

## Percentage of Contribution of Tactics and Remis Strategy in the Achievement Level of Epee- Singapore Youth Olympics 2010

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**Abstract:** Fencing tactics depend on complex movements containing skills of stimulating the opponent's responses and trying to deal with these responses according to fencing distance and timing. The current research aims at identifying the most commonly used tactics and its percentages of contribution during Singapore Youth Olympics 2010. The researcher used the descriptive approach on a sample of 48 matches. Results showed that the percentage of contribution of tactics and remis in results of analyzed matches were 54.76% for the 1<sup>st</sup> round, 65.61% for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round, 79.21% for the 3<sup>rd</sup> round, 90.25% for semi-finals and 100% for the finals.

**Key words:** Fencing tactics • Strategy • Match analysis

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### INTRODUCTION

Tactical performance of an athlete depends on acquiring enough information, knowledge and tactical abilities to make good decisions during different changing situations in a sports competition. This knowledge and information helps the athlete to analyze the situation and make the right decision as a response to such a situation [1]. Tactical status is a development of the abilities and capabilities. It is also the ability to combine physical and technical abilities in different form and choose one of them according to the demands of different game situations [2]. The athlete's tactical performance depends on acquiring and selecting enough tactical knowledge, information and capabilities to act well in different and various competitive situations. This knowledge and information helps the athlete analyze the game situations, take the right decision and select the best solutions for facing such situation.

The researcher thinks that Epee sport is characterized by various tactics. This indicates the need to study different play situations to understand offensive and defensive tactics and regularly develop it. Identifying different tactics is a way to generate methods to compete them through their specific probabilities and recognizing the opponent's reactions and how to face them. This is done through providing fencers with alternatives and solutions for different tactics.

Fencing tactical performance is based on the technical performance level of the fencer as the higher the technical level is, the higher is the tactical level will

be. Any fencer can never perform successful tactics without mastering correct techniques [3]. There is a close link between tactics and techniques in fencing when preparing for important matches. This indicates the need to establish a link between early technical training, especially during fencing lessons and the special requirements of probabilities to correct performance of specific skills [4]. Fencing tactics are based on attack skills besides defense skills according to the opponent's abilities and the fencer's abilities to perform tactics [5]. Defense-based tactics do not produce positive effects and attack-based tactics do produce the desired results. So, the attacking fencer has the advantage of timing in scoring correct touches [6]. Choosing correct timing and distance and considering accuracy and speed of performance are major factors in successful attacks [7].

The most targeted place as a basis for establishing training bases for junior Epee fencers. The researcher concluded that junior fencer should be trained on targeting these places to enhance their technical performance level [8]. The fencer who begins with attacks forces the opponent to defense and assuming uncomfortable positions under the pressure of attack. This can be an advantage for the attacker as the fencer who tends to attack affects the defense situations of the opponent and makes the opponent feel his/her lower level. This in turn can lead the opponent to frustration and decreases his/her desire to attack [9]. There is no successful attack than other attacks and whole matter depends on the opponent's performance. So, attack should correspond to the opponent's tactics, abilities

and techniques [10]. Although there are different methods for match analysis, each of these methods has its fields and circumstances of application. Nevertheless, all these methods seek to observe, evaluate and assess the player's and team's performance, no matter we use subjective or objective methods.

The researcher thinks that match analysis is a very important system for coaches to use in identifying the fencer's performance level, his/her weaknesses and strengths to help planning counter-plans that depend on taking advantage of the opponent's weaknesses and fencer's strengths. It is important to study tactical performance of Epee fencers during Singapore Youth Olympics 2010 to identify the most commonly used tactics that affected match results either during preliminary matches or in loser-out matches. This will help identifying the scientifically sound bases of tactical preparation programs of Egyptian fencers through information and indicators useful for preparing training programs.

**The Current Research Aims at Identifying:**

- The most commonly used tactics during Singapore Youth Olympics 2010.
- The percentages of contribution of these tactics in Epee achievements during Singapore Youth Olympics 2010.

**The Researcher Poses the Following Questions:**

- What are the most commonly used tactics during Singapore Youth Olympics 2010.
- What are the percentages of contribution of these tactics in Epee achievements during Singapore Youth Olympics 2010.

