

CHANGES TO BFA RULES 2006 EDITION – JULY 11, 2008, VERSION

(latest updates are to be found in section 7)

1) SEPTEMBER 2006: DECISIONS AT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

t.37 and t.38: *Replace these articles by the following:-*

Olympic Games and World Championships

Individual competitions

- t.37 1** For the rounds of pools and the direct elimination table, **the Refereeing Delegates** select the referees by drawing lots.
- 2** **For the pools**, the referee must be of a different nationality from that any of the fencers in the pool.
- 3** For the **direct elimination tables at each weapon**, the Refereeing Delegates establish, among the referees present, a list of the best referees at each weapon (according to the grades obtained during the season).
- For each quarter of the table, 4 referees are assigned by drawing lots from among at least 7 to 8 referees, to referee the bouts in the order of the table. They must be of a different nationality from that of any of the fencers participating in that quarter of the table.
- As the table progresses, the referees will be switched around in a sequence established beforehand.
- 4** At the end of each round, the Refereeing Delegates can **withdraw a referee** whose performance was not satisfactory. This decision must be taken by the majority of the Refereeing Delegates present. However, a referee may not be changed during of a bout except in exceptional circumstance. In such a case the decision, which must be well founded, must be taken by the majority of the Refereeing Delegates present (this rule is equally valid for team competitions).
- 5** **For the final of 4**, the Refereeing Delegates, immediately after the end of the direct elimination tables, select 4 referees by lot from among at least **7 to 8** referees, who must be of a different nationality from any of the fencers.
- 10 minutes before the final, the Refereeing Delegates will draw lots to assign the referees for all the bouts at the same time, in the following order: 1st semi-final, 2nd semi-final, final, and 3rd place (Olympic Games).
- 6** **The drawing of lots is done** with the help of a computer for the pools and up to the direct elimination table of 64 and by hand from the direct elimination table of 64 onwards.

t.38 *Team competitions*

The same rules as those in article t.37 3), 4), 5) and 6) are applied to the team competitions, with two referees per match

o.54.1: *Replace the title and sub-article 1 with the following:-*

Entries by name for Senior and Junior World Cup competitions, Satellite competitions and Zonal competitions

CHANGES SUPERCEDED BY THAT MADE IN MAY, 2007.

o.79: *Add a sub-article o.79.4 as follows:-*

- 4** **For Zonal Championships, both Senior and Junior**, each national federation may enter:-
- a maximum of 4 fencers per weapon in the individual competitions.
 - one team (consisting of 3 fencers with or without a reserve) per weapon in the team competitions.

2) DECEMBER 2006: DECISIONS AT NOVEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

o.53.3: *ADD at the end of the first para:-*

Nevertheless one or more fencers may be added, up until 10.00am on the day before the competition, after payment to the FIE of a fine of 150 euros per fencer added.

To do this, the national federations must address a request to the FIE to add a fencer, together with the payment equivalent to the fine.

MODIFY the second para to read as follows:-

Changes of name, only with the agreement of the FIE and only for reasons of 'force majeure' or injury, can only be made up to 24 hours before each event.

Book m., annexe A, page 39, ADD an overall introduction:

SEE BELOW, FEBRUARY DECISIONS, FOR REVISED VERSION

Book m., annexe A, page 50, 4.1, MODIFY the first para. as follows:-

To obtain FIE homologation, the manufacturer must send his masks to one of the following three institutes: : In Germany "Denkendorf"; in France CRITT or IFTH. The institute will conduct penetration resistance tests on the metal mesh and the visor of the sample masks presented in accordance with the CEN norms (e.g. Norm EN 13567).

Book m., annexe B, page 61, ADD an overall introduction

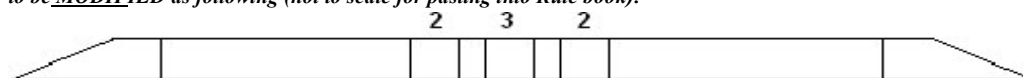
The installation of a clock and a system for showing the score are both obligatory for the homologation of scoring apparatuses; they must be visible to the spectators.

