



**FENCING**  
I R E L A N D

# Technical Rules

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## BOOK 1. TECHNICAL RULES

### GENERAL RULES AND RULES COMMON TO THE THREE WEAPONS

t.0

Fencing Ireland's rulebook is an edited version of the FIE rulebook. These are the rules applicable for Fencing Ireland events and affiliated events. Where Fencing Ireland hosts official international events, the official FIE rules will apply.

For ease of comparison to the FIE rules, rule numbering has been maintained as much as possible, therefore there are some places where rule numbers are skipped.

#### *Chapter 1 APPLICATION OF THE RULES*

t.1

##### **Definition of the fencer's salute**

In competition, the fencer's salute is a gesture of civility towards the opponent, the referee and the spectators. To perform the fencer's salute, the two fencers:

- face each other
- stand still on their on-guard line
- place the mask under the non-sword arm - lift the guard to the chin
- then lower the blade to the ground

t.2

...

t.3

...

t.4

...

t.5

...

t.6

...

#### **EXPLANATION OF SOME TECHNICAL TERMS MOST COMMONLY USED IN THE JUDGING OF FENCING**

##### **Preamble**

t.7

It is stressed that this section in no way replaces a treatise on fencing and is only included in order to help the reader understand the rules.

##### **Fencing time**

t.8

**Fencing time** is the time required to perform one simple fencing action.

##### **Offensive and defensive actions**

t.9

##### **Definition:**

1

The **offensive actions** are the attack, the riposte and the counter-riposte.

- The **attack** is the initial offensive action made by extending the arm and continuously threatening the opponent's target, preceding the launching of the lunge or flèche (cf. t.83, t.84, t.85 and t.101ss).
- The **riposte** is the offensive action made by the fencer who has parried the attack.

- The **counter-riposte** is the offensive action made by the fencer who has parried the riposte.
- 2 The **defensive actions** are the parries.
- The **parry** is the defensive action made with the weapon to prevent an offensive

**Explanation:**

**Offensive actions:**

**The attack:**

t.10

The action is **simple** when it is executed in one movement and is

- either **direct** (in the same line)
- or **indirect** (in another line).

The action is **compound** when it is executed in several movements.

**The riposte**

t.11 The riposte may be **immediate** or **delayed**, depending on what action takes place and the speed at which it is carried out. Ripostes are:

1 **Simple, direct**

- **Direct riposte:** a riposte which hits the opponent without leaving the line in which the parry was made.
- **Riposte along the blade:** a riposte which hits the opponent by grazing along the blade after the parry.

2 **Simple, indirect**

- **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 if the parry was formed in the high line, and over the blade if the parry was formed in the low line).
- **Riposte with a coupé:** a riposte which hits the opponent in the opposite line to that in which the parry was formed (the blade always passing over the opponent's point).

3 **Compound**

- **Riposte with a doublé:** 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 as that in which the parry was formed but after the blade has first been into the opposite line, by passing under the opponent's blade.

**Counter-attacks**

t.12

**Counter-attacks** are offensive or offensive–defensive actions made during the offensive action of the opponent.

1 **The stop hit:** a counter-attack made into an attack.

2 **The stop hit made with opposition:** a counter-attack made while closing the line in which the opponent's attack will be completed (cf. t.83, t.84, t.85, t.101ss and t.102ss).

3 **The stop hit made within a period of fencing time,** i.e. 'in time' (cf. t.88, t.105).

**Other offensive actions**

t.13

1 **The remise**

**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 compound.

2 **The redoublement**

**A new action**, either simple or compound, made against an opponent who has parried without riposting or who has merely avoided the first action by retreating or displacing the target.

3 **The reprise of the attack**

**A new attack** executed immediately **after a return to the on-guard position**.

4 **Counter-time**

Any action made by the attacker against a stop hit made by his opponent.

**Defensive actions**

t.14

Parries are **simple**, direct, when they are made in the same line as the attack. They are **circular** (counter-parries) when they are made in the opposite line to that of the attack.

**The point in line position**

t.15

The **point in line** position is a specific position in which the fencer's sword arm is kept straight and the point of his weapon continually threatens his opponent's valid target (cf. t.84.1/2/3, t.89.4.e, t.89.5.a, t.102, t.103.3.e, t.106.4.a/b).

## Chapter 3

### THE FIELD OF PLAY

t.16

The **field of play** should have an even surface. It should give neither advantage nor disadvantage to either of the two fencers concerned, especially as regards light.

t.17

1 That portion of the field of play which is used for fencing is called the **piste**.

2 Competitions **at all three weapons** are fenced on the same pistes.

t.18

1 The **combat area** of the piste is 1.50 meters **wide**.

2 The piste is 14 metres **long**, with a total tolerance on the whole length of 4 cm, so that each competitor, being placed at 2 metres from the centre line, has at his disposal for retreating a total distance of 5 metres without it being necessary for him to cross the rear limit of the piste with both feet.

4 The distance between the score machine table or stand and the edge of the piste should be between 50 centimetres and 5 meters. Any slave score machine must not be placed nearer than 5 meters from the edge of the runback area.

5 Marked, conductive pistes are required for all ranked senior events. Other events not using conductive pistes should still follow the rules below for marking out the piste area and spacing around the piste.

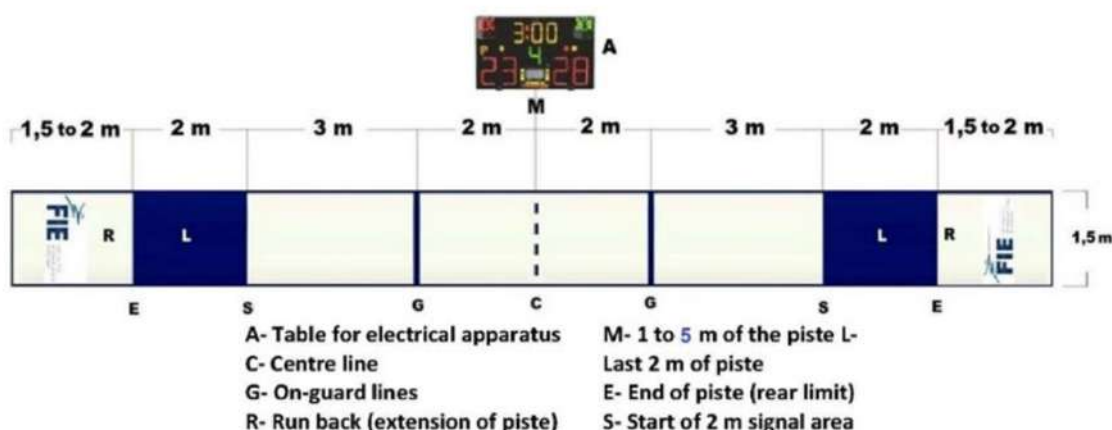
t.19

**Five lines** should be drawn very clearly on the piste at right angles to its length, as follows:

1 **one centre line** which must be drawn as a broken line across the whole width of the piste;

- 2 **two on-guard lines** at 2 metres on each side of the centre line. These must be drawn across the whole width of the piste;
- 3 **two lines at the rear limits** of the piste, which must be drawn across the whole width of the piste, at a distance of 7 metres from the centre line.
- 4 In addition, **the last 2 metres** of the piste before these rear limit lines must be clearly distinguished — if possible by a different colour of piste — to make it easy for the fencers to be aware of their position on the piste (see Figures 1 and 2).

Figure 2 - Standard piste for all three weapons



## Chapter 4

### THE FENCER'S EQUIPMENT (Weapons – Equipment – Clothing)

#### Responsibility of fencers

t.20

- 1 Fencers arm, equip and clothe themselves and fence at **their own responsibility** and **at their own risk**.
- 2 It is obligatory for any fencer who warms up or trains with another fencer on site at a Fencing Ireland competition (including in the training halls linked to the competition) to wear **fencing clothing and equipment** which conforms with the Fencing Ireland regulations. This includes breeches and long socks in accordance with m.25.  
 Any person giving a lesson must wear at least a fencing master's plastron as well as a fencing glove and a mask conforming with the regulations.  
 Any fencer taking a lesson must wear at least a mask, a glove, a chest protector, a top covering the torso and shoulders, and shorts which reach to within 10cm of the knees or lower.  
 A member of the Directoire Technique, a Fencing Ireland official, or a referee must penalize any person not respecting this rule with a yellow card, followed by a black card in case of a repeated infringement.
- 3 The **safety measures** specified in the Rules and in the standards contained in the annexe to them and the methods of control laid down in the present Rules (cf. Fencing Ireland Material Rules) are only designed to **reinforce** the fencers' safety and cannot **guarantee** it. They cannot, therefore, whatever the manner in which they are applied, impart responsibility to Fencing Ireland, or to the organisers of competitions, to the officials or personnel who carry out such organisation, or to those who may cause an accident.

## Chapter 5

### FENCING

#### Method of holding the weapon

t.21

- 1 With all three weapons, **defensive actions** must be affected exclusively with the weapon.
- 2 If the **handle** has no special device or attachment or special shape (e.g. orthopedic), a fencer **may hold it** in any way he wishes and he may also alter the position of his hand on the handle during a bout. However, the weapon must not be — either permanently or temporarily, in an open or disguised manner — transformed into **a throwing weapon**; it must be used without the hand leaving the handle and without the hand slipping along the handle from front to back during an offensive action.
- 3 When the handle has a **special device** or **attachment** or has a **special shape** (e.g. orthopedic) it must be held in such a way that the upper surface of the thumb is in the same plane as the groove in the blade (at foil or at épée) and perpendicular to the plane of flexibility of the blade at sabre.
- 4 The weapon must be used **with one hand only**; a fencer may not change hands before the end of the bout, unless the Referee gives special permission in the case of injury to the hand or arm.

#### Coming on guard and placing of the fencers

t.22

- 1 The fencer **whose number is called first** should place himself on the **right** of the Referee, except in the case of a bout between a right- and a left-hander, if the left-hander is called first.
- 2 The team which has the greater number of right-handed fencers should be placed on the referee's right. If both teams have the same number of right- and left-handed fencers, the team called first should be placed on the referee's right.
- 3 The Referee places each of the two competitors in such a way that the front foot of each is immediately behind the 'on-guard' line.
- 4 Competitors are always put on guard, whether at the beginning of the bout or subsequently, **in the centre of the width of the piste.**
- 5 When placed on guard during the bout, the distance between the two competitors must be such that, in the position 'point in line', **the points of the two blades cannot make contact.**
- 6 **After the scoring of a valid hit** the competitors are put on guard **in the middle** of the piste.
- 7 **If no hit is awarded** they are replaced in the position which they occupied when the bout was interrupted.
- 8 At the beginning **of each period** (in a direct elimination bout) and of any **additional minute** of fencing time, the fencers are placed on guard in the middle of the piste.  
The competitors may not be replaced **on guard, at their correct distance**, in such a way as to place behind the rear line of the piste a fencer who was in front of that line when the bout was halted. If he already had one foot behind the rear line, he remains in that position.
- 9 If a fencer has crossed the lateral boundaries of the piste, with one or both feet, he must be placed on guard at the correct distance even if this means that he is

placed behind the rear line and thus causes a hit to be awarded against him. (cf t.35.1, ).

- 10 Competitors come on guard when the Referee gives the order '**On guard!**', after which the Referee asks, '**Are you ready?**'. On receiving an affirmative reply, or in the absence of a negative reply, he gives the command for fencing to commence with the word '**Play!**'. Alternatively, the referee may use French or Irish to give these instructions, using the following terms:

English	French	Irish
On Guard	En garde	Ar garda
Are you ready?	Etes-vous prêts?	An bhfuil sibh reidh?
Play	Allez	Imrigí

- 11 The fencers must **come on guard correctly** and remain **completely still** until the command 'Play!' is given by the Referee.

- 12 At foil and sabre fencers may not come on guard in the '**in line**' position.

### ***Beginning, stopping and restarting the bout***

t.23

- 1 **The start** of the bout is signalled by the word 'Play!'. No movement made or initiated before the word 'Play!' is counted.
- 2 The bout **stops** on the word 'Halt!', except in the case of special events occurring which modify the regular and normal conditions of the bout (cf. also t.44.1/2).
- 3 Directly the order '**Halt!**' has been given, a competitor may not start a new action; only a movement which has been begun before the order was given remains valid. Everything which takes place afterwards is absolutely not valid (But cf. t.44.1/2).
- 4 If a competitor **stops** before the word 'Halt!', and is hit, the hit is valid.
- 5 The order 'Halt!' is also given if the play of the competitors is **dangerous, confused, or contrary to the Rules**, if one of the competitors is **disarmed** or **steps off the piste** (cf. t.33, t.58).

