
FENCING RULES

AMATEUR FENCERS LEAGUE
OF AMERICA

1951

FENCING RULES

EDITED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE FOR 1951-1952

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Amateur Fencers League of America

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PREFACE

(A) HOW THE BOOK IS PLANNED

Your Rules Committee has, for the most part, retained the pattern which proved so successful in the 1940 edition of the Fencing Rules.

Part I contains general information about the Amateur Fencers League of America which is of interest to all members.

Part II is devoted to the rules governing the organization of competitions, and *Part III* to the technical rules and conventions of competitive fencing. It is important, therefore, that each problem be analyzed to determine whether it concerns an administrative or a technical fencing question. Once this has been established the plan of the book will enable you to locate the pertinent rule quickly. The Table of Contents has been made as complete as possible.

Part II contains nine "chapters" and the rules are numbered 1 to 99. Chapter I includes Rules 1-19; all other chapters contain no more than ten rules so that the first digit (tens) in the number of the rule corresponds to the number of the chapter. *Part II* has been carefully revised to codify existing practice. Many of these rules, in the interest of flexibility, are directory and advisory rather than mandatory—except on the subject of official championships where your Committee believes uniformity is the dominant consideration.

Part III is divided into nine "articles" and the rules are numbered 101 to 999. The number of each article is the first digit (hundreds) in the number of the rule. This part has been brought up to date and reflects the greatest revision of the 1940 rules. Once again the rules committees of the Intercollegiate Fencing Association and the National Collegiate Athletic Association have cooperated in producing a standardized set of rules and conventions to cover competitive fencing.

The following fundamental theories have been applied in drafting these rules:

(1) The rules are not designed to teach fencing technique or to embody the theories of any one school of fencing. All schools must be provided an equal opportunity to prove their worth in competition. The rules must not unduly favor or handicap any school by arbitrary regulation of the technique of fencing.

(2) The judging of competitive bouts must be thoroughly objective. The only satisfactory method which eliminates the basic prejudices of the various schools is to score exclusively on touches regardless of the technique used in fencing.

(3) Conditions of competition, weapons, ground rules, etc., must be uniform.

(4) Penal legislation is proper in the interests of safety and good sportsmanship. Such legislation must be drafted with due regard to the competitive character of the rules and to the desirability of objective treatment of any infractions thereof.

(B) ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Your Committee wishes to acknowledge the great debt it owes to the Federation Internationale d'Esgrime whose 1950 rules book has been the primary source for our work. We are also deeply indebted to Mr. Charles Louis de Beaumont of Great Britain for his excellent English translation of the F.I.E. rules from the French.

Your Committee is grateful for the close cooperation of the rules committees of the Intercollegiate Fencing Association and the National Collegiate Athletic Association through their interlocking membership. It is also grateful to the many amateur and professional fencers who in recent years have raised questions of interpretation and draftsman-ship which revealed the deficiencies or weaknesses in our rules. We also wish to thank Miss Mildred F. Douglas of Roselle Park, New Jersey, and Miss Florence R. Berliner of Newark, New Jersey, without whose secretarial assistance the drafting and redrafting of this edition would have been impossible.

No acknowledgment would be complete without an expression of the Chairman's appreciation of the work done by the individual members of the committee. Each one has for many years been recognized as a top ranking fencer and official and each has brought to the task on hand other exceptional qualities: Dr. Armitage, several times National Sabre Champion, was Chairman of the 1949-1950 Rules Committee and has been a member of the Board of Governors for many years; Mr. Dow, former National Foil Champion, was Chairman of the 1950-1951 Rules Committee, has been Chairman of the National Bout Committee on several occasions and a member of the Board of Governors for many years; Mr. Every, former National Foil Champion, was President of

the A.F.L.A. for three years and is currently Secretary of the League; Mr. Gorlin has been an outstanding Sabre fencer for several years and represented the United States at the 30th F.I.E. Congress in 1950; Mr. Jaeckel, Olympic Epeeist, was on the Directoire Technique of the 1948 Olympic Games and the 1951 Pan American Games and is Foreign Secretary to the A.F.L.A.; Dr. Nyilas, Pan American and National Sabre Champion, has had extensive international experience; Mr. Willous, designer of the present electrical epee registration apparatus has been a pioneer in many improvements for the electrical epee and has for years studied closely the problems related to competitions in that weapon. Finally, Miguel A. de Capriles, President of the A.F.L.A. and serving as an ex-officio member of the Committee, has brought to this work the vast store of knowledge and experience which was reflected so splendidly in the 1940 edition of these rules. It is certain that his cooperation and encouragement did much to make this long and arduous job possible.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSE R. DE CAPRILES, *Chairman,*
A.F.L.A. Rules Committee

New York, N. Y., September 1951.

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PART ONE

THE AMATEUR FENCERS LEAGUE OF AMERICA

PART ONE

THE AMATEUR FENCERS LEAGUE OF AMERICA

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION

The Amateur Fencers League of America is the official governing body for amateur fencing in the United States and is recognized in this capacity by the Amateur Athletic Union, the United States Olympic Committee, and the Federation Internationale d'Esclime.

The Amateur Athletic Union recognizes the individual winners of A.F.L.A. National Indoor Championships as the amateur fencing champions of the United States. The medals awarded at these competitions bear the official A.A.U. design and inscription. Only the fencing competitions organized by the A.F.L.A. are so recognized. In addition, the A.A.U., through existing articles of alliance "will respect and enforce all penalties of suspension and disqualification inflicted by the A.F.L.A."

The A.F.L.A. is a member of the United States Olympic Association, the continuing Olympic Organization between Olympic competitions. The A.F.L.A. works in close cooperation with the United States Olympic Committee in the selection and preparation of Olympic fencing teams to represent the United States. Every member of U.S. Olympic fencing teams must be a member of the A.F.L.A.

The A.F.L.A. is the sole representative of U.S. amateur fencing in the Federation Internationale d'Esclime, the governing body for all official international amateur fencing contests including the World's and Olympic Championships. *Any U.S. amateur fencer wishing to participate in international contests must be accredited to the F.I.E. as to amateur standing, qualification, etc., by the A.F.L.A.*

The A.F.L.A. maintains close relations with the Intercollegiate Fencing Association (founded in 1894) and with the National Collegiate Athletic Association whose jurisdiction over fencers in their member colleges is explicitly recognized. The A.F.L.A., the I.C.F.A., and the N.C.A.A. collaborate in the standardization of the technical rules governing fencing competitions throughout the United States. These rules, as a matter of long established policy, generally follow the rules of the F.I.E. which are the basis of official fencing rules throughout the world.

(2) HISTORY

The Amateur Fencers League of America was founded on April 22, 1891. Prior to that date fencing championships had been conducted by the Amateur Athletic Union. A strong group of fencers felt, however, that the sport would develop more satisfactorily under an autonomous organization. The split was only temporary as the A.F.L.A. entered into articles of alliance with the A.A.U. in January, 1892, and the most friendly relations have since prevailed between the two organizations.

After one year of existence the membership of the A.F.L.A. reached 238. At that time there were groups in New York City, and in the New England and Nebraska Divisions which were established on March 20, 1892. New divisions have been created from time to time throughout the United States as required by the growth of the sport. Sectional championships covering four major areas of the United States are now held annually. The Pacific Coast Championships were first held in 1925; the Mid-West in 1934; the All-Eastern in 1939; and the Southwest in 1950. In 1939 the National Championship tournament was for the first time moved from New York City and was held in San Francisco; it was not feasible to hold the championships outside of New York again until 1951 when they were held at Detroit. In order to promote a better interchange of news and opinions among fencers throughout the United States, the League in 1950 established a magazine, *American Fencing*, which is distributed to the entire membership. At the time of writing (1951), the A.F.L.A. has 30 active divisions and approximately 400 competitions, local and national, are scheduled annually. In addition, technical guidance and assistance are furnished to hundreds of high schools, colleges, clubs and local fencing leagues.

Under the leadership of the A.F.L.A., United States fencers have achieved great international prestige. Although for financial and geographical reasons it is not possible to participate frequently in international contests, U.S. fencing teams have competed with distinction in all the Olympic Games since 1904, and in the First Pan American Games held in Buenos Aires in 1951. In addition, international team matches have from time to time been scheduled with Canada, Cuba, England and Mexico, and qualified individuals have been authorized to represent the United States at the World Championships and

at major European tournaments. United States fencers are also in great demand as international judges and directors, and are active in several important committees of the Federation Internationale d'Esclime.

(3) ORGANIZATION

The Amateur Fencers League of America is a democratic organization of fencers, run by fencers for the benefit of fencers. The membership is organized into a number of divisions or territorial units enjoying practically complete autonomy. In 1951 there were 30 active divisions: Border (Texas), Central Illinois, Colorado, Columbus, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Gulf Coast (So. Texas), Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Miami Valley (Ohio), Michigan, Mid-New York, Minnesota, New England, New Jersey, Northern California, Northern Ohio, North Texas, Philadelphia, San Diego, Seattle, Southern California, Spokane, St. Louis, Washington, D. C., Western New York, West Point, and Wisconsin. There were also 10 inactive divisions: Birmingham, Delaware, Hawaii, Nebraska, New Orleans, Oregon, Pittsburgh, Rhode Island, Sacramento and Utah.

The non-divisional group, which includes all fencers residing or fencing outside the territorial limits of local divisions, is directly supervised by the National Board of Governors. Since 1939 a New York Metropolitan Committee has been appointed by the Board to conduct the affairs of the large number of fencers in the New York Metropolitan area who comprise the major portion of the non-divisional membership.

The Board of Governors, which includes representatives of all the divisions, is the governing body of the A.F.L.A. and the final authority on all local, inter-divisional, sectional and national questions.

(4) MEMBERSHIP RULES

Membership in the A.F.L.A. is open to residents or citizens of the United States who are interested in the sport of fencing and who qualify as amateur fencers. There are five classes of membership: Honorary, Life, Senior Active, Active and Student. All members have equal rights to participate in A.F.L.A. competitions, but the rights of Honorary and Student members to participate in the management of the League are restricted.

Senior Active members are those who have reached the age of

twenty-five; Active members are those between the ages of nineteen and twenty-four inclusive; and Student members are those under the age of nineteen.

Candidates for membership may file special applications with the Secretary of the League or with the Secretary of a Division and may be formally admitted to the privileges of membership upon election by the Board of Governors. The Secretary of the League or of any Division is authorized to enroll a candidate as a provisional member provided that the application is endorsed by the secretary of a recognized amateur club of which the candidate is a member, and by two members of the Board of Governors. Such enrollment as a provisional member carries full rights to participate in A.F.L.A. competitions until the meeting of the Board of Governors next succeeding the enrollment (in the case of enrollment by the Secretary of the League) or next succeeding the receipt of notice by the Secretary of the League of such provisional enrollment (in the case of enrollment by the Secretary of a Division).

New members are charged an initiation fee of \$1.00, in addition to the annual dues for the current season, at the time the application for membership is filed. The basic annual dues for 1951-52 are \$5.00 for Senior Active members, \$3.00 for Active members, and \$1.00 for Student members.

Under the present regulations all members receive the official organ of the League, *American Fencing*, without charge. Subscriptions to this magazine are \$3.00 for non-members of the A.F.L.A. Senior Active members receive in addition an individual membership in the Federation Internationale d'Esgrime without charge. The annual cost of such membership to other A.F.L.A. members desiring it is \$1.00.

Current information concerning the League and its Divisions may be obtained by writing to Mr. Dernel Every, Room 3406, Chanin Building, New York 17, N. Y.

(5) THE AMATEUR CODE

The A.F.L.A. views an amateur as a sportsman interested in sport for its own sake, neither seeking nor accepting, directly or indirectly any financial benefit from his knowledge or participation in athletics. The Constitution defines an Amateur Fencer as follows:

"An Amateur Fencer is one who has not accepted directly or

indirectly any fee, gratuity, money or its equivalent as a consideration for the performance of any act or service arising from his knowledge or skill in fencing; and who is not and has not been a professional in any other branch of athletics."

The first clause of the above definition does not apply, however, to writing, editing or publishing articles, magazines or books on fencing nor to members of the Armed Forces who are detailed or assigned to instruct in fencing and do so in the discharge of their official duty.

The interpretation and application of these rules in specific cases is exclusively and absolutely within the discretion of the Board of Governors. However, the Board is guided in its decisions by its own precedents and those of the Amateur Athletic Union and of the Federation Internationale d'Esgrime. In general, the following acts are forbidden:

(a) Participating in any competition not held under the rules and sanction of the A.F.L.A.

(b) Obtaining any financial benefits, directly or indirectly, from participation in any competition or exhibition in any sport. This includes the sale of personal prizes, the receipt of excessive travel expenses, etc.

(c) Capitalizing on athletic fame. This includes "testimonials" (whether or not financially beneficial) and employment based on athletic fame or ability.

(d) Participation in a competition or exhibition against or with persons ineligible to compete as amateur fencers, without having first obtained permission to do so from the Board of Governors or from an authorized representative of the Board.

(e) Participation in any sport under an assumed name, unless duly approved in advance by the proper governing body; or commission of fraud or of grossly unsportsmanlike conduct in connection with participation in any sport.

Amateur coaching (teaching of fencing by amateurs) is permitted. However, an amateur fencer may not accept non-athletic employment if this employment is in any way dependent upon his ability to exhibit, compete in, or teach any sport. If such athletic activities are obligatory, or regularly scheduled, or a prerequisite to the contract of employment, or if the time devoted thereto exceeds that required

by the non-athletic employment, there is an automatic violation of these rules.

Furthermore, an amateur is not permitted to offer instruction or coaching (even if he receives no pay or other financial benefits for his services) in any case where some person or organization assesses a fee or requires a consideration for such instruction or coaching. This also applies to cases where an amateur temporarily substitutes for a professional teacher of fencing.

Teachers of physical education are considered amateurs only when their duties are limited to administrative, medical, and theoretical aspects of athletic instruction. Professional teachers of the practice of any sport, whether for competitive or recreational purposes, are considered professionals in fencing.

Certain factual situations may give rise to a strong suspicion against the amateur standing of a fencer, even in the absence of an overt act of disbarment. In these cases the Board of Governors may require the fencer to produce evidence in his behalf that his activities or transactions do not violate the letter and the spirit of the amateur code. The following persons may find themselves in such situations:

- (a) Wives and husbands of professional teachers of fencing.
- (b) Teachers and other employees in dramatic or dancing schools where fencing is taught.
- (c) Clerks and other employees in sporting goods stores.

The Board of Governors has absolute and exclusive jurisdiction over the reinstatement of persons to the privilege of amateur standing in fencing, but will not exercise its power except for the most cogent reasons. Information on reinstatement procedures may be obtained from the Secretary of the League.

(6) RULES GOVERNING EXHIBITIONS

No member of the A.F.L.A. may participate in an exhibition for any cause without permission in advance from the Board of Governors or from the Executive Committee of his Division, or from an authorized representative of these governing bodies. The penalty for violation of this rule may be suspension from the League.

The Board of Governors, in general, will not sanction the use of amateurs in any exhibition in which any professional receives compensation in excess of a nominal \$25.00 payment.

All fencing exhibitions should be held in accord with the A.F.L.A.'s technical rules and conventions of fencing. No mixed competitive bouts between men and women are to be permitted.

The wearing of masks in exhibitions is preferred. Exhibitions without masks may be undertaken only if carefully rehearsed and limited to a safe routine.

Participation by amateur fencers in television programs is strictly limited to that portion of the telecast devoted to entertainment. Appearance in any portion devoted to an advertising message is prohibited.

The Board of Governors reserves the right to request a share of any admission fees, or other income derived from fencing exhibitions, towards the A.F.L.A.'s Olympic or International Fencing Fund.

The A.F.L.A., in granting permission for exhibitions, assumes no responsibility or liability of any kind for the conduct thereof.

(7) THE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

The Professional Certificate of Merit is an honorary award voted by the Board of Governors to outstanding teachers of members of the A.F.L.A. who, under their guidance, have developed the quality of technical skill, love of fencing and spirit of sportsmanship which are essential to the cause of fencing in the United States.

As an organization of amateurs, the A.F.L.A. feels neither qualified nor justified in passing judgment upon the professional competence of fencing instructors. On the other hand, the League is in a position to ascertain the fencing spirit and ability of the amateurs who have been trained for competition by a particular teacher and believes that outstanding instructors are deserving of recognition by the amateur organization which they have thus benefited. The Certificate of Merit embodies such recognition.

The Certificate of Merit is never voluntarily offered by the Board of Governors. It must be solicited, on behalf of a teacher, by two or more members of the Board or by the Executive Committee of a Division. The application must be accompanied by the fencing history of the professional and the names and achievements of at least two of his recognized pupils. The submitted material is then reviewed by the Certificate of Merit Committee who reports to the Board of Governors its findings and recommendations.

PART TWO
RULES GOVERNING ORGANIZATION OF A.F.L.A.
COMPETITIONS

PART TWO
RULES GOVERNING ORGANIZATION OF A.F.L.A.
COMPETITIONS

CHAPTER I
SCHEDULES, DEFINITIONS, AND CLASSIFICATIONS

(A) SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1. The fencing season officially begins on September 1 and continues through August 31 of the next calendar year.

2. At the beginning of each fencing season the Board of Governors shall draft and publish a schedule of national team and individual events. A similar schedule of divisional and sectional events shall be published by the appropriate Executive Committees.

3. Scheduled competitions for men may include events in epee, foil, sabre, and any combination thereof. Women's competitions shall be limited to foil events. Mixed bouts between men and women are not permitted in formal competitions or exhibitions in which touches are counted.

4. The schedule of events should include the following information: (a) the title and classification of each competition; (b) the date, hour and place; (c) the prizes offered; (d) the method and conditions for entries; (e) the terms for admission of spectators; (f) any additional information required by the rules governing organization of competitions or by the technical rules and conventions of fencing (*See Supplementary Index—"Schedule of Events"*).

(B) DEFINITIONS

5. Scheduled events may be designated as "competitions", "tournaments", or "meets":

(a) A *competition* is generally a contest in one weapon (or in the three-weapon class) organized either as an individual or as a team event.

(b) A *tournament* consists of a series of competitions in one or in several weapons, organized as individual events, or team events, or both, held continuously over a given period of time.

(c) A *meet* is a competition between two or more teams, in which matches in two or more weapons are held.

6. The following terms are used in connection with the organization of competitions:

(a) A *match* is a contest between two teams in any one weapon (or in the three-weapon class), and consists of a series of bouts.

(b) A *bout* is a contest between two individuals, and may or may not be part of a match.

(c) A *pool* is a group of individuals or teams competing against one another on a round-robin basis.

7. Where "fencing club" or "club" is used in these rules, it is intended that it shall mean any club, educational institution, organization or otherwise designated body of individual members.

(c) CLASSIFICATION OF FENCERS

8. For the purpose of providing reasonable equality of strength in competitions, fencers are classified on the basis of competitive experience and achievement into the following categories (in order of strength): Prep (lowest), Novice, Junior, Intermediate, and Senior (highest).

9. The classification of an individual fencer in each weapon moves from Prep to Senior, progressively or by skipping intervening categories, but once a fencer achieves a higher classification, he may never be classed in a lower category. The following rules govern the classification of fencers:

(a) A *Prep* is a fencer who is competing in A.F.L.A. competitions (other than interscholastic invitations) for the first year in the particular weapon, and who is not otherwise entitled to a higher classification. He remains a Prep for the duration of the fencing season unless he wins a personal prize* in either team or individual competition. However, a fencer who attains Junior or Intermediate ranking in one weapon cannot be a Prep in any other weapon, but automatically becomes a Novice. In like manner, a fencer who has represented a college on a varsity team, but has not won a personal prize in a recognized intercollegiate championship (See Rule 9 (c) (4) below) automatically becomes a Novice;

(b) A fencer becomes a *Novice* by (1) the expiration of the

**Personal prizes* are defined as awards made to individual fencers. They include all prizes in individual events, as well as individual awards to members of teams (as distinguished from trophies awarded to the team as a whole) whenever such prizes are given.

time limit fixed for the Prep class; (2) becoming a Junior or Intermediate in any weapon other than the one involved in the ranking; (3) winning a personal prize* in team or individual competition (unless such prize entitles him to a higher classification); (4) representing a college on a varsity team;

(c) A fencer becomes a *Junior* by (1) winning first place in any official Novice competition; (2) winning second or third prize in any individual Junior competition; (3) winning a personal prize* in any Intermediate or Open event, team or individual, except as provided in sections (d) and (e) below; (4) winning a personal prize* in any intercollegiate championship; (5) becoming a Senior in any weapon other than the one involved in the ranking.

(d) A fencer becomes an *Intermediate* by winning (1) first, second or third place in a divisional Open individual *championship*; (2) second or third place in a sectional Intermediate individual *championship*; (3) first place in a divisional Junior or Intermediate individual *championship*.

(e) A fencer becomes a *Senior* by (1) winning first, second, or third place in the national Open individual championships (indoor or outdoor); (2) winning first, second, or third place in a sectional Open individual championship; (3) winning first place in a sectional Intermediate individual championship; (4) participating as a member of an official Olympic or International fencing team of the United States or of any other country; (5) representing the United States or any other country officially in a World's (F.I.E.) Championship.

(f) Except as specifically provided above, the classification of a fencer in one weapon has no effect upon his classification in any other weapon; and is not affected by his winning or competing in individual three-weapon events, or in team events, or in invitation events, or in interscholastic and intercollegiate events, or in unofficial club and interclub competitions. For example, it is possible for a fencer to be a Senior in foil, an Intermediate in epee, and a Junior in sabre, or any combination of these three classifications.

(g) Whenever there is a reasonable doubt as to the classification of a fencer, the Bout Committee in charge of a competition, or the Jury of Appeal, may decide according to its view of the facts of the case and such determination shall be conclusive for that competition. However, for subsequent competitions the decision shall be subject

to review by the divisional or sectional Executive Committee and by the national Board of Governors. In reviewing the classification of a fencer, the proper authorities shall consider both the specific provisions of the foregoing regulations and the general purpose thereof, and shall be guided accordingly. In marginal cases the presumption shall be in favor of Novice as against Prep, in favor of Junior as against Novice or as against Intermediate, and in favor of Intermediate as against Senior. The theory behind these presumptions is that, up to the Junior classification, any marginal case should be decided in favor of the higher class in order to protect other inexperienced fencers; but beyond the Junior rank the fencer should clearly prove his right to be classified in the upper categories.

10. Two additional classifications are made: (a) Ranking Fencers; (b) Veterans. These classifications are independent of the categories established by the preceding rule, so that a fencer may be a Veteran and a Junior at the same time, or any other combination.

(a) A *Ranking Fencer* in a particular weapon is a fencer who has been selected as a leading fencer in that weapon by the Board of Governors for the purpose of the seeded draw in individual competitions.

(b) A *Veteran* is a fencer (1) who has attained the age of 50 years; or (2) who has attained the age of 40 years and in addition has retired from all competitions except the Veterans' individual events or the team events in which he participates as a member of a composite team made up exclusively of Veterans.

(D) CLASSIFICATION OF COMPETITIONS

11. An *Open* competition is one in which all members of the A.F.L.A. in good standing are eligible to compete without restriction as to class or rank.

12. A *Senior* competition is one which is open to Seniors and Ranking Fencers. It may be open to other members of the A.F.L.A. only to the extent noted in the schedule of events.

13. The classification of other competitions (*Intermediate, Junior, etc.*) indicates the highest category of fencers permitted to participate therein, but these competitions are also open to fencers of lower categories unless the contrary is specifically stated in the schedule of events.

(E) CHAMPIONSHIPS

14. The title of "championship" shall be limited to the more important competitions or tournaments in divisional, sectional, or national schedules, as follows:

(a) *National Championships* include the individual Open Epee, foil, sabre and three-weapon championships for men, the individual Open foil championship for women, and the corresponding team events. The Board of Governors has the right to designate other competitions as national championships in the official schedule of events, subject to the limitations provided below.

(b) *Sectional Championships* include the All-Eastern, Mid-West, Pacific Coast and Southwest inter-divisional championships. These championships shall be limited to Open, Senior, and Intermediate team and individual events.

(c) *Divisional Championships* may be held in any division in the Open, Senior, Intermediate, and Junior classifications, team and individual.

(d) *Intermediate Championships* shall not be designated as national championships, but shall be limited to divisional or sectional events.

(e) *Junior Championships* shall be limited to divisional events.

(f) No Prep or Novice competition shall be designated as a championship of any kind.

15. Championship events shall be competitive contests, conducted strictly in accord with the rules governing the organization of competitions, and with the technical rules and conventions of fencing, as provided herein.

(F) FEES

16. The Board of Governors or the appropriate Executive Committee shall fix the entry fees for every scheduled event. The fees so fixed must include a charge of 10¢ to be collected from every contestant in team and individual events and forwarded to the Secretary of the A.F.L.A. to be deposited in the special fund for the rotation of the national championships.

(G) MISCELLANEOUS

17. For competitions other than championship events, special regulations differing from the standard rules herein prescribed are per-

mitted, provided that a suitable notice is included in the schedule of events.

18. Academic contests, where the number of touches scored is not the sole criterion for victory in a bout, are permitted, provided that adequate notice of the character of the competition is included in the schedule of events.

