

OFFENSE	ARTICLE	PENALTIES		
1st group		1st	2nd	3 rd and add'l
<p>Leaving the strip without permission This does not mean placing one foot off the strip to reach a water bottle during the one minute break. This means unhooking, and flat-out wandering off. It is often a defiance thing.</p>	t.18.6			
<p>Corps à corps to avoid a touch * WATCH the person who has just been parried, or whose first attack has failed. This is a TACTICAL move used by high-level fencers where they are attempting to make the riposte or the counter-attack of their opponent fail. A common epee move that refs miss.</p>	t.20.3 t.63.2	*	*	*
<p>Turning the back to the opponent * Frequently an accident. Looking at the box, thinking they hit valid. NOTE: this is not turning back on the strip. And it does not count if the two fencers “dance” and both rotate. It applies when one fencer blatantly shows their unprotected back to their opponent. <i>Sometimes</i> it can be the attempt of an esquive counter-attack gone bad. Judge carefully in the event of one of these turning counter-attacks. Don't be so quick to throw the card. Allow a one tempo touch from opponent if they touch while fencer is turned. Beyond that, Halt and annul.</p>	t.21.2	*	*	*
<p>Covering/Substitution of valid target * You have two sets of people who commit covering. You have the rank beginner who has not learned how to avoid flinching – totally innocent. Then you have the experienced fencers who do it intentionally (especially if they have their back blocking your view). Like corps to avoid a touch, WATCH the fencer who has just been parried or had their first attack fail!! MASK COVERING -If their eyes are looking at the ground, if the mask is laying on the lame, or otherwise blocking the ability to land a touch - call it. Often occurs with a remise. YES this can result in a card plus touch situation if the person tries to cover and they get touched by their opponent anyways. Possibly even a red card and a touch if they offend more than once. As for “substitution” – a tricky call. If they illogically jump up in the air, and take a shot to the leg, card it. If they do a legitimate passata soto, don't card it.</p>	t.22 t.49.1 t.72.2	*	*	*
<p>Touching/taking hold of electrical equipment* This is an unusual penalty that you have to particularly watch for in epee. Why? Because an epee system will NOT register a white light when there is a break in the system (unplug) like foil and sabre will. Often seen in beginners who unfortunately hold the body cord as an anchor for their wayward unarmed hand. I usually will verbally tell them not to do that and explain why. However if it's an experienced fencer, you must card. In foil and saber, make sure the lame clip is on the ARMED side so you can't have a fencer detach the lame clip. Do not call if the fencer is tightening their cord between actions.</p>	t.22.3	*	*	*
<p>Crossing the side of the strip to avoid being touched * Don't confuse with a legitimate attempt to esquive counter attack. This is a move done to avoid being touched, while coming off the strip to cause a “halt”, with no intention to hit at all. Yellow card, and meter / meter. A rather rare penalty.</p>	t.28.3	*	*	*
<p>Delaying the Bout Don't penalize beginner fencers while they fumble with their equipment. DO however penalize fencers who continue to talk to their coaches ignoring your call to come en garde, those who are tying and retying their shoes, or girls who excessively fool with their hair. Sometimes this turns into an act of defiance where the fencer is attempting to take control of the bout. Give the card, and remind them who is in charge.</p>	t.31.2			
<p>Clothing/equipment not working or not conforming; absence of second regulation weapon, body cord, or mask cord This penalty covers a massive amount of things. Partial list: failing tip weights, ripped sleeve, no plastron, visor mask, touch registering epee bell, no mask strap, falling socks, failing shims, illegal blade bend, etc. Issue card, CONFISCATE equipment, and replace with working equipment. Why confiscate? So you don't fail 2x in a row. And NO, the parent or coach cannot take it for repair <u>during</u> that bout. Return failing equipment after the bout. In the case of no spare, this holds up the bout. They need to have their spare at the end of the strip waiting in case of failure. Allow a “reasonable amount of time to allow for replacement”.</p>	t.45.1/2 t.45. 3.a.ii t.86.4			
<p>Placing the weapon on the strip to straighten it They must step off strip to straighten the weapon if using the floor for leverage (ie. straightening with foot against floor).</p>	t.46.2 t.61.2 t.70.5			