### ***Fencing at close quarters***

t.24

**Fencing at close quarters** is allowed so long as the competitors can wield their weapons correctly and the Referee can, at foil and sabre, follow the phrase.

### ***Corps à corps***

t.25

- 1 **Corps à corps** is said to exist when the two competitors are in contact; when this occurs the referee must stop the bout (cf. t.32, t.26)
- 2 **At all three weapons** it is forbidden for a fencer to **cause corps à corps intentionally** to avoid being hit, or to jostle his opponent. Should such an offence occur, the Referee will penalise the fencer at fault as specified in Articles t.158-162, t.165, t.170, for the offences of the 1st group and any hit scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.
- 3 A fencer who either by a flèche attack or by advancing vigorously brings about a **corps à corps** even several times in succession (**without brutality or violence**) does not transgress the basic conventions of fencing and commits no fault thereby (cf. t.32).

### ***Corps à corps and fleche attacks***

t.26

- 1 The 'flèche ending systematically in a corps à corps' referred to in this article must not be confused with the 'flèche resulting in a shock which jostles the opponent', which is considered as an act of **intentional brutality** at all three weapons and is punished as such (cf. t.121.2, t.170), for the offences of the 2nd group.
- 2 On the other hand the '**flèche** which is made by running, even going past the opponent', and **without a corps à corps**, is not forbidden: the Referee should not call 'Halt!' too soon, in order not to annul a possible riposte; if, when making such a running flèche without hitting his opponent, the fencer who makes the flèche crosses the lateral boundaries of the piste, he must be punished as laid down in Article t.35.3.

#### ***Displacing the target and passing the opponent***

t.27

- 1 **Displacing the target and ducking** are allowed even if during the action the unarmed hand and/or the knee of the rear leg comes into contact with the piste.
- 2 It is forbidden to **turn one's back** on one's opponent during the bout. Should such an offence occur, the Referee will penalise the fencer at fault as specified in articles t.158- 162, t.165, t.170, for the offences of the 1st group and any hit scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

t.28

- 1 When a fencer **goes completely past** his opponent during a bout, the Referee must immediately call 'Halt!' and replace the competitors in the positions which they occupied before the passing took place.
- 2 When hits are made **as a fencer passes his opponent**, the hit made immediately is valid; a hit made after passing his opponent by the competitor who has made the passing movement is annulled, but the hit made immediately, even when turning round, by the competitor who has been subjected to the offensive action, is valid.
- 3 If during a bout a fencer who has made a flèche attack has a hit registered against him and he continues to run beyond the extreme limit of the piste sufficiently far to cause his spool or the connecting line to his spool **to be torn out**, the hit which he has received will not be annulled (cf. t.147).

#### ***Substitution and use of the non-sword hand and arm***

t.29

- 1 The use of the **non-sword hand** and **arm** to carry out an offensive or defensive action is forbidden (cf t.158-162, **t.166**, t.170). Should such an offence occur, the hit scored by the fencer at fault is annulled and the latter will be penalized as specified for offences of the 2nd group (red card).
- 2 If a fencer **substitutes a non-valid part of his target for a valid part**, either by covering it or by any abnormal movement, the Referee must penalise him by applying the penalties specified in Articles t.158-162, t.165, t.170, for the offences of the 1st group and any hit scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.
- 3 During the fight, the fencer must not, under any circumstances, **take hold of any part of the electrical equipment** with his non-sword hand the referee imposes him/her the penalties for the offences of the first group (cf. t.158-162, t.165, t.170); any hit scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

t.30

- 1 If during a bout the Referee notices that one of the fencers is making use of his non-sword arm and/or hand, or is protecting or covering the valid target with a non-valid surface, he can call for the help of two **neutral judges** who will be designated by the Directoire Technique.

2 These judges, one on each side of the piste, will watch **all aspects of the fight** and will indicate, by raising their hand or when asked by the Referee, if the non-sword arm or hand has been used, or if the fencer has protected or covered the valid target with a non-valid surface (cf. t.79, , t.158-162, t.165, t.170).

3 The Referee may also **make the fencers change places** so that the fencer committing this fault does not have his back to the Referee.

#### **Ground gained or lost**

t.31

When the order 'Halt!' is given, **ground gained** is held until a hit has been given. When competitors are replaced on guard, each fencer should retire an equal distance in order to keep fencing distance (cf. t.22.3/4).

t.32

However, if the bout has been stopped on account of **corps à corps**, the fencers are replaced on guard in such a position that the competitor who has sustained the corps à corps is at the place which he previously occupied; this also applies if his opponent has subjected him to a **flèche** attack, even without corps à corps.

#### **Crossing the limits of the piste**

##### **Stopping the bout**

t.33

- 1 When a competitor **crosses one of the lateral boundaries** of the piste with **one or both feet completely off the piste**, the Referee must immediately call 'Halt!'
- 2 If the fencer **goes off the piste** with **both feet**, the Referee must annul everything that has occurred after the boundary has been crossed, except a hit received by the competitor who has crossed the boundary even after he has crossed it, provided that this hit results from a simple and immediate action.
- 3 However, a hit scored by the fencer who **leaves the piste with one foot only** is valid provided that the action was started before the 'Halt!'
- 4 If **one of the competitors** leaves the piste with **both feet**, only a hit made by the fencer who remains on the piste with at least one foot, and at epee only, can be counted valid, even in the case of a double hit. For foil and sabre the convention must be applied.

##### **Rear limits**

t.34

Should a competitor cross the **rear limit** of the piste completely- i.e. with both feet — a hit will be scored against him.

##### **Lateral boundaries**

t.35

- 1 If a competitor crosses one of the lateral boundaries of the piste **with one or both feet**, he must step back one metre from the point where he left the piste; and if he goes off the piste during an attack he must return to the position he occupied when he started his attack and then step back a further metre (but cf t.36).
- 2 **If the exercise of this penalty** places a competitor with both feet beyond the rear limit of the piste, that competitor is considered as having been hit.
- 3 A competitor who crosses one of the lateral boundaries of the piste with both feet — e.g. when making a flèche — **to avoid being hit** will be penalised as specified in Articles t.158-162, t.165, t.170, for the offences of the 1st group. Any hit made by the offending fencer is annulled.

##### **Leaving the piste accidentally**

t.36 A competitor who **involuntarily** crosses one of the boundaries of the piste as the result of any accidental cause (such as jostling) incurs no penalty whatever.

#### Duration of the bout

t.37

- 1 Duration of the bout is held to mean the **effective duration**, that is the total of the intervals of time between the orders 'Play!' and 'Halt!'.
- 2 The duration of the bout is **controlled** by the Referee or by a time-keeper. For all bouts for which a chronometer is visible to the spectators, the chronometer must be so placed that it is visible to the two fencers on the piste and to the Referee.
- 3 The same bout or relay cannot be restarted after the bout or relay is finished in accordance with t.122, even if a formal mistake has been made.

t.38

In the pools a bout ends when:

- 1 One of the fencers **has scored 5 hits**.
- a) In this case the score registered on the score-sheet is the final score of the bout ( $V - n$ , where  $n$  = the number of hits scored by the losing fencer).
- b) **At épée**, if the two fencers reach a score of 4-4, they must fence for a deciding hit, up to the time limit. Any double hit will not be counted (and the fencers will therefore remain where they are on the piste).
- 2 **Three minutes of effective fencing time have passed.**
- a) If **when the time limit expires** there is a difference of at least one hit between the scores of the two fencers, the fencer who has scored the greater number of hits is declared winner. The score registered on the score-sheet is the actual score achieved in the bout ( $VN - n$ , where  $N$  = the number of hits scored by the winning fencer and  $n$  = the number of hits scored by the losing fencer).
- b) If **at the end of regulation time the scores are equal**, the fencers fence for a deciding hit, with a maximum time limit of one minute. Before the fencing recommences, the Referee draws lots to decide who will be the winner if scores are still equal at the end of the extra minute.
- c) In this case the score registered on the score-sheet is always the **actual score achieved in the bout**: —  $VN - n$  if a deciding hit is scored within the time limit for the bout; —  $V4 - 4$  or  $V3 - 3$  or  $V2 - 2$  or  $V1 - 1$  or  $V0 - 0$  if the winner is designated by drawing lots.

t.39

- 1 The **direct elimination bouts** are for 15 hits or end when the three periods of three minutes, with a one-minute rest between each period, have passed. As an exception, **at sabre**, the first period ends either at the expiry of the three minutes or when one of the fencers has scored eight hits.
- 2 **During the one-minute rests**, a person named before the bout, may have access to the fencer.
- 3 **A clock, incorporated into the electrical scoring apparatus**, blocks the latter at the end of each period.

t.40

- 1 The **bout ends** when:
  - One of the fencers has **scored 15 hits**; or
  - **9 minutes of effective fencing time** have passed.
- 2 The fencer who has scored **the greater number of hits** is declared the winner.
- 3 If **at the end of regulation time the scores are equal**, the fencers fence for a deciding hit, with a maximum time limit of one minute. Before the fencing recommences the Referee draws lots to decide who will be the winner if scores are still equal at the end of the extra minute.

- 4 In this case the score recorded on the score-sheet is the **real score** achieved in the bout.

### Team competitions

t.41

- 1 Each 'lap' (bout) of the relay match consists of **five hits** (5, 10, 15, 20, etc.). Exceptionally, a relay may end at more than 5, 10, 15 etc. if a fencer scores a valid last hit of the relay and is at the same time awarded an additional penalty hit: in this case both hits will be counted; the maximum time for each bout is **3 minutes**.
- 2 The first two opponents fence until one or both have scored five hits, within the time limit of 3 minutes.  
The next two opponents fence until one or both\* of their scores has reached ten hits, within the time limit of 3 minutes, and so on with successive bouts, cumulatively, of five hits.
- 3 If by the expiry of 3 minutes of fencing time **the intended score for the bout has not been achieved**, the next two fencers take up the score where it was left off and fence up to the maximum score intended for their bout as normal, within the time limit of 3 minutes.
- 4 **The winning team** is that which first reaches the maximum score of 45 hits, or that which has scored the greatest number of hits after the expiry of regulation time.
- 5 **If at the end of regulation time for the last bout the scores are equal**, the match continues for a deciding hit, with a maximum time limit of one minute, fought for by the fencers of the last bout in the match. Before the fencing recommences the Referee draws lots to decide who will be the winner if scores are still equal at the end of the extra minute.

### Veterans

t.42

The direct elimination bouts are for 10 hits or end when two periods of three minutes, with one minute rest between the periods, have passed. As an exception, at sabre, the first period ends either at the expiry of the three minutes or when one of the fencers has scored five hits.

### Timing

t.43

- 1 The fencers may ask **how much time they have left** to fence each time that the fencing is interrupted if the time is not provided on the apparatus.
- 2 Any fencer who attempts improperly to **cause or to prolong interruptions** to the bout is penalised as specified in Articles t.158-162, t.165, t.170, for the offences of the 1st group.

t.44

- 1 **At the expiry of the regulation fencing time**, the clock must set off automatically a loud audible signal, and automatically cut off the scoring apparatus, without cancelling hits registered before the disconnection. The bout stops with the audible signal.
- 2 **If the clock is not linked to the scoring apparatus**, the time-keeper must shout 'Halt!' (or operate a sound signal) which stops the fight; in this case even a 'coup lancé' is not valid.
- 3 **The referee must operate the time-keeping throughout the match**. Should there be a **failure of the clock**, the Referee must himself estimate how much fencing time is left. He must be able to reset the time manually and if necessary to reset the time to that previously shown to the nearest 1/100 of a second.

- 4 When wireless apparatus is used, no hits registered after the end of fencing time will be awarded even if a lamp is showing on the wireless apparatus.