3) FEBRUARY 2007: DECISIONS AT FEBRUARY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

t.1: ADD to the end of the article:-

- The Zonal Championships.

Page 9, diagram: The profile diagram showing the position of the lights in the side of the raised piste, etc was obsolete and is to be MODIFIED as following (not to scale for pasting into Rule book):-



2 = Extension lamps

3 = Scoring apparatus

t.35.1: MODIFY the first sentence as follows:

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

t.45.2, last paragraph: REPLACE the last two lines by:-

m.23.4) Commits an offence in the first group and will be penalised in accordance with Articles t.114, t.116 and t.120.

t.87.5 and t.87.6 (Non-Combativity): REPLACE both these sections of t.87 with the following (date of implementation March 1st, 2007):-

.5 Individual events

a) If during the two first periods of a direct elimination bout both fencers make clear their unwillingness to fight *, the Referee will award a warning (yellow card) against each of the two fencers and will proceed to the next period, without the minute rest.

b) **If the offence is repeated**, the Referee will each time award a penalty hit (red card) against each of the two fencers and will proceed to the next period, without the minute rest.

c) When both fencers make clear their unwillingness to fight * during the **third period** of a direct elimination bout:-

i) if there has been no occurrence of the offence during the preceding periods, the Referee will award a warning (yellow card) against each fencer, and will proceed to a last minute of fencing;

ii) if the offence has already been committed during the course of the preceding periods, the Referee will award a penalty hit (red card) against each of the fencers, and will proceed to a last minute of fencing;

This last minute, which will be fenced in its entirety, will be decisive and will be preceded by a drawing of lots to decide the winner should the scores be equal at the end of the minute.

6 Team events

a) If both teams make clear their **unwillingness to fight** * during a team match, the Referee will award a warning (yellow card) against each of the two teams and will proceed to the next bout.

b) **If the offence is repeated**, the Referee will each time award a penalty hit (red card) against each of the teams and will proceed to the next bout, and so on up to the last bout.

c) If both teams make clear their unwillingness to fight * during the **last bout**:-

i) if there has been no occurrence of the offence during the preceding bouts, the Referee will award a warning (yellow card) against each of the teams, and will proceed to a last minute of fencing;

ii) if the offence has already been committed during the preceding bouts, the Referee will award a penalty hit (red card) against each of the teams, and will proceed to a last minute of fencing;

This last minute, which will be fenced in its entirety, will be decisive and will be preceded by a drawing of lots to decide the winner should the scores be equal at the end of the minute.

Clear unwillingness to fight (non-combativity) *

If two of the criteria below are combined, there is unwillingness to fight:

1. criterion of time : one minute of fencing without a hit

2. absence of blade contact
3. excessive distance (greater than the distance of a step-forward-lunge)

t.105: MODIFY the title of the article from 'Exclusion from the competition' to:

Exclusion.

t.105.3. DELETE this third part of t.105.

t.120, page 56, between group 3 and group 4, Non-combativity.

For 'Third Offence', REPLACE 'BLACK CARD' by 'RED CARD'.

t.127. e) REPLACE the current text with the following:

The athletes who participate in FIE competitions undertake to respect the FIE anti-doping Rules, use neither prohibited substances nor prohibited methods and agree to submit to any anti-doping control, whether in- or out-of competition;

o.2.2 REPLACE the current text with the following (to reflect the fact that the FIE will no longer issue licence cards to signify the ownership of an FIE Licence):

Every competitor or participant in a competition, irrespective of his status, is required to **be licensed for the current season** (cf. Statutes, Chapter IX).

Book m., annexe A, page 39, MODIFY the overall introduction approved in November, 2006 (additions shown in blue):

Fencing material used at an official FIE competition and featuring the FIE emblem must, without exception, have obtained a certificate of homologation delivered by the FIE SEMI commission to the manufacturer concerned, certifying that his fencing material complies with FIE Rules.

