



Recommendations for approval by
the 1st FIDE COUNCIL 2025
(March 21st, 2025)

The present report presents the ARB Commission's activity, the list of FIDE Arbiters' Training Seminars, norms achieved and title and accreditation recommendations for approval by the FIDE Council.

The period covered is between November 1st, 2024 and March 12th, 2025. It was prepared in collaboration with Nebojsa BARALIC, Secretary of the Commission.

Note: other activities of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission are regularly reported on <https://arbiters.fide.com>

1) ARB ACTIVITIES IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN TWO FIDE COUNCIL MEETINGS

During the period between November 1st, 2024 and March 12th, 2025 in FIDE Arbiters Commission (ARB) we worked on the following topics:

- A) Meetings of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission (Councillors and whole commission)
- B) Appointment of arbiters for World events
- C) Regular meetings of arbiters on different topics - format
- D) Change in Educational system – both IA and FA seminars
- E) Proposal for the change in FIDE regulation for the Titles of Arbiters and for the Category of Arbiters
- F) Cooperation with the Fair Play Commission
- G) Arbiters' Manual 2025

A) Meetings of FIDE Arbiters' Commission

During this period FIDE ARB organised 2 meetings – one with ARB Councillors (December 3rd) and another on December 18th with all ARB members. During both meetings we discussed all topics mentioned below. Also, the Chairman and Secretary informed all members about activities and statistics of ARB in 2024.

B) Appointment of arbiters for World Events

Thanks to the experience we have with the process of appointment of arbiters for World Events we feel it is important to put more detailed regulations to this process. As with Stipend Regulations for arbiters or with the limit of Women arbiters (min. 25 %), we feel it is important to make a more detailed procedure of the process for the appointment of arbiters.

We face situations when organiser inform us, that he/she was the only organiser for that event and tries to reduce the costs of arbiters, so presents the list of arbiters including only arbiters from the host country, plus 1-2 places for others, or in a better case including arbiters from the same continent, but not willing to accept many from other continents.

In the current version of the B.06.4. Regulation it states that:

DIS and EVE are expected to consult ARB, and the local tournament organiser if there is one, before making the nomination.

It would help to put a clear limit for organiser, EVE and ARB about the number of arbiters nominated (%) Of course, each nomination should meet other criteria (Category of arbiter and appropriate panel, unless a request for an exception is granted by the FIDE President).

It would help to put recommendations on the number of arbiters from other continents, (such as, ... at least ...% must come from other continents.)

On January 10th we organised a meeting with EVE commission (represented by Chair Mr. Akaki Iasvili and Honorary Chair Mr. Ozgur Solakoglu). ARB was represented by Chairman, Secretary and Councillor and the leader of the ARB Tournament Team Mr. Mahdi Abdulrahim. Together we discussed the best way of communication with organisers, sharing of roles, how to prepare the list of arbiters for World events. A significant part was dealing with representation of all Continents in the arbiters' team, as was trying to arrange an appropriate proportion of local arbiters and foreign arbiters. The role of ARB should continue to check all nominated arbiters meeting the required criteria (Category and Panels) but also to propose arbiters together with EVE. All organisers should be informed, that they can propose arbiters but the final decision rests with the FIDE President. Also it is not possible to propose almost all arbiters from the host country and not let arbiters from other continents participate, the argument of higher costs is no excuse for such an act.

C) Regular meetings of arbiters on different topics - format

In ARB we feel that it would be useful to share our experiences from chess events and to propose solutions on different situations an arbiter has to face. An idea is to have regular meetings including members of ARB plus arbiters from highest panels. For each meeting (taking place every 2 month on online basis) 2 arbiters will be selected to lead the meeting and prepare a short report to be published. This vision was shared with all members of ARB, so they can present their comments and proposals. Already we have a proposal to organize every year one meeting in presence, but this idea faces increased costs, even though there are many advantages (meeting together, the meeting can last longer).

