

**European Fencing Confederation  
Confédération Européenne d'Esgrime**



**Referee seminar Handbook  
EFC cadets circuit competitions**

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# 1. The „European referee 2016“ project

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## Project objectives:

- To improve the quality and level of refereeing at Cadet Circuit (testing at U23 Circuit)
- To introduce the European licence for referees (C – continental), with the possibility of further application for all continents
- To introduce systematic annual training of the European referees without and with the FIE licence
- To introduce the on-line database of the European referees (and referees acting in Europe) and sharing their real activities with the FIE Referees Commission
- To determinate co-responsibility of “FIE professional referees and members of EFC Referees Commission” for the general level of referees in Europe and their obligation to train young referees

## 2. Scope of the seminar

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The EFC delegate will repeat some important topics according the weapon. He/she will explain the news and current explanation of FIE Referees Commission in various cases and will answer the questions from the referees. The seminar will take up to 45 minutes and it is compulsory for all referees including FIE licence holders.

For the Tasks of the ERC delegate during the tournament, see [Information Letter no. 36-2014](#)

## 3. Preparing to referee

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- Be updated with the latest Rules on: <http://fie.org/fie/documents/rules>
- Dress code
- Bring the following items with you: pen, penalty cards, T.120, coin
- Read the organizers invitation for information about the tournament

## 4. Referee duties

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The Referee has many duties: he/she calls the roll of the competitors; checks the fencers' equipment; directs the bout, the judges and the time-keepers. He/she superintends the proper functioning of the electrical apparatus and even the condition of the conductive piste. He/she penalises faults and awards the hits. Maintains order. Consults the experts concerning the electrical equipment whenever necessary.

*t.34.2 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.*

## 5. Some basic rules

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**Presence in time.** Before the start of the poule/direct elimination, make sure that all the fencers are present at the piste. Penalties for not being present at Referee's call:

**a)** Non presentation when first called by Referee **10 minutes** before the time indicated for start - **Elimination** from the competition. *t.86.5*

**b)** *t.86.6*

Non presentation on the piste ready to fence when ordered by the Referee. after three calls at one-minute intervals	t.86.6	1st call	2nd call	3rd call Elimination
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**Checking fencers equipment.** Before each bout, the referee must check the weapons, clothes and equipment of the fencers, according to the regulations. Checking of the control marks from the weapon control. The safety aspect: holes in the glove, missing security strip on the mask, too small jacket, etc. See *t.86.1*

**Fencing salute and coming on guard.** Coming on guard in a correct position, completely still, at a correct distance (*in 'point in line' position, the points of the two blades cannot make contact*). Competitors are always put on guard in the centre of the width of the piste.

*t.87. a) 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.*

**Using the Referee's signals and commands.** See the Annexe at the end of this document. Specific signal for a double hit in epee; specific signals for parry, point in line, etc. in conventional weapons.

Timing of commands **En garde!/Prêt?/Alléz!** Show the signals clearly. Speak clearly and loud. Short explanation of phrase d'armes in conventional weapons. No phrase d'armes in épée!

**Crossing the limits of the piste.** When a competitor goes off the piste with one or both feet completely, the Referee must **immediatly** call „Halt!“. Fencers are put at a correct distance in cases of a no valid hit. Penalty hit against the fencer crossing completely the rear limits.

A hit scored by the fencer who leaves the piste with one foot only is valid provided that the action was started **before** the 'Halt!'. If one of the fencers leaves the piste with both feet, only a hit made by the fencer who remains on the piste with at least one foot can be counted valid, even in the case of a double hit. See [t.26.3](#) & [t.26.4](#)

Crossing the lateral boundries with both feet to avoid beeing hit will be penalized. Annulation of the hit for the warned fencer!