For the purposes of the current study, the researcher adopted the following term:

- Attack tactics: are the skills, movements and maneuvers used by a fencer during a match to deal with the opponent while trying to win the match.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Approach:** The researcher used the descriptive approach.

**Sample:** 48 matches were purposefully chosen from the matches of Singapore Youth Olympics 2010, 36 matches of them were preliminaries (groups league) and 12 matches of loser-outs including semi-finals and finals. Sample also included 13 fencers (appendix 1), qualified to Singapore

Youth Olympics 2010 and World championship for junior fencers, Baco, Azerbaijan, 2010.

**Data Collection Tools:**

- A 1GB PC set was used to run the program and deal with video files easily and quickly.
- WMV Video Converter and FLV to AVI Video Converter software were used to covert video files into AVI extension to control the projected videos. A Real Player SP software was used to fix, speed and delay pictures and also to split videos into fixed photos to be analyzed easily.

**Tactics Form:** The researcher designed a questionnaire to identify the most important tactics and the importance of remis in Epee. The questionnaire included all tactics (appendix 2). The researcher administered the questionnaire to Epee coaches of the following countries national teams: Egypt - France - Italy - Croatia - Poland - Cuba) during the World championship for junior fencers - Baco, Azerbaijan (5-9/4/2010). The following table shows the coaches' opinions about tactics (appendix 3).

It is shown in Appendix 3 the agreement percentages of experts as follows: Preparation + Attack + Remis and Attack on Hand + Remis (100%), Preparation+ Pres de Fer + Remis (87.5%), Preparation+Parade Riposte + Remis (75%) and Counter Attack and Attack on Fer (25%). All tactics were accepted except attack, attack on fer and counter attack. Experts indicated that counter tempo is considered an attack on attack. So, attack and attack on attack are indicators for each others but the technical term for them both is counter tempo. The following tactics (Table 1) were agreed on as follows:

**Designing the Analysis Form for Tactics and Remis:**

The aim of this research is to identify tactics and remis used in matches and its percentage of contribution in achievement level. The researcher designed and analysis form for tactics and remis used in the studied matches so as to facilitate data recording and statistical analysis.

Table 1: Tactics and remis concluded from experts opinions

No	Tactical components	Opinion			
		Ok		No	
		No	%	No	%
1	Preparation + Attack + Remis	8	100.0	0	0.0
2	Preparation + Counter Attack + Remis	8	100.0	0	0.0
3	Preparation + Parade Riposte + Remis	6	75.0	2	25.0
4	Preparation +Pres de fer + Remis	7	87.5	1	12.5
5	Attack On Hand + Remis	8	100.0	0	0.0
6	Counter Tempo+ Remis	6	75.0	2	25.0

**Calibration of the Tactics and Remis Form:** The form was presented to a group of experts to identify its validity and reliability.

**Pilot Study:** The researcher designed the Tactics and Remis Form and analyzed some of the World championship for junior fencers - Baco, Azerbaijan (4-9/4/2010). Results of the pilot study were as follows:

- Identifying and analyzing tactics used in matches.
- Training on data recording procedures in the form by the researcher.

According to these results, all variable to be included in the form were listed and the final

draft was designed according to speed of performance and various tactical situations in the match (Appendix 3).

**Main Study:** The researcher analyzed the matches and recorded data in the recording form then he organized data and prepared it for statistical treatment.

**Statistical Treatments:** The researcher used the following statistical treatments:

- Recurrence.
- Percentage.
- Step Wise Regression.
- Liner Regression.

Appendix 1: Fencers qualified to Singapore Youth Olympics 2010

1- BODOCZI Nikolaus (GER)	8- MELARAGNO G (BRA)
2- SVICHKAR Roman (UKR)	9- SALEH Saleh (EGY)
3- KRUK Tomasz (POL)	10- NOVOTNY Ondrej (CZE)
4- CIOVICA Lucian (ROU)	11- GODOY Julian (CRC)
5- ZHAKUPOV Kirill (KAZ)	12- FICHERA Marco (ITA)
6- NA Byeong Hun (KOR)	13- LIM Wei Hao (SIN)
7- LYSSOV Alexandre (CAN)	

