# FIDE ARBITERS’ COMMISSION MEETING

## Dubai, 7 to 9 August 2015

Minutes

**Present:**

Takis Nikolopoulos: FIDE Arbiters’ Commission Chairman

Mahdi Abdulrahim: FIDE Arbiters’ Commission Councillor

Jesus Mena: FIDE Arbiters’ Commission Councillor

Rathinam Anantharam: FIDE Arbiters’ Commission Councillor

Geoffrey Borg: FIDE CEO, FIDE Central Board of Commissions Chairman

Bharat Singh Chauhan: Chairman of FIDE Technical Commission

Werner Stubenvoll: Chairman of FIDE Qualification Commission, FIDE Arbiters’ Commission Member

Efstratios Grivas, FIDE Trainers’ Commission Secretary

Casto Abundo: FIDE Constitutional’s Commission Secretary

Sultan Al Taher: UAE Chess Federation Arbiters’ Commission Chairman, FIDE Arbiters’ Commission Member

Ahmed Khalifa Al Thani: General Secretary of Arab Chess Federation and Deputy Chairman of Dubai Chess and Culture Club

Mohamed El Husseiny: Executive Director of Dubai Chess and Culture Club

Absent due to health problems:

Aris Marghetis: FIDE Arbiters’ Commission Secretary

**Opening**

Ahmed Khalifa Al Thani, General Secretary of the Arab Chess Federation and Deputy Chairman of Dubai Chess and Culture Club, welcomed the participants of the FIDE Arbiters’ Commission Councillors’ Meeting to Dubai and wished a fruitful meeting.

Geoffrey Borg, FIDE CEO and FIDE Central Board of Commissions Chairman, thanked Arab Chess Federation for hosting this meeting and for the co-operation with FIDE for many years. 1986 the Chess Olympiad took place in Dubai.

Mr. Mohamed El Husseiny, Executive Director of the Dubai Chess and Culture Club, expressed his happiness to host the meeting of FIDE Arbiters’ Commission in the building of Dubai Chess and Culture Club.

Chairman Takis Nikolopoulos thanked the representatives of the Arab Chess Federation and the Dubai Chess and Culture Club for the hosting the Meeting for the second year in a row and expressed his confidence for a successful meeting.

**1. IA and FA Title Applications**

Chairman Takis Nikolopoulos informed about the procedure to handle the applications. A sub-committee of three persons, consisting of Takis Nikolopoulos, Mahdi Abdulrahim and Werner Stubenvoll, will check the applications and forward its report to the Commission, in Abu Dhabi Arbiters’ Commission Meeting, which will give the final recommendations for the Abu Dhabi FIDE Executive Board.

A question had been submitted by several Arbiters if it is possible that a FIDE Arbiter is eligible to sign a norm for an International Arbiter. The commission after some discussion agreed that such a norm is valid, as in IA1 form there is also a confirmation by a federation’s official for the norm.

In the already submitted IA and FA title applications there was a problem with the IA title application of FA Steve Immitt from USA. According to the Regulations for the titles of Arbiters (article 4.11), the necessary IA norms have to be signed by two different Chief Arbiters. FA Steve Immitt was himself the Chief Arbiter in all four events. Then, according to the regulations, three norms were signed by a USCF Official (IA Franc Guadelupe) and one by a Bahamas Official (FA Andre White, President of the federation), because the tournament – norm was organized in Bahamas.

Werner Stubenvoll pointed out that the 4 norms are acceptable, since the recommending official persons are also IA or FA. The Commission agreed.

**2. FA titles from FIDE Arbiters’ Seminars**

According to art. 3.10 of Regulations for the titles of Arbiters, applicants from federations which are unable to organize any tournaments valid for titles or rating, may be awarded the title on passing an examination set by the Arbiters’ Commission.

Arbiters’ Commission will make recommendations to the FIDE Executive Board to award the direct title to such applicants.

**3. Amendments of the Regulations**

**3.a. Regulations for the titles of Arbiters.**

According to the Regulations the current age limit for awarding the titles of FIDE and International Arbiter is 21 years, while the age limit for the License to be given to an Arbiter of National Level has been agreed to 17 years.

The Wales Chess Union proposes to lower the minimum age for a FA title to 18 years and for an Arbiter of a National Level license to 16 years.

Mahdi Abdulrahim and Werner Stubenvoll disagreed with the proposal. The commission believes that the current age limits are acceptable, as they secure the necessary experience required by an Arbiter to conduct a tournament. It was also discussed that the legal age that is valid in different Countries should be taken into consideration. The proposal will be discussed in Abu Dhabi Congress.

For the registration of a tournament on FRS it is important to have the FIDE ID of an arbiter. This has to be checked by Elista office. The program should not accept only names of arbiters. Werner Stubenvoll will clarify it with Elista.

**3.b. Regulations for the classification of the Arbiters**

No proposal had been submitted for discussion

**3.c. Regulations for the training of the Chess Arbiters**

Sevan Muradian proposed to establish a seminar on internet to train the Arbiters of National Level and an exam. He will send the proposal to the meeting in Abu Dhabi to be discussed. If necessary, a sub-committee will be created to prepare a proposal for the Congress 2016 in Baku.

Werner Stubenvoll pointed out that FIDE cannot interfere in the activities of federations to train their Arbiters of National level. Arbiters’ Commission may only offer some help for this.

**3.d. Anti cheating guidelines for Arbiters**

Klaus Deventer is representing the Arbiters’ Commission in Anti Cheating Commission. He informed by letter about the Anti cheating Commission Meeting in Italy. According to the Anti-Cheating Guidelines, "players, organizers,
arbiters, national federations and other interested parties are all required to cooperate with Anti Cheating Commission".

