

ACADÉMIE D'ARMES INTERNATIONALE



STAGE FENCING REGULATIONS - SWORDMASTER -

Preamble

The National Academies of Arms, meeting in Congress on the 21st and 22nd April 1962 in Basel – following a provisional committee created in 1958 and a desire for a Union of the body of masters expressed on the 17th August 1930 in Antwerp – decided to constitute a World Organisation gathering all the National Academies and to give it statutes.

The AAI has among its purposes to contribute to the development of principles, rules, techniques and methods of teaching of fencing in all its forms.

The International Academy of Arms publishes these Technical Regulations for Stage Fencing Competitions.

1

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL REGULATIONS

DEFINITIONS AND TERMINOLOGY

Art. 1

Purpose of the Regulations - The International Academy of Arms publishes these regulations for Stage Fencing (SF) Competitions, which shall be referred to hereinafter as "the Regulations".

The Regulations are mandatory *ne varietur* for official AAI events, including the World Championships of all categories, aka "SwordMaster".

Art. 2

Definition of SF - SF is a discipline based on the performance of predetermined choreographies, which do not involve actual combat, and use cold steel-bladed or blunt weapons, for theatrical or cinematographic purposes.

Art. 3

Acceptance of the Regulations - Participation in SF competitions implies knowledge and acceptance of the Regulations.

Ignorance of the Regulations is not an excuse for any violations thereof.

Art. 4

SF activities - SF performers equip, dress, arm themselves and perform their choreographies in their own way, under their own responsibility and at their own risk.

The security measures set out in these Regulations are intended only to enhance the safety of the performers, without being able to guarantee it and therefore can not - independently of the manner in which they are applied - lead to the liability of AAI, neither the organizers of the events, nor the officials or the personnel in charge, nor the authors of these Regulations, of a possible accident.

SF performers voluntarily agree to assume all the risk and take full responsibility for any injury (including, but not limited to, physical injury, disability and death), illness, damage, loss, claim, liability or expense of any kind that they may suffer or incur as a result of their participation in the competitions listed in the Regulations.

Competitors must be covered by a general liability insurance policy secured through their club, their national governing body or they own personal insurance policy.

Art. 5

Languages used - The working languages of SF competitions are English and French.

The language of the organizer of the competition may be used as an additional working language.

The organizer shall provide the means of translation to ensure that the competition is understandable to all.

Art. 6

Participants - Each individual performer or team will also be indicated as "competitor" in the Regulations.

Only one individual per team has the right/duty to submit claims to the Technical Directory (TD); each team will have to name one of its members, as much as Team Captain, who will be the only one to represent the team, even before the TD.

Alternatively, the competitors may be represented by one and only one club official or head of national delegation.

Art. 7

Program - SF competitions will be organized according to a written program.

The program will include the competitor's registration deadlines, the expected start of elimination rounds, the expected start of final round, the expected start of the award ceremony.

2

CHAPTER 2

CATEGORIES

WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENTS

Art. 8

Categories - SF competitions are classified by categories, based upon the type of choreography.

A minimum of 8 competitors are required for an event to take place.

The categories are:

- 1) **Solo**;
- 2) **Ensemble**;
- 3) **Duo**;
- 4) **Troupe**.

Art. 9

Armaments - Performers can use any type of weapon historically existing or existed and any type of fantasy weapon.

Performers can use also work tools or accessories of any kind or nature (cutlery, scissors, screwdrivers, saws, chairs, bottles, etc.), always respecting the safety prescriptions of next article.

Art. 10

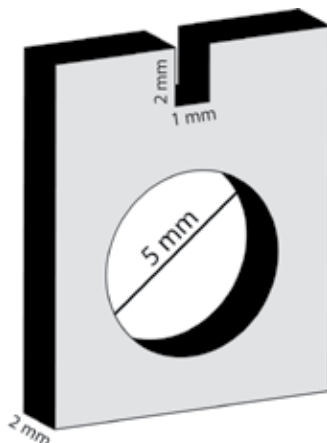
Weapons control tests - Offensive weapons must have rounded tip and no sharp edges; the pommels and quillons cannot be pointed or sharp.