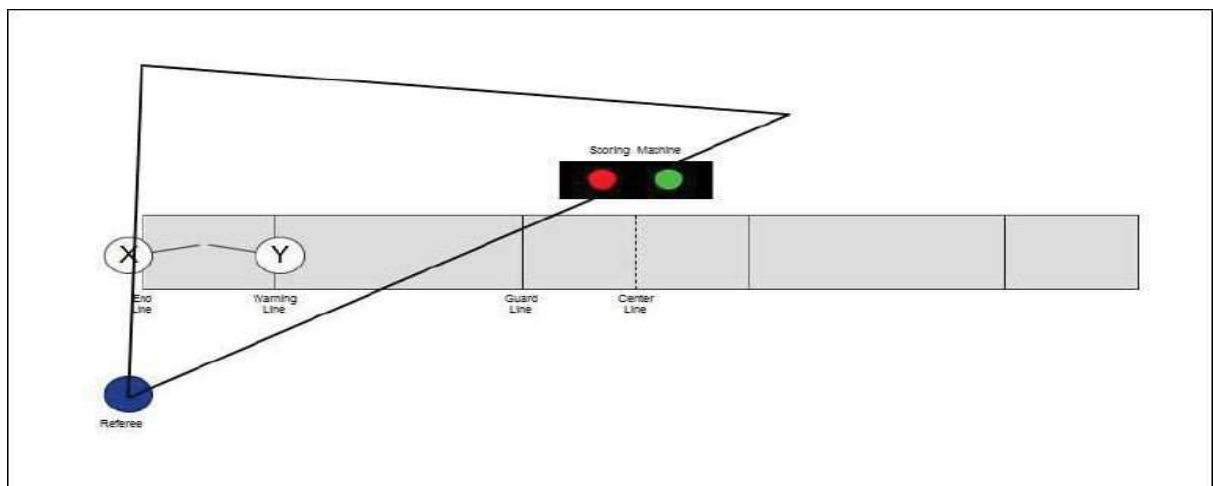
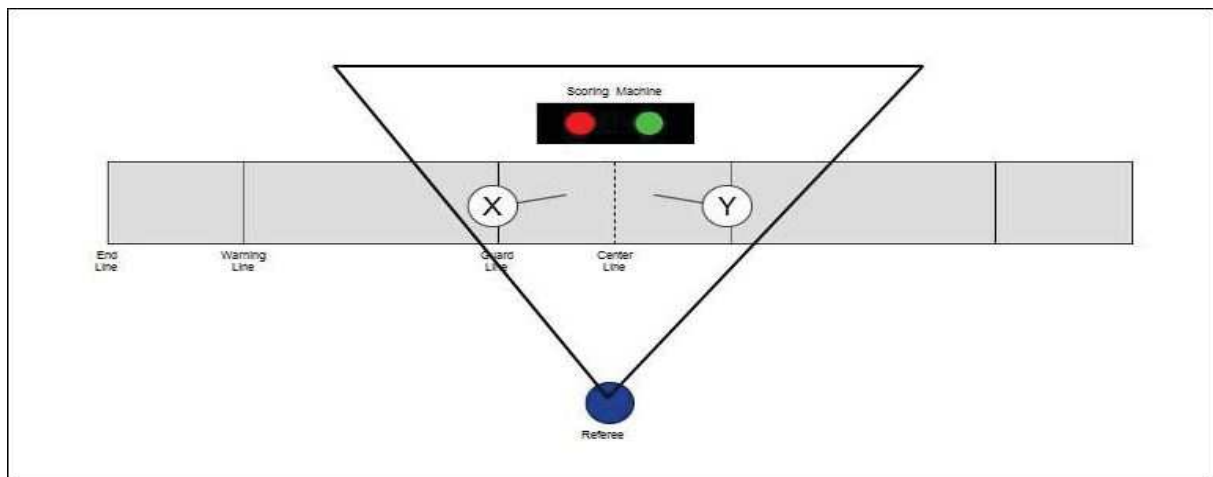
Crossing lateral boundary of the piste to avoid being hit *	t.28.3			
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Involuntarily crosses of the piste boundries (jostling) will not be penalized.

