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The purpose of this study was to develop a manual which will aid students in developing the techniques of timing, scoring, judging and directing conventional foil fencing bouts. A supplementary series of seven loopfilms was developed to offer students the opportunity to study fencing actions from the director's viewpoint.

Ten judges with extensive fencing backgrounds were chosen to evaluate the manual and suggest revisions. These evaluations were returned by nine of the ten judges. The comments from the nine judges led to the conclusion that the Manual for Officials of Conventional Foil Fencing should be of great value to students interested in officiating fencing.

The manual defines necessary terminology and outlines the duties of each official. The loopfilm series includes seven situations which pose problems for beginning officials. It would appear that the manual and loopfilms, if used together, would be beneficial in the classroom situation and would enhance the learning of fencing officiating techniques.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TEACHING MANUAL AND LOOPFILMS
FOR OFFICIALS OF CONVENTIONAL FOIL FENCING

by

Beth Alphin

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the Faculty of the Graduate School at
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

During the fourteenth century, the Germans decided that dueling could be a sport as well as a fight to the death. Using blunted swords, an official determined the superior of the two fencers after a fixed length of time. This pioneered the way for the use of officials in determining the outcome of competitive bouts. (40)

In the middle of the eighteenth century, fencing rules were developed. A jury, composed of one President and two or four judges, was selected and made responsible for officially determining the winner of a fencing bout. This method of officiating continued until 1913 when the International Federation of Fencing was founded to administer the sport of fencing. This organization reconciled differences in judging standards and rules between the independently developed French school and the Italian school. The International Federation of Fencing has continued to publish the official "Rules for Competition" which have been adopted by the United States and by most of the countries which compete in the World Championships and Olympic fencing competition.

One of the few revisions of the "Rules for Competition" followed the introduction of electrical touch-scoring devices in

1956. With these new signalling devices for recording hits, judges were no longer necessary. However, the President of an electrically scored fencing bout must still determine the materiality of the hits made.

The electrical touch-scoring equipment would seem ideal for use in a classroom since it requires fewer officials. However, the cost of the equipment is still quite high and the maintenance is rather involved for such a large number of inexperienced fencers. Therefore, if a class is going to enjoy the competitive situation, they must be able to judge and direct conventional foil bouts within their class.

Quality fencing officiating requires a keen eye and the ability to analyze and decide quickly. However, if the training is to be of greatest value, it must begin as early in the course as possible and then be applied frequently.

When students can officiate, even on an elementary level, fewer outside personnel are necessary for class bouts. This arrangement also increases the frequency of bouts that can be included within a semester. The officiating experiences gained in the class situation may also be of value if an individual joins a community fencing group after graduation from school.

There are only two books currently available which would be of assistance to a student interested in fencing officiating. One is Crosnier's A Guide to Judging and Presiding at Foil and Sabre. This text is difficult to obtain in the United States and is not

feasible for class use. The other text is the official Fencing Rules and Manual which contains the "Rules for Competition" and is published by the Amateur Fencer's League of America. The book includes the rules and a few techniques for the official, but was primarily intended as a rules manual.

This study has attempted to develop a manual for conventional foil fencing officials which might be used in a class situation. It is intended to explain the techniques of timing, scoring, judging and directing on a level a beginner could understand.

CHAPTER II

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purposes of this study were twofold:

1. To develop a manual which will aid students in developing the techniques of timing, scoring, judging and directing conventional foil fencing bouts.
2. To develop a supplementary series of loopfilms which will offer the opportunity to study fencing actions from the director's viewpoint.

CHAPTER III

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The art of fencing, as developed during the twentieth century, is not at all like the deadly game of the past centuries. Fencing, in a crude form, was one of the seven knightly virtues during the Age of Chivalry. It was an acceptable and popular way of solving differences between two people. Disputes were settled by duels which the clergy permitted as trial by order. (23:74)

As civilization progressed, the weapons changed in size and shape, but fencing was still a game of kill or be killed. Often, practice sessions would mean permanent injury or death to a practice partner. As the fencing skill improved, injuries became more frequent. Finally, in the twelfth century, the King of England forbade fencing except in conflict because many outstanding fencers were often mortally wounded while practicing. Though the penalties for fencing were severe, men continued to practice the art in secret. With the invention of firearms in the fifteenth century, the sword became obsolete as a weapon. Eventually lighter, better-balanced weapons were invented for dueling. (2:254)

The first governing body for fencing was established by Henry VIII before 1540, and was known as the Corporation of Fencing Masters. It was the duty of this organization to regulate fencing to avoid needless injury. (10:4) There were four levels of

membership - Masters, Provosts, Free Scholars and Scholars. The Four Ancient Masters were the originators and highest members. The administration of the organization was entirely their responsibility. Below the Masters were the Provosts, Free Scholars and Scholars. All were sworn to obey the laws of society and the Catholic Church and honor the Queen. (2:21-22)

Each of the four levels was considered a degree to be earned. When a Scholar felt he was sufficiently prepared to progress to a Free Scholar, he was required to defeat six of his fellow Scholars at two weapons - the long-sword and back-sword. If successful, he met as many Free Scholars as assigned by the Masters in an open bout which lasted for two days. Here he earned the prize of the Free Scholar degree. (2:20-23)

Once he became a Free Scholar, seven years had to pass before a student might challenge for his Provost prize. The Free Scholar then was required to challenge every Provost within a radius of twenty miles and pay a fine for every Provost omitted. He also was to pay one-half of the transportation costs for Provosts beyond a seven mile radius. (2:24)

The degree of Provost was also a license to teach. If the Master did not require the Provost's assistance, the Provost might open his own school. A Provost might petition for the Master's prize after seven years. This required challenging all Masters within sixty miles of London and paying full costs for their attendance at the event. If successful, the new Master took an oath to obey the Orders and Rules of the science and paid a sealing fee to the Four Ancient Masters. (2:24-25)

This Corporation continued to grow until newer and lighter weapons were introduced. Whether or not to adopt the newer weapons and instruct students in their use became a point of dissent within the Corporation. This dissention marked the beginning of a decline in organized fencing instruction. The final influence came in 1605 when Parliament passed the "Monopolies Act of 21 James I cap. III." (2:27) This declared the Corporation of Fencing Masters had a monopoly on the teaching of arms which must cease operating. The Masters of Defense kept the guild active, but they were never able to obtain a revival of their privileges. Thus ended "the only accredited Academy of Arms that has ever existed in England." (2:28)

In 1630 the Lords of the Privy Council forbade all fencing meets and prizes for fear of spreading the infection of the plague. (2:28)

While fencing was declining in England, the fencing masters of France were for the first time enjoying special privileges under Louis XIV. After no less than twenty years of formal fencing, Louis XIV awarded fencers titles and made them noblemen. Similarly, the great fencing masters of Italy were held in high esteem. (24:x)

The usual procedure in France and Italy after an insult had taken place, was for each party to ask two gentlemen to act as seconds. The four seconds would meet as a jury to determine the degree of this insult and their decision was binding to the parties involved. If the jury decided the outcome of the dispute was to be a duel, they decided the place, the weapon and regulatory

procedures. The duel with swords was fought until the first blood was shed or until exhaustion. (20:36-37) In France an attempt to regulate the dueling was made, and a Guard of Honor composed of high ranking officials was established to settle affairs peacefully. The Guard of Honor strictly enforced the regulations but duelers still preferred the risk of the jury method. (20:15)

Early in the seventeenth century, the button point was invented for practice. Its size approximated that of a golf ball which greatly reduced the danger of putting out the opponent's eye or injuring his face during practice. By the mid-seventeenth century, masks came into use, cutting edges of weapons were dulled and mail gloves were replaced by buff-gauntlets. (20:14-15) Until this time the riposte had not been permitted until the opponent had returned to the on guard position; stop hits were not permitted and the emphasis in approved fencing schools was on style and form rather than effectiveness. (20:36)

With the new safety devices, fencing developed rapidly. Fencers could take more chances and try a few risky surprise attacks that might not be successful. (7:3) Fencing was becoming a sport rather than a preparation for dueling. The rapier was replaced by the small sword of French or Italian style. The French style with the smoother, more flexible technique, dominated fencing. It was a more unified method of teaching than the Italian method, and was readily accepted throughout Europe. (20)

In the latter part of the nineteenth century, a relaxation of the rigidity of Victorian manners made it possible for ladies to

indulge in milder forms of athletics. Until then, only a few women of the theatre had attempted to learn the elementary skills of fencing. In 1874 when Edward VII, Prince of Wales, entrusted his daughters to a fencing master's care, younger members of the Court circle followed the example, and fencing for women became fashionable. (2:247-248)

During this same period of time, America was developing an interest in fencing. Immigrant fencing masters and students settled in the New York area and clubs such as the New York Athletic Club offered opportunities to learn fencing. In 1874 the first fencing school in America was opened by Semac in New York. In 1891 the Amateur Fencers League of America was founded; and the Inter-collegiate Fencing Association was begun in 1894. Prior to this time fencing events were conducted by the Amateur Athletic Union.

