



**Rules for the
International German Championships
in Stage Fencing**

Valid: 6 December 2008

The precondition for participation in the International German Championships in Stage Fencing is recognition and acceptance of the following Rules.

1. Nature of Competition

Each participant must give a fencing presentation in the specified epochs before a Jury. The German Academy of Fencing (ADFD) is the holder of the Championships. The Championships are held every two years, if possible at changing venues and with changing organisers.

2. Definition of Stage Fencing

Stage Fencing encompasses fencing in the European cultural region in all its forms and throughout all its epochs, from antiquity to the present day, as well as fencing scenes that can be classified as timeless or fantastic.

Stage Fencing calls for the performance of a storyline in a pre-specified epoch, with the performers wearing the appropriate costumes and using the appropriate equipment, and in which the focus is on one or several fights.

3. Categories and Epochs

There are three categories:

Solo: A series of fighting techniques and moves against one or several imaginary opponents executed by a single person.

Duel: A fighting scene with only two persons wearing weapons and costumes from the chosen epoch. Other persons may occur in the scene but in no case and in no manner be involved in the fight actions.

Group: A fighting scene with 3 or more persons. Different fights may be executed one after another or simultaneously or a fight is done with more than two persons.

The categories Duel and Group are beyond that subdivided in three epochs:

- 1) Antiquity, Middle Ages
- 2) Renaissance to the 19th century
- 3) 20th century, contemporary, Freestyle (Timeless, Fantasy)

The epochs 1 and 2 call for presentations that take pattern from history.

The scenario, storyline, mode of fencing, weapons, costumes and props must be in line with the chosen epoch. The category Solo is not bound to a specified epoch.

4. Duration of Presentation

A presentation in the category Solo should take at least 1.5 minutes and maximally 3 minutes.

In the category Duel a presentation should take at least 3 minutes and maximally 5 minutes.

In the category Group a presentation should take at least 4 minutes and maximally 7 minutes.

The actual fighting should account for at least 50% and at most 80% of the presentation time.

Failure to comply with these time limits will result in the deduction of points (see 11. Deduction of Points).

Each presentation should end with a fencing salute or bow.

Time-measuring starts with the beginning of the scene (music starts to play, persons enter stage, etc.) and ends with the beginning of the bow.

Approx. 1-2 minutes are allowed for setting-up before the performance and for dismantling after the performance.

5. Conditions for Participation

The competition is open to persons from Germany and other countries who are at least 18 years old. Persons who are younger than 18 may only participate with a written declaration of consent from their parents.

Every domestic and foreign organisation (e.g. society, club, group) which engages in Stage Fencing can take part in the Championships provided that each participant provides evidence of being in possession of health insurance and that registration for participation is done under the responsibility of a qualified fencing coach (e.g. fencing trainer, fencing master, sports teacher or lecturer). The registration must be accompanied by documents (copies) evidencing the qualification of the fencing coach (or his/her activity as trainer, lecturer, coach); in disputed cases, the ruling of the Technical Directorate on admission to participate is final.

Each candidate can enter for one organisation only, but may participate in at most 3 presentations for that organisation.

Each organisation may participate with at most 2 different presentations in any one epoch and category. But altogether each organisation may give 6 presentations at most.

6. Registration

Registration for the Championships must be made on the specified form and be accompanied by the necessary documents. Registrations which are incomplete or are not in compliance with these Rules will be rejected. The closing date for registrations will be specified by the organisers; registrations received after that date will be rejected.

No changes concerning the chosen epoch or epochs or the number of participating persons can be made after the closing date for registrations.

A participant may be exchanged or removed from the list of participants for reasons of force majeure. In disputed cases, the ruling of the Technical Directorate (see 14. Technical Directorate) will be final.

The registration fee will be set by the Presidium of the German Academy of Fencing.

7. Official Language

The official languages of the Championships are German and English.

The presentations may also be held in other languages. To aid understanding, however, a brief summary of the content of the presentation should be submitted to the Jury in advance (see 8. Conduct of the Competition).

8. Conduct of the Competition

The Technical Directorate only has the right to make changes concerning the organisation and conduct of the competition events (see 14. Technical Directorate).

Depending on the time, local and technical circumstances, a general or stage rehearsal will be made possible for each presentation. This will provide the opportunity for the participants to rehearse their presentation on stage within a given time without scoring by the Jury, i.e. to undertake a positioning rehearsal on the stage or arena and make any necessary adjustments to lighting and sound effects.

The exact conduct and procedure of the Championships will be specified by the organisers in consultation with the ADFD and will depend on the time, local and technical circumstances. Each presentation will be performed once before the Jury in accordance with a sequence specified in advance by the organisers. All the presentations in any one epoch will be performed consecutively. In order to aid understanding of the scenario or storyline, the candidates may submit a brief summary and information on the historical background, if any, to the Jury. This should not exceed one A4 page and be submitted to the organisers at least 3 days before the competition; the organisers will then pass it on to the Jury members.

9. Jury

The Jury consists of 5 to 7 members and includes three to five experts in Stage Fencing and at least one expert in the field of acting, direction, weaponry and costumes. There will also be one person who as a „time-keeper“ monitors for compliance with the time limits for the presentations and the fighting scenes and deducts points in case of exceeding or undercutting the permitted time limits.

The members of the jury as well as the time-keeper may not participate with their own organisations in the German Championships.

To ensure uniformity of judging, the members of the Jury will discuss and agree their scoring criteria before the start of the competition events. During the competition events, each Jury member must be provided with a form for notes and the award of points, enabling him/her to judge the candidates on the basis of various criteria (see 10. Judging).