**Passing the opponent.** The referee must call immediatly „Halt!“ when a fencers goes completely past his opponent. Replacement in the positions which they occupied before the passing.

The hit made **immediatly** by the fencer beeing passed is valid, even when turning round.

**Referee's positioning during a bout.** The referee positions himself and moves in such a way as to be able to follow the bout while always being able to see the illumination of the signal lamps. A good positioning will make it easier to make correct decisions in the situations mentioned previously.



**Non-combativity.** Occurs when both fencers shows clear signs of unwillingness to fight. **Not applicable at individual matches in poules!**

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

- **approximately one minute** of fencing without a hit
- **excessive distance** (greater than the distance of a step-forward-lunge) during at least **15 seconds**.

See [t.87.5-6](#) for procedures at individual and team events.

**Maintenance of order and discipline.** Everybody taking part in or present at a fencing competition must remain orderly and must not disturb the smooth running of the competition.

## Discipline on the piste. Fouls committed during a bout.

- Refusal to obey the referee – yellow card
- Interruption of bout without valid reason – yellow card
- Unjustified appeal – yellow card
- Touching of electrical equipment – yellow card\*
- Irregular movements, jostling, hits made by violence – yellow card\*
- Hits made during or after falling – yellow card\*
- Use of non-sword arm – red card\*
- Dangerous/violent action, blow with guard/pommel – red card\*
- Fencer disturbing order on the piste – red card --> black card

\* - Annulment of any hit scored by the fencer at fault

See [t.120](#) for the complete Table of penalties

**Order outside the piste.** 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.

Any person not on piste disturbing good order. In the most serious cases, the Referee may award a black card immediately (t.118.4).	t.82.3/4 ; t.83 ; t.96.3 ; t.118.3 ; t.118.4		
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## Yellow card for the Team

*t.92.6 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.114, t.116 and t.120. 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 him on each occasion with a Red Card.*

Entering the Piste enclosure without the Referee's permission +	t.92.6			
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Any person who, for any reason, threatens or insults an official commits an offence of the 4th group and is penalised according to article t.119.

Offence against sportsmanship	t.87.2 ; t.105.1	
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## After finishing the poule/DE match

- Make sure that the results on the score-sheet are complete and correct.
- Ask the fencers to check their own results and make them sign the score-sheet. Bring the score-sheet to the DT as soon as possible.

## 6. Refereeing Épée

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**Contact with the conductive piste** is forbidden at foil and épée.

*t.61.2 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.*

Placing weapon on the conductive piste to straighten it	t.46.2 ; t.61.2 ; t.70.5	YELLOW	RED	RED
At foil and épée, bending, dragging weapon point on conductive piste	t.46.2 ; t.61.2			

### **Fencing at close quarters. Corps à corps. Flèche attacks**

Fencing at close quarters is allowed so long as the competitors can wield their weapons correctly.

Corps à corps: when the two competitors are in contact. When this occurs the Referee must stop the bout. Put the fencers at the correct distance after a corps à corps situation.

*t.20.2 At all three weapons it is forbidden for a fencer to cause corps à corps intentionally to avoid being hit, or to jostle his opponent. Should such an offence occur, the Referee will penalise the fencer at fault as specified in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120 and any hit scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.*

*t.63.1 At épée a fencer who either by a flèche attack or by advancing vigorously brings about a corps à corps even several times in succession (without brutality or violence) does not transgress the basic conventions of fencing and commits no fault thereby (cf. t.20.1/3, t.25).*

*t.63.3 The „flèche“ ending systematically in a corps à corps' referred to in this article must not be confused with the 'flèche resulting in a shock which jostles the opponent', which is considered as an act of intentional brutality at all three weapons and is punished as such (cf. t.87.2, t.120).*

Corps à corps to avoid being hit *	t.20.2 ; t.63.2	YELLOW	RED	RED
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**Judging of hits at épée, the annulment of hits.** The Referee cannot declare a competitor to be hit unless the hit has been properly registered by the apparatus (except when a penalty hit has been awarded).



