

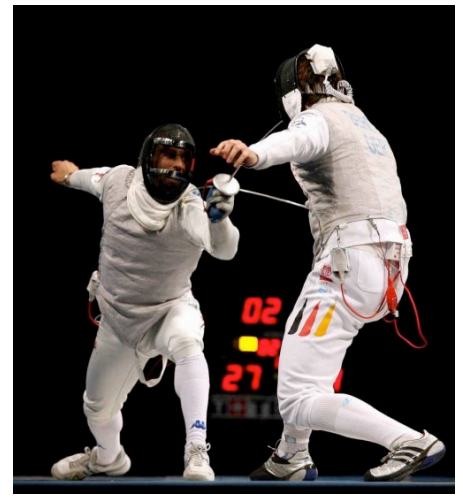
# Intermediate Fencing HPR 1210

## Study Guide

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## Vocabulary

Parry	A defensive action made with the weapon to prevent an offensive action arriving.
Riposte	A counter offensive action made by the fencer who has parried the attack.
Compound Riposte	A counter offensive action made by the fencer who has parried the attack, executed in several movement
Bind	A type of pris-de-fer (taking of the blade) in which the opponent's blade is engaged and then moved diagonally from one line to another.
Point-In-Line	A position by the defending fencer. The fencer holds the arm straight from the (on-the-line) shoulder and presenting the point directly at the attacker, offering to impale him. <u>The point in line is a "defensive" threat and has the right of way until deflected.</u>
Right-of-way	The convention in foil and sabré that sets up an orderly sequence of attack and riposte. The first attack must be defended against before a counter attack may begin.
Fleché	An attacking footwork formed by either leaping or running forward, with the rear foot crossing past the front foot.
Simple Attack	An offensive action that is executed in one movement.
Compound Attack	An offensive action that is executed in several movements
Beat Attack	An attack on the opponent blade by tapping it lightly
Coupé	Lifting the point over the opponent point without withdrawing the hand or arm
Disengage	Changing blade line by dropping the point <i>under</i> opponent's blade and then raising it on the other side.

## Double

A compound offensive action consisting of 1 feint and 2 changes of line. Used when an opponent takes a circular parry against a feint.

Feint

A false thrust designed to make the opponent parry or otherwise react.

## Remise

A simple and immediate offensive action which follows the original attack,



# Tournament Formats

Generally, an individual event consists of two parts: the pools, and the direct eliminations.

In the pools, fencers are divided into groups, and every fencer in a pool will have the chance to fence every other fencer once. The size and number of the pools is determined by the number of athletes who have registered for the competition.

Pool bouts are three minutes long, and are fenced to five points. If no fencer reaches five points, then the one with the most points after three minutes wins. Pool results are recorded on a score sheet, which must be signed by the fencers after their last match. The referee will write down how many points each fencer scored in the bout, although normally if a fencer won with five points a "V" (for *victory*) is written down instead of a 5. Losing a pool match does not eliminate a fencer from the tournament.

Tournament: \_\_\_\_\_

Competition: \_\_\_\_\_

Round: \_\_\_\_\_ Pool: \_\_\_\_\_ Strip: \_\_\_\_\_

Referee: \_\_\_\_\_

Damage	#	1	2	3	4	V	T	TR	INS
1									
2									
3									
4									

Club	Name	#	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	V	T	TR	INS	Pt.
1															
2															
3															
4															
5															
6															
7															
8															

Warning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

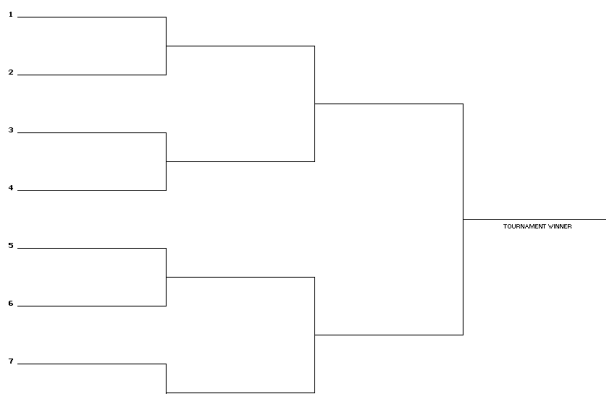
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\_\_\_\_\_

