

USFA Rules Changes – September 2008

Change to t.22, adding the penalties noted elsewhere in the foil- and saber-specific chapters, to the general section’s prohibition on covering target.

t.22 The use of the non-sword hand and arm to carry out an offensive or defensive action is forbidden (cf. t.114, t.117, t.120). Should such an offence occur, the touch scored by the fencer at fault is annulled and the latter will be penalized as specified for offences of the second group (red card).

In foil and saber, it is forbidden to protect the target area or to substitute another part of the body for the target area, either by covering or by an abnormal movement (cf. t.114, t.116, t.120); any touch scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

- If, during the fencing phrase, there is protection or substitution of a valid surface, the fencer at fault will be penalized as specified for offences of the 1st group (cf. also t.49, t.72)
- If, during the fencing phrase, as a result of protection or substitution of a valid surface, a touch correctly given is registered as not valid, the fencer at fault will be penalized as specified for offences of the 1st group (cf. also t.49, t.72) and the touch will be awarded by the referee.

During the bout, the fencer must not, under any circumstances, take hold of any part of the electrical equipment with the non-sword hand (cf. t.114, t.116, t.120); any touch scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

Change to t.33, allowing a 10 minute break for the treatment of a cramp, as verified by the medical personnel, as well as for injury.

11. Injuries or cramps, withdrawal of a competitor

t.33 For an **injury or cramp** which occurs in the course of a bout and which is properly attested by the delegate of the FIE Medical Committee or by the doctor on duty, the Referee will allow a break in the bout lasting no longer than 10 minutes. This break should be timed from the point when the doctor gave his opinion and be strictly reserved for the treatment of the **injury or cramp** which brought it about. If the doctor considers, before or at the end of the 10-minute break, that the fencer is incapable of continuing the bout, the fencer must withdraw (individual events) and/or be replaced, if possible (team events) (cf. o.44).

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**.

Change to t.45, changing the verbiage regarding equipment with “irregularities which could have been made deliberately” to equipment which “is fraudulent”, and changing the penalties for fraudulent equipment (irregular equipment) and falsified inspection marks from Group 3 penalties (Red Card, Black Card) to Group 4 penalties (Black Card).

3. If, when a fencer appears on the strip 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 touch, if any, scored by the fencer at fault;
 - penalize him as specified in Articles t.114, t.117, t.120.
- (b) does not conform to the rules in a way not covered by the preliminary check, the Referee will:
 - penalize him as specified in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120.
- (c) has been passed by the preliminary check but **is fraudulent**; or
- (d) bears the marks of the preliminary check which have been imitated or transferred; or
- (e) has been altered in any way to allow the recording of touches or the nonfunctioning of the apparatus at will; or
- (f) **is equipped with electronic communication equipment permitting a person off the strip to communicate with the fencer during the bout.** then, in cases (c), (d), (e) and (f) **above**, the Referee must immediately confiscate the equipment (weapon, bodycord and if necessary the conductive jacket, mask, etc) and have it examined by the expert on duty.

After having obtained the opinion of the expert (a member of the Committee for Electrical Apparatus and Equipment at the fencing events at the Olympic Games and at World Championships), who has established the facts (cf. m.33ss), the Referee will apply the following sanctions, without prejudice to the application of Article t.96d;

— in cases (c), (d), (e) and (f), the Referee will penalize him as specified for offences of the 4th group (cf. articles t.114, t.119, t.120).

While awaiting the decision of the Referee that bout will be suspended but the other bouts in the pool may continue.

Change to t.75, regarding the definition of a saber attack, and a clarification of the definition of the crossing of the feet.

- t.75** (a) Any attack properly executed (cf. t.7) must be parried, or completely avoided, and the phrase must be followed through.
- (b) The attack is correctly carried out when the extending of the arm, with the point or the cutting edge continuously threatening the valid target, precedes the initiation of the lunge.
1. *An attack with a lunge is correctly carried out:*
 - in a *simple attack* (cf. t.8) when the **beginning of the extending of the arm precedes the launching of the lunge** and the touch arrives at the latest when the front foot touches the strip;
 - in a *compound attack* (cf. t.8) when **the beginning of the extending of the arm, on the first feint (cf. t.77), precedes the launching of the lunge** and the touch arrives at the latest when the front foot touches the strip ~~or immediately afterwards~~.
 2. *An attack with a step-forward-lunge is correctly carried out:*
 - in a *simple attack* (cf. t.8) when the **beginning of the extending of the arm precedes** the step-forward and when the touch arrives at the latest **when the front foot touches the strip**;
 - in a *compound attack* (cf. t.8) when **the beginning of the extending of the arm for the first feint (cf. t.77) precedes** the step-forward, **followed by the lunge**, and the touch arrives at the latest **when the front foot touches the strip**.
 3. The flèche and any forward movement **in which the rear foot completely passes the front foot** is forbidden. Any offence will be penalized as specified in **the 1st group (cf. t.114, t.116, t.120)**. Any touch scored by the fencer at fault will be annulled. However, any touch correctly executed by his opponent is valid.