### Annulment of the hit when:

- It started before „Alléz!“ or after „Halt!“
- It was caused by the meeting of the points of the épées or by a hit made on the ground where it is not insulated
- Hits made on any object other than the opponent or his equipment

### Attention!

Deliberate hit not on opponent *	t.53.2 ; t.66.2			
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Possible failures of the electrical equipment annuls 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
- If a hit properly made by the competitor does not cause the apparatus to register a hit
- If the apparatus registers a hit on the side of the competitor for example: after a beat on the blade, by any movements of his opponent, or as a result of any cause other than a properly made hit

### 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 or a hit made after leaving the piste), 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.
- Any **modification** in, or **changes** of equipment without being asked by the Referee to do so, **before** a judgement is pronounced, loses his right to the annulment of the hit.
- If the competitor's bodywire is being unplugged (in front or at the back), this cannot justify the annulment of the hit registered. However, if the safety device (see [m.55.4](#)) is **missing** or **not functioning**, the hit should be annulled if the plug at the fencers' back has become unplugged.

- Areas of insulation caused by oxidation, by glue, paint or any other material on a fencers épée, on which his 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.

See [t.67a, b,...e](#) for all details.

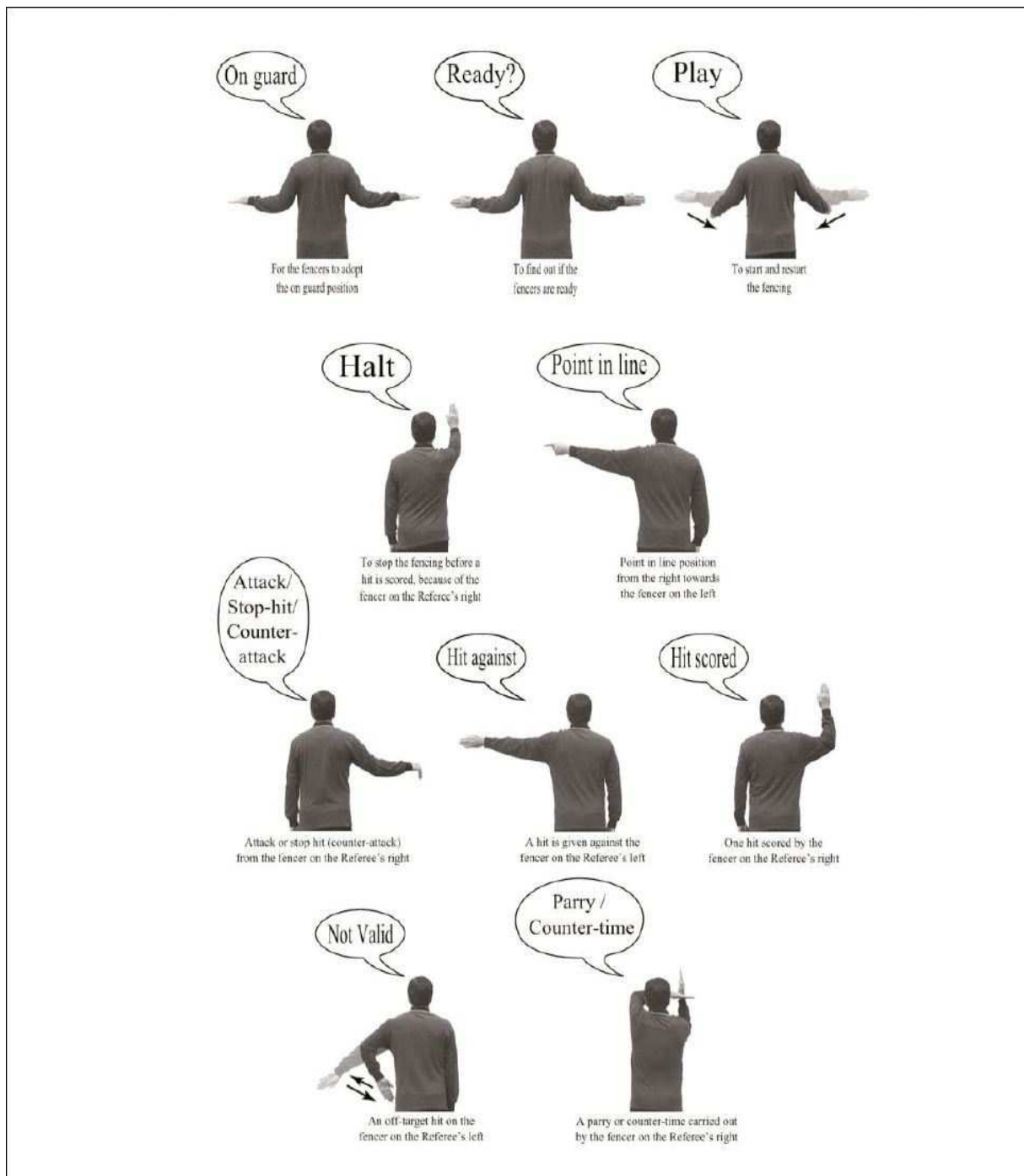
## Holding the weapon

With all three weapons, defence must be effected exclusively with the guard and the blade used either separately or together.

The weapon must not be 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 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.

## 7. Annexes





Double hit

Both fencers are hit



Hit for each

Each fencer scores a hit



Simultaneous

Simultaneous attacks



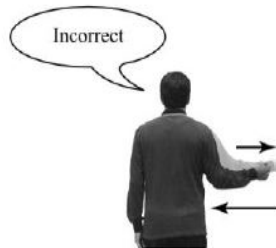
Nothing

No hit or warning



No

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



Incorrect

Incorrect attack or riposte from the fencer on the Referee's right



Yellow Card: warning  
Red Card: one hit against  
Black Card: exclusion