Pool of 8 1st Round		Pool of 8 2nd Round		Pool of 7 2nd Round		Pool of 8 3rd Round		Special Draw Orders For Tiebreakers				Pool of 8 3rd Round	
Pool of 8 1st Round		Pool of 8 2nd Round		Pool of 7 2nd Round		Pool of 8 3rd Round		Pool of 7 2nd Round		Pool of 8 3rd Round		Pool of 8 3rd Round	
04	12	10	05	14	01	06	03	01	02	13	04	03	04
05	04	05	10	14	06	03	01	02	03	04	03	04	03
06	05	04	05	14	06	03	01	02	04	03	04	03	04
07	06	05	04	14	06	03	01	02	05	04	03	04	03
08	07	06	05	14	06	03	01	02	06	04	03	04	03
09	08	07	06	14	06	03	01	02	07	04	03	04	03
10	09	08	07	14	06	03	01	02	08	04	03	04	03
11	10	09	08	14	06	03	01	02	09	04	03	04	03
12	11	10	09	14	06	03	01	02	10	04	03	04	03
13	12	11	10	14	06	03	01	02	11	04	03	04	03
14	13	12	11	14	06	03	01	02	12	04	03	04	03
15	14	13	12	14	06	03	01	02	13	04	03	04	03
16	15	14	13	14	06	03	01	02	14	04	03	04	03
17	16	15	14	14	06	03	01	02	15	04	03	04	03
18	17	16	15	14	06	03	01	02	16	04	03	04	03
19	18	17	16	14	06	03	01	02	17	04	03	04	03
20	19	18	17	14	06	03	01	02	18	04	03	04	03
21	20	19	18	14	06	03	01	02	19	04	03	04	03
22	21	20	19	14	06	03	01	02	20	04	03	04	03
23	22	21	20	14	06	03	01	02	21	04	03	04	03
24	23	22	21	14	06	03	01	02	22	04	03	04	03
25	24	23	22	14	06	03	01	02	23	04	03	04	03
26	25	24	23	14									

After the pools are finished, the direct elimination round starts. Fencers are sorted in a table of some power of 2 (16, 32, 64, etc.) based on how many people are competing. There are rarely exactly the right number of people for this to work out perfectly, so the lowest ranking fencers may be eliminated, or they may be included in the next highest power of 2 with the top fencers receiving a [bye](#).

Once the table size has been chosen, fencers are slotted into the table like this: first place vs. last place, second vs. second last, third vs. third last etc. A fencers place is decided by three factors: their victories divided by matches fenced, their indicator score, which is calculated by the numbers of hits for and against during the pool rounds, and finally their hits scored. If there is no way of separating the fencers beyond these three indicators, then they are considered equal and draw random lots for their place in the table.



The elimination round matches in foil and épée are fenced in three periods of three minutes each. In between each period, there is a one minute break. Sabre matches are so

much faster that the three minute mark is almost never reached. Therefore, in sabre, when one fencer reaches 8 points, there is a one minute break.

In all three weapons, the match goes until 15 points. If no one has reached 15 points, then the fencer with the most points wins. The winner carries on in the tournament, and loser is eliminated.

Fencing is slightly unusual in that no one has to fence for third place. Instead, two bronze medals are given to the losers of the semi-final round. The exception to this is team events at international level and individual events at the Olympic Games where a 3rd place play-off must be fenced

