

# European Fencing Confederation Confédération Européenne d'Esgrime



## EFC Delegate's Report

Competition: Helsinki/Espoo, Finland

Weapon: Épée

Date: 31/01/15 – 01/02/15

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# 1. Key figures

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Number of participants: **58** fencers in women's épée and **87** in men's épée

Competition formula:

- Individual events: one poule round followed by DE without repechage.
- Team events: DE table, all places in the 8 table were fought for.

Number of pistes: **20**

Duration of competition:

- Saturday: 09:30-18:30 men's épée ind, 13:00-19:00 ladies épée ind.
- Sunday: Team competitions épée men and women 09:00-16:00 (club teams, national teams and mixed club teams)

Number of referees: **20** (4 FIE)

# 2. Organization and timetable

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A very well organized tournament with no delays according to the schedule. The organizers wished that more participants came this year. The explanation for the relatively low number of participants is probably that the qualifications for the Cadet European and World Championships ended for many Federations before the ECC in Helsinki.

Good information from the DT about all aspects of the competition: the time and place of the referee meetings, the start of the poules and DE, the start of the finals and announcement of the prize ceremony. Even the times of the departure transfers to the airport on Sunday were posted. There were several big TV screens on the wall outside the DT with all these information. One could see for example the start times and the piste number for the bouts in the DE table and even the names of the referees for the bouts.

The tournament had its own website

<http://www.espoofencing.info/cc2015/competition/> containing online competition information easily accessible due to a free wi-fi connection in the hall area.

There was a prize ceremony with podium and national anthem for the winners.

A separate Masters competition for the kids (9-15 years) was going on in parallel with the ECC on the available pistes. With its own DT and own referee team, this non-ECC competition did not affect the good organizing of the main tournament.

### 3. Venue

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Espoo Otahalli Sporthall is a spacious hall in the city of Espoo, with good connections to Helsinki airport (30 km) and Helsinki city (10 km). The hotel Radisson Blu Espoo is located only 50 meters from the venue where the majority of the participants were accommodated.

There were 20 brand new pistes with new scoring machines at each piste. Extension lamps for the machine on the final piste. There were no problems at all with the technical equipment during the whole tournament. A 5 meters distance between the pistes gave good working conditions for the referees. Some of the piste enclosures were separated with a cordon. Chairs placed close to the pistes were marking the Team enclosure area for the team events.

A spacious tribune, medical personnel (2 persons), a weapon controll area in the hall, a little fencing equipment shop, cafeteria, a lot of clean changing rooms and toilets. The hall is easily accessible for persons in wheelchair.

### 4. Control of fencers equipment

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The weapon control was open the evening before the first competition day and during Saturday and Sunday. There was a mask/épée/bodywire check. The DT have informed the referees about the look of the control marks at the first meeting on Saturday.

A checking of FIE labels on clothes, plastron, glove and weapons, a check of control marks was done by the referees at the beginning of each poule, DE match and team match. One case where a fencer needed to borrow the whole equipment from the organizers because of a late delivery of his own equipment from the airport. All referees were informed about this.

## 5. Refereeing

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### 5.1 Seminar attendance

Good attendance on both days. Only one referee was missing at the morning seminar on Saturday. Duration of seminar: about 30 minutes each morning.

I started on Saturday with a short presentation of the objectives of the *European Referee 2016* project, followed by topics common to all weapons: preparation for the competition (to be updated with the latest rules, to have own warning cards, the dressing code); presence on time at the piste; control of fencers equipment; presentation on the piste ready to fence (incl. the bend of blade); the importance of using the referee's signs; the distance between the fencers; non-conforming equipment.

In the second half of the seminar, I made a summary of some épée specific topics: fencing at close quarters vs. corps à corps; turning back to opponent vs. a prime parry-riposte with a partial turn of the body; passing the opponent and the first riposte/remise from the fencer being passed; Non-Combativity - the 2 conditions. Not applicable in poules!; situations with a doubtful hit; coaching between Alléz and Halt; entering the piste Enclosure without the referee's permission (t.92.6) – special yellow card for the Team.

I had short individual discussions with several referees during the 2 days of the competition. I would like to highlight the good work of some young referees: Verna Mustonen/FIN, Maria Kaminski/NOR, Lea Burckhardt/GER, Jan Cipar/SVK and Stanislav Mutsenik/EST. I recommend the EFC to follow up these persons refereeing activity in the future.

### 5.2 Level of refereeing

Acceptable level in general, no major problems or complaints from fencers or coaches. There were though some mistakes in one of the womens épée quarter-finals where the referee didn't notice a bousculade, a clear turning back to the opponent and even a situation with a suspicious movement of the non-sword arm. Judges were called to this match immediately after the incident.

### 5.3 Working conditions of referees

Good working conditions with reasonable breaks between the matches, a quiet referee room where sandwiches, coffee and beverages were served, even a warm meal at lunch.

Good information on large TV screens about the stages of the competition.

The referees were welcomed to contact me in their breaks for discussions and for clarification of different situations related to fencing.

In some cases in the poules, the designated referee was of same nationality as the fencers. We made a change of the referees in these specific bouts so that the referee had another nationality than the fencers'.

## 6. Project implementation

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The presence of an EFC delegate was positively welcomed by the DT and by the referee team, especially the 2 seminars at the beginning of the day.

### *Recommendations:*

*- A better information about these seminars long before the start of the tournament. This information should be included in every official **invitation** to ECC competitions. Not all the Federations inform the clubs or their national referee commission about the EFC's Information letter no. 36-2014!*

## 7. Fair play and sanctions

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A spirit of fair play during the whole tournament. Only one coach was given a yellow card for coaching during a match. No black cards given.

## 8. Other remarks

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No other remarks.

## 9. Summary

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A well organized tournament in a spacious hall and in a nice atmosphere.

I have no doubts that the organizers in Helsinki can easily manage a much larger competition with many more participants in the future.

[The referee list and evaluation comes on a separate excel document.](#)



