



FENCING

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4

EVENT RULES – FENCING

PART A

THE EVENT

4.1 PRESENTATION OF THE EVENT

4.1.1 Description

- i) The Fencing Ranking Round event is organised as a single pool with electric épée and is organised indoors. If the fencing ranking round is to be held outdoors, this must be indicated explicitly in the competition invitation letter.
- ii) In Olympic Games, Youth Olympic Games and World Cup Finals, the Fencing Ranking Round takes place the day before the Semi-Finals for both genders.
- iii) The Fencing Bonus Round takes place in the Individual Semi-Finals, Finals and Relay events of all Category "A" competitions and is organised on a single piste in a one-on-one format for bonus points.
- iv) The Fencing Bonus Round must take place on the FOP of the Ride/Laser Run, after the Riding event and prior to the Swimming event in Olympic Games, Youth Olympic Games, World Cup Finals and World Championships. At all other UIPM Category A competitions, under special circumstances, the fencing Bonus Round can take place immediately after the Fencing Ranking Round on the Fencing FOP. In such case, a special set up, including show piste, backdrop and spectator seats, must be made.

4.1.2 Terms Commonly Used

- i) **Assaults and bouts:** Friendly combat between two fencers is called an assault. A bout is when the total of assaults is recorded to determine a result.
- ii) **Match:** The aggregate of bouts fought between fencers of two different teams is called a match.
- iii) **Competition:** A competition is the aggregate of bouts (individual competitions) or matches (team relay competitions) required to determine the winner of the event.
- iv) **Fencing time:** "Fencing time" is the time required to perform one single fencing action.
- v) **The attack:** An action is simple when executed in one movement and is either:
 - a) direct (in the same line) or
 - b) indirect (in another line).An action is compound when executed in several movements.
- vi) **The riposte:** A riposte may be immediate or delayed, depending on what action takes place and the speed at which it is carried out. Ripostes are:
 - a) Simple, direct
 - 1) Direct riposte: A riposte which hits the opponent without leaving the line in which a parry was made.
 - 2) Riposte along the blade: A riposte which hits the opponent by grazing along the blade after a parry.
 - b) Simple, indirect
 - 1) 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 formed in the high line, and over the blade if the parry was formed in the low line).
 - 2) 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).
 - c) Compound: A riposte executed in more than one fencing time.

4.2 AUTHORITIES

4.2.1 The LOC must appoint a Fencing Director, who is responsible for:

- i) the overall correct conduct of the fencing event;
- ii) deciding on verbal complaints against decisions of the Referee;
- iii) excluding officials and spectators from the event if requested by a Referee;
- iv) the supervision of all other authorities and auxiliaries as specified in 4.2.2 – 4.2.9.

4.2.2

A **Referee** is appointed to each piste and, if necessary, may be assisted by two Ground Judges. The Fencing Director must appoint substitutes. At Olympic Games and World Championships the Referees must be selected from amongst International Judges for épée, recognised by UIPM or FIE. The Referee is responsible for:

- i) directing the bout, moving along the piste to follow the phases of the fencing and the appearance of light signals;
- ii) calling the roll of pentathletes;
- iii) judging hits and awarding or refusing to award a hit;
- iv) controlling the weapon, equipment and clothing of each pentathlete at the beginning of each bout and each time any item is changed;
- v) supervising the proper functioning of the electric apparatus, verifying the apparatus and localising any fault whenever necessary and upon request by a team representative or pentathlete;
- vi) maintaining order in the bouts over which he presides;
- vii) penalising pentathletes by awarding penalty points or excluding them from the event and requesting the exclusion of any other person present, including spectators, by the Fencing Director. Exclusion may happen with or without a warning;
- viii) recording a case of elimination or disqualification on the pool sheets. The pentathlete must be notified.

4.2.3

The **Ground Judges** are responsible for informing the Referee about any use of the non-weapon arm and any striking of an invalid surface by a fencer.

4.2.4

Superintendents of Apparatus;

4.2.5

Timekeepers

4.2.6

Pool sheet scorers;

4.2.7

Repairers for personal equipment and technical facilities such as electrical apparatus;

4.2.8

Experts in Electrical Judging;

4.2.9

Medical Staff;

4.2.10

In addition, for the Fencing Bonus Round:

- i) two Call Room Equipment Judges who check clothing, point courses, weight of the point, reserve equipment, in the call area and are responsible for ensuring that the pentathletes are ready for the piste prior to their bout .
- ii) two Referee's Assistants to check the pentathletes' épées with regard to the lightening of the system and the isolation of the guard just prior to the athletes' entry onto the piste.



4.3 ORGANISATION

4.3.1 RANKING ROUND

4.3.1.1 Single pool

In the pool, unique teams meet in a prearranged order as indicated in Appendix 4C. The event will be conducted in rounds using all available pistes simultaneously. All teams begin each round at the same time.

4.3.1.2

Warm up time is given, according to LOC prior to the competition. Either the competition FOP can be used or a separate warm up area with pistes must be provided.

4.3.1.3 Order of Matches

In individual competition matches are fought so that each pentathlete in one team meets all pentathletes in the opposing team(s). Pentathletes in the same team must meet before the beginning of the first match against other teams (round 0). In the Relay competition competitors meet only the pentathlete with the same number in the opposite team.

4.3.1.4 Number of Hits

- i) In the **Individual** competition, all bouts are for one decisive hit judged with an electrical scoring apparatus of a design approved by UIPM or FIE.
- ii) In the **Relay** competition, the number of the hits of each bout depends on the number of the teams; each hit will be of one minute duration.

4.3.1.5 Order of Bouts

For each group, the draw will be made by the TD at the TM for Piste No 1 by drawing one number. That team will be Team 1. The next team, identified in English alphabetical order, will be Team 2, etc. Teams will be placed on pistes as shown in Appendix 4C. If a nation has 2 or more teams taking part in a competition or group, they will meet in the first rounds of the Fencing event according to Appendix 4C.