19. In the drafting of the schedule of events, the Executive Committee of each division and the national Board of Governors should take into account the general caliber of the fencers likely to participate therein, and proceed to classify the various competitions in light of the effect that the winning of prizes may have upon the individual classification of the fencers. Special care should be taken not to deprive inexperienced fencers of possible competitive opportunities by moving them too rapidly into the upper categories. In this connection, the distinction between "championships" and other competitions is to be kept in mind.

CHAPTER II

ORGANIZATION

(A) BOUT COMMITTEE

20. The Board of Governors shall appoint a national Bout Committee to conduct national events. Similar committees shall be appointed by divisional or sectional Executive Committees to conduct competitions within their respective jurisdictions.

21. The Bout Committee is responsible for and in complete charge of A.F.L.A. competitions within its jurisdiction. It has the power to accept or reject entries; to determine the structure and schedule of competition; to assign competitors to their places in pools or in direct-elimination contests; to appoint and remove officials; to admit or exclude spectators; and in general to do all things necessary to the proper organization and administration of the event.

(a) The decisions of the Bout Committee on these questions, to the extent that they lie within the discretion of the Committee under the rules, are final. If the Bout Committee, however, ignores a positive prescription of the rules, or applies the rules incorrectly, a protest by the aggrieved person or team is allowed. Such a protest must be made to the Chairman or acting chairman of the committee immediately, without any formality, before the course of the competition has been materially affected. Failure to file a protest promptly shall constitute a waiver of the aggrieved person's rights.

(b) If the protest is overruled by the Bout Committee, the aggrieved person or team may appeal to the Jury of Appeal. (*See Chapter III.*)

22. The rules governing competition, including organization and technical rules, are enacted, amended, and repealed solely by action of the national Board of Governors. These rules are mandatory for all official contests scheduled by or under the auspices of the A.F.L.A., except to the extent specifically provided for in the rules. In exceptional circumstances, the Bout Committee may waive or modify the rules of organization for a particular event with the unanimous consent of all the fencers directly or indirectly affected; but in all cases, this action is subject to review by the divisional or sectional Executive Committee and by the national Board of Governors.

(B) COMPETITIONS WITH THE ELECTRICAL EPEE

23. In competitions conducted with the electrical epee the Bout Committee shall obtain the presence of experts familiar with the general rules of fencing as well as with the technical aspects of the registration apparatus. These experts may be consulted by the Director to establish facts relating to the electrical equipment and to localize defects in operation. They should be able to explain the conclusions which should be drawn from any defects or established facts, and may be required to furnish similar information and explanations to the Board of Governors or the Executive Committee of a Section or Division. In all cases, the experts have only advisory powers; and they must ordinarily refrain from acting in cases affecting a fellow club member.

24. The Bout Committee shall, in addition, insure the presence of technicians competent to repair the electrical apparatus and the personal armament of the contestants in case of breakdown in the course of competitions.

25. The management of the electrical apparatus for each strip shall be entrusted to an Apparatus Manager appointed exclusively for that purpose by the Bout Committee. The Apparatus Manager should remain clearly apart from the machine and must not touch it except at the request of the Director. The table on which the electrical apparatus is placed must be sufficiently removed from the fencers, the jury, and the spectators, to prevent any interference, intentional or unintentional, with the operation of the apparatus. A different table should be used by the Scorer, Time-keeper, etc.

(C) ELIGIBILITY AND REPRESENTATION

26. Only members of the A.F.L.A. in good standing are eligible to compete in team or individual events scheduled by or under the auspices of the Amateur Fencers League of America, except as otherwise specifically authorized by the divisional Executive Committee (for local competitions) or by the national Board of Governors (for national competitions).

(a) The Bout Committee shall reject any entry from a member of the League, who is not in good standing because he is in arrears for dues, or because of the imposition of disciplinary penalties (*Rules 32, 35*) or because of any other reason such as those provided below.

(b) A fencer who has entered a competition but has failed to pay the required entry fee (*Rule 28-a*) and who has either taken part in the competition or failed to withdraw therefrom in time (*Rule 28-b*); shall be liable to the League for the amount of the entry fee, and shall be ineligible to enter any subsequent competition until restored to good standing by payment of the sum due.

(c) No member of a division shall be in good standing unless his Division is in good standing according to the established rules and practices of the A.F.L.A. Consequently, if a member's Division is not in good standing and he wishes to compete in any event scheduled outside the jurisdiction of his Division, he must become a Non-Divisional member by the payment of dues directly to the national Treasurer.

27. To represent a club in team or individual competition a fencer must be a member in good standing of that club.

(a) No fencer resigning from one club and joining another, or holding membership in two or more clubs, shall within the same fencing season transfer his representation from one club to another without special permission of the Board of Governors. This permission will not be granted for a fencer to represent more than one club in team events within the same fencing season. However, a fencer who is a member of two or more clubs may elect to represent any one of the clubs of which he is a member.

(b) A fencer who, while a member of a recognized club, elects to fence *unattached*, may not be permitted to represent any club during the remainder of the season in individual competition, and may not compete in team events except as a member of composite teams. (*See Rules 62 and 83.*)

(D) ENTRIES

28. Unless otherwise specified in the official schedule of events, entries for all competitions must be forwarded in writing to the Chairman of the appropriate Bout Committee *at least one week* in advance of the time set for any competition which the fencer or team desires to enter.

(a) Every entry must be accompanied by the required entry fee.

(b) Entry fees received in accordance with the provisions of this rule will be refunded if the Bout Committee receives notice of an

individual's or team's desire to withdraw *not later than 72 hours before the competition is scheduled to start.*

29. Contestants upon arriving at a competition shall report at once to the Bout Committee. A contestant who arrives late, or who is not available when called, is liable to be excluded irrevocably by the Bout Committee after an interval in its opinion sufficient, taking due account of the circumstances.

CHAPTER III

DISCIPLINE

(A) PROTESTS AND APPEALS

(30) In the interests of efficiency and good order at fencing competitions, and of promoting the ideals of good sportsmanship, the Bout Committee in charge of the event and the Director in charge of the bout are vested with broad powers of administration and discipline. (*See Supplementary Index—"Bout Committee" and "Director".*)

(a) The jurisdiction of the Bout Committee and the Director extends to all persons participating in, or present at, a competition. In the exercise of their powers, they are in turn bound by the rules of competition and the code of good sportsmanship.

(b) At any competition, if a protest against a decision of the Bout Committee or of the Director—where permitted (*see Rules 21, 129, 130*)—has been properly filed and has been overruled, an appeal may be taken to the Jury of Appeal for that competition. The existence of the right of appeal, however, does not suspend the operation of a disciplinary penalty pending the hearing of the appeal.

31. Notice of appeal from the decisions of the Bout Committee or of the Director must first be given to the Bout Committee. No other body may recognize a competition appeal prior to its registry with the Bout Committee. Upon the filing of such notice of appeal, and on any other occasion deemed necessary, the Bout Committee must on its own initiative, or at the request of an individual competitor, team captain, director or other official, call together the Jury of Appeal for that competition.

(a) The Jury of Appeal at a national competition shall be composed of all members of the national Bout Committee, all members of the Board of Governors present at the competition, and a member from every Division competing and not otherwise represented. In the last case, the member selected must be either an officer of the Division or one chosen by majority vote of the other members of the Jury of Appeal.

(b) The Jury of Appeal at a sectional competition shall be composed of all members of the sectional Bout Committee, all members of the Board of Governors and all other members of the sectional

Executive Committee present at the competition, and a member from every Division competing and not otherwise represented. In the last case, the member selected must be either an officer of the Division or one chosen by majority vote of the other members of the Jury of Appeal.

(c) The Jury of Appeal at a divisional competition shall be composed of all members of the divisional Bout Committee, all members of the Board of Governors and all other members of the divisional Executive Committee present at the competition, and a member from every club competing and not otherwise represented. In the last case, the member selected must be either the club captain or one chosen by majority vote of the other members of the Jury of Appeal.

(B) AUTHORITY OF THE JURY OF APPEAL

32. The authority of the Jury of Appeal extends to all persons who participate in, or at present at, any competition. By majority vote, the Jury of Appeal has the power to decide finally all appeals made to it for interpretation of the rules, and to inflict the following disciplinary penalties:

(a) *Warning* (of any and all persons, including spectators), which is a formal notice that there has been a breach of the rules of competition, or of good order, or of good sportsmanship, and that if the offense is repeated a penalty may be inflicted.

(b) *Exclusion* (of contestants), which means that the individual or team so excluded cannot continue to take part in the competition no matter how far it has progressed or what classification has been obtained.

(c) *Disqualification* (of contestants), which means that the individual or team disqualified is barred, not only from the competition then in progress, but from all subsequent competitions forming part of the same tournament.

(d) *Expulsion* (of any and all persons, including spectators) from a competition or tournament, which means that the person expelled will no longer have the right to be present in any capacity at the competition or tournament concerned.

33. In case the penalty of *exclusion* or *disqualification* is inflicted during a competition upon an individual or team, as provided in the rules of competition and discipline (*Rules 107-109, 111, 112,*

118, 330-333, 719-722), the Jury of Appeal shall determine, upon examination of all the pertinent facts, whether or not the consequent withdrawal shall be deemed beyond the control of the offending individual or team (*Rules 51, 52, 78 and 79*). In general, the application of the penalty of exclusion or disqualification for *technical reasons* should not deprive an individual or team of any placement or prizes earned *before* the commission of the offense for which the penalty is inflicted. However, in cases involving serious breaches of good order or flagrant violations of the code of good sportsmanship, the application of the penalty of exclusion or disqualification *may* include forfeiture of any placement or prizes earned during the competition in which the offense was committed. In all cases, the record of the action taken and the reasons therefor must be forwarded to the Board of Governors, through proper channels, within one week.

34. In addition to the foregoing, the Jury of Appeal may by majority vote recommend to the appropriate Executive Committee or to the Board of Governors the imposition of the more severe disciplinary penalties, *i.e.*, reprimand, suspension, or expulsion from the Amateur Fencers League of America.

(C) AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

35. The Board of Governors, by a two-thirds vote of the members voting, has full power to reprimand, suspend, deny continuation of membership to or expel any member of the Amateur Fencers League of America whose conduct shall be deemed to have been prejudicial to the welfare, interests or character of the League. These penalties may be imposed on recommendation of the Jury of Appeal upon a contestant (individual or team) for improper conduct at a competition; or at the request of an aggrieved member of the League upon any official who has been guilty of abusing his authority; or on the Board's own motion upon any member of the League who has been guilty of improper conduct in matters not connected with competitions.

(a) A *reprimand* is a formal statement of disapproval by the Board of the conduct of a member, which if repeated may lead to the imposition of more severe penalties.

(b) *Suspension* means that the person suspended will no longer have the right to exercise his functions or to enjoy his privileges as a member of the A.F.L.A. for a specific period of time.

(c) *Expulsion* from the A.F.L.A. or *denial* of continued membership mean that the person concerned will be permanently excluded from the privileges of membership.

36. The penalties of suspension for a period of more than one year, expulsion from the League or denial of continued membership may be imposed only upon compliance with the following procedure:

(a) Notice shall be given promptly by the Secretary of the A.F.L.A. to the League member affected, and to the members of the Board of Governors, of the action proposed to be taken, with a statement setting forth generally the charges of improper conduct or the grounds upon which the penalty is to be imposed.

(b) Upon request of the League member affected, or on motion of any three members of the Board after receipt of notice of the proposed action, the President shall appoint a committee of not less than five members of the League to investigate the charges of improper conduct or the grounds upon which the penalty is to be imposed; to give the member of the League affected an opportunity to be heard in respect to such charges or grounds; to report its findings (in such detail, if any, as the committee may deem appropriate); and to recommend, by majority vote of its membership, the action to be taken by the Board of Governors.

(c) If no request or motion for the appointment of an investigating committee is made, or if the investigating committee's report recommends that the Board of Governors impose the proposed penalty, the Board of Governors at a regular or special meeting may take such action as it deems proper, and such action shall be final and without appeal. If the investigating committee's report recommends that the Board of Governors do not impose the proposed penalty, the Board of Governors may not impose the penalty in question, but may impose a lesser penalty (not exceeding suspension for one year or less) or may dismiss the charges completely, according to its view of the matter. In any case, appropriate notice of the action taken shall be forwarded to the member of the League affected and shall be entered upon the minutes of the Board.

37. The penalty of reprimand and the penalty of suspension for a period of one year or less may be imposed by the Board of Governors without affording the member of the League affected an opportunity to be heard; but in such case:

(a) Appropriate notice of the action taken shall be forwarded immediately to the person reprimanded or suspended; and he shall in turn be entitled to a hearing before an investigating committee of the Board (as provided above) by filing a written demand therefore with the Secretary of the League within fifteen days after receipt of the notice of the action taken.

(b) No suspension shall be valid for more than forty-five days from the date of receipt by the Secretary of the League of such written demand for a hearing, unless prior to the expiration of this period a hearing has been held and a decision by the Board has been rendered imposing the penalty of suspension for a period longer than the aforesaid forty-five days.

(D) AUTHORITY OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

38. The appropriate divisional Executive Committee (but not the sectional Executive Committee) may also impose the penalty of reprimand and the penalty of suspension for one year or less. Such action shall be deemed to have been taken, without a hearing, by the Board of Governors as a whole, and the provisions of the preceding rule shall apply. If the penalized fencer does not within fifteen days after receipt of formal notice avail himself of the right to a hearing by the Board, this action shall be deemed final, and shall not be subject to appeal to the Board of Governors except upon affirmative motion of the Board to hear such appeal. In all cases of reprimand or suspension the divisional Executive Committee shall forward to the Board of Governors a record of the action taken and the reason therefor within one week of formal notice to the League member affected.

(E) PROCEDURAL RECOMMENDATIONS

39. In all cases involving the application of disciplinary penalties, whether or not connected with improper conduct at competitions, the competent authorities are required to take into account the gravity of the offense and the circumstances under which it was committed, and to reach their decisions in an equitable manner, without being restricted by formal procedural regulations. However, as a matter of policy the following principles should be observed as far as possible:

(a) No disciplinary penalty should be inflicted unless the parties concerned have been given an opportunity to be heard in explanation

of the occurrence, either verbally or in writing, within a reasonable interval suited to the time and place.

(b) If the offending party does not take advantage of the opportunity for a hearing, the penalty may be inflicted after the expiration of a reasonable period of time.

(c) In case of a conviction involving the sentence of disqualification from a tournament or suspension for less than one year, pronounced by competent authorities against a fencer who has never before been guilty of any similar offense, the authorities may *in their discretion* suspend the application of the penalty for a probationary period of a duration equal to double the length of time involved in the disqualification or suspension. If, during the probationary period, the fencer in question does not incur a new liability to disciplinary penalties, the original sentence shall be commuted and the original penalty shall be annulled. If, on the other hand, the fencer in question again becomes liable to disciplinary penalties during the probationary period, the original sentence shall become immediately effective, and the original penalty shall be added to the new one.

CHAPTER IV

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS—CONDUCT

(A) ORGANIZATION

40. For any individual competition the minimum number of actual contestants shall be four, except when otherwise ruled by the proper governing body.

41. Individual competitions may be organized as direct-elimination contests (losers dropping out), or as complete round-robins (each contestant meeting every other contestant), or on the basis of pools with two or more rounds.

(a) Individual three-weapon events shall ordinarily be organized on the basis of direct elimination.

(b) Events in a particular weapon, where the number of actual contestants is nine or less, shall ordinarily be organized on the basis of a complete round-robin.

(c) Other events shall ordinarily be organized on the basis of pools with two or more rounds.

(d) When a competition is organized on the pool basis, the fencers in each preliminary pool shall fence a round-robin among themselves, and at least the two highest shall qualify for the next round, which may be in turn organized on the basis of pools or as a final round-robin. There may be any number of eliminatory rounds organized on the pool basis prior to the final round-robin, as for example, preliminary, quarter-final, and semi-final rounds. (See below.)

(e) Eliminatory pools in one touch epee competitions should in principle be composed of at least eight contestants, of whom preferably one-half or more should qualify for the next round. If large pools are not feasible, the same result may be obtained by fencing the round-robin through two or three times, so that each contestant fences two or three one-touch bouts with each opponent in the pool.

(f) In competitions in foil and sabre, and in epee for several touches, the number of contestants in each eliminatory pool should in principle be at least six, and the number of qualifiers at least one-third, preferably one-half.

(g) Final round-robins should in principle be composed of at least six fencers in all weapons. This regulation and the two preceding, however, may be modified by the Bout Committee as circumstances demand.

(B) SEEDING—ROUND-ROBIN

42. In all eliminatory rounds, the Bout Committee shall endeavor as far as possible to separate representatives of the same club, so that they shall not meet in these rounds. This principle is superior to the seeded draw if the two conflict. In cases where several possibilities obtain, the distribution of contestants may be done by lot.

(a) In the first eliminatory round, the Bout Committee should distribute the contestants among the several pools on the principle of the seeded draw. For this purpose, the Bout Committee is required to follow generally the list of Ranking Fencers. When no rankings are available, and there are several representatives of the same club entered, the captain of each club shall furnish to the Bout Committee a ranking list of its fencers for purposes of seeding.

(b) In the second or following eliminatory rounds, the seeded draw shall be based on the results of the preceding eliminatory round, so that each pool shall contain the same number of fencers who finished first, second, etc., in the preceding round. Nevertheless, as far as possible, the distribution of fencers should be made so as to avoid having two fencers, who have already fenced each other, meet in the succeeding round.

(C) BYES—ROUND-ROBIN

43. In Open or Senior competitions, organized on the pool basis, one or more Ranking Fencers may be granted byes into the second round in order of their rank. All Ranking Fencers, however, must be on hand at the scheduled starting time. In competitions of lower classification, organized on the pool basis, no byes are permitted.

(D) ORDER OF BOUTS—ROUND-ROBIN

44. In every pool, each contestant is given a number which determines the order of that fencer's bouts in accordance with a pre-arranged table. This number may be assigned to each fencer by the Bout Committee, or, at the request of any contestant, it shall be determined by the drawing of lots.

(a) In the absence of special regulations, the order of bouts shall be as indicated on page 31, and the fencer first called shall place himself on the strip at the right of the Director, except when the bout is between a left-handed and a right-handed fencer.*

*This rule is mandatory, so as to compensate possible variations in light, footing, or the functioning of the electrical apparatus.

ORDER OF BOUTS
(Read Downward)

	4 Fencers (6 Bouts)	5 Fencers (10 Bouts)	6 Fencers (15 Bouts)	7 Fencers (21 Bouts)	8 Fencers (28 Bouts)	9 Fencers (36 Bouts)	10 Fencers (45 Bouts)	11 Fencers (55 Bouts)	12 Fencers (66 Bouts)
1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4 3-1	1-5 6-3	1-4 2-5	1-6 9-1	1-7 11-4	1-7 6-8
2-3	2-3	2-3	2-5	2-5 4-6	2-6 7-4	6-2 6-8	2-7 10-2	2-8 5-7	2-8 10-1
3-1	4-5	3-6	3-6	3-6 7-2	3-7 1-2	3-7 7-9	3-8 6-3	3-9 2-6	3-9 11-2
4-2	1-2	5-1	7-1	3-5	4-8 3-4	5-8 1-3	4-9 7-4	4-10 4-1	4-10 12-3
3-4	3-5	6-2	5-4	1-6	6-1 5-6	6-9 5-7	5-10 8-5	5-11 7-10	5-11 7-4
1-2	2-4	4-3	2-3	2-4	7-2 7-8	7-1 9-2	7-1 10-1	6-1 9-11	6-12 8-5
	5-1	1-6	6-7	7-3	8-3 3-1	8-2 1-6	8-2 2-6	2-3 3-5	8-1 9-6
	4-3	2-4	5-1	6-5	5-4 4-2	9-3 3-5	9-3 3-7	4-5 6-8	9-2 1-11
	5-2	3-5	4-3	1-2	1-7 7-5	4-7 4-6	10-4 4-8	8-9 1-9	10-3 2-12
	3-1	2-1	2-1	6-2	2-8 6-8	1-5 7-8	6-5 9-5	10-11 10-2	11-4 3-7
		4-5	5-7		3-5 1-4	2-4 9-1	1-8 1-2	7-6 11-3	12-5 4-8
		3-2			4-6 2-3	3-6 2-3	2-9 3-4	1-8 4-7	7-6 5-9
		6-4			8-1 8-5	4-8 4-5	3-10 6-7	9-2 5-8	11-7 5-6
		1-3			5-2 6-7	5-9 6-7	4-6 8-9	3-10 3-6	6-10 10-9
		5-6			8-1 8-9	8-1 8-9	5-7 5-1		12-10 12-8
					7-2 2-1	7-2 2-1			3-11 7-2
					8-3 3-4	8-3 3-4			4-12 8-3
					9-4 5-6	9-4 5-6			5-7 9-4

(b) Where two or more representatives of the same club are drawn in the same pool, they shall so far as possible fence one another before meeting any other fencer. However, when the fencers from the same club constitute a majority of the pool (particularly in a final round-robin), the Bout Committee shall establish a special order of bouts to maintain the principle of this rule.

(E) QUALIFICATION, PLACEMENT, AND FENCE-OFFS—ROUND-ROBIN

45. For purposes of qualification in eliminatory pools, or for places in the final round-robin, fencers are ranked according to the number of bouts won in that particular round.

(a) In case of a tie in the number of bouts won, except where such tie is for first place in the finals, the contestant receiving the lowest total of touches in all bouts of the pool or round shall be declared the winner. If the total number of touches received is equal, the contestant scoring the greatest total of touches shall be declared the winner.

(b) In the event of parity in bout victories and in touches, both received and scored, the contestants are tied. If it is necessary to resolve the tie, a fence-off by the contestants actually affected shall be held.

(c) In any pool from which only two fencers qualify for the next round, if three fencers tie with only one defeat each (having beaten one another), all three shall be advanced to the next round without counting touches.

(d) Alternate qualifiers are not permitted unless announcement to that effect shall have been made in advance (*See Chapter VIII*).

(e) When a fencer withdraws after having completed all his bouts in a pool, and has qualified, the withdrawal shall be deemed to have taken place in the next round. Therefore no substitute qualifier shall be allowed. If a competitor withdraws without having completed all his bouts in a pool, the Bout Committee must proceed in accordance with Chapter V.

(f) A tie for first place in an individual final round-robin must always be fenced off until a winner is determined on the basis of bout victories, without consideration of the number of touches received or scored in the previous bouts of the pool, or of previous fence-offs.

(g) When three or more fencers tie for first place, the fence-off determines first, second, third, and such other places as may be involved, on the basis of bout victories in the fence-off round-robin. However, in the event that after the fence-off two or more fencers are still tied in bout victories for any place other than first place, the tie is resolved by counting touches as above, except that the touch score in the original pool shall be added to the touch score in the fence-off to determine the relative standing of the fencers involved.

(h) When three or more fencers tie for a qualifying place in an eliminatory pool, as provided in (b) above, and a fence-off is necessary, the principles of the preceding paragraph (g) shall be followed in resolving the tie.

(i) When three fencers are involved in a fence-off for a single position, the first bout of the fence-off shall be drawn by lot, unless two of the three fencers are members of the same club, in which case they must meet first. The winner of the first bout must then fence in the second bout, and if he wins again, the third bout becomes unnecessary.

(j) On the other hand, when three fencers are engaged in a fence-off to determine two or three positions, the loser of the first bout must fence the second bout against the third contestant. If he loses again, the third bout may be unnecessary (in an eliminatory round) or it may be the climax of the competition (in a fence-off for first place).

(F) DIRECT ELIMINATION

46. The general provisions of the foregoing rules are applied to direct-elimination events without variation except to the extent that they conflict with those listed below, which are solely applicable to individual competitions by direct-elimination.

47. The Bout Committee must organize a first eliminatory round granting as many byes as may be necessary to insure that the number of fencers remaining after the first round shall be a mathematical power of two (4, 8, 16, 32, etc.).* The Ranking Fencers are granted byes as a matter of right in the order of their rank. If additional byes are

*The formula for determining the number of byes for the first round is as follows: multiply by two the number of fencers desired for the second round (4, 8, 16, 32, etc.); deduct the number of fencers entered in the competition; the difference is the number of byes to be given.

required, or if no Ranking Fencers are competing, they shall be granted in the order of seeded strength. (See Rule 42-a.)

