## IWAS WHEELCHAIR FENCING RULES FOR COMPETITION

# **Book 1 Technical Rules**

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#### **Remarks**

Throughout the Rulebook

- IWF stands for IWAS Wheelchair Fencing
- IWF EC stands for IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Executive Committee
- words importing singular number or masculine gender shall include the plural number or feminine gender, as the case may be, and vice versa

#### **BOOK 1. TECHNICAL RULES**

## GENERAL RULES AND RULES COMMON TO THE THREE WEAPONS

#### Chapter 1

#### **APPLICATION OF THE RULES**

#### t.1 - t.6

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## 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 (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 action arriving

#### Chapter 2

#### **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.
- **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 their 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 their weapon continually threatens their 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 For Wheelchair Fencing a *fencing frame* will be used on the piste for fixation of the wheelchairs.
- 2 The frame must be arranged in a way to enable the fencers to fence with their preferred fencing arm. (cf. figure 1 and 2)
- 3 All frames used in IWF competitions must have been approved by the IWF EC and must follow the guidelines mentioned in article m.61.
- 4 While fencing, the fencers must sit in a wheelchair that fulfils the rules detailed in article m.25.9.

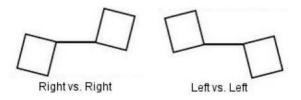
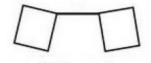


Figure 1. Fencing position for right/right and left/left



Right vs. Left

Figure 2. Fencing position for right/left

t.19

The piste must have a size that ensures correct fencing. In foil and épée there must be a conductive area around the fencing frames that is large enough to avoid hits on the ground.

#### 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 an official IWF competition (including in the training halls linked to the competition) to wear fencing clothing and equipment which conforms with the FIE and IWF regulations.

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 and a glove.

The Supervisor of the competition or a member of the Directoire Technique must penalize any person not respecting this rule with a yellow card, followed by a black card in case of a repeated

infringement.

The **safety measures** specified in the Rules and in the standards contained in the annex to them and the methods of control laid down in the present Rules (cf. Book 3: 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 the IWF EC, or to the organizers of competitions, to the officials or personnel who carry out such organization, or to those who may cause an accident.

#### Chapter 5

#### **FENCING**

#### Method of holding the weapon

#### t.21

- 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 only in the way identically to the position while taking the distance.
  - 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. A fencer that holds the handle in any position other than that taken while taking the distance, or transforms the weapon into a throwing weapon, will be penalised according to articles t.158-162, t.165. t.170.
  - The used handle and position of the hand on the grip shall be noted by the referee on all score sheets.
- When the handle has a **special device** or **attachment** or has a **special shape** (e.g., orthopaedic) 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 epée) 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.
- Fencers who have significant loss of grip or control of the weapon hand, may bind with the authority of two IWF classifiers the weapon to the weapon hand. The binding must cover and close the sleeve opening of the weapon arm and must give satisfactory protection to the weapon hand. (cf. m.25, m.33).

#### 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.
  - During pools, if a fencer has to fence two matches in a row, the fencer can stay in their wheelchair in the fencing frame on the same side of the referee.
- 2 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, they give the command for fencing to commence with the word 'Play!'.
- **3** A fencer is placed 'on guard' as follows:
  - a) sitting in an upright position in the centre of the width of their wheelchair seat, with the vertical line on the back of the jacket must align with the vertical line on the back of the chair, unless an exception is granted by a Classifier (cf.m25.4d; m25.9.2; m28.7; m34.6),
  - **b)** the fencer's feet must be placed on the wheelchair's footrest, unless an exemption is granted by a Classifier,
  - c) the fencer may rotate their upper torso towards their opponent. Their hips must remain facing directly forward, their feet must remain on the footrest (unless an exemption is granted by a Classifier), and they must remain seated in the centre of the width of their wheelchair seat. The vertical line on the back of the jacket should align as closely as possible with the vertical line on the back of the chair, unless an exemption is granted by a Classifier.

- 4 The fencers' sword arms may not be extended, their blades may not be in contact, and the points of their weapons may not extend beyond the front of their opponent's guard.
- 5 If the fencers cannot agree on the 'on guard' positions of the blades, the referee will find a decision which alternates in following similar situations. The referee will ensure that neither fencer gains any advantage from the application of this rule.
- At the beginning of the bout and whenever play is to be resumed, the fencers must come on guard correctly and remain completely still until the command 'Play!' is given by the Referee. If a fencer deliberately tries to get advantage by changing their sitting position before 'Play!', they will be penalised according articles t.158-162, t.165, t.170.

#### Beginning, stopping and restarting the bout

#### t.23

- **The start** of the bout is signalled by the word 'Play!'. Any Movement made or initiated before the word 'Play!' is not allowed and will be penalised according articles t.158-162, t.165, t.170.
- 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.
- 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** (cf. t.58).
- The Referee may not allow a fencer to **leave the piste**, save in exceptional circumstances. If a competitor does so without permission, they are liable to incur the penalties enumerated in articles t.158-162, t.165, t.170.

#### t.24 - t.26

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#### Displacing the target

#### t.27

- 1 Displacing the target and ducking are allowed.
- 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 and any hit scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

#### t.28

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

#### t.29

- The use of the **non-sword hand** and **arm** to carry out an offensive or defensive action is forbidden (cf t.158-162, t.165, 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 their target for a valid part, either by covering it or by any abnormal movement, the Referee must penalise them by applying the penalties specified in articles t.158-162, t.165, t.170, 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 their non-sword hand (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 their non-sword arm and/or hand, or is protecting or covering the valid target with a non-valid surface, they 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.98, 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 their back to the Referee.

#### STARTING BEFORE 'PLAY!'

t.31

Starting to fence or moving before the command 'Play!' is forbidden. In the case of violation of this rule, the referee will apply the penalties for group 1 offences (t.114, t.116, t.120).

#### FOOT LEAVIING THE WHEELCHAIR FOOTREST

t.32

When a fencer's foot leaves the wheelchair footrest or uses the floor to gain advantage, the referee will punish the fencer according to articles t.114, t.116, t.120 (unless an exemption is granted by a Classifier); any hit scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

#### LIFTING FROM THE WHEELCHAIR

t.33

Lifting from the wheelchair's seat is forbidden. A fencer who does so will be penalised by articles t.158-162, t.165, t.170; any hit scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

Raising one buttock from the seat is permissible and not a reason for halting the bout.

All of the parts of the buttocks that are in contact with the seat when the fencer is sitting on guard (cf. t.17.3) and must remain within the confines of the seat and at minimum have one buttock on the seat throughout the period between the referee's commands of 'Play!' and 'Halt!'. A fencer who fails to do so will be penalised by articles t.158-162, t.165, t.170; any hit scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

To enforce this regulation the referee can call two judges, designated by the Directoire Technique for observing the fencers.

#### LOSING BALANCE

t.34

- 1 When a competitor loses balance on their attack or because of unfastened wheelchair, the referee must immediately call 'Halt!'. This incurs no penalty whatever.
  - losing balance deliberately is an offence of first group and will be penalised according to articles t.158-162, t.165, t.170.
  - unfastening the wheelchair deliberately to enforce a remeasurement of the distance is an offence of second group (cf. t.158-162, t.165, t.170).
- 2 Hits scored before the fencer loses balance are valid provided that the action was started before the 'Halt!' Hits scored after losing balance must be annulled.

