

RULES FOR COMPETITIONS

BOOK 2. ORGANISATION RULES

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BOOK 2. ORGANISATION RULES

CHAPTER 1. COMPETITIONS

- o.1.** The **official competitions** of the FIE are organised according to the following rules.
- o.2.**
 - 1.** The official competitions of the FIE are open to fencers (individual or team) of all FIE member countries.
 - 2.** Every competitor or designated official in a competition, irrespective of his status, is required to be **licensed for the current season** (cf. Statutes, Chapter IX).

CHAPTER 2. BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANISATION AND CONTROL

THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- o.3.** The Organising Committee is the group of persons responsible for organising the competition.

THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE FIE

- o.4.** The Central Office of the FIE controls the activities of the Directoire Technique at the Olympic Games and at the Open, Junior and Cadet World Championships, as described in Article o.63.

THE DIRECTOIRE TECHNIQUE

- o.5.** The technical organisation of competitions is entrusted to a Directoire Technique, the functions and scope of whose activities are described in the Rules (cf. t.97, o.56–62).

AUXILIARY PERSONNEL

- o.6. The organising committee will appoint:**

1. Scorers and time-keepers

The organisers will appoint, on their own responsibility, **scorers** whose duty it will be to keep the score-sheet for the bout, the pool or the match and maintain the score-boards, and a **time-keeper** whose duty it will be to keep time for the duration of the bouts (cf. t.30ss).

For **finals**, the Directoire Technique may appoint a delegate or a referee, neutral wherever possible, to supervise the time-keeper, the scorer and the person responsible for the scoring apparatus.

- 2.** The Organising Committee must choose **qualified persons**, who pay careful attention to the signals given by the apparatus in order that they may be able to advise the Referee as to what the apparatus has registered, and warn him, even during the course of a bout, as to any abnormal phenomena which may occur.

3. Experts

- a)** For each tournament, the Organising Committee must appoint **experts in matters relating to the electrical apparatus**. These experts are placed under the supervision of the Directoire Technique.

- b)** The experts may be consulted, separately or conjointly, by the referees or by the Directoire Technique regarding all questions relating to the electrical apparatus.

- c) **Members of the Committee for Electrical Apparatus and Equipment** of the FIE (SEMI) who are present are ex officio qualified to act as experts.

4. Repairers

For each tournament, the Organising Committee must ensure the presence of **competent repairers** to remedy faults in the electrical apparatus and, possibly, in the personal electrical equipment of the fencers.

CHECKING OF EQUIPMENT

- o.7.** The checking of the organisers' equipment, as well as the equipment of the fencers, must be carried out in accordance with the rules to be found in the Material Rules by qualified personnel designated by the organizing committee. If there are present designated members of the SEMI Commission, this function must be carried out by them or under their control.

CHAPTER 3. ENTRIES FOR COMPETITIONS

- o.8.** Entries must be sent to the organisers by the competitors' national federation (for the Olympic Games by their national Olympic Committee).

CHAPTER 4. TIMETABLE

- o.9.** 1. The **programme** must be displayed, communicated and respected and must take into account the time needed for the fencers to rest between bouts. It should be arranged in such a way that no fencer is obliged to participate in events for **more than 12 hours in 24**. In any case, no pool, bout or match may begin after midnight, or at any time when it can be foreseen with certainty that it will end after midnight.
2. Whatever programme is adopted, **the final** should start at a time which, having regard to local routines, will ensure that the results can be communicated to the media in sufficient time to allow them to be published.
3. In their timetable the organisers must allow sufficient time for it to be possible to carry out **the checking of the fencers' equipment**, i.e. a minimum of one day per weapon.
- o.10.** The first round of all the individual and team competitions for the World Championships and Olympic Games must be displayed by 4 p.m. at the latest the day before the competition (cf. t.123).

CHAPTER 5. INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

o.11. Individual competitions may be organised:

- a) **By direct elimination with a mixed system** consisting of one round of eliminating pools and a preliminary direct elimination table, followed by a main direct elimination table of 64 fencers to qualify 8 or 4 fencers for a direct elimination final.
- b) **By direct elimination with a mixed system** consisting of one round of eliminating pools, followed by a direct elimination table to qualify 8 or 4 fencers for a direct elimination final.
- c) **By direct elimination throughout.** (This formula, applicable at the Olympic Games, is contained in an annexe.)

GENERAL RULES FOR THE ROUND OF POOLS

- o.12. 1. In all competitions for which the formula includes a round of pools,** these pools will consist of 7 fencers if the number of participants is divisible by 7. If not, they will consist of 6 fencers if the number of participants is divisible by 6. Otherwise the pools will be of 7 and 6.
- 2. At World Cup competitions** the organising country may add the necessary number of fencers of their own nationality for all the pools to consist of 7 fencers.

Composition of pools

- o.13. 1. The pools are composed** taking account of the latest official FIE ranking and by drawing lots among any fencers who are not in the ranking.
- 2. The allocation of fencers in the pools** must be made in such a way as to place fencers of the same nationality in different pools, as far as possible.
- 3. The order of fencers** on the pool sheet is decided by drawing lots.
- 4. The pools must be fenced up to the last bout.**

o.14. The order of bouts in the pools is as follows:

1. Pool of seven			2. Pool of six		
1-4	5-1	3-5	1-2	6-4	4-2
2-5	4-3	1-6	4-5	2-5	3-6
3-6	6-2	2-4	2-3	1-4	5-1
7-1	5-7	7-3	5-6	5-3	3-4
5-4	3-1	6-5	3-1	1-6	6-2
2-3	4-6	1-2			
6-7	7-2	4-7			

o.15. When there are several fencers from the same country in a pool:

1. If they **do not form the majority** of the competitors in the pool, they must fence off the bouts between themselves before meeting competitors of another nationality.
2. If they **form the majority** of the competitors in the pool, the Directoire Technique may establish a special order of bouts, departing as little as possible from the principle laid down in (a) above, in order to obviate excessive fatigue or delays for the competitors who form the minority in the pool.

3. Examples of the **order of fencers of the same nationality** in a pool of six:

a) When a pool contains, among its six fencers,

- **two fencers of the same nationality A, or**
- **two fencers of the same nationality A and two of the same nationality B**

the fencers' names are placed on the pool sheet in such a way that those of the same nationality fence each other in their first bout and the order of bouts of a pool of six is that shown in Article o.14 above.