D) Change in Education system

IA Seminars were launched a year ago, so we could evaluate the current format. Thanks to input from all lecturers involved in IA seminars we decided to make changes in the format. Until now we had IA seminars planned for 2 days each of 8 hours. Most lecturers preferred to change it to 4 days and each day 4 hours, allowing some preparation time between 2-3 working days (the idea is to organize them for 2 weekends). Also participants can be better focused on all topics, having just 4 working hours each day.

Other proposals were dealing with FA seminars, to change the topics as some can be studied in IA seminars. However, as a FIDE arbiter can act as a chief arbiter for tournaments where players can obtain titles, most lecturers preferred to keep the scope of FA seminars as it is.

E) Proposal of changes in FIDE Regulations for Arbiters

During the reviewing process of the applications for titles and categories, the ARB came to the conclusion that some parts of the Regulations should be changed, and some should be written more precisely. The ARB organized several meetings on this topic where each proposal was discussed.

The leader of the ARB Titles Team Mr. Jens Walter will prepare proposals for a new version of the following Regulations with his team members:

- B.06.1 FIDE Regulations for the Titles of Arbiters
- B06.3 FIDE Regulations for the Clasification of Arbiters

F) Cooperation with Fair-Play Commission

In the past period, two online meetings between ARB and FPL were held, with the topic of better understanding and improving work during tournaments.

Receiving feedback from FIDE, organisers, arbiters, and Fair Play teams it became crucial to have good cooperation among the two commissions, and also the teams of arbiters and fair play team on each World event. The most important part is not to speak about 2 separate teams but to treat it as a one team acting in the best interest of chess events. Partial goals are to work on nominations and arbiters and Fair play team to present it together for approval to FIDE President and also to improve the educational system, so that some Lecturers from Arbiters Commission will teach topic – Laws of chess for Fair play lecturers and vice-versa Fair Play lecturers will teach the Fair Play topic for arbiter lecturers. This better understanding of the other commission tasks can help us improve our work.

G) Arbiters' Manual 2025

As new regulations are effective from July 1st, not covered by the last edition (ARB Manual 2024), the team under the leadership of Mr. Anantharam Rathinam prepares the new edition of the ARB Manual 2025. It will be published on the ARB website soon.

2) GOALS WHICH WERE BE ACHIEVED IN THE FOLLOWING PERIOD

During the next period, in FIDE Arbiters Commission (ARB) we will work on the following topics:

- A) Continue with IA and FA seminars, so every FA arbiter gets an opportunity to join an IA seminar this year. We want to offer similar opportunities to NA arbiters who wish to join the FA seminar.
- B) Review the list of lecturers, include new lecturers, and delete those inactive. A first meeting was held with leader of EDU Team Mr. Alex McFarlane so those lecturers who were not active in the last four years as lecturers (even as assistant lecturers) will be considered as inactive, but with the chance to become lecturers again.
- C) Organise on-line sessions for arbiters about different topics, support the idea of having these sessions announced where the speaker will present the topic and other participants can contribute with their ideas.
- D) Prepare Proposal of changes in FIDE Regulations for Arbiters.

3) FIDE ARBITERS SEMINARS

In the period from November 1st, 2024 and March 12th, 2025 twenty-two (22) FIDE ARBITERS' SEMINARS were organized in the following places and dates, under the auspices of FIDE.

