**MINUTES**

of the Arbiters’ Commission Meeting in Tallinn 2013 FIDE Congress

2 October 2013, 15.00-19.00

Chairman Takis Nikolopoulos opens the meeting at 3 PM greeting the participants.

11 out of 15 members of the Commission were present in the Meeting.

1. Arbiters’ Commission Councilors’ Meeting (Athens 21-23 June 2103)

The Minutes of the meeting is included in the Agenda.

1. IA and FA TAs

For the first time the recommendations of the ARB were put on the Arbiters’ Commission website, so that federations were able to check the recommendations before this meeting. In case of rejection of an application, the reason was given. Some recommendations are conditional because form IT3 is missing in the application. As usual applications are still arriving during the Congress for which the core committee will give a recommendation during this Congress. In case a norm within an application is not valid, it can still be replaced during this Congress, so that the application will be approved.

Still a number of federations are not aware of the rule that two types of tournaments (i.e. SS and RR, or SS and TM, or RR and TM) are necessary. If only Swiss tournaments are submitted for a candidate at least one of them should have at least 100 participants, according to the article 5.2 of the regulations for the titles of Arbiters.

1. FA titles and norms from FIDE Arbiters’ Seminars for approval

The candidates of federations which cannot organize tournaments can achieve the direct title by following a FIDE Arbiters’ Seminar, according to the article 3.10 of the regulations for the titles of Arbiters

Chairman Nikolopoulos presents and comments some statistics of the FIDE Arbiters’ Seminars organized during the last year.

1. Internet based FIDE Arbiters’ Seminars.

11 of such seminars were organized, which is a very good number. Especially in the Americas the system is very successful.

The Arbiters’ Commission decided to organize this type of seminars in each official FIDE language.

The participation will be free of charge for all participants.

An Internet Seminar in Arabic is scheduled for November.

1. Amendments of the Regulations.
2. Regulations for the titles of Arbiters.

Some changes are proposed to B.06 of the FIDE Handbook. Some Federations did not pay attention to the article 5.2 of these regulations. Therefore a part of art. 5.2 was moved to article 2.1.3 for better clarification.

In the table of paragraph 2 an additional line will be added for “Round Robin”, with maximum 2 certificates.

Scheveningen tournaments are not included, since they are very rare. The Commission will consider any norm from a Scheveningen tournament, in case of submission.

For the signing of the norms by the Federations it was clarified that as federation official the President, General Secretary or Rating Officer are acceptable.

An amendment is proposed to article 5.4 but the Commission will still contact the respective federation to find out why an application was not sent to the FIDE Secretariat.

The financial regulations are added to article 5.5 with the exception where the time limit of 60 days cannot be taken into account (e.g. Olympiad). From now on the financial regulations are the same as for the over-the-board titles.

For IA-applications the signatures of at least two different arbiters are necessary.

The definition of “deputy chief arbiter” is confusing. Especially in the case of national league competitions organized during a longer period (several months) in different cities this title is used whereas match arbiters are meant. In principal a tournament can have one or two deputy chief arbiters. Also in the case of youth tournaments the arbiter of a certain age category is often designated as “deputy chief arbiter”. But in this case the title of “sector arbiter” is more accurate. In order to avoid confusion more lines should be added to the TRF-file and within the several Swiss programs.

The definition of the different type of arbiters should be fixed so that it would also be clear for a number of FIDE tournaments, e.g. Olympiad and the World Team Championship.

The Commission has submitted a proposal included in the Agenda of the Congress, for the structure and the number of the Arbiters in all FIDE events.

In the regulations the wording “deputy chief arbiter” and “deputy arbiter” will be checked.

Finally it is proposed to change the text into “arbiter in at least four events”.

With respect of “assistant arbiter”, it should be bear in mind that such persons do not necessary have followed an arbiter course.

National arbiters are defined as arbiters of a federation with national levels and who do not have the title of FA or IA.

1. Regulations for the classification of the Arbiters.

Article 3.2.3 is now divided in two paragraphs

The world youth tournaments will be split into youth (8 to 12) and cadets (14 to 18), next to the Junior Tournaments (up to 20).

If an A’, B’ of C’ Category arbiter becomes inactive the Commission in consultation with the respective Federation shall decide on the new classification. In such case several aspects have to be taken into consideration.

The World Mind Games as well as Round Robin tournaments of high category are included in the classification system.

1. Regulations for the training of the Arbiters.

An addition is proposed to article 2.2, regarding the language of the lectures. Translation in a non-FIDE language is allowed but the test shall be in one of the official FIDE languages.

1. Update of the List of Lecturers.

The actual list, approved in Baku FIDE Presidential Board, contains 43 lecturers. The Commission received 7 applications from federations. H. Bond (CAN), M. Prevenios (GRE), Al Radhi (UAE), N.Y. Wong (AUS), D. Welch (ENG), Blas Pingas(ARG) and J. Kohlstaedt (GER). All of them were accepted.