When a pool contains among its six fencers **two fencers of the same nationality A, two of the same nationality B, and two of the same nationality C**, the order of the bouts will be:

1-4	3-1	3-4
2-5	6-2	5-6
3-6	5-3	2-3
5-1	6-4	1-6
4-2	1-2	4-5

b) When a pool contains among its six fencers,

- **three fencers of the same nationality A, or**
- **three fencers of the same nationality A and two fencers of the same nationality B, or**
- **three fencers of the same nationality A and three fencers of the same nationality B,**

the fencers' names are placed on the pool sheet in the following way:

- the fencers of nationality A are given numbers 1, 2 and 3;
- the fencers of nationality B are given numbers 4 and 5 or 4, 5 and 6.

The order of bouts will be as laid down in Article o.14.

c) When a pool contains among its six fencers **four fencers of the same nationality A** and two others of different nationalities, the four fencers of nationality A are placed on the pool sheet as 1, 2, 3 and 4 and the order of bouts in the pool is as follows:

3-1	1-2	4-5
4-2	3-4	6-2
1-4	1-6	5-1
2-3	2-5	6-4
5-6	3-6	5-3

4. Example of the order of fencers of the same nationality in a pool of seven:

a) When this pool contains, among the seven fencers,

- **two fencers of nationality A, or**
- **two fencers of nationality A and two fencers of nationality B, or**
- **two fencers of nationality A, two fencers of nationality B and two fencers of nationality C,**

the fencers of the same nationality are listed on the pool sheet so that they fence their first bout against each other while following the order of fights laid down in Article o.14 above for a pool of seven fencers.

b) When the pool contains

- **three fencers of nationality A, or**
- **three fencers of nationality A and two fencers of nationality B, or**
- **three fencers of nationality A, two fencers of nationality B and two fencers of nationality C**

the three fencers of nationality A must be listed 1, 2 and 3 on the pool sheet, the two fencers of nationality B, 4 and 5, and the two fencers of nationality C, 6 and 7.

The order of bouts for the pool of seven, detailed in Article o.14, is no longer valid and must be replaced by the following order:

1-2	6-2	1-4
4-5	3-4	2-7
6-7	7-5	5-3
3-1	1-6	6-4
4-7	4-2	7-1
2-3	7-3	2-5
5-1	5-6	3-6

o.16. 1. If a bout in a pool is **interrupted by an accidental cause**, and this interruption is likely to be prolonged, the Referee may (with the consent of the Directoire Technique, or possibly the Organising Committee) alter the order of bouts in such a way as to allow the normal progress of the competition to proceed.

2. **The time allowed for a fencer to rest** between two consecutive bouts in a pool is three minutes.

o.17. In the pools a bout ends when:

1. a) One of the fencers **has scored 5 hits**. In this case the score registered on the score-sheet is the final score of the bout ($V5 - Dn$, where n = the number of hits scored by the losing fencer).
- b) **At épée**, if the two fencers reach a score of 4–all, they must fence for a deciding hit, up to the time limit. Any double hit will not be counted (and the fencers will therefore remain where they are on the piste).
2. **Three minutes of effective fencing time** have passed. (There is no warning for the last minute.)
 - a) If **when the time limit expires** there is a difference of at least one hit between the scores of the two fencers, the fencer who has scored the greater number of hits is declared winner. The score registered on the score-sheet is the actual score achieved in the bout ($VN - Dn$, where N = the number of hits scored by the winning fencer and n = the number of hits scored by the losing fencer).
 - b) If **at the end of regulation time the scores are equal**, the fencers fence for a deciding hit, with a maximum time limit of one minute. Before the fencing recommences, the Referee draws lots to decide who will be the winner if scores are still equal at the end of the extra minute.
 - c) In this case the score registered on the score-sheet is always the **actual score achieved in the bout**:
 - $VN - Dn$ if a deciding hit is scored within the time limit for the bout.
 - $V4 - D4$ or $V3 - D3$ or $V2 - D2$ or $V1 - D1$ or $V0 - D0$ if the winner is designated by drawing lots.

o.18. Before the competition starts, the Directoire Technique will decide on and announce the number of fencers who will be eliminated based on the ranking established by the pools.

o.19. 1. After the pools, a **single general ranking** will be established of all the fencers who have taken part in the pools, taking account, successively, of the indices V/M , $HS - HR$, HS .

(V = victories; M = bouts; HS = hits scored; HR = hits received.)

2. A summary classification table shall then be made in the following way:

- a) The results written up on the summary table will be added up to ascertain the **two indices** required.
- b) The **first index**, for the initial classification, shall be obtained by dividing the number of victories by the number of bouts fought, using the formula V/M .

- c) The fencer with the **highest index** (maximum 1) will be seeded first.
 - d) In cases of **equality in this first index**, and to separate fencers with equal first indices, a second index will be established, using the formula $HS - HR$, the difference between the total number of hits scored and hits received.
 - e) In cases of **equality of the two indices V/M and $HS - HR$** , the fencer who has scored most hits will be seeded highest.
 - f) In cases of **absolute equality** between two or more fencers, their seeding order will be decided by drawing lots.
3. Should there be **absolute equality among the last to qualify** there will not be a barrage, and the fencers with equal indicators will all qualify, even if they are in excess of the number decided on.

Withdrawal

- o.20.** A fencer who **withdraws, or who is excluded**, is scratched from the pool, and his results are annulled as if he had not taken part.

GENERAL RULES FOR DIRECT ELIMINATION

- o.21.** The **direct elimination table (bout plan)** is established taking account of the classification table and the special rules for each competition (see Figure 7a). The principle of protection of nationality will not be applied.
- o.22.** The organisers of a competition must **publish the direct elimination bout plan**, showing on it the scheduled time for each bout from the table of 64 onwards.
- o.23.**
- 1. The **direct elimination bouts** are for 15 hits or end when the three periods of three minutes, with a one-minute rest between each period, have passed. As an exception, **at sabre**, the first period ends either at the expiry of the three minutes or when one of the fencers has scored eight hits.
 - 2. **During the one-minute rests** a person, named before the bout, may have access to the fencer.
 - 3. **A clock, incorporated into the electrical scoring apparatus**, blocks the latter at the end of each period.
- o.24.**
- 1. The **bout ends** when:
 - One of the fencers has **scored 15 hits**; or
 - **9 minutes of effective fencing time** have passed.
 - 2. The fencer who has scored **the greater number of hits** is declared the winner.