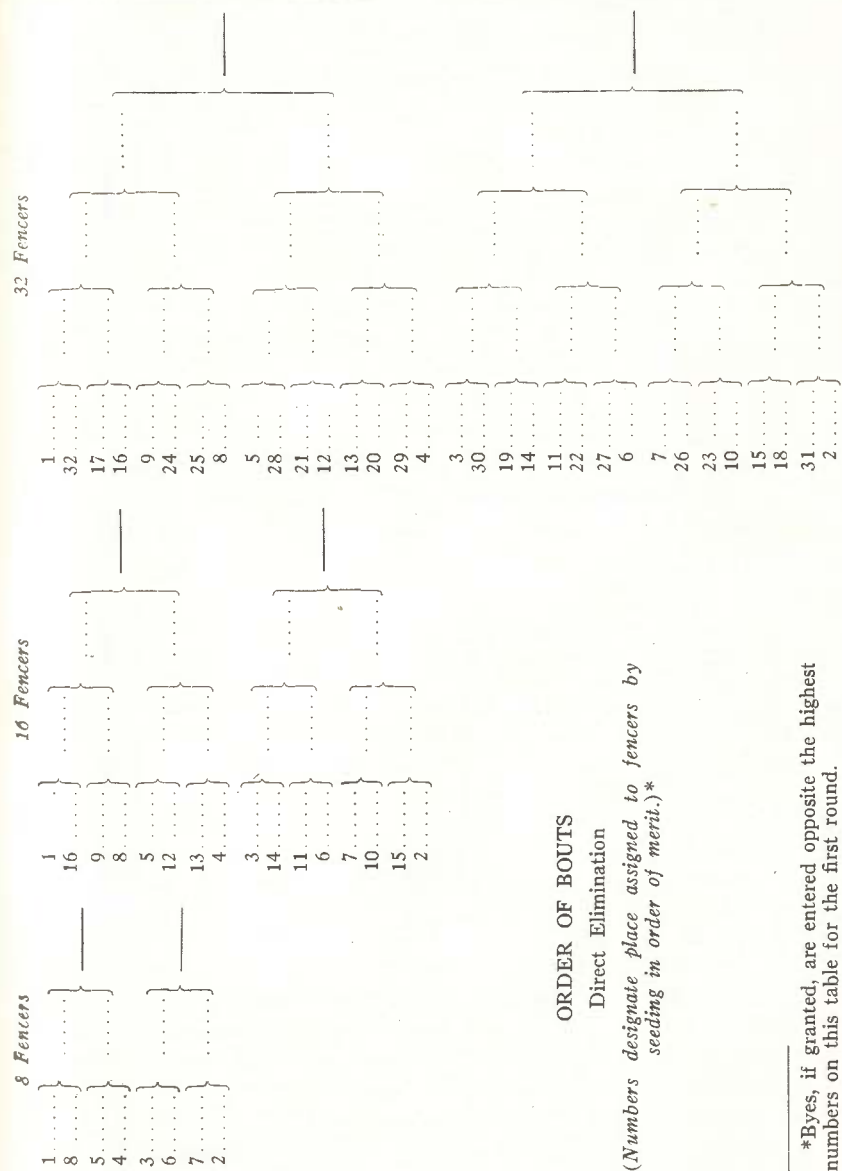
(a) The schedule of bouts shall be in accordance with the rule of the seeded draw and with the rule separating club mates wherever possible. The pairings for direct elimination shall be as indicated on page 35.

(b) Each pairing shall fence for the required number of touches or bouts as previously announced for the event, and the winner shall advance to the next round.

(c) The final standing of the fencers shall be determined as follows: *first and second places*—the winner and loser of the final respectively; *third and fourth*—by a fence-off between the two losers in the semi-final round; 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th—by a fence-off by direct elimination among the losers of the quarter-final round, with the pairings governed by the rank given the men in the first round, *i.e.*, the two highest ranking fencers meeting the two of lower rank.

(C) COMBINED ROUND-ROBIN AND DIRECT ELIMINATION

48. Competitions may be held with one or more elimination rounds by the pool system followed by a series of direct elimination bouts. The formula for the direct elimination bouts in such instances is as follows: the winner of each pool is seeded first and placed *by lot* at the head of the draw, *i.e.*, in places 1-2, or 1-2-3-4, etc.; the second ranking fencers from each pool go into places 3-4 or 5-6-7-8, also by lot; the same principle applies to the third and fourth ranking fencers from each pool. The provision of Rule 42-b shall control the pairing of fencers who have met in the previous round.



*Byes, if granted, are entered opposite the highest numbers on this table for the first round.

CHAPTER V

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS—WITHDRAWALS

(A) GENERAL PROVISIONS

50. The fundamental object of these rules is that no one may either suffer or profit by reason of the fact that a fencer has failed to complete his scheduled bouts.

51. When a contestant withdraws from a competition by reason of some cause which, in the opinion of the Bout Committee, is beyond his control, he has the right to qualification or to a prize in the final round to which his actual victories entitle him, but, if a fence-off is required, he shall be deemed to have lost the fence-off.

52. When a contestant withdraws from a competition for reasons, which, in the opinion of the Bout Committee, are not beyond his control, he shall lose all rights to qualification or to a prize in the final round, and in addition he shall be subject to such disciplinary penalties (including permanent suspension) as the appropriate Executive Committee or the national Board of Governors in their discretion see fit to impose.

(B) WITHDRAWAL DURING A BOUT

53. When a contestant withdraws *during a bout*, and at the time of withdrawal the bout is tied or he is leading in touches, the bout shall be annulled. If at the time of withdrawal, his opponent is leading in touches, the withdrawing contestant shall be considered as having lost that bout, but only that bout, without having scored any additional touches. *For example:* If in a bout for five touches between A and B, A withdraws (a) when the score is 3-3, or 3-2 in favor of A, the bout is annulled; (b) when the score is 3-2 in favor of B, B is the winner by a score of 5-2.

(C) WITHDRAWAL DURING A POOL

54. When, for any reason whatsoever, a contestant withdraws *from a pool already begun*, the Bout Committee shall determine the result of the pool according to the special regulations which follow. Nothing herein stated shall absolve the withdrawing contestant from liability to disciplinary penalties whenever applicable.

55. Upon completion of the pool from which a contestant has

withdrawn (except for that contestant's unfenced bouts), the Bout Committee shall tabulate two complete lists: *List A* shall include only those contestants who have completed all their scheduled bouts in the pool; *List B* shall include only those contestants who have not met the withdrawing contestant.

(a) Each list must classify the fencers as first, second, etc., on the basis of bouts won. Ties are resolved in the usual manner (Rule 45). *As between contestants on the same list, their relative positions as determined by this method are final.* Consequently a fencer classified as No. 2 on either list, for example, cannot finish lower than a fencer classified as No. 3 on the same list.

(b) If the withdrawal has taken place in the *final round-robin* the highest ranking contestant on *List B* is entitled to fence off for first place with the highest ranking contestant on *List A*, in case the number of bout victories scored by the latter is equal to, or not more than one full victory better than, the record of the highest ranking contestant on *List B*. Therefore, if the top-ranking contestant on *List A* has a record of bout victories which is two or more bouts better than that of the top-ranking contestant on *List B*, the latter is not entitled to the fence-off, and first place must be awarded to the top-ranking contestant on *List A*.

(c) For the determination of other places *in the final* (after first place has been determined), the fencer who remains at the head of *List B* may fence off with the fencer who remains at the head of *List A*, provided that the latter's record of bout victories is equal to, or not more than one victory better than, the record of the fencer on *List B*. However, the fence-off shall not be held if the record of the fencer on *List A* is one bout victory better than that of the fencer on *List B*, and in addition, the number of touches received and scored is such that the fencer on *List B* could not have finished higher than the fencer on *List A*, even if he had won his bout against the withdrawing contestant without receiving a single touch. Likewise, the fence-off is not necessary if the record of the fencer on *List B* is equal in bout victories to that of the fencer on *List A*, and in addition, the number of touches received and scored is such that the fencer on *List A* could not have finished higher than the fencer on *List B* even if the latter had lost his bout against the withdrawing contestant without scoring a single touch.

For example: Assume that in a final pool of 10 fencers in epee (bouts of 3 touches) the following results are obtained:

List A (Fenced all bouts)		List B (Did not fence one bout)	
1st. D	7 v.; 14 t. rec.	1st. M	6 v.; 11 t. rec.*
2d. E	5 v.; 18 t. rec.	2d. N	6 v.; 10 t. rec.*
3d. F	3 v.; 22 t. rec. 14 t. sc.	3d. P	4 v.; 19 t. rec.
4th. G	1 v.	4th. R	3 v.; 19 t. rec. 15 t. sc.
(The 10th fencer withdrew)		5th. S	3 v.; 21 t. rec.

*On List B, there was a tie in bouts for first place, so that a fence-off was necessary, and M won. Therefore M is first on List B and N is second.

SOLUTION

- (1) M now fences off with D:
- If D wins, D wins first place, M is second, and N is third.
 - If M wins, M is first. However, N now becomes the top-ranking man on List B; he might have tied D in bout victories if he had had the opportunity to fence the withdrawing contestant, and he might have finished ahead of D on touches. Therefore N is entitled to fence off with D to determine second and third places.
- (2) There is no need for a fence-off between E and P, because P has already received more touches than E; consequently P could never have finished ahead of E, even if P had won against the withdrawing contestant by 3-0. Therefore, E is fourth and P is fifth.
- (3) Also, there is no need for a fence-off between F and R, because F's touch score is such that he could never have finished ahead of R, even if the latter had lost against the withdrawing contestant by 3-0. Both F and R might have received the same number of touches (22) but R would have finished ahead of F on the basis of one more touch scored. Therefore, R is sixth.
- (4) However, for the seventh place, it is necessary to have a fence-off between F and S, because their respective touch scores are such that S's unfenced bout might have affected their respective standing in the final.
- (5) There is no doubt that G is ninth.

(d) If the withdrawal has taken place in an *eliminary round*, the same procedure shall be followed as in the final, except that it is unnecessary to hold a fence-off between two contestants from different lists if they have a sufficient number of bout victories to entitle them to qualify for the next round.

For example: Assume a pool of 12 fencers, from which 6 qualify for the next round:

List A		List B	
1st. A	9 victories	1st. T	8 victories
2d. B	7 victories	2d. U	8 victories
3d. C	6 victories*	3d. V	6 victories*
4th. D	6 victories*	4th. W	6 victories*
5th. E	2 victories	5th. X	1 victory
6th. F	1 victory		

*Relative places determined by preliminary fence-offs or count of touches

SOLUTION

(1) There is no doubt that E, F, and X are eliminated, and that A, T, U, and B must qualify (since C and D cannot finish higher than B, and only V and W have a chance to equal B's number of victories by fence-offs). Therefore, there is no need for a fence-off between T and U.

(2) Although B is certain to qualify, he must fence off with V. If V wins, V qualifies, and W is entitled to fence off with B. If now W wins, the qualifiers will be A, B, T, U, V, and W.

(3) On the other hand, if B wins over V, then C is entitled to fence off with V, and the winner automatically qualifies. If the loser is C, he must fence off with W for the sixth qualifying place; if the loser is V, he must fence off with D for the sixth qualifying place.

(4) If B loses to V in the first fence-off, but wins over W, then A, B, T, U, and V are the first five qualifiers. Then W must fence-off with C to determine the sixth place.

(D) WITHDRAWAL OF TWO OR MORE FENCERS

56. When two or more contestants withdraw *from the same pool*, the general principles described in the foregoing paragraphs shall be applicable. The object of these rules is that no one may suffer by reason of the fact that he has been prevented from completing his scheduled bouts, and that no one may profit by reason of not meeting all the opponents that he normally would have been required to meet. Therefore the following corollaries are applicable:

(a) At the conclusion of the pool (except for the unfenced bouts of the withdrawing contestants), the Bout Committee shall draw up three or more lists (each list complete as to the placement of fencers), as follows: *List A* including only those fencers who have completed *all* of their scheduled bouts, without exception; *List B* including only those fencers who have completed *all but one* of their scheduled bouts; *List C* including only those fencers who have completed *all but two* of their scheduled bouts; and so on.

(b) Every fencer who has failed to complete his bouts is entitled to fence off for a position in a pool if he might have obtained the same or a higher number of victories than the highest contestant in the other lists (for that position in the pool), unless the relative touch scores are such that a fence-off would not be permissible under Rule 55 (c) above. In this connection it must also be remembered that the relative position of fencers in the same list is final (*Rule 55a*).

(c) If no fencer has a clear-cut title to first place in the final round-robin, the Bout Committee must ascertain which one of the fencers ranked at the top of each list has actually won the greatest number of bouts; then:

EXAMPLE I
Pool of 10, Bouts for 5 touches.

Special Score Sheets											
	I (Fenced all)					II (All but one)		III (All but two)			
A	X	V.5	L.2	V.5	V.5	V.5	V.5	V.5	L.1	—	6-v.18/33*
B	L.3	X	V.5	V.5	V.5	V.5	—	L.1	—	—	5 v.16/29
C	V.5	L.3	X	V.5	V.5	L.1	L.3	V.5	L.1	L.0	4 v.30/28
D	L.2	L.1	L.1	X	V.5	V.5	L.2	—	V.5	—	3 v.27/21
E	L.1	L.1	L.1	L.2	X	V.5	V.5	—	V.5	—	3 v.28/20
F	L.1	L.0	V.5	L.2	L.3	X	V.5	—	L.2	L.0	2 v.33/18
G	L.1	L.1	V.5	V.5	L.3	L.2	X	L.0	L.0	L.0	2 v.40/17
H	L.0	—	L.1	—	—	V.5	X	L.1	V.5	WITHDREW	—
J	V.5	V.5	V.5	L.3	L.2	V.5	V.5	V.5	X	—	6 v.16/35
K	—	—	V.5	—	V.5	V.5	L.3	—	X	—	—

*This means that contestant A won 6 bouts, received 18 touches, scored 33 touches.

(1) If this fencer is on *List A*, he must fence off with the top-ranking fencer on *List B*, provided that the latter has actually won the same number of bouts, or only one less bout; and he must also fence off with the top-ranking fencer on *List C*, provided that he has actually won the same number of bouts, or only two less bouts than the fencer on *List A*. The same principle applies to *Lists D, E*, etc.

(2) If this fencer is on *List B*, he need not fence off with any fencer on *List A*, but he must fence off with the top-ranking fencer on *List C*, provided that the latter has actually won the same number or one less bout. As to fencers on *Lists D, E*, etc., the principles of the foregoing paragraph would be similarly applied.

(3) If this fencer is on *List C*, he need not fence off with any fencer on *List A* or on *List B*, but must meet the properly qualified fencer on *List D*, etc.

(d) After the fence-off for first place (between two or more fencers) has been completed the winner shall be first in the final round-robin. The results of the fence-off shall also determine the relative final position of the contestants *as between themselves*, but other fencers may be entitled to second, third, and other places, by the application of the principles of Rule 56(b) above.

(e) In the eliminatory rounds, after ascertaining the fencers who are clearly entitled to qualify (on the basis of actual victories), and those who are clearly eliminated (even counting possible victories in any unfenced bouts), the Bout Committee shall order a fence-off among the remaining contestants in the pool, and the result of the fence-off shall be conclusive.

SOLUTION TO EXAMPLE I

(1) Assume that, in a preliminary fence-off, A defeats J for top ranking on *List B*. Then A must fence off with contestant B for the first place. If A wins, he is first, and B must fence off with J for second place. If B wins the first-place fence-off, B is first, A is second, and J is third (since now J cannot place higher than A).

(2) Next, C and D (who now becomes the top-ranking fencer on *List C*) must fence off for 4th place. If C wins, he is 4th, D is 5th, and E is 6th (since E cannot place higher than D). But if D wins, he is 4th, and there must be a fence-off between C and E for 5th and 6th places.

(3) There is no need for a fence-off for 7th place, as F clearly is entitled to it on his touch score, as against G.

(4) If K's three victories entitle him to a place (e.g., in case of withdrawal because of injuries), he would follow after E. E would be deemed to have won a fence-off against K.

EXAMPLE II

Pool of 9, Bouts for 5 touches.

		Special Score Sheets								
		I (Fenced all)			II (All but one)			III (All but two)		
L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T		
X	—	—	—	V.5	L.3	—	—	V.5	WITHDREW	—
—	X	V.5	V.5	—	V.5	L.1	V.5	L.4	—	4 v. 17/25*
—	L.3	X	V.5	V.5	L.3	L.3	V.5	L.4	3 v. 27/28	—
—	L.0	L.4	X	—	V.5	V.5	V.5	L.0	3 v. 22/19	—
L.2	—	L.2	—	X	V.5	L.3	—	—	WITHDREW	—
V.5	L.3	V.5	L.3	L.4	X	V.5	V.5	L.2	4 v. 31/32	—
—	V.5	V.5	L.2	V.5	L.2	X	L.3	L.3	3 v. 27/25	—
—	L.1	L.1	L.2	—	L.3	V.5	X	V.5	2 v. 27/17	—
L.2	V.5	V.5	V.5	—	V.5	V.5	L.4	X	5 v. 23/31	—

*This means contestant M won 4 bouts, received 17 touches, scored 25 touches.

SOLUTION TO EXAMPLE II

(1) For first place a fence-off between T and M is necessary. If M loses to T he has such an advantage on touches over Q that he will be placed above the latter without an additional fence-off.

(2) A fence-off between O, Q, and N (who placed higher than R in the same list) will determine the next place with the following possibilities: (a) If the fence-off results with Q, N, and O placing in that order, then R and S fence off for 6th and 7th places; (b) If the fence-off results with N, Q, and O placing in that order, N will be 3rd but R fences off with Q for 4th and 5th places and O will be 6th with S 7th; (c) If the fence-off results with O, Q, and N placing in that order, then O will be 3rd, S will fence off with Q for 4th and 5th, N will be 6th, and R 7th; (d) If the fence-off results with O, N, and Q placing in that order, then O will be 3rd, S will fence off with N. If S wins, he is 4th, N 5th, and Q and R fence off for 6th and 7th. If N beats S, N is 4th, Q and R fence off for 5th and the loser fences S for 6th and 7th.

(E) ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES

57. The Bout Committee has the power to modify the foregoing rules governing withdrawals from a pool already begun (*Rules 54-56*) whenever, *in its opinion*, the application of these rules would result in undue delay in the time-schedule of the competition; or whenever, *in its opinion*, a possible abuse of the spirit of these rules may be involved, as for example, when the withdrawal or withdrawals, *in the Committee's opinion*, are purposely designed to affect the result of the pool to the detriment of one or more competitors. In such cases, the Bout Committee shall choose, among the following alternative procedures, the one which will least disturb the relative standing of the remaining fencers in the pool:

(a) The bouts actually fenced by the withdrawing contestant or contestants shall be annulled, and the result of the pool shall be computed only on the basis of the round-robin among the remaining fencers in the pool. This procedure should not be followed, however, if the withdrawing contestant or contestants are entitled to qualification or placement, on the basis of actual victories scored as provided above (*Rule 51*).

(b) The unfenced bouts of the withdrawing contestant or contestants shall be defaulted, and shall be scored as victories for the appropriate opponents in the pool, exactly as if the withdrawing contestant or contestants had lost such bouts without scoring a single touch.

58. Whenever either of these alternative procedures is followed, the usual method of determining the results of the pool shall prevail. However, if two or more fencers tie in bout victories for qualification or placement, and the relative touch score of the tied contestants has been affected by the annulment or default of bouts in the pool, the tie cannot be resolved by counting touches, but must be fenced off.

CHAPTER VI

TEAM COMPETITIONS—GENERAL

(A) PRELIMINARY REGULATIONS

60. For any team competition the minimum number of actually contesting teams shall be three, except when otherwise ruled in advance by the proper governing body.

61. A college, university, or secondary school may enter two teams in Novice, Junior or Intermediate team events only. Other clubs may enter two teams in all events unless announcement to the contrary has been made in advance. Members of two teams representing the same organization may not be interchanged during a competition.

(B) COMPOSITE TEAMS

62. In any competition, *composite teams* formed by unattached fencers, or by unattached fencers and fencers from one or more clubs, may be entered. However, no fencer (other than a Veteran fencing on a team composed entirely of Veterans) may fence on a composite team in any event in which his club is formally represented.

(a) Composite teams shall be so declared at the time of making entry for an event. They shall adopt a sufficiently descriptive name and furnish guarantee for the safe custody of any trophy which may be won.

(b) The Bout Committee shall refuse the entry of any composite team when, in its judgment, these conditions have not been complied with in every respect, or if such entry might be prejudicial to the best interests of fencing.

(c) Fencing on a composite team shall not render a fencer ineligible again to represent his own club during the same fencing season.

(C) TEAM MATCHES

63. Unless otherwise stated in the schedule, teams shall be composed of three competitors. In addition, each team is allowed one alternate.

(a) The names of the individual fencers on a team need not be formally filed at the time the team entry is made, but for purposes of the seeded draw should be in the hands of the Bout Committee *72 hours in advance* of the time set for the competition.

(b) Each team shall certify a team captain and he shall be the only official spokesman for the team.

(c) The captain of each team may, prior to each match, alter the composition of the team by using any three of the four members entered as a team, and the order in which the team members are to fence. Substitutions may be made between matches but not during a match (*except under Rule 76*).

(d) The *line-up* of each team for each match, and the *order* in which the individual members are to fence, shall be submitted in writing by the captain to the Bout Committee, and this information shall be confidential until the opposing team has submitted its line-up and order.

64. Official team matches in epee, foil, and sabre shall be fenced between two teams, *each team considered as an entity*. Each match shall consist of nine bouts, fenced in such manner that each of the three fencers on one team shall meet each of the three fencers on the other team, according to the order given below. The fencer first called shall take his place on the strip at the right of the director, except when the bout is between a left handed and a right handed fencer.

TEAMS OF THREE

Bout	Bout	Bout
1: A-1 vs. B-1	4: B-2 vs. A-1	7: B-3 vs. A-1
2: B-2 vs. A-2	5: A-2 vs. B-3	8: A-2 vs. B-1
3: A-3 vs. B-3	6: B-1 vs. A-3	9: A-3 vs. B-2

65. Official three-weapon team matches shall consist of one bout in each weapon. No member of a three-weapon team may fence in more than one weapon during the competition.

66. The winning team *in a match* is determined first by the number of bout victories scored by its members over the members of the opposing team. In the event that the number of victories of each team is the same, the Bout Committee shall ascertain the total of touches received by all the fencers composing each team, and the team which has received the smaller total of touches shall be declared the winner. If both teams have scored the same number of bout victories and received the same number of touches, *the match is a draw*.

67. For prize competitions and unofficial events, teams may be composed of any number of members and the contest may be organized on any basis, provided due notice is included in the schedule of events.*

*Official order of bouts for matches between teams of four and five.

TEAMS OF FOUR		TEAMS OF FIVE		
Bout	Bout	Bout	Bout	Bout
1: A-1 vs. B-1	9: B-3 vs. A-1	1: A-1 vs. B-1	9: A-4 vs. B-5	18: B-1 vs. A-3
2: B-2 vs. A-2	10: A-2 vs. B-4	2: B-2 vs. A-2	10: B-1 vs. A-5	19: A-4 vs. B-2
3: A-3 vs. B-3	11: B-1 vs. A-3	3: A-3 vs. B-3	11: A-1 vs. B-3	30: B-3 vs. A-5
4: B-4 vs. A-4	12: A-4 vs. B-2	4: B-4 vs. A-4	12: B-4 vs. A-2	21: A-1 vs. B-5
5: A-1 vs. B-2	13: B-4 vs. A-1	5: A-5 vs. B-5	13: A-3 vs. B-5	22: B-1 vs. A-2
6: B-3 vs. A-2	14: A-2 vs. B-1	6: B-2 vs. A-1	14: B-1 vs. A-4	23: A-3 vs. B-2
7: A-3 vs. B-4	15: B-2 vs. A-3	7: A-2 vs. B-3	15: A-5 vs. B-2	24: B-3 vs. A-4
8: B-1 vs. A-4	16: A-4 vs. B-3	8: B-4 vs. A-3	16: B-4 vs. A-1	25: A-5 vs. B-4
			17: A-2 vs. B-5	

Special team events may also be conducted on an individual pool basis, where each team designates a representative for each pool and the team standings are determined by the aggregate of scores made in the individual pools.

TEAM COMPETITIONS—CONDUCT

(A) ORGANIZATION

70. When four or more teams are entered, a competition may be organized on an elimination or round-robin basis throughout, or partly on an elimination basis and partly on a round-robin basis. In the final round, consisting of two, three, or four teams, the surviving teams shall fence each other to determine the winner.

(B) ELIMINATION COMPETITIONS

71. In elimination events, the team that wins a match (*see Rule 66*) is entitled to progress to the next round, and the losing team must drop out. Therefore, the match may be concluded as soon as one team has won a majority of the maximum number of bouts. However, if the result of the match is a draw (*equality of bout victories and touches*), the match must be fenced over.

(a) In elimination events, the pairing of the competing teams shall be governed by the principle of the seeded draw.

(b) In elimination events the Bout Committee is empowered to grant a sufficient number of byes in the first round to insure a two-team final. The Bout Committee is also empowered to grant such other byes as in its opinion may be necessary but no team shall receive more than one bye during a competition and no team may be given a bye into a final round of less than four teams.

(C) ROUND-ROBIN AND POOL COMPETITIONS

72. For official team competitions, the round-robin and pool methods are preferable, whenever practicable, along the general lines followed in individual events.

73. A *round-robin* or *pool* involving three or more teams consists of a number of *separate team matches*. Each match victory scored by a team over its opponents counts *one point* toward the team standing in the round-robin. A drawn match (in which the two competing teams score the same number of bout victories and touches) counts for *half a point* in the team standings. (*See Rule 66.*)

74. The relative standing of teams at the completion of a round-robin pool is determined by the number of *match points* scored. If

two or more teams have scored the same number of match points, their relative standing is determined by counting the individual *bout victories* scored by the members of each team in all matches of the round-robin. If the number of *match points* and the number of individual *bout victories* are *equal* for two or more teams:

(a) In case of bouts for one touch, the teams are absolutely tied.