#### WHEELCHAIR DAMAGE

t.35

1 When a fencer's wheelchair is damaged or develops a fault, the referee may only allow the time that is strictly necessary for it to be repaired or exchanged. After a maximum of 10 minutes the referee must start the fight again. If the fencer is incapable of continuing the fight, the Referee will decide that the fencer should retire (individual competitions) and/or be replaced, if possible (team competitions).

During the remainder of the same day, a fencer cannot be allowed a further break unless as a result of a different fault.

The Directoire Technique may modify the order of bouts in a pool in order to ensure the efficient running of the competition.

2 Destroying the wheelchair to gain advantage is an offence of second group and will be penalised according to article t.114, t.117, t.120.

#### DISABILITY RELATED BREAK

t.36

In the case of the occurrence of any condition associated with the handicap (e.g. involuntary spasm) the referee may allow, without restriction, sufficient time for recovery.

The referee will use their discretion to prevent unfair advantage being taken of this rule.

#### Duration of the bout

t.37

- 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!'.
- The duration of the bout is **controlled** by the Referee or by a time-keeper. For the finals of all official competitions, as well as 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 article 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 = 1 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 = 1 the number of hits scored by the winning fencer and N = 1 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 and foil,** 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.
- **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.

- 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.
- 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 of them has scored five hits, within the time limit of 3 minutes.
  - The next two opponents fence until one of their scores has reached ten hits, within the time limit of 3 minutes, and so on with successive bouts, cumulatively, of five hits.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.

#### t.42

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#### **Timing**

#### t.43

- 1 The fencers may ask **how much time they have left** to fence each time that the fencing is interrupted.
- 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.

#### 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. They 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.
- 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, withdrawal of a competitor

#### Injury or cramp, withdrawal of a competitor

t.45

For a **sport trauma/injury or cramp** or **other acute medical incident** which occurs in the course of a bout and which is properly attested by the doctor or the medical provider on duty, the Referee

will allow a break in the fight lasting no longer than 10 minutes. Only the doctor or medical provider on duty can determine the length of time of treatment required when a medical time-out is granted. This break should be timed from the point when the doctor or the medical provider on duty arrives at the piste. This break should be strictly reserved for the requisite treatment. If the doctor or medical provider on duty considers, before or at the end of the 10-minute break, that the fencer is incapable of continuing the fight, they will decide that the fencer should retire (individual competitions) and/or be replaced, if possible (team competitions) (cf. o.99.5).

At the end of the maximum 10-minute break and if the fencer is capable to continue, the fencer has to be 'ready to fence' (fully dressed on the competition chair and ready for 'on guard!' position). All breaks for a sport trauma, cramp, or an acute medical incident must be noted on the scoresheet for the bout, the pool or the match.

- During the remainder of the same day, a fencer cannot be allowed a further break unless as a result of a different injury or cramp or acute medical incident.
- 2 Should a fencer demand a break which is deemed by the IWF delegate or by the doctor on duty to be unjustified, the Referee will penalise that fencer as specified in articles t.158-162, t.166, t.170.
- In team competitions a fencer judged unable to continue the bout by the doctor may, nevertheless, on the advice of the same doctor, fight in subsequent matches on the same day.
- 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

- By accepting a position as referee or judge, the person so designated pledges their honour to respect the Rules and to cause them to be respected, and to carry out their duties with the strictest impartiality and absolute concentration.
- Referees may not combine their function with any other activity during the tournament, such as member of the Directoire Technique, team captain, official delegate of their national federation, trainer, etc.

#### Referees

#### t.47

- All bouts at fencing in official IWF competitions are directed by an IWF approved referee who must be in possession of an IWF refereeing license.
- The Referee has many duties:
  - a) He calls the roll of the competitors (cf. t.114, t.118, t.119).
  - b) He directs the bout.
  - c) Before each bout they must check the weapons, the wheelchairs, clothes and equipment of the fencers, according to the regulations below.
  - d) He superintends the proper functioning of the electrical apparatus. Either on their own initiative or when asked to do so by a team captain or competitor, they implement tests necessary to check the apparatus and locate any faults which may be found. They will prevent the competitors from hindering the tests by unplugging or changing their equipment prematurely.
  - e) He directs the judges, time-keepers, scorers, etc.
  - f) The referee may be seated and 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) He penalises faults (cf. t.164).
  - h) He awards the hits (cf. t. 54ss).
  - i) He maintains order (cf. t.137).
  - i) Whenever they consider it necessary, they should **consult** the experts concerning the electrical apparatus (cf. o.28).
  - k) The Referee should also supervise the state of the conductive piste; they must 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

- The Referee fulfils their functions with the aid of an apparatus for the automatic registering of hits; they may also be assisted by two judges watching for lifting, the use of the unarmed hand or arm, substitution of the valid target, hits scored on the floor at épée or any other offence defined in the Rules (cf. t.170).
- 2 The judges are **obligatory** for all individual competition finals (4 fencers) and for the **final** (2 teams) of team competitions.
- The judges are placed on each side of the Referee, on either side of the piste; they watch all aspects of the entire fight.
- 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.

#### Video consultants

t.49

Whenever video refereeing is used, there shall be designated video consultants who will watch the match live, then, should the need arise, subsequently on the video screen, and interact with the referee as specified in articles t.60-62, o.105.

The video-consultant must:

- a) be a referee holding an IWF referee license for the year in question;
- **b)** have been trained to assist with the video:
- c) be of a different nationality from the fencers on the piste:
- d) be of a different nationality from the main referee.

#### Designations of referees and video consultants

#### **Individual competitions**

t.50

- For the rounds of pools and the direct elimination table, the **IWF Refereeing Delegates** select the referees by drawing lots.
- 2 For the pools, the referee must be of a different nationality from that any of the fencers in the pool.
- For the direct elimination tables at each weapon, the IWF Refereeing Delegates establish, among the referees present, a list of the best referees at each weapon (according to the grades obtained during the season).
  - For each bout or pair of bouts a referee, and if needed -video consultant and two judges are assigned by drawing lots from among at least 7 to 8 referees, to referee the bouts in the order of the table. They must be of a different nationality from that of any of the fencers participating in that bout or pair of bouts.
  - Lots are drawn by the computer at each stage of the table but may be modified by the Refereeing Delegate in case of any problem with the computer programme, mistakes made by the operator of the computer programme. In any case where the computer draw is modified, it must be with the agreement of the Directoire Technique and signed by both, the Refereeing Delegate and the President of the DT.
- At the end of each round, the Refereeing Delegates can withdraw one or more referees whose performance was not satisfactory. This decision must be taken by the majority of the Directoire Technique present. However, a referee may not be changed during a bout except in exceptional circumstance. In such a case the decision, which must be well founded, must be taken by the majority of the Directoire Technique present (this rule is equally valid for team competitions).
- For the final of 4, the IWF Refereeing Delegate, immediately after the end of the direct elimination tables, select 4 referees by lot from among at least a list of 7 to 8 referees, who must be of a different nationality from any of the fencers.
  - Ten minutes before the final, the Refereeing Delegates will draw lots to assign the referees for all the bouts at the same time, in the following order: 1st semi-final, 2nd semi-final, final, and 3rd place (Paralympic Games).

