PART2. FOIL

**THE CONVENTIONS OF FENCING METHOD OF MAKING A HIT**

**1.** The foil is a **thrusting** weapon only. Offensive actions with this weapon are made therefore with the point and with the point only.

**2. Pushing or letting drag** the point of the electric weapon on the electric piste is forbidden during the actual bout (between ‘Play!’ and ‘Halt!’). Placing the weapon on the piste at any time to **straighten** it is also forbidden. Any breaking of these rules will be punished ac- cording to Articles t.114, t.116, t.120.

**TARGET Limitation of the target**

**1.** At foil, only hits which arrive **on the target** are counted as valid.

**2. The target** at foil excludes the limbs and the head. It is confined to the trunk, the upper limit being the collar up to 6 cm above the prominences of the collar bones; at the sides to the seams of the sleeves, which should cross the head of the humerus; and the lower limit following a horizontal line across the back joining the tops of the hip bones, thence by straight lines to the junction of the lines of the groin. (FROM JAN.2009 It also includes the part of the bib beneath a horizontal line 1.5 - 2 cm below the chin and which, in any case, may not be lower than the line of the shoulders ) (see Figure 4, above).

**Hits off the target** A hit which is made on a part of the body **other than the target**

(whether directly or as a result of a parry) is not counted as a valid hit,

but it stops the phrase and therefore annuls all hits which are scored thereafter (but cf. t.49).

*Rules for Competitions, 2006* 27 *Book 1. Technical Rules Copyright British Fencing***t.49.**

**Extension of the valid target**

**1.** However, hits which arrive off the target are counted as valid when- ever, by reason of an **abnormal position**, the fencer has substituted this non-valid target for the valid target.

**2.** The Referee may question the judges about this, but he **alone** must decide whether the hit is valid or not.

**JUDGING OF HITS AT FOIL** Foil competitions are judged with an **electrical recording apparatus**.

MATERIALITY OF THE HIT

**Only the indications of the recording apparatus** can be taken into consideration for judging the materiality of hits. The Referee cannot declare a competitor to be hit unless the hit has been properly registered by the apparatus (except as provided for in Article t.49.1, or when a penalty hit has been awarded).

When using the apparatus it should be noted that:

**a)** If a **non-valid hit** has been scored the apparatus will not register a possible valid hit scored on the same side of the apparatus.

**b)** The apparatus does not indicate whether there is any **priority in time** between two or more hits which it registers simultaneously.

ANNULMENT OF A HIT

**1.** The Referee will **disregard** hits which are registered as a result of actions:

— started **before the word ‘Play!’** or **after the word ‘Halt!’** (cf. t.18.1/3);

— which are made on any object **other than the opponent** or his equipment (cf. t.41).

**2.** A competitor who, **intentionally**, causes the apparatus to register a hit by placing his point on the ground or on any surface **other than that of his opponent** will be penalised as specified in Articles t.114, t.117, t.120.

**3.** Fencersareforbiddentoplacea**non-insulatedpart**oftheirweapon in contact with their conductive jacket with the intention of jamming the electrical apparatus and thus avoiding being hit.

The penalty for committing such an offence is specified in Articles t.114, t.116, t.120. Any hit scored by the fencer at fault is annulled.

**1.** The Referee must, on the other hand, take into account **possible failures of the electrical equipment**, in particular:

**a)** He must **annul a hit which he has just awarded** as a result of a hit signalled as on the valid target (coloured lamp) if he estab- lishes, by tests made under his personal supervision, before the

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bout has effectively recommenced (the command ‘Play!’) and without any of the equipment in use having been changed (cf. t.35.2/d):

— either that **a hit registered as ‘valid’** against the competitor against whom the hit has been awarded can be made without there being in fact a valid hit;

— or that a **‘non-valid’ hit** made by the fencer against whom the hit was awarded is not registered by the apparatus;

— or that a **‘valid’ hit** made by the fencer against whom the hit was awarded does not cause any hit either valid or non-valid to be registered;

— or that the registration of hits **made by the competitor against whom the hit was awarded** does not remain recorded on the apparatus.