(b) In case of bouts for several touches, on the other hand, the apparent tie is resolved as follows: (1) The total number of touches received by the members of each team shall be ascertained, and the team receiving the lower number of touches in all the bouts of all the matches in the round-robin shall receive the higher ranking. (2) If two or more teams are still tied after the count of touches received, the teams shall be ranked on the basis of the number of touches scored by each in all bouts of all matches in the round-robin. (3) If two or more teams are still tied after the count of touches received and scored, they are absolutely tied.

(c) If two or more teams are absolutely tied at the end of a round-robin, and it is necessary to resolve the tie, there must be a fence-off. In principle, any fence-off must take place immediately after the conclusion of the regular round-robin in which the tie occurred, but in cases where the hour is late or the competition has been exceptionally long, the fence-off may be deferred by the Bout Committee.

75. As a consequence of the foregoing rules, in any round-robin team event, *each match must be completed in full*, even if one team has already won a majority of the bouts needed for victory. Likewise, it is important that each bout of the match be fenced with the same attention and energy, as it is possible that a single touch may decide the relative standing of the teams in the round-robin. Only one exception is permitted: Once the final standing of the teams has been positively established on the basis of match victories, a match may be stopped after one team has won the requisite number of bouts.

(D) WITHDRAWALS

76. If a member of a team is disabled during a bout, or is obliged to withdraw from competition for reasons beyond his control, he may be replaced by a substitute, and the bout shall be continued as if there had been no interruption. In all other cases, his team must forfeit the remainder of his bouts in that match. (*See also Rules 33, 51 and 52.*)

(a) In case of a substitution under the preceding paragraph, a fencer substituted for in any match may be returned to the competition for any succeeding match only with the approval of the Bout Committee.

(b) When in a match a member of a contending team withdraws and no substitution is made, the results achieved up to the time of his withdrawal shall be counted, and for all other bouts which he should have fenced a defeat shall be counted against him; that is, it shall be assumed that all his remaining opponents have beaten him without themselves having been touched a single time. (See also Rule 53.)

77. When for any reason whatsoever, a team withdraws during a match, the same general rules shall be followed as in individual events. *For example:* If in a match for nine bouts between teams A and B, Team A withdraws (a) when the score is 3-3 or 3-2 in favor of A, the match is annulled; (b) when the score is 3-2 in favor of B, Team B is the winner by the official score of 7-2. Therefore, if the match is in an elimination round, Team B automatically advances; if the match is in a round-robin pool, the results of the round-robin are determined in accordance with the procedure prescribed for individual events. (See Rules 55 to 58.)

78. When a team withdraws from a competition for some reason which, in the opinion of the Bout Committee, is not beyond its control, the team and all the individual members thereof shall lose all rights to qualification or to a prize in the final round, and shall in addition be subject to such disciplinary penalties as the proper governing body may deem fit to impose.

79. When a team withdraws from a competition for reasons which, in the opinion of the Bout Committee, are beyond the team's control, the team shall be entitled to the placement earned up to the time of withdrawal, but, if a fence-off is required, it shall be deemed to have lost the fence-off.

CHAPTER VIII

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

(A) GALA TOURNAMENT

80. Certain national championship events, to be announced annually in the schedules of events, both divisional and national, shall be held in two parts: *First*, a preliminary *qualifying competition* (including one or more rounds), which shall be open to all members of the A.F.L.A. in good standing, and which shall be held severally in the various divisions of the League and in the non-divisional group. *Second*, a subsequent *championship competition* (including one or more rounds), open only to duly qualified contestants, which shall be held in the city to which the championship tournament has been awarded by the Board of Governors.

(a) At least four championship events—the men's individual Open epee, foil, and sabre, and the women's individual Open foil—shall be held in accordance with the preceding paragraph, and the championship competitions therein shall constitute the *national championship tournament*.

(b) Whenever possible, the four corresponding national team championships and the three-weapon team championship shall be held at the same time as part of the same national championship tournament.

(c) The date of the national championship tournament shall be determined at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors in September of the preceding calendar year.

(B) QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS

81. The divisional and non-divisional *qualifying competitions* for the national championship tournament events shall be held *at least one month* prior to the date set for the opening of the national championship tournament. (Note Rule 82-b.)

(a) Any member of the A.F.L.A. in good standing is eligible to qualify through his division or through the non-divisional qualifying competition. Furthermore, upon approval of the divisional Executive Committee, subject to review by the Board of Governors, a member of the A.F.L.A. may be permitted to qualify from a division other than the one of which he is a member. However, no individual who has for the same season endeavored to qualify in the non-divisional

preliminaries shall be permitted to qualify from a division, nor shall any one who has for the same season endeavored to qualify from one division be permitted to qualify from another division or from the non-divisional preliminaries.

(b) *Entries* for the qualifying competitions shall be sent to the Chairman of the Bout Committee in each division (or in the non-divisional group), according to the requirements announced in the appropriate schedule of events. (See also Rules 27, 28, and 29 above.)

82. All *qualifying competitions* for the national individual championships shall be held according to the round-robin or pool method, in one or more rounds as required by the number of contestants, in accordance with the rules governing individual competitions. When more than one round is necessary, the number of qualifiers from each pool for each round shall be at least three.

(a) In all qualifying competitions for the national individual championships, the *number of qualifiers* who will be eligible to compete in the championship tournament shall be determined by the number of fencers actually competing in the divisional or non-divisional qualifying preliminaries; as follows: (1) when there are 14 competitors or less in a weapon, four shall qualify; (2) when there are 15 to 20 competitors (inclusive), six shall qualify; (3) when there are 21 or more competitors, eight shall qualify. In other words, four shall be the minimum, and eight the maximum, that shall be allowed to qualify from any division or from the non-divisional preliminaries.

(b) In the event that the number of entries for a qualifying competition is four or less, the qualifying competition need not be held, and all entries shall automatically be qualified for the national championship tournament.

(c) Members of the Armed Forces of the United States not regularly assigned to duty at either West Point or Annapolis are permitted to qualify as representatives of the "Armed Forces at Large". In the event that the number of entries from the "Armed Forces at Large" is more than four, the national Bout Committee shall schedule a preliminary qualifying competition from which the individual qualifiers shall be determined as in the case of a division.

(d) In addition, the *three medalists* of the preceding National Championship and *all former National Champions* in each weapon shall automatically *qualify* for the championship competition, without

taking part in the qualifying competitions and without reducing the number of other qualifiers from his division. The same privilege may be extended, at the discretion of the Board of Governors, to visiting members of the F.I.E.

(e) In all *qualifying competitions*, the conditions of competition, the number of touches required for victory in a bout, and the method of determining qualifiers, *shall conform to these rules*, and to any amendments or supplementary regulations prescribed in advance by the Board of Governors.

83. Each division and the non-divisional group may qualify a maximum of four teams for each event in the Championship Tournament. Whenever more than four divisional or non-divisional teams (club or composite) signify a desire to compete in the Championship Tournament, there shall be a qualifying competition.

(a) Teams may represent either a club or a division.

(b) Composite teams shall be composed of members of the same division or the non-divisional group, and not more than one composite team may represent a division or the non-divisional group.

(c) No club shall be permitted to qualify more than one team, even though the rules may permit a club to enter two teams in the competition. (See, however, Rule 86-d.)

(d) For any national championship team events not included in the national championship tournament, where no qualifying competition is required, there is no limit on the number of teams that may be entered from each division or from the non-divisional group.

84. In addition to the regular qualifiers provided in the preceding rules, each division and the non-divisional group may determine a number of alternates who shall, in a specified order, become eligible to qualify for the national championship tournament in the event of the withdrawal of a regularly qualified contestant or team. However, no individual may be an alternate unless he has actually participated in the qualifying competition.

85. Immediately upon the completion of the qualifying competition in each weapon, the Secretary of each division shall transmit to the Chairman of the National Bout Committee, by registered mail, the following information: (a) a certified list of all the individual fencers actually taking part in the qualifying competition; (b) a certified list of the competitors entitled to qualify from that division;

(c) a certified list of alternates in each weapon, in order of placement;
 (d) a certified list of the teams authorized to represent the division, and of any possible alternate. This information must reach the Chairman of the National Bout Committee at least three weeks prior to the date set for the opening of the national championship tournament and does not constitute an official entry as required by Rule 86.

(C) CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITIONS

86. Every *qualifier* (individual or team), including former National Champions and other automatic qualifiers, who wishes to participate in the championship competitions *must file an official entry* with the Secretary of the League *at least three weeks in advance* of the date set for the opening of the championship competition. *Every entry* must be accompanied by the required entry fee.

(a) Any *alternate* who, by the withdrawal of a qualifier prior to the latter's official entry, becomes eligible to participate in the championship competitions, must file an entry in accordance with the terms of the preceding paragraph, and the entry must be accompanied by a certification of the Secretary of his division as to the withdrawal of the qualifier and the eligibility of the alternate.

(b) The maximum number of contestants from any division in the championship competitions will be fixed by the number of entries received in accordance with these rules, and the plan of competition will be drawn accordingly.

(c) *Alternates* may replace individuals or teams who have regularly entered as provided above, and who wish to withdraw, on condition that the notice of withdrawal and replacement, duly authenticated by the Secretary of the division, shall be received by the Chairman of the National Bout Committee not later than one week prior to the date set for the opening of the national championship tournament.

(d) When *team competitions* are included in the national championship tournament, a duly qualified team representing a specific club or division need not limit its composition to those fencers who actually competed on that team in the qualifying competition. However, no fencer shall be permitted to represent a club or division in the team championship competition unless he was a *bona fide* member of that club or division at the time of the qualifying team competition.

87. Unless otherwise specifically announced in the schedule, the *championship competitions*, team and individual, shall be held by the round-robin or pool method.

(a) The seeded draw in the first round of the championship competition shall be governed by the national list of Ranking Fencers. Otherwise, the usual rules apply, with the additional provision that members of the same division shall insofar as possible be separated in the eliminatory rounds, in the same manner as required for members of the same club.

(b) Unless otherwise specifically announced in the schedule, at least three fencers shall qualify from each eliminatory pool in the individual events, and the final round-robin shall consist of at least six fencers.

(c) In the event that the final round shall consist of only two fencers, the championship bout shall be fenced either for ten touches in men's events and eight touches in the women's (with a two touch advantage required for victory), or for two out of three bouts (5 touches in men's events, 4 touches for women).

(d) In the event that the final round shall consist of less than six fencers, the rules for qualification from the semi-final pools to the final round shall be amended as follows: Qualification shall be determined, without reference to touches received or given, on the basis of bout victories in the semi-final pool. If two or more fencers are tied for the last qualifying place on the basis of bout victories, there shall be a fence-off. If after a fence-off there is still a tie in bout victories, the tie shall be resolved by counting touches, but the touch score in the original semi-final pool shall be added to the touch score of the fence-off to determine the relative standing of the fencers involved.

CHAPTER IX

SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

(A) GENERAL REGULATIONS

90. *Sectional Championships* shall be inter-divisional competitions or tournaments organized and conducted, under authority of the Board of Governors of the A.F.L.A., by sectional Executive Committees composed of the Chairman or other representative of the Executive committee of each division entitled to participate therein, subject to the provisions of Chapter I of these Rules. (*See especially Rule 14-b.*)

(a) The *Pacific Coast Championships* are open to all divisions of the A.F.L.A. whose territory lies west of the Rocky Mountains.

(b) The *Southwest Championships* are open to all divisions of the A.F.L.A. within the State of Texas, and to any division in territory immediately contiguous thereto provided it requests and obtains the consent of the Southwest Executive Committee.

(c) The *Mid-West Championships* are open to divisions included in the Mid-West area, defined as follows: "That portion of the United States lying east of the Mississippi, north of the Ohio River, and west of the eastern border of the State of Ohio; provided, however, that any city, such as St. Louis, immediately contiguous to rivers of such borders shall be deemed as included in it; and provided that any division lying in territory near to the aforesaid area may, at its own request and with the consent of the Mid-West Executive Committee, be included in its jurisdiction."

(d) The *All-Eastern Championships* are open to all divisions of the A.F.L.A. whose territory lies east of the Mid-West area.

91. All Sectional championships shall be held strictly in accordance with the technical rules and conventions of fencing (*Part Three of these Rules*). The plan of organization, qualification, and competition lies entirely within the powers of the sectional Executive Committee, provided, however, that a suitable notice thereof shall be included in the announcement and schedule of events. The regulations which follow are typical of those heretofore in force for the sectional championships, but are subject to amendments as herein provided.

(B) PACIFIC COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS

92. The Pacific Coast Championships shall be held annually in the spring of each year, *at least one month* prior to the date set for

the opening of the national championship. They shall be held in the place chosen by the entertaining division.

(a) Each participating division is entitled to have the Pacific Coast Championships held within its territory according to an established system of rotation.

(b) A new division entering the Pacific Coast Championships for the first time is entitled upon request to have them held within its territory during the year it enters. If no such request is made, the new division will be placed at the bottom of the rotation list and must await its regular turn.

93. The Pacific Coast Championships include individual and team championship events as well as prize competitions, as announced in the schedule of events. Each participating division must hold qualifying competitions in each of the events to be contested at the Pacific Coast Championships.

(a) The qualifying competition may be identical with the divisional championship, but must be held during the fencing season of the Pacific Coast Championships.

(b) The number of qualifiers for individual events shall be limited to three from each division. One alternate may also be named. The defending individual Pacific Coast Champion in an Open event shall *in addition* be entitled to qualify without taking part in the qualifying competitions.

(c) Only one team in each team event may qualify from each division for the Pacific Coast Team Championships. All teams must qualify, including the defending team champions. All members of a team shall be members of the same club or division.

(d) No Pacific Coast Championship shall be held in any scheduled event unless competitors from at least two divisions actually participate.

(C) SOUTHWEST CHAMPIONSHIPS

94. The Southwest Championships shall be held annually *at least one month* prior to the date set for the opening of the National Championship tournament. They shall be held in the place chosen by the Executive Committee of the Section.

(a) Participation is limited to the divisions in the Southwest Section and to such neighboring divisions of the A.F.L.A. as may be invited at the discretion of the sectional Executive Committee.

(b) The Southwest Championships include team and individual championship events as well as prize competitions as announced in the schedule of events.

(c) No Southwest Championship shall be held in any scheduled event unless competitors from at least two divisions actually participate.

(D) MID-WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS

95. The Mid-West Championships shall be held annually *at least one month* prior to the date set for the opening of the national championship tournament.

(a) Participation is limited to the divisions in the Mid-West area, and to such divisions outside the Mid-West area as are within one day's automobile travel. Neighboring divisions may be invited as guests at the discretion of the entertaining division.

(b) Mid-West Championships are ordinarily limited to Open individual events.

(c) Team scores for each division are computed on the basis of the bouts won by the two top-scoring fencers of each division, in each round of each event, including both men and women.

(d) The time-table, numbers of qualifiers from each division, organization of events, and other pertinent regulations and information shall be announced in the schedule of events.

(E) ALL-EASTERN CHAMPIONSHIPS

96. An All-Eastern Championship tournament including Open individual events for men and women shall be held in New York or in a neighboring city, *at least one month* prior to the date set for the opening of the national championship tournament, only in those years when the national championship tournament is not held in New York or in a neighboring city.

(a) Whenever an All-Eastern Championship tournament is held, the rules of organization, qualification, etc., shall be the same as those for the national championship tournament, except as otherwise specifically announced in the schedule.

(b) Other All-Eastern Championship events and prize competitions may be held throughout the fencing season, when duly approved by the Board of Governors. For these events, the rules of organization, qualification, etc., for competitions in the national championship tournament, shall prevail except as otherwise announced in the schedule of events or as modified by the Bout Committee.

PART THREE

TECHNICAL RULES AND CONVENTIONS OF FENCING

(As adopted by the Amateur Fencers League of America in collaboration with the Intercollegiate Fencing Association and the National Collegiate Athletic Association.)

COLLABORATING RULES COMMITTEES

Intercollegiate Fencing Association

MIGUEL A. DE CAPRILES (N. Y. U.) *Chairman*

DANIEL BUKANTZ (C. C. N. Y.)

DERNELL EVERY (Yale)

FRED R. WEBER (Army)

ASA S. BUSHNELL (Princeton) *Ex officio*

National Collegiate Athletic Association

ALVAR HERMANSON (Chicago) *Chairman*

MIGUEL A. DE CAPRILES (N. Y. U.)

JOSEPH FIEMS (Navy)

RENÉ PERCY (Harvard)

CHARLES SCHMITTER (Michigan State)

PART THREE

TECHNICAL RULES AND CONVENTIONS OF FENCING

ARTICLE I

COMPETITORS, SPECTATORS, DISCIPLINE

(A) BASIC REGULATIONS

101. Every fencer engaging in competition, and every other person attending a competition in any capacity whatsoever, does so at his own risk and peril, and neither the governing organization under whose jurisdiction a competition is held, nor any organization furnishing the place where a competition is held, nor any officer, official, agent, or employee of either of the aforementioned organizations, shall be liable in any manner for any damage or injury suffered by any person as a competitor, official, attendant, or spectator at a fencing event; and the same shall apply whether or not such fencer or person shall have complied with the rules and regulations prescribed herein, and whether or not the Director or any other official or officials shall have waived strict compliance therewith.

102. The contestants and officials shall know and observe the rules. The plea of ignorance will not be accepted as an excuse.

(B) DUTIES OF CONTESTANTS

103. Each fencer, by the mere fact that he enters a competition, is in honor bound to conduct himself in a courteous and sportsmanlike manner.

104. The fencer shall obey scrupulously the orders of the Director; shall fence only with his weapon; shall observe the rules; shall respect the decisions of the jury; shall employ the same vigor and attention in each bout; and shall defend his chances to the end of the competition in a sportsmanlike manner, without giving to anyone or asking from anyone a single touch, so as to obtain the best personal classification possible, except in case of material or physical incapacity, duly verified by the Director.

105. The fencer shall not start fencing before the command "*Play*"; or continue to fence after the command "*Halt*", or after having noticed that his opponent is absolutely unable to defend him-

self as a consequence of anything which seriously modifies the normal and regular condition of combat, such as disarmament, an involuntary fall, a raised bib, displaced mask, and the like.

106. The fencer is permitted to announce aloud the receipt of a touch at the moment that he is hit, but such acknowledgment shall not preclude a different ruling by the jury. The fencer is *absolutely forbidden* to make any other gestures or communications which might influence the decision of the Jury, or to announce receipt of a touch after the decision of the Director.

107. The Director, after a single warning, is empowered to exclude from further competition any fencer whose conduct fails to meet the proper standards of courtesy and sportsmanship. Furthermore, for an offense consisting of an act or threat of physical violence (other than that occurring during a phrase), to either his opponent or any member of the jury, the offender shall be excluded from the competition immediately without warning.

108. The Director, after a single warning, shall exclude from further competition any fencer who, *in his opinion*, manifestly tries to favor the play of his opponent. He shall act likewise toward the latter if, in his opinion, the fencers are in collusion.

(C) ABSENCE OR TARDINESS

109. At the start of a competition or pool, the Director shall call the fencers or teams scheduled to compete under his jurisdiction. If at the first call a fencer or team fails to appear, or if the team is incomplete, the call shall be repeated twice at intervals of one minute. After the third call, any fencer or team who is not actually present and ready to fence may be excluded from the competition, and no appeal from this penalty shall be allowed.

110. In exceptional cases, the Bout Committee may authorize an incomplete team to start, under penalty of defaulting to the opposing team all the bouts that the absent member or members are scheduled to fence in that particular match.

111. During a competition or pool, each bout shall be clearly announced in advance, in order to afford the contestants sufficient time to get ready. After this announcement, if the fencer scheduled to compete is not available when called, he is liable to be irrevocably excluded from the event then in progress.

112. A fencer who retires from an unfinished bout, and leaves the strip, shall be immediately recalled by the Director. If then he fails to return at once, the penalty of exclusion may be irrevocably applied. Under similar circumstances, a team that retires from an uncompleted match may be excluded from the competition. In both of these cases other disciplinary penalties may be imposed.

113. However, when a fencer retires for reasons beyond his control (as for example, broken blade, disarrangement of clothing, accident, indisposition, etc.), the Director is authorized to grant such delay as may be necessary before issuing the call for the fencer's return to the strip.

(D) TEAM MEMBERS

114. At team events, the captain of each team shall be responsible to the Bout Committee for the conduct and discipline of the fencers on his team. He alone is empowered to represent the team before the Director and the Bout Committee in matters involving technical questions, protests, and appeals.

115. Members of teams are required to obey strictly any orders of their respective team captains, provided that said orders do not involve violations of specific rules of competition. To the extent that the individual members obey such orders, they shall not be held individually liable by the governing body, but the liability shall be exclusively the team captain's. On the other hand, the individual members of a team shall be held liable for any acts committed in disregard of the orders of the team captain, and for any personal violations of the rules of competition.

(E) ABNORMAL STIMULANTS

116. The use or administration of any abnormal stimulant, before or during a competition, for the purpose of rendering the athletic performance of a contestant superior to the normal, is strictly forbidden.

117. The determination of which substances constitute abnormal stimulants, and which are simply normal tonics, shall rest with a medical commission appointed by the Bout Committee.

118. Any participant, official, attendant, or spectator who know-

ingly uses, administers, or assists in the administration of such abnormal stimulants shall be immediately disqualified or expelled from the tournament, without prejudice to subsequent temporary or permanent suspension by the proper governing body.

(F) DUTIES OF SPECTATORS

119. For the purpose of these rules, the term "spectator" applies to any and all persons attending a competition who are not at the moment engaged in active participation therein, either as contestants or as members of the jury or in any other official capacity recognized by these rules.

120. Spectators are required, in the interest of safety and good order, to sit or stand at a distance of *not less than six feet* from the limits of the strip. They must not cross the field of play at any time during the course of a bout, nor in any way block the vision or impede the movement of the officials, even momentarily.

121. The spectators shall refrain from disturbing the good order of the competition; shall do nothing which would tend to influence the fencers or the Jury; shall respect the decisions of the Jury, even when they do not approve of them; and shall obey any orders that the Director thinks necessary to give.

122. Should the spectators fail to observe these rules, the Director may order the expulsion of any and all offenders, and such a measure shall not give anyone whomsoever the right of redress.

(G) JURISDICTION OF THE DIRECTOR

123. The Director in charge of a contest has jurisdiction over all the fencers who take part in, and over all persons who are present at, the contest over which he is presiding.

124. The Director has the power to determine finally all questions of fact arising under these rules in the course of the contest over which he is presiding. His decisions and findings of fact are not subject to appeal except as provided below. (*Rule 129.*)

125. The Director has the power to inflict competitive penalties for violations of the technical rules and conventions of fencing, in accordance with the provisions herein. (*See, for example, Rules 203, 318, 321, 328, 330-333, 338, 422, 423, 427, 431, 710-717, and 719-722.*)

126. The Director has likewise the power, without referring to the

other members of the Jury, to pronounce a warning, and to inflict the disciplinary penalties of *exclusion* (against the competitors) or of *expulsion* (against spectators, coaches, or trainers).

127. The Director is empowered to recommend to the Bout Committee all other disciplinary penalties which he deems advisable.

(H) PROTESTS AND APPEALS

128. Against the decisions of fact of the Director, on the subject of the materiality or validity of a touch, no protest is allowed.

129. However, if the Director, under the established facts, ignores a positive prescription of the rules, or applies the rules incorrectly, a protest is allowed. Such a protest must be made either by the fencer affected, or by the team captain, without any formality, and must be communicated verbally to the Director *immediately and before any decision is made on any subsequent touch.*

130. Appeals from the Director's decision upon a protest (when permitted) shall be taken directly to the Bout Committee *for immediate settlement* in accordance with the rules of the governing body covering such appeals.

ARTICLE II

EQUIPMENT, ARMAMENT AND APPARATUS

(A) GENERAL PROVISIONS

201. The following rules and regulations, insofar as they relate to specifications, facility in judging, or to the prevention of the acquisition in competition of an unwarranted advantage by one fencer over another, shall be strictly enforced by the Director or by any other official in authority. Insofar as these rules and regulations relate to protection against injury to contestants, they shall be deemed advisory but not mandatory upon the officials.

202. Every fencer is solely and personally responsible for his armament and equipment and for their conformity to these rules and regulations.

203. The Bout Committee, or the governing body, shall appoint a special representative whose duties shall be to test and control the armament and equipment of the competitors. He shall have the power to forbid the use of any weapon which does not conform exactly to the rules, and to forbid the participation of any fencer whose equipment appears to him inadequate. The Director is empowered to exercise the functions of this special representative whenever the occasion arises.

204. When there has been official inspection and marking of weapons prior to a competition, a fencer who appears on the strip with a weapon which has not been officially approved or which fails to conform to the regulations shall be warned and, if he repeats the offense, his weapon shall be confiscated for the duration of the contest, and he shall be subject to disciplinary penalties. However, when there has been no official inspection and marking prior to a competition, no penalty can be imposed but the fencer will not be permitted to use his defective weapon until it has been made to conform to the regulations.

205. Contestants must have available for their own personal use at least two weapons which conform to the rules. In electrical epee competitions no contestant will be permitted to fence unless he has two epees and two body cords which have been tested and approved by the Bout Committee. (See Rules 253-266 below.)