Change to t.81, changing the wording regarding whom is covered by this section's regulations.

- t.81** The regulations laid down in this Part apply to all persons who take part in **or attend a fencing competition, including the spectators**.
Hereinafter, all these persons are described as 'fencers'.

Change to t.85, specifying the penalty for the regulation's offence.

- t.85** No fencer (individual or team) may take part in an official competition if he refuses to fence against any other fencer whatsoever (individual or team) correctly entered in the event. Should this rule be broken, **the penalties specified for offences of the 4th group will be applied (cf. t.114, t.119, t.120)**.

The FIE shall consider whether there are grounds, and to what extent, for taking sanctions against the national federation to which the disqualified competitor belongs (cf. FIE Statutes 1.2.4 and Rules Article t.120).

Change to t.87, forbidding touches scored after a fall, as well as those scored during a fall; codifying the requirement that fencers must return to the on-guard line for the post-bout salute; and removing the retention of points or titles obtained after the exclusion of fencer(s) for failing to comply with the salute and hand-shaking requirement.

t.87 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.114–t.120).

All bouts must preserve the character of a courteous and frank encounter. All irregular actions (flèche attack which finishes with a collision jostling the opponent, disorderly fencing, irregular movements on the strip, touches achieved with violence, touches made **during or after a fall**) are strictly forbidden (cf. t.114–t.120). Should such an offence occur, any touch scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

Before the beginning of each bout, the two fencers must perform a fencing salute to their opponent, to the referee and to the spectators.

Before the beginning of each bout, the two fencers must perform a **fencer's** salute to their opponent, to the Referee and to the spectators. Equally, when the final hit has been scored, the bout has not ended until the two fencers have saluted each other, the Referee and the spectators: to this end, they must remain still while the referee is making his decision; when he has given his decision, they must **return to their on-guard line**, perform a **fencer's** salute and shake hands with their opponent.

If either or both of the two fencers refuse to **comply** with these rules, the Referee will penalize him/them **as specified for offences of the 4th group** (cf. t.114, t.119, t.120). ~~The points or titles obtained at the moment of the offence remain acquired.~~

Change to t.114, separating exclusion and expulsion.

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 his part will result in a penalty touch.
- a *penalty touch*, indicated by a Red Card with which the Referee identifies the fencer at fault. A touch is added to the score of his opponent and may, if the last touch 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.120).
- *exclusion*, from the competition or the whole tournament as applicable (for a fencer), demonstrated by a BLACK CARD by which the Referee identifies the person at fault.
- *expulsion*, **from the competition venue (any person disturbing order of the competition).**

Change to t.118, clarifying the penalty for a Group 3 offense.

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

- 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 Technical Directory;
- At the second infringement during the same competition a Black Card **and/or expulsion from the competition venue.**
In the most serious cases concerning disturbance either on or off the strip, the Referee may exclude or expel the person at fault immediately.

Change to t.120, adding non-combativity to the Group 1 penalties, and including the changes to the Group 3 and Group 4 penalties in t.45.

(see next page)

OFFENSE	ARTICLE	PENALTIES		
		1st	2nd	3 rd and add'l
1st group				
Leaving the strip without permission	t.18.3			
Simple Corps à corps (foil and sabre) *	t.20			
Corps à corps to avoid a touch *	t.20, t.63			
Turning the back to the opponent *	t.21	Y	R	R
Covering/Substitution of valid target *	t.22, t.49, t.72	E	E	E
Touching/taking hold of electrical equipment*	t.22	L	D	D
Crossing the side of the strip to avoid being touched	t.28	L		
Delaying the Bout	t.31	O	C	C
Clothing/equipment not working or not conforming; absence of second regulation weapon or bodycord	t.45.1 & 3.b	W	A	A
Placing the weapon on the strip to straighten it	t.46, t.61, t.70.d		R	R
Bending/dragging weapon point on conductive strip (F,E)	t.46, t.61	C	D	D
Grounding the weapon on the metallic vest (F) *	t.53	A		
In Saber, touch scored with the guard *; any forward movement crossing the legs or feet *	t.70.a, t.75.b.3	R		
Refusal to obey the Referee	t.82, t.84	D		
Hair not conforming	t.86			
Jostling, disorderly fencing * ; taking off mask before the Referee calls 'Halt'; undressing on the strip	t.86, t.87			
Abnormal fencing action * ; touches with brutality or made during or after a fall *	t.87			
Non-combativity	t.87			
Unjustified appeal	t.122			
Fencer or team member not present upon 1 st and then second call. If still not present at 3 rd call Elimination from the competition.	t.86			3 rd call; Elimination