3. If **at the end of regulation time the scores are equal**, the fencers fence for a deciding hit, with a maximum time limit of one minute. Before the fencing recommences the Referee draws lots to decide who will be the winner if scores are still equal at the end of the extra minute.
4. In this case the score recorded on the score-sheet is the **real score** achieved in the bout.

Withdrawal

- o.25. When, for whatever reason, a fencer **cannot fence, or cannot complete his bout**, his opponent is declared winner of that bout. A fencer who withdraws does not lose his place in the overall classification of the competition.

Order of bouts

- o.26. 1. In each round of the direct elimination table (256, 128, 64, 32, 16, 8 or 4), the bouts are always called **in the order of the bout plan**, starting at the top and ending at the bottom.
2. This rule must also be applied for **each quarter of the table**, when the direct elimination is taking place simultaneously on 4 or 8 pistes.
3. A fencer must always be allowed a **rest period of ten minutes** between two consecutive bouts.

The final

- o.27. The final, which is by direct elimination, shall consist of 4 fencers.

Classification

- o.28. 1. The **general classification** is obtained as follows:

First:	the winner of the bout for the first place
Second:	the loser of the bout for the first place
2. The two fencers who lose the semi-final matches are placed equal third, **when it is not necessary to separate them**.
3. When it is **necessary to separate them**, a bout for third and fourth places will be fought between the two losers of the semi-final matches.
4. The remainder are placed, within each round of the direct elimination, in accordance with their **classification for the composition of the direct elimination table**.

5. **The fencers eliminated in the round of pools** are ranked according to their classification in this round and they are placed after those who qualified for the direct elimination.

A. MIXED FORMULA - One qualifying round of pools, a preliminary direct elimination table, a main direct elimination table of 64 fencers to qualify for a final by direct elimination (Open World Championships and Open World Cup competitions)

- o.29.** This formula is used for the **individual competitions of the Open World Championships** as well as for the **Open World Cup competitions** and **Grand Prix competitions**.
- o.30.** Apart from the details that follow, the general rules for **pools and direct elimination** prescribed above apply.
- o.31.**
1. The competition consists of **two phases**, a preliminary phase and a main phase, each of which are run on one day.
 2. The **16 fencers** actually present **who are classed highest in the most recent official FIE classification** are exempt from the preliminary phase.
 3. Confirmation of the **presence of the exempted fencers** is made at the time the fencers are entered.
 4. **Should a fencer who has been entered not turn up, a fine (cf o.86, table of financial penalties and fines), payable to the FIE, will be inflicted on the Federation of the fencer at fault except in a case of force majeure which is duly justified.**
 5. **In the case of a tie** in the official FIE ranking between two or more fencers for the 16th exempt place, lots will be drawn to decide which of these fencers will benefit from exemption from the preliminary phase.
- o.32.**
1. **The preliminary phase** consists of one round of pools, from which 20%–30% of the participants in the pools are eliminated, based on the indices of all competing in them, and a preliminary direct elimination table. For Grand Prix competitions, the number of fencers eliminated on the indices of the pools must be 30%.
 2. **After the round of pools**, the 16 fencers classed highest on the general index (cf. o.19) are exempt from the preliminary direct elimination table. Should there be a tie between two or more fencers for the 16th place, their FIE ranking will be used to separate them.
 3. The remainder of the fencers qualifying from the pools will make up a **preliminary integral direct elimination table**. This will be based on the indices of the fencers in all the pools (in the case of a tie on indices, the fencers will be separated by drawing lots). This table, be it complete or incomplete, will be fenced until only 32 fencers remain.
- o.33.**
1. **The main phase** consists of an integral direct elimination table, which is fenced on four pistes, one quarter of the table per piste. The first round of the table of 64 may,

however, if required for the organisation of the competition, be fenced on eight pistes. Grand Prix competitions must be fenced on (only) four pistes.

2. **The seeded fencers exempted from the preliminary phase** occupy places 1–16 in this table, drawing lots in pairs in the order of their official FIE classification.
 3. **Should one of the 16 exempted fencers** who had been entered in accordance with the Rules **not present himself** to fence (cf. o.31), his position in the table will remain empty and his federation will be required to pay to the FIE a fine (cf o.86, table of financial penalties and fines) unless his absence is caused by circumstances duly justified as being outside his control.
 4. **The 16 fencers who have the highest indices after the round of pools** and who are thus exempt from the preliminary direct elimination table will take places 17–32, classified in the order of their indices (in the case of a tie on indices, the fencers will be separated by drawing lots).
 5. **The 32 fencers qualifying from the preliminary direct elimination table** will occupy places 33–64, classified according to their indices after the round of pools.
- o.34.** There will be no bout for the third place. The two fencers who lose the semi-final matches will be placed **equal third**.

B. MIXED FORMULA - One qualifying round of pools, a direct elimination table to qualify for a final by direct elimination (Junior and Cadet World Championships and Junior World Cup competitions)

- o.35.** This formula is used for the **individual competitions of the Junior and Cadet World Championships** and the **Junior World Cup competitions**.
- o.36.** **Apart from the details that follow**, the general rules for pools and direct elimination described above apply.
- o.37.** The competitions are run on **one single day per weapon**.
- o.38.** The competition consists of **one round of pools**, in which **all the fencers present take part**, and an integral direct elimination table.
- o.39.** When drawing pools in the **World Cadet Championships**, the Directoire Technique will take account of the following orders of strength:
- 1. The top 8** in the previous year's **World Cadet Championships**;
 - 2. The 64 highest** ranked in the **official FIE junior ranking of the year in course**;
 - 3. Those placed 9–32** in the previous year's **World Cadet Championships**;
 - 4. Those ranked 65 onwards** in the **official FIE ranking of the year in course**;
 - 5. The seeding** provided by the **national federations**;
 - 6. The DT's decision**.
- o.40.** **1.** All the fencers qualifying from the round of pools are placed in a direct elimination table, complete or incomplete, according to the **indices resulting from the pools**. This table is fenced right through to the final.
- 2.** From the last 32 the direct elimination bouts will take place **on 4 pistes**, with each quarter of the table fenced on one piste.
- o.41.** There will be no bout for the third place. The two fencers who lose the semi-final matches will be placed **equal third**.

CHAPTER 6. TEAM COMPETITIONS

A. OPEN AND JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (AND OLYMPIC GAMES) TEAM EVENTS

- o.42.** At each weapon teams consist of **three fencers**, with or without a reserve.