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1st group		1st	2nd	3rd and add'l
Bending/dragging weapon point on conductive strip (F,E) Don't confuse with epee attempts to get foot touches. Foil & epee only.	t.46.2 t.61.2			
Grounding the weapon on the metallic vest (F) * This is often done while taking what looks like a deep parry. I would check to see that it does indeed ground (block touches), and then give the card.	t.53.3	*	*	*
In Saber, touch scored with the guard *; any forward movement crossing the legs or feet * <i>Sabre only penalties.</i> Watch for close distance ripostes but watch to see whose fault it is. Is the one about to be hit with a riposte committing corps a corps when they incidentally get hit with the bell? Or is it an overzealous, stretched riposte with a hit to the mask? This is not to be confused with the 2 nd group RED for "blow with pommel". <u>For crossing</u> , you will most often see it in less experienced fencers.	t.70.3 t.75.5	*	*	*
Refusal to obey the Referee THIS IS THE MOST POWERFUL CARD YOU HAVE!!!! Is there a rule against spitting? No. But you can verbally warn them, and then give a "refusal to obey" when they do it again. How about doing a victory dance after a touch, or laughing in the opponents face. This is a great card to use if you wind up in a control struggle with a fencer. They know the rules by the letter, but often don't count on the application of this card. So tell them what it is you don't want them doing again, and if they repeat, card them.	t.82.2 t.84			
Hair not conforming Save yourselves grief and tell them (not just girls but <u>boys</u> also) during the pool or DE check-in that you WILL be carding for hair, and to get it off the lame. This usually nips it. If not, I do a single verbal warning, then I card. Does this apply to epee fencers? YES! The hair cannot obscure the name on the back of the jacket.	t.86.2			
Jostling, disorderly fencing * ; taking off mask before the Referee calls 'Halt'; undressing on the strip <u>Jostling</u> Applies ALL 3 weapons. There is no card for simple corps a corps. If they lightly bump into each other, "Halt", separate, annul touches involved, and restart. But if one of them is noticeably shaken and is tactically disadvantaged by the contact, it is jostling. Again, look to the one who has just had their attack fail or who would benefit from the impact. * - last touch is annulled <u>Disorderly fencing</u> is almost interchangeable with abnormal fencing action. Excessive jumping, stumbling, and generally spastic fencing is what will warrant this card. Almost always an inexperienced fencer card – less common with experienced fencers. * - last touch is annulled <u>Removing the mask off</u> between the time that the light goes on, and when the referee calls "Halt" is downright dangerous. It also disrupts the bout in the event that the fencer thinks they hit, actually missed, and then you have to take away the opponents correct counter-attack because an over-enthusiastic fencer rips his mask off celebrating a touch that did not register on the box. <u>Undressing on the strip</u> is something that makes fencing look unprofessional. If a fencer has to do something that requires disrobing (body cord change, no plastron, adjusting knicker straps) tell them to go to the end of the strip and do it – don't card for this. But if they are angrily undressing, card it.	t.86.3 t.87.2/7/8	*	*	*
Abnormal fencing action * ; touches with brutality or made during or after a fall * See <u>Disorderly fencing</u> . Slight difference in that it can include things that look like there is intent behind them. They're trying to hit – but in a non-sensical way (over the head, wrapped around body, making obscene gesture at opponent at same time). <u>Touches with brutality</u> need to be stomped on quickly lest you have a fencing bout turn into a street fight. <u>Touches during or after a fall</u> is getting confused and incorrectly carded a lot. If the fall is <i>within the tempo of the action that causes a touch</i> , it's a card with annulment. If the fall is <i>an integral part of what gets the point to target</i> (throwing the body at the opponent, passata soto gone wrong) you card it. But if they fleche, hit, pass, and trip on their opponents spare weapons or otherwise accidentally fall, you do <u>not</u> card. This counts for both colored AND white (off target) lights in foil.	t.87.2	*	*	*
Reversing the line of Shoulders in FOIL* Foil only. The penalty is "to advance the shoulder of the non- sword arm in front of the shoulder of the sword arm". An old rule that was reinstated because it is not always clear whether or not the fencer who reversed shoulders had covered target with his/her off-arm. Watch for this during close quarters fencing aka-"in-fighting". Any hits scored by the fencer at fault while committing this offence will be annulled.	t.18.5	*	*	*

