



Recommendation: (issued by EFC-SEMI)

Starting April 1st 2014 FIE has made the use of the 800N sabre glove mandatory. EFC-Semi strongly recommends that the EFC follows this and **makes the 800N sabre glove mandatory for any official EFC-event effect immediately.**

On July 15th FIE issued an Urgent letter (N°14-14) stating that only masks with two independent security devices would be allowed as of September 1st. EFC-Semi also strongly recommends to follow this directive for **any EFC-event effect immediately.**

In order to prevent accidents **EFC-Semi recommends organisers to precede competitions by a weapon control** where at least the **blades, masks and gloves are being controlled.**

Gloves with holes should be systematically rejected as well as masks with obvious problems.

To be able to identify and classify other possible reasons for failures and problems EFC-Semi furthermore recommends that referee's commission requests all referees to carefully register and document:

- Any blade breaking during a match
- Any mask falling off
- Any other accident where equipment is involved

EFC-SEMI also recommends referees and organisers to proceed with ongoing controls as equipment might deteriorate during the competition.

Argumentation:

Security has in the end no price. Accidents do not care if people "have no money to buy proper equipment". If some people cannot fence because of financial problems in their respective countries, we must find ways to support them. Letting them fence with inadequate equipment is NOT a solution.

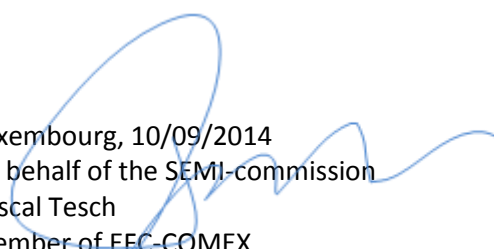
The 800N glove was introduced as a reaction to stop the increasing number of accidents in sabre. This is a matter of security and it should not be stopped by the question how expensive this might be. For the time being the new glove is the best answer to preventing further accidents. The foundation "for the future of fencing" and FIE have been giving away a large number of these gloves so it should be accepted that fencers accessing a certain level MUST wear the proper equipment adopted to that level.

The same is valid for the mask problem – during the last few years an increasing number of incidents with masks from all manufacturers have been registered. **We must proactively handle the problem BEFORE a serious accident will happen.** The introduction of the requirement for two separate security devices is an important step in that direction.



At this time we sense a problem without being able to clearly define that problem. Here we would like to gather more data in order to be able to solve the real problem and not a perceived one. Here we need the support of the referees, since only with a serious information gathering will we be able to render a serious solution.

Last but not least, safety is a problem that concerns every one of us – hence we would like to sensitize as many as possible people in order to create a better risk awareness. This will help to keep our sport safe and attractive.



Luxembourg, 10/09/2014
on behalf of the SEMI-commission
Pascal Tesch
Member of EFC-COMEX
President of EFC-SEMI

About SEMI

SEMI is the technical commission of the EFC.

SEMI is in charge of technical and security topics around fencing.

Members of SEMI are P.TESCH (LUX), President; S.CLAUSEN (SWE); M.GNOCATO (ITA); P.HUGGINS (GBR); I.KOVAKIN (RUS); P.WAUTERS (BEL); M.ZMAIC (CRO)