**Injuries and other medical reason, withdrawal of a competitor**

t.45

- 1 For any injury or other medical reason which occurs in the course of a bout and which is accepted by the referee and/or a first aider on duty, the Referee will allow a break in the fight lasting no longer than 5 minutes. If, before or at the end of the 5 minute break, it is decided, that the fencer is incapable of continuing the fight, he/she will decide that the fencer should retire (individual events) and/or be replaced, if possible (team events) (cf. o.99.6.a/b). Fencers who continue to fight do so at their own risk.  
All breaks for a medical reason should be noted on the score-sheet for the bout, the pool or the match.
- 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 other medical reason.
- 3 Should a fencer **demand a break** which is deemed to be **unjustified**, the Referee will penalise that fencer as specified in Articles t.158-162, t.166, t.170 for the offences of the 2nd group. The referee in consultation with the Directoire Technique will have the power to decide whether a demand for a break is unjustified.
- 4 **In team events** a fencer unable to continue the bout may, nevertheless fight in subsequent matches on the same day.
- 5 The Directoire Technique may **modify the order of bouts** in a pool in order to ensure the efficient running of the competition (cf. o.71.1).

## Chapter 6

### REFEREEING AND JUDGING OF HITS

t.46

- 1 By accepting a position as referee or judge, the person so designated **pledges his honour** to respect the Rules and to cause them to be respected, and to carry out his duties with the strictest impartiality and absolute concentration.
- 2 Competition organisers should make efforts to ensure that referees are not combining their function with any other activity on the same day of a tournament, such as member of the Directoire Technique, fencer, team captain, coach, etc. Where this is not feasible, suitably qualified persons who are also fulfilling another function on the day will be allowed to operate as referees. In such cases, reasonable steps will be taken to avoid conflicts of interest with the other functions being performed that day.

**Referees**

t.47

- 1 When possible bouts at fencing in official Fencing Ireland competitions are directed by a referee who possesses a Fencing Ireland refereeing qualification.
- 2 Duties of referees:
- a) The Referee calls the roll of the competitors (cf. t.114, t.118, t.119).
  - b) The Referee directs the bout.
  - c) Before each bout, the Referee must check the weapons, clothes and equipment of the fencers, according to the regulations set out by Fencing Ireland.

- d) The Referee superintends the proper functioning of the electrical apparatus. Either on own initiative or when asked to do so by a team captain or competitor, the Referee implements tests necessary to check the apparatus and locate any faults which may be found. The Referee will prevent the competitors from hindering the tests by unplugging or changing their equipment prematurely.
- e) The Referee directs the judges, time-keepers, scorers, etc.
- f) The Referee positions himself and moves in such a way as to be able to follow the bout while always being able to see the illumination of the signal lamps.
- g) The Referee penalises faults (cf. t.164).
- h) The Referee awards the hits (cf. t. 54ss).
- i) The Referee maintains order (cf. t.137).
- j) Whenever necessary, the Referee should consult the experts concerning the electrical apparatus (cf. o.28).
- k) The Referee must also supervise the state of the conductive piste and not allow the bout to commence or to continue if the conductive piste has holes in it which might affect the proper registering of hits.

### **Judges**

t.48

- 1 The Referee fulfils his functions with the aid of an apparatus for the automatic registering of hits; he may also be assisted by **two judges** watching for the use of the unarmed hand or arm, substitution of the valid target, hits scored on the floor at épée, leaving the piste to the side or the rear or any other offence defined in the Rules (cf. t.170).
- 3 The judges are placed on each side of the Referee, on either side of the piste; they watch **all aspects** of the entire fight.
- 4 The judges must **change ends** halfway through each bout or after each period in direct elimination bouts and after each bout in team matches, so as not to watch the same fencer the whole time.

### **Designations of referees**

#### **Individual competitions**

t.50

- 1 For the rounds of pools and the direct elimination table, **the Directoire Technique** appoints the referees. Where a **Referee Manager** has been appointed for a competition, they shall advise the Directoire Technique on this appointment of referees.

#### **Team Competitions**

t.51

The same rules as those in article t.50 are applied to the team competitions, with one or two referees per match.

### ***Method of judging hits***

#### **Materiality of the hit**

t.53

Competitions are judged with an **electrical recording apparatus**.

t.54

- 1 The **materiality of the hit** is established according to the indications of the apparatus, and when necessary by consulting the judges (cf. t.48).
- 2 Only the **indications of the electrical apparatus** as indicated by its own lamps or by the extension lamps can be taken into consideration for judging hits. Under no circumstances can the Referee declare a competitor to be hit unless the hit has been properly registered by the apparatus (except as provided for in Article t.79 or when a penalty hit has been awarded).
- 3 On the other hand, the Referee should, in the cases enumerated for each weapon, **annul** a hit registered by the apparatus (cf. t.80ss, t.94ss, t.99).

#### ***Annulment of a hit***

t.55

- 1 The Referee will **disregard** hits which are registered as a result of actions:
  - started **before the word 'Play!'** or **after the word 'Halt!'** (cf. t.23.1/3);
  - which are made on any object **other than the opponent** or his equipment.
- 2 A competitor who, **intentionally**, causes the apparatus to register a hit by placing his point on the ground or on any surface other than **that of his opponent** will be penalised as specified in Articles **t.158-162, t.166, t.170**, for the offences of the 2nd group.

t.56

The Referee must also apply the following rules:

- 1 Only the **last hit** made before the fault was established can be annulled and then only if it is the competitor against whom the hit was registered who is placed at a disadvantage by the failure.
- 2 The failure must be established by tests made immediately after the bout was stopped, under the supervision of the Referee and without changing anything whatever of the equipment in use.
- 3 A competitor who **makes any modification in or who changes his equipment** without being asked by the Referee to do so, before the Referee has given his decision, loses all right to the annulment of the hit.
- 4 **If the bout has effectively recommenced** a competitor cannot claim the annulment of a hit awarded against him before the said recommencement of the bout.
- 5 With these tests, one is trying only to establish whether there is material possibility of a mistake in the judgement as a result of a fault. **The location of a fault** found in the equipment (including the equipment of the competitors) is of no importance for this possible annulment.
- 6 It is not necessary that **the failure found should repeat itself each time** a test is made; but it is essential that the fault should be observed by the Referee without the possibility of doubt at least once during the tests made by him or under his supervision.

- 7 When a competitor against whom a hit has been registered has **broken his blade**, the hit must be annulled unless the breaking of the blade has occurred clearly after the hit has been registered.
- 8 The Referee must pay particular attention to **hits which do not register or which are registered abnormally**. Should such defects be repeated, the Referee must ask a suitable member of the organisers or Directoire Technique to verify that the equipment conforms to the Rules.
- 9 The Referee must ensure that **nothing is altered in the competitors' equipment** or in the whole of the electrical apparatus before the expert carries out his check.
- 10 Hit made during or after a fall must be annulled.
- 11 A competitor who, intentionally drops his/her weapon during the fencing phrase will be penalised as specified in Articles t.166 and t.170, for the offences of the second group. However, a hit scored by the opponent is valid, provided that the action was started before the 'Halt!'.

t.57 Whenever accidental causes make it impossible to carry out tests, the hit will be considered **doubtful** and annulled.

t.58 In accordance with the general rules (**cf. t.23.5**) the Referee must **stop the bout**, even if no hit is registered by the apparatus, whenever the play becomes **confused** and he is no longer able to analyse the phrase.

#### Validity or priority of the hit

- t.59
- 1 As soon as the bout has stopped, the Referee briefly **analyses** the movements which composed the last fencing phrase.
- 2 After reaching his decision regarding the materiality of a hit, the Referee, **by applying the rules**, decides which fencer was hit, whether both were hit (épée), or whether there was no valid hit (**cf. t.82ss, t.92, t.100**)

t.63 The Referee must use the following **signals**:



For the fencers to adopt the on guard position



To find out if the fencers are ready



To start and restart the fencing



To stop the fencing before a hit is scored, because of the fencer on the Referee's right. Without removing the hand if there is a valid or non-valid hit.



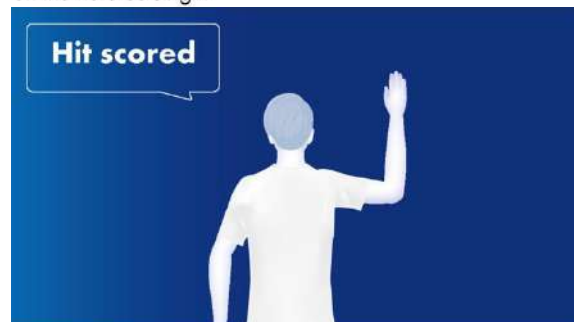
Point in line position from the right towards the fencer on the left



Attack or stop hit (counter-attack) from the fencer on the Referee's right



A hit is given against the fencer on the Referee's left



One hit scored by the fencer on the Referee's right



An off-target hit on the fencer on the Referee's left



A parry or counter-time carried out by the fencer on the Referee's right



Both fencers are hit



Each fencer scores a hit



Simultaneous attacks or remises



No hit or abstention



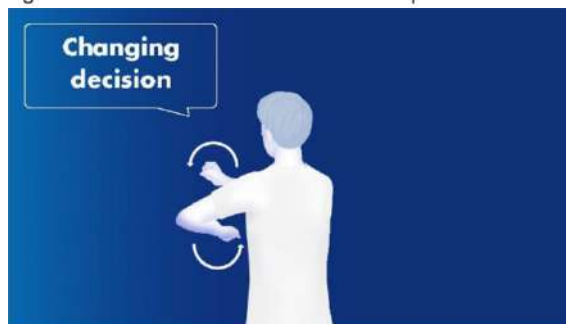
Offensive action from the fencer on the Referee's right; too short and does not hit



Incorrect attack or riposte from the fencer on the Referee's right: bend the sword arm or withdraw the point



Crossing the rear limit of the piste with both feet from the fencer on the referee's left.



Changing the decision of referee after video analysis upon request of fencer on the referee's left.



By mimicry, the Referee demonstrates the offence of the fencer on the right and shows the card corresponding to the offence concerned



Winner: At the end of the bout or match, the referee must announce the winner and the score. The fencers will be in the middle of the piste.

### Notes

1. The referee announces his decisions by means of the signals and words above.
2. In following the fencing phrase the Referee uses the following words without making the signals: "Riposte!", "Counterriposte!". The gesture "Attack" will also be used for the actions of "Remise!", "Reprise!", "Redouble!"
3. The fencers may politely ask the Referee for a more complete analysis of the fencing phrase.
4. Each signal must last 1-2 seconds, be expressive and be correctly made. Above they refer to the fencer on the Referee's right.

### **Regulation equipment and checking of equipment by the referee**

t.64

**Before the start** of each pool, team match or bout by direct elimination, the Referee must assemble all the competitors and verify that (cf. t.47.2.c):

- 1 at all weapons, the fencers are wearing all the equipment required by Fencing Ireland regulations.
- 2 at foil, the **conductive jacket** conforms to the provision of Article **m.28** when each competitor is in the on guard position;
- 3 at épée, the fencer is wearing a **jacket conforming to the regulations** and that the material from which the clothing is made has not too smooth a surface;
- 4 at sabre, the **conductive jacket** conforms to the provision of Article **m.34** when each competitor is in the on guard position.
- 5 at all three weapons, each fencer is wearing, under his jacket, a regulation **protective under- plastron**, made of cloth which can resist 800 Newtons.
- 6 at all three weapons, the fencer is not equipped with any **electronic communication equipment** which would allow a person off the piste to communicate with the fencer during the bout (cf. t.73.1.g & 2)

t.65

- 1 In pools, this checking must be done at the roll call of the fencers.
- 2 For bouts in the direct elimination and the finals this checking must be done on the piste before the start of the match or in the assembly area, if the competition has established one.

t.67

**In addition to the checks mentioned above**, the Referee of a bout may at any time, on his own initiative or at the request of a fencer or of a team captain, carry out such checks, or verify the checks already carried out or even carry out, or have carried out, new checks (cf. t.47).

t.68

- 1 He will in any case, before each bout, ensure that the necessary clothing is properly worn, the blade and the mask of each fencer, and that the **insulation of the wires** inside the guard and the **pressure of the spring** in the point of foils and épées conforms with the Rules. Checking the insulation of the wires and the pressure of the spring will be repeated each time a weapon is changed.
- 2 He makes use of a weight to check the weapon, cf. **m.11.3, m.19.3, m.42.2.d.**
- 3 At épée he will check **the total travel and the residual travel** of the pointe d'arrêt:
- the **total travel** by inserting a gauge measuring 1.5 mm between the barrel of the pointe d'arrêt and the tip.
  - the **residual travel** by inserting a gauge measuring 0.5 mm between the barrel of the pointe d'arrêt and the tip. The apparatus should not register when the point is depressed. cf. m.19.4.a, b, m.42.e.

t.69

Where applicable at the beginning of the bout the Referee will check that the required **reserve equipment** is near the appropriate end of the piste for the fencer concerned.

