**Proposals for Batumi 2018 (Arbiters’ Commission)**

In the chess press reports of the 2018 World Rapid & Blitz Championship, unfortunately there were a number of reports about the standard of the arbiters.

However, it is possible for arbiters to get to International Arbiter, Category A, without ever having done a Rapid or Blitz tournament. At the moment, Rapid or Blitz is only an optional norm as part of the FIDE Arbiter title qualification. As a result, you may have Category D FIDE Arbiters with more experience of Rapid & Blitz than Category A International Arbiters.

I have no idea whether or not inexperience was the problem in Riyadh, however, I think that by making this requirement mandatory in the training process, arbiters may be better prepared for Rapid & Blitz events in future, and it may help in a small way. The following proposals offer a series of ways of achieving that, and the Commission might reasonably decide that some of these ideas are better than others, or indeed that this is unnecessary. I am happy to leave that judgement to the Commission.

**Proposed Changes**

Training Regulations

3.5 Experience as Arbiter in at least four (4) FIDE rated events (these can be either national or international), of which exactly one must be a Rapid or Blitz event, and attendance of at least one (1) FIDE Arbiters’ Seminar and successful passing (at least 80%) an examination test set up by the Arbiters Commission.

*Note: The rules for Rapid & Blitz events are already defined in 3.8.*

4.6 Experience as Arbiter in at least four (4) FIDE rated events such as the following, of which exactly one must be a Rapid or Blitz event:

a) The final of the National Individual (adult) Championship (maximum two norms).

b) All official FIDE tournaments and matches.

c) International tournaments where FIDE title norms for players are possible.

d) International FIDE rated chess events with at least 100 players, at least 30% FIDE rated players, and at least seven rounds (maximum one norm).

e) All official World, Continental and National Rapid and Blitz Championships for adult and juniors ~~(maximum one (1) norm)~~.

f) International FIDE Rapid rated events with at least 100 players and at least nine rounds.

g) International FIDE Blitz rated events with at least 100 players and at least fifteen rounds.

Classification Regulations

3.3.4 They have acted as Chief Arbiter or Deputy Chief Arbiter in at least five (5) of the events mentioned in 3.4.3 (with at least two different types of tournaments, at least three (3) of them have to be International tournaments with a minimum of five (5) titled players participating) in the period of the last five (5) years, and exactly one (1) of them must be a Rapid or Blitz tournament.

3.4.3 b. as Chief Arbiter or Deputy Chief Arbiter in Team Tournaments or Swiss System Tournaments with more than 150 participants (maximum one (1) tournament if the tournament is Rapid or Blitz).

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