A team may only begin a match **if it is complete**.

- o.43.** 1. The competition is run by **integral direct elimination** with a direct elimination table which may be incomplete (see Figure 7b).
2. At the Open World Championships the teams will occupy the places in the table according to the **most recent official team ranking of the FIE**. The teams that are not classified will occupy the last places in the table, and will be separated by drawing of lots.
3. **All places in the table up to 16th place** will be fought for. From 17th place onwards teams will be classified, within each round of the table, according to their initial place in the table.
4. At the **Junior World Championships** the teams will occupy places in the table according to their ranking. This ranking is arrived at by adding together the positions obtained by their best three team members in the Junior individual event. On the other hand, if a fencer did not take part in the individual competition, but is participating in the team event, he will be assigned points equal to the total number of fencers appearing in the individual junior ranking plus one.

The **first four places** will be fought for. From fifth place onwards teams will be classified, within each round of the table, according to their initial place in the table.

- o.44.** The **formula** for the competition is as follows.

1. The **relay formula** applies to all weapons.
2. The three fencers of one team fence the three fencers of the opposing team (**9 relay bouts**).

3. The bouts of each match have to be fought in the following **order**:

3–6	5–2
5–1	1–4
2–4	6–2
6–1	3–5
3–4	

If this order is **altered**, intentionally or unintentionally, all the hits scored following the modification are annulled and the match is resumed in the correct order.

4. The **position of each team on the match score-sheet** is decided by drawing lots. The **order of the individual fencers** is then decided by the team captains.

5. Each 'lap' (bout) of the relay match consists of **five hits** (5, 10, 15, 20, etc.); the maximum time for each bout is **3 minutes**.

6. The first two opponents fence until one of them has scored five hits, within the time limit of 3 minutes.

The next two opponents fence until one of their scores has reached ten hits, within the time limit of 3 minutes, and so on with successive bouts, cumulatively, of five hits.

7. If by the expiry of 3 minutes of fencing time **the intended score for the bout has not been achieved**, the next two fencers take up the score where it was left off and fence up to the maximum score intended for their bout as normal, within the time limit of 3 minutes.

8. The **winning team** is that which first reaches the maximum score of 45 hits, or that which has scored the greatest number of hits after the expiry of regulation time.

9. If **at the end of regulation time** for the last bout the scores are **equal**, the match continues for a deciding hit, with a maximum time limit of one minute, fought for by the fencers of the last bout in the match. Before the fencing recommences the Referee draws lots to decide who will be the winner if scores are still equal at the end of the extra minute.

10. a) In the course of a match the captain of a team may ask to **substitute** for a fencer the reserve nominated before the start of the match. This substitution may only be made at the end of a bout. The fencer who has been replaced may not fence again during that match in order to replace a fencer on the piste, even in the case of an accident or unavoidable circumstances. **The announcement** that a fencer is to be substituted, which must be reported by the Referee to the Directoire Technique and to the opposing team captain, must be made at the

latest **before the beginning of the bout preceding the next bout of the fencer who is to be replaced.**

b) If an **accident** occurs in the bout which follows the request for a substitution, the team captain may annul that request.

c) If the captain of the opposing team has also requested a substitution, this substitution may be **implemented or cancelled.**

11. a) If a member of a team is **obliged to retire** during a match as the result of an **accident** which has been **duly recognised** by a medical representative of the FIE, the captain of his team may ask to put in a reserve to continue the match at the point where the competitor who was obliged to retire withdrew, even during a bout in progress.

b) However, **a competitor who is thus replaced** cannot again take his place in the team **during the same match.**

12. If both a fencer and the reserve, if any, are forced to retire, or if a fencer is excluded, their team has **lost the match.**

13. When for any reason whatever a team does not complete an event in which it is taking part, the Directoire Technique will apply the rules laid down for a competitor who does not complete an event in an individual competition, **each team being considered in its entirety as being a single competitor.**

14. When a team **fails to appear** against another team it is considered:

a) as not completing the event in which it is taking part, if it has already fenced against another team (cf. o.25);

b) as not competing at all in the event, if it is its first match.

B. WORLD CUP TEAM COMPETITION

- o.45.** Apart from the following aspects, the competition is run in accordance with rules laid down for the team events in the Open World Championships.
- o.46.** 1. All places in the table down to **16th place** will be fought for. From 17th place onwards teams will be classified, within each round of the table, according to their initial seeding in the table.
2. If a team **does not begin a match** they will be disqualified from the competition and thus will not receive any World Team Cup points, unless this is because of an injury or illness, duly attested by the duty doctor.
- o.47.** 1. The **first four teams** will be placed in the direct elimination table according to the current official team ranking of the FIE (cf. o.86); the remaining ranked teams will be placed in the table by drawing of lots in pairs.
- The **teams that are not classified** will occupy the last places in the table, and will be separated by drawing of lots.
2. The **table will be drawn up** based on the ranking of the teams entered, at the latest one hour after the quarter finals of the individual event.

CHAPTER 7. ORGANISATION OF OFFICIAL FIE COMPETITIONS

A. COMMON CONDITIONS

PROGRAMME OF COMPETITIONS

- o.48.** 1. The programme of fencing events at the **Olympic Games** currently comprises ten events. Any change in the number of events must be approved by the Congress.
2. The programme of the **Open World Fencing Championships** comprises twelve events, six individual and six team — male foil, female foil, male épée, female épée, male sabre and female sabre.
3. The programme of the **Junior and Cadet World Fencing Championships** comprises twelve individual events (six junior and six cadet), and six junior team events — at male foil, female foil, male épée, female épée, male sabre and female sabre. These begin with the cadet events, followed by the individual junior events and lastly the junior team events.
4. The organisers must submit the **programme of events** to the Executive Committee for its approval.

Venues, installations, equipment, accreditation, circulation of people in the competition enclosure, administrative organisation of the Organising Committee, personnel, various publications and the official programme

- o.49.** The Organising Committee must take note of the instructions in the **Specifications** ('Cahier des Charges') specific to each type of competition.

ENTRIES TO COMPETITIONS

Official invitation

- o.50.** 1. For all the official competitions of the FIE except the Olympic Games, the **official invitation** is the letter in which the organising federation invites every FIE member federation to take part in the Championships.
2. For the **World Championships**, this invitation must be sent to all the member federations, without exception, at least six months before the competitions.
3. For **World Cup competitions**, it must be sent out at least two months before the competition in question.