### ***Non-regulation equipment***

t.70

In whatever circumstances a fencer on the piste is found to be in possession of equipment which is **non-regulation or defective** (according to Material Rules), the referee confiscates the equipment and submits it to a suitable member of the organisers or Directoire Technique for examination. The equipment in question will only be returned to the owner after the measures necessitated by this examination have been completed and, if appropriate, after the payment of any expenses for repairs. The equipment must be rechecked before it is used again.

t.71

If a fencer appears on the piste:

- in the Quarter Finals or later, with only **one** regulation **weapon** (cf. t.114, 115); or
- in the Quarter Finals or later, with only **one** regulation **bodywire**; or
- in the Quarter Finals or later, with only **one** regulation **mask wire**; or
- with **a weapon or a bodywire which does not** work or which **does not conform** with the Rules; or
- without his **protective under-plastron** (cf. t.64.5); or
- with a **conductive jacket** which does not fully cover the valid target; or
- with a mask whose 2nd security device is not securely fixed to the body of the mask; or
- with **clothing** which does not conform with the Rules;

the Referee will apply the penalties stipulated in Articles t.158-162, t.165, t.170, for the offences of the 1st group and the fencer should obtain a regular equipment in a time not exceeding 5 minutes.

t.72

When during a bout an irregularity is found in the equipment which could be caused by conditions **during the bout**:

Examples:

- conductive jacket with holes in which hits are registered as non-valid,
- weapon or bodywire no longer functioning,
- pressure of the spring in the point too weak,
- the travel in the point no longer regulation,

the Referee will apply **neither warning nor penalty** and any hit scored with the equipment which has become defective will be awarded.

However, even during the course of a bout, any fencer whose weapon, at the moment he presents himself on guard and ready to fence, has a **curve of the blade** which exceeds that permitted (cf. **m.8.6, m.16.2, m.23.4**) commits an offence in the first group and will be penalised in accordance with Articles **t.158-162, t.165, t.170**.

Similarly, even during the course of a bout, any fencer whose mask, at the moment he presents himself on guard and ready to fence, is not securely held on his head by the 2nd security device (cf. m.25.7.f), commits an offence in the first group and will be penalised in accordance with articles t.158-t.162, t.165, t.170.

t.73

1 If, when a fencer appears on the piste or during a bout, it is established that the equipment used by the fencer:

- 
- b) does not conform to the rules, the Referee will:
  - penalise him as specified in Articles **t.158-162, t.166, t.170**, for the offences of the 2nd group.
- e) has been willfully altered (i.e. in a manner other than by accidental cause or by conditions during the bout) so that it does not conform to the rules;
- f) has been altered in any way to allow the recording of hits or the non-functioning of the apparatus **at will**;
- g) is equipped with **electronic communication equipment** permitting a person off the piste to communicate with the fencer during the bout;

then, in cases **e), f) and g) above**, the Referee must immediately **confiscate** the equipment (weapon, bodywire, if necessary conductive jacket, mask, protective under- plastron, breeches, etc.), and have it examined by a suitable member of the organisers or Directoire Technique.

2 After having obtained the **opinion of the suitably qualified person**, who has established the facts (cf. m.33ss), the Referee will apply the following **sanctions**, without prejudice to the application of Article t.137.2/4;

- in cases **c), e), f) and g)** the Referee will penalise him as specified for offences of the 4th group (cf. Articles t.158-162, t.169, t.170).

Where no suitably qualified person is available, the Directoire Technique may retain the equipment for examination by a person appointed by Fencing Ireland at a later date.

3 **While awaiting the decision** of the Referee that bout will be suspended but the other bouts in the pool may continue. Where examination at a later date is required, the bout will continue and the fencer in question will not be penalised on the day of the event. He may be penalised retrospectively, if relevant. Fencing Ireland will decide on any necessary retrospective penalty.

t.74

**Fencers may appear on the piste with clothing conforming to the international rules as follows:**

- 1 Name and nationality and/or club name, in accordance with the rules, on the back of the jacket.
- 2 Wearing his national uniform and **logo** .

## FOIL

## THE CONVENTIONS OF FENCING

**METHOD OF MAKING A HIT**

t.76

- 1 The foil is a **thrusting** weapon only. Offensive actions with this weapon are made therefore only with the point.
- 2 **Pushing or letting drag** the point of the electric weapon on the electric piste is forbidden during the actual bout (between 'Play!' and 'Halt!'). Placing the weapon on the piste at any time to **straighten** it is also forbidden. Any breaking of these rules will be punished according to Articles t.158-162, t.165, t.170, for the offences of the 1st group.

**TARGET****Limitation of the target**

t.77

- 1 **The valid 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. **It also includes the part of the bib beneath a horizontal line 1.5 - 2 cm below the chin which, in any case, may not be lower than the line of the shoulders (see Figure4).**
- 2 At foil, only hits which arrive **on the valid target** are counted.

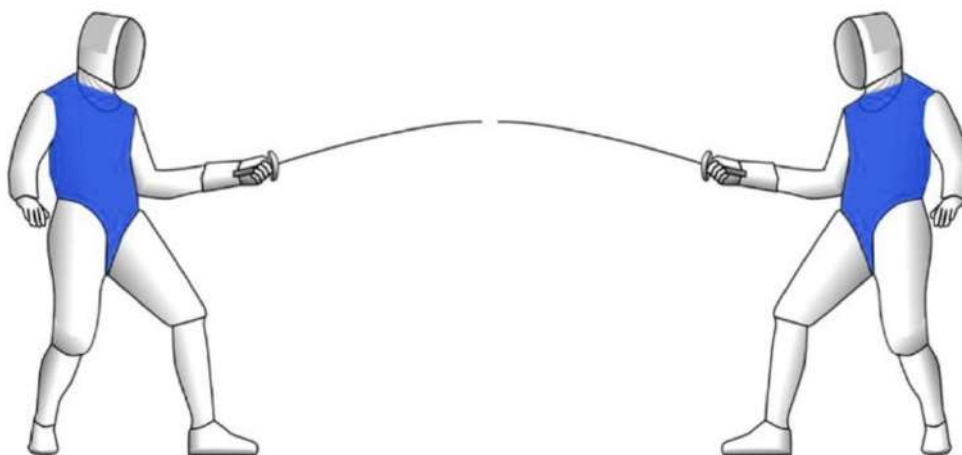


Figure 4 Valid target at foil

**This diagram is for guidance purposes only.** In case of any doubt the wording of the appropriate text takes precedence

**Hits off the target**

t.78

A hit which is made on a part of the body other than the target (whether directly or as a result of a parry) or which arrives following a fencing fault or after going over the lateral boundary of the piste with both feet, is not counted as a valid hit, but stops the fencing phrase and annuls any subsequent hit. (cf **t.79**).

**Extension of the valid target**

- 1 At foil, it is forbidden to **protect** the target area or to **substitute** another part of the body for the target area, by covering it (cf. t.158-162, t.165, t.170); any hit scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.
  - 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.29).
  - 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 penalized as specified for offences of the 1st group (cf t.158 - 162, t.165, t.170 ) and the hit will be awarded.
  - c) However, hits which arrive off the target are counted as valid whenever, by reason of an abnormal position, the fencer has substituted this non-valid target for the valid target.
- 2 The referee may question the judges but he alone must decide whether or not the hit is valid.

**ANNULMENT OF A HIT**

t.80

The Referee must take into account **possible failures of the electrical equipment**, in particular:  
 He must **annul a hit which he has just awarded** as a result of a hit signalled as on the valid target (coloured lamp) if he establishes, by tests made under his personal supervision, before the bout has effectively recommenced (the command 'Play!') and without any of the equipment in use having been changed (cf. t.47.2/d):

- either that **a hit registered as 'valid'** against the competitor against whom the hit has been awarded can be made without there being in fact a valid hit;
- or that a **'non-valid' hit** made by the fencer against whom the hit was awarded is not registered by the apparatus;
- or that a **'valid' hit** made by the fencer against whom the hit was awarded does not cause any hit either valid or non-valid to be registered;
- or that the registration of hits **made by the competitor against whom the hit was awarded** does not remain recorded on the apparatus.

t.81

On the other hand, when the Referee has decided that a hit made by a competitor has priority, this hit **shall not be annulled** if subsequently it is found that a valid hit made by the opponent is registered as non-valid or that the weapon of the fencer against whom the hit was awarded is permanently registering a non-valid hit.

**VALIDITY OR PRIORITY OF THE HIT**

**Preface**

t.82

The Referee **alone** decides as to the validity or the priority of the hit by applying the following basic rules which are the conventions applicable to foil fencing.

**Respect of the fencing phrase**

t.83

- 1 Every **attack**, that is every initial offensive action, which is correctly executed must be parried or

completely avoided and the phrase must be continuous — that is to say, co-ordinated (cf. **t.9.1**).

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

- a) **The simple attack, direct or indirect** (cf. **t.10**), is correctly executed when the straightening of the arm, the point threatening the valid target, precedes the initiation of the lunge or the flèche.
- b) **The compound attack** (cf. **t.10**) is correctly executed when the arm is straightened in the presentation of the first feint, with the point threatening the valid target, and the arm is not bent during the successive actions of the attack and the initiation of the lunge or the flèche.
- c) The attack with a **step-forward-lunge** or a **step-forward-flèche** is correctly executed when the straightening of the arm precedes the end of the step forward and the initiation of the lunge or the flèche.
- d) Actions, simple or compound, steps or feints which are **executed with a bent arm**, are not considered as attacks but as preparations, laying themselves open to the initiation of the offensive or defensive/offensive action of the opponent (cf. **t.10-11**).

t.84

To judge **the priority of an attack** when analysing the fencing phrase, it should be noted that:

- 1 If the attack is initiated **when the opponent is 'point in line'** (cf. **t.15**), the attacker must, first, deflect the opponent's blade. Referees must ensure that a mere contact of the blades is not considered as sufficient to deflect the opponent's blade (cf. t.89.5.a).
- 2 If the attacker, when attempting to deflect the opponent's blade, fails to find it (**dérobement**), the right of attack passes to the opponent.
- 3 **Continuous steps forward, with the legs crossing one another**, constitute a preparation and on this preparation any simple attack has priority.

t.85

Attacks by beats on the blade:

- 1 In an attack by beating on the blade, the attack is correctly carried out and retains its priority when the beat is made on the foible of the opponent's blade i.e. the two-thirds of the blade furthest from the guard.
- 2 In an attack by beating on the blade, when the beat is made on the forte of the opponent's blade i.e. the one-third of the blade nearest the guard, the attack is badly executed and the beat gives the opponent the right to an immediate riposte.

t.86

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.

t.87

When a compound attack is made, if the opponent **finds the blade during one of the feints**, he has the right to riposte.

t.88

When **compound 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 fencing time; that is to say that the stop hit must arrive before the attacker has begun the final movement of the attack.

### **JUDGING OF HITS**

t.89

In applying these basic conventions of foil fencing, the Referee should judge as follows:

- 1 When, during a phrase, both fencers are **hit simultaneously**, there is either a *simultaneous action* or a *double hit*.
- 2 The **simultaneous action** is due to simultaneous conception and execution of an attack by both fencers; in this case the hits exchanged are annulled for both fencers even if one of them has been hit off the target.
- 3 The **double hit**, on the other hand, is the result of a faulty action on the part of one of the fencers.  
Therefore, when there is not a period of fencing time between the hits:
  - 4 **Only the fencer who is attacked is counted as hit:**
    - a) If he makes a **stop hit** on his opponent's simple attack;
    - b) If, instead of parrying, he attempts **to dodge the hit** and does not succeed in so doing;
    - c) If, after making a successful parry, he makes a **momentary pause** which gives his opponent the right to renew the attack (redoublement, remise or reprise);
    - d) If, into a compound attack, he makes a **stop hit** without being in time;
    - e) If, **having his 'point in line'** (cf. t.15) and being subjected to a beat or a taking of the blade (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.
  - 5 **Only the fencer who attacks is counted as hit:**
    - a) If he initiates his attack **when his opponent has his point in line** (cf. t.15) without deflecting the opponent's weapon. Referees must ensure that a mere contact of the blades is not considered as sufficient to deflect the opponent's blade.
    - b) If he attempts to find the blade, does not succeed (is the object of a **dérobement**) and continues the attack.
    - c) If, during a compound attack, his opponent **finds the blade**, but he continues the attack and his opponent ripostes immediately.
    - d) If, during a compound attack, he makes a **momentary pause**, during which time the opponent makes a stop hit, while the attacker continues his attack.
    - e) If, during a compound attack, he is **stop-hit** in time before he begins his final movement.
    - f) If he makes a hit by a remise, redoublement or reprise when his original attack has been **parried and his opponent has made a riposte** which is **immediate**, simple, and executed in one period of fencing time without withdrawing the arm.
- 6 **The Referee must replace the competitors on guard** each time that there is a double hit and he is unable to judge clearly on which side the fault lies.

