

## HOW TO FIND OUT WHICH PISTE AND WHICH END A FENCER SHOULD CONGREGATE PRIOR TO THE START OF THE FENCING COMPETITION

The fencers are split into Groups, with e.g. 3 fencers per group: The Groups are given sequential letters. For example, if there are 24 fencers there are 8 Groups of 3 fencers: A to H. The Fencing Committee will organise the Groups and publish the Names prior to the Competition starting. After Warm-up, the fencers, knowing their Group, can then congregate at the correct Piste at the appropriate side of The Referee, ready to start

Each Piste has 2 ends. The RH 'end' is on the RHS of The Referee, the LH 'end' on the LHS. The Referee stands opposite the electronic scoreboard, so that The Referee can see the Score. Therefore, each Group needs to first work-out which 'end' they should congregate. Group A is always designated to Piste 1 on the RHS of The Referee Group A DOESN'T MOVE or ROTATE FROM THIS FIXED POSITION for the entire Fencing Competition. Group B occupies Piste 1 LH 'end'. Group C, Piste 2 RH 'end'. Group D, Piste 2 LH 'end'. Group E, Piste 3 RH 'end'. Group F, Piste 3 LH 'end'. Finally, Group G, Piste 4 RH 'end' and Group H the LH 'end'

## HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE ORDER OF BOUTING - PART 1

The 1st Stage of the Fencing Competition is for all the fencers in a Group to first fence each other. Within a Group, each fencer will have the total number in the Group minus 1 bout. Therefore, in a Group of 3, each fencer has 2 bouts. If there were a Group of 4, each fencer would have 3 bouts etc

Within a Group the fencers are given a number, typically based on their name position within the Group. The assigned number within a Group doesn't change throughout the Competition. The 1st Name called takes up a position to the R of The REFEREE on the RH 'end' of the Piste. In Round 1 this will be Fencer A1, the LH 'end' being fencer #3 of the SAME GROUP. After that bout has finished Group B now controls the piste with their #1 fencer on the RH 'end' and #3 fencer at the LH 'end'

The order of bouts and who comprises the bouts is the same for every Group of Fencers, the 'control' of the piste alternates between the 2 Groups

With 3 fencers in the Group, the first bout in the Round is between Group A: #1 and #3, the fencer 'sitting out' is always called first in the next round and therefore occupies the end of the piste on the RHS of The Referee. This therefore moves the fencer that was on the RHS to the LHS to make the bout.

Each fencer on the RHS of The Referee will have their next Bout on the LHS of The Referee, the RHS being occupied by a different fencer within the Group

PISTE 1	RHS	GROUP A	LHS
<b>FENCERS</b>	<b>A1</b>	<b>A2</b>	<b>A3</b>
<b>ROUND 1</b>	A1	v	A3
<b>ROUND 2</b>	A2	v	A1
<b>ROUND 3</b>	A3	v	A2

RHS	GROUP B	LHS
<b>B1</b>	<b>B2</b>	<b>B3</b>
B1	v	B3
B2	v	B1
B3	v	B2

**ORDER OF BOUTING PART 2: FENCING OTHER GROUPS**

Now that all the fencers have fenced the members of their own Group, the next thing to understand is that the Groups now need to fence each other. This is achieved by keeping Group A at Piste 1, RH 'end' and rotating all the other pistes sequentially in a round-robin arrangement. Regardless of which piste the RHS of The Referee is the 'END' where the Group assumes the numbers 1,2,3. The LHS of The Referee numbers 4,5,6. The Groups rotate so that the LH 'end' rotates to the RH and the RH 'end' changes Piste, moving towards Piste 1, but occupying the LH 'end'. So, in our 8 Groups of 3 fencers, after Group A has fenced Group B members, Group A stays at Piste 1 RH end, Group B moves to Piste 4 LH end, Group C to Piste 1 LH, Group D Piste 2 RH, Group E Piste 2 LH, Group F Piste 3 RH, Group G Piste 3 LH and Group H Piste 4 RH

With 2 Groups of 3 fencers, there are always 3 bouts per Round. #1 ALWAYS fences the 1st Bout in a new round and alternates the End (starting at the RHS) each round. #2 fencer the 2nd bout starting at the RHS and alternating ENDS and #3 the 3rd bout, starting on the RHS and alternating ENDS

#4 fencer fences at the LHS against #1 in Round 1-Bout 1. For Round 2 #4 rotates to the last bout in the round (Round 2-Bout 3) and alternates the end to fence on the RHS of The Referee. For Round 3, the rotation moves #4 to the 2nd bout (Round 3-Bout 2), with an end rotation to be fencing on the LHS. #4 Bout order number in each round is: 1st, 3rd, 2nd

#5 fencer fences at the LHS against #2 in Round 1-Bout 2. For Round 2 #5 rotates to the first bout in the round (Round 2-Bout 1) and alternates the end to fence on the RHS of The Referee. For Round 3, the rotation moves #5 to the third bout (Round 3-Bout 3), with an end rotation to be fencing on the LHS. #5 Bout order number in each round is: 2nd, 1st, 3rd

#6 fencer fences at the LHS against #3 in Round 1-Bout 3. For Round 2 #6 rotates to the second bout in the round (Round 2-Bout 2) and alternates the end to fence on the RHS of The Referee. For Round 3, the rotation moves #6 to the first bout (Round 3-Bout 1), with an end rotation to be fencing on the LHS. #6 Bout order number in each round is: 3rd, 1st, 2nd

PISTE 1	RHS OF THE REFEREE			LHS OF THE REFEREE								
	A1 = 1	A2 = 2	A3 = 3	B1 = 4	B2 = 5	B3 = 6						
FENCERS	RHS	BOUT 1		LHS	RHS	BOUT 2		LHS	RHS	BOUT 3		LHS
<b>ROUND 1</b>	1	v	4		2	v	5		3	v	6	
<b>ROUND 2</b>	5	v	1		6	v	2		4	v	3	
<b>ROUND 3</b>	1	v	6		2	v	4		3	v	5	

EVERY fencer ALWAYS rotates the 'END' from which they fence, with each new Round e.g. Round 1, #1 is on the RHS, Round 2 the LHS, Round 3 back to the RHS

THE END - SEE YOU ON THE PISTE