The shapes of the hilts, the pommels and the section of the blades are free, according with the corresponding weapons.

Similarly, defensive weapons must have no sharp points or edges.

The tips of the blades must be rounded, curled, riveted or welded with a stop tip; they cannot penetrate a template consisting of a metal plate of 2 mm thickness, with a hole of 5 millimeters in diameter.

The thickness of the edge of the blades will be tested by using a template constituted by a metal plate of 2 mm thickness, provided with a groove having a width of 1 millimeter (+/- 0.1mm), and 2mm deep; specifically, the edge of the blade, sliding the groove from the tip to the heel, must never touch the bottom of the groove itself.



Art. 11

Solo - The Solo category is represented by combat choreographies against one or more imaginary opponents, performed by a single performer.

Art. 12

Ensemble - The Ensemble category is represented by combat choreographies against one or more imaginary opponents, performed by a team of minimum 2 and maximum 8 performers, with the same weapons at the same time and pace.

Art. 13

Duo - The Duo category is represented by combat choreographies, performed by teams of two performers.

Art. 14

Troupe - The Troupe category is represented by combat choreographies, performed by teams of three or more performers, with a maximum of 8 performers on the stage.

Art. 15

Attire - The attire for the competitions is free, but In Duo and Troupe categories, the performers shall use fencing gloves for both hands.

All performers must wear shoes with non-slip soles.

3

CHAPTER 3

COMPETITION VENUE

STAGE AND COMPETITION AREA

Art. 16

Competition venue - The venue of the competition must be homologated by the TD and must include the competition area, the stage, the area dedicated to the public and the structures dedicated to welcoming performers and judges.

In the place of the competition will be present necessarily minimum equipment of first aid; all competitions will start exclusively in the presence of the service doctor, who will ensure the presence of the aforementioned equipment.

If weather or terrain conditions are inconsistent with the safety and comfort of performers, judges and the public, the competition will start or resume as soon as conditions permit, provided that the competition can be completed before midnight of the day set for its conclusion.

The movement of an open space to another covered, in case of bad weather, can be decided by the TD, provided that the location and the characteristics of the covered place have been indicated in the program and that the two structures are found within a radius of 5 km.

Art. 17

Competition area - In the competition area, i.e. the area of respect between the stage and the place dedicated to the public, are admitted exclusively the performers, an assistant for each team or individual performer, the judges, service staff, medical staff and organizers.

Art. 18

Competition area organization - The Jury will be positioned in the center, 2 meters from the edge of the stage and at the same height; next to the Jury desks will be the officials, the timekeeper and the sound and light technicians.

The cameramen will take position on the two stage corners near to Jury.

There will be a security distance of 5 meters between the front edge of the stage and the front perimeter of the spectator area.

Art. 19

Stage - All the choreographies will take place in an area said stage.

The stage shall be 12 meters wide and 8 meters deep, and have two entrances: one on the left side with respect to the Jury, and the other on the right side.

The surface of the stage shall be flat, smooth and not slippery, and its perimeter shall be clearly marked and visible.

In indoor competitions, the height of the ceiling will never be less than 5 meters from the floor of the stage.

The stage shall be equipped with theatrical lighting and audio system.

Art. 20

Performers rooms - The organization will provide rooms where performers can rehearse, warm up and change clothes; in these rooms there will be all the information in real time on the course of the competitions and on the order of call on the stage.

Art. 21

Control office and chamber - The organization will provide a room or area with a desk for the CO and a room for the Jury meetings and the jurisdictional procedures.

Art. 22

Staff - The organization will provide rooms and facilities for the members of the staff (officials, cameramen, timekeeper, security, etc.).