## EPEE

### THE CONVENTIONS OF FENCING

#### METHOD OF MAKING A HIT

T.90

- 1 The épée is a **thrusting weapon** only. Attacks with this weapon are therefore only with the point.
- 2 **Pushing** or letting the point of the electric weapon **drag** on the electric piste is forbidden during the actual bout (between 'Play!' and 'Halt!'). Placing the weapon on the piste at any time to **straighten** it is also forbidden.  
Any breaking of this rule will be penalised according to Articles t.158-162, t.165, t.170, for the offences of the 1st group.

**THE TARGET**

t.91

At épée the target includes the whole of the fencer's body including his clothing and equipment.

Thus any hit which arrives is counted, whatever part of the body (trunk, limbs or head), the clothing or the equipment it touches (see Figure 5).

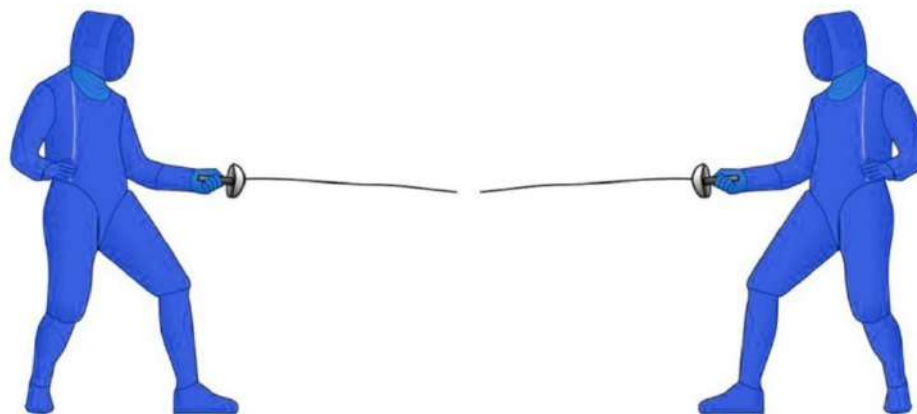


Figure 5 Valid target at épée

**This diagram is for guidance purposes only.** In case of any doubt the wording of the appropriate text takes precedence.

**JUDGING OF HITS**

t.92

When both competitors are hit, and the apparatus registers both these hits as valid, there is a **double hit**, that is to say a hit is scored against each competitor.

**The annulment of hits**

t.93

In arriving at his judgement, the Referee will disregard hits which are registered as a result of actions:

- caused by the **meeting of the points** of the épées or by a hit made on the **ground** where it is **not insulated**.

t.94

The Referee must take note of **possible failures** of the electrical equipment and must annul the last hit registered in the following circumstances:

- 1 If a hit **made on the guard** of the competitor against whom the hit was registered or on the **conductive piste** causes the apparatus to register a hit. However, the fact that the épée of a competitor has large or small areas of insulation formed by oxidation, by glue, paint or any other material on any part of the weapon, on which the opponent's hits can cause a hit to be signalled, or that the electric tip is badly fixed to the end of the blade so that it can be unscrewed or tightened by hand, cannot justify the annulment of hits registered against that competitor.
- 2 If a hit **properly made** by the competitor against whom the hit was registered does not cause the apparatus to register a hit;
- 3 If the apparatus **fortuitously registers a hit** on the side of the competitor against whom the hit was registered, for example, after a beat on the blade, by

any movements of his opponent, or as a result of any cause other than a properly made hit.

4 If the registering of a hit made by the competitor against whom the hit was registered **is annulled** by a subsequent hit made by his opponent.

5 Special cases

- If a double hit is registered and **one hit is valid and the other is not valid** (such as a hit made on some surface other than on the opponent (cf. t.93) or a hit made after leaving the piste (cf. t.33ss), only the valid hit is scored.
- If a double hit is registered by **an established hit and a doubtful hit** (failure of the electrical apparatus) the fencer who has made the established hit may choose to accept the double hit or ask to have it annulled.

t.95

The Referee must also apply the following rules regarding the annulment of hits:

1 If the incidents mentioned in Article **t.94** occur as a result of the competitor's **bodywire being unplugged** (either near the hand or at the back of the fencer), they cannot justify the annulment of the hit registered.

However, if the safety device prescribed by Article **m.55.4** is missing or not functioning, the hit should be annulled if the plug at the fencers' back has become unplugged.

2 If a competitor **tears the conductive piste** by a hit made on the ground and, at the same time, the apparatus registers a hit against his opponent, the hit must be annulled.

## SABRE

### THE CONVENTIONS OF FENCING

#### METHOD OF MAKING A HIT

t.96

1 The sabre is a weapon for **thrusting and cutting with both the cutting edge and the back of the blade.**

2 All hits made with the **cutting edge, the flat or the back of the blade** are counted as good (cuts and back cuts).

3 It is forbidden to **hit with the guard.** Any hits registered by hitting with the guard must be annulled, the fencer so hitting being penalised as specified in Articles t.158-163, t.165, t.170, for the offences of the 1st group.

4 Hits **through the blade**, that is to say those which touch at the same time the valid target and the sabre of the opponent, are valid whenever they arrive clearly on the target.

5 **Placing the weapon on the piste at any time to straighten it** is forbidden. Any breaking of this rule will be punished according to Articles t. 158-163, t.165, t.170, for the offences of the 1st group.

#### THE TARGET

t.97

1 Only hits which arrive on the target are counted as valid.

The target comprises any part of the body above a horizontal line drawn between the top of the hip bones and then horizontally round the fencer's trunk (see Figure 6).

- 2 At sabre, it is forbidden to **protect** the target area or to **substitute** another part of the body for the target area, by covering it (cf. t.158-162, t.165, t.170); any hit scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.  
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.29).

t.98

A hit which arrives **on a non-valid part of the target** is not counted as a hit; it is not registered by the apparatus, it does not stop the fencing phrase and does not annul any subsequent hits. However, a hit which arrives following a fencing fault or after going over the lateral boundary of the piste with both feet is not counted as a valid hit, but it stops the fencing phrase and therefore annuls any subsequent hit.

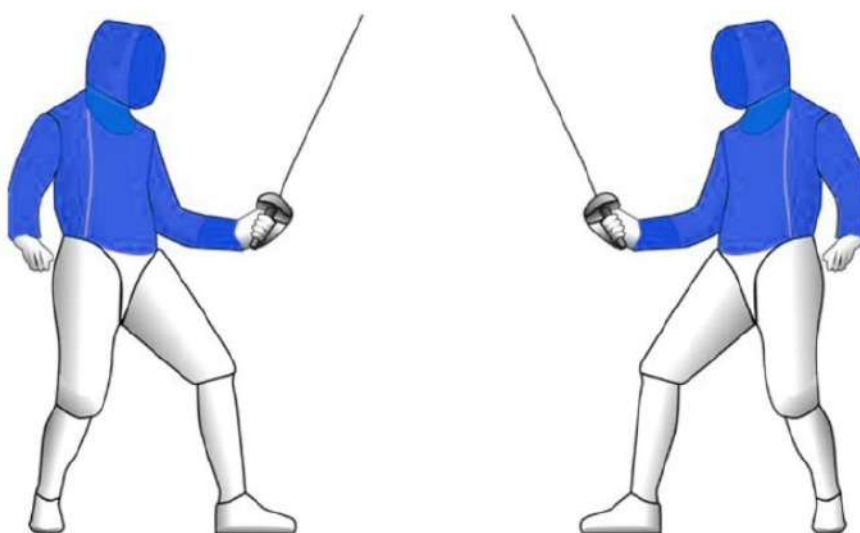


Figure 6 Valid target at sabre

**This diagram is for guidance purposes only.** In case of any doubt the wording of the appropriate text takes precedence.

### **JUDGING OF HITS**

#### **MATERIALITY AND ANNULMENT OF HITS**

t.99

1

The Referee must take into account any possible **malfunctions** in the electrical equipment; in particular he must annul a hit he has just awarded in accordance with a signal from the apparatus if it can be established, by tests carried out under his attentive supervision, before the bout has effectively re-started and with no changes having been made to the equipment (cf. t.47.2.d):

- that a **hit made** by the fencer judged to have been hit does not cause the apparatus to register;
- that a **hit made** by the fencer judged to have been hit does not remain fixed on the apparatus;
- that the **signal of a hit** against the fencer judged to have been hit can be produced either without there having been in fact a valid hit, or by a hit on the weapon or on a non-valid surface.

- 2 If the **sabre** of the fencer judged to have been hit **does not conform** with Article **m.24.6–8** (insulation of the interior and exterior of the guard, of the handle and of the pommel), there will be no annulment, even if a hit on the weapon causes a signal to register.

### **VALIDITY OR PRIORITY OF THE HIT**

#### **Preface**

t.100

The Referee alone decides as to the validity or the priority of the hit by applying the following basic rules which are the conventions applicable to sabre fencing.

#### **Respect of the fencing phrase**

t.101

- 1 **Any attack properly executed** (cf. **t.9.1**) must be parried, or completely avoided, and the phrase must be continuous.
- 2 The attack is correctly carried out when the straightening of the arm, with the point or the cutting edge continuously threatening the valid target, precedes the initiation of the lunge.
- 3 **An attack with a lunge is correctly carried out:**
  - a) in a **simple attack** (Cf. **t.9.1**) **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;
  - b) in a **compound attack** (Cf. **t.10**) when **the beginning of the straightening of the arm, on the first feint** (Cf. **t.103**), **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:**
  - a) in a **simple attack** (Cf. **t.9.1**) **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;
  - b) in a **compound attack** (Cf. **t.10**) **when the beginning of the straightening of the arm for the first feint** (Cf. **t.103**) **precedes the step-forward, followed by the lunge, and the hit arrives at the latest** when the front foot hits the **piste**.
- 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.158- 162, t.165, t.170**). Any hit scored by the fencer at fault will be annulled. However, any hit correctly executed by his opponent is valid.

t.102

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'** (cf. **t.15**) the attacker must first deflect his opponent's weapon. Referees must ensure that a mere contact of the blades is not considered as sufficient to deflect the opponent's blade.
- 2 If, when attempting to find the opponent's blade to deflect it, the blade is not found (**dérobement**), the right of attack passes to the opponent.
- 3 If the attack is commenced **when the opponent's blade is not 'in line'**, the attack may be completed either direct, or by a disengagement or by a cutover, or else be preceded by feints (cf. **t.103**) which oblige the opponent to parry.

t.103

- 1 In **compound attacks** the feint must be correctly carried out, i.e.:
  - a) A **feint with the point**, with the arm straightened and the point threatening the target continuously.

- b) A **feint with a cut**, the arm straightened, the blade and the arm forming an obtuse angle of about 135°, with the cutting edge threatening a valid part of the target.
- 1 If during a compound attack the opponent **finds the blade during one of the feints**, he has the right to riposte.
  - 2 In a compound attack the opponent has the right to stop-hit; but, in order to be valid, the stop hit must precede the last movement of the attack by one period of fencing time, i.e. the **stop hit** must arrive before the attacker has started the last movement of the attack itself.

t.104

#### **Attacks by beats on the blade**

- 1 In an attack by beating on the blade, the attack is correctly carried out and retains its priority when the beat is made **on the foible of the opponent's blade**, i.e. the two-thirds of the blade furthest from the guard.
- 2 In an attack by beating on the blade, when the beat is made **on the forte of the opponent's blade**, i.e. the one-third of the blade nearest the guard, the attack is badly executed and the beat gives the opponent the right to an immediate riposte.

t.105

- 1 The parry gives the right to **riposte**; a simple riposte may be direct or indirect, but in order to annul any subsequent movement by the attacker, it must be carried out immediately, without any hesitation or pause.
- 2 Against cuts with the **cutting edge, the flat or the back of the blade**, the object of the parry is to prevent hits made by the opponent arriving on the valid target; therefore:
  - a) The parry is **properly carried out** when, before the completion of the attack, it prevents the arrival of that attack by closing the line in which that attack is to finish.
  - b) When a parry is properly executed, the attack by the opponent must be declared parried, and judged as such by the Referee, even if, **as a result of its flexibility**, the tip of the opponent's weapon makes contact with the target.