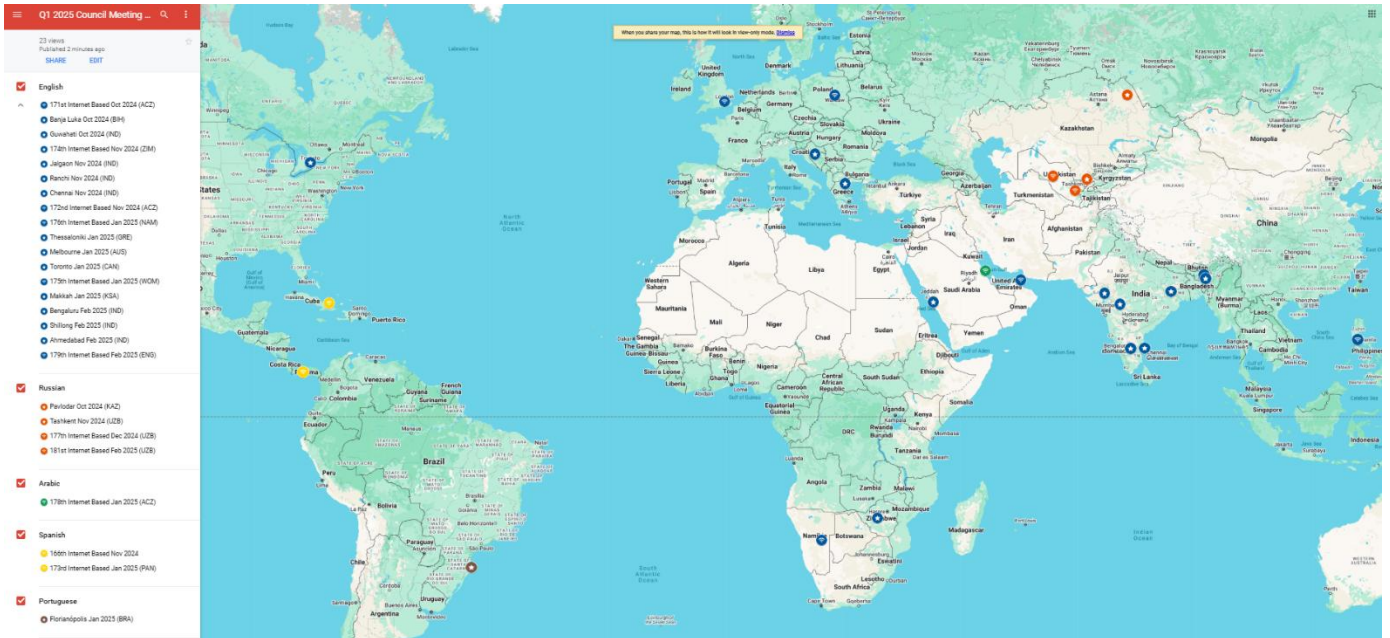
For all of them plus four (4) seminars from previous period:

1. Banja Luka, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, 8 – 13 October 2024
2. Pavlodar, KAZAKHSTAN, 17 – 20 October 2024
3. 171st Internet Based Seminar, ASIAN CHESS FEDERATION, 25 – 27 October 2024
4. Guwahati, INDIA, 25 – 27 October 2024

report and results have been published on the FIDE website:

1. **174th Internet Based Seminar, ZIMBABWE, 5 – 9 November 2024**
9 participants from 2 Federations,
2. **Jalgaon, INDIA, 8 – 10 November 2024**
22 participants from 1 Federation,
3. **Ranchi, INDIA, 15 – 17 November 2024**
22 participants from 1 Federation,
4. **166th Internet Based Seminar, Confederation of Chess for Americas – CCA, 22 – 24 November 2024**
20 participants from 13 Federations,
5. **Chennai, INDIA, 22 – 24 November 2024**
22 participants from 1 Federation,
6. **172nd Internet Based Seminar, ASIAN CHESS FEDERATION, 22 – 24 November 2024**
20 participants from 9 Federations,
7. **Tashkent, UZBEKISTAN, 25 – 27 November 2024**
17 participants from 4 Federations,
8. **177th Internet Based Seminar, UZBEKISTAN, 27 – 29 December 2024**
20 participants from 2 Federations,
9. **176th Internet Based Seminar, NAMIBIA, 3 – 5 January 2024**
20 participants from 13 Federations,
10. **Tessaloniki, GREECE, 4 – 8 January 2025**
9 participants from 1 Federation,
11. **Melbourne, AUSTRALIA, 6 – 10 January 2025**
10 participants from 1 Federation,
12. **Toronto, CANADA, 10 – 12 January 2025**
6 participants from 1 Federation,
13. **175th Internet Based Seminar, WOM, 3 – 5 January 2024**
22 participants from 19 Federations,
14. **Mekkah, SAUDI ARABIA, 14 – 18 January 2025**
7 participants from 1 Federation,
15. **Florianopolis, BRAZIL, 20 – 24 January 2025**
8 participants from 1 Federation,
16. **178th Internet Based Seminar, ASIAN CHESS FEDERATION, 29 January – 2 February 2025**
19 participants from 6 Federations,
17. **173rd Internet Based Seminar, PANAMA, 31 January – 2 February 2025**
20 participants from 8 Federations,
18. **Benaluru, INDIA, 7 – 9 February 2025**
22 participants from 1 Federation,
19. **Shillong, INDIA, 14 – 16 February 2025**
16 participants from 1 Federation,
20. **181st Internet Based Seminar, UZBEKISTAN, 14 – 16 February 2025**