- i) In the Individual competition between members of the same team the order of the bouts is:
 - a) Team of 3 fencers: 1-3, 2-1, 3-2
 - b) Team of 4 fencers: 1-3, 2-4, 2-1, 4-3, 1-4, 3-2.
- ii) In the Individual competition in a match between two teams the order of the bouts is:
 - a) Team of 2 fencers: 1-3, 1-4, 2-4, 2-3
 - b) Team of 3 fencers: 1-4, 2-5, 3-6, 5-1, 6-2, 4-3, 1-6, 2-4, 3-5
 - c) Team of 4 fencers: 3-8, 4-6, 1-7, 2-5, 6-3, 8-1, 5-4, 7-2, 1-6, 3-5, 2-8, 4-7, 5-1, 6-2, 7-3, 8-4.
- iii) In the Relay competition numbers 1 and 2 meet the fencers holding the same numbers from the opposite team that is number 1 against number 1, number 2 against number 2 in this order.
- iv) If the total number of fencers in an Individual competition is less than 20, it will be necessary to fence two rounds consecutively, without fencers leaving the piste. In this case they will have one minute for each bout. The number of hits must be the same for all groups.
- v) If a match is running over time, following a decision of the Fencing Director or the Referee on the piste, fencers or teams must fight or continue their match on two pistes.

4.3.2 BONUS ROUND

4.3.2.1 Each bout is for one hit in 30 seconds in Individual and per team member in Relay.

4.3.2.2 The Start List for the Fencing Bonus Round is based on the results of the Fencing Ranking Round. The points achieved by the pentathletes in the Ranking Round are carried over to the Bonus Round.

4.3.2.3 Order of Bouts

- i) The first bout is the pentathlete/team ranked last against the pentathlete/team ranked next to last (i.e. one position above)
- ii) The winner of the bout remains on the piste and the referee calls the next pentathlete/team, ranked 3rd from last in the start list
- iii) The Fencing Bonus Round continues until all pentathletes have fenced
- iv) In the Relay competition numbers 1 and 2 meet the fencers holding the same numbers from the opposite team that is number 1 against number 1, number 2 against number 2 in this order for the first match of the last two placed teams. The winning team member stays on the piste to face the same number (e.g. nr.2-2) of the next team.
- v) In the Mixed Relay, the team members fence the same gender competitor. The first pentathletes on the piste are the women members of the last two placed teams, then the men. The winning team member stays on the piste to face the male team member of the next team.

4.4 CONDUCT OF THE COMPETITION

4.4.1 Control on the Piste

- i) A final check of weapons, clothing and equipment is made by the Referee on the piste at the beginning of each bout. Any electrical equipment rejected during this control may be repaired in a facility assigned by the Organising Committee, but only after the control of all other competitors' equipment has been completed.
- ii) The Referee will in every case before each bout ensure that the guarantee label is present on each pentathlete's clothing; that each pentathlete is using appropriate chest protection; that the blade and mask of each pentathlete is marked; and that the insulation of the wires inside the guard and the pressure and travel of the spring in the point of épées conform with the Rules. Checking the insulation of the wires, the travels and the pressure of the spring will be repeated each time a weapon is changed.
- iii) The Referee will check that each pentathlete is not equipped with electronic communication equipment which would allow anyone off piste to communicate with the pentathlete during the bout.
- iv) At the beginning of the bout the Referee will confirm that each pentathlete has placed such reserve equipment (that has been checked) near the appropriate end of the piste of the pentathlete concerned.
- v) For the Fencing Bonus Round, the pentathletes/teams will compete under the same bout rules as above except that the controls will be conducted.
 - 4.4.2 in the call room, as to clothing, point courses, weight of the point and reserve equipment.
 - 4.4.3 just prior to entry on the piste with regard to the lightening of the system and the isolation of the guard.

4.4.2 Non-regulation Equipment

- i) Whenever a pentathlete is found to possess equipment that does not conform to these Rules, the UIPM Equipment Regulations or is defective, the equipment will be confiscated by the Referee on the piste immediately and checked. It will be returned to the pentathlete only after adjustment according with the rules and after a further check.
- ii) If during a bout an irregularity concerning the equipment is found which could have been caused by conditions during the bout and the épée or bodywire in question have ceased to function, no penalty will be imposed. A hit made with such defective equipment will be valid. In all other cases of irregular equipment found during a bout, a penalty will be imposed according to Rule 4.6.3 i).
- iii) The Referee will apply penalties according to Rule 4.6.3 i) if a pentathlete appears on piste:



- a) with only one regulation weapon conforming to the Rules and Regulations
 - b) with only one regulation body wire
 - c) with a weapon or body wire which does not work or which does not conform with a Rule or Regulation
 - d) whose weapon, at the moment he/she presents himself/herself on guard and ready to fence, has a curve which is more than 1cm
 - e) with clothing which does not conform to the Rules.
- iv) If, when a pentathlete appears on piste, it is established that the equipment used by the pentathlete does not bear the marks applied at the preliminary check, the Referee will:
- a) annul the hit, if any, scored by the pentathlete at fault;
 - b) penalise the pentathlete as specified in Rule 4.6.3 ii);
 - c) if it is established that the equipment does not conform to the Rules nor Regulations in a way not covered by the preliminary check, the Referee will penalise the pentathlete as specified in Rule 4.6.3 ii).
- v) If a pentathlete is on piste and it is established that the equipment used by the pentathlete:
- a) has passed the preliminary check but presents irregularities which could have been deliberately made or shows apparent marks of a preliminary check which have been imitated or transferred;
 - b) has been altered in any way to interfere with the recording of hits or create non-functioning of the apparatus;
 - c) is equipped with electronic communication equipment (permitting a person off the piste to communicate with the pentathlete during the bout), the Referee must immediately confiscate the equipment and have it examined by the expert on duty. If the expert on duty confirms the fact of violation of the rules the Referee will penalise the pentathlete as specified in Rule 4.6.3 iv).

4.4.3 Coming on Guard

- i) The pentathlete called first must go to the right of the Referee.
- ii) The Referee places each pentathlete so that the front foot of each pentathlete is 2 metres from the centre line of the piste (that is, behind the "on-guard" lines).
- iii) Pentathletes are put on guard, at the beginning of the bout or subsequently, in the centre of the width of the piste.
- iv) When placed on guard during a bout, the distance between the two pentathletes must be such that, in the on-guard position, with arms straight and épées in line, the points of the two épées cannot make contact.
- v) Pentathletes may not be replaced on guard, at their correct distance, so as to place behind the rear line of the piste a pentathlete who was in front of that line when the bout was halted. A pentathlete who already had one foot behind the rear line will remain in that position when re-taking guard.
- vi) A pentathlete crossing the lateral boundaries of the piste, may be put back on guard at the correct distance even if this places the pentathlete behind the rear line and thereby causes a hit to be awarded against them.
- vii) Pentathletes come on guard when the Referee gives the order "**En garde**" ("On guard"), after which the Referee asks, "**Êtes-vous prêt?**" ("Are you ready?"). On receiving an affirmative reply, or in the absence of negative reply, the Referee gives the command for fencing to start: "**Allez**" ("Play").
- viii) Pentathletes must come on guard correctly and remain completely still until the command "**Allez**" ("Play") is given by the Referee.