The following is the material that manufacturers must submit to the SEMI Commission, subsequent to a request in writing for homologation and the authority to mark with the FIE emblem: apparatuses for the signaling of hits, blades, foil and épée points, masks, jackets and breeches, protective plastrons.

To obtain the FIE homologation of a piste, the manufacturer concerned must contact the SEMI and submit a file requesting homologation, including all technical characteristics, and a sample of the piste (30 cm wide x 40 cm long). If the analysis is positive, the SEMI will issue a homologation certificate authorizing the manufacturer to mark the piste (from the date of the delivery of the certificate) with the FIE emblem.

For the homologation file of their fencing material to be completed, manufacturers must answer any SEMI requests for information regarding the homologation.

When the SEMI commission has received the file requesting homologation, including the manufacturer's samples and the reports of the different tests (from the institutes CRITT, Denkendorf and IFTH for clothing, under-plastrons and masks; and CRITT, Sofranel and Visti for blades), if the analysis is positive they will issue a homologation certificate authorizing the manufacturer to mark his future production (from the date of the delivery of the certificate) with the FIE emblem.

The SEMI must be informed of any modification whatsoever that has the effect of causing a non-conformity to the samples provided for the original homologation. Obviously the manufacturer must wait for written confirmation of the SEMI Commission's agreement to the proposed modification before launching the new production.

The FIE emblem is a registered trademark. The fact that a piece of equipment carries the FIE emblem attests that the latter has been manufactured in accordance with the prescriptions of the Safety Norms and the Rules of the FIE.

4) MAY 2007: DECISIONS AT MAY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

t.43.1:

First paragraph, DELETE the words 'on the piste and'.

ADD after sub.para. f):

- In pools, this checking must be done at the roll call of the fencers.
- For bouts in the direct elimination and the finals this checking must be done in the assembly area.

The organisers of all official FIE competitions (junior and senior) must make provision in their set-up for an assembly area.

t.45.5: ADD a new paragraph to t.45, after t.45.4, as follows:-

5. If the conductive jacket does not conform to the rules, the fencer must put on a spare jacket that does conform to the Rules. If this jacket does not have his name and nationality on the back, the fencer has until the next stage of the competition (from the pools to the table of 64, the table of 32, etc) to get his name and nationality printed on it. If this is not done and except in cases of 'force majeure', the referee will eliminate the fencer and he cannot continue to participate in the competition.

t.86.2: DELETE the words 'hair correct' and add this new paragraph at the end of the section :

Before the start of the bout, the fencers' hair must be fastened and placed inside the clothing and/or mask in such a way as to ensure that:

- it does not cover a valid surface (and thus prevent a hit from being scored).
- it does not conceal the name and nationality of the fencer.
- it does not need to be put back in place during the bout, thus interrupting it.

In the case of violation of this rule, the referee will apply the penalties for group 1 offences (t.114, t.116, t.120).

o.54: (application from season 2007-8). Changes to current text (last modified in September 2006) are shown in red.

Entries by name for Senior and Junior World Cup competitions, Satellite competitions and Zonal competitions.

1. The entry of the names of the fencers and all possible replacements, and the entry of teams, must be made via the FIE website **7 days** before the competition at the latest (including for satellite competitions).

For Zonal competitions, both senior and junior, the entries of the fencers and of the teams must be made via the FIE website **7 days** before the first event of the Championships at the latest.

2. After the **deadline** for entries indicated on the FIE website, there can be no further additional entries nor the withdrawal of a name except in cases of properly authenticated injury or 'force majeure'.

However, before the Tuesday preceding the competition:

- a fencer may be **replaced** by another. To do this, the national federations must send to the FIE, in writing (fax or e-mail), a request for a fencer to be replaced.
- **one or more fencers may be added**, on payment to the FIE of a fine of 150 Euros per fencer added. To do this, the national federations must send to the FIE, in writing (fax or e-mail), a request to add a fencer, together with a copy of the bank transfer for the appropriate fine.

