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Introduction & Aim

Few scientific publications are devoted to the analysis of the temporal dynamics, technical and tactical determinants in fencing. To apply various actions (offensive, defensive and counter-offensive) successfully fencers should use preparatory actions. (Czajkowski, Z. ,2009). The aim of this study is to analyse the different tactical actions and their impact on the score in elite men's épée.

Material & Methods

This was done using an observational methodology based on an open and systematic process of non-participant observation with a nomothetic, punctual, multidimensional design (Anguera et al., 2011). 29 men's épée assaults were recorded in two World Championships (2013-14). The observation instrument used was an adaptation of the ESGRIMOBs (Tarragó et al. 2015), and the LINCE v.1.1 (Gabin et al., 2012) software was the recording tool.

Results & Discussion

A total of 1,466 phrases (379 different configurations) were recorded. 40% ended up in touch, with 17% for the fencer who initiates the offensive action (fencer "A"), 15% opponent (fencer "B") and 8% touched twice. Only 2% of the phrases were performed by a single action between fencers, 72.4% in two actions and the remaining 15% appeared a third action; the remaining 11% is held by 4-9 exchanges of actions. As the main contribution of this study we emphasize that for the first time has been made a structuring of distribution and effectiveness of tactical actions in fencing. The offensive actions were the most commonly used (44.9%) followed by the defensive (33.0%) and counter-offensive (22.1%).

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Pressure Preparation	No Pressure										A - Pressure										B - Pressure																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																						
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Table 1. Table 1 shows the distribution and effectiveness of the various tactical interactions in response to the pressure and prior preparation in relation to the fencer who initiates action (fencer "A"), and even a third level of interaction between rival ("A" vs. "B").

Offensive (Of), Defensive (Def), Counteroffensive (Counter), without blade contact (NB), with riposte (&R) and without riposte (WR)

The systematizing tactical actions performed proposes an excellent tool of tactical analysis in fencing, through which we can see how the effectiveness of the same phrase is different depending on the situation before - pressing and preparation- by two fencers

Conclusions

This is the first study that analyses the dynamics and effectiveness of the interaction of actions in elite men's épée, providing valuable information to fencing masters in order to optimize the technical and tactical training of their fencers. We emphasize that the counteroffensive actions are performed less but more effective for both fencers.

References

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