- 20 participants from 1 Federation,
21. Ahmedabad, INDIA, 21 – 23 February 2025
 20 participants from 1 Federation,
22. 179th Internet Based Seminar, ENGLAND, 28 February – 2 March 2025
 20 participants from 13 Federations.



Map 1 – Seminars reported for the 1st FIDE Council 2025

A few statistics (based on received reports to date):

- 443 arbiters from 73 Federations took part in 26 seminars.
- 437 arbiters took part in the exam.
- 215 arbiters passed the exam and achieved FA Norm (*see Appendix A for the full list*).

4) INTERNATIONAL ARBITER CERTIFICATION SEMINARS

In the period from November 1st, 2024 and March 12th, 2025 three (3) INTERNATIONAL ARBITER CERTIFICATION SEMINARS were organized by the ARB Commission in the following places and dates, under the auspices of FIDE. Report and results have been published on the ARB website:

- 1. 9th IA Certification Seminar, ARB, 16 – 17 November 2024**
18 participants from 14 Federations,
- 2. 10th IA Certification Seminar, ARB, 23 – 24 November 2024**
23 participants from 17 Federations,
- 3. 11th IA Certification Seminar, ARB, 14 – 15 December 2024**
23 participants from 17 Federations,

A few statistics (based on received reports to date):

- 78 arbiters from 34 Federations took part in 3 seminars.
- 78 arbiters took part in the exam.
- 66 arbiters passed the exam and achieved IA Norm (*see Appendix B for the full list*).

5) APPLICATIONS TO BE VALIDATED BY THE COUNCIL

Incomplete applications at the time of reporting were skipped for now and postponed to the next report for recommendations to the FIDE Council.

That means that only *Approved* and *Rejected* applications will be listed as recommendations below.

a) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IA AND FA TITLE APPLICATIONS

For the 1st FIDE Council 2025, the Arbiters' Commission received 266 applications for Arbiters Titles. 51 IA, and 215 FA title applications were submitted for consideration by the Commission. 224 applications are approved, 36 rejected, and 6 postponed to the next Council.

Note 1: One application from the 4th FIDE Council 2024 was rejected by missing complete information about the license of arbiter. Federation sent clarifications and the recommendation is to approve FA title retroactively:

- Hunder, Umut Baran (23000058, TUR), proposed award date – 23rd December 2024.

Appendix C contains the recommendations of the Arbiters' Commission for the IA and FA title applications that have been submitted for approval by the 1st FIDE Council 2025.

b) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ARBITERS' CLASSIFICATION UPGRADES

For the 1st FIDE Council 2025, the Arbiters' Commission received 32 applications for Arbiters' classification upgrades:

- 1 category A
- 6 category B
- 25 category C

24 applications are approved, and 8 rejected.

Appendix D contains the recommendations of the Arbiters' Commission for the upgrades of the Arbiters' classification that have been submitted for approval by the 1st FIDE Council 2025.

IA IVAN SYROVY
CHAIRMAN
FIDE ARBITERS' COMMISSION