- The drawing of lots is done with the help of a computer for the whole of the competition right through to the final. The computer programme must record each drawing of lots so that it is possible to know which referees were submitted for each draw. The computer programme should also be able to indicate whether the draw for any round was subsequently redone.
- In conformity with articles t.50.2 and t.50.3, the designation of the video-consultant and judges must be made by drawing lots using a computer programme. The name and nationality of the video- consultant must also be written on the pool or match sheet, beside those of the referee.

#### **Team Competitions**

t.51

The same rules as those in article t.50, 3-7 are applied to the team competitions, with two referees per match.

#### **World Cup competitions**

t.52

The Rules described in t.50 and t.51 above are applied by the Directoire Technique, assisted for the finals by the official IWF Refereeing delegate.

#### Method of judging hits

#### Materiality of the hit

t.53

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

t.54

- 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

- 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 their equipment.
- A competitor who, **intentionally**, causes the apparatus to register a hit by placing their point on the ground or on any surface other than **that of their opponent** will be penalized as specified in articles **t.158-162**, **t.165**, **t.170**.

t.56

The Referee must also apply the following rules:

- 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 their equipment without being asked by the Referee to do so, before the Referee has given their decision, loses all right to the annulment of the hit (cf. t.47.2.d).
- 4 If the bout has effectively recommenced a competitor cannot claim the annulment of a hit awarded against them before the said recommencement of the bout.

- 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.
- 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 them or under their supervision.
- When a competitor against whom a hit has been registered has **broken their blade**, the hit must be annulled unless the breaking of the blade has occurred clearly after the hit has been registered.
- 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 member of the SEMI Commission or an expert technician on duty 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 their check.
- 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 they are 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 their 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)

#### Appeals for Video Refereeing

t.60

Both in team and individual competitions, only the fencer on the piste has the right to request a video review.

#### t.61

- 1 In the individual competitions, the fencer has:
  - in **pools**, one possible appeal during each bout;
  - in **direct elimination** bouts, two possible appeals.

Should **the referee agree with the fencer** who appealed for the video-refereeing, the latter is entitled to retain the right of appeal.

- In team competitions, the fencers have one possible right to appeal to the video-refereeing per relay and they are entitled to retain this right should the referee agree with the appeal.
- In the case of an appeal for video-refereeing, the referee will walk over to the video consultant, they will watch the video together and after having analysed the action, the referee will give their final decision.

#### t.62

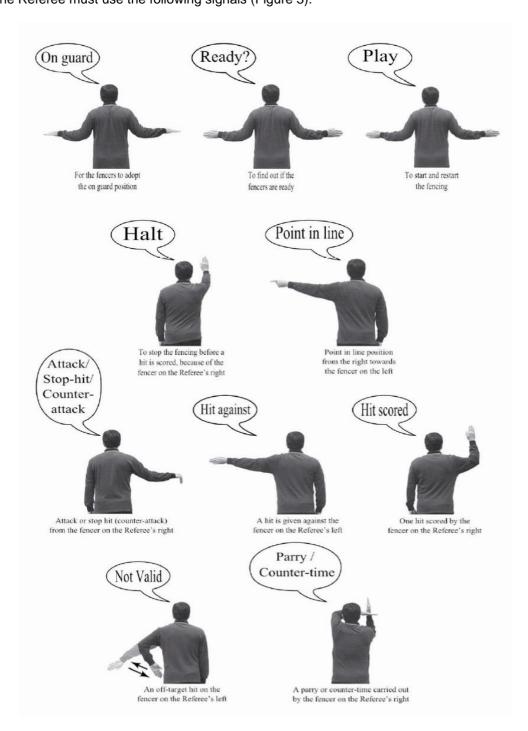
- 1 There shall only be a maximum of 4 repetitions of the action. The referee can choose to review the action in real time or in slow motion, at any speed they wish.
- 2 At all weapons and at any time, the referee may consult their monitor before making a decision.
- 3 If the fencers' scores are **equal at the end of the match**, for the decisive hit, the referee must use the video-refereeing before even giving their decision.

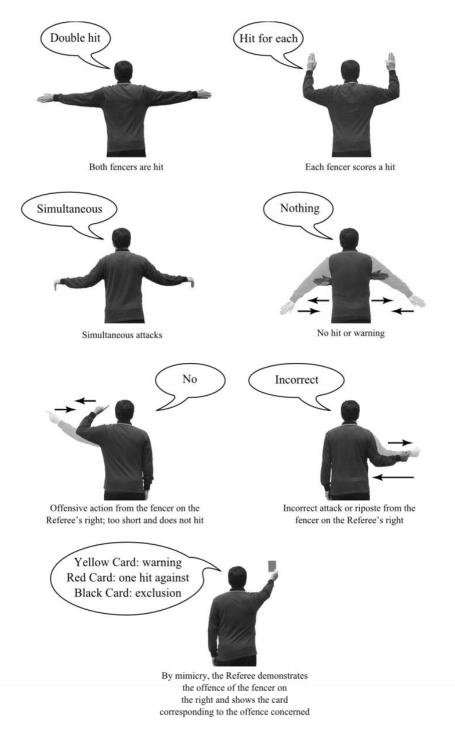
- 4 The video consultant may at any time request that the referee use the video-refereeing.
- 5 Once the referee, together with the video consultant, has analysed the action, whether it is:
  - at the referee's initiative
  - at the request of the athlete
  - in case of a tied score, before the decisive hit
  - at the video consultant's request

the decision given by the referee is final and no other review of the same action can be requested.

**6** Each time the referee consults the video, whether on their own initiative, following an appeal or at the suggestion of the video-consultant, the opinions of the referee and the video-consultant must be recorded on the match sheet.

## **t.63**The Referee must use the following signals (Figure 3):





#### NOTES

- 1. The Referee analyses the fencing and 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!", "Counter-riposte!", "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 Pafarae's right. the fencer on the Referee's right.