(B) COMPETITIONS WITH THE ELECTRICAL APPARATUS

206. In all official contests conducted with the electrical epee, the registration apparatus must be of a type approved by the proper governing body.

(a) Unless notice to the contrary is given in the schedule of events, all epee competitions shall be fenced with the electrical epee.

(b) If the type of apparatus to be used is of a type different than the one used in the championships of the preceding year, models shall be sent to the proper governing body *at least two months* prior to the competition. The governing body shall determine within one month whether such apparatus may be used. The apparatus must be submitted in complete form, including reels, plugs, etc., and should be accompanied by a diagram of the construction and a description of the characteristics.

(c) The approval of the apparatus by the governing body carries no guarantee against defects in construction.

(d) At least 24 hours in advance of any competition at which the electrical apparatus is to be used, the Bout Committee shall obtain a sufficient number of the machines to run the event efficiently. These apparatus shall be submitted to one or more technicians qualified to certify that the machines are in proper working order.

207. The apparatus must register, regularly and exactly, which of the competing fencers has been touched first. It must register a double touch whenever the interval between touches scored by both contestants is between *1/20 of a second* (maximum limit) and *1/25th of a second* (minimum limit). All tolerances in the apparatus must fall between these limits.

208. A thrust upon the neutralized strip or upon the metallic parts of the opponent's weapon must not register as a touch and must not prevent the registration of a touch upon the target, scored by the opponent's simultaneous thrust or by a subsequent thrust of either contestant.

209. The apparatus must not include any device which permits the Director, as distinguished from the Apparatus Manager, to interrupt its operation during the bout.

210. The female plugs of the reel wires, which receive the male plugs of the body wire at the back of each fencer, must be attached to a reliable contrivance which will insure the following:

(a) That the connection cannot be completed if the plugs are not properly joined.

(b) That disconnection of the plugs in the course of the bout will be impossible.

(c) That each contestant will be able to ascertain that the two foregoing provisions have been complied with.

211. Competitions with the electrical apparatus should, whenever possible, be conducted on insulated copper meshmats which cover the entire fencing strip and are neutralized so that hits made on the floor are not registered by the electrical apparatus.

212. If a neutralized strip is not available, the Bout Committee shall appoint ground judges for each strip, whose duty will be to assist the Director in deciding whether a hit registered by the apparatus landed on valid target or hit the floor.

(c) PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

(1) *General*

213. The equipment of the fencers includes the uniform, or other covering for the body, including arms and legs; the shoes; the glove; the mask; and any other contrivances for use in competitions, exhibitions, etc. The fencer shall have the maximum protection compatible with the freedom of movement indispensable for fencing.

214. The fencer's equipment shall be of such construction and design that his opponent shall not be wounded or annoyed by it, nor shall the opponent's weapon be caught or deviated by it. Therefore, the equipment shall not have any buckle or opening which could, in normal actions, catch the opponent's point.

215. The visibility of touches shall be facilitated by the equipment as much as possible. The material of which the equipment is made shall not have a smooth surface across which the points (*pointe d'arrêt*) or button of the adversary may slip. Therefore, the use of glazed materials, silk, atlas, and the like, is prohibited.

(2) *Costume*

216. The entire costume or uniform, both for men and for women, shall be white and shall be made of strong material. It must fully cover the neck, the trunk, the arms, and the legs of the fencer and must include a triple thickness of the same or heavier material under the armpit.

217. In all men's events the jacket must include a cuisard which will cover the groin.

218. For foil, the shoulder seams should correspond to the attachment lines of the arms to the shoulders.

219. For women the equipment shall include a jacket so cut that it entirely covers the valid target, a breast protector made of metal or some other rigid substance, and either loose white trousers fastened anywhere below the knee, or the divided skirt.

(3) *Mask*

220. The bib of the mask, and for epee and sabre, all parts of the mask liable to come in contact with the opponent's blade (mesh, reinforcements, straps, and bib), and the outside surface of the visor (which, if used, must always be placed within the mask) must be white or very light *ecru* in color. On the other hand, the inside surface of the mesh, reinforcements, straps, bib, and visor, may be of any color whatsoever.

221. For foil, the mask shall be so shaped that the lower part shall not extend more than 20 mm. (0.787") below the chin. For sabre, the mask should be well padded on the inside.

222. For all weapons, the mask shall be provided with a bib sufficiently large and strong to prevent all accidents.

(4) *Glove and Elbow Guard*

223. All gloves must include a cuff sufficiently long to cover effectively the cuff of the jacket and prevent the passage of a blade into the sleeve at the wrist.

(a) For epee, the glove must be of strong material.

(b) For foil, the glove may be lightly padded. The use of enormous gloves constituting a shield, and of large cuffs, which in a measure may also shield the target, is prohibited.

(c) For sabre, neither the hand nor the cuff of the glove may be of hard or polished leather which might cause the opponent's blade to slip.

224. For sabre, the elbow-guard may be of hard or polished leather.

(D) STANDARD EPEE

(1) *General Specifications*

225. All kinds, types, or models of epees are authorized, provided that they conform to the specifications.

226. The weapon shall be so constructed that it cannot wound either the user or his opponent.

227. The total weight of the epee, ready for use, shall be less than 770 grams (27.160 oz.).

228. The total, over-all length of the epee, measured in a straight line from the tip, or the forward end of the points (*pointe d'arret*) to the extreme end of the pommel, shall be less than 1,100 mm. (43.307").

(2) *The Blade*

229. The blade shall be triangular in section, but may be channeled. It shall not cut or whip, nor shall it be too rigid. It shall have a uniform taper and be as straight as possible. The deflection of a blade not perfectly straight shall be less than 10 mm. (0.394"), and shall be permitted only in the vertical plane.

230. The blade shall be mounted with the widest surface uppermost.

231. The length of the blade, measured from the tip, or the forward end of the points (*pointe d'arret*) to the point where the blade joins the tang at the convex surface of the guard shall be less than 900 mm. (35.433").

232. The maximum width of each face of the blade shall be less than 24 mm. (0.944"), and the blade shall have no abrupt projections.

(3) *The Mounting*

233. The mounting comprises the tang (made with the blade proper); the guard; the padding; the handle, barrel, or grip (meaning the part of the hilt which alone is intended to be held by the hand); the pommel or locking nut; the quillons or cross-bar, if any; and the strap, attachment, or martingale.

234. The mounting at all points shall not have a diameter larger than that of the guard, and shall be able to pass through the same gauge as the guard, though it need not pass through in any particular direction.

235. The diameter of this gauge shall be 135 mm. (5.415"), and its thickness shall be between 5 mm. (0.197") and 50 mm. (1.968").

236. Off-center mountings are permitted, but the eccentricity shall be less than 35 mm. (1.378"), measured from the center of the guard to the nearest point of the junction of the blade or tang with the guard.

237. Any imaginable system of mounting, with or without transverse bars, longitudinal bars, swellings, crosses, notches, grooves, bands, straps, martingales, pommels, locking nuts, pistol grips, imprints for the hands or fingers, handles moulded to the shape of the hand, etc., separately or conjointly, shall be allowed at the wish and risk of the contestant, provided that it conforms to the rules designed to keep all mountings on an equal footing by preventing any irregularity prohibited in the following rules:

(a) The weapon shall not be transformed either openly or by concealment, permanently or temporarily, into a throwing weapon;

(b) The effective length of the weapon shall not be unduly increased—either openly or by concealment, permanently or temporarily—while maintaining the fencer's ability to handle the weapon with strength, security, and authority, substantially equal to that which may be obtained by holding the weapon normally, that is, near the internal surface of the guard.

(c) The hand and wrist of the fencer shall not be given protection superior to that normally afforded by a guard (off-center or not) which has the maximum diameter and depth permitted in the rules.

(4) *The Guard*

238. The guard shall be the only part of the mounting which normally protects the hand and wrist of the fencer. It shall have an outside convex or conical surface sufficiently smooth so that it cannot catch the point of the opponent, but it shall not be too brilliant. It shall not have a projecting rim.

239. The diameter of the guard shall be less than 135 mm. (5.415").

240. The curve and depth of the guard shall be between 30 mm. (1.181") and 55 mm. (2.165").

(5) *The Padding*

241. The padding of the inside surface of the guard shall be less than 20 mm. (0.787") in thickness and shall not be designed or ad-

justed in such a way that it increases the protection to the hand afforded by the guard.

(6) *The Hilt*

242. The total length of the hilt, including the handle or grip and the pommel or locking nut, shall be less than 232 mm. (9.134"), measured from its point of contact (or from the intersection of its axis if there is no contact) with the inner surface of the guard to the extreme rear end of the weapon.

243. All types of hilts, handles, and grips, shall be permitted, but, in order to put the various mountings on a plane of absolute equality, all must comply with the following conditions:

(a) The part of the hilt which has a roughened surface and provides a firm grasp for the hand of the fencer shall have a total length of less than 180 mm. (7.087"), and may be shaped in any way that affords a good grasp to the hand. Usually, the said 180 mm. (7.087") includes only the grip or handle, while the pommel or locking nut, which normally has for its function the counterbalancing and not the increase of the effective length of the weapon, has a form and surface not permitting a firm grasp by the hand of the fencer. However, the said 180 mm. (7.087") may, if the fencer desires, include the entire hilt, in the case of a short grip or handle and a pommel, the latter having a form and surface permitting a firm grasp. Thus, for example, a hilt comprising a handle or grip of 158 mm. (6.220") and a pommel of 20 mm. (0.787") having a rough surface and a form permitting a firm grasp shall be allowed, since the entire hilt has a length of less than 180 mm. (7.087").

(b) No part of the hilt at a distance between 180 mm. (7.087") and 232 mm. (9.134") from the inner surface of the guard (if such parts exist) shall have either a form or surface permitting that the weapon be thereby held firmly and easily in the fingers or palm of the hand. Such parts (usually the pommel or locking nut) are for the single purpose of counterbalancing the weapon. This provision governs only the construction of the weapon; it does not forbid the holding of the weapon by this part of the hilt provided its construction conforms to the rules.

(c) The mounting shall not include any contrivance which permits the fencer to slide his hand along the hilt during a thrust and catch it again by the extreme end of the pommel.

(d) The mounting shall not include any contrivance which may in any manner whatsoever increase the protection afforded by the guard to the hand or wrist of the fencer. The *quillons* or transverse bars shall in no case project beyond the guard.

244. In addition to the foregoing, if the mounting includes a contrivance or combination of contrivances which fixes the location of the hand upon the hilt, it shall be one which satisfies the two following conditions:

(a) The contrivance or combination of contrivances shall fix and determine one, *and only one*, position for the hand in holding the weapon by the hilt.

(b) When the hand is placed upon the hilt in the one and only position fixed by the use of the contrivance or combination of contrivances, the end of the fully extended thumb shall be at a distance of less than 20 mm. (0.787") from the inner surface of the guard.

245. Among the contrivances limited under the preceding rule are included the following:

(a) A hilt sufficiently rough or uneven to prevent the slipping or displacement of the hand;

(b) A hilt coated with wax, pitch, or any similar substance;

(c) A glove, the inner surface or palm of which is coated with wax, pitch, or any similar substance.

(d) Any other contrivance, such as a pocket or pad, which permits clamping or wedging the hilt, or which increases the power of grasping the weapon beyond that obtained by using the ordinary glove.

(7) *Attachments and Martingales*

246. All kinds of straps, thongs, and similar attachments, used separately or conjointly, are permitted provided that they conform to the following conditions:

(a) They shall compel the fencer to keep his hand near the guard so that the end of his fully extended thumb shall be at a distance of less than 20 mm. (0.787") from the inner surface of the guard.

(b) They shall not form loops in which the opposing weapon may catch.

(c) They shall not protect either the hand or wrist, nor be made of any material which might cause the opposing point to slip.

247. The martingale is obligatory if the weapon is not otherwise bound to the hand or arm. The martingale consists of a cord or

string which loosely attaches the weapon to the hand in such manner as to prevent possible injury to anyone else in case of disarmament.

(8) *Buttons and Points (Pointes d'Arret)*

248. All models and types of points (*pointes d'arret*) are permitted provided that they conform to the following conditions:

(a) The point (*pointe d'arret*) used with the standard epee shall have three prongs.

(b) There shall be under the point a metal button forged with the blade. The surface of this button shall be flat. If square, its sides shall be at least 5 mm. (0.197") long. If round, its diameter shall be at least 6 mm. (0.236").

(c) The total length of the point including the supporting button, shall be less than 20 mm. (0.787").

(d) The maximum length of the prongs of the point shall be less than 5 mm. (0.197").

(e) The effective or uncovered length of the prongs of the point shall be less than 2 mm. (0.079").

(f) The outer surface of the prongs of the point shall be parallel.

(g) The diameter of the cylinder circumscribing the prongs of the point shall be between 6 mm. (0.236") and 8 mm. (0.315").

249. In order that the multiple prongs of the point (*pointe d'arret*) may not act as a punch or gouge, the space between the effective parts of any two consecutive prongs shall be at least twice the volume of the effective part of one of the prongs. The space between the prongs, from the base up to within 2 mm. (0.079") of the tip, shall be filled with waxed thread or other soft material forming a plug or pad.

(9) *Coloring Matter*

250. The use of coloring matter for the purpose of facilitating the judging of touches is authorized, provided that such coloring matter be of such consistency and be applied in such a manner that only those touches which arrive clearly with the point shall leave any mark, while flat hits shall leave no mark whatsoever. A red marking fluid, soluble in vinegar or other weak acid, is preferred for use as coloring matter.

(E) ELECTRICAL EPEE

(1) *General Provisions*

251. Each fencer is responsible for his personal electrical armament which consists of the electrical epee and the body wire. He should ascertain, sufficiently in advance of a competition, whether or not his armament is in proper working order.

252. The Bout Committee shall provide for the testing of weapons and body wires before the beginning of each competition.

253. The Bout Committee shall determine the manner in which epees, including the method of affixing the points (*pointe d'arret*), shall be tested for compliance with these rules. It is empowered to change any device which in its opinion does not comply with the rules.

254. If an electrical weapon offered for testing is found unsatisfactory and impossible of repair or modification which would make it conform with the rules, the Bout Committee is empowered to confiscate it for the duration of the contest.

255. If a contestant is compelled to stop during a competition because of defects in or damage to his electrical armament, and of lack of reserve armament, he may be required to withdraw or continue fencing at his own risk and expense with armament rented to him by the Bout Committee.

256. The specifications for the electrical epee are the same as for the standard epee except for the additions and modifications prescribed by the rules which follow.

(2) *The Point (Pointe d'Arret)*

257. The point (*pointe d'arret*) has two main parts: the movable tip which may contain three or four prongs; and the fixed base hereinafter called the body. Any light alloy which bends easily, and steel which is too brittle, are forbidden in the construction and attachment of the electrical point.

258. The external surface of the prongs of the point must be cylindrical in shape, with a diameter between 6 mm. (0.236") and 8 mm. (0.315"). This diameter may not under any circumstances be larger than the diameter of the body of the point. The ridge which connects the adjoining prongs of the point must be rounded for at least one-half of their length.

259. The movable tip of the point must be attached to the body by two diametrically opposed set screws installed in such manner that they do not prevent the movable tip from complying with Rule 261.

260. The pressure required to be exerted upon the movable tip of the point before the apparatus registers a touch must be more than 750 grams (26.455 ounces); that is, such a weight must be supported by the spring of the point.

261. The movable tip of the point must recede a minimum of 1 mm. (0.039") before contact is made with the electrical circuit so as to cause the registration of a touch. Beyond this point the possible recession must not exceed 0.5 mm. (0.020").

262. The body of the point must be fixed securely to the blade so as to insure safety in every respect. The best methods are those which preserve the customary flat surface at the tip of the blade, or which utilize special blades ending in a cylindrical tip threaded to receive the body of the electrical point. However, the attachment of the body by screwing it on blades which have been cut and threaded is also authorized, on condition that the following requirements are strictly complied with; and subject to the provision that any weapon not so complying, no matter how carefully constructed, shall be barred:

(a) The attachment must be made directly in contact with the steel of the blade. No attachment with insulating material (such as fibre) upon the steel is permitted.

(b) All soldering or brazing operations which might possibly affect the temper of the blade are forbidden. However, a highly fusible tin alloy, applied with a soldering iron, may be used to secure the wires.

(c) The tip of the blade cannot at any point be thinner than 3.5 mm. (0.138").

(d) The diameter of the root of the threaded portion of the tip of the blade, where the threading method is employed, must be at least 2.6 mm. (0.102"). The threading must be very close (*International Standard Thread* 3.5×0.6 mm. or *U. S. equivalent #6-40*).

(e) The thread at the tip of the blade must be at least 6 mm. (0.236") in length and must be completely covered by the body of the button.

(f) The groove necessary for the passage and protection of the wires must be cut in such fashion as to avoid as far as possible any weakening of the section of the blade.

(3) *The Body Wire*

263. An amphenol connection is standard for competitions in the United States. The male plug at the end of the body wire which connects with the female plug of the reel of the apparatus must conform either to the United States standard (amphenol) or to the International standard (flat three-pronged plug). Reels made in the U. S. have a female amphenol connector (number 91-MC3F). Fencers equipped with the International standard must provide themselves with an "adapter" so as to effect connection.

(a) A three-prong male amphenol connector (number 91-MC3M) is required on the end of the body wire which attaches to the reel. The prongs are clearly numbered one, two and three. Prong number one must be electrically connected with the guard of the weapon; prongs number two and three must be electrically connected with the point (*pointe d'arret*).

(b) The International standard is a flat three-pronged connection in which the two external prongs must be at distances of 20 mm. (0.787") and 15 mm. (0.591") respectively from the central prong. The prong at a distance of 20 mm. must be electrically connected with the guard of the weapon; the other prongs must be connected directly with the point.

(4) *The Guard*

264. The internal surface of the guard must be so arranged as to render it impossible for the fingers of the fencer to be in contact with the wires while he is fencing.

265. Any permissible connection or other matter protruding outside the cup of the guard must be of such material, or so covered, that a touch will register thereon. (*See Rules 237-c and 243-d.*)

(5) *Resistance of Circuits*

266. The electrical resistance of the live circuit of the epee, measured from prong to prong with the point (*pointe d'arret*) depressed, must not be greater than 3 ohms; the resistance of the ground circuit, measured from any point of contact on the blade or guard to the grounding prong of the epee must not be greater than 2 ohms.*

*The following is suggested for proper assembling and maintenance of the electrical epee circuit: (1) the external surface of the guard and the

(F) FOIL

(1) *General Specifications*

267. The specifications for the foil are the same as for the standard epee, as above stated, substituting the word "foil" for the word "epee", except for the differences prescribed in the following rules.

268. The total weight of the foil, ready for use, shall be less than 500 grams (17.637 oz.).

(2) *The Blade*

269. The blade shall be of rectangular or square cross-section. It may be very flexible, provided it is not too whipping.

(3) *The Guard and Mounting*

270. The guard shall have a maximum diameter of less than 120 mm. (4.724"), which is to say that it must be able to pass through a circular gauge 120 mm. (4.724") in diameter. The guard need not be circular in shape, and may be a "figure-eight", or double loop, provided that the front face of the latter is covered with leather, and that the construction is of such character that it is impossible for the opponent's point to be caught in it.

271. Eccentric (*off-center*) mountings are prohibited.

272. Binding the wrist and hand of the fencer to the hilt of the weapon, even with a long leash, is authorized. In default of a strap or other binding, the martingale is obligatory.

(4) *The Button*

273. The tip of the foil must be blunt and flat, forming a button forged with the blade. This button, if square, must have sides approximately 5 mm. (0.197") long, or if round, its diameter shall be approximately 6 mm. (0.236").

274. The tip or button of the foil must be covered with adhesive tape or other soft material forming a pad.

275. Except upon specific authorization and announcement of the proper governing body, the use of the *pointe d'arret* with the foil is strictly prohibited.

surfaces of the contacts should be thoroughly de-oxidized; (2) care should be taken not to destroy the insulation of the wires, especially where they pass along the groove in the blade at the points and the guard; (3) avoid accumulations of glue or similar substances in the groove of the blade.

(5) *Coloring Matter*

276. Coloring matter or special marking buttons are prohibited except when specifically authorized by the proper governing body and duly announced in advance. In any case such marking systems must be so arranged that only those touches which arrive clearly with the point shall leave any mark, while flat hits shall leave no mark whatsoever.

(G) SABRE

(1) *General Specifications*

277. The specifications for the sabre are the same as for the standard epee, as above stated, substituting the word "sabre" for the word "epee," except for the differences prescribed in the following rules:

278. The total weight of the sabre, ready for use shall be less than 500 grams (17.637 oz.).

279. The total over-all length of the sabre shall be less than 1,050 mm. (41.338").

280. Sabres of abnormal or extraordinary construction are forbidden.

(2) *The Blade*

281. The blade shall have a maximum length of 880 mm. (34.646").

282. The minimum width of the blade (between the two cutting edges) shall be at the tip or button, and shall be at least 5 mm. (0.197").

283. The minimum thickness of the blade, just below the tip or button shall be at least 1.2 mm. (0.047").

284. Blades which are too stiff or too whipping are prohibited.

285. The blade shall be as straight as possible. If a curvature exists, it is permitted only in the direction in which the blade naturally bends when a point touch is scored. Such curvature shall be apparent, continuous, and of not more than 40 mm. (1.575") deflection. No curvature is permitted if it constitutes a hook near the tip of the blade, or if it exists on the horizontal plane of the cutting edges.

(3) *The Guard*

286. The guard shall be smooth, solid, and of one piece. It shall present a continuous convex surface, without projecting edges and without any holes sufficiently large to catch the point of the opponent.

287. The width of the guard in the plane of the cutting edges of the blade shall not exceed 150 mm. (5.905") and its width perpendicular to this plane shall not exceed 140 mm. (5.512"). In other words, the entire guard shall be able to pass through a rectangular gauge 150 mm. (5.905") by 140 mm. (5.512"), the flat of the blade being parallel to the 150 mm. sides.

(4) *The Button*

288. The tip or button shall be forged with the blade, and shall be rounded (*See also Rules 282 and 283*). The tip or button must be covered with adhesive tape or other soft material forming a pad. The use of *pointes d'arret* is strictly prohibited.

ARTICLE III

THE BOUT

(A) GENERAL PROVISIONS

301. The Director is in full charge of the bout. He alone is empowered to give the commands which control the actions of the fencers ("*On Guard*", "*Play*", "*Halt*", etc.), except that any member of the Jury is permitted to call "*Halt*" if he believes that there has been an accident, or that conditions exist which might lead to an accident.

302. The contestants are placed "on guard" by the Director in accordance with the ground rules (*Rules 411 to 421*).

303. Once the contestants are on guard, the Director shall ask "*Ready?*", and upon affirmative reply by each fencer shall give the order to begin, "*Play!*"* If either contestant makes no reply, the Director may assume that he is ready to fence and give the command to play.

304. The moment the command to play is given, the contestants may begin the attack.

305. Any action which starts or arrives before the command to play must be annulled.

306. Each bout comprises several periods of combat. Each period of combat begins with the command "*Play*" and ends with the command "*Halt*", except as the bout may otherwise be halted as a result of exceptional circumstances which modify the normal and regular conditions of combat (e.g., the incapacity of the opponent to defend himself as mentioned above, *Rule 105*).

307. A new action shall not be started after the command "*Halt*", or after a halt for the above-mentioned exceptional reasons, but one already started may be carried to completion. Thus, if a simple action resulting in a hit on the target is started before the command "*Halt*" or before the fencer has had time to realize the incapacity of his opponent, the touch shall be valid even though it arrives after the bout has been halted. Any subsequent action is invalid.

308. If one of the fencers stops before the command "*Halt*" and is immediately touched, the touch shall be valid. However, in excep-

*The order to begin may also be given as "*Fence!*" or other equivalent expression.

tional circumstances, if he stops in good faith and a sufficient interval without action elapses, the Director has the power to decide that the touch shall not be scored.

309. The command "*Halt*" shall be applicable not only when the sequence of play (*phrase d'armes*) is normally at an end (*Rules 902 and 903*), but also whenever the play of the fencers is dangerous or contrary to the rules, or if one of the fencers goes off the strip, or in retreating comes too close to the spectators or the Jury.

(B) METHODS OF FENCING

310. The contestants may fence as they please, and at their own risk and peril, provided that they observe the fundamental rules of fencing and the characteristics of the weapon.

311. Every bout must preserve the character of a courteous and sportsmanlike encounter.

312. All methods and systems of combat, including drawing back and displacing the body, crouching, rotating, pivoting or side-stepping, turning, etc., are allowed, and the unarmed hand may come in contact with the ground.

313. The normal running attack (*fleche*), executed without a clinch (*corps-a-corps*), even if it involves running beyond the opponent, is not forbidden. However, the Director shall not call "*Halt*" so soon as to cause the opponent to lose his right to riposte. Furthermore, if the contestant executing the running attack crosses the lateral boundaries of the strip, he must be penalized in accordance with the ground rules (*Rules 427-431*).

314. All acts of violence (such as a running attack which ends in a collision, hits delivered with brutal force, or sabre cuts intentionally delivered on parts of the body which do not constitute the target) are absolutely forbidden.

