**FIDE ARBITERS’ COMMISSION COUNCILORS’ MEETING**

**Dubai (United Arab Emirates), 6-8 June 2014**

The Chairman Takis Nikolopoulos (GRE) and all Councilors (Dirk De Ridder (BEL), Werner Stubenvoll (AUT), Mahdi Abdulrahim (UAE) and Klaus Deventer (GER)) were present in the Meeting.

Chairman Takis Nikolopoulos (GRE) opened the Meeting and thanked very much the UAE Chess Federation, the Arab Chess Federation and the Dubai Chess Club for the hosting of the 2014 Arbiters’ Commission Councilors’ Meeting.

Present in the Opening were Mr. Jamal Al-Midfaa, General Secretary of UAE Chess Federation, Mr. Mohamed El-Husaini, Executive Director of Dubai Chess Club and Ass. General Secretary of Arab Chess Federation and IA Khalifa Al-Khouri, Chairman of UAE Arbiters Council, who welcomed the Chairman and the Councilors of the FIDE Arbiters’ Commission and wished a fruitful work during the Meeting and an enjoying stay in Dubai.

1. **IA and FA TAs**

* Recommendations for the GA

The summaries are not prepared yet. Applications will be reviewed by the subcommittee composed by Takis Nikolopoulos, Dirk De Ridder and Werner Stubenvoll.

* Roberto Rica’s case

His IA title application was initially not approved by the Italian Chess federation because one of the norms was signed by the Organizer of the event who however had not the title of IO. According to the regulations of the Italian Chess Federation, in case that an Organizer signs an Arbiters’ Norm, the norm is valid only if the Organizer has the title of IO. Since such a regulation does not exist in FIDE, the National Federation should decide. The councilors unanimously decided to wait the final decision of the Italian Chess Federation.

* Polgar and Truong’s case

S. Polgar and P. Truong have organized many tournaments but their names have not appeared as Arbiters in the TRF files in FIDE, as the USCF have not registered them as Arbiters. A list of tournaments was submitted to the Commission. Only in one of these tournaments S. Polgar was mentioned as an Arbiter in the TRF file.

The chairman of the Commission communicated with USCF, asking for a confirmation that S. Polgar and P. Truong were Arbiters in the tournaments of the submitted list. According the email correspondence with the USCF, S. Polgar and P. Truong’s presence and action as Arbiters in the mentioned tournaments was not possible to be confirmed, nor were certificates asked from the relevant chief arbiters.

Therefore because of the absence of two (2) norms, an application for the FA title cannot be accepted. Article 3.10 is possible to be applied for P. Truong, as he belongs to the Cambodian Chess Federation, which is a Federation that can be included in art. 3.10, but not for S. Polgar, who belongs to the USA Chess Federation, which cannot be included in art. 3.10. S. Polgar has to get two more norms from tournaments in order to submit an FA title application.

1. **FA titles from FIDE Arbiters’ Seminars for approval**

* Results of the different FIDE Arbiters’ Seminars are confirmed and will be submitted for approval in Tromso FIDE Congress.
* It was decided two FIDE Arbiters’ Seminars to be organized, in Tromso, during the 41st Chess Olympiad, and in Durban, during the World Youth Chess Championships 2014.

IA Dirk De Ridder will be the Lecturer in Tromso (3-10 August). The Lecturer in Durban (South-Africa, 22-28 September) still has to be appointed.

1. **Workshops for the training of International Arbiters**

* Five out of seven workshops [Amman (Jordan), Brussels (Belgium), Chicago (USA), Moscow (Russia), Guayaquil (Ecuador)] were organized already. During the next weeks the rest two workshops in Monastir (Tunisia) and New Delhi (India) will be organized.
* Arbiters’ Commission received requests to organize workshops for FA’s also.
* It was decided refreshing courses where the changes in all FIDE Laws of Chess, Rules and Regulations that will be in effect from 1 July 2014 will be mentioned, to be organized on Internet, with free participation for IAs and FAs.
* Klaus Deventer believes that normal workshops real events should still be held in Europe since the discussions are very interesting and important.
* Internet workshops that are less expensive than the normal workshops will be organized for IA’s and FA’s.