Appendix 2: Names of experts contributed in the study

No.	Name	Title	Country
1-	Artor Polanski	Head coach of Egyptian National Team	Poland
2-	David Kirby	Head coach of UK National team	UK
3-	Alexander Alexi	Head coach of Russian National team	Russia
4-	Daniel Lavavasaur	Fencing Expert	France
5-	Sandro Cumo	Head coach of Italian national team	Italy
6-	Hasan Hosny	Vice President of Egyptian Fencing Federation	Egypt
7-	Ibraheem Nabil Abd El-Aziz	Professor of fencing – Faculty of Physical Education – Helwan University	Egypt
8-	Ivan Trevejo Perez	Head coach of World Championship camp (2010) – Baco - Azerbaijan	Cuba

Appendix 3: The analysis form for tactics and remis

Design procedures:

- Review of related literature to help designing the form.
- As a coach of the Egyptian national team of Epee, the researcher made some technical observations about used tactics and remis.
- The researcher interviewed experts of Epee in Egypt and during the World championship for junior fencers - Baco, Azerbaijan (5-9/4/2010).
- Calibration of the initial draft of the form and identifying its axes.
- Calibration of the final draft of the form and identifying its validity and reliability.
- The Form:

Tactical components	Player	Touches															Total
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Preparation + Attack + Remis	Fencer																
	Opponent																
Preparation + Counter Attack + Remis	Fencer																
	Opponent																
Preparation+ Parade Riposte + Remis	Fencer																
	Opponent																
Preparation +Pres de fer + Remis	Fencer																
	Opponent																
Attack On Hand + Remis	Fencer																
	Opponent																
Preparation + Counter Tempo+ Remis	Fencer																
	Opponent																

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Table 2 showed recurrence (R) and percentages (%) of tactics and remis in different rounds matches during Singapore Youth Olympics 2010.

The researcher thinks that the largest percentage of the tactical strategy of preparation, distance lock, preparing the competitive situation according to lunge or flash attack and then continue to remis was found in the semi-finals. The largest percentage of the tactical strategy of preparation to invite the opponent to attack through opening a gap or preparation by distance lock and use the opponent's reaction to counter-attack and remis was found in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round. The largest percentage of the tactical strategy of preparation by inviting the opponent to attack on preparation, defend, react and remis was found in the 1<sup>st</sup> round. The largest percentage of the tactical strategy of preparation by inviting the opponent to attack on preparation then use the situation to make press de fer and continue to remis was found in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. The largest percentage of the tactical strategy of attack on arm and remis was found in the final.

The largest percentage of the tactical strategy of counter temp and remis was found in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round. This is in agreement with results of previous studies [1, 3, 11] in the contents of tactics should be consistent with the competitive demands and the competitive situation priorities, considering the balance between offensive and defensive tactics to maintain match balance. This is clear from the percentage of contribution of offensive and defensive tactics in different rounds. This percentage was at its highest value in the final which is a decisive round for achievement (62.1%) then in 2<sup>nd</sup> round (51.3%), 3<sup>rd</sup> round (45.8%) and finally 1<sup>st</sup> round (37.3%). The researcher thinks that in the 1<sup>st</sup> round, fencers concentrate on studying their opponents and the match strategy is to deal with match situations according to the opponent's weaknesses and strengths. This is in agreement with results of previous researches [12, 13] in that the successful strategy is to prepare the competitive situation and take the correct position according to the opponent's weaknesses and strengths. As for defensive tactics, its percentage was at its highest value in the 1<sup>st</sup> round (62.7%), 3<sup>rd</sup> round (54.2%), 2<sup>nd</sup> round (37.9%) and finals (35%).

Table 2: Recurrence and percentages of tactics and remis used in the first round matches in Singapore Olympics 2010

No	Tactical components	1 <sup>st</sup> round		2 <sup>nd</sup> round		3 <sup>rd</sup> round		Semi-finals		Finals	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Preparation + Attack + Remis	31	11.6	28.0	11.6	31.0	28.4	13.0	32.5	9.0	31.0
2	Preparation + Counter Attack + Remis	65	24.3	32.0	13.2	28.0	25.7	3.0	7.5	3.0	10.3
3	Preparation+ Parade Riposte + Remis	82	30.6	64.0	26.4	5.0	4.6	4.0	10.0	2.0	6.9
4	Preparation +Pres de fer + Remis	43	16.0	53.0	21.9	3.0	2.8	2.0	5.0	1.0	3.4
5	Attack On Hand + Remis	26	9.7	43.0	17.8	16.0	14.7	11.0	27.5	8.0	27.6
6	Preparation + Counter Tempo+ Remis	21	7.8	22.0	9.1	26.0	23.9	7.0	17.5	6.0	20.7
Total		268	100.0	242.0	100.0	109.0	100.0	40.0	100.0	29.0	100.0