#### **Judging of hits**

t.106

- In applying these basic conventions of sabre fencing, the Referee should judge as follows:
- 1 When during a phrase both fencers are hit simultaneously there is either a **simultaneous action or a double hit**:  
The simultaneous action is due to simultaneous conception and execution of an attack by both fencers; in this case the hits exchanged are annulled for both fencers.
  - 2 The double hit (coup double) on the other hand, is the result of a clearly faulty action on the part of one of the fencers.  
Therefore, when there is not an interval of fencing time between the hits:
    - 3 **The fencer who is attacked is alone counted as hit:**
      - a) If he makes a **stop hit** on his opponent's simple attack;
      - b) If, instead of parrying, he attempts to **avoid the hit** and does not succeed in so doing;
      - c) If, after making a successful parry, he makes a **momentary pause** (delayed riposte) which gives his opponent the right to renew the attack (redoublement, or remise or reprise);
      - d) If, during a compound attack, he makes a **stop hit** without being in time;

- e) If, having his point 'in line' (cf. t.15) and being subjected to a beat or a taking of the blade (prise de fer) which deflects his blade, he attacks or places his point in line again instead of parrying a direct hit made by his opponent.
- 4 **The fencer who attacks is alone counted as hit:**
  - a) If he initiated his attack when **his opponent had his point 'in line'** (cf. **t.15**), without deflecting the opponent's weapon. Referees must ensure that a mere contact of the blades is not considered as sufficient to deflect the opponent's blade.
  - b) If he attempts to find the blade, does not succeed (because of a **derobement**) and continues the attack.
  - c) If, during a compound attack, he allows his opponent to **find the blade**, and continues the attack while his opponent ripostes immediately.
  - d) If, during a compound attack, he **bends his arm** or makes a **momentary pause**, during which time the opponent makes a stop hit or an attack while the attacker continues his own attack.
  - e) If, during a compound attack, he is **stop-hit** one period of fencing time (temps d'escrime) before he makes his final movement.
  - f) If he makes a hit by a remise, redoublement or reprise following a **parry by his opponent** which has been followed by a riposte which is immediate, simple and executed in one period of fencing time without withdrawing the arm.
- 5 When there is a double hit, and if the Referee is unable clearly to judge from which side the fault has come, he must **replace the competitors on guard**.

## DISCIPLINARY RULES FOR COMPETITION

### Chapter 1

#### APPLICATION

##### **Persons subject to these rules**

t.107

- 1 The regulations laid down in this part apply to **all persons** who take part in or attend a **fencing competition**, including **the spectators**. (cf. **t.109, t.110, t.133**)
- 2 In the following articles, all these persons are referred to as **fencers**.

##### **Order and discipline**

t.108

- 1 Fencers must **observe strictly and faithfully** the Rules and regulations of Fencing Ireland, the particular rules for the competition in which they are engaged, the traditional customs of courtesy and integrity and the instructions of the officials.
- 2 In particular they will subscribe, in an **orderly, disciplined and sporting manner**, to the following provisions; all breaches of these rules may entail punishments by the competent disciplinary authorities after, or even without, prior warning, according to the facts and circumstances (cf. t.158–t.170).

t.109

Everybody taking part in or present at a fencing competition must respect the Fencing Ireland rules and regulations, including but not limited to the Fencing Ireland Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Policy. They **must remain orderly and must not disturb the smooth running of the competition**. During bouts no one is allowed to **go near the pistes**, to **give advice to the fencers**, to **criticise the Referee** or the judges, to insult them or to attempt to influence them in any way. Even the **team captain** must remain in the space assigned to him and he may only intervene in the situations and in the manner provided for in Article t.130 of the Rules. The Referee must stop immediately any activity which disturbs the smooth running of the bout which he is refereeing (cf. t.137.1–3).

Any person who, for any reason, threatens or insults an official commits an offence of the 3rd group and is penalised according to article t.167-168. Any person present who witnesses a breach of the Fencing Ireland Code of Conduct or the Safeguarding Policy must report this to the Directoire Technique and/or Fencing Ireland.

t.110

**Smoking** in competition halls is forbidden. Smoking will be considered as a disturbance of the smooth running of the competition (cf. t.111). Any breach of these rules will be punished as laid down in Articles **t.158-162, t.167, t.168, t.170**, for the offences of the 3rd group.

t.111 The Referee and/or the Directoire Technique, on their own authority or at the request of a Fencing Ireland official or a member of the organisers, can decide to expel from the competition venue, with or without a warning, any person who by his/her gestures, attitude, or language or by breaching the Fencing Ireland Safeguarding Policy disturbs the good order or smooth running of the event.

### **The competitors**

#### **Pledge of honour**

t.112

By the mere fact of entering a fencing competition, the fencers **pledge their honour** to observe the Rules and the decisions of the officials, to be respectful towards the referees and judges and scrupulously to obey the orders and injunctions of the Referee (cf.t.158-163, t.169, t.170).

#### **Refusing to fence an opponent**

t.113

1 No fencer (individual or team) may take part in an official competition if he **refuses to fence** against any other fencer whatsoever (individual or team) correctly entered in the event. **Should this rule be broken, the penalties specified for offences of the 4th group will be applied (cf. t.158-162, t.169, t.170).**

#### **Presence on time**

t.114

The fencers, completely equipped, with all equipment conforming with the regulations (cf. **t.64– t.70**) and ready to fence, must **be present at the time and place** appointed for the beginning of the pool, match, or bout of direct elimination, or at the time appointed for the checking of their equipment before their bout (cf. t.64-66), as well as during the competition, whenever the Referee requires it.

t.115

1 When presenting themselves to fence a bout, the fencers must arrive on the piste **completely ready to fence** — regulation clothing, jacket fastened, sword-hand gloved and holding the weapon, body wire connected to the plug inside the guard. The mask should be carried in the unarmed hand.

2 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.158- 162, t.165, t.170**).

t.116

Under no circumstances should the fencers **dress or undress in public** except as necessary in the case of an accident/injury (cf. **t.158-162, t.165, t.170**). Any infringement will be sanctioned for the offences of the 1st group.

t.117

From the Quarter Finals onwards, the fencers must arrive on the piste, to fence their bouts, with **two weapons** (one as a spare), **two bodywires** (one as a spare) and two mask wires (one as a spare) which satisfy the regulations and are in perfect working order (cf. t.71, t.158-162, t.165, t.170).

t.118

.....

t.119

t.120

The Referee may not allow a fencer to **leave the piste**, except in exceptional circumstances. If a competitor does so without permission he will be penalised as specified in Articles **t.158-162, t.165, t.170**, for the offences of the 1st group.

### Fencing etiquette

t.121

1

The competitors must fence **faithfully** and strictly **according to the rules** laid down in these Rules. All breaches of these rules will incur the penalties laid down hereinafter (cf **t.158-162, t.170**).

2

All bouts must preserve the character of a courteous and frank encounter. All irregular actions (fleche attack which finishes with a collision jostling the opponent, disorderly fencing, irregular movements on the piste, hits achieved with violence, blows struck with the guard, an intentional fall down to avoid the touch) or anti-sporting behaviour are strictly forbidden (cf. t.158-162, t.170). Should such an offence occur, any hit scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

t.122

Before the beginning and at the end of a bout, the two fencers must perform the **fencer's salute** to their opponent, to the referee and to the spectators, as defined in article t.1.

When the final hit of the bout has been scored, the two fencers stand still on their on-guard line while the referee is making his/her decision.

The two fencers then perform the **fencer's salute** (cf. t.1) to their opponent, to the referee and to the spectators. The bout has then ended.

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.158-162, t.169, t.170)**.

**Application:** until the end of the 2025-2026 season

t.123

During or after a bout, even if the fencer has already left the piste, any act against the spirit of sportsmanship such as violently or dangerously throwing one's mask or any other piece of equipment will be penalised as specified in article **t.169 (c.f. t.108.1, 2 and t.109)**, for the offences of the 4th group.

Unwillingness to fight (Non-combativity)

t.124

RULE FOR 2024-2025 SEASON

There is unwillingness to fight when there is one minute of fencing without a hit or without a hit scored off the target.

In the event of **unwillingness to fight**, the Referee will immediately call 'Halt!' as a decision of "fact" (cf.t.136.2).

Unwillingness to fight is sanctioned as follows (t.170):

**1 Individual events – Direct elimination**

P-yellow cards and P-red Cards are awarded to both fencers simultaneously, starting with a P- Yellow card, followed by a P-Red card. The P-Black card is awarded as described in 1c) below.

a) When, for the first time, there is one minute of unwillingness to fight, the Referee sanctions both fencers with a P-yellow card.

b) When, for the second time, there is one minute of unwillingness to fight, the Referee sanctions both fencers with a P-red card.

c) When, for the third time, there is one minute of unwillingness to fight, a P-black card is awarded as follows:

i) If the scores of the two fencers are equal, the Referee sanctions the fencer with the lower initial seeding in the competition, which is based on the FIE ranking and by drawing lots among any fencers who are not in the ranking, with a P-Black card. The fencer with the higher initial seeding in the competition, which is based on the FIE ranking, wins the bout.

ii) If the scores of the two fencers are not equal, the Referee sanctions the fencer with the lower score with a P-Black card. The fencer with the higher score wins the bout.

**2 Team events**

P-Yellow, P-Red cards are awarded to the two teams simultaneously, starting with a P-Yellow card and followed by a P-Red card. The P-Black card is awarded as described in 2c) below.

a) When, for the first time, there is one minute of unwillingness to fight, the Referee sanctions both teams with a P-yellow card.

b) When, for the second time, there is one minute of unwillingness to fight, the Referee sanctions both teams with a P-red card.

c) When, for the third time, there is one minute of unwillingness to fight, a P-Black card is awarded as follows:

i) If the scores for the two teams are equal, the Referee sanctions the team with the lower initial seeding in the competition, which is based on the FIE ranking, with a P-Black card. The team with the higher initial seeding in the competition, which is based on the FIE ranking, wins the match.

ii) If the scores for the two teams are not equal, the Referee sanctions the team with the lower score with a P-Black card. The team with the higher score wins the match.

**3 In both individual and team competitions**

a) The P-yellow (warning), P-red (penalty hit) and P-black (the possible losing of a bout or match) cards received during any one bout or match (during all 9 relays) are valid only for that bout or match. They are not transferable to the following bout or match.

No P-card (yellow, red or black) may be awarded in individual competitions at 14-14 or in team matches at 44-44.

b) In both individual and team competitions, fencers and teams who have lost the bout/match following the award of a P-Black card, will be ranked in the final results of the competition as having lost the bout/match. They receive the corresponding points.

c) In both individual and team competitions, the period/relay continues after the awarding of a P- Yellow or a P-Red card.

d) The minute starts again after each hit, each hit off the target, each hit annulled, each penalty hit and at the beginning of each period or relay.

- e) The referee must record these P-yellow, P-red and P-black cards separately on the score sheet. The sanctions awarded for unwillingness to fight are not cumulative with any other sanction awarded.
- f) In both individual and team competitions, if, at the end of the regulation time, there is equality of scores, article t.124 does not apply and articles t.40.3 and t.41.5 will apply.