4

CHAPTER 4

REFEREEING, CONTROL AND JUDGEMENT

JURISDICTIONAL PROCEDURES, JUDGEMENT CRITERIA

Art. 23

Jury - The judging of the competition is entrusted to a Jury composed of four judges of different nationalities.

Judges will be selected among experts of known and proven credibility in the field of stage theatrical and cinematographic combat, chosen and considered suitable by the AAI Direction Committee.

Art. 24

Timekeeper - The timekeeper will be provided by the organizer.

The timekeeper is responsible for measuring the total duration of each performance, in accordance with the Regulations.

The chronometer must be clearly visible to everyone, especially to the judges and the competitors.

Art. 25

Cameramen - All the phases of the competition shall be filmed.

The cameramen will be provided by the organizer.

The video recording of each performance must be immediately made available to the Jury and subsequently transmitted to the TD.

The video recording must perfectly frame the area of the stage and the entire action of the competitors, from the first salute order to exit from the stage.

Art. 26

Control Office - The Control Office (CO) is composed of two members, one member of the Jury and one of TD.

Its mission is to control the conformity of weapons, equipments and set elements.

All competitors must report to CO in competition dress at the time established by the program, at least one hour before the start of each phase of the competition.

The CO will have to check the compliance with the regulation standards of all weapons.

The organizers must provide the members of the CO with templates for the blade's tests.

If the case of equipment not compliant with the Regulations, the competitors will have time until the beginning of their next performance, to regularise themselves in front of the CO.

Art. 27

Technical Directory - The Technical Directory (TD) is composed of three Masters of Arms, members of the Direction Committee of AAI.

The TD will have control functions over the arbitration and appeals procedures, in accordance with the Regulations.

Art. 28

Conflict of interest - Judges and TD members will not have professional or personal relationships with competitors, such as to cause a conflict of interest.

Art. 29

Complaint and appeal - Any complaint against the decisions of the judges and other arbitration bodies, must be presented to the TD in written form (appeal), by all who may have an interest, by depositing a cash deposit (100€), within one hour of the fact, subject of the complaint, or, in any case, before this fact has any effect on the progress of the competition.

Art. 30

Jurisdictional Proceedings - The TD shall judge in chamber within one hour of the filing of the appeal, heard the claimants and the judges called in question.

Decisions will be taken by majority vote.

If the appeal is accepted, even partially, the deposit will be returned immediately, but otherwise it will be retained by the organizers.

The TD's judgment is final.

Art. 31

Discipline - Any judge, member of the TD or representative of the organization has the authority to expel any person, including performers, who disturbs the regular and peaceful conduct of the competition or who promotes any rude or unfair behaviour.

Against this measure it is possible to present an appeal to the TD.

Art. 32

Judgement criteria - The 4 Judges evaluate the technical and artistic qualities of the candidates in each phase of competition.

The evaluations, opinions and votes of each Judge, anywhere expressed are taken at their absolute discretion and cannot be appealed.

5

CHAPTER 5

CONDUCT OF THE COMPETITION

SOLO, ENSEMBLE, DUO, TROUPE

Art. 33

Qualifications - The qualifications are an integral part of the competition and are preliminary to it.

No later than 90 days before the date of the First elimination round, all those who wish to participate must send the YouTube link of their demonstration performance to AAI email address (info@aai.world); la performance must not exceed at 120 seconds, with a single shot and without video editing.

The AAI Direction Committee, with the collaboration of experts, masters of artistic fencing, will select up to a maximum of 40 participants, giving official notification on the AAI website (www.aai.world) no later than 60 days before the date of first elimination round.

The mandatory criteria to be followed by the AAI Direction Committee for selection are the following:

1) each category of artistic fencing (Solo, Ensemble, Duo, Troupe) must be represented, up to a maximum of 10 participants per category;

2) for each category up to a maximum of two participants from the same nation can participate, accredited by the respective National Academies, or representing their nationality, in the absence of the National Academy on their territory;

3) each candidate must present a membership card to a National Academy or in any case to have a personal insurance covering injuries and civil liability for damages to third parties.