Advance programme

- o.51.** A **brochure**, comprising an '**advance programme**' of the Championships, must be sent to the member federations together with the official invitation. It should contain at least the following information:
- a)** the official name of the Organising Committee, postal address, e-mail address and telephone and fax numbers;
 - b)** the proposed timetable;
 - c)** organisational details;
 - d)** information on means of transport, visas, customs duties, etc.;
 - e)** information on hotels, their price, their location relative to the competition venue.

ENTRY FORMS

Commitment to take part in the World Championships

- o.52.** The **forms** must be sent to all federations at the same time as the official invitation. The federations must indicate their **intention to participate** three months before the beginning of the Championships.

Entries for World Championships (all categories)

- o.53.** 1. Three months before the start of the events, the federations will receive an **entry form** from the Organising Committee, on which they are required to specify the **number** of fencers and teams participating in each event of the competition's programme, two months before the start of the first event.
2. The entry of fencers and teams by name is to be made via the FIE website. This entry of the names of the fencers and all possible substitutes, and the entry of teams, must be made fifteen days (by midnight, Lausanne time) before the first event of the Championships at the latest.

3. Withdrawal of a fencer.

After the **cut-off date** for entries, there can be no further withdrawal of a name except in any case of force majeure duly justified.

4. Addition of fencer(s) after the cut-off date.

Nevertheless one or more fencers may be added, up until 10.00am (local time in the town hosting the World Championships) on the day before the competition, after payment to the FIE of a penalty (cf o.86, table of financial penalties and fines)

per fencer added. To do this the national federation must address a request to the FIE to add a fencer, together with immediate payment of the penalty.

5. **Changes of names**, only with the agreement of the FIE and only for reasons of 'force majeure', can only be made at the latest up to 24 hours before the start of each event.

Entries by name for Senior and Junior World Cup competitions, Grand Prix competitions, Satellite competitions, World Cup team competitions and Zonal senior and junior Championships.

- o.54 1. The entry of the names** of the fencers and all possible replacements, and the entry of teams, must be made via the FIE website 7 days before the competition at the latest (midnight Lausanne time).

For team entries, the names of the fencers making up the teams may be changed, by informing the organisers, up to the day before the competition, at the latest at the end of the quarter finals of the individual competition.

2. Withdrawal of a fencer or team.

After the closing dead-line for entries, no named fencer or team may be withdrawn.

From the Tuesday preceding the competition, should a fencer have to be withdrawn for reasons of injury or force majeure, the national federation must inform the FIE and the organisers. The fencer may not be replaced.

3. Substitution of a fencer.

Until the Monday preceding the competition (midnight, Lausanne time), a fencer may be replaced by another. To do this, the national federation must send to the FIE, by fax or e-mail, a written request to substitute the fencer.

4. Addition of a fencer after the dead-line.

However, until the Monday preceding the competition (midnight, Lausanne time), one or more fencers may be added after payment to the FIE of a penalty (cf o.86, table of financial penalties and fines) for each additional fencer.

To do this, the national federation must send to the FIE (by fax or e-mail) a request for the additional fencer(s) and a written commitment to pay the penalty within 15 days.

5. Should a fencer or team who have been entered **not present themselves to fence**, their federation will be penalised with a **fine** (cf o.86, table of financial penalties and fines), payable to the FIE, except in cases of properly authenticated 'force majeure'.

6. The organisers of all official competitions must, at risk of a penalty of a fine payable to the FIE (cf o.86, table of financial penalties and fines), refuse the entry of any fencers not appearing on lists conforming with the above, **any entry** not requested by a federation and any entry of either fencer or referee not in possession of an FIE licence valid for the current season.

Age of participants

- o.55.**
1. No fencer is allowed to take part in an official event of the FIE unless he or she is **at least 13 years old** on 1 January in the year of the competition.
 2. Fencers taking part in all the official FIE Cadet competitions must be under 17 years old at midnight on the 31st December of the year preceding the year in which the competition takes place.
 3. Fencers taking part in all the official FIE Junior competitions, individual or team, must be under 20 years old at midnight on 31st December of the year preceding the year in which the competition takes place (cf o.80).
 4. Apart from the stipulations above, there is no maximum age limit for those taking part in any other official events of the FIE, except in regard to the different Veteran categories.

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT OF OFFICIAL FIE COMPETITIONS

- o.56.** Apart from the specific areas of competence which are the responsibility of the other technical officials, the technical management of the official competitions of the FIE is entrusted to a **Directoire Technique**, whose composition and nomination must respect the specific rules for each competition.

Nomination

- o.57.** The Directoire Technique is composed of people who have the experience and competence to organise competitions.

1. World Championships and Olympic Games.

- a) The technical organisation is undertaken by a Directoire Technique of **six** members of different nationalities, one of whom must represent the organising country.
- b) The President of the Directoire Technique and the other members are appointed by the Executive Committee of the FIE.
- c) Should there be a tied vote among the members of the Directoire Technique, **the President** of the Directoire Technique **has the casting vote**.

2. World Cup competitions.

- a) The Directoire Technique is composed of three qualified persons from the organising country or invited by them.
- b) For Grand Prix competitions, the Supervisor of the competition, designated by the Executive Committee of the FIE, is also the President of the Directoire Technique.

Functions

- o.58.** 1. The functions of the Directoire Technique include the **strict but complete organisation** of the different events and the obligation to see that the Rules are adhered to; they cannot decide on any departure from the Rules except when circumstances arise in which it is absolutely impossible to apply them.
2. The Directoire Technique is responsible for the **technical organisation** of the competitions and for ensuring their smooth running.
3. Hence:
- a) It checks **technical installations**;
 - b) It checks the **entries**;
 - c) It draws up the **pool sheets** and **direct elimination table**;

- d) It allocates **referees** as proposed by the Refereeing delegate, as well as the pistes;
- e) It supervises the **progress** of the event(s) ;
- f) It examines complaints and resolves them;
- g) It checks **results** with the help of the Organising Committee;
- h) It prepares the **subsequent events** sufficiently in advance to be able to warn the fencers, officials and judges;
- i) It supervises the **dissemination** of results.

4. Furthermore the Directoire Technique has **disciplinary responsibility** at competitions; Article t.97 defines the extent of its authority.