In 1913 the International Federation of Fencing (F. I. E. or Federation Internationale d'Esgrime) was founded to administer fencing in general and to reconcile differences in judging standards and rules between the independently developed French school and the Italian school. In 1914 the rules were codified. These were issued in 1919 with the title "Rules for Competition." Since then, they have been revised on three separate occasions by different F. I. E. Congresses and have been adopted as the rules for the World Championships and World Youth Championships. The rules adopted by the Amateur Fencers League of America and the Amateur Fencing Association of Great Britain also follow the "Rules of Competition" of the International Federation of Fencing. (13:13)

Competition in sabre and foil fencing was included in the first Modern Olympic Games in 1896 in Athens, but women's teams did not compete until 1960. However, the F. I. E. had organized a world championship for women in each Olympic year from 1932 onward. (23:78) Beginning in 1914, the International Congress of National Olympic Committees unanimously adopted the F. I. E. "Rules for Competition" for use in all fencing events. (23:78)

In accordance with the "Rules for Competition", two fencers meet on a strip, marked on the floor, or on a metallic mat called a piste. There is a jury of one director and four judges watching the targets. The judges determine the materiality of a touch and the director, or President of the Jury, must determine the validity of the touch.

Today, the distance in foil fencing has increased and generally simple attacks are used with tremendous speed. (34:27) "Considering the distance between the fencers and the incredible agility and speed of both, one of the serious problems of fencing should now become obvious." (28:11) The light, quick touches are difficult to detect, even with four judges.

This problem of officiating, however, is not entirely a new one. In the preface to Crosnier's A Guide to Judging and Presiding, C-L de Beaumont includes an article written in 1896 from the Daily Courier of England. The article might appear in a contemporary newspaper and still be apropos.

. . . Everyone who has watched a bout with the foils knows that the task of judging the hit is, with a pair of amateurs, difficult enough, and with a well matched pair of Maitres d'Esgrime well-nigh impossible. To accomplish his responsible work satisfactorily it is necessary for the judges to possess the eye of an hawk and the ability of the tiger in order to keep the lightning-like movements of both points well under observation. (9:6)

Skilled Presidents and their juries often have years of experience and still find their task difficult. "It has been said that it takes five years of fencing experience to make a good fencer, ten years to make a good judge and fifteen years to make a good director." (26:89) If this is correct, the implications for teaching seem obvious. If it takes so long to perfect these skills, they should be included in elementary classes. (26) Many fencing classes do not instruct in techniques of officiating, yet, to enjoy the sport, officials are necessary.

In recent years, electrical touch-scoring methods have been introduced into fencing which have made the detection of touches in the high-speed game easier. Such improvements have led to still more changes in style and speed of fencing. (7:3) With the electrical equipment judges are no longer necessary, but the President must still determine the validity of the touch. (7)

Electrical equipment would sound ideal for class use. However, the cost of purchase and maintenance of electrical fencing equipment is beyond the means of most teaching situations. Conventional equipment, therefore, remains more practical for instructional use.

The advantages of teaching officiating are threefold for the learner. First, the individual will learn leadership, quickness of decision, and will gain a better understanding of fencing action. Secondly, a well-trained jury is indispensable to the conduct of a bout and instruction must begin early if it is to be effective and useful. Finally, with such officiating experience, a student can be an asset to the class and the fencing community.

(26)

CHAPTER IV

PROCEDURE

This study was undertaken to develop a manual which will aid students in developing the techniques of timing, scoring, judging and directing conventional foil fencing bouts.

SELECTION OF JUDGES

The first step of this study was to conduct a survey to find qualified judges who were willing to evaluate the manual being developed. A letter explaining the study and requesting the names of nationally rated officials was sent to the Amateur Fencers League of America. The Amateur Fencers League of America returned a list of five highly recommended fencing officials. These names were added to a list of fifteen other well-known fencers, fencing coaches and fencing instructors. (See Appendix A for the full list.)

Desiring only ten of the possible twenty judges, a questionnaire was developed to ascertain the personal fencing, officiating and coaching experience of each of these twenty persons. The questionnaire was mailed with an explanatory letter asking if they would be willing to assist with the study. (See Appendix B and C.)

All twenty of the questionnaires were returned and only one person was unable to assist with the study. The information on the questionnaires was compiled and the ten persons with the most fencing officiating experience, widest background in competitive fencing and coaching were selected to assist with the final evaluation of the manual.

SELECTION OF MATERIAL FOR MANUAL

A list of terms which are essential for adequate understanding of fencing situations was devised. These terms were defined and placed in the first section of the manual for easy reference. Using the official international rules for competition, Crosnier's A Guide to Judging and Presiding at Foil and Sabre, and officiating articles from the Bowling, Fencing and Golf Guide published by the Division of Girl's and Women's Sports, pertinent information for each official was determined. The officiating responsibilities were then organized in order of progressing difficulty. Since a beginning official would be more likely to keep the time or score than direct, these were placed first in the manual.

REVISION OF THE MANUAL

When the manual was completed, it was spiral bound with blank pages to the left of every page of the text. These manuals were mailed with a general evaluation form and an explanatory letter to each of the ten selected judges. (See Appendix D and E.) The judges were to make any comments or corrections they wished in

the manual and to evaluate the effectiveness of the manual on the enclosed forms. Both the manual and the forms were then to be returned.

Nine of the ten judges completed the evaluation and returned the materials. Their comments were compiled and the revision was based on these compilations.

A copy of the revised manual was spiral bound and mailed to each of the nine judges who had answered the evaluation form. Two copies were also mailed to the Library of Congress to secure a copyright on the manual.

SELECTION OF MATERIAL FOR LOOPFILMS

One of the greatest difficulties beginning officials experience is the analyzation of fencing action. Once a fencing phrase has been completed, the President must reconstruct the phrase and analyze the action to determine which fencer had the right of way for the attack. Even when practicing, the President cannot ask two fencers to repeat fencing actions a second time and expect them to be the same.

The loopfilms were included to give aspiring directors an opportunity to see a series of fencing actions, more commonly called a phrase, performed at normal speed, review the phrase mentally, and then review the phrase again visually. With the loopfilm projector, the phrase could also be reviewed frame by frame with the stop action. In this way, the official could see the same action over until he understood the phrase.

Seven phrases were chosen for the loopfilms which present particular difficulty to beginning officials. The first time a student views a loopfilm, he is to view the entire action and attempt to mentally reconstruct the action when the loopfilm is finished. He may then show the loopfilm as often as necessary for him to recognize the actions. If he has a question, he may choose to watch one aspect of the film at a time. Eventually he should be able to see all of the aspects at one time when performed at normal speed.

The seven actions and decisions were:

1. Simultaneous action.

Nothing done.

2. Attack by disengage from left;

Stop hit which steals time.

Touch against left.

3. Attack from right;

Time hit from left.

Touch against right.

4. Attack from left;

Beat parry and riposte from right;

Replacement by left.

Touch against left.

5. Beat attack from left;

Extension into attack from right.

Touch against left.

6. Simultaneous attack.

Straight arm from left, bent from right.

Touch against right.

7. Simultaneous attack.

Nothing done.

The correct analysis of each of the phrases are printed on a separate card within each loopfilm box and the instructions were printed on each cartridge case. In this way, a student could read the instructions without being tempted to also read the analysis before reviewing the actions.