(C) CHARACTERISTICS OF EACH WEAPON

315. The epee and foil are thrusting weapons only. Touches can be scored only with the point (*Rules 702 and 809*).

316. The sabre is a thrusting, cutting, and counter-cutting weapon. Consequently touches may be scored with the point or with either of the cutting edges (*Rules 810-814*).

317. With all weapons, defensive actions must be effected exclusively with the guard and blade, separately or together.

(D) HANDLING OF THE WEAPON

318. The weapon must not be transformed, either openly or by concealment, into a throwing weapon. The hand must not leave the hilt, or slide along it, during a thrust, either with or without the aid of a special contrivance (*Rule 237*). Violation of this rule shall be punished by the annulment of any scoring action by the offending fencer, and, after a single warning, by the award of a touch to his opponent for each subsequent offense during the same bout.

319. Holding the pommel in the palm of the hand is permitted, even if the hilt or handle is of maximum length, provided that the hilt and glove conform strictly to the specifications (*Rules 242-247*). While the effective length of the weapon is thus increased, the fencer partially sacrifices control of his weapon, particularly on the defensive, so that the irregularity prohibited in *Rule 237(b)* does not exist.

320. The weapon shall be handled with one and the same hand during the course of a bout, unless the Director expressly authorizes a change of hands because of injury to the sword hand or arm.

321. The use of the unarmed hand or arm, either in offense or defense, is prohibited. Violation of this rule shall be punished by the annulment of any scoring action by the offending fencer, and, after a single warning, by the award of a touch to his opponent for each succeeding offense during the same bout. (*But note Rule 312.*)

322. If the weapon is not otherwise bound to the hand or arm, the use of a martingale is obligatory. For the electrical epee the body wire, if securely attached, may take the place of the martingale.

(E) INFIGHTING

323. Infighting (*combat at close quarters*) exists when the contestants have their guards in contact, when the guard of one fencer touches any part of the body of his opponent, when the arms or legs of the two fencers touch each other, or when the trunks of their bodies are momentarily in contact.

324. Infighting shall be permitted only as long as it conforms to the rules which define and govern normal and regular combat, with the weapon and the weapon alone, handled with one hand, as previously provided.

(F) THE CLINCH (CORPS-A-CORPS)

325. The clinch (*corps-a-corps*) exists when the contestants, after infighting or after having passed (even though momentarily) through a phase of infighting, meet and remain in contact by the desire of one or both without being able to separate or use their weapons in a manner conforming to the rules which define and govern combat with the weapon only, handled with one hand.

326. The clinch (*corps-a-corps*) shall not be prolonged. As soon as it is clearly evident that a clinch exists, the Director shall stop the bout.

327. In epee, the contestant who either by running attacks (*fleches*) or by vigorous attacks, occasions several clinches (*corps-a-corps*) in succession—without violence or unnecessary roughness—does not violate any fundamental conventions of fencing and is not guilty of any irregularity.

328. In foil and sabre, when a fencer *systematically* provokes the clinch (*corps-a-corps*), even though without unnecessary roughness, he shall be warned and thereafter penalized one touch for each repetition of the offense in the same bout. This rule is equally applicable to any running attack (*fleche*) which ends in a clinch.*

(G) RUNNING ATTACKS (FLECHES)

329. The Director must distinguish between running attacks (*fleches*) which end in a clinch (*corps-a-corps*), and running attacks which terminate in a collision which jars the opponent. The latter are classified as unnecessary roughness in all three weapons and are severely punished (*Rule 333*).

(H) DANGEROUS PLAY AND UNNECESSARY ROUGHNESS

330. The Director, after a single warning in the course of a bout, shall exclude any fencer who, either by his method of play or by movements or displacements of his body, continues to endanger his opponent, the Jury, or the spectators.

331. A fencer who commits a vindictive act (such as brutal hit with any weapon, or a deliberate sabre cut upon parts of the body not included in the target), or who during infighting intentionally

*In I.C.F.A. and N.C.A.A. competitions the warning shall be given on the first offense.

strikes his opponent with the guard, hilt, or pommel, shall be immediately penalized one touch; and upon repetition of the offense *during any part of the competition* shall be irrevocably excluded from further participation.

332. A fencer who provokes the clinch (*corps-a-corps*) with unnecessary roughness, or who intentionally throws himself violently upon his opponent, shall immediately be warned; and upon intentional repetition of the offense *during the same pool* or group of bouts shall be excluded from the competition.

333. In all weapons, the running attack (*fleche*) ending in a collision which jostles or jars the opponent is considered as an act of unnecessary roughness. If a touch is scored by the contestant making the running attack, before a warning has been given, the touch shall be awarded but a warning shall be given; if a warning has already been given, the touch must be annulled and the offender shall be penalized one touch if the collision is unintentional, or excluded from the competition if the collision is deemed intentional; in any case the warning remains in force *during the entire pool*.

(I) BOUTS WITH THE ELECTRICAL EPEE

334. In bouts with the electrical epee, as a general rule and always whenever a fencer or his team captain requests it, the Director shall, before giving the command "*On Guard*" for each new bout, examine the condition of the point (*pointes d'arret*) as to its resistance to a weight of 750 grams and as to its recession before a touch is registered. If the Director is in doubt as to the conformity of the point to the rules, he shall order a formal re-testing of the weapon in question.

335. An Apparatus Manager shall be in charge of the electrical apparatus and shall notify the Director, even during the course of a bout, of any abnormality in the functioning of the apparatus.

336. The Director shall at any time on his own initiative, or when asked to do so by a contestant, order necessary tests made to verify the proper operation of the electrical apparatus. He shall prevent the competitors from interfering with or confusing the examination by the testing or changing of weapons unless he authorizes them to do so.

337. Each time that the Director may deem it advisable, and whenever either contestant shall request it, he shall consult the experts upon the operation of the electrical apparatus.

338. However, if a contestant interferes with the course of the competition by repeated and unfounded requests for testing of the apparatus or armament, or for consultation of the experts, the Director is empowered to ignore his requests and finally, after one warning, to penalize him by awarding to his opponent one touch for each subsequent offense.

ARTICLE IV

GROUND RULES

(A) SPECIFICATIONS

(1) *Surface*

401. The ground shall have a good surface. It shall give neither advantage nor disadvantage to either contestant, particularly with regard to slope and light. The part of the ground used for combat is called the strip.

402. Official championships, unless specifically otherwise announced in the schedule of events, shall be held indoors on linoleum or cork mats.

403. The use of a neutralized strip is recommended for all official contests with the electrical epee.

404. Outdoor epee and sabre competitions shall be held on firm ground (asphalt, level soil, pavement, etc.).

405. Any authorized deviation from the foregoing rules in the case of specific competitions must be duly announced in the schedule of events.

(2) *Dimensions*

406. The official strip is *obligatory for championship events*. The width of the official strip shall be between 1.8 m. ($5'10\frac{7}{8}"$) and 2 m. ($6'6\frac{3}{4}"$). The length of the official strip shall be 12.2 m. (40').

407. In order to provide an even and unbroken ground surface to a retreating fencer who crosses the rear limit of the official strip, it is required that the material or surface of the mat be extended beyond the dimensions of the official strip a distance of 2 m. ($6'6\frac{3}{4}"$) at each end.

408. For any authorized competition other than championship events the minimum width of the strip shall be 91.44 cm. (3') and the minimum length shall be 9.144 m. (30'). (*But see Rules 422, 423, and 424.*)

(3) *Markings*

409. The official A.F.L.A. strip shall be marked by drawing five parallel lines across the width of the strip, each 1" wide: (a) the center line, dividing the strip in the middle; (b) two "on guard" lines, one on each side, drawn at a distance of 2 m. ($6'6\frac{3}{4}"$) from

the center; (c) two "warning" lines, one on each side, drawn at a distance of 1 m. ($3'3\frac{3}{8}"$) from the end of the official strip.

410. An *alternative* system of marking the strip is permitted, in accordance with the rules of the I.C.F.A. and the N.C.A.A. It consists of three parallel lines across the width of the strip: (a) the center line 1" wide dividing the strip in the middle; (b) two "visual warning" lines each 10 cm. (4") wide and 3.05 m. (10') from its respective end of the official strip. Two additional "on guard" lines, each 2 m. ($6'6\frac{3}{4}"$) from the middle, are optional; where used they should be short and less than 1" wide.

(B) CONTESTANTS' PLACES

411. At the beginning of the bout the fencer first called on the official order of bouts shall place himself on the right of the Director unless the bout is between a left-handed and a right-handed fencer.*

412. In bouts for several touches, held indoors, the contestants shall change positions on the strip after one of the fencers has scored half or a majority of the maximum number of touches required (i.e., three in a five-touch bout, two in a four-touch or three-touch bout, etc.).

413. In bouts for several touches, held outdoors, the contestants shall change positions on the strip after each touch.

414. As an exception of the foregoing rules, in electrical epee competitions the contestants shall retain their positions on the strip throughout the bout unless the Director rules otherwise.

(C) GOING ON GUARD

415. At the beginning of the bout the contestants shall go on guard in such a way that the front foot of each is 2 m. ($6'6\frac{3}{4}"$) from the center line of the strip.

416. At all times in the bout when the command "*On Guard*" is given the contestants shall go on guard midway between the sides of the strip.

417. After every valid touch, whether awarded as a result of a score or as a penalty, the contestants shall be put on guard at the center of the strip in the same manner as at the beginning of the bout.

*This rule is mandatory, so as to compensate possible variations in light, footing, or the functioning of the electrical apparatus.

418. The ground gained is held until a touch is awarded. If the bout is halted, but no touch is awarded by the Director, the contestants shall go back on guard each approximately 2 m. ($6'6\frac{3}{4}"$) from the point where the action was stopped. Each fencer shall lose the same distance, except as provided below.

419. When the bout has been stopped because of a clinch (*corps-a-corps*) the fencers shall be put on guard in such manner that the fencer who has stood his ground shall remain where he was.

420. When the official strip markings are used, a fencer shall not be placed back on guard behind the warning line if he were in front of it at the suspension of the bout; and he shall not lose ground if he were behind the warning line at the suspension of the bout.

421. When the alternative (I.C.F.A. and N.C.A.A.) strip markings are used, and the bout has been stopped, a fencer who is within 1 m. ($3'3\frac{3}{4}"$) of the end of the strip, shall not lose ground when going back on guard. In all cases, a fencer shall be put back on guard in such manner that both his feet are inside the limits of the official strip.

(D) OFF THE STRIP-END

422. In foil, when a retreating fencer crosses the rear limit of the official strip with both feet, he shall be penalized one touch.

423. In epee and sabre, each contestant is allowed to retreat a distance twice as long as in foil. Consequently, when a retreating fencer crosses the end of the official 40' strip with both feet, the bout shall be stopped and the fencers brought back to the center of the strip. If the same fencer then retreats again and crosses the end of the official strip with both feet (and no touch has been awarded to either contestant in the interim for any reason whatsoever) he shall be penalized one touch.

Note: Assume fencer A has retreated off his end of the strip once. Then his opponent B retreats off his end of the strip, and no touch has been awarded to either fencer in the interim. A has *regained* the lost distance and both contestants are allowed the full retreating distance thereafter, exactly as if neither had retreated off the strip.

424. When a strip shorter than 40' is used, the Director shall adapt these regulations so that a contestant will have the opportunity to retreat the full distance allowed in each weapon without penalty.

(E) WARNINGS

425. When the official strip markings are used, the Director *must stop the bout* and verbally warn the retreating contestant when the latter crosses the warning line for the last time. If this warning has not been given by the Director, no penalty may be imposed and the retreating contestant must be put back on guard at the warning line. No warning other than herein provided shall be given to a retreating contestant.

426. When the alternative (I.C.F.A. and N.C.A.A.) markings are used, there shall be no warning to the retreating contestant who approaches the rear limit of the official strip, except the visual warning provided by the warning lines.

(F) OFF THE STRIP-SIDES

427. In all weapons, when a retreating contestant steps off the side of the strip with both feet, he is not thereby penalized one touch. He shall, however, be penalized by the loss of 1 m. (3'3 $\frac{3}{8}$ ") of ground when he is put back on guard. Furthermore, if the application of this penalty places the contestant beyond the rear limit of the strip with both feet for the last time (*See Rules 422-424*) he shall be penalized one touch.

428. In all weapons, a contestant who crosses one of the boundaries of the strip, end or side, in turning, in pursuing his adversary, or in case of an accident such as a fall or a push, shall not be penalized except as provided below.

429. When a contestant crosses one of the boundaries of the strip (end or side) with both feet, the Director must immediately call a halt and annul any action started after the boundary was crossed. A touch scored by the offending fencer after he has crossed the boundaries shall not be counted even though the action was started prior to leaving the strip; a touch scored against the offending fencer may be valid even if it arrives after the offender is off the strip with both feet, provided the action was immediate and was a part of the sequence of play (*phrase d'armes*) during which the boundary was crossed.

430. After a contestant leaves the strip with both feet, only the hit made by his opponent can be valid—even in the case of a double

touch. The application of this rule is particularly important in epee. (*See Rule 709.*)

(G) THE RUNNING ATTACK (FLECHE)

431. When a fencer *systematically* crosses one of the boundaries of the strip (end or side) with both feet—particularly while executing an unsuccessful running attack (*fleche*)—in order to avoid being hit, he shall be warned by the Director and shall thereafter be penalized one touch for each subsequent offense in the same bout. However, an immediate and successful riposte or other counter-action which touches the offending fencer shall be valid as provided in Rules 429 and 430.

432. It follows from the foregoing paragraphs that any touch scored by the running contestant while he is off the strip, is annulled. But a touch scored by him while he is still on the strip is valid, even if he crosses the boundaries after scoring the touch; and in this case, neither warning nor penalty shall be applicable, provided that there is no collision or unnecessary roughness (*Rules 327-333*).

(H) REVERSAL OF POSITIONS

433. In bouts with the standard epee, the reversal of positions on the strip shall be permitted on condition that the movement be executed without jostling or colliding with the opponent. The reversal is accomplished if it is more than half complete when the Director calls "Halt". In such case the contestants shall be put back on guard at the center of the strip with their positions so reversed.

434. In bouts with the electrical epee, the foil, and the sabre, reversal of positions is forbidden. Therefore, if the original positions are actually reversed, the contestants shall be placed back in the positions which they occupied at the moment the reversing movement was begun.

ARTICLE V
SCORING AND TIME LIMITS

(A) NUMBER OF TOUCHES

501. In the absence of special rulings by the governing body, duly announced in the schedule of events, the number of touches required for victory in each bout shall be the following:

<i>Epee:</i>	Three touches
<i>Men's Foil and Sabre:</i>	Five touches
<i>Women's Foil:</i>	Four touches

502. The appropriate governing body may establish a greater or smaller number of touches as required for victory in each bout of a competition or final round thereof.

503. In competitions by direct elimination the bouts may be for 10 touches in all weapons for the men and 8 touches in women's foil, with a two-touch advantage required for victory. The plan for direct elimination may also be for two out of three standard bouts, and in such case the epee bouts shall be for 5 touches.

504. The contestant who first scores the total number of touches required for victory shall be declared the winner.

505. In epee only, the award of a double touch shall be scored as a touch against each contestant. In bouts for a single touch the scoring of a double touch shall be registered as a double defeat. In bouts for several touches the double defeat has been abolished. For scoring purposes, however, if as a result of a double touch the score is tied at the maximum number of touches required for victory (3-3, 5-5, etc.), a supplementary touch or touches shall be fenced until a winner is established but the official touch score for the bout shall remain tied at the maximum (3-3, 5-5, etc.).*

(B) THREE-WEAPON BOUTS

506. *Three-weapon* bouts shall be conducted as follows: The contestants shall first fence with the foil until the aggregate score of both fencers is five touches; then they shall fence an aggregate of five touches in epee; and finally they shall fence an aggregate of five touches in sabre. *The contestants change weapons, therefore, after*

*In I.C.F.A. and N.C.A.A. competitions the bout shall be scored as a draw, equivalent to one-half victory for each contestant, without fencing supplementary touches to determine the victor.

Example: METHOD OF KEEPING SCORE

Assume a pool of 6 fencers; bouts for 5 touches

A.F.L.A. SCORE SHEET

Individual Competition

Name	No.	Bouts					Touches		Place	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	Won		Lost
Smith, J.	1	×			IIII .W	III .		I		
Gray, C.	2		×			O .L			I	
Bell, R.	3			×		IIII .W		I		
Werner, W.	4	III .L			×				I	
Karl, O.	5	III .	IIII .W			×		I		
Terry, M.	6			II .L			×		I	

ORDER	1-4√	5-1√	1-6	2-1	6-4
OF	2-5√	6-2	2-4	4-5	1-3
BOUTS	3-6√	4-3	3-5	3-2	5-6

Explanation: The first three bouts of the pool have been completed with the following results. Smith (1) has defeated Werner (4), 5-3; Karl (5) has defeated Gray (2), 5-0; Bell (3) has defeated Terry (6), 5-2. The fourth bout is now being fenced between Karl (5) and Smith (1), and the score is tied at 3-3. The fifth bout, between Terry (6) and Gray (2), has been called by the scorer who has marked the appropriate squares with a dot (.).

At the conclusion of the pool the scorer will determine the number of bouts won and the number of touches scored by each fencer by adding the appropriate items horizontally along the line bearing the contestant's name and number. The number of touches received is determined by adding vertically the column headed by the fencer's number. The score-sheet should then be signed by the scorer and by the Director for transmission to the Bout Committee.

the score in a weapon is 5-0, 4-1, or 3-2. Since the maximum aggregate number of touches scored by both fencers is fifteen, the contestant who first scores *eight touches* shall be declared the winner. The order in which the weapons shall be fenced may be modified only when the Bout Committee prescribes in advance a uniform formula applicable to all contestants.

507. In three-weapon bouts, *double touches* in epee shall be scored as a touch for each contestant, as regularly provided in the rules, except in case the double touch occurs after the aggregate number of touches already fenced in epee is four. In this case the double touch shall be annulled and the epee part of the bout shall be continued until one of the fencers alone obtains the last touch.

(c) DUTIES OF THE SCORER

508. Upon the awarding of a touch by the Director, the Scorer shall record the touch for the successful contestant upon the regulation score-sheet.

509. Penalty touches are never deducted from the score of the fencer who is penalized, but are added to the score of his opponent exactly as if the latter had won them in play.

510. After each touch, the Scorer shall announce the score aloud for the information of the contestants and the interest of the spectators.

511. The Scorer shall announce the sequence of bouts, in accordance with the order stipulated upon the official score-sheet, in such a manner that the new pair of contestants will be ready to fence, immediately after the completion of the bout then in progress.

512. The Scorer shall act as Time-keeper if no other official has been appointed for this purpose.

(d) TIME-LIMITS

513. The time-limit for official contests shall be the following:

<i>Epee</i> (one touch)	Five minutes
<i>Epee</i> (two or three touches)	Ten minutes
<i>Epee</i> (five touches)	Fifteen minutes
<i>Epee</i> (ten touches)	Twenty minutes
<i>Foil</i> and <i>sabre</i> (five touches)	Ten minutes
<i>Foil</i> and <i>sabre</i> (ten touches)	Twenty minutes
<i>Foil</i> (four touches)	Eight minutes
<i>Foil</i> (eight touches)	Sixteen minutes

514. The Bout Committee is empowered to modify these limits whenever the occasion requires, and to fix appropriate time-limits for three-weapon bouts.

515. The duration of each bout includes only those periods of time during which the contestants are fencing or are at liberty to fence. As far as possible the periods of combat shall be measured exactly by a stop-watch. Time is "in" from the moment the Director gives the command to play until the bout is halted in accordance to the rules. Time is "out" during the deliberations of the Jury and other interruptions.

516. If a competitor is the victim of an accident which has been duly recognized, the Director may allow him the time necessary to recover sufficiently to continue the bout. In case the competitor is indisposed, and the indisposition has been recognized, the Director may likewise grant him time-out, but only once during the bout and then for a period not longer than ten minutes.

517. Except in case of accident or unavoidable interruption of the bout, a contestant is not permitted to ask for "time-out". No additional periods of rest may be granted beyond those provided by the deliberations of the Jury. If, during the bout, one of the competitors seeks unduly to prolong the normal interruptions of combat, the Director may warn him for the first offense, penalize him one touch for the second offense, and exclude him from the competition for a third offense.

518. The Director shall *stop the bout* and warn the contestants *two minutes* and again *one minute* before the expiration of the time limit.

(E) TIME-KEEPER

519. The Time-keeper shall measure the duration of each bout strictly in accordance with the preceding rules.

520. The Time-keeper shall engage the Director's attention *two minutes* and *one minute* before the expiration of the time limit, so that the Director may stop the bout and give the warnings required by Rule 518.

521. The Time-keeper shall call "Time!" when the limit for the bout has expired.

(F) UNFINISHED BOUTS

522. In all weapons, if at the end of the time limit fixed for a bout of several touches neither of the contestants has scored the number of touches required for victory, but *one of them is leading*, the difference between the maximum number of touches stated in these rules and the number actually scored by the contestant who is ahead shall be added to the score of each fencer. Therefore, the fencer who is ahead shall be declared the winner as if he had scored the number of touches required for victory, and his opponent shall be the loser with the number of touches which maintains the difference between the actual touch scores of the contestants. *For example:* If, in a five-touch bout, A leads B by a score of 3-1 when time is called, A is declared the winner of the bout by a score of 5-3.

523. If, at the end of the time allotted for a five-touch bout in foil and sabre, neither of the contestants has scored the number of touches required for victory and *they are tied*, the score shall be brought to four-all and the contestants shall compete for a single decisive touch without limit of time. In such cases the final score of the bout shall always be 5-4. The same basic principle is applied when the number of touches in foil and sabre is more or less than five.

524. If at the end of the time limit fixed for an epee bout for one touch neither fencer has scored, a full defeat shall be charged against each contestant.

525. If at the end of the time limit fixed for a multiple-touch bout in epee neither of the contestants has scored the number of touches required for victory and *they are tied*, the score shall be brought to the maximum number and the contestants shall compete for a decisive touch without limit of time (except as provided in Rule 503). In all cases (for purposes of counting touches only) the final score of the bout shall always be tied at the maximum required for victory (2-2, 3-3, 5-5, etc.).*

*In I.C.F.A. and N.C.A.A. competitions the bout shall be scored as a draw, equivalent to half a victory for each contestant.

ARTICLE VI

JUDGING PROCEDURE

(A) OFFICIALS

601. The officials at all A.F.L.A. events, including the Bout Committee, directors, and judges, shall be amateurs in good standing.

602. The appointment and removal of directors, judges, and other officials is in the exclusive power of the Bout Committee.

603. The Jury shall be composed of a Director and four Judges whenever possible.

604. In exceptional cases the Jury may, *in the absolute discretion of the Bout Committee*, be limited to a Director and two Judges.

605. The *finals* of major individual championships shall, whenever possible, have two complete Juries which shall judge alternate quarters of the final round.

606. In electrical epee competitions held with the neutralized strip, the Jury may consist of the Director acting alone.

607. In electrical epee competitions held without the neutralized strip, the Bout Committee shall appoint two "field judges" to assist the Director. (*See Rules 619 and 645.*)

608. In team matches, the Director and Judges shall not be members of either club* participating in the match.

609. In individual events, the Director and Judges should not belong to the same club* as either contestant. For practical reasons, however, final decision in this matter rests solely with the Bout Committee.

610. The Bout Committee shall immediately replace a Director or Judge whenever in its opinion such replacement is necessary or desirable, for any reason whatsoever.

(B) DUTIES OF THE JURY

611. By the acceptance of a position on the Jury, each of its members is in honor bound to respect the rules, to make the rules respected by fencers and spectators, and to carry out his functions with scrupulous impartiality and careful attention.

612. The Director is in full charge of the conduct of the bout

*In I.C.F.A. and N.C.A.A. events, these regulations apply to alumni of the competing colleges.

(Rule 301). He alone may officially award touches (Rule 651). He has broad powers of discipline (Rules 123-127).

613. The Director should concentrate his attention upon the ensemble of plays and the phrases of the bout, in order to be able to decide the validity of any touches that may be scored (Rule 651); but he is also empowered to decide upon the materiality of touches (Rules 621-650).

614. The Director should stand at an equal distance from each contestant and approximately four meters (13'1") from the strip.

615. In electrical epee competitions, the Director should stand on the side of the strip opposite the registration apparatus.

616. The function of the Judges is to assist in establishing the materiality of a touch. This is a question of fact—*whether or not there has been a touch*. In the course of the bout, therefore, the only duty of a Judge is—*by raising his hand*—to engage the attention of the Director as soon as he sees a touch land on valid or invalid target. However, if a judge sees that an accident is inevitable, or has taken place, he may call a halt.

617. The two Judges (or one if the Jury includes a total of only two) on the right of the Director shall watch and verify the materiality of the touches which may be received by the fencer on the left of the Director. The two Judges (or one) on the left of the Director fulfill a like function with reference to the fencer on his right.

618. The Judges are required to stand at least one meter (3'3") behind and to the side of the opponent of the fencer whom they are watching. This position protects the Judges against possible injury from the weapons of the contestants and gives the Director a clear view of the play of both fencers.

619. In electrical epee competitions held without the neutralized strip, the only duty of the field judges is to assist the Director in determining whether a touch registered by the apparatus is the result of a hit upon the ground.

620. In electrical epee competitions held without the neutralized strip, the Director shall instruct the field judges as to their positions in relation to the strip and to the contestants. (See Rules 617 and 645.)