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

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.

## t.120. Table of Offences and Penalties

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

	OFFENCE	ARTICLES	PENALTIES		
0.1	Absence of name and nationality on the back, absence of national uniform or logo when compulsory, at World Championships, Senior Team World Cup competitions and at team Zonal Championships	t.45.4 a), b) i and iii	<b>Elimination from the competition</b>		
0.2	Absence of name on back due to changing a non-conforming conductive jacket	t.45.5			
0.3	Non presentation when first called by Referee ten minutes before time indicated for start of pool/team match/bouts of direct elimination	t.86.5			
0.4	Non presentation on the piste ready to fence when ordered by the Referee, after three calls at one-minute intervals	t.86.6	1st call	2nd call	3rd call Elimination

1st group			1st offence	2nd offence	3rd offence and subseq.
1.1	Leaving piste without permission	t.18.6	YELLOW	RED	RED
1.2	Corps à corps to avoid being hit *	t.20.2 ; t.63.2			
1.3	Turning back on opponent *	t.21.2			
1.4	Covering/substitution of valid target *	t.22.2 ; t. 49.1 ; t.72.2			
1.5	Touching/taking hold of electrical equipment *	t.22.3			
1.6	Crossing lateral boundary of the piste to avoid being hit *	t.28.3			
1.7	Interruption of bout without valid reason	t.31.2			
1.8	Clothing/equipment not conforming. Curve of blade exceeding that permitted. Absence of regulation/spare weapon or bodywire	t.45.1/2/3.a)ii ; t.86.4			
1.9	Placing weapon on the conductive piste to straighten it	t.46.2 ; t.61.2 ; t.70.5			
1.10	At foil and épée, bending, dragging weapon point on conductive piste	t.46.2 ; t.61.2			
1.11	Bringing weapon into contact with conductive jacket *	t.53.3			
1.12	At sabre, hit made with the guard *, any forward movement crossing the legs or feet *	t.70.3 ; t.75.5			
1.13	Refusal to obey the Referee	t.82.2 ; t.84			
1.14	Hair not conforming to the Rules	t.86.2			
1.15	Jostling, disorderly fencing * ; taking off mask before the Referee calls 'Halt!'; dressing or undressing on the piste	t.86.3 ; t.87.2/7/8			
1.16	Irregular movements on the piste * ; hits made with violence or during or after falling *	t.87.2			
1.17	Unjustified appeal	t.122.2/4			
1.18	Entering the Piste enclosure without the Referee's permission +	t.92.6			