FILMING THE LOOPFILM PHRASES

In 1966, Miss Sandra Peabody conducted a study using fencing loopfilms at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She found that contrasting colors were necessary for the fencing foils and that Sher-Will-Glo Bulletin Color was most effective. Using Miss Peabody's findings, one foil was painted comet orange and one foil was painted vibrant green. A small rubber ball was attached to the tip of each foil and also painted to increase the ease with which the action could be followed. (38:15)

Arrangements were made with Mr. Emil Young to use the television studio at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. A black backdrop was used to increase the contrast between the foils and the studio lighting was placed to give maximum light to the fencers. Kodacrome II, Type A film was used with the Minolta Eight battery powered movie camera. A light meter was used to determine

the f/stop of f/2.8 with a comparative exposure time of 1/60th of a second. The film speed was twenty-four frames per second.

An arbitrary distance of thirty feet from the fencers was selected as the camera position to include both fencers in the frames. Since the first fifty feet of film were intended as experimental film, the fencing action was photographed from three angles. The first attempt was directly facing the fencers as the President would ordinarily stand and the other two angles were approximately forty-five degrees to each side of the initial position.

When the film had been developed and viewed, there appeared no reason to do further filming. The film was cut and the phrases were spliced to a long piece of leader film which would enable the student to mentally review the action before the actual phrase was repeated. The film was then placed into Technicolor magi-cart-ridges for class use.

CHAPTER V

MANUAL FOR OFFICIALS OF CONVENTIONAL
FOIL FENCING

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FENCING TERMINOLOGY

To converse in any language, one must first have an understanding of the vocabulary of that language. In the sport of fencing, the President and his jury must know the definition of a hit, the valid target and the terms associated with attack and defense. If, through misinterpretation or ignorance of the terminology, a judge responds incorrectly to the President, it is the fencer who bears the loss for error in judgment. For this reason, it is suggested that a fencer or student be familiar with the following terms before he accepts the responsibility of judging or directing.

Target

The valid target for women, as for men, extends from the collar ($2\frac{1}{2}$ inches above the prominences of the collar bone), to the seams of the sleeve (which should cross the head of the humerus), to a horizontal line across the lower back (joining the tops of the hip bones) and extending forward in straight lines to the junction of the lines with the groin. The arms, legs, head and bib of the mask are not a portion of the valid target (see Figure 1 on page 24). (6)

If a fencer, through an unusual position, substitutes a portion of his body which is not valid target for a portion that is, the invalid target becomes valid (i.e., if a fencer ducks to avoid a hit, his mask becomes legal target. Also, if the arm is

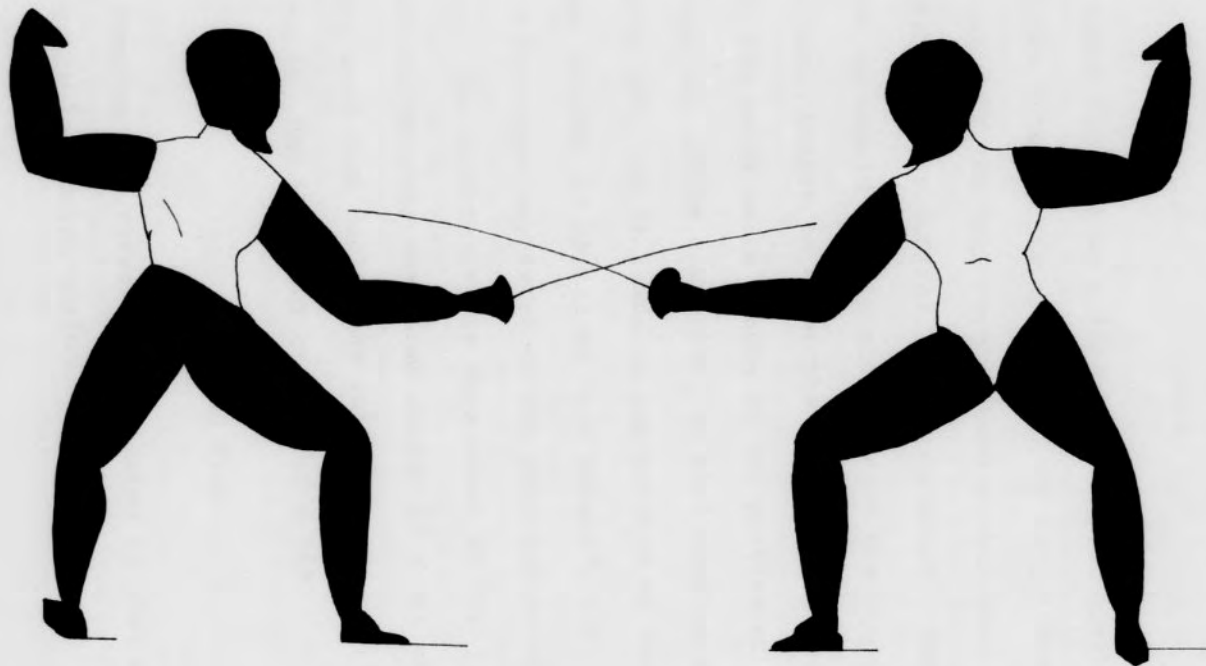


FIGURE 1.

LEGAL TARGET FOR FOIL FENCING

The light areas in the above figures represent the legal target for foil fencing.

(ADAPTED from: DeCapriles, Fencing Rules and Manual.) (6)

held in front of the target, it becomes legal target.) This is referred to as an "extension of the valid target" and should be discouraged. (6)

Hit

Since the foil is a thrusting weapon, a valid hit is one which lands with the tip of the foil on target even if only for an instant. If the foil were pointed rather than blunt, a hit would theoretically inflict a puncture wound. Should the tip land flat or should the tip slide across the target without making a clear touch before or after the slide, it is not a valid hit. A hit by the point which occurs on any portion of the fencer's body stops the action. However, it must land on valid target to be a valid hit. If it lands on any portion of the body which is not legal target, it is called "off target". (6)

A President may refer to the materiality or to the validity of a hit. The materiality is determined by the judges and the President of the Jury when they decide if a hit occurred. The President must then decide the validity of the hit by determining which fencer had the right of way for a hit.

Fencing Time

Fencing time refers to the period of time required to execute one simple fencing action. (6)

Sequence of Play or Phrase d'Armes

The phrase is the portion of a bout during which there is no cessation of exchanges between fencers. It is usually composed of an attack and one or more parries and ripostes executed without a pause in the action. There may be several phrases within the period of combat which extends from the command "fence" to the command "halt". A phrase begins when the fencers engage blades or when an action is initiated and it ends when the fencers cease engagement or when the command to "halt" is given. In the instance of a hit, the last phrase is the portion of the play the President must reconstruct before questioning the materiality of a hit. (4, 6)

Right of Way

The rule of right of way follows a basic theory that there should be an orderly alternation of actions between fencers. A fencer who provokes a double hit is violating the rule of right of way. A fencer gains the right of way for an offensive action by straightening his foil arm or by threatening the opponent's target with the point of his weapon. He maintains the right of way until his arm is bent, until the threat is removed or until the opponent meets his blade. An offensive action does not constitute an attack until a threat has been made and this threat must be exploited without delay. If there is a hesitation and the opponent attacks during the hesitation, the right of way is

with the opponent. As soon as the opponent has met the attacking blade and has successfully removed it from threatening the target, the attacking fencer loses the right of way and it may pass to the opponent if he initiates a return attack without delay. The first fencer must then meet the returning blade and remove the threat before he can extend his arm and receive the right of way again. In this manner, the right of way passes back and forth many times until there is a pause which ends the phrase. (4, 6)

It might be summarized that the fencer gains the right of way by threatening the opponent's target or by extending the foil arm. This extension of the arm may be to initiate an action or it may follow a parry.

Offensive and Defensive Action

Attack

The attack is an action made with the intention of hitting the opponent's target. It may be executed by combining a direct or indirect attack with a simple or compound movement.