(c) METHOD OF JUDGING

621. In all championship competitions, the *sole* basis for judging fencing bouts shall be the number of touches scored by the contestants, strictly in accord with the rules of competition and discipline. The judging of touches involves two steps: *materiality* (whether or not there has been a touch), and *validity* (whether or not the touch should be awarded).

622. In electrical epee competitions, the *materiality* of a touch can be established only by the registration apparatus.

623. In foil and sabre competitions the Director shall briefly describe the last phrase of the bout immediately preceding the command of halt, and must ask the appropriate judge or judges whether each action within such phrase has resulted in a touch (on or outside the target) upon the fencer they are watching. The fact that a fencer announces receipt of a touch (as permitted by Rule 106) does not in any way bind the judges, who may proceed to render their opinions independently of such announcement.

624. When questioned by the Director as to the *materiality* of a touch, a judge must reply as follows:

(a) "Yes," if he has a definite opinion that a touch has scored on valid target;

(b) "Foul," if he has a definite opinion that a touch (in foil and sabre) has arrived clearly on a portion of the body or equipment, other than the weapon, which is outside the valid target. However, if the touch lands outside the valid target as a direct result of a parry, the proper reply must be "no" or "no, parried foul". (See Rules 815 and 816.)

(c) "No," if he has a definite opinion that no touch, good or foul, has arrived.

(d) "Abstain," if he has no opinion or is in doubt, and therefore does not wish to vote on the materiality of the touch.

625. Such expressions as "slap," "graze," "too much steel," "parried," etc., shall be interpreted to mean "No." Such expressions as "on the mask" or "on the arm" (in foil), or "too low" or "on the leg" (in foil and sabre), shall be interpreted to mean "Foul." Such expressions as "I am in doubt," "doubtful," "possible," etc., shall be interpreted to mean "Abstain." Expressions such as these,

however, should be avoided as much as possible. Judging will be greatly facilitated if replies are limited to those listed in Rule 624.

626. If the two Judges assigned to watch one fencer *abstain* and the Director has no opinion, the Director may *in his absolute discretion* question the other two Judges if the latter are in a better position to see the touch. *For example:* a hit on the back of a fencer who has run by or otherwise passed his opponent.*

627. In deciding the *materiality* of a touch, each Judge has one vote, and the Director has a vote and a half. If a Judge abstains, his vote does not count in determining the number of votes cast.

628. When there are only two Judges in the entire Jury, instead of four, the absent Judges are deemed to have abstained on all questions of fact.

629. Whenever a vote on *materiality* is taken, the Director votes last. The Director and the Judges shall vote from the places where they are standing and in audible voices.

(D) DECISIONS ON MATERIALITY

630. Decisions on the *materiality* of a touch are rendered on the basis of a *majority of the votes cast*.

631. If a foul touch is established, the phrase is automatically stopped, and any subsequent hit by either contestant shall be annulled. (See also Rules 821 and 823-832.)

632. If in a decision on *materiality* a *valid* touch is annulled, for any reason whatsoever, the phrase is automatically stopped, and any subsequent hit scored in play by either contestant shall be annulled. However, the annulment of a *valid* touch for disciplinary reasons does not necessarily prevent the award of a touch to the opponent of the offender as a penalty.

633. *Case 1:* If the two Judges who are watching the same fencer have definite opinions which are absolutely in agreement ("Yes," "Foul," or "No"), the Director is bound to accept their judgment, regardless of his own opinion. Even if the Director should disagree, he would be outvoted, by 2 to 1½.

*It must be emphasized that a Judge's primary duty is to watch one contestant, as provided in these rules. In no case under Rule 626 is a Judge required to have a definite opinion, and in no case is a Judge permitted to volunteer an opinion, as to what happened upon the other contestant. Therefore, a Judge must never divide his attention by attempting to watch both fencers.

634. *Case 2:* If one Judge votes "Yes," and the other Judge votes "No," while the opinion of the Director agrees with the vote of either Judge, the Director's vote controls, by 2½ to 1.

635. *Case 3:* If one Judge has a definite opinion ("Yes," "Foul," or "No"), while the other Judge abstains, and the Director has no definite opinion, the Director must also abstain, and the vote of the Judge who has a definite opinion must prevail as the majority view, by 1-0.

636. *Case 4:* If one Judge has a definite opinion ("Yes," "Foul," or "No"), and the other Judge abstains, but the Director has a definite opinion which disagrees with that of the first Judge, the opinion of the Director controls, by 1½ to 1.

637. *Case 5:* If both Judges abstain, and the Director has a definite opinion ("Yes," "Foul," or "No"), the opinion of the Director controls, by 1½ to 0.

638. *Case 6:* If both Judges abstain, and the Director also abstains because he has no definite opinion, the result is a tie vote (0-0), and the decision must be that *the touch is "doubtful"* (See Rules 647-649).

639. *Case 7:* If one Judge votes "Yes," and the other Judge votes "No," but the Director abstains because he has no definite opinion, the result is a tie vote (1-1), and the decision must be that *the touch is "doubtful"* (See Rules 647-649).

640. *Case 8:* If one Judge votes "Foul" and the other Judge votes "No," but the Director abstains, the result is a tie vote (1-1) and the decision must be that *the touch is "doubtful"* (See Rules 647-649).

641. *Case 9:* If one Judge votes "Yes" and the other Judge votes "Foul," but the Director abstains, the result is a tie vote (1-1), and the decision must be that *the touch is "doubtful"* (See Rules 647-649).

642. *Case 10:* If one Judge votes "Yes" and the other Judge votes "Foul," but the Director votes "No," there is no majority for any one view (1-1-1½) but there is the implied agreement (2-1½) that there has been a hit somewhere upon the fencer in question, and therefore the decision must be that *the touch is "doubtful"* (See Rules 647-649).

643. *Case 11:* If one Judge votes "No" and the other Judge votes "Foul," but the Director votes "Yes," there is no majority for any

one view (1-1-1½) but there is the implied agreement (2½-1) that there has been a hit somewhere upon the fencer in question, and therefore the decision must be that *the touch is "doubtful"* (See Rules 647-649).

644. *Case 12:* If one Judge votes "Yes" and the other Judge votes "No," but the Director votes "Foul," there is no majority for any one view (1-1-1½) but there is the implied agreement (2½-1) that there has been a hit somewhere upon the fencer in question, and therefore the decision must be that *the touch is "doubtful"* (See Rules 647-649).

645. In electrical epee competitions, when the question arises as to a hit upon the ground (either outside the neutralized strip or anywhere on the ground if the neutralized strip is not used), each of the field judges has one vote and the Director has a vote and a half; decisions upon this question are made in the same manner as in deciding the materiality of a touch without the electrical apparatus. If there is no positive majority (e.g., three abstentions or contrary opinions of the two judges and an abstention by the Director) the touch is considered doubtful and therefore must be annulled. *In no case may the Director take into account the opinion of any other person.*

646. In electrical epee competitions, if the apparatus registers a double touch and it is established that one touch arrived on valid surface while the other touch arrived on invalid surface, the valid touch shall be scored and the invalid touch shall be annulled. (See Rule 713.)

(E) BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT

647. A "doubtful" touch (Rules 638-644) results only when there is no majority in the vote of the Jury on the question of *materiality*. It means that there is doubt as to whether valid contact has occurred between the blade and the target. *A "doubtful" touch may be established in any weapon.* It is not counted against the fencer who might perhaps have been touched. This fencer, therefore, receives the "benefit of the doubt."

648. When a fencer (who might perhaps have been touched) receives the "benefit of the doubt" as provided in the preceding rule, he loses all scoring rights in subsequent actions of the same phrase.

Therefore any valid touch in the same phrase scored subsequently by the benefited contestant (or simultaneously, if the right of way accrues to his benefit), must be annulled.

649. On the other hand, the fencer who makes the "doubtful" touch is entitled to score on a good remise, redoublement, or counter-riposte, after the "doubtful" touch in the same phrase; provided, however, that his opponent (who has received the original "benefit of the doubt" has not—*between the "doubtful" and the good touch*—scored a foul, or suffered the annulment of a good touch by the application of Rule 648.

(a) *Case 1:* Fencer A attacks fencer B, and the touch on the attack is declared "doubtful." B scores a clear hit on his riposte. In this case, B has received the "benefit of the doubt" on the attack, and therefore B's good touch upon A must be annulled.

(b) *Case 2:* Fencer A attacks fencer B, and the touch on the attack is declared "doubtful." B fails to riposte, or his riposte misses completely (does not arrive at all, good or foul). Then A's remise, redoublement, or counter-riposte scores a clear hit. In this case, B has received the "benefit of the doubt" on the attack, but A's secondary action is valid.

(c) *Case 3:* Fencer A attacks fencer B, and the touch on the attack is declared "doubtful." B's riposte touches A (good or foul), and A's remise also scores. In this case, B has received the "benefit of the doubt" on the attack, so that B's riposte, even if good, must be annulled. However, since B has suffered the annulment of a hit which arrived before A's remise, the latter must be also annulled (*Application of Rules 631 and 632*).

(d) *Case 4:* Fencers A and B attack simultaneously. A's touch is good, B's touch is "doubtful", and B's immediate remise is good. A's touch is annulled because he did not have the right of way, and he has been given the benefit of the doubt. B's remise cannot be scored, however, because A has suffered the annulment of a good touch.

(e) *Case 5:* Fencers A and B attack simultaneously. A's touch is good, B's touch is "doubtful", and A's immediate remise is good. A's original touch is annulled because he did not have the right of way, and he has received the benefit of the doubt. A's remise cannot be scored because a fencer who has received the benefit of the doubt cannot score a good touch in any subsequent part of the phrase.

650. In competitions with the electrical epee, when the Director is of the opinion that the action has resulted in a double touch but that the double touch should be annulled because the touch scored against the fencer who leads in the bout is doubtful, while the touch on his opponent is certain, the fencer who is leading has the choice of accepting the double touch or of demanding that both hits be annulled. (*See Rule 715.*)

(F) AWARDING OF TOUCHES

651. The award of touches, once their materiality has been established by the Jury (or by the electrical apparatus), is decided exclusively by the Director in accordance with the rules governing validity of touches (*See Rules 705-717 and 817-836*).

652. The Director is required to announce the final decision on each touch in such a manner as to be clearly understood by both contestants and by the spectators.

653. The Director has the power to annul a touch already awarded, or to reverse his decision on a touch, if he discovers (a) that a Judge has voted incorrectly on the materiality of the touch through a misconception or misapplication of the rules, or (b) that he has himself erred under the rules in deciding the validity of the touch. But such annulment or reversal of decision must be made *immediately and before any decision is made on any subsequent touch in the bout*. This power cannot be exercised later, as it may then involve an undue disadvantage to the fencer unfavorably affected by the annulment or reversal (*See also Rules 128-130*).

ARTICLE VII
JUDGING—EPEE

(A) TARGET

701. The epee fencer is considered vulnerable everywhere without exception. Every thrust that arrives clearly with the point on any part of the body (trunk, limbs, or head), the clothing, or the equipment (other than the weapon), shall count for one touch.

(B) TOUCHES—MATERIALITY

702. Every touch, to be valid, must arrive clearly and cleanly upon the target. Grazes with the point, flat hits, slaps, etc., shall not be counted as touches and shall not annul any subsequent action.

703. When coloring matter is used in connection with the standard epee to assist the Jury, the presence or absence of a mark on one or both of the contestants shall serve at most as an indication to be interpreted by the members of the Jury as they see fit; it is under no circumstances to be accounted absolute proof that a touch has or has not been scored. Each member of the Jury must give his opinion in accordance with the rules.

704. In contests with the electrical epee, the materiality of touches can be established *only when a touch has been registered by the apparatus*. Except as a result of the application of penalties under the rules, a fencer cannot be declared to be touched unless the apparatus registers a touch against him. This is a fundamental rule.

(C) TOUCHES—VALIDITY

705. When one contestant alone has been touched, and there is no reason for the annulment of the hit under the rules of competition and discipline, his opponent shall be awarded the touch.

706. The epee is exclusively a combat weapon. Therefore, when both contestants are touched, the decision as to validity depends entirely upon the time element.

707. In bouts with the standard epee, when both contestants are touched, the Director must determine *from his own observation* whether or not there is an appreciable difference in time between the two hits. If there is such a difference, only the first touch is scored.

708. In bouts with the standard epee, when both contestants are touched without appreciable difference in time, or when the Director

has not a clear opinion as to the priority of one or the other hit, the action is scored as a *double touch*, that is one touch for each contestant.

709. In bouts with the electrical epee, the *apparatus alone* determines all questions of priority of touches. Therefore, if the apparatus registers a *double touch*, the action shall be scored as a double touch unless one or both of the hits are annulled by the Director pursuant to the provisions of Rules 710-717 below, or the application of Rules 429 and 430.

(D) TOUCHES—ANNULMENT

710. The Director shall annul any touch registered by the electrical apparatus which results from thrusts begun before the command "Play" or after the command "Halt," or otherwise outside of the normal periods of combat. (See Rules 305-308.)

711. The Director shall annul any touch registered by the electrical apparatus which results from the contact of the tips of the two weapons; or from a thrust against the ground, if the neutralized strip is not used; or from a thrust against the ground outside the neutralized strip, if one is used; or from a thrust against the reel wires; or from a thrust against the body or equipment of the fencer who makes the thrust; or *in general*, from a thrust against any surface or object other than the opponent or his equipment or body wire.

712. If the apparatus registers a double touch, and the Director determines that on one side the touch has arrived on the target, while on the other side the touch has arrived on an invalid surface or object, the latter shall be annulled as provided in the preceding rule, but the valid touch may be scored (See Rules 645, 646 and 715).

713. The Director shall annul the last touch registered by the apparatus, but no touches previously registered, if by means of a test conducted *immediately* under proper supervision without any change in the equipment used, he establishes any one or more of the following irregularities which tend to place the fencer against whom the touch has been registered at a disadvantage in relation to his opponent:

(a) If a thrust upon the guard of the fencer against whom the touch is indicated causes the apparatus to register; except, however, that the touch *cannot* be annulled if (1) this result is caused by a disconnection of either the weapon or back end of the body wire, or

(2) the guard of the competitor affected has large or small areas of oxidization, gum, paint, or other material on which a touch will register.

(b) If a thrust upon valid target of the opponent, by the fencer against whom the touch is indicated, fails to register; except (1) that if this condition results from a disconnection of either the weapon or back end of the body wire, the touch cannot be annulled; and (2) that if this condition results from a broken blade, the touch can be annulled only if the opponent's scoring thrust started after the command "Halt" or after he had sufficient time to realize the fact of the broken blade—or if there is some simultaneous or coincidental defect in the operation of the electrical apparatus to justify the annulment of the touch, which condition the Director must, if possible, ascertain.

(c) If the apparatus registers touches independently of any scoring thrust by the opponent of the fencer against whom the touch is indicated. *For example*, after a beat on the blade, by movements of the weapon, or as a result of any cause other than a properly made hit.

(d) If the apparatus is defective, so that a prior touch scored by the fencer against whom the touch is indicated either (1) fails to prevent the registration of a subsequent touch by his opponent, or (2) is annulled by the registration of such a subsequent touch.

714. It is not necessary, in order to justify the annulment of a touch, that the failure or defect found should repeat itself each time a test is made. It is necessary only that the fault have been established without doubt at least once.

715. If the apparatus registers a double touch, and the existence of any of the irregularities described in Rule 713 is established, the Director shall annul the double touch on both sides; except that, if the breakdown of the apparatus or of the armament affects only one fencer, the annulment of both hits is obligatory only when the fencer who is placed at a disadvantage demands it; if this fencer is satisfied with the double touch, it shall be so scored. *For example*: A is leading 2-0 against B. The apparatus then registers a double touch. (A would thus win 3-1) but a defect is discovered—such as in Rule 713 (c)—which is to the disadvantage of A only. A then has the right to demand that a double touch shall be scored.

716. If it is ascertained, after registration of a touch by the apparatus, that the scoring epee is contrary to the technical specifications for the electrical weapon (*see Rules 257-266*), this fact shall not of itself suffice to annul the touch. Therefore the touch cannot be annulled unless the circumstances are such as to justify such annulment under the general rules of fencing, or unless the deviation from the rules is of a sort to make possible any of the irregularities mentioned in Rule 713, above. However, the fencer whose epee is contrary to the rules shall be subject to the provisions of Rules 204, 254, 255, and 721.

717. If it is ascertained, after registration of a touch by the apparatus, that the scoring epee is contrary to the general specifications for the weapon, as to length, width of guard, general construction, etc. (*Rules 225-249 wherever applicable to the electrical epee*), the case shall be referred to the disciplinary authorities for investigation and decision. In this case, the penalty may include annulment of any and all hits scored with the weapon in question, if the facts warrant such action, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 204.

(E) PENALTIES

718. In contests with the electrical epee, any fencer who deliberately or negligently abuses the rules for the annulment of touches renders himself liable to penalties.

719. A fencer who deliberately places the point of his weapon upon the ground outside the neutralized strip (or anywhere upon the ground if the neutralized strip is not used), or upon his own body or upon any surface other than the target of his opponent, in order to cause the apparatus to register a touch during combat, shall be warned once and thereafter penalized for each subsequent offense in the course of the same *pool* by the award of one touch to his opponent, or—at the discretion of the Director—by exclusion from the competition.

720. Each time that the irregularities described in Rule 713, above, are found to be caused by defects in a fencer's personal armament (epee or body wire), the Director shall instruct the fencer to repair or replace the equipment in question.

(a) If, during the course of the same pool, this fencer reappears on the strip with armament similarly defective which provokes a repe-

tion of previous irregularities (except when due to accidental damage to the blade or button during a new phrase or bout), the Director shall confiscate the armament for the purpose of having it repaired by competent technicians, and shall have the armament returned to the fencer only upon payment of the expense incurred in such repair.

(b) If, during the course of the same pool, the offense is again repeated, the fencer shall lose all rights to have a touch annulled unless he can prove, to the satisfaction of the Director, that the defective armament was used in good faith.

721. Whenever the personal armament of a fencer causes the apparatus to register touches independently of any actual hit (*Rule 713-c*) the defective equipment shall be confiscated for the duration of the competition; and, upon repetition of the offense the fencer shall be compelled, at his own expense, risk and peril, to complete the competition with armament (epee and body wire) furnished by the Bout Committee.

722. Whenever the Director discovers that a fencer upon being touched has attempted to damage his own armament, in order to obtain annulment of the touch, or that the fencer has so arranged his armament or equipment as to be able at will to cause the apparatus to register a touch, or to cause his armament to appear defective, the Director shall immediately confiscate the offending armament or equipment and shall refer the case to the Bout Committee. The Bout Committee shall investigate the matter with the assistance of the technical experts, and, if the facts warrant such action, shall place the matter before the Jury of Appeal which may then impose any and all disciplinary penalties.

ARTICLE VIII

JUDGING—FOIL AND SABRE

(A) FUNDAMENTAL CONVENTIONS

801. The foil and the sabre are conventional weapons. The *materiality* of touches is limited by the conventions restricting the valid target. The *validity* of hits, when both fencers are touched, is governed by the conventions of play or correctness of the action, known as the "right of way."

(B) THE TARGET

802. For men, the foil target extends from the top of the collar to the groin lines in front; in the back to a horizontal line, passing across the tops of the hip bones, which joins on the sides the tops of the groin lines. The target excludes the arms up to the shoulders. The shoulder seams of the jacket should correspond to the tip of the humerus, in order to facilitate judging.

803. For women, the foil target is the same as for men, except that the lower limit is a horizontal line passing across the tops of the hip bones (front and back).

804. The sabre target includes the head, arms, hands, and all other parts of the body above a horizontal line drawn around the body and passing through the highest points of the intersections of the thighs and the trunk of the fencer when in the "on guard" position.

(C) EXTENSIONS OF THE TARGET

805. The target may be extended, so that touches on the head, the arms, the hand (*in foil*), or the legs (*in foil and sabre*), may be adjudged valid, whenever the fencer—either intentionally or as a result of an abnormal position—substitutes a normally invalid surface for a part of the valid target; that is:

(a) When the fencer, either permanently or temporarily covers a portion of the target with a part of the body which is normally outside the target (e.g., covering the trunk with the head or arms in foil), and is hit on that invalid part.

(b) When by a displacement of the target, as a result of crouching, ducking, etc., the fencer receives on a normally invalid part of the body a touch which without such displacement would have reached

the valid target. This rule applies even if the displacing movement is perfectly regular in itself.

806. As illustrations of the preceding rule:

(a) If, in foil, a fencer is hit on the mask while executing a counter-action with a displacement in the low line (e.g., crouch, duck, or *passata sotto*), and the hit would otherwise have arrived on valid target, he is considered to have been validly touched. This is so because, solely as a result of the displacement, he has substituted an invalid surface for part of the valid target;

(b) On the other hand, if a fencer pivots or side-steps (e.g., *inquartata*) and is touched on the mask in foil, or on the legs in foil and sabre, he is not validly touched. This is so because, even without the displacement of the body, the hit would not have arrived on the target.

(c) Other displacements which may improperly protect valid target are: leaning the head forward at the end of a lunge; turning the trunk so as to place the shoulder and arm in direct line with the opponent's thrust; placing the sword arm across the chest while on the lunge, or while recovering, after the attack has been parried.

807. The position of the sword arm while in the "on guard" position or during the execution of a proper parry, particularly the parries of fourth (*quarte*) and first (*prime*), must not be construed as illegal protections of the target.

808. It should be thoroughly understood that the rules governing the extension of the target apply only if the fencer at fault has been hit. If the fencer has not been touched anywhere, no "theoretical" touch may be called against him, regardless of the body movement by which the hit has been avoided (except, of course, in the case of penalty touches wherever applicable).

(D) TOUCHES IN FOIL

809. Every touch, to be valid, must arrive on the target clearly and cleanly with the point. Grazes with the point, hits with the flat of the blade, slaps, etc., are not counted as touches and do not annul any subsequent action.

(E) TOUCHES IN SABRE

810. Touches in sabre may be scored with the point (*thrusts*), with any part of the front edge of the blade (*cuts*) or with the

forward third—nearest the point—of the back edge of the blade (*counter-cuts*). All such touches are equally valid if they arrive clearly and cleanly on the target.

811. Any hit with the remainder of the back edge, with the flat of the blade, or with any other part of the weapon, does not count and does not annul any subsequent action.

812. Point thrusts that fail to arrive clearly and cleanly on the target, but which are executed in such a manner that the cutting or counter-cutting edge of the blade grazes the target, shall not be counted as cuts or counter-cuts but shall be declared to have passed.

813. When a cut or counter-cut is cleanly parried, but whips over the parrying blade or guard to touch the target, it shall not be counted and shall not annul any subsequent action.

814. However, cuts or counter-cuts "across the steel"—that is, those which *simultaneously* hit the target and the opponent's weapon, shall be valid whenever they clearly touch the target with one of the cutting edges.

(F) FOUL TOUCHES

815. Any clear hit in foil and sabre which arrives directly on the body of the opponent outside the target is a foul touch. It shall not be scored for or against either fencer, but shall stop the phrase immediately, and subject to the rules governing the validity of touches, shall annul any subsequent hit by either contestant.

816. If a thrust (or, in sabre, a cut) is directed toward a valid part of the body *and is parried*, but arrives after the parry *and as a consequence of the parry* on an invalid surface, there is no foul touch, and the phrase shall not be stopped nor subsequent hits invalidated.

(G) VALIDITY OF TOUCHES

817. When one contestant alone has been validly touched, and there is no reason for the annulment of the hit under the rules of competition and discipline, his opponent shall be awarded the touch.

818. When both contestants have been touched on the target, the decision as to *validity* is based first on the time element. If there is a sufficient interval of fencing time between the two hits, only the first touch is scored.

819. A *sufficient interval* of fencing time (*temps d'escrime, tempo*)

is a variable depending upon the speed of the fencers in the sequence of play. Generally it shall be interpreted to mean the time required for the execution of a simple movement.

820. When the contestants have been touched on the target simultaneously (i.e., without a sufficient interval of fencing time between the two hits), the conventional "right of way" must be applied to determine which one (or whether neither) of the two hits shall be scored.

821. When the contestants have been touched simultaneously, but one touch arrives on the target, while the other is foul, the principles of the "right of way" shall be applied to determine whether the good hit shall be scored. If the foul touch has the "right of way," the whole action must be annulled.

822. The basic theories of the "right of way" are (a) that the fencer who provokes or is responsible for a simultaneous double touch is at fault, and (b) that the correctness of the sequence of play (*phrase d'armes*) requires an orderly alternation of actions between the contestants, in accordance with the principles which follow (*Rules 823-832*).

(H) PRINCIPLES OF THE "RIGHT OF WAY"

823. The orderly alternation of actions in the sequence of play (*phrase d'armes*) must be followed. The fencer who departs from the regular alternation of actions, as defined in these rules, does so at the risk of having his scoring action annulled in the event of simultaneous touches.