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1st group		1st	2nd	3 rd and add'l
<p>Unjustified appeal</p> <p>This is often another "control issue" situation. Keep in mind – they may <u>not</u> appeal your calls on right-of-way. <u>Only on rules applications</u>. DO NOT put yourself in the embarrassing situation of having a fencer prove you wrong on the rules. Know the rules inside and out. When a fencer starts to protest your calls, remind them that they cannot question you on matters of opinion (right of way), only fact (the rules) and they face a card if they are wrong. If they persist – YC for delay of bout. Do not leave the strip – send someone or call to bout committee. If they question you on a rule, get it clarified through a bout committee and then give them this card. Only the fencer may request – not parents or coaches.</p>	t.122.2/4			
<p>Entering the Strip Enclosure without the Referee's permission †</p> <p>Only the Team Captain may approach the referee to lodge protests (NOT the coach or fencers). This is the only yellow card that carries from one bout to the next during a team match.</p>	t.92.6	†	†	†
<p>Fencer or team member not present upon 1st and then second call. If still not present at 3rd call Elimination from the competition.</p> <p>Usually just a matter of disorganization on the part of the fencer. Always consider the possibility that the tournament committee may have made an error in posting, the microphone was broken, etc. Initially not present at first call (as you check fencers in for pool or DE bracket) – Yellow Card. Make the second call. Wait 1 minute. Red Card. Call a third time (over microphone where available), wait 1 minute – Black card.</p>	t.86.5			3rd call; Elimination

2nd group		1st	2nd	3 rd and add'l
<p>Using the non-weapon arm or hand *</p> <p>This is for defensive (hand parry) or offensive (grabbing the opponents blade) actions. It is NOT for covering target!!</p>	t.22.1	*	*	*
<p>Interruption of bout for claimed injury/cramp not confirmed by doctor</p> <p>Cramps, injuries, asthma attacks are things that a fencer can take a break for once verified by medical staff. 10 minutes from confirmation by medical staff is what the athletes are allotted. If medical staff says there is no problem and no justification for a medical time out - RED CARD.</p>	t.33.3			
<p>Absence of equipment control mark *</p> <p>Most of the time, it is just a rushed and confused fencer who forgets to get their mask stamped, or glove checked. RED card, try get a replacement fast, and get them fencing. Remember, gloves and French grip epees are now checked.</p>	t.45.3.a.i	*	*	*
<p>Absence of name on back, absence of National colors where required</p> <p>Name can be on back, or on rear leg, printed or on sewn patch. Required nationally, not regionally. If not present issue RED card, but they can fence. They can fence w/o name but <i>each</i> bout (pool and DE) starts w/ RED card. Do not wait for them to get the name written / sprayed on. Only at an international level does this "disqualify" an athlete from fencing.</p>	t.45.4.a t.45.4.b.ii			
<p>Deliberate touch not on opponent *</p> <p>Sometimes done by skilled fencers who are trying anything to stop an attack, or disrupt their opponent's action by hitting floor, table, themselves. Allow the opponents attack to continue. If the machine registers the opponents touch (does not get blocked by the deliberate touch off) give the offender a RED card. If the machine does <u>not</u> get blocked and their opponents touch registers on machine, it is two touches for their opponent in one action. Recognize when this is an inexperienced fencers over-parrying accident, and when it is deliberate. <u>Don't</u> give this card for a wide parry four that accidentally hits the floor.</p>	t.53.2 t.66.2	*	*	*
<p>Dangerous, violent or vindictive action, blow with guard or pommel *</p> <p>Again, this is something that must be stomped on quickly before a fencing bout turns into a street fight. There should not be any confusion between this and an accidental riposte with the bell. There is an intention of malice when this is committed.</p>	t.87.2 t.103 t.105.1	*	*	*