Figure 3 Referee signals and commands

#### 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):

- at all weapons, the **FIE quarantee label** is present on the fencers' equipment (clothing, masks). 1
- 2 at foil, the conductive jacket conforms to the provision of article m.28 when each competitor is sitting upright, in on guard and in the lunge 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;
- 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 their jacket, a regulation protective underplastron, made of cloth which can resist 800 Newtons.
- 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.
- 7 the wheelchair fulfils the regulations and bears the correct check marks.
- leg protheses are removed (m.25.8).

t.65

- 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 in the assembly area.

t.66

- For bouts in the direct elimination (stage of DE will be announced before the competition) and the finals at the World Cups, Zonal Championships, World Championships and the Paralympic Games, the two fencers in each bout will go to the equipment checking zone, located near the piste, 30 minutes before they are due on the piste. Their equipment will be checked under the responsibility of the SEMI Commission. If any anomaly is identified the equipment at fault will be changed at once, without any penalty being applied. The SEMI delegate will hand over the bodywires, the masks and the weapons that have been checked to the Referee for the bout. Ten minutes before they are due on the piste the fencers will report to the Referee designated for their bout. The Referee will hand over a bodywire to each of the fencers in the access zone for the piste. They will check that the fencers are wearing regulation under-jacket protection.
- 2 The Referee and the fencers must stay together in the access zone until they go on the piste. One minute before they go on the piste the Referee will give a weapon to each fencer, for them to plug in their bodywire. No check will be carried out on the piste prior to the bout.

t.67

In addition to the checks mentioned above, the Referee of a bout may at any time, on their 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

He will in any case, before each bout, ensure that the **quarantee label** is present on the clothing, 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

- 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 they 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

At the beginning of the bout the Referee will place the **reserve equipment that has been checked** 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** (cf.m.8, m.9, m.12, m.13, m.16, m.17, m.23), the referee confiscates the equipment and submits it to the experts on duty 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:

- with only one regulation weapon (cf. t.114, 115); or
- with only one regulation bodywire; or
- 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 their protective under-plastron (cf. t.64.5); or
- with a conductive jacket which does not fully cover the valid target; or
- with a conductive apron which does not cover the non-valid area as described in t.62; or
- with a wheelchair that does not conform with the Rules
- 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.

#### 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,
- conductive apron with holes in which hits are registered as valid,
- weapon or body-wire 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 they present themself 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 penalized 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 they present themself on guard and ready to fence, is not securely held on their head by the 2nd security device, commits an offence in the first group and will be penalized in accordance with articles t.158-t.162, t.165, t.170.

#### t.73

- If, when a fencer appears on the piste or during a bout, it is established that the equipment used by the fencer:
  - a) does not bear the marks applied at the preliminary check, the Referee will:
    - annul the last hit, if any, scored by the fencer at fault;
    - penalize them as specified in articles t.158-162, t.166, t.170.
  - b) does not conform to the rules in a way not covered by the preliminary check, the Referee will: penalize them as specified in articles t.158-162, t.166, t.170.
  - c) has been passed by the preliminary check but is fraudulent;
  - d) bears the marks of the preliminary check which have been imitated or transferred;
  - e) has been wilfully altered (i.e., in a manner other than by accidental cause or by conditions during the bout) so that it would not pass a preliminary check;
  - 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 c), 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 the expert on duty.

- After having obtained the opinion of the expert (a member of the SEMI Committee), who has established the facts, 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 them as specified for offences of the 4th group (cf. articles t.158-162, t.169, t.170).
- While awaiting the decision of the Referee that bout will be suspended but the other bouts in the pool may continue.

#### t.74

#### For all official IWF competitions, every fencer must appear on the piste with clothing conforming to the rules as follows:

- Name and nationality, in accordance with the rules, on the back of the jacket, and nationality on the lower edge of the conductive apron (épée fencing), in accordance with the rules. Application: all official IWF competitions, at all stages of the competitions.
- Wearing their national uniform and logo (cf. m.25.3), and using spoke protectors with an approved design (cf. m.25.3). Application as follows:
  - a) Paralympic Games, World and Zonal Championships: all bouts in individual and team competitions:
  - **b)** World Cup competitions: all bouts in individual and team competitions.

In case of violation of this rule, the referee will eliminate the fencer at fault from the competition in auestion:

- For the competitions mentioned in item a) above, the Referee shall eliminate the fencer at fault, and they will not be allowed to participate further in the competition.
- For the competitions mentioned in item b) above, the Referee shall penalise the fencer at fault with a Red Card (articles t.158-162, t.169, t.170, Second Group). The fencer at fault shall however be allowed to remain on the piste and fence the bout concerned.

The same penalty is also applied for the absence of name and nationality on the back of the jacket and absence of nationality on the lower edge of the conductive apron, in accordance with the rules, at U17/U23 World Cups, U17/U23 World and Zonal Championships.

#### t.75

If the conductive jacket, or the conductive apron, does not conform to the rules, the fencer must put on a spare jacket or the conductive apron, that does conform to the rules. If this jacket does not have their name and nationality on the back or the conductive apron does not have the nationality on the lower edge, the fencer has until the next stage of the competition (from the pools to the table

of 64, the table of 32, etc) to get their name and nationality (conductive jacket) or nationality (conductive apron) printed on it.

If this is not done and except in cases of 'force majeure' the referee will eliminate the fencer from the competition in question.

If an item of a fencer's clothing bearing the name and nationality or the national logo becomes dangerous (e.g. tear, burst seam), the fencer must put on spare clothing, which conforms to the rules. If this clothing does not conform to the regulations or does not bear the name and nationality or the national logo, the fencer has until the next stage of the competition to get them printed on it. If this is not done and except in cases of force majeure. The sanctions specified in t.74 apply.

#### **FOIL**

#### THE CONVENTIONS OF FENCING

To establish the correct fencing measure, the fencers sit upright in the centre of their wheelchair's seat. The vertical line on the back of the jacket must align with the vertical line on the back of the chair, unless an exception is granted by a Classifier (cf.m25.4d; m25.9.2; m28.7; m34.6).

One fencer will bend the fencing arm with the forearm vertical and upper arm horizontal and the elbow pointing to the other fencer. The other fencer with a straight arm shall touch the inner edge of the opponent's forearm with the point of the foil. Next, they do the other way around. In case of fencers with unequal arm length the fencer with the shorter arm may choose a distance that lies in between their and their opponent's distance. Where there is a dispute, the referee shall intervene and their decision is final.

Fencers with severely restricted movement (Category C) shall determine the measure by reaching a point 10 centimetres beyond the inner forearm. Where there is a dispute, the referee shall intervene and their decision is final.

Once both fencers have agreed the fencing measure, the fencing measure cannot be changed.

#### **METHOD OF MAKING A HIT**

#### t.76

- The foil is a **thrusting** weapon only. Offensive actions with this weapon are made therefore only with the point.
- 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.

#### **TARGET**

#### Limitation of the target

#### t.77

- 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 Figure 4).
- 2 At foil, only hits which arrive on the valid target are counted.



Figure 4 Valid target at foil on guard position and fencing distance measure 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) is not counted as a valid hit, but it stops the phrase and annuls any subsequent hit (but cf. t.79).

#### Extension of the valid target

t.79

- 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 penalized 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 the referee 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 they have just awarded** as a result of a hit signalled as on the valid target (coloured lamp) if they establish, by tests made under their 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.
  - **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.
  - c) Actions, simple or compound 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-t.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.
- t.85

Attacks by beats on the blade:

- 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.
- 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**, they have 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:

- 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 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:
- Only the fencer who is attacked is counted as hit:
  - a) If they make a **stop hit** on their opponent's simple attack;
  - b) If, instead of parrying, they attempt to dodge the hit and does not succeed in so doing;
  - c) If, after making a successful parry, they make a momentary pause which gives their opponent the right to renew the attack (redoublement, remise or reprise);
  - d) If, into a compound attack, they make a **stop hit** without being in time;
  - e) If, having their 'point in line' (cf. t.15) and being subjected to a beat or a taking of the blade (prise de fer) which deflects their blade, they attack or place their point in line again instead of parrying a direct thrust made by their opponent.
  - Only the fencer who attacks is counted as hit:
    - a) If they initiate their attack when their opponent have their 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 they attempt to find the blade, do not succeed (is the object of a dérobement) and continue the attack.
    - c) If, during a compound attack, their opponent finds the blade, but they continue the attack and their opponent ripostes immediately.
    - d) If, during a compound attack, they make a momentary pause, during which time the opponent makes a stop hit, while the attacker continues their attack.
    - e) If, during a compound attack, they are **stop-hit** in time before they begin their final movement.
    - f) If they make a hit by a remise, redoublement or reprise when their original attack has been parried and their 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 they are unable to judge clearly on which side the fault lies.