4.4.4 Beginning, Stopping and Restarting the Bout

- i) A pentathlete or team, completely equipped, with all equipment conforming to the regulations and ready to fence, must be present at the time and place appointed for the beginning of the event.
- ii) If a pentathlete is not present at the place and time assigned for the beginning of the event, there will be two repetitions of the call by the Referee on the

piste at intervals of one minute. A pentathlete not appearing by the third call will be penalised as specified in Rule 4.6.3 iv).

- iii) A pentathlete who has received prior warning to fence a bout and does not present at the first order when called by the Referee on the piste, incurs a penalty as specified in Rule 4.6.3 i).
- iv) The start of the bout is signalled by the word **"Allez"** ("Play"). No movement made or initiated before the command **"Allez"** ("Play") is counted.
- v) The fact that the pentathletes have been again put "on guard" and the command **"Allez"** ("Play") has been given, or even that 2 pentathletes have maintained a passive attitude after this command, does not mean that the bout has effectively begun. In order for the bout to be considered as effectively begun, the pentathletes must have engaged in a fencing action that affects the equipment in use.
- vi) The bout stops on the word **"Halte"** ("Halt") except in the case of special events which modify the regular and normal conditions of the bout.
- vii) As soon as the command **"Halte"** ("Halt") has been given, a pentathlete may not start a new action; only movement that began before the command was given remains valid.
- viii) If a pentathlete stops before the command **"Halte"** ("Halt") and is hit, the hit is valid.
- ix) Fencers, whether on or off the piste, must not remove masks until the Referee on the piste has given the command **"Halte"** ("Halt"). Removing a mask before such command is a disciplinary offence and penalised as specified in Rule 4.6.3 i).
- x) The command **"Halte"** ("Halt") is also given if the match play is dangerous, confused, or contrary to the Rules, if a pentathlete is disarmed or leaves the piste, or if, while retiring, the pentathlete approaches too near spectators or the Referee.
- xi) Between the commands **"Allez"** ("Play") and **"Halte"** ("Halt"), the Referee on the piste must not allow a pentathlete to leave the piste, save in exceptional circumstances. If a pentathlete does so without permission the pentathlete is liable incur a penalty as specified in Rule 4.6.3 i).

4.4.5 Duration of Bouts

- i) Duration of a bout mean the effective duration, that is the total time between the orders **"Allez"** ("Play") and **"Halte"** ("Halt").
- ii) The effective duration of the bout is one minute, not including interruptions.
- iii) Any hit arriving ("coup lancé") before or at the moment of the **"Halte"** ("Halt") command given by the Referee on the piste is valid.
- iv) The duration of the bout is registered by the Referee or by the time-keeper.
- v) Fencers may ask how much time they have left to fence any time that the Fencing is interrupted, unless a time recording device is visible on the recording apparatus.
- vi) Fencers cannot interrupt the bout to ask the time and if they do so they will be penalised according to the Rule 4.6.3 i).
- vii) Fencers who improperly attempt to prolong interruptions to the bout will be penalised as specified in Rule 4.6.3 i).
- viii) At the end of the regular fencing time, if the clock is linked to the scoring apparatus, it must automatically set off an audible signal and cut off the scoring apparatus, without cancelling the hits registered before the disconnection. The bout stops with the audible signal.
- ix) If the clock is not linked to the scoring apparatus, the time-keeper must shout **"Halte"** ("Halt"), or operate the sound signal which stops the bout; in which case a hit arriving is not valid.
- x) Should there be a failure of the clock or an error by the time-keeper, the Referee must estimate how much fencing time is left.

4.4.6 Holding the Épée

- i) Defence must be effected exclusively with the guard and the blade used either separately or together.
- ii) If the handle has no special device or attachment or special shape (e.g. orthopaedic), a pentathlete may hold the épée in any way and may alter the position of their hand on the handle during the bout. However, the épée must not be transformed – either permanently or temporarily, in an open or disguised manner – into a throwing weapon. It must be used without the hand leaving the hilt and without the hand slipping along the hilt from front to back during an offensive action.



4.4.7

Making a Hit

- iii) When the handle has a special device or attachment or has a special shape (e.g. orthopaedic or French grip) the épée must be held in such a way that the upper surface of the thumb is in the same plane as the groove in the épée blade. If not, a red card penalty will be applied.
 - iv) The épée must be used with one hand only. A pentathlete may not change hands until the end of the bout, unless the Referee on the piste gives special permission in the case of injury to the hand or arm.
- i) The épée is a thrusting weapon. Attacks are made with the point only.
 - ii) Pushing or letting the point of the épée drag on a conductive piste is forbidden during the bout (between "Allez" (Play) and "Halte" ("Halt"). Placing the épée on the conductive piste at any time to straighten it is also forbidden. Breaking this rule will be penalised according to Rule 4.6.3 i).
 - iii) A flèche attack, even made by running and/or going past the opponent or advancing vigorously, as long as it happens without brutality or violence, is allowed, even if it ends in one or several or systematic corps à corps. A flèche attack resulting in a shock that jostles the opponent, however, is considered an act of intentional brutality and will be penalised according to Rule 4.6.3 i).
 - iv) In case of a flèche attack made by running and/or going past the opponent without a corps à corps, the Referee on the piste must not call "Halte" too soon, in order not to annul a possible riposte. A pentathlete who when making such a running flèche without hitting the opponent, crosses the lateral boundaries of the piste will be penalised under Rule 4.6.3 i).
 - v) When a corps à corps occurs, which means that the two pentathletes enter in immediate contact to each other, the Referee on the piste must stop the bout.
 - vi) It is forbidden for a pentathlete to cause a corps à corps intentionally to avoid being hit or to jostle an opponent. This will be penalised according to Rule 4.6.3 i).
 - vii) Fencing at close quarters is allowed as long as the pentathletes can wield their épées correctly and the Referee on the piste can follow the phase of the fencing.
 - viii) Actions ended by a fall are not valid. Any hit must be annulled without other penalties.
 - ix) All irregular actions (disorderly fencing, irregular movements on the piste, hits achieved with violence, blow with guard or pommel, abuse of mask equipment) are strictly forbidden and will be penalised according to Rules 4.6.3 i) or 4.6.3 ii). Should such an offence occur, any hit scored by the pentathlete at fault is annulled.