Operation

- o.59.** The members of the Directoire Technique cannot **act in any other capacity** at the meeting, such as team captain, official delegate of their federation, referee, competitor, etc. (except at World Cup competitions).
- o.60.**
 - 1.** The Directoire Technique **must always attend** events from beginning to end, so as to solve any problem which could arise and thus ensure that the event continues to run smoothly.
 - 2. All the decisions** of the Directoire Technique **must be displayed** sufficiently in advance on a clearly visible notice-board to be consulted by the fencers and officials. In principle, fencers and officials are informed by their heads of delegations or captains, and they may not make any complaint against changes in the timetable or any other matter about which information has been displayed within the stipulated time limits.
- o.61.** For the World Championships and the Olympic Games the Directoire Technique must meet **at least 24 hours before the first event** to draw the first round of the first event.
- o.62.** For questions concerning **the rules**, the Refereeing Commission delegate(s) alone are competent to judge the value of a referee's decision.

At competitions where there is no Refereeing Commission delegate, it is **the Supervisor** who fulfils this function.

The Supervisor settles any **disputes** that might arise in Category A and Grand Prix competitions.

It is the responsibility of the **Bureau of the FIE** or of its designated representative to settle any disputes which arise at World Championships.

SUPERVISION BY THE FIE

- o.63.** With the aim of ensuring that the rules are observed, the President and the members of the Central Office of the FIE have the right to **attend all meetings of the Directoire Technique**. The Directoire Technique is obliged to give them notice of such meetings.

ANTI-DOPING TESTING

- o.64.** An **anti-doping test** must be carried out at all official competitions of the FIE in accordance with the regulations in Article t.127 and the Anti-Doping Rules of the FIE. It may begin from the start of the competition and applies to fencers who have finished fencing.

B. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Entries

- o.65.** At the **Open World Championships**, entries are limited to four fencers per weapon per nation for the individual events and one team per weapon per nation for the team events.

Referees

- o.66.** 1. **Refereeing** at World Championships is carried out by referees chosen by the Executive Committee of the FIE at the proposal of the Refereeing Committee.
2. Referees' travel and board and lodging **costs** are paid by the Organising Committee, who in return will receive all the entry fees.
3. Referees **must** attend the **refereeing meeting** that takes place the day before the World Championships.

Invitations for international officials

- o.67.** 1. Any proposed **candidature for organising the World Championships** must be studied at the venue concerned by an ad hoc delegation designated by the Executive Committee, at the invitation of the candidate federation.
2. The organising committee of the World Championships, who will receive all the entry fees from the participating delegations, must, **at their own expense, invite** the following international officials (tourist-class return air fare, accommodation and daily allowances):
- a) The **President of the FIE** or his representative, who presides over the World Championships and, in particular, controls the smooth running of the Directoire Technique.
 - b) A **head of protocol** designated by the President of the FIE.
 - c) **Six members of the Directoire Technique** appointed by the Executive Committee of the FIE, of whom one must belong to the organising country.
 - d) **Three members of the SEMI Committee**, appointed by the Executive Committee of the FIE.
 - e) **Four members of the Refereeing Committee**, one of whom is designated principal delegate, appointed by the Executive Committee of the FIE.
 - f) **Two members of the Medical Committee**, appointed by the Executive Committee of the FIE.
 - g) The **referees** designated by the Executive Committee (maximum 34).

C. REGIONAL GAMES

- o.68. 1.** The **Regional Games** recognised by the FIE are the same as those recognised by the International Olympic Committee, when fencing is on the programme (e.g. the Mediterranean Games, the Pan-American Games, the Central American and Caribbean Games, etc.) as well as the Commonwealth Games.
- 2.** The **Rules of the FIE** are obligatory in cases which are not provided for by the Rules for Regional Games adopted by the International Olympic Committee.

Technical delegates of the FIE

- o.69. 1.** The Technical delegate of the FIE, who represents the FIE in accordance with the Olympic Rules for Regional Games, will be chosen by the President of the FIE, after consultation with the Executive Committee, according to criteria of recognised technical abilities.
- 2.** The **expenses** incurred by this representative (tourist-class air fare, hotel and board) will be paid by the Organising Committee.

Technical officials and referees

- o.70.** The Olympic Rules for Regional Games stipulate that **the control of all the technical organisation of the Games**, including appointing referees and officials, must be entrusted to the international federations. The Organising Committee must pay the expenses (tourist-class air fare, hotel and board) for the following officials:
- 1. Directoire Technique: Two foreign members** if the Directoire Technique has three members; **five foreign members** if there are six members. The Directoire Technique is appointed by the Executive Committee of the FIE.
 - 2. Checking of Equipment: One or two representatives of the SEMI Committee**, depending on the importance of the fencing events at the Games. These representatives are appointed by the Executive Committee of the FIE.
 - 3. Refereeing delegate: A representative of the Refereeing Committee**, appointed by the Executive Committee of the FIE.
 - 4. Neutral referees: Two or three international referees**, depending on the importance of the event, from countries outside the region of the Games, appointed by the Executive Committee of the FIE.

D. JUNIOR AND CADET WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Entries

- o.71.** The Junior and Cadet World Championships are open to all FIE member federations.
- o.72.** Entries are limited to three fencers per weapon per nation for the individual events and one team per weapon per nation for the team events.

Referees

- o.73. 1. Refereeing at World Junior and Cadet Championships** is carried out by referees chosen by the Executive Committee of the FIE on the proposal of the Refereeing Committee.
- 2.** Referees' travel and board and lodging **costs** are paid by the organising committee, who in return will receive all the entry fees.
- 3.** Referees must attend the **refereeing meeting** that takes place the day before the World Championships.

Invitations for international officials

- o.74.** The organising committee of the World Championships, who receive all the entry fees from the participating delegations, must, at their own expense, invite the same list of international officials (tourist-class return air fare, accommodation and daily allowances) as is set out (cf. o.67) for the Open World Championships.

E. WORLD CUP COMPETITIONS

INTRODUCTION

o.75. The title ‘World Cup Competition’ applies to the following competitions:

- The individual competitions of the Open World Cup and the Grand Prix competitions
- The competitions of the Junior World Cup
- The competitions of the Team World Cup

CRITERIA

Admission

o.76. A competition can only be classed or kept as a World Cup competition if it satisfies the following criteria.

1. Participation must include fencers:

- **from at least eight countries**, for open competitions in Europe;
- **from at least five countries**, for open competitions outside Europe;
- **from at least five countries**, for junior competitions.

