

Subject: Rules Commission activities December 2022 – March 2023, February  
**Report to the FIDE Council**

**Summary:**

- 1) Setting up, organization and structure of the Commission.**
- 2) Communication, social media, website.**
- 3) Projects.**
- 4) Activity.**
- 5) Cooperation.**

- 1) The Commission has been set up in two organizational meetings that have been run in the beginning of the year: the Commission established two sub-committees (Laws and Penalties, General Regulations for Competitions) and seven working groups (Columns, Q&A, Commentary, social media, Translations, Videos, Website).

The Laws and penalties sub-committee will work on the Laws of Chess with two primary purposes: (a) to review all changing proposals presented to the Commission and (b) to create guidelines to adopt common penalties in similar situations. Aris Marghetis (CAN) chairs this sub-committee.

The General Regulations for Competitions sub-committee aims to do a comprehensive job on Handbook chapter C.05, which requires revision after many years. Stéphane Escafre (FRA) personally chairs this sub-committee.

Both the sub-committees' activities are coordinated and followed day by day by the Secretary to ensure they are aligned with the Commission's general purposes.

The seven working groups are in charge to work on specific projects (writing articles and columns to be published on the website, to make a broad work on commenting the Laws of Chess, to publish content on the Instagram profile of the Rules Commission, to translate the Laws of Chess into the FIDE Congress Languages).

- 2) The Rules Commission website had been entirely re-designed in a more user-friendly way, many more resources had been added. Minutes and reports are published regularly, together with any other content created by the Commission and Laws of Chess translation.

The website is the main communication channel of the Commission however, there is also an Instagram account inherited from the previous term. Only lately the Commission got control of it, after a lot of technical problems in transferring the credentials (mainly due to security protocols which prevented for a long the transfer of it from Iran to Italy).

- 3) The Rule Commission started several projects that almost coincide with the relevant working groups:
- Columns and Q&A – the working groups will create contents to be published on monthly basis concerning interesting news and clarifications on the Laws of Chess;
  - Translations – the working group translated the Laws of Chess into the FIDE Congress Languages. So far, only the Arabic translation has yet to come;
  - Commentary – the working group will create a commentary of the Laws of Chess to cooperate with the Arbiters' Commission in the implementation on the Arbiters' Manual;
  - Social media and videos – the working groups will create some videos and social media content to describe some situations for the general public.
- 4) So far the Rules Commission run two meetings where all projects were set up and launched. In the next meeting it will start examining particular proposals to change the Laws of Chess.
- The first two meetings have been mostly preparatory to have an efficient and consistent action.
- One urgent topic, meaning the administrative review of the Laws of Chess, was launched and concluded within three weeks from the Commission was established to publish the clean version of the Laws of Chess. This topic has been concluded in cooperation with Mrs Stojavljević, Mr Holowczak and Mr Martynov.
- 5) The Commission already started a cooperation with various departments:
- With the Arbiters' Commission – to have a permanent consultation on the Laws of Chess to clarify better some points or intervene where there is an unclear rule (on such topic there was also a cross-commissions meeting);
  - With the Effectiveness Officer Sonja Johnson and IT department – to create the "Info-centre", that is a new section on the website enabling the user to make broad research into the contents of the Laws of Chess and other materials by keywords. This project is already completed and is the core of the future commentary;
  - With Mr Holowczak – to renew entirely C.05 avoiding current overlapping with other regulations.

Venice, dated today March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

*IA Stéphane Escafre, Chairman*  
*IA Marco Biagioli, Secretary*