		1st	2nd
3rd group \$\$-This card follows the fencer through the entire event			
Fencer disturbing order on the strip (4) - \$\$ Yelling, cursing, insulting (either at the referee, their opponent, the other coach / parent). It all applies. Give this with the warning – “Do it again and you’re getting a black card”. Don’t let a fencer get away with a lot of little things that leads them down the path to this card or a black card. Give them the 3 rd group card at the very first curse, swipe of weapon, etc. Remember – sometimes the job of the referee is to save fencers from themselves.	t.82.3 t.83 t.96.2		
Dishonest fencing * - \$\$ When fencers cheat to gain a tactical advantage. Had a fencer once yell “Look!” and point at the ground. When their opponent looked down the fencer hit them.	t.87	*	*
Offense against publicity code We are not walking billboards. This applies very heavily in NCAA events, and World and Olympic level events.	Publicity Code		
Any person not on strip disturbing order - \$\$ This is not a penalty applied to the fencer, but to the coaches, parents, teammates, etc. Yelling, ranting, accosting the referee, intimidating their students / friends opponent, cursing, gesticulating, etc. Another one to nip quickly in the bud. Some coaches like the attention – take it away from them. “Expulsion” is now printed in black and white, and that the confusion of whether to expel is no longer an issue. DO NOT ALLOW your bout, pool, DE bracket, or tournament to be “hijacked”. Warn then sternly once, issue the yellow card, and then EXPEL them!! We have a lot of attention seeking personalities out there lingering on the sides of strips. This sport is about the fencers, not them.	t.82 t.83 t.96.3 t.118		
Warming up or training without wearing conforming fencing clothing and equipment No more taking lessons or practicing in a t-shirt and shorts. Full uniform required. We face very serious insurance implications when we allow fencers to engage in risk situations like this.	t.15.2		
Anti-Sporting behavior - \$\$ A good catch all category for behavior that violates sportsmanship. If severe though, move straight to 4 th group black card.	t.87.2		
4th group		1 st offense	
Fencer equipped with electronic communication equipment permitting him to receive communications during the bout (1 or 2) The most common device we see is the blue tooth or headset jammed in the mask. Ask armorer or technical staff first before giving this card.	t.43.1.f t.44.2 t.45.3.a.vii		
Falsified weapon inspection marks, intentional modification of equipment Get this verified by an armorer <u>before</u> proceeding to such an accusation.	t.45.3.a .iii-vi		
Manifest cheating with equipment (2) Again, get an armorers opinion <u>before</u> proceeding with this one.	t.45.3.a.vi		
Refusal of a fencer to fence another competitor (individual or team) properly entered Obvious black.	t.85.1		
Offense against sportsmanship (1 or 2) Another broad category. Throwing equipment (during or after bout), shoving the opponent, threatening or insulting the referee or opponent, throwing weapons, loud cursing.	t.87.2 t.105.1		
Refusal of fencer to salute opponent, the referee and the audience at the beginning or at the end of the bout	t.87.3		

<p>This is a rule I see violated all of the time and a good amount of the blame is on the referee. I always start bouts by telling them to salute and then doing a point and eye contact with each fencer. I always end bouts with "Victory to right, salute and shake hands" and then I step to the strip and do a little mini-salute with my two fingers as they do it. I try not to give them the option of refusing a salute.</p>		
<p>Profiting from collusion, favoring an opponent (1) A rare card – but watch for it among teammates, friends, siblings.</p>	<p>t.88 t.105.1</p>	
<p>Deliberate brutality (1) Punching, fighting, using the weapon as a cudgeling device. You should do everything in your power to stop things from escalating to this point (cards, stares, pointing).</p>	<p>t.105.1</p>	
<p>Doping (2) This is a card you would give <u>only</u> after verification from a medical advisor. Also, it is often not the referee who typically gives the card but the DT.</p>	<p>t.127</p>	

ment of any touch scored by the fencer at fault.

al Yellow Card for the whole team and valid for the whole team match. If, during the same team a fencer commits an offense of the 1st Group are penalised with a Red Card each time.

ard = Warning (valid for the bout, whether one or several encounters). If a fencer commits an offense in the 1st Group after having been penalised with a Red Card, for whatever reason, he or she receives a further Red Card.