824. The *attack*, when correctly executed (*Rules 825-827, 830-832*) has the "right of way" in the phrase. Therefore, every attack, when correctly executed, must be parried or completely evaded by a movement of the body. (*See also Rules 805, 806.*)

825. If the defender is in line (*as defined in Rule 916*), the attacker must first deviate the defender's threatening point (e.g., by a beat, pressure, bind, or envelopment), so as to avoid impaling himself upon it. This is a fundamental principle in judging the correctness of the attack, and *it applies even if the attacker is also in line at the start of the attack.*

826. If the defender *avoids* or *escapes* the attacker's attempt to deviate the point in line, or his attempt to take the defender's blade

as a preliminary to the attack, the attacker should not continue the attack, as the "right of way" then passes to the defender.

827. If the attacker succeeds in taking the defender's blade, or if the defender is not *in line*, the attack may proceed by straight thrust (or cut, in sabre) or by disengagement, either immediate (*simple attack*) or preceded by one or more efficient feints which impel the opponent to attempt to parry (*composite attack*).

828. The *parry* gives a fencer the right to *riposte*. Therefore, if the attack is parried, the *riposte*, when correctly executed, has the "right of way"; if the *riposte* in turn is parried, the counter-*riposte* has the "right of way," and so on.

829. The *simple riposte* may be direct or indirect, but—in order to maintain its "right of way" so as to nullify any subsequent action of the attacker—it *must be executed without indecision or delay*. The same principle applies to a simple counter-*riposte* after the *riposte* has been parried.

830. The *composite attack*, to be correctly executed, *must be continuous in its offensive threat*. Any perceptible stop between movements constitutes an interruption of the composite attack and results in the loss of the original "right of way". Whether one or the other fencer thereafter acquires the "right of way" depends on the sequence and correctness of the subsequent actions. The same principle applies to composite *ripostes* and counter-*ripostes*.

831. If during a *composite attack*, the defender clearly meets the blade on a feint by the attacker, the defender acquires the right to *riposte*. *Such finding of the blade is construed as a parry*. The same principle applies to composite *ripostes* and counter-*ripostes*.

832. During a *composite attack* the defender has the right to stop-thrust or stop-cut, but *the stop*, to be valid, *must precede the attacker's touching action by a sufficient interval of fencing time*. (See Rule 819.) That is to say, *the stop must touch before the attacker has begun the final movement of the attack*. (See Rule 912.) The same principle applies to stop-thrusts and stop-cuts against composite *ripostes* and counter-*ripostes*.

(I) DECISIONS UNDER THE "RIGHT OF WAY"

833. When *both* fencers are touched on the target, and there is not a sufficient interval of fencing time between the two hits, *the defender alone shall be declared touched*:

(a) If he makes a stop-thrust (or, in sabre, a stop-cut) against a simple attack;

(b) If he attempts to evade a simple or composite attack by some body movement (e.g., *passata sotto*, *inquartata*, etc.), but fails to do so;

(c) If, being in line, he responds to the attacker's taking of the blade (beat, pressure, bind, envelopment, etc.) by executing a thrust or cut, or by replacing his point in line, instead of parrying the immediate thrust or cut of the attacker;

(d) If, after a successful parry, he *momentarily delays or interrupts the execution of his riposte* (simple or composite), so that the attacker acquires the right to retake the attack and does so by an immediate remise or redoublement;

(e) If, against a composite attack, he stop-thrusts or stop-cuts after the attacker has begun the final movement of the attack.

834. When *both* fencers are touched on the target, and there is not a sufficient interval of fencing time between the two hits, *the attacker alone shall be declared touched*:

(a) If he provokes the double touch and impales himself upon the defender's point, by starting the attack while the defender is in line without first deviating the latter's threatening point;

(b) If he attempts to find the defender's blade but fails to do so because of the defender's escape or avoidance (*derobement*, *cavazione*), and yet continues the attack;

(c) If, on a feint during a composite attack, he allows the defender to meet the blade, and continues the attack while the defender executes an immediate and successful *riposte*;

(d) If, having been parried by the defender, he touches by remise or redoublement, while the defender's parry is followed by an immediate and successful simple *riposte*, executed in a single fencing tempo.

835. However, when *both* fencers are touched, and there is not a sufficient interval of fencing time between the two hits, *the entire action shall be annulled* in the following situations, *even if one of the touches is foul*:

(a) If neither of the fencers is actually at fault in provoking the double touch, as for example, when both attack simultaneously;

(b) If both fencers are at fault in provoking the double touch,

as in the case when there is a stop-thrust which has a doubtful time advantage against the final action of a composite attack. In such a case, the double touch may generally be said to result from the simultaneous fault of both fencers. The fault of the attacker is indecision, slowness, or lack of efficient feints; the fault of the defender is delay or slowness in the stop-thrust.

(c) If the Director is in doubt as to which of the two fencers has the "right of way."

836. If the Director announces "*Double Touch*" as the official decision on any action in foil and sabre, this shall be interpreted to mean that the entire action is annulled, and that the fencers are to be put back on guard without a score for either. Under no circumstances shall such a double touch be scored for or against both contestants.

ARTICLE IX

JUDGING—EXPLANATION OF TERMS

(A) GENERAL

901. The definitions included in this article are designed to obtain general uniformity in judging terminology. While there is disagreement on terminology among the several schools of fencing, these definitions are standard for national competitions organized by the Amateur Fencers League of America, and are based on the official international rules of the Federation Internationale d'Escrime.

(B) THE PHRASE, SEQUENCE OF PLAY (*Phrase d'Armes*)

902. A phrase or sequence of play (*phrase d'armes*) is a period in a bout during which there is no cessation of play. Generally the term is used to describe a continuous sequence and alternation of play between the two fencers, and it frequently includes an attack and one or more parries and ripostes.

903. The phrase comes to an end when the continuous action of the fencers is interrupted, even if only for a brief moment. Just as there may be several "periods of combat" (between the commands "*Play*" and "*Halt*") during a bout, there may be several "phrases" within each period of combat.

(C) FOOTWORK

904. The *lunge* is a forward movement of the body executed by advancing the forward foot in the direction of the opponent, while the rear foot remains stationary. It is frequently used in the attack and sometimes on the riposte, as a means of reaching the opponent. *But the lunge does not in itself constitute an attack. (See Rule 909.)*

905. The *advance* is a forward movement of the body executed by moving the feet without crossing them as in walking or running. Its purpose is to "close" the distance, i.e., to come within reaching distance of the opponent. Sometimes it is combined with other movements of the feet, as for example, the advance-lunge (*attaque en marchant, pattinando*).

906. The *running attack (fleche)* is a forward movement of the body executed by a walking or running movement of the feet, so that the rear foot leaves the floor first and temporarily crosses in front of the forward foot. The running attack is used instead of

the lunge, but it is somewhat restricted by the combat rules in the interest of safety, in order to prevent possibly dangerous collision between the fencers; and by the ground rules in order to prevent abuse thereof.

907. The *jump* is sometimes used instead of the advance, and may also be combined with other movements of the feet, as for example, the jump-lunge (*balestra*).

908. The *retreat* is a backward movement of the body, other than the return to the guard position after a lunge, executed by stepping back with both feet without crossing them or by walking or jumping back. Its purpose is to "open" the distance.

(D) THE ATTACK

909. The *attack* is usually the initial movement of a sequence of play (*phrase d'armes*). It consists, broadly speaking, of a forward movement of the weapon, with or without a corresponding movement of the body, which constitutes an imminent offensive threat to the opponent's valid target.

910. A *simple attack* is made in one movement, and is usually executed when the attacker is within reaching distance of his opponent. A simple attack may be direct or indirect:

(a) Direct (i.e., by straight thrust or cut) when the defender's line is open to a direct thrust or cut;

(b) Indirect, when the attacker moves his weapon from a closed line into an open line, either by disengagement (passing the point of the weapon around the defender's guard), or by cut-over or *coupe* (when the attacker's weapon passes over the tip of the opponent's weapon).

911. A *composite attack* is made in two or more movements. The purpose of the preliminary movements of the attack is usually to force open a desired line, either by controlling the opponent's blade, or by impelling him through efficient feints to move his guard in an attempt to parry. The most common forms of the composite attack are:

(a) *The one-two*, which lands in the previously closed line by forcing the opening with a feint disengage, and avoiding the defender's simple parry.

(b) *The double*, which involves a feint of disengage and deceive of the defender's counter parry.

912. The *final movement of the attack* is generally construed as the last forward motion of the weapon, immediately resulting in a touch, or constituting the last attempt to touch in a composite attack.

913. The *attack on preparation* is one executed just as the opponent is about to start his own attack, but before the opponent's attack has actually begun. The fencer who attacks on preparation may steal the initiative when the opponent closes the distance, or executes a change of engagement, as a preliminary to his own attack; or he may attack after escaping or avoiding the opponent's attempt to take the blade as a preliminary to his own attack.

914. An *attack of second intention* is a false attack, which the attacker intends shall be parried by the defender, in the expectation that the attacker may then parry the defender's riposte and score on the counter-riposte.

915. The *delayed attack* (attack *a temps perdu*, a *tempo perduto*) is a composite attack during which a "change of pace" causes a definite break in the continuity of the offensive movements. Generally, in foil and sabre, the delayed attack risks the loss of the "right of way". Its success depends upon the disorganization of the defense through the shift in rhythm or tempo of the attack, so that the defender is unable to take advantage of the momentary opening.

(E) POINT IN LINE

916. The *point in line* is a defensive threat used to compel the attacker in foil and sabre to execute a preliminary action on the defender's blade. A fencer is deemed to be in line if his arm is clearly extended and the point of his weapon threatens the opponent's valid target. It is not necessary that the arm be perfectly straight and the elbow locked. It is sufficient that the arm be extended so far that, without further straightening, the attacker would cause simultaneous touches by hitting himself if he attacked without first taking the defender's blade. Therefore, in this case, the defender is not truly in line if he finds it necessary to straighten his arm further, or to lunge, in order to impale the attacker upon the point.

(F) ACTIONS ON THE BLADE

917. Actions on the blade are sometimes divided into two technical categories: (a) attacks on the blade, the purpose of which is to deviate the opponent's threatening point in line or to force the oppo-

nent's blade aside in order to open a line of attack; and (b) actions which "take the blade" (*prise de fer, presa di ferro*) the purpose of which is to capture, hold, or dominate the opponent's blade, as a means of ensuring the attacker's safety in the execution of the attack. From the point of view of judging, there is no practical difference between the two categories. The principal actions on the blade are:

Beat (<i>battement, battuta</i>)	Glide (<i>coule, filo</i>)
Pressure	Bind (<i>liement, legamento</i>)
Opposition	Envelopment (<i>trasporto di ferro</i>)

918. The defender may escape or avoid actions on the blade by eluding the attempts of the attacker to effect contact of blades (*derobement, cavazione*). (See Rule 936.)*

(G) THE PARRY

919. A *parry* is a defensive movement (executed with the blade or guard or both) that either blocks or deviates the opponent's offensive action (attack, riposte, or counter-riposte) so as to prevent a score on that action.

920. A *simple parry* is a direct movement of the defender's weapon to meet the attacker's blade which threatens an exposed line. The

**Judging Note No. 1.* Sometimes it is difficult for the Director to decide the nature of the action when the blades of both fencers are in movement around each other without contact. The Director must determine whether the attacker is endeavoring to deceive or elude the defender's parries, or whether he is endeavoring to attack by taking the defender's blade, only to find that the defender is successfully avoiding or escaping the attacker's attempts to effect contact. In foil and sabre, this is a very important decision for purposes of ascertaining the "right of way" in the event of simultaneous hits.

The following analysis may assist in the solution of this problem: (1) If at the start of the action neither fencer is in line, and A makes a clear offensive threat (attack), the movements of B must be construed as attempts to parry. (2) If both fencers are in line (defensive threat) at the start of the action, whichever one moves forward first is required to take his opponent's blade; therefore if A moves forward and there is no contact of blades, his action is conventionally incorrect, and B must be deemed to have escaped or avoided A's action on the blade. (3) The same result as in (2) follows if B alone is in line, and A moves forward. (4) If neither fencer is in line, and neither makes a clear offensive threat, the Director is justified in declaring that neither has the "right of way." While the Director is duty-bound to exert his best efforts in order to arrive at the correct result, he cannot be expected to perform miracles when the fencers are indecisive and their play is haphazard.

two principal types of parries are the opposition (blocking) parry, and the beat (deviating) parry.

921. A *counterparry* is a circular movement of the defender's weapon that sweeps the attacker's threatening blade back to the immediately preceding line of the defender's guard.

922. Generally the parry is deemed sufficient, in foil and sabre, if it clears the valid target of the threat of the opponent's offensive action, even if only for a brief moment. Under the rules, a very light parry is sufficient against a feint during a composite attack (*Rule 831*). On the other hand, the parry against a simple attack or against the final movement of a composite attack must be sufficiently authoritative to block or deviate the attacking thrust (or, in sabre, to break the force of the cut). This means that the successful parry ordinarily must be made with the guard or with the stronger parts of the blade (the two-thirds nearest the guard). Thus, a beat parry (*tac-au-tac*) properly made, always deviates the opposing blade, even when the movement is faster than the eye can follow. However, an attempt to parry with the foible (the forward third of the blade, nearest the point) ordinarily carries no authority against the final movement of an attack, and is usually insufficient.*

(H) THE RIPOSTE

923. The *riposte* is the offensive action of the defender which follows a successful parry of the attack. The riposte may be simple or composite, immediate or delayed.

**Judging Note No. 2.* When the blades of the two contestants meet during a phrase, the Director must determine whether such meeting constitutes a beat (by Fencer A on the attack) or a parry (by Fencer B on the defense). This is another important decision, in foil and sabre, for purposes of ascertaining the "right of way" in the event of simultaneous hits. The Director must study the method of play of each fencer and render his decision by reference to (1) the authority which one or the other fencer exercises over his opponent's blade, and (2) the fencing line in which the blades have met, as compared to the position of the blades immediately prior to their contact. Special attention must be given to situations in which the attacker intends to make a beat, but in which the execution of the movement is faulty, so that the defender is logically warranted in assuming that the movement constitutes a feint, a simple attack, or a false attack. *For instance:* the attacker makes an outside "beat" in sabre on the defender's blade near the guard; the defender is warranted in assuming he has parried a cut, and his immediate action shall be reconstructed as a riposte.

924. The *counter-riposte* is the attacker's riposte after he has parried the riposte of the defender. In a long sequence of play (*phrase d'armes*), there may be any number of counter-ripostes—second, third, etc.—alternating between the two fencers after each successful parry.

925. A *simple riposte* is made in one movement, and may be either direct or indirect:

(a) A direct riposte is made in the same line as the parry; as for example, a straight riposte (which touches the opponent without leaving the line in which the parry was made), or a riposte by *coule* or "over steel" (which touches the opponent by gliding along his blade after the parry).

(b) An indirect simple riposte is made in a line different from that of the parry; as for example, a riposte by disengage (which touches the opponent in the opposite line of the parry, by passing the point of the weapon around the opponent's guard), or a riposte by *coupe* or cut-over (similar to the above, except that the riposte goes over the tip of the opponent's blade).

926. A *composite riposte* is made in two or more movements, involving any combination of feints and deceives of the opponent's parries which precede the final action of the riposte.

927. The distinction between an immediate riposte and a delayed riposte depends entirely on the rapidity of its execution after the parry. This is a question of fact which is extremely important in judging.

(I) COUNTER-ATTACKS

928. The *stop-thrust* (or stop-cut) is a simple counter-attack, against the opponent's attack. It is successful, in foil and sabre, against a faulty attack, simple or composite; or against attacks advancing ("on the march") and delayed attacks, when the attacker exposes an open line and enables the defender to obtain the advantage of a sufficient interval of fencing time. (*See Rule 819.*)

929. A *time-thrust* (or time-cut) is a simple or composite counter-attack against the opponent's attack, executed so that it scores and at the same time blocks the line of the final movement of the attack—that is, the attacker's blade meets a closed line and is carried off the valid target by the opposition of the defender's blade or guard.

930. The *counter-stop* and *counter-time* consist in provoking an opportunity for the counter-attack. This may be done by inducing the opponent to expose an open line, or to attempt a stop-thrust or time-thrust, upon which action the opponent's blade is taken and an immediate counter-attack follows.

(J) SECONDARY ACTIONS

931. The *remise* is the immediate continuation of the attack in the same phrase by straight thrust (or cut) after the opponent's parry, either because the opponent releases the blade (i.e., opens the line) without riposting, or because he makes a composite or delayed riposte. In the latter case, the remise is a counter-attack against the riposte.

932. The *redoublement* (of attack or riposte) is a renewal of the action, made immediately (in the same line as or in a different line from that of the parry) after the original action has failed either because the opponent has opened the distance by retreating, or has parried and not riposted.

(K) NEW ATTACK

933. The *reprise* of attack is a *new attack*, simple or composite, executed by the original attacker immediately after the end of a sequence of play (*phrase d'armes*). The reprise is invariably preceded by a return to the on guard position, even though momentary, which marks the end of the sequence of play.

(L) OTHER DEFINITIONS

934. *Passata Sotto* is an action characteristic of the Italian school. Originally it consisted of a counter-action or stop-thrust executed by extending the sword arm while stretching the rear foot backward and to the side, placing the weight on the leading leg and the free hand on the ground; so that at the end of the movement the body was diagonally across the path of the attack. More recently, the term has been used to describe actions to the low line executed with any downward displacement of the body, such as a deep knee-bend.

935. *In Quartata* is another action developed by the Italian school. It consists of a counter-action (stop-thrust or time-thrust) executed by carrying the back foot to the side and pivoting the body in the

same direction so as to take it out of the way of the attack at the same time that the sword arm is extended.

936. *Derobement and Trompement* are executed with the same purpose—that of eluding the opponent's blade—but they are begun with the arm in different positions. The *derobement* is made with the arm already extended and its best example is the deceive made by a fencer with the point in line against an attempt to take the blade. The *trompement* is a movement designed to deceive the opponent's defense, usually originates from the bent arm position, and constitutes the deceive of a parry which has been provoked by a feint.

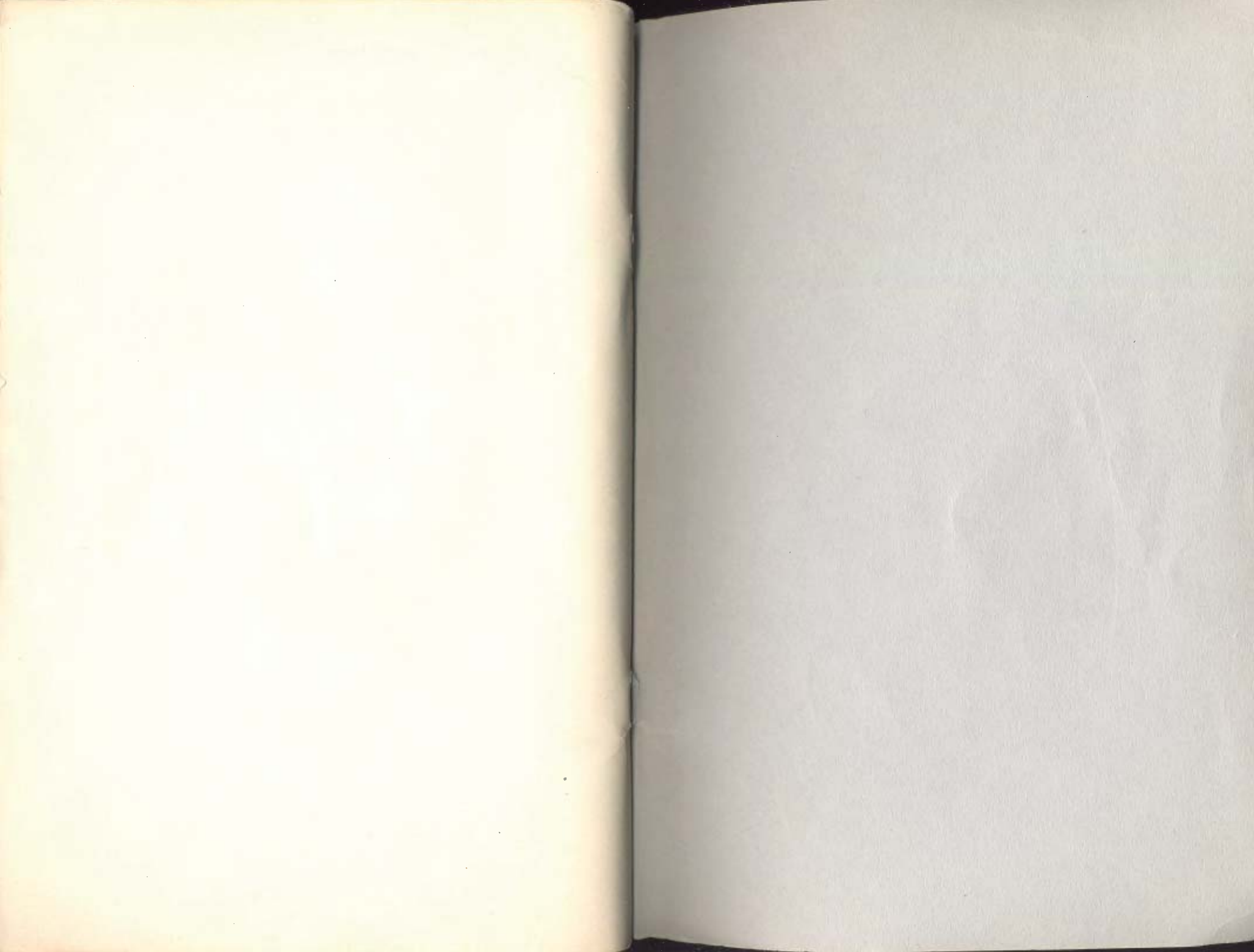
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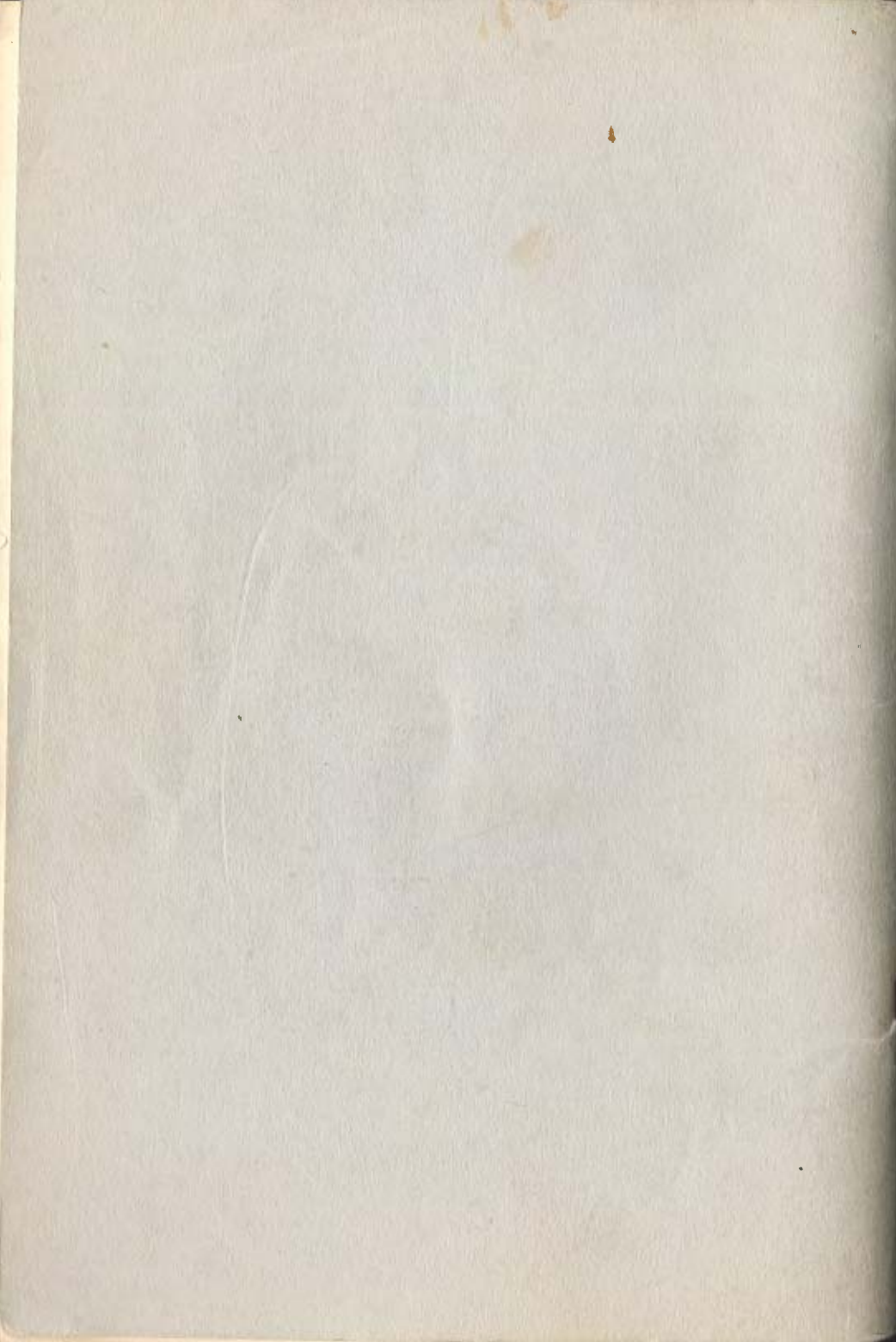
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FENCING RULES

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