

Highlights and Application - Non-combativity rule

- Non-combativity only exists in direct elimination bouts.
- If non-combativity is called, there is no one-minute rest between periods, and the coaches may not approach the strip. The next period begins immediately, and the fencers start back **at** on-guard lines.
- If non-combativity occurs in the final period, this period ends; the referee must first flip a coin for priority, and then the fencers fence for one minute. This is NOT sudden death, and must be fenced in its entirety. If the score is tied at the end of this entire minute, whoever has priority wins the bout.
- Non-combativity cannot occur in youth events that fence a best 2 out of 3 format. These bouts are similar to a pool bout.
- Only 1 of the 2 criteria must occur for the referee to call non-combativity.
- In foil, an off target “resets” the clock.
- Note the language carefully: *approximately* one minute of fencing without a touch. If there is a fencing phrase in progress, be careful not to call halt too early just because the clock hit one minute.
- Note the language carefully: *at least* 15 seconds without blade contact or excessive distance. This means the referee could wait longer if he feels the fencers are being combative.

Actual text - Non-combativity rule

t.87.4

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.

- a) Criterion of time: approximately one minute of fencing without a touch.
- b) Absence of blade contact or excessive distance (greater than the distance of an advance-lunge) for at least 15 seconds.

Individual Events

t.87.5

- a) 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.
- b) 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

t.87.6

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

Highlights and Application - stepping off the side of the strip rule

- An action that ends with one foot off the strip remains valid as before. The fencer must have at least one foot on the strip.
- The change in the rule is that the fencer who steps off the strip retreats one meter, instead of the opponent advancing one meter.
- If the fencer is not making an offensive action (moving forward), they lose one meter from the spot they left the strip.
- If they are making an offensive action, they must return to the spot they started that action, and then retreat one meter.
 - This leads to situations where during infighting, a fencer steps off the strip, and their opponent actually must retreat as well to take proper distance.
 - If this infighting occurs at the end of the strip, it is important to remember that a fencer who stays on the strip cannot be placed behind the end line. For instance: Bob is fencing John. They are at Bob's end of the strip. Bob has both feet on the strip with one foot on the end line. John steps off the strip immediately in front of Bob. John must now retreat one meter. If this happened in the middle of the strip, Bob would likely also have to retreat in order to take proper distance. Since Bob cannot be forced off the back of the strip, John must continue to retreat until he reached proper distance.
 - The referee must also determine where the offensive action began. The application of this rule is currently the final part of your attack (advance-lunge or fleche). Preparatory actions are not considered.
 - If the fencer is within the last meter of the strip and steps off the side, he must retreat a meter off the back of the strip, and a point is awarded against him.

Actual text of the stepping off the side of the strip rule

t.28.1 If a competitor crosses one of the lateral boundaries of the strip, he must retreat one meter from the point where he left the strip, and if he goes off the strip during an attack, he must return to the position he occupied when he started his attack and then retreat a further meter (but cf. t.29).

t.28.2. If the exercise of this penalty places a competitor with both feet beyond the rear limit of the strip, that competitor is considered as having been touched.