#### ÉPÉE

#### THE CONVENTIONS OF FENCING

To establish the correct fencing measure, the fencers sit upright in the centre of their wheelchair's seat. The vertical line on the back of the jacket must align with the vertical line on the back of the chair, unless an exception is granted by a Classifier (cf.m25.4d; m25.9.2; m28.7; m34.6).

One fencer will bend the fencing arm with the forearm vertical and upper arm horizontal and the elbow pointing to the other fencer. The other fencer with a straight arm shall touch the outer edge of the opponent's elbow with the point of the épée. Next, they do the other way around. In case of fencers with unequal arm length the fencer with the shorter arm may choose a distance that lies in between their and their opponent's distance. Where there is a dispute, the referee shall intervene and their decision is final.

Fencers with severely restricted movement (Category C) shall determine the measure by reaching a point 10 centimetres inside the outer edge of the elbow. Where there is a dispute, the referee shall intervene and their decision is final.

The distance has to be established before covering the non-valid area with an 'apron' (cf. t.91). Once both fencers have agreed the fencing measure, the fencing measure cannot be changed.

t.90

- 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.

#### THE TARGET

t.91

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

It 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. Any portion of the wheelchair above this line is valid target (see Figure 5). Hits registered on non-valid parts of the wheelchair or on the fencing frame must be annulled.

If a fencer substitutes a non-valid part of their target for a valid part, either by covering it or by an abnormal movement, the Referee must penalise that fencer by applying the penalties specified in articles t.158-162, t.165, t.170, and any hit scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

Flexible conductive aprons', cover the non-valid areas (cf.m.62). This apron is also earthed to the apparatus. It must not cover any valid target and has to be firmly fastened in position without constriction of the fencers' mobility. The clips on the 'aprons' must be in full view of the referee. If these clips become dislodged, the referee must call halt, and annul any hit. If a double hit is registered by an established hit and a doubtful hit on the apron, the fencer who has made the established hit may choose to accept the double hit or ask to have it annulled. (cf. t.93).



Figure 5 Valid target at épée, on guard position and fencing distance measure 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 their judgement, the Referee will disregard hits which are registered as a result of

- caused by the meeting of the points of the épées or by a hit made on the ground where it is not insulated.
- started before the word 'Play!' or after 'Halt!' (cf. t.23);
- or which are made on any object other than the opponent, including their equipment (cf. t.94). Any competitor who, intentionally, causes the apparatus to register a hit by placing their point on any surface other than that of their opponent, will be penalised as specified in articles t.158-162, t.165, t.170.

#### 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:

- 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;
- 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 their 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 their 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 losing balance (cf. t.34), 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:

- 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 fencer's back has become unplugged.
- 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 their opponent, the hit must be annulled.

#### **SABRE**

#### THE CONVENTIONS OF FENCING

To establish the correct fencing measure, the fencers sit upright in the centre of their wheelchair's seat. The vertical line on the back of the jacket must align with the vertical line on the back of the chair, unless an exception is granted by a Classifier (cf.m25.4d; m25.9.2; m28.7; m34.6).

One fencer will bend the fencing arm with the forearm vertical and upper arm horizontal and the elbow pointing to the other fencer. The other fencer with a straight arm shall touch the inner edge of the opponent's forearm with the point of the sabre. Next, they do the other way around. In case of fencers with unequal arm length the fencer with the shorter arm may choose a distance that lies in between their and their opponent's distance. Where there is a dispute, the referee shall intervene and their decision is final.

Fencers with severely restricted movement (Category C) shall determine the measure by reaching a point 10 centimetres inside the inner edge of the elbow. Where there is a dispute, the referee

shall intervene and their decision is final.

Once both fencers have agreed the fencing measure, the fencing measure cannot be changed.

#### METHOD OF MAKING A HIT

#### t.96

- 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.
- 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.
- **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.

#### 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 be

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).

- 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.
  - **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

#### 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 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, on guard position and fencing distance measure 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 they must annul a hit they have just awarded in accordance with a signal from the apparatus if it can be established, by tests carried out under their 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;
  - 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.

#### 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 their point 'in line'** (cf. t.15) the attacker must first deflect their 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

- 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.
- 2 If during a compound attack the opponent finds the blade during one of the feints, they have the right to riposte.
- 3 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.

#### Attacks by beats on the blade

#### t.104

- 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.
- 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

- 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.
- 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:

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.

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:

- The fencer who is attacked is alone counted as hit:
  - a) If they make a **stop hit** on their opponent's simple attack;
  - b) If, instead of parrying, they attempt to avoid the hit and do not succeed in so doing;
  - c) If, after making a successful parry, they make a momentary pause (delayed riposte) which gives their opponent the right to renew the attack (redoublement, or remise or reprise);
  - d) If, during a compound attack, they make a **stop hit** without being in time;
  - e) If, having their point 'in line' (cf. t.15) and being subjected to a beat or a taking of the blade (prise de fer) which deflects their blade, they attack or place their point in line again instead of parrying a direct hit made by their opponent.
- The fencer who attacks is alone counted as hit:

- a) If they initiate their attack when **their opponent had the 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 they attempt to find the blade, does not succeed (because of a **derobement**) and continue the attack.
- **c)** If, during a compound attack, they allow their opponent to **find the blade**, and continue the attack while their opponent ripostes immediately.
- **d)** If, during a compound attack, they **bend their arm** or make a **momentary pause**, during which time the opponent makes a stop hit or an attack while the attacker continue their own attack.
- **e)** If, during a compound attack, they are **stop-hit** one period of fencing time (temps d'escrime) before they make their final movement.
- f) If they make a hit by a remise, redoublement or reprise following a **parry by their opponent** which has been followed by a riposte which is immediate, simple and executed in one period of fencing time without withdrawing the arm.
- When there is a double hit, and if the Referee is unable clearly to judge from which side the fault has come, they must **replace the competitors on guard**.

#### DISCIPLINARY RULES FOR COMPETITIONS

#### 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 the Statutes of the FIE, 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 **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 them and they 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 they are refereeing (cf. t.137.1–3).

Any person who, for any reason, threatens or insults an official commits an offence of the 4<sup>th</sup> group and is penalised according to article t.169.

#### 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.

#### t.111

The Referee and/or the Directoire Technique, on their own authority or at the request of an official delegate of the IWF or of the Organizing Committee, can decide to **expel from the competition venue**, with or without a warning, any person who by their gestures, attitude or language disturbs the good order or smooth running of the competition.