4.4.8

The Target

The target includes the whole of the pentathlete's body, including their clothing and equipment.

4.4.9

Displacing the Target and Passing the Opponent

- i) Displacing the target and ducking are allowed even if during the action the unarmed hand comes into contact with piste.
- ii) It is forbidden to turn one's back on an opponent during the bout. Should such an offence occur, the Referee will penalise the pentathlete at fault as specified in Rule 4.6.3 i), and any hit scored by the pentathlete at fault is annulled.
- iii) When a pentathlete goes completely past the opponent during a bout, the Referee on the piste must immediately call "Halte" ("Halt") and replace the pentathletes in the positions that they occupied before the passing took place.
- iv) When hits are made while a pentathlete passes the opponent, a hit made immediately is valid. A hit made after passing an opponent by the pentathlete that has made the passing movement is annulled, but the hit made immediately, even when turning round, by the pentathlete who has been subjected to the offensive action, is valid.
- v) If during a bout a pentathlete that has made a flèche attack has a hit registered and continues to run beyond the extreme limit of the piste sufficiently far to cause the spool or the connecting line to the spool to be torn out, the hit received will not be annulled.

4.4.10 Use of the Non-sword Hand and Arm

- i) The use of the non-sword hand and arm to carry out an offensive or defensive action is forbidden. Should such an offence occur, the hit scored by the pentathlete at fault is annulled. The Referee will penalise the pentathlete at fault as specified in Rule 4.6.3 i).
- ii) During the fight, the pentathlete must not, under any circumstances, take hold of any part of electrical equipment with their non-sword hand. Should such an offence occur any hit scored by the pentathlete at fault is annulled. The Referee will penalise the pentathlete at fault as specified in Rule 4.6.3 i).
- iii) If during the bout the Referee notices that one of the pentathletes is making use of their non-sword arm and/or hand, the Referee can seek help from two neutral ground judges who will be designated by the Fencing Director. These judges, one on each side of the piste, will each watch one pentathlete and will indicate, by raising their hand or when asked by the Referee on the piste, if the non-sword arm or hand has been used.

4.4.11 Crossing the Limits of the Piste

- i) Stopping the bout
 - a) When a pentathlete crosses one of the lateral boundaries of the piste with one or both feet, the Referee on the piste must immediately call "Halte" ("Halt").
 - b) If the pentathlete goes off the piste with both feet, the Referee must annul everything that occurred after the boundary has been crossed, except a hit received by the pentathlete who has crossed the boundary even after they have crossed it, provided that this hit results from a simple and immediate action.
 - c) However, a hit scored by the pentathlete that leaves the piste with one foot is valid provided that the action was started before the "Halte" ("Halt").
 - d) If a pentathlete leaves the piste with both feet, only a hit made by the pentathlete that remains on the piste with at least one foot is valid, even in the case of a double hit.

ii) Rear limit

A hit will be scored against a pentathlete who crosses the rear limit of the piste completely i.e. with both feet.

iii) Lateral boundaries

- a) If a pentathlete crosses one of the lateral boundaries of the piste, they must step back one meter from the point where they left the piste; if they go off the piste during an attack they must return to the position they occupied when they started their attack and then step back a meter. If this places a pentathlete with both feet beyond the rear limit of the piste, the pentathlete concerned is considered as having been hit.
- b) A pentathlete who crosses one of the boundaries of the piste with one or both feet – e.g. when making a flèche attack – to avoid being hit will be penalised according to Rule 4.6.3 i).
- c) A pentathlete who involuntarily crosses one of the boundaries of the piste as the result of an accidental cause (such as a collision or jostling) incurs no penalty.

4.4.12 Materiality of Hits

- i) The materiality of a hit is established according to the indications of the electrical apparatus and, when necessary, by consulting the judges.
- ii) Only the indications of the electrical apparatus as indicated by its own lamps or by the extension lamps can be taken into consideration in judging a hit. Under no circumstances can the Referee declare a pentathlete to be hit unless the hit has been properly registered by the electrical apparatus (except as provided by article 4.10.1 of Equipment Regulations).
- iii) The Referee will annul the hit registered by the electrical apparatus in case of notification by the Ground Judge according to Rule 4.2.3.



4.4.13 Validity or Priority of Hits

- i) As soon as the bout has stopped, the Referee briefly analyses the movements which composed the last fencing phase.
- ii) After reaching a decision regarding the materiality of a hit, the Referee, by applying the rules, will decide which pentathlete was hit, whether both were hit (double hit), or whether there was no valid hit.
- iii) The Referee must use the signals as shown in figure 3.

4.4.14 Annulment of Hits

- i) The Referee disregards hits which have been registered as a result of the following actions:
 - a) started before the command **"Allez"** ("Play") or after **"Halte"** ("Halt");
 - b) caused by the meeting of the points of the epees or hits made on the ground where is not insulated;
 - c) which are made on any object other than the opponent, including their equipment.
 - d) Any pentathlete 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 Rule 4.6.3 ii).
- ii) The Referee must take note of possible failures of electrical equipment and must annul the last hit registered in the following circumstances:
 - a) If a hit made on the guard of the pentathlete against whom the hit was registered or on the conductive piste causes the apparatus to register a hit;
 - b) if a hit properly made by the pentathlete against whom the hit was registered does not cause the apparatus to register a hit;
 - c) if the apparatus fortuitously registers a hit against a pentathlete against whom there has been, for example, a beat on the blade, some movement of the opponent, or vibration on the piste transmitted to the central apparatus; or as a result of any cause other than a properly made hit;
 - d) if a hit is annulled the subsequent hit made by their opponent;
 - e) if a double hit is registered but one hit is valid and the other is not valid (such as a hit made on surface other than opponent or a hit made leaving the piste) only the valid hit is scored.
- iii) The Referee must also apply the following rules regarding the annulment of hits:
 - a) Only the last hit which precedes the establishment of the failure of the apparatus may be annulled and then only if it is the pentathlete against whom the hit was registered who is placed at a disadvantage by the failure.
 - b) The failure must be determined by tests made immediately after the bout is stopped, under the supervision of the Referee and without changing any part of the equipment in use.
 - c) With these tests, one is trying only to establish whether there is a material possibility of a mistake in the judgment as a result of a fault. The location of this fault in the electrical equipment, including that of either of the pentathletes, is unimportant in reaching a decision.
 - d) It is not necessary, in order to justify the annulment of a hit, that the failure in question repeats itself each time a test is made, but it is essential that the fault be established by the Referee without the possibility of doubt at least once.
 - e) A pentathlete who makes any modification in, or changes to their equipment without being asked by the Referee to do so, before the judgment is pronounced, loses the right to the annulment of the hit. Similarly, after again coming on guard and after the bout has effectively recommenced, a pentathlete cannot claim the annulment of a hit registered against them before the said recommencement of the bout.
 - f) If the incidents mentioned occur as a result of a pentathlete's body wire