= Penalty touch

d = Exclusion from the competition. A fencer only receives a Black Card in the 3rd Group if he or she previously committed an offense in the 3rd Group (demonstrated by a Red Card).

ion from competition.

ion from the tournament.

ion from the venue.

ous cases, the referee may exclude / expel immediately.

Unwillingness to fence (Non-combativity) t. 87

When both fencers make clear their unwillingness to fence, the Referee will immediately call "Halt!"

If one of the two criteria below is present, there is unwillingness to fight.

1. **a)** Criterion of time: approximately one minute of fencing without a touch.
2. **b)** Excessive distance (greater than the distance of an advance-lunge) for at least 15 seconds.

Individual Events

If during the first two periods of a direct elimination bout both fencers make clear their **unwillingness to fence**, the Referee will proceed to the next period, without the minute rest.

When both fencers make clear their **unwillingness to fence** during the **third period** of a direct elimination bout, the Referee will proceed to a last minute of fencing. **This last minute, which will be fenced in its entirety**, will be decisive and will be preceded by a drawing of lots to decide the winner should the scores be equal at the end of the minute.

Team events

If both teams make clear their **unwillingness to fence** during a team match, the Referee will proceed to the next bout.

If both teams make clear their **unwillingness to fence** during the last bout, the Referee will proceed to a last minute of fencing. **This last minute, which will be fenced in its entirety**, will be decisive and will be preceded by a drawing of lots to decide the winner should the scores be equal at the end of the minute.

Procedure for protests and appeals, and responsibility of side judges

Protests and appeals –

In the event that a fencer has a protest and requests the FOC assigner intervene for a rules (not right of way) application, the following steps are to be taken:

1. The referee must stay on the strip. Request for FOC assigner personnel should be done by calling on phone, or sending someone to the table. The referee should maintain total control of the strip during this time.
2. Only the fencer or a team captain (team events) may request – not a parent or coach.
3. 1st group yellow card is to be applied for unjustified appeal should the FOC assigner uphold the decision of the referee.

t.122

No appeal can be made against the decision of the Referee regarding a point of fact (cf. t.95.1/2/4, t.96.2).

Protests and appeals

Against a decision of the Referee

1. If a fencer infringes this principle, casting doubt on the decision of the Referee on a point of fact during the bout, he will be penalized according to the Rules (cf. t.114, t.116, t.120). But if the Referee is ignorant of or misunderstands a definite rule, or applies it in a manner contrary to the Rules, an appeal on this matter may be entertained.
2. This appeal must be made:
 - a) in individual events, by the fencer;
 - b) in team events, by the fencer or the team captain.

This appeal should be made courteously but without formality, and should be made verbally to the Referee immediately and before any decision is made regarding a subsequent touch.

3. If the Referee maintains his opinion, the Head Referee has authority to settle an appeal (cf. t.97). If such an appeal is deemed to be unjustified, the fencer will be penalized in accordance with Articles t.114, t.116, t.120.

Side judges –

In the event that a fencer requests the hand judges, the following steps are to be taken:

1. The referee must stay on the strip. Request for hand judges to the bout committee personnel should be done by calling on phone, or sending someone to the table. The referee should maintain total control of the strip during this time.
2. Only the fencer or a team captain (team events) may request – not a parent or coach.
3. It is possible that personnel may not be available to fulfill this request. A consultation with the bout committee on how best to manage this situation is advised.

t.36

1. The Referee fulfills his functions with the aid of an apparatus for the automatic registering of touches; he may also be assisted by **two judges** watching for the use of the unarmed hand or arm, substitution of the valid target, touches scored on the floor in épée, leaving the strip to the side or the rear or any other offense defined in the Rules (cf. t.120).
2. The judges are obligatory for all individual competition finals (whether of 4 or 8 fencers) and for the final (2 teams) of team events.
3. The judges are placed on each side of the Referee, on either side of the strip; **they watch all aspects of the entire bout.**
4. The judges must change ends halfway through each bout or after each period in direct elimination bouts and after each bout in team matches, so as not to watch the same fencer the whole time.