



22 Apr 2022

## 想做「世一」要識呢三個字 'En garde ! Prêts ? Allez !'

身為香港人的你，定必支持香港首位男子花劍「世一」張家朗。而你欣賞「香港劍神」的賽事時，相信也不難發現當裁判喊過「En garde ! Prêts ? Allez !」口令後，「世一」便如箭在弦般向對手進攻，但其實這句聽起來像是英語的口令是什麼語言及意思呢？

原來這是國際劍擊賽事中常用的法語，代表「On guard! Ready? Play!」。裁判一般會順序先要求運動員準備，再詢問他們是否準備好，最後就示意可以正式進行比賽。

有別於大部分體育項目國際賽事以英語作溝通，國際劍擊賽事如奧運會等就以法語作為官方語言，這是因為劍擊和法國人有著很深的淵源。法國人除了發明了劍擊的第一面金屬網面罩、把劍擊競技改良及傳至歐洲其他國家外，很多劍擊術語、規範的設計整理也是法國人的傑作。

至於香港一些本地比賽如學界賽事，裁判則會因應參賽者的年齡及程度，從而決定使用法語、英語或中文，務求運動員能理解有關口令。



張家朗成為香港首位男子花劍「世一」。

Edgar Cheung has become Hong Kong's first foil World No.1.

(Photo: FIE facebook)



法語為劍擊的官方語言。

French is an official language of fencing.

(Photo: Camden Fencing Club)

'En garde ! Prêts ? Allez !' If you've supported Hong Kong's first foil World No.1 and Tokyo Olympic Champion Edgar Cheung Ka-long in a fencing match, you may be familiar with this phrase but not sure what does it mean and where does it come from.

Actually, it is French and means 'On guard! Ready? Play!'. The referee will say this to guide the fencers that they should get into a ready position, followed by asking if both of them are ready, and giving a signal to start the game.

Unlike many international sports events where English is used for communication, referees in fencing will generally use French commands during competition as many fencing terms are French or derived from French. Apart from the common terms, you may find other correlations between Fencing and France. For example, the first metal mesh mask used in fencing and the design of three swords were developed by the French or in France too.

However, referee may choose to use other languages to ensure the fencers could understand the commands. Therefore, we may hear French, English or even Cantonese in our inter-school competition according to the age and level of fencers.