From the Tuesday preceding the competition, if a fencer is withdrawn because of injury or 'force majeure', the national federation must inform the FIE and the organisers. The fencer cannot be replaced.

o.78.2: (application from season 2007-8). REPLACE the text by the following:

For **Grand Prix competitions**, the competition supervisor, designated by the Executive Committee of the FIE, shall also be president of the Directoire Technique.

m.5. ADD a new section 5, as follows:

EQUIPMENT AND CHECKING OF WEAPONS

a) At foil and epee, only traditional or homologated pointes d'arrêt are accepted. No other kind of pointe d'arrêt, notably new ones that are not homologated, will be accepted at the weapon control.

In order to make the identification easier, please note that a traditional pointe d'arrêt has two screws to fix the tip of the pointe d'arrêt to the base, the whole is in metal, and there is no plastic in the base.

To make the checking of weapons easier and allow the complete observation of the tip and its base, foil fencers are requested to present their foils for checking with bare points, not covered with adhesive tape over the first 15 cm.

b) In order that the registering of hits by the contact of the point on the opponent be correctly registered by the scoring device, the pointes d'arrêt must be clean. The electrical resistance measured in ohms must not exceed the limit of two ohms (m.5.4.a).

c) The blades, the guards at epee and foil and the guard at sabre must be totally of metal. Apart from at sabre where the part of the guard next to the pommel is insulated (insulating sheath), their exteriors must not be covered by any material (plastic or other).

The guard may not feature any advertising. This is also the case for the insulated part of the sabre guard.

d) Any fencer or other person who tries to register hits in a way that does not comply with the rules, either with the weapon or by manipulating the scoring device, will be excluded from the competition or from the competition zone and, after identification, will be liable to a further penalty.

m.45: REPLACE the current text by the following:

Only electrical apparatus designed with wires connecting the fencers to the central apparatus and registering hits by light signals with auxiliary sound signals are authorised, except for apparatus without wires using encoded waves authorised by the SEMI. This excludes other apparatus based on wireless waves and those which register sound signals only.

5) JUNE 2007: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECISIONS

t.22.1: **REPLACE** this paragraph by:

The use of the **non-sword hand** and **arm** to carry out an offensive or defensive action is forbidden (cf. t.114, t.117. t.120). Should such an offence occur, the hit scored by the fencer at fault is annulled and the latter will be penalised as specified for offences of the 2nd group (red card).

t.120 (first page): **MOVE** the words

Use of non-sword arm/hand* t.22.1

from the first group of offences and place them in the second group

o.79.3: **REPLACE** this paragraph by:

For **Grand Prix competitions**, entries are limited to a maximum of 8 fencers per weapon per country. The organising country may enter up to 12 fencers, plus the number of fencers needed to make up the pools, up to a maximum of 20 fencers.

6) DECEMBER 2007: DECISIONS AT NOVEMBER FIE CONGRESS

A) IMMEDIATE APPLICATION

t.75: **REPLACE** sub-article 3 by the following text:

3 An attack with a lunge is correctly carried out:

t.75a) in a **simple attack** (Cf. t.8.1) when the beginning of the straightening of the arm precedes the launching of the lunge and the hit arrives at the latest when the front foot hits the piste;

t.75.b) in a **compound attack** (Cf. t.8.1) when the beginning of the straightening of the arm, on the first feint (Cf. t.77.1), precedes the launching of the lunge and the hit arrives at the latest when the front foot hits the piste.

4 An attack with a step-forward lunge is correctly carried out:

t.75..a) in a **simple attack** (Cf. t.8.1) when the beginning of the straightening of the arm precedes the step-forward and when the hit arrives at the latest when the front foot hits the piste;

t.75..b) in a **compound attack** (Cf. t.8.1) when the beginning of the straightening of the arm for the first feint (Cf. t.77.1) precedes the step-forward, followed by the lunge, and the hit arrives at the latest when the front foot hits the piste.

t.120 (Offences and Penalties): 'Non-combativity' is **MOVED** from its previous categorisation located between Group 3 and Group 4 on the schedule, and is included among the First Group offences.

