



FIE CONGRESS IN DOHA (November 12-13, 2005)

Day 1

NEW COUNTRIES

Three new countries have been affiliated to the International Fencing Federation (FIE): Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates and Democratic Republic of Congo. The number of National Federations affiliated to the FIE is therefore increased to 118.

STATUTES OF THE FIE

The FIE will introduce two new articles to the Statutes. One ensures that the principle of non-discrimination on grounds such as the race, the sex, the ethnical belonging, the religion, the political opinions, the family status or other is respected.

Second, the FIE recognises the fundamental principles of the Olympic Chart, the application of the Code of Ethics of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the competence of the Commission of Ethics of the IOC.

NEW VOTING SYSTEM FOR ATHLETES COMMISSION

The FIE adapts the IOC voting system of the IOC athletes commission. That means in the future each federation can only enter one athlete as candidate, independent from the discipline (foil, epee or sabre). The nomination has to be sent in two months before the first day of the World Championships, where the vote takes place. And the voting process will be simplified with less documents and bureaucracy. Six athletes will be voted by all athletes, six others will be nominated by the FIE Executive Board taking into consideration gender equity, universality and representation of all continents.

CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS BECOME OFFICIAL FIE COMPETITION FROM 2006/2007 SEASON

In addition to the current FIE competitions, such as World Championships, World Cups or Grand Prix Events, the continental Championships, such as the European, Asian, American or African Championships, will become official FIE competitions from the season 2006/2007. Until today those Championships were held only under the patronage of the Continental Fencing Federations. These competitions will be included in the FIE Official Ranking. The points will be distributed with a coefficient of 2.

CHANGES AT FOIL POSTPONED

All propositions made in favour to change certain technical aspects in foil fencing have been postponed. More detailed studies will be made and presented again to the FIE congress in 2007.

LIMITATION OF NUMBER OF TEAMS FOR WORLD CHAMPS

The number of teams participating in each discipline at the team competition at World Championships will be limited in the future to 32 teams per discipline: 16 teams according the FIE Official Ranking, plus 16 teams allocated between the different zones (6 from Europe, 4 from America, 4 from Asia and 2 from Africa) according the FIE Official Ranking.

This is to facilitate the task for Organisers in the future, but also to increase the media interest in the qualification procedure during the season. This change will be in place as well from the season 2006/2007.

Day 2

OLYMPIC GAMES PROGRAMME FOR 2008

The FIE congress 2005 in Doha decided to continue to seek 12 medals at Olympic Games, as the FIE does for their own World Championships. For the moment the FIE has only 10 medals (events) in the Olympic Programme. There will be 6 individual and 4 team events in Beijing 2008. Thus the FIE decided to have full gender equity at all Games. 50 percent of the events held in 2008 will be male competitions and the other 50 percent will be female competitions. As the congress adopted on the first day of its meeting the IOC Ethic rules of non-discrimination, the follow up on day two was a logical move. The proposal from the special rules commission for the Olympic Games (3 male team and 1 female team event) was rejected. Due to that new situation, the national federations have now time until April 2006 to discuss the issue with their athletes and then take the decision of which weapons in the team event will be in and out for the next Olympics. This decision will be taken in April 2006 at the General Assembly in South Korea. Teams who will be out for Beijing 2008, will be back again for the 2012 Games in London.

ST. PETERSBURG HOSTS FENCING WORLDS IN 2007

The city of St. Petersburg in Russia will be happy to welcome the international fencing family in October 2007 for the Fencing World Championships. The correct dates have still to be finalised, but they will be in the first two weeks of October 2007. St. Petersburg won the bid against the city of Plovdiv in Bulgaria.

TRANSPARENT MASKS WILL CONTINUE BUT ONLY AT SABRE FOR THE MOMENT

The congress of the FIE was not in favour to support the idea of introducing the transparent masks - successfully used in sabre competitions in the past - in the two other disciplines. The use of fencing masks with a transparent visor was improving the quality of the TV-coverage, as for the first time, people could see athletes eyes in close ups and not any more only the mash mask version.

BLOCKING AND IMPACT TIME

At foil (junior and senior competitions), the blocking time for the lights has been set at 300 milliseconds and the impact time is increased to 15 milliseconds. The contact time is the same for the valid and non-valid hits.

At sabre the blocking time for the lights has been set at 120 milliseconds

CHALLENGE FEYERICK

The International Federation awards the trophy "Challenge Feyerick" to the French Epee fencer Fabrice Jeannet, Silver Medallist of the 2005 Leipzig World Championships. The latter, who had lost the final match, showed much respect and consideration for his opponent and World Champion Pavel Kolobkov (Russia) in all interviews to the media. This set an example in the Fair Play and education values of the sport of fencing.