2nd group		1st	2nd	3 rd and add'l
Using the non-weapon arm or hand *	t.22			
Interruption of bout for claimed injury/cramp not confirmed by doctor	t.33	R	R	R
Absence of equipment control mark *	t.45.3.a	E	E	E
Absence of name on back, absence of National colors where required	t.45	D	D	D
Deliberate touch not on opponent	t.53, t.66			
Dangerous, violent or vindictive action, blow with guard or pommel *	t.87, t.103, t.105			
3rd group		1 st Offense		2 nd Offense
Fencer disturbing order on the strip (4)	t.82, t.83, t.96	R		B L
Dishonest fencing *	t.87	E		A
Offence against publicity code	Publicity Code	D		C K (1)
Any person not on strip disturbing order	t.82, t.83, t.96.c, t.118	1 st ; Warning (YELLOW CARD) or (4) 2 nd Expulsion (3) or (4)		
4th group				
Fencer equipped with electronic communication equipment permitting him to receive communications during the bout	t.43, t.44, t.45.3.f (1) or (2)			
Falsified weapon inspection marks, intentional modification of equipment	t.45.3.c & d	B		
Manifest cheating with equipment (2)	t.45.3.e	L		
Refusal of a fencer to fence another competitor (individual or team) properly entered	t.85	A		
Offense against sportsmanship (1) or (2)	t.87, t.105	C		
Refusal of fencer to salute opponent, the referee and the audience at the beginning or at the end of the bout	t.87	K		
Profiting from collusion, favoring an opponent (1)	t.88, t.105			
Deliberate brutality (1)	t.105			
Doping (2)	t.129			

* Annulment of any touch scored by the fencer at fault.

Yellow Card = Warning (valid for bout, whether one or several encounters). Red Card = Penalty touch. Black Card = Exclusion or expulsion.

(1) Exclusion from competition. (2) Exclusion from whole tournament. (3) Expulsion from competition venue. (4) In serious cases, Referee may exclude/expel immediately. (5) Suspension for two competitions. (6) Disqualification.

If a fencer commits an offence in the First Group after having been penalized with a Red Card, for whatever reason, he or she receives a further Red Card. A fencer only receives a Black Card in the Third Group if he or she previously committed an offence in this Third Group (demonstrated by a Red Card).

Change to m.25, expanding on the regulation regarding safety strap on the mask.

7. *Mask.* The mask must be made with meshes (space between the wires) of maximum 2.1 mm and from wires with a minimum gauge of 1 mm diameter. **The mask must include a safety strap at the rear.**

Masks, at all weapons, must be made in accordance with the safety standards described in Appendix A to these Rules and must carry the quality label specified in those standards.

When the checks are carried out the person responsible for them may, if in doubt, ensure that the mesh of the mask, both at the front and at the sides, is able to withstand, without permanent deformation, the introduction into the mesh of a conical instrument, the angle of the surface of the cone being at 4° to the axis and at a pressure of 12 kg.

A mask which does not comply with the safety requirements laid down in this article will be rendered visibly unusable by the weapon checking personnel or the Referee in the presence of the person who presented the mask to the weapon check or the team captain of the fencer concerned.

The bib of the mask must be made with cloth resistant to 1600 Newtons.

The mask must contain a horizontal safety strap at the rear of the mask, with the two ends of the strap firmly affixed to the two sides of the mask. This strap may be elastic or of any other material that may be approved by the S.E.M.I. Commission.

Note: An FIE homologated mask is not required for USFA competition, provided it conforms to the specifications described in Appendix A, with the exception that the bib needs to be resistant to 700 Newtons.

Change to m.32, specifying the allowable length of a coiled mask cord for saber.

- m.32** The metal mesh of the mask must not be insulated and must ensure electrical conductivity.

The bib and any trim must be entirely covered with conductive material with the same electrical characteristics as the conductive jacket.

The trim may also be made of conductive material.

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

The electrical contact between the conductive jacket and the mask must be ensured by means of a wire and one or two crocodile clips. The wire must be attached, either by means of a crocodile clip or by being soldered, to the mesh of the mask, and must be between 30 cm and 40 cm long. **In the case of a coiled cable, the maximum length of the free cable must not exceed 25 cm in length, with a tolerance of ±5 cm.**

The crocodile clip, the design and size of which must conform with the conditions laid down in Article m.29, must be soldered to the other end of the wire.

Change to m.33, specifying that the saber overglove must have a device to prevent a change of position during a bout.

- m.33** The conductive material, which may be removable or fixed, of the regulation glove of the fencer's sword arm must cover all the sleeve down to below the external cubital styloid (small prominent bone of the wrist), both when the fencer is in the 'on-guard' position and when the sword arm is straight.

The conductive material must be turned over into the inside of the gauntlet to a depth of at least 5 cm.

In order to guarantee a good contact with the sleeve of the conductive jacket, it is necessary to use an elastic band, a popper button or any system which will guarantee conductivity and which has been approved by the SEMI Committee.

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