

## Olympic Update: Men's Foil

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Gerek Meinhardt holds the early lead as the US entry for the 2008 Olympic Games. Cassara and Vanni from Italy are shut out as the qualification criteria makes the Olympics a weaker tournament than the 2007 World Championships.

There's no chance for a country to get a medal sweep in Men's Foil at the 2008 Olympic Games. That's because unlike 4 other fencing disciplines, Men's Foil does not have a team competition for Beijing, so there are a maximum of 2 fencers qualified per country.

That's good if you're #69 Carlos Rodriguez of Venezuela or #63 Kwok Kin Lau of Hong Kong, but really stinks when you're in the top 10 in the world and from the powerhouse country in Men's Foil (Sanzo and Vanni, Italy), or a former Gold Medalist who is fencer #3 from a European country (Guyart, France).

That's the funny thing about the qualification for the Olympic Games. There is a hard limit of 24 athletes to compete in the Men's Foil event, and the IOC wants to be inclusive in participation, so there are limits to the number of athletes from each Olympic region (Europe, Asia/Oceania, Africa, and the Americas.)

For Men's Foil (and Women's Epee), the qualification path is as follows:

Create an Adjusted Official Ranking (AOR) list. The AOR includes the top 2 fencers from each country with FIE points during the qualification period. (May 1st 2007 through April 30th 2008.)

Top 8 in the world are in.

The next 8 are selected as the next 8 with zonal restrictions (max of 1 per country):

- Top 3 from Europe
- Top 2 from Asia/Oceania
- Top 2 from the Americas
- Top 1 from Africa

The final 8 slots are for countries that did not make it in the first 16. They are chosen at a continental qualifying tournament held in May, 2008. For the purposes of this article, we chose the next best ranked fencer for the zone as the qualifiers.

The zonal tournaments allow qualification for:

- 3 from Europe
- 2 from Asia/Oceania
- 2 from the Americas
- 1 from Africa

So, who is qualified right now?

Based on qualified FIE points, the following fencers would be qualified for the Olympics:

World Rank (11/1/07)

Name  
Country  
Zone  
In Via

1  
BALDINI Andrea  
ITA  
EUR  
Top 8 AOR

3  
LE PECHOUX Erwan  
FRA  
EUR  
Top 8 AOR

8  
SANZO Salvatore  
ITA  
EUR  
Top 8 AOR

4  
JOPPICH Peter  
GER  
EUR  
Top 8 AOR

2  
KLEIBRINK Benjamin  
GER  
EUR  
Top 8 AOR

7  
OTA Yuki  
JPN  
AS  
Top 8 AOR

6  
LEI Sheng  
CHN  
AS

Top 8 AOR

12  
OR Tomer  
ISR  
EUR  
Top 8 AOR

13  
ZHU Jun  
CHN  
AS  
Zone

18  
MEINHARDT Gerek  
USA  
AM  
Zone

14  
CHIDA Kenta  
JPN  
AS  
Zone

24  
MARCILLOUX Marcel  
FRA  
EUR  
Zone

10  
MOCEK Slawomir  
POL  
EUR  
Zone

25  
MCGUIRE Joshua  
CAN  
AM  
Zone

22  
GANEEV Renal  
RUS  
EUR  
Zone

25  
MCGUIRE Joshua  
CAN  
AM  
Zone

39  
SMANDI Mohamed  
TUN  
AF  
Zone

36  
SON Young Ki  
KOR  
AS  
CC-AS

37  
KRUSE Richard  
GBR  
EUR  
CC-E

33  
NAGATY Mostafa  
EGY  
AF  
CC-AF

42  
GOMES Joao  
POR  
EUR  
CC-E

35  
CHALIANKOV Aliaksandr  
BLR  
EUR  
CC-E

51  
SOUZA João antonio  
BRA  
AM  
CC-AM

63  
LAU Kwok Kin  
HKG  
AS  
CC-AS

69  
RODRIGUEZ Carlos Eduardo  
VEN  
AM  
CC-AM

The next events for qualification points are:

- Copenhagen (Jan 6th)
- Paris (Grand Prix, Jan 26th)
- La Coruna (Feb 3rd)
- Venice (Feb 16th)
- Bonn (Mar 2nd)
- St. Petersburg (March 8th)
- Espinho (March 16th)

Editors Note: The point totals were incorrect in the original article, resulting in the switching of Sanzo and Cassara in our qualification rankings.

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