#### 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

- No fencer (individual or team) from an IWAS member national federation may take part in an official competition if they refuse to fence against any other fencer whatsoever (individual or team) correctly entered in the competition. 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).
- 2 The IWF shall consider whether there are grounds, and to what extent, for taking sanctions against the national federation to which the disqualified competitor belongs (cf. IWF/IWAS Statutes and Bylaws, and article t.170).

#### Presence on time

#### t.114

The fencers, completely equipped, with all equipment conforming with the regulations (cf. t.64t.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

- 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.
- 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 in the case of an accident duly recognized by the doctor on duty or by the representative of the Medical Commission (cf. t.126, t.158-162, t.165, t.170.).

#### t.117

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

Before the start of the pool, the team match or the bouts of direct elimination (individual or team):

- When a fencer or complete team do not present themselves to the Referee at their first call, fifteen minutes before the time indicated to come onto the piste for the start of the pool or team match, (cf. article t.66.1), the fencer or team concerned will be **eliminated**.
  - When a fencer does not present himself to the Referee at the first call, ten minutes before the time indicated to come onto the piste for the start of the individual direct elimination bout (cf. article t.66), the fencer concerned will be eliminated.
  - A team is considered complete when at least three fencers are present, who can form a team according to IWF Rules for teams (0.97).
- Only those members of the team (the fencers, the team captain and one trainer cf. article t.132.1) who are present at the Referee's first call, fifteen minutes before the time indicated for the start of the match, may take part in a team match.

#### During a competition, individual or team:

#### t.119

During a competition, individual or team, if a fencer does not present himself on the piste, ready to fence, when ordered to do so by the Referee:

- a. The fencer or team member not present will be penalised with a Yellow Card;
- b. A second call will be made, one minute after the first call, followed by a Red Card for the fencer or team member not present:
- c. A third and last call will be made, one minute after the second call, followed by elimination from the competition for the fencer not present in an individual competition or for the whole team in a team competition.

#### t.120

Should a fencer abandon a bout by leaving the piste (cf. t.23.6), they will be penalised as specified in articles t.158-162, t.165, t.170.

#### Fencing etiquette

#### t.121

- 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.).
- All bouts must preserve the character of a courteous and frank encounter. All irregular actions (disorderly fencing, irregular movements on the piste, hits achieved with violence, blows struck with the guard, hits made during or after a fall) 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 of each bout, the two fencers must perform a fencer's salute to their opponent, to the Referee and to the spectators. Equally, when the final hit has been scored, the bout has not ended until the two fencers have saluted each other, the Referee and the spectators: to this end, they must remain still while the referee is making their decision; when they have given their decision, they must return to their on-quard line, perform a fencer's salute and shake hands with their opponent. If either or both of the two fencers refuse to comply with these rules, the Referee will penalize him/them as specified for offences of the 4th group (cf. t.158-162, t.169, t.170).

#### 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 penalized as specified in article t.169 (c.f. t.108.1, 2 and t.109).

#### Unwillingness to fight (Non-combativity)

#### t.124

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

When one or both fencers make clear their unwillingness to fight, the Referee will immediately

- a) One-sided: (Applies in individual competitions to both, pool and direct elimination bouts and in team completions to all bouts)
  - A one-sided non-combativity committed by a fencer ends if this fencer reaches the 'on guarde!' position (body upright and perpendicular to the wheelchair).
  - After 15 seconds of one-sided non-combativity the Referee will penalise the inactive fencer according to articles t.158-162, t.170.
  - In opposite to both-sided non-combativity the Referee will **not** proceed to the next period or the last minute.
- b) Both-sided: (Applies in individual competitions to direct elimination bouts and in team competitions to all bouts)

If one of the two criteria below is present, there is unwillingness to fight:

- criterion of time: approximately one minute of fencing without a hit
- excessive distance (both fencers leaning back in the wheelchair) during at least 15 seconds.

#### **Individual competitions**

- **a)** If during the first two periods of a direct elimination bout both fencers make clear their unwillingness to fight, the Referee will proceed to the next period, without the minute rest.
- **b)** When both fencers make clear their unwillingness to fight during the third period of a direct elimination bout, the Referee will proceed to a last minute of fencing. This last minute, which will be fenced in its entirety, will be decisive and will be preceded by a drawing of lots to decide the winner should the scores be equal at the end of the minute.

#### **Team competitions**

- c) If both teams make clear their unwillingness to fight during a team match, the Referee will proceed to the next bout.
- d) If both teams make clear their unwillingness to fight during the last bout, the Referee will proceed to a last minute of fencing. This last minute, which will be fenced in its entirety, will be decisive and will be preceded by a drawing of lots to decide the winner should the scores be equal at the end of the minute.

#### t.125

The fencer, whether on or off the piste, must **keep their mask on** until the Referee calls 'Halt!' They may under no circumstances address the Referee until the Referee has made their decision (cf. t.158- 162, t.165, t.170).

Under no circumstances may fencers remove their clothes on the piste, even to change their bodywire (cf. t.158-162, t.170).

#### 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. They must say clearly: 'Fencer X won against Fencer Y with the following score: ...'.

#### 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).

#### The team manager

#### t.129

In all competitions, all competitors of the same nationality must be under the direction of a **team manager** (who may or may not fence), who is responsible to the Directoire Technique or the Organising Committee for the discipline, conduct, and sportsmanship of the members of their team.

#### The team captain

#### t.130

In team competitions, only the **team captain** has the right to be to approach the Referee and/or the refereeing delegates 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 their 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

- During the direct elimination of the individual competitions, 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 in a place indicated by the organisers.
- 2 The Referees may, whenever they consider it necessary, authorise a person to come briefly to the assistance of a fencer.
- 3 Each nation which has a fencer taking part in the round of the competition in progress may designate a maximum of **two people** who have the right to be positioned near the Piste Enclosure, outside it but close to a point of access. The organisers must provide the necessary space for these people.

#### t.132

In team competitions, there must be enclosures reserved for the team members.

Only the team captain and one coach have the right to be with the team fencers inside the Team Enclosures. This area has to have a minimum of 9m<sup>2</sup> and has to be clearly marked on the ground in a distance of 2m to 6m from the end of the piste.

- During team matches, the team members not actually fencing must remain within their Team Enclosure.
- During team competitions, no one has the right to enter the Piste Enclosure without the Referee's permission. In the case of such an offence, the Referee will penalise the offending team as provided for in articles t.158-162, t.165, t.170. A warning imposed on a team is valid for the complete team match. Should a fencer, within the same match, commit another offence from the First Group, the Referee will penalise them on each occasion with a Red Card.

#### 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).

#### Chapter 2

#### THE DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITIES AND THEIR COMPETENCE

#### Preamble

#### t.134

The following articles only regulate discipline at competition venues. Depending on the gravity of the offences established, they do not exclude the application of the Disciplinary Codes in the corresponding Statutes and Bylaws of IWF and IWAS, 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 Commission Delegate(s);
- the Directoire Technique (cf. t.139, o.15-o.22);
- the Supervisor / Technical Delegate;
- the Executive Committee of the IPC at the Paralympic Games (cf. t.142);
- the Executive Committee of IWF and its delegate(s) (cf. 143.5, o.12);
- the Executive Committee of the IWAS (cf. t.143.1/4);

- the Court of Arbitration for Sport and the Sports Arbitration Tribunal.

