

### ***NZ Secondary Schools Black Card***

*A black card was awarded at the National Secondary Schools tournament in September in a team's medal match. The FIE rules that were applied dictated exclusion of the fencer from the tournament and a further 60-day suspension from all competition.*

*The fencer challenged the decision and lodged an appeal with FeNZ. The FIE rules direct such appeals to the Disciplinary Panel of the FIE in Lausanne. Having investigated the matter, FeNZ was of the view that such an appeal process was not likely available and, in any event, highly impractical to both the fencer and FeNZ. Consideration was therefore given to whether the matter should be addressed locally.*

*Although the imposition of the card in the first place was under challenge, the main point of contention was the 60-day suspension. FeNZ noted that other fencing nations (including the UK in particular) do not often apply the 60-day suspension rule. It is understood also FeNZ Board had agreed not to impose the 60-day suspension in at least one earlier instance.*

*In light of the above, FeNZ and the fencer agreed that the suspension would be lifted (as of 24 September 2022), assuming good behaviour by the fencer during the full 60-day period from issue of the card (which ends 2 November 2022). This was in return for the fencer's appeal being withdrawn and full and final resolution of all matters concerning the issue of the black card, which card otherwise stands.*

*None of this, of course, affects the results of the New Zealand Secondary Schools boys' foil teams competition.*

*FeNZ is in the process of reviewing the disciplinary and appeal processes in light of this matter. Announcements on this will follow in due course.*

*FeNZ and the fencer concerned would like to thank the fencing community for their understanding.*