**b)** Ontheotherhand,whentheRefereehasdecidedthatahitmade by a competitor has priority, this hit **shall not be annulled** if subsequently it is found that a valid hit made by the opponent is registered as non-valid or that the weapon of the fencer against whom the hit was awarded is permanently registering a non- valid hit.

**c)** If a fencer’s **equipment does not conform** to the provisions of Articles m.27 and m.28.3, a hit made off the target which is reg- istered by the apparatus as valid will not be annulled.

**2.** TheRefereemustalsoapplythefollowingrules: **a)** Only the **last hit** made before the fault was established can be

annulled.

**b)** A competitor who **makes any modification in or who changes his equipment** without being asked by the Referee to do so, be- fore the Referee has given his decision, loses all right to the an- nulment of the hit (cf. t.35.2.d).

**c) If the bout has effectively recommenced** a competitor cannot claim the annulment of a hit awarded against him before the said recommencement of the bout.

**d)** T**he location of a fault** found in the equipment (including the equipment of the competitors) is of no importance for this pos- sible annulment.

**e)** It is not necessary that **the failure found should repeat itself each time** a test is made; but it is essential that the fault should be manifested to the Referee without the possibility of doubt at least once during the tests made by him or under his supervision.

**f)** When a competitor against whom a hit has been registered has **broken his blade**, the hit must be annulled unless the breaking of the blade has occurred clearly after the hit has been regis- tered.

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**g)** The Referee must pay particular attention to **hits which do not register or which are registered abnormally**. Should such de- fects be repeated, the Referee must ask a member of the Commit- tee for Electrical Apparatus and Equipment or an expert techni- cian on duty to verify that the equipment conforms to the Rules.

**h)** The Referee must ensure that **nothing is altered in the com- petitors’ equipment** or in the whole of the electrical apparatus before the expert carries out his check.

**3.** Whenever accidental causes make it impossible to carry out tests, the hit will be considered **doubtful** and annulled.

**4.** If hits are registered simultaneously **on both sides of the appara- tus**, and the Referee cannot establish the priority with certainty, he must replace the competitors on guard.

**5.** Inaccordancewiththegeneralrules(cf.t.18.5)theRefereemust**stop the bout**, even if no hit is registered by the apparatus, whenever play becomes **confused** and he is no longer able to analyse the phrase.

**6.** TheRefereeshouldalsosupervise**thestateoftheconductivepiste**; he must not allow the bout to commence or to continue if the con- ductive piste has holes in it which might affect the proper registering of hits. (The organisers must make the necessary arrangements to ensure the rapid repair or replacement of the conductive piste.)

VALIDITY OR PRIORITY OF THE HIT

**Preface**

The Referee **alone** decides as to the validity or the priority of the hit by applying the following basic rules which are the conventions applicable to foil fencing.

**Respect of the fencing phrase**

**1.** Every **attack**, that is every initial offensive action, which is correctly executed must be parried or completely avoided and the phrase must be followed through — that is to say, co-ordinated (cf. t.7.1).

**2.** In order to judge **the correctness of an attack** the following points must be considered:

**a) The simple attack, direct or indirect** (cf. t.8.1), is correctly executed when the straightening of the arm, the point threatening the valid target, precedes the initiation of the lunge or the flèche.

**b) Thecompoundattack**(cf.t.8.1)iscorrectlyexecutedwhenthe arm is straightened in the presentation of the first feint, with the point threatening the valid target, and the arm is not bent during the successive actions of the attack and the initiation of the lunge or the flèche.

**c)** Theattackwitha**step-forward-lunge**ora**step-forward-flèche** is correctly executed when the straightening of the arm precedes

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the end of the step forward and the initiation of the lunge or the flèche.

**d)** Actions,simpleorcompound,stepsorfeintswhichare**executed with a bent arm**, are not considered as attacks but as prepara- tions, laying themselves open to the initiation of the offensive or defensive/offensive action of the opponent (cf. t.8.1/3).