After each presentation, the Jury members have time during the scene change (1 to 2 minutes) to complete their scoring results and hand them in to the organisers.

10. Judging

For each presentation, a maximum of 30 points may be given, which are broken down as follows:

Technical aspect: 10 points

- Virtuosity, style and ability, complexity of the choreography, logic of the actions, coordination, fluidity of movement, mastery and assurance in the fight actions

Artistic aspect: 10 points

- Staging, acting, presentation, originality of the storyline, costumes, equipment, weapons

Overall impression: 10 points

- Solidity of overall performance, inclusion of and contributions by all participants, balance between technical and artistic elements

Whole or half points may be awarded.

All aspects are rated by all members of the Jury.

A technical mark and an artistic mark will be calculated for each presentation by addition of all points for each aspect from all members of the jury. To obtain the total score, the technical, artistic and overall impression marks are added up.

11. Deduction of Points

Exceeding or undercutting:

Exceeding or undercutting the permitted time limits for the whole performance:

- by 1-10 seconds: this need not necessarily result in the deduction of points, but the Jury may take the non-compliance into account in its rating
- by 11-30 seconds: deduction of 1 point from the total score
- by 31 seconds -1 minute: deduction of 2.5 points from the total score
- by more than 1 minute: deduction of 5 points from the total score

An exception from the foregoing will be made in the event of any technical incidents which are beyond the control of the participants. In the case of dispute, the decision of the Technical Directorate is final.

In the case of any deviation from the specified duration of the fighting time, the Jury will deduct points as follows:

- by 1-15 seconds: this need not necessarily result in the deduction of points
- by 16-30 seconds: deduction of 1 point from the total score
- by 31 seconds -1 minute: deduction of 2 points from the total score
- by more than 1 minute: deduction of 4 points from the total score

Errors in the chosen category

In the case of errors relating to the chosen category (see 3. Categories and Epochs), the presentation will be disqualified by decision of the Jury and/or the Technical Directorate. The presentation will not be rated in another category.

Errors in the chosen epoch

In the case of errors relating to the chosen epoch (see 3. Categories and Epochs), the Jury may deduct 0.5-3 points from the total score (e.g. musketeers in the Antiquity/Middle Ages epoch). The presentation which has been registered for the wrong epoch will not be rated in another epoch.

Infraction of the safety rules

For the following infractions of the safety rules each member of the Jury may deduct 0.5 to 3 points:

- a weapon is released and travels towards the audience (such as a disarming), and/or a weapon on the floor is kicked towards the audience
- a participant unintentionally steps on a weapon lying on the floor
- and/or a cut or thrust travels across the face of a participant
- a participant unintentionally falls off the stage
- not choreographed, free (improvised) fighting is part of the performance
- any other action that logically risks the safety of the audience or the participants
- improper actions or behaviour (obscenity, political statements etc.)

Excessively rough or dangerous actions as well as non-compliance with the safety rules (see 16. Safety) may also result in exclusion from the Championships.

12. Several Participants with the Same Scores

A ranking for participants with the same point scores will be formed on the basis of the following criteria in the sequence as shown:

- Participants with the least number of points deducted
- Best technical score
- Best artistic score
- In the case of a tie in all of the foregoing criteria, the Technical Directorate will decide.

13. Award of the Championship Title

After the presentation of all the participating pieces, the winners and all following places will be determined by the Jury.

One title of “International German Champion in Stage Fencing” will be awarded for each epoch.

14. Technical Directorate

The Technical Directorate will decide on all disputed matters and complaints and is authorised to make changes to the organisation and conduct of the competition events.

The Technical Directorate consists of 4 members appointed by the Presidium of the ADFD.

15. Physical Equipment and Duties of the Organisers

A stage or suitable arena with minimum dimensions as follows must be provided:

Breadth: 10 m, depth: 6 m, height: 4 m, safety distance from the spectators: 3 m. The stage or arena must have an entrance at each side.

Additionally, premises or spaces for warming up, practising and dressing must be provided. Facilities should also be available for playing music and sound effects from cassette or CD. If lighting equipment is available, it may also be used in line with the character of the pieces.

Chairs with tables or at least clipboards as well as sufficient lighting must be provided for the members of the Jury.

The organisers are responsible for the entire organisation and conduct of the Championships.

A person with First Aid training and First Aid equipment must be available throughout the event.

16. Safety

Each participant is responsible for his/her own equipment. The weapons must be suitable for fencing; they may not be sharp and must have a rounded tip. Firearms may be permitted depending on the local conditions and if special safety precautions are taken. The separate procedure and registration for this will be announced in good time before the Championships.

The weapons of the participants will be inspected before the tournament by the Technical Directorate or by persons charged by the Technical Directorate.

The fights must be designed in such a way as at no time to cause danger to the participants or any other persons. By registering for the Championships, each participant undertakes to comply with these Rules.

17. Sanctions

In the event of any breach of the safety provisions and any disturbance which disrupts the conduct of the competition, the Technical Directorate may exclude the group responsible from the competition.

The Technical Directorate may also exclude any group if it considers its performance excessively hazardous to the safety of the participants or spectators.

18. Disclaimer of Liability

Persons participating in the International German Championships in Stage Fencing do so at their own risk. The holder and organisers do not assume any liability for injury to persons or damage to material.

These Rules were adopted by the Presidium of the ADFD on 18 September 2005.
They can be amended by resolution of the Presidium, though only before the time of announcement of the respective Championships.