

BOOK 1
MODIFICATIONS OF THE RULES OF THE FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE
D'ESCRIME

(TO BE APPLIED TO WHEELCHAIR FENCING)

Nobody may claim ignorance of the Rules

Note: These modifications must be read in conjunction with the English version of the FIE rules (2000). Paragraph numbers in the text refer to the corresponding paragraph numbers in the FIE rules.

WHERE THERE ARE NO MODIFICATION THE F.I.E., RULES MUST BE APPLIED.

These rules are obligatory for competitions of the ISMWSF International Wheelchair Fencing events.

CHAPTER 3. THE FIELD OF PLAY

The fencing frame.

Note: See appendix for diagram and manufacturers.

- 1) The frame fixes the wheelchair in a stable position, by securing all wheels of the wheelchair to the frame.
- 2) The wheelchairs are at an angle of $110^\circ (+/-2^\circ)$ to the central bar.
- 3) The front wheels should touch the central axis in the forward position and all wheels should rest on the base of the frame.
- 4) It allows for easy adjustment of the fencing measure to accommodate the various lengths of the fencers' arms.
- 5) It should be easily adjustable for the various widths of wheelchairs, if the wheelchair does not fit in the frame the wheelchair must be replaced by a wheelchair that will fit the frame.
- 6) The apparatus must also be constructed so that distance, angle, width of wheelchair cannot change during the bout.
- 7) All Official Wheelchair fencing frames are approve by the IWFC.

CHAPTER 4. THE FENCER'S EQUIPMENT.

(Weapons – Equipment – Clothing)

t.15 **Note: As from January 2002 FIE BOOK 3 'MATERIAL RULES' will apply.**

"Fencers who have significant loss of grip or control of the weapon hand, the fencer with the authority of two IWFC classifiers shall bind the weapon to the weapon hand. The binding must cover and close the sleeve opening of the weapon arm and must give satisfactory protection to the weapon hand. (m25/m33)

Any fencer not wearing correct protective clothing will not compete.

THE FENCING WHEELCHAIR

- 1: The wheelchair is part of fencing equipment and must be 'weapon controlled'. The back of the wheelchair, the cushion, the frame, the armrest and the wheels will be tagged with a matching numbered marker by the controller. The material of the wheelchair shall be none rigid.
- 2: All of the back of the wheelchair must have a minimum height of 15cm from the seat of the chair or the cushion when the fencer is seated upon it, and must be 90° to the horizontal. (+2°). For wheelchair fencers who have a physical need for the back and the material be changed from 90° to the horizontal. (+2°). is the decision of the wheelchair controller and a classifier.
- 3: No armrest on the fencing arm side at all times.
- 4: The solid body armrest on the none fencing arm of the wheelchair shall have a minimum height of 10 cm from the seat of the wheelchair or the cushion when the fencer is seated upon it. This armrest must be securely and correctly fixed. (Tapes to secure the armrest will not be controlled)
- 5 The wheelchair must be fully insulated, permanent durable insulation coating, or by the use of a detachable covering. When a covering is used it must be of stout construction and securely fixed.
- 6: A cushion is not obligatory. When a cushion is used it must be of the same dimensions of the seat of the wheelchair. The maximum cushion thickness is 10cm and must have an even thickness and not wedge-shaped and must be able to bend corner to corner by the wheelchair controller. A medical cushion authorised by the classifier will be controlled.
- 7 The maximum height of the wheelchair must be 53cm from the floor to the full area of the seat rail; the width of the seat will not exceed 3cm from the fencer's hips when the fencer is seated in the centre of the wheelchair
- 8 The camber of the wheels must fit the official wheelchair-fencing frame. See 5 The Fencing Frame
- 9 Strapping of the fencer to the wheelchair is permissible. See appendix

CHAPTER 5- THE ASSAULT

2. Coming on Guard.

- t.17: "Competitors are always put on guard in upright position, whether at the beginning of the bout or subsequently, sitting upright in the centre of the width of their wheelchairs. The sword arms not extended, their blades not in contact, and the points of their weapons will not extend beyond the front of their opponent's guard.

When a fencer systematically or deliberately anticipates the command "Allé", the referee shall give them a yellow card on the first occasions and then penalise them by a red card for each subsequent repetition of the same offence in the same bout. See t.114, t.116, t.120.

At all weapons the fencers who attempt to come on guard on incompatible positions, and this is not resolved, then the referee shall ensure, twice, that each fencer shall raise the point of their weapon so that there is no contact of blades. The referee will ensure that neither fencer gains any advantage from the application of this rule by advancing the weapon significantly beyond the normal "on guard" position.

When a fencer's feet leave the wheelchair foot-rest or uses the floor to gain advantage the referee will give them a yellow card on the first occasion and then penalise them by a red card for each subsequent repetition of the same offence within the same bout. See t. 28 t.114, t.116, t.120.

When a fencer loses their balance, or changes their sitting position, when the wheelchair becomes unclamped, earthing clips become unattached, or if there is any danger to the fencers, the referees, or the spectators, the referee will call halt. See t.29

Whenever play is to be resumed, competitors are put on guard sitting upright in the centre of the width of their wheelchairs.

A fencer cannot leave the seat of the wheelchair. A fencer who does this will be given a yellow card and will be penalised by red card for each repetition of the offence during that bout See t.28 t.114, t.116, t.120.

The referee will appoint two referees to observe fencers to enforce this regulation.

When a fencer loses their balance on the attack the referee must immediately call 'Halt'. Any hit scored on the attacking fencer immediately proceeding this action, or as an immediate riposte during it, will count as valid.