See also Disciplinary Rules in IWF and IWAS Statutes and Bylaws.

#### Principle of jurisdiction

#### t.136

- 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.
- 4 Every appeal must be accompanied by the deposit of a guarantee specified by the respective authorities; this sum may be confiscated for the benefit of the IWF if the appeal is rejected on the grounds that it is 'frivolous'; this decision will be taken by the juridical authority responsible for hearing the appeal. However, appeals against the decisions of the Referee do not require the deposit of the guarantees mentioned above (cf. t.172).

#### The Referee

#### t.137

- 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 they is refereeing (cf. t.47.2.i).
- 2 In their capacity as director of the bout and arbiter of hits, they 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 they are refereeing, all, according to the circumstances, with or without prior warning. In these circumstances, and if they have judged on a matter of **fact**, their decisions are irrevocable (cf. t.172).
- By reason of the right of jurisdiction which they have over all the fencers who participate in, or are present at a competition which they are refereeing, they 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).
- Finally, they may **recommend** to the Directoire Technique all other penalties which they considers appropriate (exclusion from the whole competition, suspension or disqualification) (cf. t.139.3).

#### t.138

The Refereeing Commission delegate or the Supervisor (if there is no delegate) is the **authority** competent to deal with appeals against the decisions of the Referee.

#### The Directoire Technique at official IWF competitions (cf. o.15 – o.22)

#### t.139

- 1 The Directoire Technique, the refereeing delegates or the supervisor have jurisdiction over all the fencers who take part in or are present at a competition which they are running.
- 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** IWF EC and IWAS Headquarter announcements 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 IWF EC.

#### t.141

All the decisions of the Directoire Technique, the refereeing delegates or the supervisor are immediately enforceable. No appeal against a decision can suspend that decision during the competition.

#### The Executive Committee of the IPC at the Paralympic Games

#### t.142

The Executive Committee of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) is the final arbiter for all disputes of a non-technical nature which may arise during the Paralympic Games. It may intervene either on its own responsibility, or at the request of a national Paralympic Committee, the IWF and/or IWAS or the Organizing Committee.

#### *IWF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (IWF EC)*

#### t.143

- All disciplinary matters referred to the IWF by a national federation, a Directoire Technique or any other competent body on the occasion of an official IWF competition are addressed to the IWAS Headquarter. This latter transmits them to the competent body.
- The Disciplinary Commission of the IWF and the IWAS, within the limits of the territories over which 2. the IWAS has authority, settle all disciplinary matters referred to the IWF and judges all appeals against decisions taken by a Directoire Technique, the Referee Commission Delegate, other IWF delegates or the Technical Delegate (if there are no other Delegates).
- The Sports Arbitration Tribunal (TAS) judges all appeals against the decisions of the tribunals of the Disciplinary Commission.
- In urgent cases, IWF EC may take the preliminary administrative measures necessary for the suspension of the licence of the accused in accordance with the Disciplinary Code.
- The IWF EC ensures that the decisions of the Disciplinary Commission are respected and carried 5.

See the Disciplinary Code of the IWF and IWAS.

#### Chapter 3

#### **PENALTIES**

#### Classification of penalties

#### t.144

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

- 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

- All these penalties except permanent suspension **can be applied** by the competent authorities at a competition the Referee and the Directoire Technique.
- **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 their 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 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 (cf. t.25.2, t.28.2, t.29, t.33.2/4, t.44.2, t.73, t.80, t.89.2, t.93.1, t.94, t.95, t.96.3, t.99.1–2, t.106, t.121.2, t.137.2, t.161, t.170).

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

t.148

Competitors may have a hit awarded against them which they have not in fact received, because they have committed an offence which has prevented their opponent fencing (use of the unarmed hand while fencing, etc.) (cf. t.137.2, t.162.1/2, t.165, t.166, t.167.1, t.170).

#### **Exclusion**

#### t.149

- A competitor who, while fencing, commits certain **violent or vindictive actions** against their opponent, or who does not **fence to their utmost ability**, or who **profits from a fraudulent agreement** with their opponent, may be excluded from the competition.
- A competitor who is excluded from a competition may not continue to take part in that competition, even if they are already qualified for promotion to the next round. they lose the right to their 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

**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.).

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

- 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.

#### Disqualification

#### t.153

- Disqualification of a competitor does not necessarily incur their (temporary) suspension or permanent suspension, if they have 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

- A competitor who is suspended cannot take part in any official IWF competition during the time they are suspended.
- All other persons who are suspended are debarred from exercising their functions within the 2 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

- The Directoire Technique is required to inform the IWF EC and IWAS Headquarter without delay of **penalties** applied during the competition and their reasons (cf. t.139.4).
- At the Paralympic Games, the Directoire Technique must advise the IPC via the Organising 2 Committee.

#### Chapter 4

#### THE PENALTIES AND THE COMPETENT JURIDICAL AUTHORITIES

#### 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, they 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, exclusion from the remainder of the tournament, and suspension from all subsequent IWF tournaments until the completion of the Second IWF World Cup, Zonal Championship, World Championship or Paralympic Games following the tournament from which the fencer was excluded.

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:

- 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 their part will result in a penalty hit.
- 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 their 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, exclusion from the remainder of the tournament, and suspension from all subsequent IWF tournaments until the completion of the Second IWF World Cup, Zonal Championship, World Championship or Paralympic Games following the tournament from which the fencer was excluded; demonstrated 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 theim 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, they receive a further **RED CARD** for their 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.
- If during the same bout the fencer commits the same or a different offence in this group, the fencer is penalised with a BLACK CARD (exclusion from the competition, exclusion from the remainder of the tournament, and suspension from all subsequent IWF tournaments until the completion of the Second IWF World Cup, Zonal Championship, World Championship or Paralympic Games following the tournament from which the fencer was excluded).

#### 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**.
- 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, exclusion from the remainder of the tournament, and suspension from all subsequent IWF tournaments until the completion of the Second IWF World Cup, Zonal Championship, World Championship or Paralympic Games following the tournament from which the fencer was excluded).
- 2 However, a team excluded from a tournament because of a BLACK CARD imposed on one of its members is not excluded as a team from the following competitions, but it may not select the penalised fencer
- Furthermore any black card awarded at a competition of the IWF or at a competition organized by any Confederation which has subscribed to the IWF or IWAS disciplinary code shall be reported within 10 days to the Chairperson of the IWF, to assess whether the severity of the offence committed warrants the sending of the report made by the IWF supervisor or by the Directoire Technique to the chairperson of the Legal Commission, requesting them 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 and absence of the nationality on the conductive apron at all official IWF competitions.  Absence of national uniform and logo and absence of approved designed spoke protectors at the Paralympic Games, World and Zonal Championships. | t.74     |                                  |           |                         |
| 0.2 | Absence of name and nationality on back and absence of nationality on the conductive apron due to changing a non-conforming item.  | t.75     | Elimination from the competition |           |                         |
| 0.3 | Non presentation when first called by Referee fifteen minutes before time indicated for start of pool/team match/bouts and ten minutes before time indicated for start of direct elimination bouts.  | 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    | 1st call                         | 2nd call  | 3rd call<br>Elimination |