being unplugged, either near the hand or at the back of the pentathlete, they cannot justify an annulment of a hit. However, if the safety device prescribed by Rule B 4.10.2 iv) is missing or not functioning, the hit must be annulled if the plug at the pentathlete's back has become unplugged.

- g) The fact that the épée of an pentathlete has large or small areas of insulation formed by oxidation, glue, paint or other material 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 any annulment of the hits registered against that pentathlete.
- h) When a pentathlete against whom the hit has been registered has broken their épée, the hit must be annulled unless the breaking of the épée occurred clearly after the hit was registered.
- i) If a pentathlete 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. Whenever, owing the same accidental cause, tests cannot be made, the hit must be considered as doubtful and must be annulled.

4.4.15 Doubtful Hits and Double Defeats

- i) The Referee must pay particular attention to hits which are not registered or which are registered abnormally. Should such defects be repeated, the Referee on the piste must ask an expert technician on duty to verify that the equipment conforms to these Rules. The Referee ensures that nothing is altered either to the pentathlete's equipment or to the whole of the electrical apparatus before the expert makes the check.
- ii) The Referee must supervise the condition 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 or cause accidents.
- iii) Double hits are annulled and the pentathletes are put on guard in the position they held when the double hit occurred.
- iv) If a double hit is registered and one hit is valid and the other is not valid (such as a hit made on surface other than opponent or a hit made leaving the piste) only the valid hit is scored.
- v) If the registering of a hit made by the pentathlete against whom the hit was registered is annulled by a subsequent hit made by their opponent, only the valid hit is scored.
- vi) If the time limit expires before a winning hit has been made, both pentathletes are counted as being hit and a defeat is scored against both of them.

4.4.16 Accidents, Withdrawal of a Pentathlete

- i) If an accident occurs during the bout and is properly attested by a member of the medical staff on duty, the Referee on the piste will allow a break in the bout for up to 5 minutes. This break should be timed from the point when the medical staff on duty give their opinion and be strictly reserved for the treatment of the accident which brought it about. If the member of the medical staff in duty considers, before or at the end of the 5 minute break, that the pentathlete is incapable of continuing the bout, the pentathlete must withdraw.
- ii) For the remainder of the day, a pentathlete who already has been allowed a break can only be allowed a further break on account of a different injury.
- iii) For indisposition, including cramp, a pentathlete may receive two periods, each of 5 minutes for recovery.
- iv) A pentathlete demanding a break that is deemed by the member of the medical staff on duty to be unjustified, will be penalised by the Referee according to the Rule 4.6.2.
- v) If, for any reason, a pentathlete withdraws before the end of the single pool, all their results will be disregarded, for them and for all their opponents. The point value of the victory is not changed.

4.4.17 Recognition of Results

Immediately after each match the Referee must fill in the whole score sheet and sign it. The team representative and/or the pentathletes must check the accuracy of the results and sign the score sheet presented to them by the Referee. As soon as a team



representative or pentathlete has signed the score sheet, no verbal complaint relating to the result will be allowed.

4.5 SCORING POINTS

4.5.1 Ranking Round

4.5.1.1 Points in Individual Competition

70% of bouts won corresponds to 250 points.
Each victory over or under this number is in accordance with the number of the bouts, as laid down by the Points table annexed to these Rules (Appendix 3B).
A pentathlete finishing the competition without a victory scores 0 (zero) MP points.

4.5.1.2 Points in Relay Competition

70% of bouts won correspond to 250 points.
Each victory over or under this number is in accordance with the number of the bouts, as laid down by the Points table annexed to these Rules (Appendices 3B2 and 3B3)

4.5.1.3 Tie

In case of a tie between the number of fencing victories, place will be determined as follows:

- i) in case of a tie between two pentathletes, the winner of the tied pentathletes' bout,
- ii) in case of a tie with more than two pentathletes, the pentathlete with the most wins in the tied pentathletes' bouts,
- iii) if there is still no outright winner, the athlete with the most PWR points is placed higher.

4.5.2 Bonus Round

Athletes/teams do not lose points if they are defeated.

4.5.2.1

Each bout winning pentathlete/team receives 2 (two) MP bonus points. In both the Semi-finals and Finals, the winner pentathlete/team of the Ranking Round will receive four bonus points if they win their single bout in the Bonus Round. In case of withdrawal/elimination of the winner of the Fencing Ranking Round in the Fencing event, the top placed pentathlete/team in the Ranking Round will receive 2 (two) MP bonus points if they win their bout in the Fencing Bonus Round.

4.5.2.2 Tie break / double defeat

- i) In the case of a double defeat, the winner of the bout is the pentathlete placed higher on the start list
- ii) In the case of a tie in Team Relay after 2 bouts, the pentathlete that fenced the second bout, remains on the piste and fences another bout. The first pentathlete to score a hit is the winner. In this way the athletes fight the best of three bouts. If there is still a tie after the 3rd bout, the winner is the team placed higher on the start list.
- iii) In case of a victory tie after the Fencing Ranking Round, the athletes will keep their ranking achieved in the Fencing Ranking Round after splitting into two Semi-Final groups, even the athletes in tie will be in the same Semi-Final group or won't.