- 
- t.124 UPDATED RULE, APPLICATION 2026-2027 SEASON
- There is unwillingness to fight when there is one minute of fencing without a hit or without a hit scored off the target.
- In the event of **unwillingness to fight**, the Referee will immediately call 'Halt!' as a decision of "fact" (cf.t.136.2).
- Unwillingness to fight is sanctioned as follows (t.170):
- 1 **Individual events – Direct elimination**  
 P-red Cards are awarded to both fencers simultaneously. The P-Black card is awarded as described in 1c) below.
    - a) When, for the first time, there is one minute of unwillingness to fight, the Referee sanctions both fencers with a P-red card.
    - b) When, for the second time, there is one minute of unwillingness to fight, a P-black card is awarded as follows:
      - i) If the scores of the two fencers are equal, the Referee sanctions the fencer with the lower initial seeding in the competition, which is based on the FIE ranking and by drawing lots among any fencers who are not in the ranking, with a P-Black card. The fencer with the higher initial seeding in the competition, which is based on the FIE ranking, wins the bout.
      - ii) If the scores of the two fencers are not equal, the Referee sanctions the fencer with the lower score with a P-Black card. The fencer with the higher score wins the bout.
  - 2 **Team events**  
 P-Red cards are awarded to the two teams simultaneously. The P-Black card is awarded as described in 2b) below.
    - a) When, for the first time, there is one minute of unwillingness to fight, the Referee sanctions both teams with a P-red card.
    - b) When, for the third time, there is one minute of unwillingness to fight, a P-Black card is awarded as follows:
      - i) If the scores for the two teams are equal, the Referee sanctions the team with the lower initial seeding in the competition, which is based on the FIE ranking, with a P-Black card. The team with the higher initial seeding in the competition, which is based on the FIE ranking, wins the match.
      - ii) If the scores for the two teams are not equal, the Referee sanctions the team with the lower score with a P-Black card. The team with the higher score wins the match.
  - 3 **In both individual and team competitions**
    - a) The P-red (penalty hit) and P-black (the possible losing of a bout or match) cards received during any one bout or match (during all 9 relays) are valid only for that bout or match. They are not transferable to the following bout or match. No P-card (red or black) may be awarded in individual competitions at 14-14 or in team matches at 44-44.
    - b) In both individual and team competitions, fencers and teams who have lost the bout/match following the award of a P-Black card, will be ranked in the final results of the competition as having lost the bout/match. They receive the corresponding points.
    - c) In both individual and team competitions, the period/relay continues after the awarding of a P-Red card.

- d) The minute starts again after each hit, each hit off the target, each hit annulled, each penalty hit and at the beginning of each period or relay.
- e) The referee must record these P-red and P-black cards separately on the score sheet. The sanctions awarded for unwillingness to fight are not cumulative with any other sanction awarded.
- f) In both individual and team competitions, if, at the end of the regulation time, there is equality of scores, article t.124 does not apply and articles t.40.3 and t.41.5 will apply.

t.125

The fencer, whether on or off the piste, must **keep his mask on** until the Referee calls 'Halt!' He may under no circumstances address the Referee until the Referee has made his decision (cf. **t.158- 162, t.165, t.170**). Any infringement will be sanctioned for the offences of the 1st group.

t.126

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t.127

At the end of a bout, the Referee must bring together the two fencers, **to announce clearly the score**, which will be transmitted to the Directoire Technique. He must say clearly: 'Mister X won against Mister Y with the following score...'

At the end of a team match, the Referee must bring together the two teams, **to clearly announce the score**, which will be transmitted to the Directoire Technique. He must say clearly: 'Team X won against Team Y with the following score...'

Fencers must not present on piste in a state of undress.

### **Personal effort**

t.128

Competitors must **fence to their utmost ability** in a sportsmanlike manner until the end of the competition in order to obtain the best possible classification, without giving away hits or seeking to be favoured by being given hits by anyone (cf. **t.158-162, t.169, t.170**). Any infringement will be sanctioned for the offences of the 4th group.

### **The team captain**

t.130

In team events, only the **team captain** has the right to be to approach the Referee in order to decide with them any technical matters or to register protests.

The procedure for claims is set out in articles t.172-175.

The members of the team who have **scrupulously abided by his decisions** may not be held responsible by the relevant authorities. However, they are **personally responsible** for any actions they commit for which their team captain has not taken authority and for any offence committed by them in violation of the present Rules.

### **The instructors, trainers and technicians**

t.131

- 1 During the direct elimination of the individual events, the fencer's **coach, medical staff and technicians** are not allowed to remain near their fencers; **the coaches** are allowed to be inside the competition area.
- 2 The Referee may, whenever he considers it necessary, authorise a person to **come briefly to the assistance** of a fencer.

### **The spectators**

t.133

Spectators are obliged not to **interfere with the good order** of a competition, to do nothing which may tend to influence the fencers or the Referee, and to respect the decisions of the latter even when they do not agree with them. They must obey any instructions which the Referee may deem it necessary to give them (cf. **t.109-110, t.167-168, t.170**, penalties for the offences of the 3rd group).

## **Chapter 2**

### **THE DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITIES AND THEIR COMPETENCE**

#### **Preamble**

t.134

The following articles regulate discipline at competition venues. Depending on the gravity of the offences established, they do not exclude the application of the Disciplinary Code of the FIE (Chapter VII of the Statutes of the FIE) which completes or, if the case arises, takes priority over the following articles.

#### **Jurisdictional bodies**

t.135

##### **The following are the competent disciplinary authorities:**

- the Referee (cf. **t.137**);
- the Referee Manager;
- the Directoire Technique (cf. **t.139, o.15 to o.22**);
- Fencing Ireland – its board and any other committees or structures provided for in its disciplinary policies;
- Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland ("SDSI").
- 
- ;
- ;
- 

#### **Principle of jurisdiction**

t.136

- 1 Whatever juridical authority has taken a decision, this decision may be subject to an **appeal** to a higher juridical authority, but only to one such appeal.
- 2 No decision on a question of **fact** can be the subject of an appeal (cf. **t.172**).
- 3 An appeal against a decision only **suspends** that decision when it can be judged immediately.

**The Referee**

t.137

- 1 The Referee is responsible not only for the direction of the bout, the judging of hits and the checking of equipment, but equally for the **maintenance of order** in the bouts which he is refereeing (cf. t.47.2.i).
- 2 In his capacity as director of the bout and arbiter of hits, he can, in accordance with the rules, **penalise** the competitors, either by refusing to award a hit which they have in fact made on the opponent, or by awarding against them a hit which they have not in fact received, or by excluding them from the competition which he is refereeing, all, according to the circumstances, with or without prior warning. In these circumstances, and if he has judged on a matter of **fact**, his decisions are irrevocable (cf. **t.172**).
- 3 By reason of the right of jurisdiction which he has over all the fencers who participate in, or are present at a competition which he is refereeing, he can also **propose** to the Directoire Technique the **expulsion** from the venue of the competition of the spectators, trainers, instructors and other persons who accompany the competitors (cf. **t.158-162, t.167, t.168, t.170**).
- 4 Finally, he may **recommend** to the Directoire Technique all other penalties which he considers appropriate (exclusion from the whole competition, suspension or disqualification) (cf. **t.139.3**).

t.138

The Referee Manager, if one has been appointed, or the Directoire Technique (if there is Referee Manager) is the **authority competent to deal with appeals against the decisions of the Referee**.

**The Directoire Technique at official Fencing Ireland competitions (cf. o.15-22)**

t.139

- 1 The Directoire Technique and the Referee Manager have jurisdiction over all the fencers who take part in or are present at a competition which they are running.
- 2 When necessary they can **intervene on their own initiative** in all disputes.
- 3 They are also responsible for maintaining order and discipline during competitions, and may use the penalties specified in the Rules.
- 4 The Directoire Technique is responsible for sending direct to **the relevant body in Fencing Ireland** announcements or reports of disciplinary penalties pronounced during the competitions, as well as any requests for censure, suspension, extension of penalty or permanent suspension, and requests for ultimate appeals.
- 5 The Directoire Technique **activates** any penalty imposed against which no appeal is possible or which is not subject to suspension (**cf. t.136**).

t.140

The disciplinary decisions of the Directoire Technique, the refereeing delegates or the supervisor that they take spontaneously or in their own right (as the first level of authority) are subject to appeal to the Fencing Ireland in keeping with all relevant Fencing Ireland policies and regulations.

t.141

All the decisions of the Directoire Technique or the Referee Manager are **immediately enforceable**. No appeal against a decision can suspend that decision during the competition.

**Fencing Ireland, , Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland (“SDSI”)**

t.143

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2

**The Board of Fencing Ireland** is the body that, within the limits of the territory over which the Fencing Ireland has authority, sets policies and procedures to settle all relevant disciplinary matters and to judge all appeals against decisions taken by a Directoire Technique, the Referee Manager or the Supervisor.

3

**Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland (SDSI)** handles all appeals against the decisions of the Fencing Ireland.

4

In urgent cases, **the Board of Fencing Ireland** may take the preliminary administrative measures necessary for the suspension of the licence of the accused in accordance with the Fencing Ireland policies and Codes of Conduct.

5

**Chapter 3**

**PENALTIES**

**Classification of penalties**

t.144

There are distinct **categories** of penalty applicable to different sorts of offence (cf. t.158ss).

1

**Penalties related to fencing**, applicable to offences committed while fencing. These are:

- the loss of ground on the piste
- refusal to award a hit actually made
- awarding a hit which has not in fact been received - exclusion from the competition

2

**Disciplinary penalties** applicable to offences concerned with maintenance of order, discipline or sportsmanship. These are:

- awarding a hit which has not in fact been received
- exclusion from the competition
- exclusion from participation in the whole tournament
- expulsion from the venue of the competition
- disqualification
- censure
- fine
- temporary suspension
- permanent suspension

t.145

1

All these penalties except permanent suspension **can be applied** by the competent authorities at a competition — the Referee and the Directoire Technique.

2

**Temporary suspension** can be applied by these authorities only in the case of a fencer refusing to salute (cf. **t.122**, t.170).

**Penalties related to fencing**

t.146

.....

**Refusal to award a hit actually made**

t.147

Although a competitor may in fact have hit his opponent on the target, **this hit may be disallowed**, either because it did not arrive during the period of time during which fencing is allowed, or because the competitor had crossed the boundaries of the piste, or because of defects in the electrical equipment, or because violence was involved in the making of the hit, or because of other reasons as laid down in the Rules (according to the Technical Rules).

#### **Award of a hit which not in fact been received**

t.148

A competitor may have **a hit awarded against him** which he has not in fact received, either because he has crossed the rear limit of the piste (cf. **t.34**), or because he has committed an offence which has prevented his opponent fencing (a flèche attack which jostles the opponent, the use of the unarmed hand while fencing, etc.) according to the Technical Rules.

#### **Exclusion**

t.149

1 A competitor who, while fencing, commits certain **violent or vindictive actions** against his opponent, or who does not **fence to his utmost ability**, or who **profits from a fraudulent agreement** with his opponent, may be excluded from the competition.

2 **A competitor who is excluded** from a competition may not continue to take part in that competition, even if he is already qualified for promotion to the next round. He loses the right to his individual classification and all the fencers ranked after the disqualified fencer move up one place in the results of the competition. If necessary the two third places are decided according to their ranking for the composition of the table. Under all circumstances, only fencers who have actually received points in the competition can move up a place in the competition's results.

#### **DISCIPLINARY PENALTIES**

##### **Exclusion from the competition**

t.150

1 **Exclusion from a competition** may also be imposed for a disciplinary offence (failure to appear on the piste as required, weapons not in accordance with the rules, reprehensible attitude towards an official, etc.).

2 The consequences of such exclusion for the competitor are the same as those described in Article **t.149** above.

##### **Expulsion from the venue of the competition or the tournament**

t.151

1 A competitor who is excluded from a tournament will no longer be allowed to participate **in any competition** during that tournament, either at the same weapon or another.

2 When this penalty is imposed **on a team**, the position of each member of that team must be examined individually, and the members of that team may, according to the circumstances, have different penalties imposed on them (cf. **t.130**).

t.152

All participants or non-competitors who participate in or are present at a competition (instructors, trainers, technicians, supporters, officials, spectators) **may be expelled**. Such expulsion has the effect of forbidding them access to the venue for the duration of the competition or tournament (cf. **t.133, t.137.3**,

**t.170).** In no circumstances can the imposition of this penalty give cause for redress to anyone. S

### Disqualification

t.153

- 1 **Disqualification** of a competitor does not necessarily incur his (temporary) suspension or permanent suspension, if he has acted in good faith; a request for supplementary penalties for fraudulent intention may, however, be made against the competitor.
- 2 A team **which has included a competitor who is disqualified** necessarily incurs the penalty of that member and is also disqualified.
- 3 The consequences of disqualification are the same as those for exclusion from the competition (see Article t.149).

### Censure

t.154

In cases where a more severe disciplinary sanction is not justified, the fencer or the official may be sanctioned by **censure**.

### Temporary suspension

t.155

- 1 **A competitor who is suspended** cannot take part in any official FIE competition during the time he is suspended.
- 2 **All other persons who are suspended** are debarred from exercising their functions within the limits of time and place fixed when the suspension is imposed.

### Permanent suspension

t.156

**Permanent suspension** involves the same consequences as suspension, but is permanent.

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF PENALTIES

t.157

- 1 The Directoire Technique is required to **inform** the Disciplinary Panel of Fencing Ireland without delay of **black card penalties** applied during the competition and their reasons (cf. **t.139.4**).