|      | 1st group   |                                 | 1st offence | 2nd offence | 3rd offence and subsequent. |
|------|---|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 1.1  | Deliberately changing of sitting position before the command 'Play!' ★  | t.22.6                          |             |             |                             |
| 1.2  | Starting or moving before the command 'Play!' ★   | t.23.1                          |             |             |                             |
| 1.3  | Leaving piste without permission  | t.23.6                          |             |             |                             |
| 1.4  | Turning back on opponent ★  | t.27.2                          |             |             |                             |
| 1.5  | Covering/substitution of valid target ★   | t.29.2, t.30.1,<br>t.79, t.91   |             |             |                             |
| 1.6  | Touching/taking hold of electrical equipment ★  | t.29.3                          |             |             |                             |
| 1.7  | Foot leaving the footrest or using the floor to gain advantage *  | t.32                            |             |             |                             |
| 1.8  | Lifting from the wheelchair ★   | t.33                            |             |             |                             |
| 1.9  | Losing balance deliberately ★   | t.34                            |             |             |                             |
| 1.10 | Interruption of bout without valid reason   | t.43.2                          |             |             |                             |
| 1.11 | Clothing/equipment not conforming. Curve of blade exceeding that permitted. Absence of spare weapon, bodywire or maskwire | t.71, t.72,<br>t.73.1.a, t.117  | YELLOW      | RED         | RED                         |
| 1.12 | Placing weapon on the conductive piste to straighten it   | t.76.2, t.90.2,<br>t.96.5       | TELLOW      | KED         | KED                         |
| 1.13 | At foil and épée, bending, dragging weapon point on conductive piste  | t.76.2, t.90.2                  |             |             |                             |
| 1.14 | At sabre, hit made with the guard ★   | t.96.3, t.101.5                 |             |             |                             |
| 1.15 | Refusal to obey the Referee   | t.108, t.112                    |             |             |                             |
| 1.16 | Hair not conforming to the Rules  | t.115.2                         |             |             |                             |
| 1.17 | Jostling, disorderly fencing ★; taking off mask before the Referee calls ' Halt!'; dressing or undressing on the piste    | t.116, t.121.2,<br>t.125, t.126 |             |             |                             |
| 1.18 | Irregular movements on the piste ★; hits made with violence or during or after falling ★                                  | t.121.2                         |             |             |                             |
| 1.19 |   | t.172, t.173,<br>t.174          |             |             |                             |
| 1.20 | Entering the Piste enclosure without the Referee's permission $\Theta$  | t.132.2                         |             |             |                             |

|     | 2nd group   |                            | 1st offence | 2nd offence | 3rd offence and subsequent. |
|-----|---|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 2.1 | Use of non-sword arm/hand ★   | t.29.1, t.30               |             |             |                             |
| 2.2 | Unfastening wheelchair deliberately ★                                   | t.34.1                     |             |             |                             |
| 2.3 | Damaging the wheelchair to gain advantage ★                             | t.35.2                     |             |             |                             |
| 2.4 | Demanding a break for claimed injury/cramp deemed unjustified by doctor | t.45.3                     | RED         | RED         | RED                         |
| 2.5 | Absence of weapon control marks ★                                       | t.73.1a                    |             |             |                             |
| 2.6 | Deliberate hit not on opponent ★  | t.55.3                     |             |             |                             |
| 2.7 | Dangerous, violent or vindictive action, blow with guard or pommel ★    | t.121.2, t.147,<br>t.149.1 |             |             |                             |

| OFFENCE   | ARTICLES  | PENALTIES   |             |
|---|---|-------------|-------------|
| 3rd group   |   | 1st offence | 2nd offence |
| Fencer disturbing order when on piste. In the most serious cases, the Referee may award a black card immediately (t.168).         | t.108.2, t.109, t.110,<br>t.137.2                           | RED         | BLACK       |
| Dishonest fencing ★ Offence against Publicity Code  | t.121<br>Publicity Code                                     | RED         |             |
| Any person not on piste disturbing good order. In the most serious cases, the Referee may award a black card immediately (t.168). | t.109, t.110, t.111,<br>t.132.2, t.133, t.137.3/4,<br>t.168 | VELLOW BLAC |             |
| Warming up or training without wearing fencing clothing or equipment that conforms to the FIE and IWF regulations.                | t.20.2  | YELLOW      | BLACK       |
| Anti-sporting behaviour   | t.121.2   |             |             |

|     | 4th group   |                                   | PENALTIES |  |
|-----|---|-----------------------------------|-----------|--|
| 4.1 | Fencer equipped with electronic communication equipment permitting them to receive communications during bout                             | t.64.6, t.68, t.73.1.g            |           |  |
| 4.2 | Fraudulent equipment, control marks that are imitated or transferred  | t.73.1.c-d-e                      |           |  |
| 4.3 | Equipment altered to allow the recording of hits or the non-<br>functioning of the apparatus at will                                      | t.73.1.f; m.5.5.d                 |           |  |
| 4.4 | Refusal of a fencer to fence another competitor (individual or team) properly entered   | t.113                             | DI AOY    |  |
| 4.5 | Offence against sportsmanship   | t.121.2, t.122; t.123;<br>t.149.1 | BLACK     |  |
| 4.6 | Refusal of a fencer to salute their opponent, the referee and<br>the spectators before the beginning of the bout or after the last<br>hit | t.122                             |           |  |
| 4.7 | Profiting from collusion, favouring an opponent   | t.128, 149.1                      |           |  |
| 4.8 | Deliberate brutality  | t.149.1                           |           |  |
| 4.9 | Doping  | o.107                             |           |  |

| EXPLANATIONS |  |  |  |  |
|--------------|--|--|--|--|
| *            | Annulment of any hit scored by the fencer at fault   |  |  |  |
| •            | 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.   |  |  |  |
| YELLOW CARD  | Warning 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, they receive a further RED CARD.   |  |  |  |
| RED CARD     | Penalty hit  |  |  |  |
| BLACK CARD   | Exclusion from the competition, exclusion from the remainder of the tournament, and suspension from all subsequent IWF tournaments until the completion of the Second IWF World Cup, Zonal Championship, World Championship or Paralympic Games following the tournament from which the fencer was excluded. |  |  |  |

3.1

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#### 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

- **No appeal can be made** against the decision of the Referee regarding a point of fact, except as permitted in 0.105 and t.60-t.63 for video refereeing (cf. t.136.1/2, t.137.2).
- 2 If a fencer infringes this principle, **casting doubt** on the decision of the Referee **on a point of fact** during the bout, they will be penalised according to the rules (cf. t.158-162, t.165, t.170). 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** competitions, by the fencer,
- 2 in team competitions, 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 their opinion, the Refereeing Commission delegate or the Supervisor (if there is no delegate) 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.
- 2 Protests over the composition of the first round at World Championships and the Paralympic Games may only be made up to 8 p.m. of the day before the competition (cf. o.10).

#### t.176

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

#### 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 they commit 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 the Disciplinary Code Statutes and Bylaws of IWF and IWAS.