4.5.2.3 Does not start/ Does not Finish

- i) If a pentathlete does not start in the Bonus round, the pentathlete on the piste will fight the next placed pentathlete.
- ii) The pentathlete that does not start or withdraws for any reason during the Bonus Round will be eliminated from the Fencing discipline, and scores zero points in fencing (RR + BR). The scores of the opponents remain unchanged for ranking round and bonus round.
- iii) If a pentathlete does not finish their bout for any reason, their opponent on the piste is considered the victor and receives the bonus point(s).

4.6 INFRINGEMENTS AND PENALTIES

4.6.1 Principles

- i) Fencers must show respect to their opponents by saluting each other, the Referee and the spectators before and after each bout. At the end of the bout and after the Referee has made their decision, the pentathletes must shake their unarmed hands. Failure to do so incurs a penalty as specified in Rule 4.6.3 v). This applies to both Ranking Round and Bonus Round.

- ii) Everybody at the fencing event must remain orderly and must not disturb the smooth running of the competition. By entering a Modern Pentathlon competition, pentathletes undertake to observe the Rules and the decisions of the Referee, to be respectful to the Fencing Director and the members of the Jury and to obey the orders and requirements of the Referee. Any breach of the Rule will be penalised according to Rules 4.6.3 i) and 4.6.3 iii).
- iii) Pentathletes must fence to their utmost ability in a sportsmanlike manner until the end of the fencing event to obtain the best possible classification, without giving away any hits or seeking to be favoured by being given a hit. Failure to do so will incur penalties according to Rule 4.6.3 ii) and 4.6.3 iv).
- iv) A pentathlete, who while fencing, commits a violent or vindictive action against an opponent, the Referee or Judges, or who does not fence to their utmost ability, or who profits from a fraudulent agreement with their opponent, may be eliminated or disqualified from the competition according to Rule 4.6.3 iv).

4.6.2 Types of Penalties

- i) Except for the loss of ground on the piste and the refusal to award a hit or the award of a hit which in fact has not been received, there are three (3) types of penalty to be applied depending on which offences have been committed. There are five groups of offences. If a Referee has to penalise a pentathlete who has committed several faults at the same time, they should penalise the least serious fault first.
- ii) The penalties are cumulative and they are valid for the match (except the fifth group). Certain offences can result in the annulment of hit scored by the pentathlete at fault. During the bout, only hits scored in circumstances connected with the offences may be annulled.
- iii) The penalties are as follows:
 - a) A warning – indicated by a **Yellow Card**, with which a Referee identifies the pentathlete at fault. The pentathlete then knows that any further offence on this part will result a more severe penalty.
 - b) A deduction of 10 Modern Pentathlon (MP) points in the Ranking Round and 1 (one) MP point in the Bonus Round indicated by a **Red Card**, with which a Referee identifies the athlete at fault. Furthermore, a Red card can only be followed by a Red card or by a Black card, depending on the nature of the second offence.
 - c) Elimination or disqualification (from the competition as applicable for a pentathlete = 0 points in the fencing event) or an exclusion (from the competition venue for any person disturbing the order of competition) – indicated by **Black Card**, with which a Referee identifies the pentathlete or person at fault.
- iv) All penalties must be shown and noted on the score sheet (protocol) of the match, together with the kind of offence having been committed by indicating one of the five groups of offences.

4.6.3 Groups of Offences (see Appendix 3A – PENALTY TABLE)

- i) **The first group of offences** is penalised by indicating a Yellow Card (warning). If during the same match the pentathlete commits the same or different offence in this group, the Referee penalises the pentathlete, in each occasion with a Red card (deduction of 10 MP points in the Ranking Round and 1 (one) MP point in the Bonus Round). If the pentathlete 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.
- ii) **The second group of offences:** in the first and any further infringement is penalised by indicating a Red Card (deduction of 10 MP points in the Ranking Round and 1 (one) MP point in the Bonus Round each).
- iii) **The third group of offences:** the first infringement is penalised by indicating a Red Card (deduction of 10 MP points in the Ranking Round and 1 (one) MP point in the Bonus Round), even if the athlete at fault has already received a



Red card as a result of offences in the first or second groups. If during the same match the pentathlete commits the same or different offence in this group, they are penalised with a Black Card (elimination or disqualification).

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

- a) On the first infringement a warning – indicated by Yellow Card, valid for the whole competition, which must be noted on the match score sheet (protocol) and recorded by the Fencing Director and UIPM TD/NTO;
 - b) on the second infringement during the same competition day a Black Card (exclusion from the competition venue). In the most serious cases concerning disturbance either on or off the piste, the Referee may exclude or expel the person at fault immediately.
- iv) **The fourth group of offences** the first infringement is penalised by indicating a Black Card (elimination, disqualification or exclusion).
- v) **The fifth group of offences**, the first infringement is penalised by indicating a Red Card (deduction of 10 MP points in the Ranking Round and 1 (one) MP point in the Bonus Round). In the case refusing the salute or handshake as specified in Rule 4.6.1:
- a) the first infringement will be penalised by indicating a Red Card (deduction of 10 MP points in the Ranking Round and 1 (one) MP point in the Bonus Round) and must be noted on the match score sheet (protocol) and recorded by the Fencing Director and UIPM TD/NTO;
 - b) in the second infringements will be penalised by indicating a Black Card – elimination.

PENALTY TABLE

FENCING

APPENDIX 4A

FIRST GROUP – OFFENCE (valid for the match)	Article	1 st Offence	2 nd Offence	3 rd & Subsequent
(valid for the match)	4.4.2 iii 4.6.3 i	Yellow Card	Red Card	Red Card
Clothing/equipment not conforming, absence of second regulation weapon or body wire	4.4.2 iii 4.6.3 i			
Fencer not presenting at the first call of the Referee	4.4.4 iii) 4.6.3 i)			
Removal of mask before the Referee calls "Halt"	4.4.4 ix) 4.6.3 i)			
Leaving piste without permission	4.4.4 xi) 4.6.3 i)			
Improperly causing or prolonging interrup- tions of bout	4.4.5 vii) 4.6.3 i)			
Bending, dragging weapon point on conductive piste, straightening weapon on conductive piste	4.4.7 ii) 4.6.3 i)			
Flèche attack resulting in shock that jostles the opponent (*)	4.4.7 iii) 4.6.3 i)			
Jostling, disorderly fencing, irregular move- ments, hits made by violence, hits with guard, abuse of mask equipment (*)	4.4.7 ix) 4.6.3 i) or 4.6.3 ii)			
Turning back on opponent (*)	4.4.9 ii) 4.6.3 i)			
Touching, taking hold of electrical equip- ment	4.4.10 ii) 4.6.3 i)			
Corps a corps to avoid being hit (*)	4.4.7 vi) 4.6.3 i)			
Leaving piste to avoid being hit	4.4.11 iii) b) 4.6.3 i)			
Refusal to obey the Referee	4.6.1 ii) 4.6.3 i) 4.6.3 iii)			
Unjustified appeal	4.6.1 ii) 4.6.3 i)			