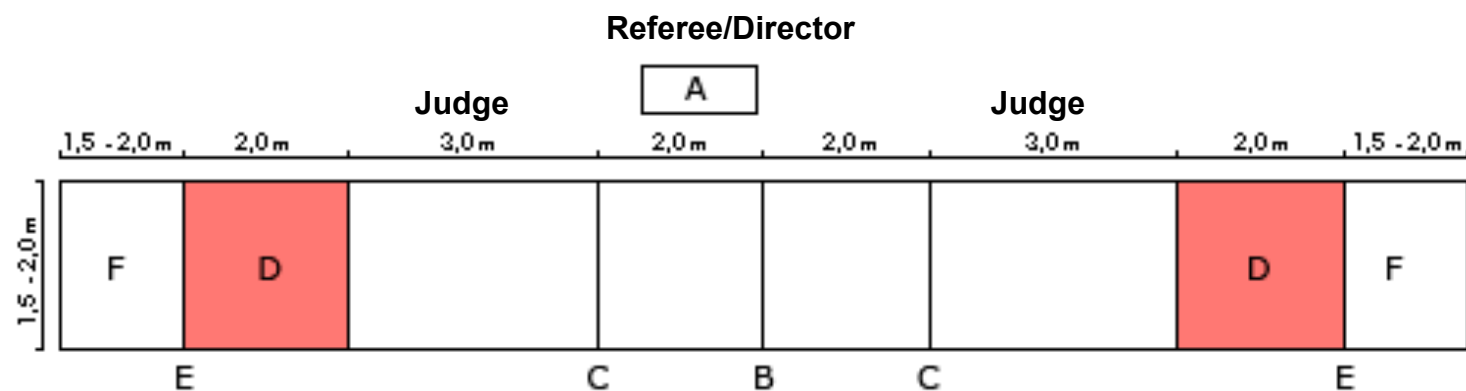
## Non-electronic scoring

Prior to the introduction of electronic scoring equipment, the president of jury was assisted by four judges. Two judges were positioned behind each fencer, one on each side of the strip. The judges watched the fencer opposite to see if there was hit. This system is sometimes called "dry" fencing.

When a judge sees a hit, a hand is raised. The president ([referee](#) or [director](#)) then stops the bout and reviews the relevant phases of the action, polling the judges at each stage to determine whether there was a touch, and (in foil and sabre) whether the touch was valid or invalid. The judges answer "Yes", "Yes, but off-target" (in foil and sabre), "No", or "Abstain". Each judge has one vote, and the president has one and a half votes. Thus, two judges could overrule the president; but if the judges disagreed, or if one judge abstained, the president's opinion ruled.

Épée fencing was later conducted with red dye on the tip, easily seen on the white uniform. As a bout went on, if a touch was seen, a red mark would appear. Between the halts of the director, judges would inspect each fencer for any red marks. Once one was found, it was circled in a dark [pencil](#) to show that it had already been counted. The red dye was not easily removed, preventing any [cheating](#). The only way to remove it was through certain acids such as [vinegar](#). Thus, épée fencers became renowned for their reek of vinegar until the invention of electronic equipment.

The vast majority of fencing considers electrical fencing a great improvement over non-electric system described here. As described in an article in the London newspaper, The Daily Courier, on June 25, 1896: "Everyone who has watched a bout with the foils knows that the task of judging the hits is with a pair of amateurs difficult enough, and with a well-matched pair of maîtres d'escrime (masters) well-nigh impossible." In addition there were frequent problems with bias and collusion, leading to the wry expression that a dry jury consisted of "4 blind men and a thief". Some fencers, particularly in sabre, would hit hard to ensure their touches could not be missed, and dry sabre could be an extremely painful undertaking despite the protective jackets. Even in the best of circumstances, it was very difficult to accurately score hits and it systematically under-reported valid touches to hard-to-see areas, such as the back or flank under the arm. Consequently, even though there are limitations and controversy over electronic scoring, and despite its rejection by the classical fencers, electronic scoring is by far the dominant method used to determine if touches lands.



## Judge

A Table  
B Center Line  
C En Garde Lines

## Judge

D Warning Zone  
E End Line  
F Run Off

## Refereeing

A referee's specific duties are listed in the *Rules Book*, but there are several general responsibilities that are only implied. The first of these is that while rendering technical decisions, referees must maintain their dignity and command respect. In addition, the referee must:

- Help maintain the level of fencing quality and promote its correctness.
- Concentrate on the task (and refrain from officiating when tired or out of form).
- Maintain control of the fencing in a firm, courteous manner.



All fencing referees must understand these responsibilities fully and conduct themselves in a manner that brings credit to the sport. If you are assigned to referee a bout in which you feel (or a competitor or coach may feel) that you have a conflict of interest, inform the assignor of referees. Don't hope everything will "work out" and that there won't be any close calls; let the assignor make this call.

Referees at competitions are to behave courteously toward all other officials. A referee who is a spectator at a bout should never make any word or gesture that would indicate disagreement with the presiding referee. It is absolutely inappropriate for one referee to interfere in any way with another's refereeing.

## Importance of refereeing

No sport can exist without officials. In fencing, it is especially important, as the referee is involved on every call and must adjudicate every action. In the USA we rely on fair and unbiased refereeing. Believe me, if you think our refereeing has deficiencies; watch how it is done in other places. It is my belief that our fencing has ascended to the world elite in part because our refereeing tries to be as good as our athletes. Be part of it. Be good, get better, study and enjoy.

Go to the website below for more information:

<http://fencingofficials.org/domestic/handbook.php#HOWTOBECOMEAREFEE>

