencer who has not won a bout cannot earn any World Cup points.

22. Relay competition

The multi-discipline relay competition at the Junior/Cadet World Championships should be continued, but should not be a world championship but a world youth trophy.

23. Seeding of athletes at Cadet World Championships

A recommendation to the D.T. for the seeding of athletes at the Cadet World Championships.

1. the first 8 from last years Cadet World Championships
2. the first 64 from the current Junior World Cup ranking
3. fencers who finished between 9th and 32nd place at last years Cadet World Championships
4. fencers who placed from the 65th to last place in the previous years junior world championships
5. the order of fencers established by the National Federations
6. the D.T.'s decision

24. Protests over the composition of pools (Art. #662)

Protest over the composition of the Pools may be made 16 hours before the beginning of the competition, but limited to 19.00 hours.

25. Obligatory use of 800 Newton clothing

We are maintaining the 800 Newton of the fencing clothing but adding an obligatory 800 Newton protective under jacket.

26. Foil bib as a valid target

In foil, the bib of the mask will be part of the valid target, applicable Jan. 1st 1995.

27. Formula for team event per relay

- a. It will be applicable for all disciplines (weapons).
 - b. Each team will consist of three (3) fencers with or without one substitute.
 - c. The order of fencers is established by the team captains.
 - d. The order of bouts is as established per F.I.E. rules for teams of three.
 - e. The replacement of fencers is per F.I.E. Rules (team competition).
 - f. The individual stages (rounds) of the relay match are fenced until one or both fencers has reached the score of 5 hits, within the time limit of 4 minutes of fencing time to a maximum of 45 hits. At the end of each stage (round) the next two (2) designated fencers will continue the match at the score achieved by the two previous fencers and fence until one or both of them has achieved the score of 10 hits, within the time limit of 4 minutes of fencing time and so on successively up to 45 hits.
- If at the end of each stage of 4 minutes of fencing time 5 hits are not delivered, the score remains as is (i.e. if the bout is 3-2 after regulation 4 minutes time, the next stage (bout) will continue until at least one fencer has reached 10 hits (or 15, 20 hits etc).
- g. If the score is tied at the end of regulation time (last stage) F.I.E. rules will apply
 - h. If a fencer and the designated replacement are unable to continue the relay match is lost for the team.
 - i. If a fencer is penalized and excluded the relay match is lost for their team (no replacement permitted)
 - j. For all other circumstances, the F.I.E. rules will apply.

28. Official languages

Spanish and English languages were accepted as co-official languages. French will remain the basic language if a question of interpretation of some point arrives. Internationally, French will remain the language of Refereeing.

General Notes:

- 29. Candidature for new competitions and changes must be submitted 10 days before the Commission's Spring meetings.
- 30. The Semi-Commission informed the Congress that they were studying the development of a more rigid sabre blade.
- 31. A new plastic mask was developed which permits good breathing; however the mask is far from being ready to use in competition.
- 32. The study for the usage of the sensor is continuing.
- 33. New publicity code will allow logos up to 50 sq. cm.
- 34. A new regulation as proposed by the arbitration committee after discussions with the I.O.C. was accepted that as of the 94/95 season, no referee aged 60 and over will be allowed to referee at F.I.E. competitions.
- 35. Olympic Games Qualifications

Several meetings were held prior to the congress with I.O.C. director of sport Mr. Feli where the various alternatives were discussed. Mr. Feli attended as well this portion of the Congress, one of the important directives received from the I.O.C. was:

 - i. Quality of Athletes
 - ii. Quality of Representation
 - iii. Quality of Universality

a. To start, we stress the fact that the selection of individual fencers and teams is the strict competence of the National Olympic Committee and the National Federation.

b. The fact to follow the criteria below does not necessarily give any one the right of selection.

c. The total entry cannot exceed 220 fencers unless the I.O.C. allows special wild cards.

d. No country can be represented by more than 3 fencers per weapon.

e. Four (4) geographic Zones: America, Asia/Oceania, Africa, and Europe.

f. The team of the host country is automatically qualified in all five weapons

g. the top seven (7) teams from the World Championships prior to the Olympic year are qualified.

h. Also qualified, are the 16 first fencers in the international World Cup classification who are not part of a National teams already qualified, these fencers are chosen nominatively. The selection is based on World Cup Standings as of March/April of the Olympic year.

i. And finally, 3 to 4 fencers who will be qualified by each of the 4 zones. The zone must indicate before December 31, prior to the Games, if the zone intends to select one team or individuals (max. 3 to 4 individuals or one team and one individual).

Note: The Pan-Am Games, held in Argentina in March 1995, will likely be the event which will be the selection basis for our Continental Olympic criteria for teams and / or individuals. There is currently no scheduled date for the Continental Conference Olympic selection criteria decision making process meeting. The FIE has stated only that the decision of the Continental Conferences be decided and forwarded to the FIE office prior to December 31, 1995. We must attempt to push our Continental decision making meeting forward to a date immediately prior to the Pan-Am Games.
- 36. A total of nine (9) new A grade World Cups have been accepted as part of the new marketing/zonal promotion (namely men's foil: Le Caire EGY - women's epee: Buenos Aires ARG, Santa Cruz BOL - men's epee: Le Caire EGY, La Havane CUB, Rio de Janeiro BRE, Buenos Aires ARG - women's foil: La Havane CUB, Atlanta USA) All competitions noted as candidates for world cup "A" tournaments, are in actuality fully official competitions of the FIE in spite of the fact that they are organized for the first year. Note: The new World Cups marked as "Candidates" in the FIE Calendar should have, according to our records, the approval of the FIE Congress that World Cup points should be awarded to all deserving athletes at these events, despite the fact that these events are first year competitions of the FIE. There is, however, some contrary opinions from members of the FIE on this issue, which will soon be resolved.
- 37. General Information

Junior/Cadet World Championships	1995 Paris, FRA
FIE Commission	1995 Paris, FRA
Senior World Championships	1995 La Haye, HOL
FIE Congress	1995 Paris, FRA
Junior World Championships	1996 Tournai, BEL
Olympic Games	1996 Atlanta