Direct

A direct attack is executed without changing the original line of engagement. An example of this would be a straight thrust.
(6)

Indirect

The indirect attack involves a change in the original line of engagement. Thus an attack beginning in one line and landing

in another is an indirect attack. An example of an indirect attack would be the disengage or coupé. (6)

Disengagement.- An attack starting in either high line which passes under the opponent's blade in semi-circular fashion and lands in the opposite high line from that of the original engagement is a disengagement. A disengagement may also be executed in the low lines. (8)

Coupé.- An attack which passes over the tip of the opponent's blade, describing an inverted "V" (Λ) pattern, and hits in the opposite line of engagement from that of the original line, is a coupé. The coupe may move from fourth to sixth or from sixth to fourth. (8)

Simple

An attack which is executed in only one movement may be categorized as a simple attack. A simple attack may be direct or indirect. An example of a simple attack is the disengage lunge. (6)

Composed or Compound

A composed attack requires two or more movements for the execution and may be direct or indirect. An example of a direct composed attack is the feint straight thrust, disengage and lunge. The doublé and the one-two are examples of composed indirect attacks. (6)

One-two.- A one-two attack passes from the original line of engagement by disengagement and back into the original line of

engagement for the hit. The second disengagement is intended to deceive the opponent's simple parry. (7, 8)

Double.- The double involves a feint disengage followed by a second disengage in the same direction which evades the opponent's counter-parry. The attack actually describes a complete circle around the opponent's blade and hits in the opposite line from that of the original engagement. (7, 8)

Parry

The parry is a defensive action made with the foil which prevents the opponent's attack from landing on target. A mere contact of the blades is not sufficient, the parry must clearly deflect the opponent's blade from the target and thus remove the threat of the opponent's attack. (4)

If the parry is properly executed, the attacker loses the right of way and the defense has the right of way to initiate a return attack.

There are two types of parries, the simple parry and the counter-parry. The simple parry is further divided into an opposition parry and a beat parry.

Simple

The simple parry is a direct movement intended to meet the attacker's blade which is threatening an exposed line. In both of these parries there is blade contact. (6)

Opposition.- An opposition parry consists of a lateral movement of the foil which closes the exposed line by meeting the

attacking blade thus stopping the attack from landing. (2)

Beat.- A beat parry is a parry which meets the attacking blade with force and deflects it. In this instance, a crisp beat is applied to the attacker's foil by the defender which causes it to deviate from the exposed target. (2)

Counter-parry

The counter-parry is a circular parry used against a simple or indirect attack to bring the attacker's blade back into the original line of engagement. The counter-parry contacts the attacking blade at the termination of the circular motion. It is a quick defensive action which returns the attacker's blade to the line from which he just disengaged. (2)

Feint

A feint is a false movement intended as a threat to make the opponent believe it is the attack. As the opponent moves to close the line in which he expects to attack, he opens the opposite line and the attack is completed in the open line. The one-two is an example of an attack which uses the feint to create an opening for a touch. In the doublé the feint is used to draw a counter-parry by the opponent. The feint, however, need not be a disengage. The feint may be any attacking motion as long as it appears to threaten the target. (7)

Invitation

An invitation to the attack is a deliberate and exaggerated exposure of a line to encourage the opponent to attack in the

exposed line. The fencer executing the invitation must be able to react quickly enough to defend this line when attacked. (3)

Riposte

The riposte is an offensive action made by a fencer after successfully parrying an attack. The riposte may be immediate or delayed, depending on the intention of the defending fencer. As with the attack, a riposte may be simple, composed, direct or indirect. (6)

Counter-Riposte

Once a fencer has parried the riposte, the counter-riposte is the return offensive action. The counter-riposte follows the same requirements as the riposte. (6)

Counter Attacks

A counter attack is made on the opponent's attack in an attempt to stop his attack from arriving. In the process, a touch is attempted against the attacking opponent. (6)

Stop Hit

A stop hit is a counter attack made by an extension into the opponent's attack which must arrive on target before the final movement of the opponent's attack. Thus, the stop hit stops the development of the opponent's attack. The rules specifically state that a stop hit must land a period of fencing time before the attacker has begun the final movement of his attack in order for the stop hit to be scored. There is no blade contact in the stop hit when it is properly executed. (6, 7)

Time Hit

A time hit is a parry and riposte in one single uninterrupted action. The fencer must close the line of the attack as he extends into the attacker's target. When the time hit is properly executed, it intercepts the final action of a compound attack or the only action of a simple attack and prevents the attack from landing. It is executed as the stop hit, but with blade contact to deflect the opponent's foil. (6, 7)

Counter Time or Second Intention

A counter time attack is one which deliberately draws an opponent's reaction, parries that action, and scores on the riposte. This counter time attack is also referred to as an attack in second intention. The first intention is to draw the opponent's stop hit, time hit or parry and riposte and the second intention is to parry the stop hit, time hit or riposte and score against the opponent with a riposte. (6, 7)

Attacks on the Blade

An attack on the blade is used to create an open line for an attack. It may also be used to take, control or dominate the opponent's foil and thus protect against a counter attack in time.

The execution of an attack on the blade is a preparation for an attack. The more frequently used attacks on the blade are the beat, pressure, glide, bind and envelopment. In the glide, bind and envelopment attacks, the blades remain in contact until the attack is completed. In the beat and pressure, the opponent's

blade is struck aside or the pressure is followed by a glide.

(7, 8)

Beat

The beat is an attack which crisply strikes the opponent's blade and deflects it from the target area. It may be combined with any of the other attacks into a composed attack.

Pressure

The pressure attack is executed similar to the beat, except pressure is applied instead of striking the foil. When the pressure is released, the action or reaction of the opponent will determine how the attack is completed. In the beat, the attacker anticipates a reaction to the striking of the opponent's foil; in the pressure, the attacker anticipates a reaction to the release of the pressure. (8)

Glide

The glide is an attack which contacts the opponent's blade and slides forward along the opponent's blade to the target. (8)

Bind

The bind is an attack which contacts the opponent's blade and carries it in a diagonal direction from the high line to the low line or from the low line to the high line. The strong portion of the attacker's blade must contact the weak portion of the opponent's blade controlling it throughout the attack. (8)

Envelopment

The envelopment is an attack which carries the opponent's blade in a complete circle and hits in the original line of engagement. During the envelopment contact must be maintained with the opponent's blade if the attack is to succeed. The envelopment is executed as to consecutive binds and is made with the strong part of the attacking blade against the weak portion of the opponent's blade. The envelopment must be made quick enough to prevent the opponent from removing his blade before the attack is completed, yet it cannot be so quick that the blade is lost in the process.

(7)

Renewals of Attack

A renewal of attack is a second offensive action which immediately follows when there is no parry, or a delayed riposte. The renewal may occur while still in the lunge position or after recovering to the on guard position. There are three renewals of attack: the remise, the reprise, and the redoublement. (7, 8)

Remise or Replacement.- The remise is an immediate offensive action in the same line which follows the original attack. It is used when the opponent retreats from the attack, fails to riposte or delays the riposte. The remise is executed while still in the lunge position and is also used as a stop hit or time hit against a riposte. In the remise, the blade is merely placed on the target it originally missed. (3, 4, 6)

Reprise.- An immediate renewal of the attack after returning to the on guard position is a reprise d'attaque. The return

to the on guard position may be forward or backward and is followed immediately by another attack. (3, 4, 6)

Redoublement.- A redoublement is a new attack, in a different line than the original attack, made while still in the lunge position. It is used when the opponent fails to riposte or delays the riposte and is executed with one or more blade actions. (3, 4, 6)

Point in Line

The point in line is a defensive action intended to compel the opponent to execute an attack on the blade in order for him to acquire the right of way. This is accomplished by extending the arm in line with the opponent's target in such a way that the opponent would impale himself on the foil, unless he first removed the defender's point from the line of attack. Since the opponent cannot gain the right of way until he has removed the threatening point from the line of attack, the execution of point in line may also be considered an invitation for the opponent to attack. (3, 6)

Corps à Corps

When a situation occurs where there is bodily contact or locked bell guards resulting from an improper attack, it is referred to as corps à corps. A fencer who deliberately causes corps à corps should be warned against using such attacks for the remainder of the pool or match. On the first repetition of such an offense, one hit is recorded against the offender. If the offense occurs a

second time, the offender is excluded from the remainder of the competition. (4, 6)

Flèche

The flèche is a running attack in which the flècheur runs past the opponent and usually off of the strip as he attacks. Where executed properly, the flècheur scores a hit and passes his opponent before a corps à corps occurs. Too often, inexperienced fencers are careless and jostle the opponent. If this occurs, the flècheur should be penalized for a corps à corps. If the flècheur leaves the strip, he must have scored before leaving it for the touch to count.

DUTIES OF THE OFFICIALS

The duties briefly outlined below are explained in further detail in this chapter.