1. **Amendments of the Regulations**

* Regulations for the titles of Arbiters:

Austrian Chess Federation proposal

Article 2.1.2 has to be split for IA and FA norms so that norms should be possible for IA’s whereas the tournament should be FIDE-rated for FA’s norms.

In any case the candidate has to be active in a Team Tournament for at least five rounds.

* Regulations for the classification of the Arbiters:

Armenian Chess Federation proposal

AC accepts the proposal, that will be coming into effect from 1 July 2015 (i.e. it will be valid from the 2016 Baku Olympiad)

Article 3.3.4. will change into “In case that 3.3.3 is not fulfilled, they should have acted…”

1. **Update of the List of Lecturers**

* Hamid Majid (MAL) has to attend two (2) FIDE Arbiters’ Seminars as an Assistant Lecturer, in order to be included in the list again.
* Omar Salama (ISL) should follow the regulations and be Assistant Lecturer in at least two (2) FIDE Arbiters’ Seminars; there is no linguistic reason to make an exception.

1. **Classification of the Arbiters**

All requests and applications submitted by the National Federations were discussed and decided and the new lists of Arbiters’ Classification will be approved during the Tromso Olympiad.

1. **2014 Arbiters’ Manual**

Werner Stubenvoll is making the final revisions of the Manual. A number of copies will be prepared and distributed during Tromso Olympiad.

The text of Mario Held regarding Swiss Pairings will be included in the Manual.

1. **2014 Arbiters’ Awards**

According to the proposals of the National Chess federations Stewart Reuben (ENG), Gerry Walsh (ENG), Toti Abundo (PHI), Alyosha Khachatryan (ARM), Jonathan Berry (CAN), Hossein Gholi Saloor (IRI), Almog Burstein (ISR) and Sadok Kadry (TUN) will be proposed to the General Assembly to receive the 2014 Arbiters’ Awards.

1. **FIDE Arbiters’ Commission’s Budget for 2014-2015**

The budget will be discussed and agreed with the FIDE Treasurer in Tromso, before the Congress.

1. **Disciplinary regulations for Arbiters**

A Sub-committee composed by Takis Nikolopoulos, Sevan Muradian, Werner Stubenvoll, Klaus Deventer and Shaker Alafoo prepared the text. It is proposed to create an Arbiters’ Commission Disciplinary Sub-committee to deal with the complaints filed. Members will be appointed every four years. Only complaints against licensed arbiters can be made.

In cases 3.a to3.e of Article 1 a written reprimand should be added. In Article 1 points 5 and 7 are changed according Klaus Deventer’s proposal.

The chairman will make the changes discussed to the text and distribute the new version to all AC members.

1. **Anti-cheating recommendations for Arbiters**

The ACC recommendations were thoroughly discussed. AC proposes several amendments. Guidelines for Arbiters will be produced by the Chairman based on the ACC proposals.

The Anti cheating Regulations will be a subject in all FIDE Arbiters’ Seminars, Workshops and Refreshing Courses.

The issue has been discussed in the different workshops already.

1. **Others**

* Bahrain Chess Federation’s proposal regarding submitting tournament data: only one person per federation should have the possibility to upload reports to the FRS in order to be certain of the responsibility.
* Bahrain Chess Federation’s proposal regarding changing certificates: AC confirms that certificates should be completed and signed by the Chief Arbiter. A first check should be made by the Applicants Federation before applying for a title.
* Binoy Shah’s proposals: AC will continue to organize workshops for all licensed arbiters. Only the appointed arbiters in a competition can act as arbiter and only the chief arbiter has the final decision in this competition.
* Gunther van de Bergh’s proposal: the authority of signing FA and IA norms will be revised for the Baku 2016 Olympiad and this proposal will be taken into consideration.
* David Sedgwick’s proposals: Continental Team and Club Championships are accepted as a norm so it is not necessary to restrict the number of norms. The commission is always taking into consideration any possible postponement of FIDE PB’s and considers the title applications accordingly. Sector arbiters in the Olympiad are added to section (c) of the list to achieve the C classification. Being an arbiter in the Candidates Tournament or Grand Prix is added to section (d). The AC gratefully accepts any proposal regarding Regulations for the appointment of arbiters in the Olympiad.

Takis Nikolopoulos Dirk De Ridder

Chairman Secretary