

## Refereeing Forum 2 September 2007 – Outcomes

The forum was attended by 13 of NSW's most experienced coaches and referees. The objective of the forum was to reach a consensus of how attacks in foil are to be judged.

The forum received inputs from all present and the debate was constructive and wide ranging. Al Wardle moderated the forum and gave focus to the discussion.

At the conclusion Al provided the following summary of the consensus position reached:

1. Rule t.56 (a) 3 defines a correctly executed attack as the straightening of the arm preceding the beginning of the lunge or fleche or step forward (in an attack by step forward and lunge). The accepted convention for this action is that the arm need not be fully extended to be judged an attack; rather that the arm is in progress towards extension.
2. The more important factor is that the fencer, who has initiated a correctly executed attack, be given priority. This would apply even where the defending fencer hits with a fully extended arm against an attacker who is in the process of straightening the arm.
3. Actions such as advancing (several advances) with the weapon arm bent or withdrawn (such as a broken time cut-over), in a way which could not be interpreted as straightening of the arm, even while moving forward, should not be considered a correctly executed attack. These actions should be considered as preparations which lay themselves open to offensive or counter offensive actions. However the fencer who is subjected to these actions does not AUTOMATICALLY gain priority; to do so they must USE the opportunity to launch their own correctly executed attack or counter offensive action.
4. Correctly interpreting the attack, and giving priority to that action in decision making, is the most important aspect in judging this issue.

In the interests of having consistency in the way foil fencing is refereed and coached in NSW, it is recommended that these conventions be applied. This will also put NSW in step with national and international convention.

NSWFA