### The types (groups) of penalty

t.158

There are **three types of penalty** to be applied in the cases indicated in the table in Article t.170. If a referee has to penalise a fencer who has committed several faults at the same time, he should penalise the least serious fault first.

t.159

Penalties are **cumulative and they are valid for the bout** with the exception of those indicated by a **BLACK CARD**, which means exclusion from the competition, suspension for the remainder of the tournament and for the following 60 days of the active season (1 September – World Championships for the Juniors, and 1 September – World Championships for the Seniors), whether current or forthcoming, or both (cf. t.169.2)

t.160

However, a **team** excluded from a tournament because of a black card imposed on one of its members during a team match, is not penalized by suspension. Only the individual fencer who was penalised will be suspended in accordance with t.159 and cannot be selected as a member of any team during the period of suspension. Cf. o.99.8.

t.161

Certain offences can result in the **annulment of the hit** scored by the fencer at fault. During the bout, only hits scored in circumstances connected with the offence may be annulled (cf. **t.170**).

t.162

The **penalties** are as follows:

- 1 a **warning**, indicated by a **YELLOW CARD** with which the Referee identifies the fencer at fault. The fencer then knows that any further offence on his part will result in a penalty hit.
- 2 a **penalty hit**, indicated by a **RED CARD** with which the Referee identifies the fencer at fault. A hit is added to the score of his opponent and may, if the last hit is at stake, lead to the loss of the bout. Furthermore, a **RED CARD** can only be followed by another **RED CARD** or by a **BLACK CARD**, depending on the nature of the second offence (cf. **t.170**).
- 3 Exclusion from the competition, suspension from the remainder of the tournament and for the following 60 days of the active season, whether current or forthcoming, indicated by a **BLACK CARD** with which the Referee identifies the person at fault.
- 4 **Expulsion from the competition venue (any person disturbing the order of the competition).**

t.163

All warnings (**YELLOW CARDS**), penalty hits (**RED CARDS**) and exclusions (**BLACK CARDS**) must be **noted on the score-sheet** of the bout, the pool or the match, together with the group to which they belong.

#### **Competence**

t.164

The **offences and their penalties** which appear in different articles of the Rules are summarised in the table that follows in Article **t.170**; they are divided into four groups (cf. **t.165–t.169**). All these penalties are within the **competence of the Referee**, although the Directoire Technique still retains the right to intervene on its own initiative (cf. **t.139.1–3**).

#### **The First Group of Offences**

t.165

The first infringement in this First Group is penalised by a **YELLOW CARD** (warning). If during the same bout the fencer commits the same or a different offence in this group the Referee penalises him on each occasion, with a **RED CARD** (penalty hit). If the fencer at fault has already been penalised by a **RED CARD** because of an offence listed in the Second or Third Group, he receives a further **RED CARD** for his first infringement relating to the First Group.

#### **The Second Group of offences**

t.166

Every offence in the Second Group, including the first infringement, is penalised by a **RED CARD** (penalty hit).

#### **The Third Group of offences**

t.167

- 1 The first infringement in the Third Group is penalised by a **RED CARD** (penalty hit), even if the fencer at fault has already received a **RED CARD** as a result of offences in the First or Second Groups.

- 2 If during the same bout the fencer commits the same or a different offence in this group, he is penalised with a **BLACK CARD** (exclusion from the competition, suspension from the remainder of the tournament and for the following 60 days of the active season (1 September – World Championships for the Juniors, and 1 September – World Championships for the Seniors), whether current or forthcoming).

t.168

Any person **not on the piste** who disturbs the good order of the competition receives:

- 1 On the **first infringement**, a warning, indicated by a **YELLOW CARD**, valid for the whole of the competition, which must be noted on the bout score-sheet and recorded by the Directoire Technique;
- 2 At the **second infringement** during the same competition a **BLACK CARD**.
- 3 In the most serious cases concerning disturbance either on or off the piste, the Referee may exclude or expel the person at fault **immediately**.

#### ***The Fourth Group of Offences***

t.169

- 1 The first infringement in the Fourth Group, is penalised by a **BLACK CARD** (exclusion from the competition, suspension from the remainder of the tournament and for the following 60 days of the active season (1 September – World Championships for the Juniors, and 1 September – World Championships for the Seniors), whether current or forthcoming or both).
- 2 Furthermore any black card awarded at a competition of the FIE or at a competition organized by any Confederation which has subscribed to the FIE disciplinary code shall be reported within 10 days to the President of the FIE, for him to assess whether the severity of the offence committed warrants the sending of the report made by the FIE supervisor or by the Directoire Technique to the president of the Legal Commission, requesting him to establish a Disciplinary Tribunal to determine if penalties in addition to those imposed at the competition should be imposed.

### Offences and penalties

t.170

This table is intended to be a convenient summary: it is not a substitute for the full texts of the articles concerned which should be consulted in any case of doubt.

	OFFENCE	ARTICLES	PENALTIES		
0.1	Absence of name and nationality on the back, absence of national uniform or logo	t.74	<b>Elimination from the competition</b>		
0.2	Absence of name on back due to changing a non-conforming jacket	t.75			
0.3	Non presentation when first called by Referee ten minutes before time indicated for start of pool/team match/bouts of direct elimination	t.118			
0.4	Non presentation on the piste ready to fence when ordered by the Referee, after three calls at one-minute intervals	t.119	<b>1st call</b>	<b>2nd call</b>	<b>3rd call elimination</b>
0.5	Unwillingness to fight: the sanctions imposed are shown by specific P- cards which are not cumulative with any other sanction awarded.	t.124.1, t.124.2	<b>1st time P-Red</b>		<b>2nd time P-Black</b>
<b>1st group</b>			<b>1st offence</b>	<b>2nd offence</b>	<b>3rd offence and subseq.</b>
1.1	Leaving piste without permission	t.23.6	<b>YELLOW</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>RED</b>
1.2	Corps à corps to avoid being hit *	t.25.2			
1.3	Turning back on opponent *	t.27.2			
1.4	Covering/substitution of valid target *	t.29.2, t.30.1, t.79, 9.97			
1.5	Touching/taking hold of electrical equipment *	t.29.3			
1.6	Crossing lateral boundary of the piste to avoid being hit *	t.35.3			
1.7	Interruption of bout without valid reason	t.43.2			
1.8	Clothing/equipment not conforming. Curve of blade exceeding that permitted. Absence of regulation/spare weapon or bodywire	t.71, t.72, t.73.1.a, t.117			
1.9	Placing weapon on the conductive piste to straighten it	t.76.2, t.90.2, t.96.5			
1.10	At foil and épée, bending, dragging weapon point on conductive piste	t.76.2, t.90.2			
1.12	At sabre, hit made with the guard *, any forward movement crossing the legs or feet *	t.96.3, t.101.5			
1.13	Refusal to obey the Referee	t.108, t.112			
1.14	Hair not conforming to the Rules	t.115.2			
1.15	Jostling, disorderly fencing * ; taking off mask before the Referee calls ' Halt!'; dressing or undressing on the piste	t.116, t.121.2, t.125, t.126			
1.16	Irregular movements on the piste *; hits made with violence *; Intentional fall to avoid the hit *	t.121.2			
1.17	Unjustified appeal, casting doubt on the decision of the referee on a point of fact.	t.172, t.173, t.174			
1.18	Entering the Piste enclosure without the Referee's permission *	t.132.2			

2nd group		1st offence	2nd offence	3rd offence and subseq.
2.1	Use of non-sword arm/hand *	RED	RED	RED
2.2	Demanding a break for medical reason deemed unjustified by doctor			
2.3	Absence of weapon control marks *			
2.4	Intentionally dropping a weapon during the fencing phrase			
2.5	Deliberate hit not on opponent *			
2.6	Dangerous, violent or vindictive action, blow with guard or pommel *			

3rd group		1st time	2nd time
3.1	Fencer disturbing order when on piste. In the most serious cases, the Referee may award a black card immediately	RED	BLACK
3.2	Dishonest fencing *		
3.3	Offence against Publicity Code		
3.4	Any person not on piste disturbing good order ; smoking in the competition halls (including with electronic cigarettes). In the most serious cases, the Referee may award a black card immediately	YELLOW	
3.5	Warming up or training without wearing fencing clothing or equipment that conforms to the FIE regulations.		
3.6	Anti-sporting behaviour	RED	

4th group		1st offence	2nd offence	3rd offence and subseq.
4.1	Fencer equipped with electronic communication equipment permitting him to receive communications during bout,	BLACK		
4.2	Fraudulent equipment, control marks that are imitated or transferred			
4.3	Equipment altered to allow the recording of hits or the non- functioning of the apparatus at will			
4.4	Refusal of a fencer to fence another competitor (individual or team) properly entered			
4.5	Offence against sportsmanship			
4.6	Refusal of a fencer to salute his opponent, the referee and the spectators before the beginning of the bout or after the last hit			
4.7	Profiting from collusion, favouring an opponent			
4.8	Violent or vindictive actions			
4.9	Doping			

EXPLANATIONS	
*	<b>Annulment of any hit scored by the fencer at fault</b>
+	<b>Special YELLOW CARD for the whole team and valid for the whole team match. If, during the same team match, a fencer commits an offence of the 1st group the Referee penalises with a RED CARD each time.</b>
<b>YELLOW CARD</b>	<b>Warning</b> valid for the bout (whether one or several encounters). If a fencer commits an offence of the 1st group after having been penalised with a RED CARD, for whatever reason, he receives a further RED CARD.
<b>RED CARD</b>	<b>Penalty hit</b>
<b>BLACK CARD</b>	<b>Exclusion from the competition</b> , suspension from the remainder of the tournament and for the following 60 days of the active season (1st September – World Championships for the juniors and 1st September – World Championships for the seniors), whether current or forthcoming.
<b>P CARDS (T.124)</b>	P-red (penalty hit), P-black (possible loss of the bout or match). In both individual and team competitions, fencers and teams who have lost the bout/match following the award of a P-Black card, will be ranked in the final results of the competition as having lost the bout/match. They receive the corresponding points.

## Chapter 5

**PROCEDURE****Basic principle**

t.171

The various penalties are **imposed by the competent authorities** who will reach their decisions in an equitable manner, and will take into account the gravity of the offence and the circumstances in which it was committed (cf. **t.135ss, t.158-162, t.176-178**).

**Protests and appeals****Against a decision of the referee**

t.172

- 1 **No appeal can be made** against the decision of the Referee regarding a point of fact.
- 2 If a fencer infringes this principle, **casting doubt** on the decision of the Referee **on a point of fact** during the bout, he will be penalised according to the rules (cf. **t.158-162, t.165, t.170**), for the offences of the 1st group. But if the Referee **is ignorant of or misunderstands a definite rule** or applies it in a manner contrary to the Rules, an appeal on this matter may be entertained. A point of fact includes, but is not limited to, any ruling by the referee analysing what happened on the piste, such as the validity or priority of a hit, whether a fencer left the side or end of the piste or if a person's behaviour is a Group 3 or Group 4 offence.

t.173

This **appeal** must be made:

- 1 in **individual** events, by the fencer,
- 2 in **team** events, by the fencer or the team captain, it should be made courteously but without formality, and should be made **verbally** to the Referee **immediately** and before any decision is made regarding a subsequent hit.

t.174

If the Referee maintains his opinion, the Referee Manager or, if there is no Referee Manager, the Directoire Technique has the authority to settle an appeal (cf. t.141). If such an appeal is deemed to be **unjustified**, the fencer will be penalised in accordance with Articles **t.158- 162, t.165, t.170**.

**Other protests and appeals**

t.175

Complaints and protests which are not concerned with a referee's decision must be made **in writing without delay**; they must be addressed to the Directoire Technique.

t.176

If a complaint or protest contests a decision initially taken by the Directoire Technique or an official FIE delegate it should be addressed to Fencing Ireland.

**Method of decision**

t.177

The decisions of the Directoire Technique are by **majority vote**, the chairman (president) having the casting vote in case of a tie.

**Repetition of offence**

t.178

- 1 For offences regarding sportsmanship, good order or discipline, a fencer is said to **repeat** an offence if he commits a new offence, other than violation of the

rules governing bouts, within two years of being censured, or subjected to exclusion, disqualification or suspension.

- 2 For the repetition of an offence, the **penalty** which must be imposed is:
    - a) **Exclusion from the competition**, if the previous penalty was a censure.
    - b) **Disqualification from participation in the whole tournament**, if the previous penalty was exclusion or disqualification from a competition.
- See also Fencing Ireland Disciplinary Policy (Black Cards).

**NOTE: INDEX OMITTED**