Without prejudice to the criteria described in the previous paragraph, the qualifications are determined at the absolute discretion of the AAI Direction Committee and cannot be appealed.

Art. 34

First elimination round (first day) - Those who pass the qualification phase, perform in front of the 4 judges, again with a performance of a maximum duration of 120 seconds.

The entry order of the performances will be cast by lot.

The performances in front of the Judges can be performed in the presence of the public and the candidates perform, bringing with them the equipment necessary for their performance (props, "effects", music, costumes, etc.).

The eventual elements of the set must be assembled and disassembled within a maximum of 3 minutes, calculated by the timekeeper, and must be placed within the perimeter of the stage; the elements must not obstruct in any way the view of the judges, or present an hazard to the detriment of the safety of the performers, judges and/or the public.

If in the Jury's opinion the set or any of its elements do not conform to the rules of this section, it may prohibit their use during the combat choreography; such a decision may be appealed to the TD.

Each Judge expresses his opinion on the artistic qualities of the candidate and, therefore, on his suitability to participate in the next phase.

The candidate, in order to pass this phase, must obtain from the judges at least three positive opinions out of four.

Art. 35

Second elimination round (second day) - Those who pass the first elimination round, will perform again in front of the 4 judges, with a performance of a maximum duration of 120 seconds, which can also be different from the first day, but always belonging to the same category (Solo, Ensemble, Duo or Troupe).

The entry order of the performances will be cast by lot.

Each judge expresses his opinion on the artistic qualities of the candidate and, therefore, on his suitability to participate in the final.

The candidate, in order to pass this phase, must obtain from the Judges four positive opinions out of four.

Among the competitors who performed on the second day the Judges chose 8 finalists (2 Solo, 2 Ensemble, 2 Duo, 2 Troupe); in case of a number less than 2 finalists per category, the Judges will be able to retrieve the best among the eliminated in the two days.

Art. 36

Final round (third day) - The Final will be attended by the 8 competitors who passed the two preliminary rounds.

In the Final round all the competitors will perform in the obligatory presence of the public and the Judges.

The exhibition may be different from that of the previous days, but always belonging to the same category (Solo, Ensemble, Duo or Troupe).

Before the start of the Final, the TD, will select among the public present the Popular Judges (PJ), all aged at least 18, in compliance with the following criteria:

- 1) two PJ nominated by each finalist;
- 2) one PJ nominated by the TD.

At the end of each performance the judgment of the Judges will be combined with that of the PJ, in compliance with the following criteria:

- 1) each Judge can assign 0, or 1, or 2 points to the performance, depending on his/her liking;
- 2) each Popular judge can assign 0 or 1 point to the performance, depending on his/her liking.

The sum of the votes of the Judges and the PJ will represent the vote of the performance and will contribute to the formation of the final ranking.

Only four performers will be awarded: the first and the best for each category, different from that of the winner.

In case of a tie, all the judges (Jury and PJ), will decide by majority, whereas the vote of a Judge will have double value than that of a PJ.

Art. 37

Injuries, weapon breakage and elimination from the competition - Performers must stop whenever a judge orders "Halte!" (Stop) and keep the position on stage they were in at the time of the interruption; the timekeeper shall stop the clock immediately.

In the event of an accident on stage, the performance will be interrupted and if the service doctor will certify the ability to continue the competition, within ten minutes of stop, the performer will be able to perform the exercise again.

In the event of a weapon breaking the performance will have to continue and the ability of the performer to manage the unexpected situation will be evaluated.

The causes of elimination from the competition, at each stage of the event, are:

- 1) non-presentation on the scene;
- 2) use of dangerous weapons (sharp or pointed);
- 3) vulgarity or brutality in dialogues and gestures;
- 4) clearly free fighting, not predetermined;
- 5) throwing weapons or objects at the Judges or the public.

The judgment on the elimination of a performer must be unanimous by the four judges; an immediate appeal is allowed to the TD and the relative decision will be final.