2. Participation must include a **minimum** of:

- **ten fencers listed in the top 32** in the official ranking of the FIE and representing at least **five different countries** for open competitions in Europe (no requirement for competitions outside Europe).

3. The competition must be attended by at least **four FIE A or B Grade referees** of different nationalities.

4. The **Rules** of the FIE must be faithfully applied, as well as the specification for World Cup competitions. The organisers must use automatic judging equipment of which the prototype has been approved by the SEMI.

5. The **finals** (of 4 fencers) must take place in a hall in which there is space allocated to the public.

6. There must be a sufficient number of pistes to allow the first round to take place in no more than **two series** of pools.

7. During the **finals**, the organisers must display signs on the piste indicating the names and nationalities of the fencers.

8. For the presentation of the **prizes**, the protocol rules of the FIE must be applied (cf. FIE Administrative Rules).
9. There must be a **medical doctor** present on the premises of the competition for the whole duration of the competition.
10. There must be an **anti-doping test** conforming to the regulations of the FIE (cf. t.127 and the FIE Anti-Doping Rules).

The Supervisor

- o.77.**
1. The organisers of World Cup events, individual and team, must ensure the **presence of a supervisor of the FIE** from a country other than that of the organisers, whose task it will be to verify that the competition properly fulfils the World Cup criteria.
 2. The **travel, board and lodging costs** of the supervisor are the responsibility of the organisers, in accordance with the standards updated from time to time by the Executive Committee of the FIE.
 3. **This supervisor is either :**
 - a member of a FIE Commission,
 - a member of the FIE Executive Committee,
 - a member of a group of persons, appointed by the Executive Committee, available and experienced in the organisation of competitions.

The Supervisor is appointed by the Executive Committee of the FIE, at the suggestion of the FIE Bureau.

Participation

- o.78.**
1. For **Individual Category A competitions**, both Senior and Junior, at each weapon, each national federation may enter a maximum of 12 fencers. The organising country (competitions in Europe) may enter up to 20 fencers plus the number needed to make up the pools.
 2. For **Individual Category A competitions outside Europe**, the organising country may enter up to 30 fencers plus the number needed to make up the pools.
- o.79.** For **Grand Prix competitions**, entries are limited to a maximum of 8 fencers per weapon per country. The organising country may enter up to 12 fencers, plus the number of fencers needed to make up the pools, up to a maximum of 20 fencers.
- o.80.** Only fencers who are **of an age to qualify** for the next World Junior Championships may fence in the Junior World Cup competitions of the fencing season.

Referees — A Grade and Candidate A Grade competitions and Grand Prix

o.81. 1. The number of FIE A or B Grade **referees** (cf. t.35) that must accompany teams to junior A Grade competitions is:

1–4 fencers	No obligation to provide a referee
5–9 fencers	One referee
10 or more fencers	Two referees

- 2.** Should a national federation not provide the required number of referees, a fine (cf o.86, table of financial penalties and fines) will be inflicted on it if it has notified the fact 15 days in advance. The fine is doubled if there is no notification 15 days in advance.

This fine must be **paid by the delegation to the organisers** so that they are able to arrange for other referees to replace those missing, as necessary.

If a national federation does not pay this fine, it must **reduce the participation** of its fencers in conformity with the quotas (cf. o.81.1 above).

- 3.** For **Open A-grade, Grand Prix and World Cup team competitions**, 7 referees, proposed by the Refereeing Commission, will be designated by the Executive Committee and delegations will not have to provide any referees. These 7 referees will be at the expense of the organisers who in return will keep the entry fees.

The Supervisor must ensure the proper application of this article.

TEAM WORLD CUP

Application

- o.82. 1. Team World Cup competitions** take place at the three weapons, both male and female.

Principles

- 2. a)** The Team World Cup tournament is composed of a maximum of **six integral competitions** (through to the first place) spread, if possible, across all continents. Points will be allocated at the end of each competition.
- b)** The teams are made up of **three fencers**, with or without a substitute.
- c)** The matches proceed according to the **team-relay formula**, as provided for in Article o.44 of these Rules.

Participation

- 3.** Team participation is open to all countries and limited to **one team per weapon per country**.

INDIVIDUAL WORLD RANKINGS

o.83. 1. Official FIE individual ranking

Principles

- a) **The official Open ranking of the FIE** takes into account the best five results of the World Cup, Grand Prix or Satellite competitions in which the fencer has participated, irrespective of continent, plus the World Championships or Olympic Games and the Zonal Championships.
- b) **The official Junior ranking of the FIE** takes into account the best six results of the World Cup competitions in which the fencer has participated, irrespective of continent, as well as the World Championships and the Zonal Championships.
- c) For both Open and Junior rankings, the ranking is **kept permanently up to date**. The competition in the current year cancels out the corresponding competition of the previous year, and the points allocated for a competition cancel out the points attributed to the same competition in the previous season. If a competition does not take place in the current season, the points obtained at the same competition in the previous season are deleted on the anniversary of the competition.
- d) **In the event of equal points**, the ranking is based on who has gained the most first places, then second places, etc.

If there is a complete tie, the fencers are ranked equal.

- e) After each competition which is taken into account to establish the ranking, this is updated automatically after verification of the results by the FIE.
- f) Except where special rules apply, the official up-to-date FIE ranking is the **deciding factor** for all rankings, seedings, exemptions, etc.

Scale of points

2. a) The ranking is based on the **following points system**:

1st place	32 points
2nd place	26 points
3rd place <i>ex aequo</i>	20 points
5th–8th places	14 points
9th–16th places	8 points
17th–32nd places	4 points
33rd–64th places	2 points

- b) Points obtained in an **individual A Grade World Cup** competition are as listed above.
- c) Points obtained in a **Grand Prix** competition of the FIE and a **Zonal Championship** are multiplied by a factor of 1.5.
- d) Points obtained in the individual events of the **Open World Championships and in the Junior World Championships** are multiplied by a factor of 2.5.
- e) Points obtained in the individual events of the **Olympic Games** are multiplied by a factor of 3.0. At the **Olympic Games**, **fourth** place is awarded 54 points.
- f) Only fencers who have **actually participated** in a direct elimination table can receive any points.

Honours

- 3. **The winner** (first ranked fencer) of each **senior** official ranking of the FIE will be announced at the end of the Open World Championships or Olympic Games.

