

A dynamic image of two fencers in white gear on a blue-lit stage. One fencer is in a lunge, while the other is in a ready stance. The background is dark with blue light effects.

GENERAL SPORTING RULES

**CHALLENGE
ARAMIS**

CHALLENGE ARAMIS U15 / M15 ÉPÉE

GENERAL FRAMEWORK

The Challenge Aramis is an international U15 / M15 épée competition organised around a team event and a mixed individual tournament: the Porthos Tournament.

The event is designed to offer young fencers a demanding, formative and open competitive framework, bringing together clubs, inter-club teams, regional selections, training structures and foreign delegations.

These rules set out the sporting principles applicable to the Challenge Aramis. Information specific to each edition — dates, venue, schedule, entry fees, payment procedures, contacts and deadlines — is specified in an annual practical information document.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 — Purpose of the Challenge

The Challenge Aramis aims to provide a reference competition for U15 épée fencers, based on four principles:

- to foster sporting confrontation between young fencers from a variety of structures;
- to promote training clubs, regional selections and foreign delegations;
- to encourage gender balance and equal treatment between girls and boys;
- to provide a dense, clear and formative sporting experience.

The bouts are governed by the applicable sporting regulations of the French Fencing Federation and, where necessary, by the international rules in force for the category concerned.

Article 2 — Category, weapon and participants

The Challenge Aramis is open to licensed fencers in the U15 / M15 category, in épée.

The relevant years of birth are those defined by the federal regulations applicable to the sporting season concerned. Any conditions relating to fencing in a higher category are governed by the federal rules in force.

The following may take part:

- club teams;
- inter-club teams;
- regional or territorial selections;
- training structures;
- foreign delegations;
- any team invited or validated by the organisation.

Participation implies full acceptance of these rules.

Article 3 — Events organised

The Challenge Aramis includes two complementary events:

1. The Challenge Aramis team event

The main event, organised in girls' and boys' categories, in the form of team matches fenced as Italian relays.

2. The Porthos Tournament

A mixed individual one-touch event, integrated into the overall competition.

All fencers entered in the team competition are automatically entered in the Porthos Tournament.

The Porthos Tournament is an identity-defining event of the Challenge Aramis. It highlights initiative, emotional control and the ability to perform in a short, decisive format.

Article 4 — General programme

The Challenge Aramis takes place over two days.

The dates, schedule, venue and welcome arrangements are specified in the practical information document for the edition concerned. The typical programme is as follows:

Saturday

- team check-in;
- team event pool round;
- Porthos Tournament;
- convivial or protocol moment, depending on the organisation.

Sunday

- team event tableau;
- classification matches;
- finals;
- award ceremony.

The detailed schedule is communicated in the practical information document for the edition concerned. It may be adapted by the organisation according to the number of teams entered, sporting constraints, the technical field of play and safety requirements.

TEAM COMPETITION

Article 5 — Team composition

Each team is composed of three fencers.

One substitute may be registered in addition.

A team may therefore include up to four fencers.

Team composition must comply with the applicable federal rules and the registration procedures specified by the organisation.

For French teams, the team composition must be entered on the federal extranet within the deadlines indicated by the organisation.

Any change to the team composition after the registration deadline must be reported to the organisation and may be accepted or refused by the Technical Directorate.

Article 6 — Team competition format

The team competition is fenced in Italian relay format.

For the U15 / M15 category, matches are fenced to 36 hits, unless an adaptation is required by the applicable regulations or by a decision of the Technical Directorate.

The sporting formula includes:

- a pool round;
- a main tableau;
- classification matches;
- a complete final ranking.

The pool round is organised, as far as possible, in pools of four teams.

At the end of the pools, teams are ranked according to the applicable sporting criteria: victories, indicator, hits scored, and then any other criterion provided for by the software or rules used.

The tableau may be organised as a tableau of 16, a tableau of 32, or any other format suited to the number of teams present.

Article 7 — Ranking and classification matches

The Challenge Aramis is based on a strong principle: every place must be earned.

Classification matches are therefore organised so that each team can fence a significant number of matches and obtain a complete final ranking.