When a fencer's wheelchair develops a fault, the referee may allow time strictly necessary for it to be repaired or exchanged. "In the case of the occurrence of any condition associated with the handicap (e.g. involuntary spasm) the referee may allow, without restriction, sufficient time for recovery. The referee will use his discretion to prevent unfair advantage being taken of this rule.

To request attention of the referee the fencer will raise the none fencing arm.

CHAPTER 6

Refereeing and Judging of Hits

Officials approved by the IWFC will officiate.

- t.34 "The bout is directed by the referee, who may be seated, and must be in a position to follow the fencing phrases while being able to see the scoring apparatus.

PART 2. FOIL

The Conventions of Fencing

"To establish the correct fencing measure, the fencer will sit upright in the centre of the width of their wheelchair. One fencer will bend the fencing arm with the forearm vertical and upper-arm horizontal the elbow pointing to the other fencer, the other fencer with a straight arm shall touch the inner edge of the opponent's forearm with the point of the foil. Each fencer must try this distance. In case of fencers of unequal arm length the fencing measure is that of the fencer with the shorter arm. The latter may elect for a greater fencing measure, but in no case may the measure exceed that of the fencer with the longer arm. Where there is a dispute, the referee shall intervene and their decision is final.

Fencers with severely restricted movement shall determine the measure by reaching a point 10 centimetres beyond the inner forearm. Where there is a dispute, the referee shall intervene and their decision is final.

ONCE BOTH FENCERS HAVE AGREED THE FENCING MEASURE THE FENCING MEASURE CANNOT BE CHANGED.

PART 3. EPEE

The Conventions of Fencing

THE TARGET

The Target for Wheelchair Epee.

The target at epee is the whole of the upper part of the fencer's body, it comprises any part of the body above a horizontal line drawn between the top of the folds formed by the thighs and the trunk of the fencer when in the "On Guard" position. Any portion of the chair above this line is valid target.

A hit that registers on the parts of the wheelchair below the valid target or the fencing frame, must be annulled.

The organisers must provide a flexible lamé 'apron' to cover the non-valid areas. This 'apron' is also earthed to the apparatus. It must not obscure any

valid target and be firmly fastened in position. The clips on the 'aprons' must be in full view of the referee. If these clips become dislodged, the referee must call halt, and annul any hit. If a double hit is registered by an established hit and a double hit the fencer who has made the established hit may choose to accept the double hit or ask to have it annulled. (See t.67 e)

To establish the correct fencing measure, the fencer will sit upright in the centre of the width of their wheelchair. One fencer will bend the fencing arm with the forearm vertical and upper-arm horizontal the elbow pointing to the other fencer, the other fencer with a straight arm shall touch the outer edge of the opponent's elbow with the point of the epee. Each fencer must try this distance. In case of fencers of unequal arm length the fencing measure is that of the fencer with the shorter arm. The latter may elect for a greater fencing measure, but in no case may the measure exceed that of the fencer with the longer arm. Where there is a dispute, the referee shall intervene and their decision is final.

Fencers with severely restricted movement shall determine the measure by reaching a point 10 centimetres inside the outer edge of the elbow. Where there is a dispute, the referee shall intervene and their decision is final.

ONCE BOTH FENCERS HAVE AGREED THE FENCING MEASURE THE FENCING MEASURE CANNOT BE CHANGED.

PART 4. SABRE

The Conventions of Fencing

To establish the correct fencing measure, the fencer will sit upright in the centre of the width of their wheelchair. One fencer will bend the fencing arm with the forearm vertical and upper-arm horizontal the elbow pointing to the other fencer, the other fencer with a straight arm shall touch the outer edge of the opponent's elbow with the point of the sabre. Each fencer must try this distance. In case of fencers of unequal arm length the fencing measure is that of the fencer with the shorter arm. The latter may elect for a greater fencing measure, but in no case may the measure exceed that of the fencer with the longer arm. Where there is a dispute, the referee shall intervene and their decision is final.

Fencers with severe restricted movement shall determine the measure by reaching a point 10 centimetres inside the outer edge of the elbow. Where there is a dispute, the referee shall intervene and their decision is final.

ONCE BOTH FENCERS HAVE AGREED THE FENCING MEASURE THE FENCING MEASURE CANNOT BE CHANGED.

On the command "On Guard" fencers shall adopt a guard position that satisfies the following requirements:

There shall be no contact of blades.

The point of a competitor's blade shall not be advanced beyond the blade of his opponent. The referee will ensure that neither fencer has an unfair advantage by advancing his arm significantly more than that of his opponent. see t.17

BOOK 2. ORGANISATION RULES

The Central Office of the FIE will be The International Wheelchair Fencing Committee of the International Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Sports Federation controls the activities of the Directoire Technique at the Paralympic Games, The World Games, Zonal Games The World Cup and ISMWSF Games."

0.14 For alternative order of bouts see Appendix A."

RULES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR FENCING

NB. The placing of competitors within each category is strictly according to the decision of the official classifiers authorities that have examined and classified each competitor before the competition. No competitor may appear in a category higher than that in which he has been placed by those authorities.

A fencer in category 'B' may decide to fence in category 'A', provided that they state their decision on entry and compete only in that category through-out all the fencing events in this tournament. No ranking points will be awarded to fencers who compete in a category not of their classification.

No fencer shall be entered at more than two different weapons in any championships, including all team and individual events.

World, and Zonal Championships entries are limited to four (4) fencers of any one nation for each event

Paralympic Games, entries are limited to Three (3) fencers of any one Nation for each event

World Cup, No limit of fencers.

CHAPTER 6

TEAM COMPETITIONS

Team Championships at all three weapons for men and women and will be held at the same time and place as the individual championships and will take place when there is minimal of three teams, one team per country.

o.42 ADD Each team of three must have at least one category 'B'.

See appendix 'Organising Championships'