He proposes to make an amendment of the Disciplinary Regulations for Arbiters, including a penalty for an Arbiter who is not cooperating with ACC, Ethics or Qualification Commissions. His proposal is to add under Art. 1.3 k.:

"Failing to cooperate with the Arbiters’ Commission, the Anti Cheating Commission, the Ethics Commission or the Qualification Commission or the institutions of these commissions, after an official request was made."

Geoffrey Borg told that after an official request was made to a federation we don’t know if the arbiter was informed. Only then it is possible to penalize him.

The proposed wording of art. 1.3. k was extended with the addition : “… and there is a concrete proof that the arbiter was informed in time.”

Efstratios Grivas asked to clarify if trainers should be allowed to enter the playing area of a FIDE event. It is a difference which event takes place. In some tournaments captains (who are also trainers) are allowed to stay in the playing area. In a youth tournament the organizer has to be much more careful, regarding to who will be allowed to enter the playing area.

Takis Nikolopoulos proposed the three Commissions: Events, Trainers and Arbiters, to discuss the issue in Abu Dhabi.

**4. Update of the List of Lecturers**

On proposal of their respective federations the following IAs should be included in the list of lecturers:

IA Akhmetov, Artiom, RUS

IA Bunawan, Bong, INA.

IA Freyd, Laurent, FRA

IA Majid, Hamid, MAS

IA Messaoudi, Bechir, TUN

IA Poliarco, Gene, PHI

IA Ribeiro, Pablyto, BRA.

IA Mohamed El Husseiny (UAE)

All of them had been active as Assistant Lecturers in 2 to 5 seminars.

**5. Classification of the Arbiters**

The lists of arbiters per categories will be prepared by Werner Stubenvoll for approval in the Congress of Abu Dhabi. Additionally Werner Stubenvoll will present a list of accepted and refused upgrades.

Chairman Takis Nikolopoulos informed about the number of licensed arbiters, titled and of National Level.

Geoffrey Borg pointed out that some arbiters, classified A or B, are not active. It is necessary to have a statistic on this. Werner Stubenvoll will arrange it with Elista office.

 **6. Arbiters’ Magazine**

The first issue of the magazine was presented by the Chairman and was distributed to the participants of the Meeting. There should be at least two issues per year in the future. On the Arbiters’ Commission website the magazine will be published and will be available for downloading.

**7. FIDE Arbiters’ Commission’s Budget for 2015-2016**

Chairman Takis Nikolopoulos informed about the current budget in connection with the running projects of the Commission.

The budget for the next year will be discussed and finalized in Abu Dhabi with the FIDE Treasurer.

At the moment all Seminars, Workshops and Refreshing Courses that are organized on Internet by the Commission are without any fee for the participants. Geoffrey Borg proposed to introduce a fee for participation in Internet seminars organized by the Commission up to 60 Euro.

**8. Report of the Disciplinary Subcommittee**

Chairman Takis Nikolopoulos informed the Commission that two arbiters from Mongolia had been penalized to be out of the list of arbiters for two years, until end of 2016.

The Arbiters’ Commission Disciplinary Subcommittee dealt with another case with two Indian Arbiters who were Arbiters in the World Youth Chess Championships 2014 in Durban.

**9. 2014 Arbiters’ Manual**

The next edition of the manual will be produced in 2016 and will be distributed in the FIDE Congress of Baku. Chairman asked Rathinam Anantharam to coordinate the preparations.

In Chengdu a new wording of FIDE Tournament Rules was approved and there are some more small changes to be included in the new Manual.

**10. Others**

David O’ Connell proposed to allow the long form notation for chess games.

The commission agreed with his proposal that the long form of notation should be accepted.

David Sedgwick’s proposals were discussed.

GM Oleg Korneev sent a claim against the decision of the arbiters to add time to his opponent because of throwing pieces out of the chessboard during a time pressure in his game against C. Noe, in Neckar-Open Tournament in Germany. The case was discussed by the Commission and finally was accepted that the arbiter may apply a penalty for this case, but the Commission cannot dictate the level of the penalty imposed. Therefore the result of the game stands.

An incident that happened during the British U-8 Championship 2014 was discussed by the Commission. The whole case was already dismissed by FIDE Ethics Commission, as the father of the boy who was involved had sent a complaint to the FIDE Ethics Commission.

The Arbiters’ Commission after discussion agreed that according to the FIDE Laws of Chess the decision of the arbiters and the Chief Arbiter had been correct. As there was no intention by the English Chess Federation to send the event to FIDE for rating, they could to follow only internal regulations that may be not known and cannot be commented by the Arbiters’ Commission. According to the rules of the specific event, the Tournament Manager had the right to overrule any decision of an arbiter or the appeals committee.

The Irish Chess Union refused to sign a FA norm for Peter Morriss issued by IA Ted Jennings. Mr. Morris was in a 9-round tournament absent in the rounds 5 to 8.

The Commission discussed the case and it was decided that since Mr. Morriss was present only for the five out of the nine rounds of the event, his FA norm cannot be accepted.

IA Igor Vereschagin has sent a couple of proposals to FIDE Commissions. His proposal for organizing refreshing courses for lecturers was discussed. It was accepted that such a course can be organized on Internet, in order to minimize the cost for the participants.

Werner Stubenvoll proposed to invite all lecturers to participate in a refreshing course for Lecturers on Internet every four years.

The Commission also agreed for a proposal regarding the requirement of the Lecturer’s Category to be at least C’ to be submitted in the Abu Dhabi Arbiters’ Meeting for discussion.

 The Chairman The acting Secretary

 IA Takis Nikolopoulos IA Werner Stubenvoll

Dubai, 9 August 2015