There is no repechage.

The Technical Directorate may adapt the ranking format according to:

- the actual number of teams present;
- the number of available pistes;
- the schedule;
- refereeing constraints;
- any safety or sporting requirement necessary for the proper running of the event.

The objective remains to guarantee every team a dense, fair and coherent sporting experience.

Article 8 — Sporting capacity

The maximum number of teams is set at:

- 24 girls' teams;
- 24 boys' teams.

In order to guarantee the sporting coherence of the format, registrations may be validated by thresholds:

- 16 teams;
- 20 teams;
- 24 teams.

These thresholds make it possible to create balanced pools and a clear ranking tableau.

When the number of pre-registrations exceeds the retained capacity or the provisional threshold opened, a waiting list is created.

The organisation reserves the right to release places in groups of four teams in order to preserve the sporting quality of the event.

Article 9 — Gender balance and limitation on the number of teams

As part of its commitment to gender balance, the Challenge Aramis encourages participating structures to enter both girls' and boys' teams.

A single structure may not enter more than two teams per category, unless specific authorisation is granted by the organisation.

The entry of a second boys' team is possible if the structure also enters at least one girls' team.

Conversely, the entry of a second girls' team is possible if the structure also enters at least one boys' team.

The organisation may nevertheless derogate from this rule when the sporting balance of the event, the availability of places or the general interest of the competition justifies it.

REGISTRATION, VALIDATION AND REFEREEING

Article 10 — Pre-registration and validation of entries

Team pre-registration is carried out according to the procedures specified in the practical information document for the edition concerned, in particular via the official Challenge Aramis website.

Registration becomes definitive after:

- receipt of the pre-registration form;
- payment of the entry fees;
- confirmation by the organisation;
- entry of the team composition on the FFE extranet for French teams.

No registration will be accepted on site.

Foreign teams must follow the procedure indicated by the organisation and provide the information required for their sporting identification: structure, country, fencers' names, category, delegation manager and contact details.

The organisation reserves the right to refuse any entry that is incomplete, late or not compliant with these rules.

Article 11 — Entry fees

Entry fees are specified in the practical information document for the edition concerned.

A team entry is considered complete after receipt of the registration form, payment of the entry fees and confirmation by the organisation.

In the event of a team withdrawal after validation of its entry, a flat-rate portion of the entry fee will remain with the organisation to cover administrative, sporting and organisational costs already incurred.

For the edition concerned, the amount of this flat-rate portion is specified in the practical information document.

When a team placed on the waiting list is ultimately not accepted by the organisation, any entry fees paid are fully refunded.

The organisation reserves the right to issue a full refund in exceptional, duly justified circumstances.

The organisation may invite a team on the waiting list to complete the tableau in the event of a withdrawal.

Article 12 — Waiting list and priority criteria

When the number of pre-registrations exceeds the available capacity, teams are placed on a waiting list.

The priority criteria are as follows:

- regional or territorial selections;
- foreign delegations;
- structures entering both girls' and boys' teams;
- clubs or structures engaged in a training and talent-detection approach;
- order of arrival of complete registrations.

A registration is considered complete once the form and payment of the entry fees have been received.

The final validation decision belongs to the organisation, while respecting the overall sporting balance of the event.

Article 13 — Refereeing

Refereeing is an essential condition for the proper running of the competition.

Each participating structure must declare a referee when entering its first team.

Two referees are requested from three teams entered by the same structure.

The organisation may waive all or part of this obligation if the number of available referees is sufficient.

In the event of a justified impossibility, reported sufficiently early, the organisation may seek a replacement solution.

In such cases, a flat-rate contribution, the amount of which is specified in the practical information document for the edition concerned, may be requested to cover the indemnity and welcome of the referee mobilised.

Any unreported absence of a referee may lead to measures decided by the Technical Directorate, which may include a penalty or be taken into account when considering the structure's entries for a future edition.

Referees must report for check-in at the times indicated by the organisation and remain available for as long as necessary for the proper running of the event.