Timekeeper:

1. keep actual fencing time
2. inform President when one minute is left to fence
3. call "Halt" or ring bell when time limit expires.

Scorer:

1. call fencers to fence and announce the two fencers on deck
2. record each touch made
3. announce score after each touch is made
4. remind President when fencers are to change ends of the strip
5. when one fencer has scored five touches (four for women) announce "Bout" and the score and winner.

Judge:

1. watch for touches on target assigned
2. raise hand to signal President when touch has been made
3. vote "yes", "no", "off target", or "abstain" when the President asks for vote.

President:

1. preside over the meet
2. supervise other officials
3. maintain order
4. control equipment
5. direct each bout
6. penalize faults
7. award touches.

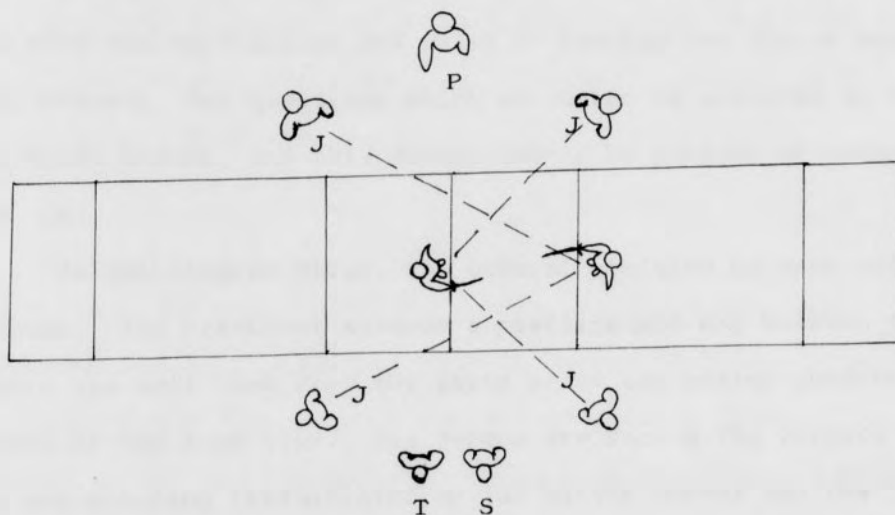


FIGURE 2.

POSITIONS OF OFFICIALS

T = Timekeeper
S = Scorer

P = President
J = Judge

(ADAPTED FROM: DeCapriles, Fencing Rules and Manual.) (6)

In accordance with AFLA rules, five officials compose a full jury for competition in conventional foil fencing bouts with one or two persons essential to the administration of the bout. The President of the Jury, or Director of the Bout, is responsible for the conduct of the bout. Four judges complete the jury and it is their duty to assist the President in detection of the touches. (When four judges are not available, two judges are acceptable.) The timekeeper and scorer are responsible for the keeping of accurate records of score and of time. One person may assume the responsibility of both the scorer and timekeeper or two persons may be available to assist. All of the officials should be familiar with the terminology and rules of fencing and should know their duties. Any questions which arise can be answered by the AFLA Rules Manual, and this manual should be present at every meet. (6)

In the diagram given, the general position of each official is shown. The President assumes a position mid-way between the fencers and well back from the strip so he can better observe both fencers at the same time. The judges are facing the targets which they are watching (illustrated by the dotted lines) and the judges move as the fencers move in order to have an unobstructed view of the target at all times. When only two judges are available, each will face the open target of the fencer he is watching; if one of the fencers is left-handed, the two judges will stand opposite the director and the director will view the action from behind the

fencers. The judges must be careful in all instances to move with the action so as not to obstruct the director's view of the action and in order to be in a position where most hits can be seen. (6)

Timekeeper

The official time allotted to women's foil bouts is five minutes and six minutes for the men's bouts. The timekeeper is responsible for registering the actual fencing time, or that time between the command "fence" and "halt". When there is one minute of fencing time remaining, the timekeeper must inform the President who then informs the fencers of the time left to fence. When the time limit expires, the timekeeper must call "Halt" or must ring a bell to stop the bout. Any hit landing after the bell, even if initiated before time expired, is not valid. (6)

Scorer

It is the responsibility of the scorer to announce to each fencer the number by which he will be called to fence. The scorer also calls the number of each fencer before each bout and he calls the fencers who are "on deck" to fence next by name or number. The first fencer called takes his position to the right of the President if both fencers are right-handed or if both are left-handed. (When a left-handed fencer is called to fence a right-handed fencer, both fencers take a position with their open target to the President unless there are only two judges in which case the fencers must put

their back target to the President.) In order to keep the bout moving smoothly, the scorer must remind the fencers that they are to fence next and to be ready ahead of time. (6)

The next and most important duty of the scorer is to record each touch made against the fencers and to announce the score following each touch. When three of the five touches (two of the four touches in women's foil) have been scored against one fencer, the scorer is to remind the President who in turn asks the fencers to change ends of the strip. (If one of the fencers is left-handed, the judges rotate two positions clockwise and the fencers remain in place.) When one of the fencers has scored five touches (four for women), the scorer announces "Bout", the score and the name of the winner. If the time elapses before the bout is complete and one fencer has scored more touches than his opponent, the scorer will add the number of hits required to bring the higher score to the maximum and the same number of hits to the opponent's score. Thus a bout with a score of Jones 2 and Smith 1, when the time was called, would officially be recorded Jones 5 and Smith 4. (6)

If time is called and the score is even, the scorer adds enough points to each score to bring them to one less than maximum and the fencers fence for the last point. In this instance, the fencers are replaced on guard in the positions they occupied when time was called. (6) Should a fencer withdraw or be expelled from a bout, or from the entire match, the score for each bout of that fencer should be recorded as five touches against the withdrawn fencer and none against his opponent. This applies even if there

was a score in the bout when the fencer was expelled.

A sample scoresheet is included on Page 44 for the individual competition and one is also included for team competition on Page 45. Below each scoresheet is a list of the order of the bouts for competitions of various sizes. The scorer must call the bouts in descending order and should mark through each bout as the fencers take their positions on the strip. Thus, by looking at the scoresheets during any point of the match, the scorer can ascertain which fencers are fencing and which fencers are to fence next. When a match is completed, the order of bouts should be individually crossed through as in the example for individual competition. (6)

When the fencers are called to the strip, the scorer marks through the number of the bout and draws a horizontal line through the boxes in which the hits will be recorded. When Mr. Jones (number 1) fences, Mr. Lee (number 4), the scorer divides the box under number four opposite Mr. Jones' name with a horizontal line; he also divides box number one opposite Mr. Lee's name in the same manner. Every touch made against Mr. Jones was tallied above the horizontal line in box four opposite Mr. Jones' name. Similarly, all touches Mr. Jones scored against Mr. Lee are recorded in the first box opposite Mr. Lee's name. When five touches have been scored against a fencer, the bout is completed. The scorer should mark a "V" beneath the horizontal line of the victor and a "D" beneath the line of the defeated fencer. (6)

When all of the bouts have been completed, the scorer totals the wins, losses and points scored against each fencer and places

these totals in the columns to the right on the scoresheet. The last column entitled "Place" is for recording the ranking of the fencer. In the example of the individual competition, Mr. Lee obviously won first place with three wins. Since the other three competitors each won one bout and lost two, the scorer must tally touches against the fencers to determine their positions. Mr. Smith had the fewest touches (ten) scored against him, therefore he placed second in the competition. Mr. Brown was third with twelve touches against him and Mr. Jones placed last.

If both the number of wins and the number of touches scored against a competitor are equal, the touches made by a fencer are totaled and the fencer with the higher number of hits made is the higher of the two fencers in position. Should all of these totals tie, a playoff bout may be fenced to determine the positions of the fencers. (6)

After all of the scoring is completed and the tallies have been made and checked by the President, the scorer and the President must sign the scoresheet. (6)

The scoresheet for team competitions is scored in the same manner as the individual. One additional column is present, this is to record the total number of wins by a team. If the total number of wins is the same, the team with the fewer hits against them is the winner. Should it be necessary to count the touches made by the teams, the team with the greater number of touches scored is declared the winner. (6)

FIGURE 3.