B) APPLICATION 1ST SEPTEMBER 2008

t.22.2: **ADD** the following paragraphs a) and b) to the end of this sub-article:

- a) If, during the fencing phrase, there is protection or substitution of a valid surface, the fencer at fault will be penalised as specified for offences of the 1st group (cf. also t.49.1, t.72.2).
- b) If, during the fencing phrase, as a result of protection or substitution of a valid surface, a hit correctly given is registered as not valid, the fencer at fault will be penalised as specified for offences of the 1st group (cf. also t.49.1, t.72.2) and the hit will be awarded by the referee.

t.33: **ALTER** the title of the Article to the following:

Injuries or cramp, withdrawal of a competitor

t.33.1 and 2: **INCLUDE** 'or cramp' three times. The text of these two paragraphs becomes:-

t.33.1. For an **injury or cramp** which occurs in the course of a bout and which is properly attested by the delegate of the FIE Medical Committee or by the doctor on duty, the Referee will allow a break in the fight lasting no longer than 10 minutes. This break should be timed from the point when the doctor gave his opinion and be strictly reserved for the treatment of the injury or cramp which brought it about. If the doctor considers, before or at the end of the 10-minute break, that the **fencer is incapable of continuing** the fight, he will decide that the fencer should retire (individual events) and/or be replaced, if possible (team events) (cf. o.44.11.a/b).

2. During the **remainder of the same day**, a fencer cannot be allowed a further break unless as a result of a different injury or cramp.

t.45.3.a) iii) **ALTER** the text to:-

- a) **iii)** has been passed by the preliminary check but is fraudulent.

t.45.3.b) REPLACE the two sub-paragraphs with dashes by the following single sub-paragraph:-

- in cases iii), iv), v) and vi), the Referee will penalise him as specified for offences of the 4th group (cf. articles t.114, t.119, t.120).

t.75.5 REPLACE the first two sentences of the sub-article (to "...t.120.) by:-

5. **The fleche and any forward movement** in which the rear foot completely passes the front foot is forbidden. Any offence will be penalised as specified for penalties in the 1st group (cf. t.114, t.116 et t.120).

t.81: REPLACE the text of the whole Article by the following:-

The regulations laid down in this Part apply to **all persons** who take part in or attend a fencing competition, including the spectators.

t.85.1: REPLACE the last two lines (after "entered in the event.") as follows:-

entered in the event. Should this rule be broken, the penalties specified for offences of the 4th group will be applied (cf. t.114, t.119, t.120).

t.87.2: in 4th-5th lines, REPLACE 'hits made while falling' by 'hits made during or after a fall'.

The last 3 lines thus become:-

– ments on the piste, hits achieved with violence, hits made during or after a fall) are strictly forbidden (cf.t.114-t.120). Should such an offence occur, any hit scored by the fencer at fault will be annulled.

t.87.3: REPLACE this sub-article by the following:-

Before the beginning of each bout, the two fencers must perform a **fencer's salute** to their opponent, to the Referee and to the spectators. Equally, when the final hit has been scored, the bout has not ended until the two fencers have saluted each other, the Referee and the spectators: to this end, they must remain still while the referee is making his decision; when he has given his decision, they must return to their on-guard line, perform a fencer's salute and shake hands with their opponent. If either or both of the two fencers refuse to comply with these rules, the Referee will penalise him/them as specified for offences of the 4th group (cf. t.114, t.119, t.120).

t.114.3.c): REPLACE this sub-article by the following sub-articles c) and d):-

- c) **Exclusion from the competition**, suspension from the remainder of the tournament and for the following two months of the active season, whether current or forthcoming, demonstrated by a BLACK CARD by which the Referee identifies the person at fault.
- d) **Expulsion** from the competition venue (any person disturbing the order of the competition).