The winner (first ranked fencer) of each **junior** official ranking will be announced at the end of the Junior World Championships.

TEAM WORLD RANKINGS

o.84. 1. Official team ranking of the FIE

Principle

- a) The official team ranking of the FIE takes into account a team's **best four results** in the Team World Cup competitions, irrespective of continent, plus the Open World Championships or the Olympic Games and the Zonal Championships.
- b) The official team ranking of the FIE is **updated on a permanent basis**: the event which is held during the current year cancels out the corresponding event held the year before, just as the points obtained during the new event replace the points obtained the year before. If an event does not take place in the current season, the points obtained at the same event in the previous season are deleted on the anniversary of the event.
- c) Should several teams **have the same points**, the same rules shall apply as for the official FIE individual ranking (cf. o.83).
- d) Except where special rules apply, the updated official team ranking is the **deciding factor** for all rankings, seedings, etc.

2. Team scale of points

- a) The ranking will be based on the following scale of points:

1st place	64 points	10th place	24 points
2nd place	52 points	11th place	23 points
3rd place	40 points	12th place	22 points
4th place	36 points	13th place	21 points
5th place	32 points	14th place	20 points
6th place	30 points	15th place	19 points
7th place	28 points	16th place	18 points
8th place	26 points	17th–32nd	8 points
9th place	25 points		

- b) For the World Team Championships, the points indicated above are multiplied by two.
- c) Points obtained in a Zonal Team Championship have a factor of 1.0.

3. Honours

The winner (first ranked team) of each official **team** ranking of the FIE will be announced at the end of the Open World Championships or Olympic Games

F. NATIONS' GRAND PRIX

- o.85.** For the scale of points for the Nations' Grand Prix at the World Championships and the Olympic Games, please refer to the Administrative Rules of the FIE.

o.86 Table of Financial Penalties and Fines

	Article	Amount	Date of payment	To be paid to	By whom
Entry to World Championships after closing date	o.53.3	150 euros per entry	With the entry	FIE	By the National Federation
Entry to other FIE competitions after closing date	o.54.4	150 euros per entry	With the entry	FIE	By the National Federation
If a fencer or team duly entered does not turn up	o.31.4, o.33.3, o.54.5	750 CHF or 500 Euros per fencer or team	On receipt of notification of the fine	FIE	By the National Federation
Participation of a fencer or team not properly entered	o.54.6	1500 CHF or 1000 euros per improper participation	On receipt of notification of the fine	FIE	By the organiser
Required number of referees not respected (organisers informed 15 days in advance)	o.81.3	750 CHF or 500 Euros per referee	At the same time as the information is sent to the organiser	Organiser	By the National Federation
Required number of referees not respected (organisers informed less than 15 days in advance)	o.81.3	1500 CHF or 1000 Euros per referee	At the same time as the information is sent to the organiser	Organiser	By the National Federation

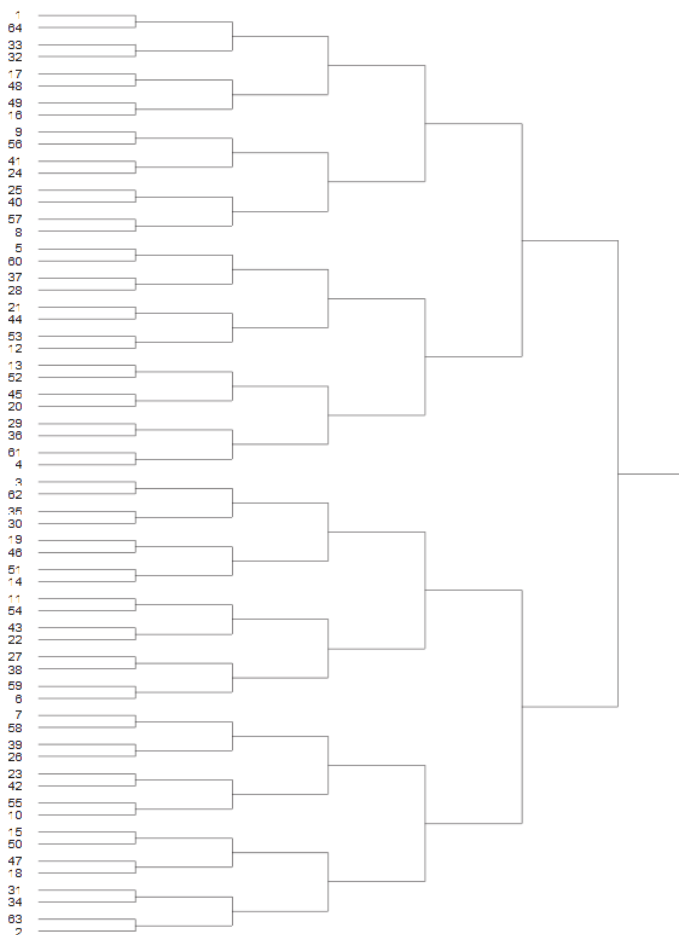


Figure 7a. Bout plan for individual direct elimination (table for 64 fencers)

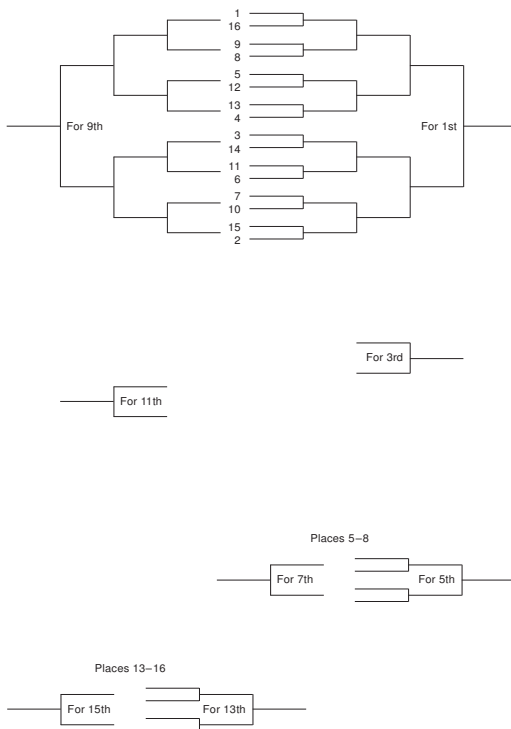


Figure 7b. Bout plan for direct elimination for team competitions (16 teams)

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