Article 14 — Withdrawals, delays and changes

Any team withdrawing from the competition must inform the organisation as soon as possible.

A delay at check-in may result in:

- the team not being taken into account;
- a modification of the format;
- a decision by the Technical Directorate.

Team compositions must be stabilised before the start of the competition.

Any exceptional change is subject to a decision by the Technical Directorate.

PORTHOS TOURNAMENT

Article 15 — Porthos Tournament

The Porthos Tournament is a mixed individual event integrated into the Challenge Aramis.

All fencers entered in the team competition are automatically entered in the Porthos Tournament, with no additional entry fee.

The Porthos Tournament may also be open, subject to available places, to fencers of the weapon and category concerned who are not taking part in the team competition.

In that case, a specific registration may be required according to the procedures specified by the organisation.

Article 16 — Porthos Tournament format

The Porthos Tournament is run as a mixed direct-elimination tableau with a random draw.

Each match is fenced:

- to one hit;
- over a maximum duration of one minute;
- according to the principle of sudden death.

Priority is drawn at the start of the match.

In the event of a tie at the end of regulation time, the fencer with priority is declared the winner.

There is no repechage.

Depending on the number of participants, fencers may be distributed across several pistes or mini-tableaux.

The winners of these tableaux qualify for the final phase of the Porthos Tournament.

The exact format may be adapted by the organisation according to the number of participants, the number of available pistes and the time available.

Article 17 — Clothing, equipment and safety

Each fencer must present themselves with clothing, equipment and gear compliant with the safety rules applicable to their category and weapon.

Clubs, structures and delegations are responsible for the compliance of their fencers' equipment.

The organisation may carry out or arrange checks.

Any equipment deemed non-compliant may be refused.

Fencers, coaches and accompanying persons must comply with the safety instructions given by the organisation, referees, the Technical Directorate and venue officials.

Any medical situation or specific welcome request must be reported to the organisation before the competition so that it can be taken into account as far as possible.

Article 18 — Sportsmanship and respect for referees

The Challenge Aramis is based on respect for:

- fencers;
- referees;
- fencing masters and coaches;
- volunteers, organisers;
- the public;

Any pressure placed on a referee, repeated contestation, inappropriate remarks, aggressive attitude or behaviour contrary to sporting values may lead to intervention by the Technical Directorate.

Depending on the seriousness of the facts, the following measures may be taken:

- verbal reminder;
- warning;
- exclusion from the competition area;
- exclusion from the venue;
- referral to the competent bodies if necessary.

Fencing masters, coaches and team managers are responsible for the behaviour of their fencers and accompanying persons.

Article 19 — Technical Directorate, protests and unforeseen cases

A Technical Directorate is appointed to ensure the proper sporting running of the competition.

It is competent to:

- adapt the sporting format if necessary;
- rule on delays, withdrawals or disputes;
- handle protests;
- take any decision useful to the proper running of the event;
- settle cases not provided for by these rules.

The decisions of the Technical Directorate are binding on the participants.

Any protest must be lodged in the form and within the time limits provided for by the applicable regulations or, failing that, immediately after the contested fact.

Article 20 — Awards

Awards are presented to the teams placed on the podium of the team competition.

The winner of the Porthos Tournament receives a specific award.

The finalists of the Porthos Tournament may also receive a souvenir of their performance, according to the procedures defined by the organisation.

Awards may vary depending on partners, available prizes and the choices of the organisation.

Article 21 — Image rights and communication

Photographs, videos and communication content may be produced during the Challenge Aramis.

This content may be used by the organisation to promote the event, participants, clubs, partners and actions associated with the Challenge Aramis, in particular on the website, social networks, communication materials and institutional reports.

Any specific objection to the use of the image of a fencer must be notified in writing to the organisation before the start of the competition.

Article 22 — Acceptance of the rules

Participation in the Challenge Aramis constitutes acceptance of these rules.

Each team manager undertakes to read them and to inform the fencers, coaches and accompanying persons of their structure.

The organisation reserves the right to modify or adapt certain elements of the rules in order to guarantee the proper sporting running of the event, the safety of participants and the overall quality of the event.