t.118.3.b): REPLACE this sub-article by the following:-

- b) **at the second infringement** during the same competition a BLACK CARD and/or expulsion from the competition venue.

t.120: A revised layout for the Schedule of Offences and Penalties (see separate PDF file), reflecting also the relevant changes listed above.

o.27: REPLACE the text of this article by the following:-

o.27 The final, which is by direct elimination, shall consist of 4 fencers.

o.77.3: REPLACE the text of this sub-article by the following:-

This supervisor is either :

- a member of a FIE Commission,
- a member of the FIE Executive Committee,
- a member of a group of persons, appointed by the Executive Committee, available and experienced at organising competitions.

He is appointed by the Executive Committee of the FIE, at the suggestion of the FIE Bureau.

o.83.1.a): REPLACE the text of this sub-article by the following:-

The official Open ranking of the FIE takes into account the best six results of the World Cup, Grand Prix or Satellite competitions in which the fencer has participated, with a limit of no more than three from any one continent, plus the World Championships or Olympic Games and the Zonal Championships.

m.25.7: ADD a new sub-article f) as follows:-

- f) The mask must contain a horizontal safety strap at the rear of the mask, with the two ends of the strap firmly affixed to the two sides of

the mask. This strap may be elastic or of any other material that may be approved by the S.E.M.I. Commission.

m.32.5: ADD a new sentence: see correction in 7) below.

m.33.3: ADD the following sentence to the end of the sub-Article:-

When a conductive overglove is worn, the overglove must contain a device which fixes the position of the overglove on the arm so that its position on the arm cannot be changed during the bout.

Publicity Code p.4.2: ADD the following sentence d) to the end of the sub-Article:-

d) A sports organisation as organiser of a sporting event may invite any kind of sponsor to support the event, as long as its activity is not in contradiction with the FIE rules and the Olympic Charter.

C) APPLICATION 1ST JANUARY 2009

t.47.2: REPLACE the current text by the following:-

The target at foil excludes the limbs and the head. It is confined to the trunk, the upper limit being the collar up to 6 cm above the prominences of the collar bones; at the sides to the seams of the sleeves, which should cross the head of the humerus; and the lower limit following a horizontal line across the back joining the tops of the hip bones, thence by straight lines to the junction of the lines of the groin (see Figure 4, p. 24). It also includes the part of the bib beneath a horizontal line 1.5 - 2 cm below the chin and which, in any case, may not be lower than the line of the shoulders.

Figure 4 ('Valid target at foil') will be MODIFIED to show the changed target.

m.27: NUMBER the current text ("The mesh of the mask...") as sub-article 1 and ADD new sub-articles 2 and 3:-

m.27.2 as follows:-

The part of the bib that is beneath a horizontal line 1.5 - 2 cm below the chin, must be entirely covered with a material that has the same conductive characteristics as the conductive jacket.

7) PUBLISHED JULY 2008

m.32.4/5: REPLACE the current texts by:-

4. The **electrical contact** between the conductive jacket and the mask must be ensured by means of a wire and one or two crocodile clips.

The wire must be attached to the mesh of the mask either by means of a crocodile clip or by being soldered, and must be between 30 cm and 40 cm long. (*Application 2008-9 season*): In the case of a coiled cable, the maximum length of the free cable must not exceed 25 cm in length, with a tolerance of ± 5 cm.

5. The **electrical resistance** between the crocodile clip and any point on the mask must be less than 5 ohms.

The crocodile clip(s), the design and size of which must conform to the conditions laid down in Article m.29.2.c), must be soldered to the end(s) of the wire.

APPLICATION JANUARY 2009:

m.27.3 (means of connecting the bib to the jacket):-

Means of connection: the electrical contact between the conductive jacket and the mask must be ensured by means of a white-coloured wire and one or two crocodile clips (cf.m.32.4).