2nd group			1st offence	2nd offence	3rd offence and subseq.
2.1	Use of non-sword arm/hand *	t.22.1	RED	RED	RED
2.2	Demanding a break for claimed injury/cramp deemed unjustified by doctor	t.33.3			
2.3	Absence of weapon control marks *	t.45.3.a)i			
2.4	Absence of name and nationality on the back, absence of national colours when compulsory, at individual Senior World Cup competitions and individual Senior Zonal Championships	t.45.4 a), b) ii			
2.5	Deliberate hit not on opponent *	t.53.2 ; t.66.2			
2.6	Dangerous, violent or vindictive action, blow with guard or pommel *	t.87.2 ; t.103 ; t.105.1			

OFFENCE	ARTICLES	PENALTIES (Cards)	
<b>3rd group</b>		<b>1st time</b>	<b>2nd time</b>
3.1	Fencer disturbing order when on piste. In the most serious cases, the Referee may award a black card immediately (t.118.4).	t.82.3 ; t.83 ; t.96.2	<b>BLACK</b>
3.2	Dishonest fencing *	t.87.1	
3.3	Offence against Publicity Code	Publicity Code	<b>BLACK</b>
3.4	Any person not on piste disturbing good order. In the most serious cases, the Referee may award a black card immediately (t.118.4).	t.82.3/4 ; t.83 ; t.96.3 ; t.118.3 ; t.118.4	
3.5	Warming up or training without wearing fencing clothing or equipment that conforms to the FIE regulations.	t.15.2	
3.6	Anti-sporting behaviour	t.87.2	
<b>4th group</b>		<b>PENALTIES (Cards)</b>	
4.1	Fencer equipped with electronic communication equipment permitting him to receive communications during bout	t. 43.1.f ; t.44.2 ; t.45.3.a).vii	<b>BLACK</b>
4.2	Fraudulent equipment, control marks that are imitated or transferred	t.45.3.a) iii) iv) v)	
4.3	Equipment altered to allow the recording of hits or the non-functioning of the apparatus at will	t.45.3.a) v)	
4.4	Refusal of a fencer to fence another competitor (individual or team) properly entered	t.85.1	
4.5	Offence against sportsmanship	t.87.2 ; t.105.1	
4.6	Refusal of a fencer to salute his opponent, the referee and the spectators before the beginning of the bout or after the last hit	t.87.3	
4.7	Profiting from collusion, favouring an opponent	t.88 ; t.105.1	
4.8	Deliberate brutality	t.105.1	
4.9	Doping	t.127	

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 1 <sup>st</sup> group the Referee penalises with a RED CARD each time.
<b>YELLOW CARD</b>	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, he receives a further RED CARD.
<b>RED CARD</b>	Penalty hit
<b>BLACK CARD</b>	Exclusion from the competition, suspension from the remainder of the tournament and for the following 2 months of the active season (1st October – World Championships for

	the juniors and 1st January – World Championships for the seniors), whether current or forthcoming.
	A fencer only receives a BLACK CARD in the Third Group if he previously committed an offence in this Third Group (demonstrated by a RED CARD).

