



Urgent Letter 15-09
5 November 2009

Transparent visor mask

LETTRE URGENTE DE LA FIE

Dear President,

The FIE has been informed that on 1st November 2009 a foil blade pierced through the transparent visor of a mask during the Junior/Cadet European Championships in Odense (DEN).

This incident occurred in men's foil during the bout in the table of 64 between Davids Gasilovskis (LAT) and Tommaso Lari (ITA). The referee, Mr Krzysztof Borowski (DEN), immediately stopped the bout, the doctor was called, and as Davids Gasilovskis's injury was judged as minor, the bout resumed 5 minutes after the incident.

At the time of the incident, the foil and mask were immediately picked up for examination. The report by the delegate of the SEMI Commission in Odense, Mr Gianandrea Nicolai (ITA), states:

- that the hit had been made normally, without violence or brutality
- the foil blade did not break
- no irregularity was detected either on the foil or on the mask, which had both been inspected during the checking of material.
- when the blade was withdrawn, a piece of Lexan broke causing a cut under the athlete's nose.

The mask involved in the incident was therefore handed over to Mr Eduardo Dos Santos, the President of the SEMI Commission, in order for him to carry out all the technical investigations necessary. In addition, we are attaching to this letter recommendations on how to take care of mesh and transparent masks – already sent to all the national federations in March 2008.

Until the findings of this investigation are known, it has been decided to temporarily suspend the mandatory use of the transparent mask in foil in all FIE competitions.

We will ensure that you are kept informed of any development regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

**Alisher Usmanov
President**