SECOND GROUP – OFFENCE	Article	1 st Offence	2 nd Offence	3 rd & Subsequent
Interruption of bout by claimed injury not confirmed by Doctor on duty	4.4.16 iv)	Red Card	Red Card	Red Card
Absence of weapon check marks (*)	4.4.2 iv)			
Incorrect grip or incorrect holding of épée	4.4.6 iii)			
Use a non-sword hand / arm (*)	4.4.10 i) 4.6.3 ii)			
Deliberate hit not on opponent (*)	4.4.14 i) d)			
Dangerous, violent or vindictive action, blow with guard or pommel or mask	4.4.7 ix)			



THIRD GROUP – OFFENCE (valid for the competition)	Article	1 st Offence	2 nd Offence
Faking weapon check marks, intentional modification of equipment (*)	4.4.2	Red card RR 10 pts / BR 1pt	Disqualification
Athlete disturbing order when on piste	4.6.3 ii)		
Not wearing or wearing defected protective under-plastron	4.4.2 iii) e)	Elimination (1)	
Non presentation when called by the Referee at the start of the competition after three calls at one minute intervals	4.4.4 ii) 4.6.3 iv)		
Any person not on piste disturbing good order	4.6.1 ii)	Yellow (4)	Exclusion (3)

FOURTH GROUP – OFFENCE	Article	1 st Offence	2 nd Offence
Manifest cheating with equipment	4.4.2		Disqualification (2)
Offence against sportsmanship, profiting from collusion, favouring an opponent	4.6.1 iii)		
Deliberate brutality	4.6.1 iv)		
Dishonest fencing (*)	4.6.1 ii)		
Fencer equipped with electronic communication equipment permitting receipt of communications during the bout	4.4.2 v) c)		

FIFTH GROUP – OFFENCE	Article	1 st Offence	2 nd Offence
Not wearing an armet in the national colours	4.7.2 iv)	Red Card RR 10 pts / BR 1pt	---
Not wearing his/her surname and National code letters	4.7.2 iii)		
Missing or bad placing of the UIPM logo patch	4.7.2 v)		
Refusing to salute or shake hands	4.6.1 i)		Black Card (1)

Penalty Tables Comments:

(*) - Annulment of any hit scored by pentathlete at fault

Yellow Card – warning, valid for match

Red Card – Deduction of 10 MP points in Ranking Round (RR) or 1 MP point in Bonus Round (BR)

Black Card – Elimination, disqualification or exclusion

- 1) Elimination from the event
- 2) Disqualification from the competition or in severe cases from Championships
- 3) Exclusion = Disqualification from the competition or in severe cases from Championships
- 4) In serious cases, the Referee may exclude immediately

POINTS TABLE

Formula: 70% bouts won correspond to 250 MP points
Each victory over or below this number is in accordance with the number of bouts

FENCING

Example:

APPENDIX 4B1

1.INDIVIDUAL

36 pentathletes take part = 35 bouts
70% of bouts = 25 victories = **250** MP points \pm 1 victory = \pm 5 points

The figures:

- left column = the number of victories for **250** MP points -
- centre column = number of bouts
- right column = the points value of 1 victory

250	bouts	Value of V
42	60	3
41	59	3
41	58	3
40	57	3
39	56	3
39	55	3
38	54	3
37	53	3
36	52	3
36	51	3
35	50	3
34	49	3
34	48	3

250	bouts	Value of V
33	47	4
32	46	4
32	45	4
31	44	4
30	43	4
29	42	4
29	41	4
28	40	4

250	bouts	Value of V
27	39	5
27	38	5
26	37	5
25	36	5
25	35	5
24	34	5
23	33	6
22	32	6
22	31	6
21	30	6

250	bouts	Value of V
20	29	7
20	28	7
19	27	7
18	26	7
18	25	7
17	24	7
16	23	7
15	22	8
15	21	8
14	20	8
13	19	8

**2. RELAY**

Example:

14 teams take part = 26 bouts
70% of bouts = 18 victories = 250 MP points
± 1 victory = ± 7 points

Example:

24 teams take part = 46 bouts
70% of bouts = 32 victories = 250
1 victory = ± 4 points

teams	rounds	bouts/ athlete/ round	total bouts/ athlete	total bouts/ team	250 points = victories	value of victory
5	4	4	16	32	22	6
6	5	4	20	40	28	4
7	6	3	18	36	25	5
8	7	3	21	42	29	4
9	8	2	16	32	22	6
10	9	2	18	36	25	5
11	10	2	20	40	28	4
12	11	2	22	44	31	4
13	12	2	24	48	34	3
14	13	1	13	26	18	7
15	14	1	14	28	20	7
16	15	1	15	30	21	6
17	16	1	16	32	22	6
18	17	1	17	34	24	5
19	18	1	18	36	25	5
20	19	1	19	38	27	5
21	20	1	20	40	28	4
22	21	1	21	42	29	4
23	22	1	22	44	31	4
24	23	1	23	46	32	4

TEAMS CIRCULATION TABLE

If there is an even number of teams, all teams are fencing in every round.
Team number 1 stays always at piste A.
Example: 36 pentathletes = 18 teams = 17 rounds

