Tactical Fencing Profile: Elite Foil

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The aim was to determine the effectiveness of elite foil fencers based on the initiative of attack, the pressure and the piste area.

A non-participant observation with a nomothetic, punctual & multi-dimensional design was used. 13 male foil (MF) and 12 female foil (FF) combats (n=34) were recorded during the World Championships 2014. ESGRIMOBS and Lince were utilised as an observational and recording instruments. The fencer who made the first attack is "A" and his rival "B". It was analysed "A" pressure (Pres_A), "B" pressure (Pres_B) or not pressure (N_Pres). The piste zones: (End_A & End_B) are 2m´s at each end, and the rest is the centre. The effectiveness is determined as A_Touch, B_Touch or don't touch. The differences in the distribution were checked with chi-square.

1509 actions were analysed. 67.1% were Pres_A, 13.5% were Pres_B, while 19.4% were N_Pres. 25.6% won the touch the attacker and in 14.6% the defender. There is no relationship between pressure, piste and effectiveness (n.s.) in total records.

In FF (n=677), Pres_A (68.7%) achieves in 23.9% A_Touch, 16.8% B_Touch and 59.4% don't touch. Pres_B (11.7%) gets 30.4% A_Touch and 16.5% B_Touch. With N_Pres (19.6%) you get 27.1% A_Touch, 12.8% B_Touch (n.s.).

In MF, Pres_A (65.7%) achieves in 23.4% A_Touch and 14.4% B_Touch. Pres_B (15.0%) achieves 31.2% A_Touch and 7.2% B_Touch. With N_Pres you get 30.0% A_Touch and 15.6% B_Touch (p=.049).

Delhomme (2016), defines 4 tactical profiles in épée according to the fencer who makes the attack and pressure, but in foil the combat convention could determine a different effectiveness actions; the combination of pressure factors and piste doesn't determine effectiveness.

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