**3.** Tojudge**thepriorityofanattack**whenanalysingthefencingphrase, it should be noted that:

**a)** If the attack is initiated **when the opponent is not ‘point in line’** (cf. t.10), it may be executed either with a direct thrust, or by a disengage, or by a cut-over, or may even be preceded by a beat or successful feints obliging the opponent to parry.

**b)** If the attack is initiated **when the opponent is ‘point in line’** (cf. t.10), the attacker must, first, deflect the opponent’s blade. Referees must ensure that a mere contact of the blades is not considered as sufficient to deflect the opponent’s blade (cf. t.60.5.a).

**c)** Iftheattacker,whenattemptingtodeflecttheopponent’sblade, fails to find it (**dérobement)**, the right of attack passes to the opponent.

**d) Continuous steps forward, with the legs crossing one an- other**, constitute a preparation and on this preparation any sim- ple attack has priority.

The parry gives the right to riposte: **the simple riposte** may be direct or indirect, but to annul any subsequent action by the attacker, it must be executed immediately, without indecision or delay.

When a compound attack is made, if the opponent **finds the blade dur- ing one of the feints**, he has the right to riposte.

When **compound attacks** are made, the opponent has the right to **stop- hit**; but to be valid the stop hit must precede the conclusion of the attack by an interval of fencing time; that is to say that the stop hit must arrive before the attacker has begun the final movement of the attack.

**Judging of hits**

In applying these basic conventions of foil fencing, the Referee should judge as follows:

**1.** When,duringaphrase,bothfencersare**hitsimultaneously**,thereis either a *simultaneous action* or a *double hit*.

**2.** The **simultaneous action** is due to simultaneous conception and execution of an attack by both fencers; in this case the hits exchanged are annulled for both fencers even if one of them has been hit off the target.

**3.** The**doublehit**,ontheotherhand,istheresultofafaultyactionon the part of one of the fencers.

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Therefore, when there is not a period of fencing time between the hits: **4. Only the fencer who is attacked is counted as hit**:

**a)** If he makes a **stop hit** on his opponent’s simple attack; **b)** If,insteadofparrying,heattempts**toavoidthehit**anddoesnot

succeed in so doing;

**c)** If,aftermakingasuccessfulparry,hemakesa**momentarypause** which gives his opponent the right to renew the attack (redouble- ment, remise or reprise);

**d)** If, into a compound attack, he makes a **stop hit** without being in time;

**e)** If, **having his ‘point in line**’ (cf. t.10) and being subjected to a beat or a taking of the blade (prise de fer) which deflects his blade, he attacks or places his point in line again instead of parry- ing a direct thrust made by his opponent.

**5. Only the fencer who attacks is counted as hit**:

**a)** If he initiates his attack **when his opponent has his point in line** (cf. t.10) without deflecting the opponent’s weapon. Ref- erees must ensure that a mere contact of the blades is not consid- ered as sufficient to deflect the opponent’s blade.

**b)** Ifheattemptstofindtheblade,doesnotsucceed(istheobjectof **a dérobement**) and continues the attack.

**c)** If,duringacompoundattack,hisopponent**findstheblade**,but he continues the attack and his opponent ripostes immediately.

**d)** If, during a compound attack, he makes **a momentary pause**, during which time the opponent makes a stop hit, while the at- tacker continues his attack.

**e)** If, during a compound attack, he is **stop-hit** in time before he begins his final movement.

**f)** If he makes a hit by a remise, redoublement or reprise when his original attack has been **parried and his opponent has made a riposte** which is **immediate**, simple, and executed in one period of fencing time without withdrawing the arm.

**6. The Referee must replace the competitors on guard** each time that there is a double hit and he is unable to judge clearly on which side the fault lies.

One of the most difficult cases to judge arises when a stop hit is made and there is doubt as to whether it was made sufficiently in time in relation to the final movement of a compound attack. Generally, in such cases, the double hit occurs through the fault of both fencers concerned, which justifies the Referee replacing them on guard. (The fault of the attacker consists of indecision, slowness of execution or the making of feints which are not sufficiently effective. The fault of the defender lies in delay or slowness in making the stop hit.)