FENCING

Appendix 4C

Piste									
Rounds	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
0 + 1	1 - 18	2 - 17	3 - 16	4 - 15	5 - 14	6 - 13	7 - 12	8 - 11	9 - 10
2	1 - 17	18 - 16	2 - 15	3 - 14	4 - 13	5 - 12	6 - 11	7 - 10	8 - 9
3	1 - 16	17 - 15	18 - 14	2 - 13	3 - 12	4 - 11	5 - 10	6 - 9	7 - 8
4	1 - 15	16 - 14	17 - 13	18 - 12	2 - 11	3 - 10	4 - 9	5 - 8	6 - 7
5	1 - 14	15 - 13	16 - 12	17 - 11	18 - 10	2 - 9	3 - 8	4 - 7	5 - 6
6	1 - 13	14 - 12	15 - 11	16 - 10	17 - 9	18 - 8	2 - 7	3 - 6	4 - 5
7	1 - 12	13 - 11	14 - 10	15 - 9	16 - 8	17 - 7	18 - 6	2 - 5	3 - 4
8	1 - 11	12 - 10	13 - 9	14 - 8	15 - 7	16 - 6	17 - 5	18 - 4	2 - 3
9	1 - 10	11 - 9	12 - 8	13 - 7	14 - 6	15 - 5	16 - 4	17 - 3	18 - 2
10	1 - 9	10 - 8	11 - 7	12 - 6	13 - 5	14 - 4	15 - 3	16 - 2	17 - 18
11	1 - 8	9 - 7	10 - 6	11 - 5	12 - 4	13 - 3	14 - 2	15 - 18	16 - 17
12	1 - 7	8 - 6	9 - 5	10 - 4	11 - 3	12 - 2	13 - 18	14 - 17	15 - 16
13	1 - 6	7 - 5	8 - 4	9 - 3	10 - 2	11 - 18	12 - 17	13 - 16	14 - 15
14	1 - 5	6 - 4	7 - 3	8 - 2	9 - 18	10 - 17	11 - 16	12 - 15	13 - 14
15	1 - 4	5 - 3	6 - 2	7 - 18	8 - 17	9 - 16	10 - 15	11 - 14	12 - 13
16	1 - 3	4 - 2	5 - 18	6 - 17	7 - 16	8 - 15	9 - 14	10 - 13	11 - 12
17	1 - 2	3 - 18	4 - 17	5 - 16	6 - 15	7 - 14	8 - 13	9 - 12	10 - 11

If there is an odd number of teams (for example 17), one of the teams rests in every round.

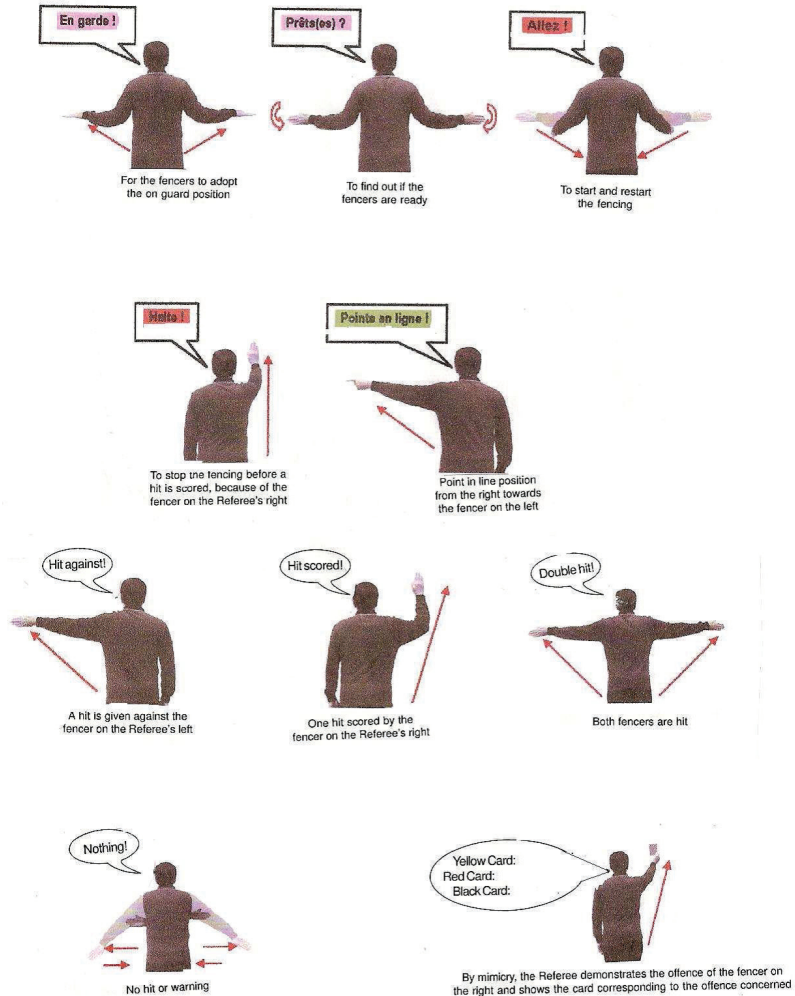
Piste									
Rounds	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Rest
0 + 1	1 - 17	2 - 16	3 - 15	4 - 14	5 - 13	6 - 12	7 - 11	8 - 10	9
2	17 - 16	1 - 15	2 - 14	3 - 13	4 - 12	5 - 11	6 - 10	7 - 9	8
3	16 - 15	17 - 14	1 - 13	2 - 12	3 - 11	4 - 10	5 - 9	6 - 8	7
4	15 - 14	16 - 13	17 - 12	1 - 11	2 - 10	3 - 9	4 - 8	5 - 7	6
5	etc.								
etc.									
16	3 - 2	4 - 1	5 - 17	6 - 16	7 - 15	8 - 14	9 - 13	10 - 12	11
17	2 - 1	3 - 17	4 - 16	5 - 15	6 - 14	7 - 13	8 - 12	9 - 11	10

**National Federations
with two or more
teams:**

When the LOC (or a nation) has two or more teams taking part in the competition, the teams will meet in the first rounds of the fencing event in accordance with following prescribed order:

Principle	Number of Teams in Competition		
	16	17	18
Host team "A" - is always number 2	2	2	2
Host team "B" - is always number last but one	15	16	17
Host team "C" - is always number 4th from the end	13	14	15
Host team "D" - is always number 6th from the end	11	12	13
NF X: team "A" is always number 3	3	3	3
team "B" is always 3rd from the end	14	15	16
NF Y: team "A" is always number 8	8	8	8
team "B" is the nearest to number 8 in the first round	9	10	11

The numbers given to individual teams in this way are not included into the drawing of the lots.



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 Referee's right.

Figure 3. Referee signals and commands