SCORESHEET FOR INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

NAME	No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	Wins	Loses	Touches Against	Place
Mr. Jones	1	X	$\frac{III}{D}$	$\frac{III}{V}$	$\frac{VII}{D}$			1	2	13	4 th
Mr. Smith	2	$\frac{0}{V}$	X	$\frac{III}{D}$	$\frac{VII}{D}$			1	2	10	2 nd
Mr. Brown	3	$\frac{III}{D}$	$\frac{II}{V}$	X	$\frac{III}{D}$			1	2	12	3 rd
Mr. Lee	4	$\frac{II}{V}$	$\frac{II}{V}$	$\frac{I}{V}$	X			3	0	5	1 st
	5					X					
	6						X				

ORDER OF BOUTS

4 fencers
(6 bouts)

~~1-4~~
~~2-3~~
~~1-2~~
~~2-4~~
~~3-4~~
~~1-3~~

5 fencers
(10 bouts)

1-2 2-5
3-4 4-1
5-1 3-5
2-3 4-2
5-4
1-3

6 fencers
(15 bouts)

1-4 6-4
2-5 1-2
3-6 3-4
5-1 5-6
4-2 2-3
3-1 1-6
6-2 4-5
5-3

Ann Larsen

Scorer

Jim Johnson

President

FIGURE 4.

TEAM SCORESHEET

TEAM	NAME	No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Wins of		
													Fencer	Team	
Folks	Miss Lee	1	X					 D	 D	 D				0	4
	Miss Smith	2		X				I V	II V	II V			3		
	Miss Wolfe	3			X			I V	 D	 D			1		
		4				X									
		5					X								
Masques	Miss Miller	6	II V	 D	 D			<i>Ann Larsen</i> Scorer <i>Jim Johnson</i> President					1	5	
	Miss Warren	7	I V	 D	II V		2								
	Miss Jones	8	III V	 D	O V		2								
		9													
		10													

ORDER OF BOUTS

Teams of 2
(4 bouts)

1-6
2-7
1-7
2-6

Teams of 3
(9 bouts)

~~1-6~~ ~~3-6~~
~~2-7~~ ~~1-8~~
~~3-8~~ ~~2-6~~
~~1-7~~ ~~3-7~~
~~2-8~~

Teams of 4
(16 bouts)

1-6 1-8
2-7 2-9
3-8 3-6
4-9 4-7
1-7 1-9
2-8 2-6
3-9 3-7
4-6 4-8

Judges

The jury is composed of the judges and the President. Four judges are necessary for a full jury, but two judges are acceptable when four are not available. The judges on the President's right are watching the fencer's target on the left of the President and the judges on the President's left watch the target to the right of the President. (See Figure 2, page 38.) (6)

A judge is assigned to watch the target of the fencer diagonally across the strip (see Figure 2, page 38). The judge is watching for touches and must be careful not to obstruct the view of the President in the process. It is suggested that a judge stand one step to the side of the strip and two steps behind the fencer to his side. A judge must also be careful not to get so close to the fencers that he may be hit. (6)

When a judge sees a hit on or off target, he must advise the President of the hit by raising his hand. When the President sees the raised hand he will call "Halt" and determine the materiality and validity of the touch. If the President does not see the raised hand, a judge may supplement his signal with "yes" or "touch". This should attract the attention of the President who will then call "Halt". (6)

Once the President has halted the action, he determines the materiality of the hit or hits with the aid of the jury members. When he questions a judge, the judge should respond with one of the following four answers:

1. If the judge saw a valid touch on valid target, he should respond "Yes" or "Touch".
2. If the judge saw a touch which did not land on valid target, his response should be, "Off target".
3. If there was no touch made on or off valid target, the correct response is "No" or "No touch".
4. When the judge is unable to see the point and honestly cannot give a decision, the response of "I abstain" is applicable. However, this response should be used only when necessary. Too frequently inexperienced officials over use the abstention.

Unless a President specifically asks for an explanation from a judge, the response should be restricted to one of the above statements. Long and detailed explanations are not necessary and may only confuse the rest of the jury. (6)

Since the President may refer to specific actions, the jury members must be familiar with fencing terminology. The President's phrasing may resemble the example below.

President: "Attack by disengage from the right;
did it land?"

Judge A: "No."

Judge B: "No."

President: "No touch on the attack. Parry and
riposte from the left?"

Judge C: "Yes."

Judge D: "Yes."

President: "Touch against the right."

Only the President has the authority to stop a bout. A judge may not call "Halt" unless he sees a danger which the President has not seen. An example of such a danger would be a broken foil blade, a faulty mask, disarranged clothing or an accident.

By accepting the responsibility to judge, a judge pledges to assist the President by recognizing touches. He must also remain courteous, attentive and impartial throughout the bout. If the President feels a judge is not qualified, the President may ask the Bout Committee to remove the judge from the jury. (6)

President

The President of the Jury is responsible for the conduct of the bout. He directs the bout, controls the equipment, supervises the other officials, maintains order, penalizes faults and awards the hits. All final authority during a bout rests with the President. The spectators, officials and fencers must abide by his instructions and decisions. (6)

The President must be fully aware of his duties and must display a knowledge of the rules and techniques of fencing. He must command the respect and confidence of the other officials as well as the competitors. He must display fairness and confidence in the handling of a bout and must command the attention of the jury and competitors with precise gestures and a clear voice.

(6)

Taking charge of the jury is the first duty of the President. If the jury is composed of members of the competing teams, the President should place them so that one member of each team is on both his right and on his left side. Also, one judge from each team should be given an open target to watch. (6)

If the jury is neutral, the President may place them as he pleases and if they are equally balanced in skill and knowledge, the President may have the jury rotate after each bout. The rotation should help keep the judges more alert by varying their position. However, if the jury is not of equal skill, they should be placed in such a way that their ability is as balanced as possible. (6)

When the President first meets with the fencers, if they are inexperienced, he should review the definition of a hit, the extension of the valid target and explain when stop hit will be permitted. If a President has an inexperienced jury, he may include them in the group while he is explaining main points to the fencers; however, brevity is important.

When two fencers have been called to take their positions, the President may assume they will salute, mask and advance. Once the fencers have moved to the on guard lines, the President should say, "On guard and are you ready?" If the fencers do not reply affirmatively, he may assume they are ready and begin the bout with the command, "Fence".

If a fencer should start before the word "fence", he must be brought back to the on guard line and the action is begun again.

Any hit which may have been scored before the word "fence" is annulled. (6) If the President gives the command "fence" before the fencers have both replied affirmatively and a hit is scored against a fencer immediately following the command, the hit is scored. It is a fencer's duty to answer "No" if he is not ready. If he fails to do so he has forfeited the right to ask that the hit be annulled.

Between the commands "fence" and "halt", the fencers are at liberty to bout as they please, provided they observe the rules and conventions of foil fencing. When the President calls "halt", the fencers must stop fencing. If a hit lands after the command "halt", it is late and does not count. However, an attack initiated before the command "halt" which lands immediately after "halt" has been called should be allowed. If this last action had the right of way and originated before the command "halt" was called, the hit is counted. (6)

As soon as a judge sees a hit, he must raise his hand to signal the President. Immediately, the President calls "halt" and analyzes the phrase leading to the hit. He questions the judges on each pertinent movement leading to the hit. (4)

This analysis is a necessary portion of the President's responsibility and requires continuous visual and mental concentration. Every movement of each phrase must be seen and remembered for the analysis. This requires that the President follow the fencer's movements as well as their actions. (4, 6)

The analysis is an oral review of the phrase with all movements in the correct order leading to the hit. It is necessary that the President's analysis not go back so far that time is wasted in reviewing unsuccessful actions. It is best when the President reviews only the pertinent action resulting in a hit.

(4)

In the analysis, the President must consider which fencer had the right of way for the attack. If a fencer initiates an attack with a straight arm, he maintains the right of way until his opponent meets his blade. As soon as the opponent has met the blade, the opponent may gain the right of way with a return attack. When this return has been met, the right of way passes to the first fencer. In this manner, the right of way passes back and forth in each phrase. (4, 6)

It is up to the President to determine which fencer had the right of way for the hit and in which period of time the hit occurred. The President should keep the analysis as simple as possible in the interest of time, and should not ask unnecessary questions of the judges. If, for example, fencer A touches fencer B on his first move, there is no need to carry the analysis any further than the hit.

A few examples illustrate the President's analysis.

