

3.2.3 Referees who are fencing masters for their national team or national trainers are not permitted to referee at World Championships (Senior, Junior or Cadet) or at the Olympic Games.

3.2.4 Referees refereeing at an official F.I.E. competition may not fulfil any other function (trainer, fencing master, coach or head coach, head of delegation, etc.) for any delegation participating in that competition.

3.3 FENCING TERMINOLOGY IN FRENCH

3.3.1 The candidates must know and be able to use the refereeing terminology in French and speak (understand and be understood) one of the working languages of the FIE.

3.4 EXAMINATIONS FOR APPOINTING CATEGORY B REFEREES

The refereeing examinations take place in special events organized by the FIE in collaboration with host federations in September and October for each zone and consists of 3 parts: theoretical examination, video analysis and practical examination.

Only the candidates who passed the theoretical examination and the video analysis test will be allowed to continue with the practical examination.

3.4.1. There will be one (1) General Refereeing Examination per year per continent in 3 weapons organized during a competition.

The duration of the General Refereeing Examination for three weapons will be **up to 6 days (maximum 2 days per weapon)**.

During the General Refereeing Examination the organising federation must provide:

- **Theoretical examination: meeting room for 25 candidates and 5 persons exam panel**
- **Practical examination: 2 pistes fully equipped and minimum 14 fencers per weapon**

3.4.2 The calendar (dates and places) of all FIE refereeing examinations is established by the Executive Committee under the proposal of the FIE Sport Department and Refereeing Commission.

3.4.3 The expenses of the members of the Exam Panel incurred in relation to the refereeing examinations are covered by the FIE (travel costs, 80 euros per day, local transportation and accommodation in full board).

3.4.4 The National Federations can only enter candidates chosen among their best national referees according to the criteria of experience and confirmed competences in the refereeing of national competitions. The candidates must have a perfect knowledge of the Rules and their application.

The National Federations and Confederations are responsible for preparation of the candidates for FIE examination.

3.4.4.1. The selection criteria of the General Refereeing Examinations are as follows:

Maximum places per weapon: **25**

General examination :	Host federation	Other federations from the same continent
Total places if no women candidates*	6	4
Places per weapon	2	1-2
If 1-3 women candidates then total of places*	7-9	5 (if one woman candidate is presented)
Reserved by default	Yes	First come - first served basis
If change of candidate after the closure for entries	New candidate is included	New candidate is included
If the total number of candidates in one weapon is less than maximum number (see above the maximum number per weapon and per continent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can propose 1-4 candidates to be observed for the renewal of category if category was lost because the referee did not officiate - Can propose additional candidates, only if they had informed the FIE as indicated in step 1 b) of 3.4.4.3 below. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can propose 1-4 candidates to be observed for the renewal of category if category was lost because the referee did not officiate - Can propose additional candidates, only if they had informed the FIE as indicated in step 1 b) of 3.4.4.3 below. The available quota will be distributed fairly among the national federations.

*Including candidates who undergo practical observation for the renewal of category, if category was lost because the referee did not officiate.

In case no General Refereeing Examination is organised during the year on one continent, then candidates from this continent can apply to the examination held on another continent, provided that the total number of the proposed candidates in that weapon is still under the number specified above for each continent.

These places are given on a first come – first served basis.

Otherwise a candidate cannot participate in an examination that takes place on another continent than his or hers.

3.4.4.2 The call (opening and closing) of the examinations is published on the FIE Website and is sent to all the National Federations of the continent concerned. Registrations open on the date the call is published. No candidatures/registration will be accepted before the call and after the deadline.

3.4.4.3 The process is as follows:

Step 1:

- a) At the latest 30 days prior to the examinations, national federations must inform the FIE that they intend to send candidates to the examinations and provide their preliminary number.

- b) In addition, and in case the total number of candidates in an examination session in one weapon would be less than the maximum authorized number, national federations will also provide:
- proposed additional candidates
 - proposed candidates to be observed for the renewal of category.

Step 2: At the latest 12 days prior to the examinations, national federations must confirm to the FIE their total number of candidates and register them on the FIE website.

Failure to confirm the number of candidates and/or to register them on the FIE website according to the deadline will result in the cancellation of the preliminary request of the national federation in step 1. No candidate will be authorized to participate in the examination if he/she has not been registered according to the deadline.

Step 3: At the latest 10 days prior to the examinations, the FIE must receive from national federations proofs of payment of the examination fees. If these proofs of payment have not been received by the FIE according to the deadline, applications will not be considered.

As an exception, federations which cannot make bank transfers must contact the FIE at the latest 10 days prior to the examinations in order to make payments on the spot, before the start of the Theoretical Examination.

3.4.5 Following the final date for receiving applications, the list of candidates shall be drafted taking into account their registration date. The selection will be made according to the conditions outlined in paragraphs 3.4.4.1 and under the provisions of this paragraph.

The list of accepted candidates will be published on the FIE Website.

3.4.6 The Exam Panel is composed of **minimum two and maximum four** members of the Refereeing Commission, including at least two coming from another continent than the one in which the exam takes place, and if possible one (1) member of the Executive Committee of the FIE.

The exam panel must be approved by the Executive Committee.

No candidate may be examined by a member having the same nationality as the candidate.

3.4.7 The examiners in charge of the examinations must prepare the "Program of the activities for the examinations" (preparatory meeting for referees, practical and theoretical examinations), including the schedules, the activities and other instructions to the candidates. This document will be sent to the concerned National Federations 30 days prior to the examinations for onward transmission to their candidates.

3.4.8 Each General Refereeing Examination is organized as follows:

For each weapon, the examination session is held during two days as follows and the order of weapons is foil, épée, sabre:

	Day 1: Theoretical examination	Day 2: Practical examination
Morning	30 minutes of introductory explanations	<p style="text-align: center;">All day</p> <p>Observation of the candidates while officiating as referee.</p> <p>Matches are organized with the high level fencers provided by the host federation.</p>
	Written exam: multiple choice questionnaire	
	Correction of questionnaires	
Afternoon	Video-refereeing examination	Each candidate will be observed by at least two examiners.

3.4.9 Each candidate must have with him [copy of application form for FIE refereeing examination and identification document](#), as well as the FIE Rules for competitions in force.

3.4.10 The results of the examinations are determined and validated by the examiners. The FIE head office will publish the results of the examinations on the FIE Website. The FIE Executive Committee representative at the Refereeing Commission periodically reports to the Executive Committee.

3.5 APPOINTMENT OF CATEGORY A REFEREES

The criteria for promotion to category A are:

- a) To have been a category B referee for at least 4 years, and to have featured on the „Observation and Evaluation List“ for at least 2 years.
- b) To be proposed by the Refereeing Commission based on the following considerations: the number of conducted semi-finals, third place matches or finals at Senior World Championships or Olympic Games as well as the objective evaluation points obtained at the same competitions.

3.6 MEETINGS FOR REFEREES AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

3.6.1 A meeting or a seminar of referees will be held before the Grand Prix competitions, the individual and team World Cup competitions and World Championships. The Referees and the Delegates of the Refereeing Commission, designated by the FIE, must attend these meetings.

3.6.2 The referees designated by the organising federation must also attend this meeting.

3.6.3 The President of the Directoire Technique or a member of it may attend.

3.6.4 The referees' meeting or seminar will be organized by the Refereeing Commission.