Table 3: Regression significance of tactics and remis on different rounds in results of analyzed matches of Epee – Singapore Youth Olympics 2010

Rounds	Difference sources	D.F	Squares total	Squares means	F
Groups	Explained difference	1	614.664	614.664	63.84*
	Unexplained difference	4	38.511	9.628	
	Total	5	653.175		
2 <sup>nd</sup> round	Explained difference	1	595.813	595.813	63.51*
	Unexplained difference	4	37.520	9.380	
	Total	5	633.333		
3 <sup>rd</sup> round	Explained difference	1	546.171	546.171	32.52*
	Unexplained difference	4	67.178	16.794	
	Total	5	613.348		
Semi-final	Explained difference	1	141.792	141.792	7.40*
	Unexplained difference	4	76.562	19.140	
	Total	5	218.353		
Final	Explained difference	1	370.329	370.329	41.91*
	Unexplained difference	4	35.344	8.836	
	Total	5	405.673		

Table 4: Regression significance of tactics and remis on each round in results of analyzed matches of Epee – Singapore Youth Olympics 2010

Type	Correlation	F	Specification factor	Percentage of contribution	Significance
1	0.92	63.84	0.94	0.85	0.001
2	0.93	63.51	0.94	0.86	0.001
3	0.89	32.52	0.89	0.79	0.005
4	0.81	7.40	0.64	0.66	0.053
5	0.95	41.91	0.91	0.90	0.003

Table 5: Percentage of contribution of tactics and remis in results of analyzed matches of Epee – Singapore Youth Olympics 2010

Type	Correlation	F	Specification factor	Percentage of contribution	Significance
1	0.74	22.84	0.57	0.55	0.03
2	0.81	41.91	0.68	0.66	0.04
3	0.89	35.06	0.74	0.79	0.02
4	0.95	18.78	0.82	0.90	0.01
5	1	52.38	1.00	1.00	0.00

Table 3 showed statistically significant differences of (f) on  $p=0.05$  for tactics and remis on different rounds in results of analyzed matches of Epee - Singapore Youth Olympics 2010. This indicates a linear relationship for tactics and remis on different rounds in results of analyzed matches of Epee - Singapore Youth Olympics 2010.

Table 4 showed the percentage of contribution of tactics and remis in results of analyzed matches of Epee - Singapore Youth Olympics 2010. The researcher continued to use regression significance to explain differences in match results. So, he identified the difference percentage explained by linear regression to total regression in match results, indicating that the percentage of explained difference to total difference is called specification factor [14, 15].

Table 5 showed the percentage of contribution of tactics and remis in results of analyzed matches of Epee - Singapore Youth Olympics 2010. Linear regression of tactics and remis explained 57% of 1<sup>st</sup> round results, 68% of 2<sup>nd</sup> rounds results, 74% of 3<sup>rd</sup> round results, 82% of semi-finals results and 100% of finals results. Percentage of contribution was (56%) for 1<sup>st</sup> round, (66%) for 2<sup>nd</sup> round, (74.8%) for 3<sup>rd</sup> round, (90%) for semi-finals and (100%) for finals. The researcher thinks that percentage of contribution of tactics and remis affects match results significantly.

### CONCLUSION

#### The Researcher Concluded That:

- Tactics and remis strategies vary during different rounds of Singapore Youth Olympics 2010.
- Tactical strategy includes attack tactics and remis to finalized 2<sup>nd</sup> round and final matches.

- Tactical strategy includes counter attack tactics and remis to finalized 1<sup>st</sup> round and 3<sup>rd</sup> round matches.
- Percentage of contribution for tactics and remis vary according to different rounds.

#### Recommendations

The Researcher Recommends the Following:

- Concentrating on tactics and remis identified by the researcher in training.
- Concentrating on the best use of tactics and remis through varying between attack and counter attack according to different rounds.
- Comparing Egyptian fencers with foreign ones on tactics and remis in different rounds.

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