- I. Action: fencer A attacks by disengage
 - fencer B beat parries and ripostes
 - fencer A executes an opposition
 - parry and counter ripostes by
 - disengage for a hit.

President's analysis: (fencer A is on the President's right and B is on his left) (Judges one and two are watching fencer B's target and judges 3 and 4 are watching the target of fencer A.)

President: "Attack from my right. Did it land?"

Judge 1: "No."

Judge 2: "No."

President: "Parry and riposte from my left.
Did it land?"

Judge 3: "No."

Judge 4: "No."

President: "Parry and counter riposte from my
right?"

Judge 1: "Yes."

Judge 2: "Yes."

President: "Touch against my left."

II. Action: fencer A attacks by one-two

fencer B meets the attacking blade while A
is still executing the attack and ripostes
on target

fencer A in the process of a lunge cannot stop
his forward motion and his point lands at the
same time as the riposte of his opponent

President's analysis:

President: "Attack from my right; parry and
riposte from my left; remise of

the attack. Attack by one-two
from my right. Did it land?"

Judge 1: "No."

Judge 2: "No."

President: "Parry and riposte from my left?"

Judge 3: "Yes."

Judge 4: "Yes."

President: "Remise from my right?"

Judge 1: "Yes."

Judge 2: "Yes."

President: The right of way was with the
riposte, touch against my right."

If the judges agree, as in the examples, the President need not cast his vote. However, if the judges do not agree or if one judge abstains, the President casts his vote last. In totaling the votes, the judges opinions count one vote and the President's opinion counts one and one-half votes. An abstention is not counted.

If both judges on the same side agree, (i. e., both say "yes" or both say "no") their judgment outweighs the President's. In this instance, the President does not vote. (6)

Should the two judges watching the same target disagree (i. e., one say "yes" and the other say "no") the President's opinion prevails since his vote is overriding. If the President abstains, the judges negate each other and no touch can be awarded. If the President and one judge abstain and the other judge votes, the judges opinion who answered positively prevails. (6)

If both judges and the President abstain, the hit can be regarded as doubtful. A doubtful hit is never scored and any subsequent return action is annulled. This gives the fencer who may be scored against the benefit of the doubt. (6)

Should the fencer who made a doubtful hit score with a remise, redoublement or riposte before his opponent has been able to score, the new hit should count. Should the opponent score between the doubtful action and the final hit, neither hit may be scored. When the doubtful hit concerns the area on which the hit landed (i. e., one judge voted "yes" and the other "yes, but off target", and the President abstains, no other hit in the phrase can be scored.) (6)

Penalties Imposed by President

The President may penalize a competitor by not awarding a hit which he has made, by awarding a hit which he did not receive, or by excluding him from the bout or from the remaining competition. Once such a penalty has been imposed, the President may not reverse his decision. If a fencer or team questions the application of a rule, he may appeal to the Bout Committee.

A penalty situation may occur if a fencer crosses the lateral bounds of the strip on an attack. If he touches the opponent before he leaves the strip, the touch is good, but if the attack misses, the fencer is penalized one meter behind the point where he left the strip. Any touch he makes after he leaves the strip is annulled. (6)

A fencer crossing the lateral bounds of the strip to avoid being hit, is given a warning the first time this occurs. If this occurs again in the same bout, a penalty of one hit is awarded against the fencer. Similarly, when a fencer retires behind the warning line, he is given a warning by the President. If he crosses the rear limit of the strip with both feet again without first gaining ground beyond the on guard line with the forward foot, a hit is awarded against him. (6)

More severe penalties may be imposed by the President for unsportsmanlike conduct. It is within the President's authority to expel a fencer, trainer, instructor, spectator or anyone else accompanying the fencers from the bout or from the entire match. (6)

A fencer causing prolonged interruptions of a bout is warned the first time this happens; if it occurs again, a hit is awarded against the fencer. With further repetition of such interruptions, a fencer may be excluded from the bout or from the entire competition. (6)

Using the unarmed hand to deflect the opponent's blade is also a violation of the rules. The first time this occurs, a warning is given and every succeeding time, a hit is awarded. (6)

After the first warning, a corps à corps is also penalized by recording a hit against the fencer responsible for corps à corps. If this action continues and the President feels this is endangering or jostling the opponent, the President may exclude the fencer from the remainder of the bout or from the tournament.

If the President feels a fencer is using dishonest or incorrect fencing procedures, after one warning he may have the

fencer excluded from the bout and from the remainder of the match. (6) The President may expel a competitor without any previous warning if he feels the fencer has been vindictive or intentionally brutal.

Should a fencer be using non-regulation equipment, the President must determine whether the equipment was defective or if the equipment was tampered with prior to the match. If it was merely defective, the President must confiscate the equipment until the match is over and recommend it be replaced or repaired. If, however, the equipment was deliberately faulty, the fencer must be excluded from the match. (6)

When a fencer leaves the strip without permission because he is not satisfied with a decision, or for any other reason, the President must order him to return at once. If the fencer does not return immediately, he is to be expelled from the rest of the competition. (6)

A fencer who is not present at the established time when the competition is started is summoned twice at one minute intervals and excluded from the meet if he is not present on the third call. This applies to a fencing team or to an individual. If a fencer does not respond to the second call for a bout, he forfeits the bout with a score of no touches against the opponent. (6)

Should a fencer be indisposed for any reason, he is allowed a maximum ten-minute period of rest. If, at the end of this time, he still cannot participate, the President must ask him to withdraw from the competition. (6)

The President may also ask the Bout Committee to disqualify a judge for incompetency. If this occurs and the official is nationally rated, the disqualification is reported to the F. I. E. and they may prolong the suspension. (6)

In all of the instances where a penalty is imposed on a competitor, the decision of the President can only be reversed by the Bout Committee or by a Jury appeal. These appeals may involve misapplication of a rule, but never is a question of fact appealed. If a President ignores a rule or makes a decision contrary to the rules, an appeal may be made. This appeal should be made to the President courteously and formally by the competitor or the team captain immediately before any decision is made regarding subsequent hits. Any further appeal must be made to the committee in charge of organizing the match. If the Organizing Committee must intervene, both the fencers and the President must abide by their decision. (6) Therefore, a President should use his best judgment in imposing the penalties.

The score of a bout from which a fencer was expelled or from which he withdrew shall be recorded five against the expelled fencer and none against his opponent. This applies even if the fencer had scored before he left the bout. (6)

There are some situations in fencing in which the decision is difficult for the President to make. A President not familiar with the movements of fencing will find some of his tasks almost impossible. Many of the difficult situations arise due to fencing time and right of way. These occur most frequently with the stop hit, time hit and remise. (4)

Very few simultaneous attacks occur in fencing above the beginning level; generally one fencer attempts a stop hit, time hit or remise and fails to land before the last movement of the attack. An experienced President is able to see which of the fencers started the attack and he gives the priority to this attack. However, many Presidents see the touches land at approximately the same time and describe the action as a "simultaneous attack." This puts the fencers back on guard without any acknowledgement of the good hit scored by the attack. (4)

The stop hit, time hit and remise are difficult to execute and the slightest delay may cause failure to gain right of way. This leaves the right of way with the attack. In either case, it is better for the President to admit that he is unsure where the right of way was, rather than deprive a fencer of acknowledgement of a hit which should have counted. (4, 6)

Occasionally, fencing is so confused that it is impossible to disentangle the movements. Rather than credit the fencers with actions they have not properly executed, a President has no alternative except to stop the action and place the fencers on guard and let them begin again. (4, 6)

The President must watch for the right of way. An offensive action executed with a bent arm may have the right of way, however, if the opponent executes a stop hit, time hit or remise with a straight arm against the bent arm attack, the right of way is with the straight arm. (6)

In summary, it is the President's responsibility to see that the bout is kept running smoothly. He must be sure that the jury understands the definition of a hit, the answers they may give, and is familiar with the terminology of fencing. The President should also be sure that the scorer and timekeeper understand their responsibility and are capable officials. With these essentials clarified, the officials should be ready to begin a well-conducted fencing bout.

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CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

EVALUATION OF THE MANUAL

The manual received generally good comments from the nine judges who assisted with the evaluation. The comments on the evaluation forms of eight of the respondents encouraged publication after the revision had been completed.

