



Fencing New Zealand

(Fencing New Zealand Incorporated)

P-Black Cards - T.124 Unwillingness to fight (Non-combativity).

There seems to be some confusion amongst fencers as to how P-Black cards work.

The FIE has set the rules and Fencing New Zealand follows these rules. The rule is specifically T.124 Unwillingness to fight (Non-combativity) in the November 2022 Technical Rules. All fencers, referees and coaches should be fully aware of the implications of this rule.

Unwillingness to fight is sanctioned as follows: these sanctions are shown by specific P- cards which are not cumulative with any other sanction awarded.

1st time a P-Yellow is awarded

2nd time a P-Red is awarded

3rd time then a P-Black is awarded.

Specifically regarding a P-Black the rule 124.1. states:

c) When, for the third time, there is one minute of unwillingness to fight, a P-black card is awarded as follows:

- i) If the scores of the two fencers are equal, the Referee sanctions the fencer with the lower initial seeding in the competition, **which is based on the FIE ranking**, with a P-Black card. The fencer with the higher initial seeding in the competition, which is based on the FIE ranking, wins the bout.
- ii) If the scores of the two fencers are not equal, the Referee sanctions the fencer with the lower score with a P-Black card. The fencer with the higher score wins the bout.

From a Fencing NZ perspective, very few of our initial seedings use the FIE ranking. In place of this the initial seeding is done using the latest available Fencing NZ National Rankings. All unranked competitors get an equal seeding of plus 1 from the lowest seeded fencer. The computer software then randomises all equal seeds into a sequence so as to create poules.

The referee performing the sanction may not be aware of the initial seeding into the competition and will come to the DT to check the initial seedings, this is standard operating procedure.

Please direct any further questions to myself.

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