1. Classification of the Arbiters.

Administration for the classification is done by Werner Stubenvoll.

Mr. Filipowicz proposes that the attendance of relevant commissions during FIDE Congress is also taken into consideration.

1. FIDE Arbiters’ Commission Budget for 2013-2014.

This will discussed with the FIDE Treasurer. The previous budget was 35000 €. Chairman indicates that all projects were successfully worked out.

1. Disciplinary regulations for Arbiters.

This is the new project which should be finalized before the FIDE Congress in Tromso (NOR) in August 2014. Chairman proposes a subcommittee composed by Takis Nikolopoulos (GRE), Werner Stubenvoll (AUS), Klaus Deventer (GER), Shaker Alafoo (BAH) and Sevan Muradian (USA) to work on this project and present the regulations until May 2014.

1. Training of the International Arbiters.

IOC requests continuous training of the current International Arbiters. A budget will be asked to the FIDE Treasurer. IA S. Muradian proposes a three-level system (IA, FA and refresher class) based on an online multiple-choice system. In addition workshops should be organized. According to General Secretary IA I. Leong such workshops should first be organized for the current FIDE Lecturers. In such way all lecturers would be able to teach in the same way and the same type of exams would be organized for all new candidates. This would unify the FIDE Seminar course and exam.

Regarding the Lecturers Chairman T. Nikolopoulos mentioned that another project is running by the Commission. A data base, which will include all questions the Lecturers are using in their Seminars, will be produced and published on the Arbiters’ Commission web site. So all Lecturers will be able to use among them the questions they want in their seminars and the examination tests will be unified.

1. Others
2. License for Arbiters.

132 federations have some 5400 licensed arbiters: 3845 national arbiters and 1594 IA/FA arbiters.

1. FIDE Arbiters’ Commission’s website.

All documents of the PB meetings and this FIDE Congress as well as titles, applications, lecturers, and several other items are published on this website.

Everything concerning the Arbiters can be found on the site.

1. Arbiters’ Manual.

The 2013 manual is nearly ready and will be published on the Arbiters’ Commission’s website. Some of the most experienced IAs (De Ridder, Gijssen, Dapiran Nikolopoulos, Stubenvoll and Vardapetyan) from different commissions have worked on this project.

The manual contains interpretations of the Laws of Chess, examples for calculating ratings, examples for calculating norms for the players, examples for pairings, all applications forms and all issues that will help an Arbiter to execute his duties during a tournament in the best way.

An update will be prepared and presented as the 2014 Arbiters’ Manual in Tromso in August 2014. The 2014 Arbiters’ Manual may be printed and distributed to all Federations and Arbiters.

1. Various
2. Bahrain Chess Federation’s proposal

The Arbiters’ Commission is not responsible for appointing the arbiters but this is done by the WCOC or EVE Commissions. General Secretary indicates that the Arbiters’ Commission knows the arbiters and proposes that the Commission should make a strong recommendation to these commissions.

FIDE only communicates with a federation so all payments from an applicant should go through the federation.

1. Austrian Chess Federation’s proposal

A download area is created on the Arbiters’ Commission website.

FIDE Elista office is working on a system where norms will be published automatically.

A classification for arbiters is necessary.

Swiss pairing is included in the FIDE Arbiters’ Seminar. Demonstration of pairings by computers is not necessary.

With respect to the proposal for an addition to the FIDE Rating Regulations, Chairman indicates that this question was answered by FIDE QC. FIDE does not interfere with the different levels of Arbiters in National Federations. But any arbiter of any national level should pay the license fee of 20 € in order to act in any FIDE-rated tournament.

1. IA Igor Vershagin’s proposals

The first proposal is covered by the discussion to train the IAs starting with the Lecturers.

Translations of FIDE Laws of Chess should preferably be made by one federation and afterwards distributed to the other federations speaking the same language. Taking into account the small differences in a language spoken in different countries with the same language, it is proposed that such countries cooperate to have one unique translation for each language.

1. IA Ashot Vardapetyan indicates that FIDE lecturer IA E. Dubov is given opinions on websites which are not in accordance with the FIDE Laws of Chess. In addition he is accusing the chief arbiter of an important FIDE event, especially when this accusation is done in another language. IA A. Vardapetyan questions whether this type of person should still be allowed as Lecturer for FIDE Arbiter Seminars, as he may teach wrongly the participants of his Seminars.

The Commission disagrees with the attack made by IA E. Dubov and confirms that the Chief Arbiter’s decision was correct. Additionally the Commission express its opinion that it should not happen that an Arbiter is accusing a Chief Arbiter of an event on website. He should consult the Arbiters Commission and forward his claim to be checked.

IA Takis Nikolopoulos IA Dirk De Ridder

Chairman Secretary