The consensus was that the section on mechanics of officiating was the strongest portion of the manual and could be of considerable benefit to aspiring officials. The terminology section of the manual was more controversial. A few of the judges felt that the terms should be listed and briefly defined rather than explained in detail. However, this method would not adequately explain the terminology for a beginning official, so no change was made.

Several of the judges felt that a section should be included explaining the officiating techniques when electrical equipment is used. Since the electrical equipment is too expensive for general classroom use, electrical techniques of officiating were excluded. The title specifically states that the manual is for "conventional" foil fencing officials and this, too, would exclude electrical procedures from consideration.

The inclusion of a scoresheet for both individual and team competitions was another strength of the manual. The Rules for Competition, as published by the Amateur Fencers League of America, does not include an example of a scoresheet. Since beginning officials and coaches have difficulty securing copies of scoresheets these were included.

When evaluating the manual, the nine judges were in agreement that the manual was thorough and comprehensive. Minor changes were suggested and incorporated into the revision of the manual. A copyright was secured and publication was considered. Two of the judges indicated a willingness to assist further by writing a preface.

The manual should be of value to students of fencing as well as to an aspiring official. The list of terminology is more complete than any one text includes and the techniques of officiating are thoroughly covered in the material. It should be understood, however, that the manual is to be used with the official Rules for Competition and not as a text in itself. Questions concerning further detail can be answered by the Rules for Competition and the Rules for Competition should always be present when there is a meet or formal bout situation. The Manual for Conventional Foil Fencing Officials is more basic and intentionally does not include measurements of the fencing strip and details about the equipment specifications. These matters would only confuse beginning officials, particularly in the classroom situation.

EVALUATION OF LOOPFILMS

Five students from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, with previous fencing knowledge, viewed the loopfilms and evaluated the effectiveness of the procedure. In each instance, the students were able to recognize the actions with fewer viewings as they progressed from the first loopfilm through the seventh loopfilm.

Each loopfilm was viewed once, observing the total action. After the first time, the students could stop the actions whenever they felt it necessary to watch any aspect of the action. When they felt that they recognized the action, and after they had made a decision regarding the point, they were to open the enclosed envelope and read the correct analysis and decision. If they chose, they might review the loopfilm again.

In four of the evaluations, the students viewed one aspect of the action at a time, concentrating on items such as which arm straightened first, where the action was initiated, what the method of attack had been and whether or not the point had landed. Two of the loopfilms required that the students also watch for hesitations in the attack.

Only one of the students did not use the stop action as she analyzed the seven actions. This took considerably longer for the first few loopfilms, but the student improved rapidly and was able to analyze the actions as well as the other students.

All of the students chose to write their analysis down before looking at the correct analysis. In this way mistakes due to memory were eliminated.

The students felt that the loopfilms would be most effective in a group of less than four girls. With a larger group they suggested that the instructor be present to review the actions by stopping the loopfilm and discussing the application of the fencing rules.

Each of the students felt the loopfilms gave her a feeling of confidence for directing on the elementary level, and each preferred to view the loopfilms before directing a bout.

Since the intended purpose of the loopfilms was to provide a supplement to the manual which would aid in developing the techniques of directing the writer concluded that the loopfilms were successful. The loopfilms could be placed in a darkened area of the fencing room and the class could rotate to the loopfilm projector. In this manner, the loopfilms would be a beneficial supplement to teaching devices used in a fencing class.

CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of the evaluation, it was concluded that the Manual for Conventional Foil Fencing Officials should be beneficial to students interested in officiating fencing. It was designed to define necessary terminology and outline the duties of each official. From the evaluations of the judges, the manual accomplished this purpose. Unnecessary details were deliberately excluded from the manual since they would confuse beginners. Such technicalities may be found in the Fencing Rules and Manual as published by the Amateur Fencers League of America.

The manual developed would be of greatest value when supplemented by the loopfilm. These seven loopfilms were chosen to represent difficult decisions that a President must make during a bout. The purpose of the loopfilms was to train an aspiring fencing official's eye to see rapid action and to make quick decisions on the basis of what was seen.

It would appear that the manual and loopfilms, if used together, would be of great value in the classroom situation. However, this value would be further increased if the instructor reviewed the loopfilms after the class had viewed them. Used either way, the Manual for Conventional Foil Fencing Officials and the loopfilms would enhance the learning of fencing officiating techniques.

CHAPTER VII

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

In the area of fencing officiating, further study might include a manual for electrical fencing officials. This would explain the difference between the conventional and electrical scoring methods and the procedure followed for electrical fencing.

Another suggestion for study might involve greater depth of the information included in this manual. Such a study would reach the intermediate and advanced level of fencing officiating.

If a gentleman should be interested, a study similar to this might be done for sabre or epee fencing. Both of these areas need further research.

For the student interested in the loopfilms in this study, the writer suggests a follow-up study which would involve the development of a series of officiating loopfilms. This might include illustrations of a touch, where the judges should stand and what a judge watches during a bout as well as the directing situations as included in this study.

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D. LETTERS

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Dr. Robert A. ...
New York, N. Y. ...

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APPENDIX A

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*The final judges.

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Waneen Wyrick
North Texas State
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* The final judges.

APPENDIX B

APPENDIX B

LETTER REQUESTING ASSISTANCE

January 2, 1968

Dear

As a graduate student interested in fencing, I have chosen for my thesis the development of a guide which will aid students in becoming more proficient in the techniques of officiating fencing. The guide will include the techniques of timing, scoring, judging and directing with the main emphasis on directing.

In the process of compiling a list of fencers and fencing instructors, coaches and directors, your name was suggested. If your schedule would permit, I would appreciate your assistance with the study. This would involve the completion of the enclosed information sheet concerning your personal fencing experience. In addition, you may be asked to respond to a check list of items being considered for inclusion in the guide and to assist with the evaluation of the completed guide.

If you would be willing to assist with this study, please complete the enclosed information sheet and return to me by January 15, 1968.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Beth Alphin

BA:mjk
Encl: 1

APPENDIX C

State Health Department
Department of Health, Physical Edu-
cation and Recreation
University of North Carolina
Raleigh, North Carolina 27617

APPENDIX C

FENCING EXPERIENCE QUESTIONNAIRE

	Intercollegiate	State	National	International	Olympic
1. Check the levels at which you have fenced competitively with the foil.					
2. Check the levels at which you have directed fencing bouts.					
3. Check the levels at which you have coached fencing teams.					
4. How many years have you taught fencing? _____					
5. In which fencing organizations do you hold a membership? _____					
6. List any awards or honors you have received and titles you have held as a fencer.					
7. Would you be willing to further assist with this study by completing a check list of items being considered for inclusion as a guide for conventional foil fencing officials? Yes ___ No ___.					

Please return this by December 14, 1967 in the enclosed, self-addressed envelope to:

Beth Alphin
 Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation
 University of North Carolina
 Greensboro, North Carolina 27412

APPENDIX B

APPENDIX C

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APPENDIX D

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APPENDIX D

DIRECTIONS

Blank pages have been included to the left of every page in the text. These blank pages are for your comments and reactions as you read the manual. Feel free to mark anything in the manual since this will assist me in clarification of the text.

Once you have reviewed the manual, I would appreciate your comments and opinions of the material presented. The attached evaluation form is intended as a guide for your general overview of the manual and blank pages have been included if you need more space.

Please return the manual and the evaluation forms to me by April 26, 1968.

DUTIES OF THE OFFICIALS

-2-

3. Do you think any portions of the manual are unnecessary for beginning officials? What deletions do you suggest?

4. What portions of the manual do you think are the most helpful for beginning officials?

DUTIES OF THE OFFICIALS

-3-

5. Do you think that this manual could be of value for beginning officials when conventional equipment is used?

6. Would you like a copy of the revised manual? Yes ___ No ___

PLEASE RETURN BY

April 26, 1968

Beth Alphin

APPENDIX E

APPENDIX E

LETTER ACCOMPANYING EVALUATION FORM

April 4, 1968

Dear

Enclosed is a copy of the Manual for Conventional Foil Fencing Officials which I referred to in my letter of January 1, 1968. Since you have indicated that you will be willing to assist me with this thesis study by reviewing the manual, I would appreciate receiving your evaluation of the manual by April 26, 1968.

The directions for your evaluation are included on the enclosed evaluation forms which I should like returned with the manuals. A stamped, self-addressed envelope has been enclosed for their return.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Beth Alphin

BA:mjk

Enclosures