

## **Report of QC Chair to FIDE Council April 2024**

### **Summary**

1. Cross commissions collaboration – The role of the Rating Officer
2. Fischer Random
3. Actions to protect the rating system
4. Schiller and Scheveningen
5. Letter to the Rating Officers
6. Recommended steps for Federations before deciding not to submit an event
7. Tournament investigation form to submit complaints (TIF)
8. Title Applications

#### **1. Cross Commissions collaboration – The role of the Rating Officer**

PDC introduced capacity building series addressed to federation leaders, so that they better understand some concepts and practices in general.

It is a series of online webinars on Capacity Building to help them to learn, refresh, and share their experience in the various fields of federation management.

QC participated on February 21<sup>st</sup> in the module about the Role of Rating Officer. It was prepared/delivered by me.

#### **2. Fischer Random**

A working group will study and prepare a proposal for the development of Fischer Random Chess and the establishment of its rating in collaboration with the Qualification Commission.

The working group members are Viswanathan Anand, Lukasz Turlej, Jeroen Van den Bergh, Joran Aulin-Jansson, and Sabrina de San Vicente.

### **3. Actions to protect the rating system**

Under the management of FIDE, the FIDE Rating System (FRS) processes results from competitive chess events, played according to FIDE rules and tournament regulations, so as to provide a statistically meaningful measure of a player's chess ability, as measured against the abilities of their contemporary chess players.

During the last months, it has called our attention to tournaments which were attempting to compromise the integrity of the rating system. In some cases results were misreported to assist certain players, while in other cases, the tournament itself was organised with the intention of manipulating the ratings of the players. In several occasions, we decided to unrate them.

These are some of the measures that we are implementing in order to protect the rating system:

- Hybrid tournaments require the approval of all federations in which a playing venue is located (5/2023)
- Schiller and Scheveningen restrictions (see 4)
- Letter to Rating officers requesting to inform on any potential pre-arranged tournaments (see 5)
- Recommended steps for Federations before deciding not submitting an event (see 6)
- Tournament investigation form to submit complaints (see 7)
- Not rating dubious tournaments

### **4. Schiller and Scheveningen**

From the 1st March 2024, Schiller Format Events and Scheveningen Format Events\* will no longer be valid for the awarding of FIDE Title Norms ([FIDE Handbook B.01.1.4.2e](#)).

The FIDE Qualification Commission has taken this decision as it regards FIDE Titles as being earned as a result of competitive play, where all players in an event are playing under the same conditions and are aiming to achieve the best possible outcomes. Schiller and Scheveningen format events do not meet this criteria for all players involved in such tournaments.

Valid formats to be used in title tournaments are:

- Swiss System
- Round Robin
- Double Round Robin
- Knockout

From the 1st March 2024 games by unrated players in Schiller Format Events and Scheveningen Format Events\* will no longer be valid for inclusion in the FIDE Rating List. Games between rated players will still be included.

**\*Federations can apply for approval for Scheveningen and Schiller Format Events if they are National or International events which are organised directly by a Federation or organised directly between FIDE Federations (i.e. International matches, or National Teams Championships).**

## 5. Letter to the Rating Officers

A letter was submitted to Federation Ratings Officers reminding them about their responsibility to coordinate and expedite qualification and rating matters, as well as to inform on any potential pre-arranged tournaments:

“The FIDE Qualification Commission would like to thank you for all the work you have done in helping us operate the FIDE Rating System. We recognise that for most of you, this is an unpaid position and we appreciate that you have given up your own time to serve in this role.

The FIDE Qualification Commission regards the FIDE Rating System as one of the most important services that FIDE provides to the worldwide chess playing community. As part of this service FIDE QC believes it is very important that the integrity of the system be maintained, and to do that, we will sometimes call upon your help. We recently have had issues with the submission of events that do not necessarily meet the required standard expected of tournaments that are FIDE rated. In some cases results have been misreported to assist certain players, while in other cases, the tournament itself has been organised with the intention of manipulating the ratings of players.

While we do not expect you to detect all cases yourself, Article 9.1 of the Ratings Regulations (*"9.1 ...Once satisfied that the tournament was conducted in accordance with all relevant FIDE Regulations, the Rating Officer shall be responsible for uploading the TRF file to the FIDE Rating Server."*) does give you the authority to reject events you may regard as suspicious.

When FIDE QC detects such events from your federation, we will call on you to help us gather information concerning these events. In most cases it will be a simple request for a game file from the Chief Arbiter/Organiser and further details of the tournament organisation, but for more serious cases, we may require other information.

The other request we have is in the area of data accuracy. When new players are added to the FIDE Rating System, it is important to add a correct birthdate, and gender. Feel free to return incomplete tournament submissions to organisers if they

are missing this important data, rather than submit them with default values. Fixing incorrect data is often harder than getting it right the first time!

Once again, FIDE QC thanks you for all your hard work, and will provide any assistance you need to carry out your duties.”

## **6. Recommended steps for Federations before deciding not to submit an event**

FIDE QC strongly recommends that the Federations should not submit events that they believe are organised contrary to the principles of having a fair and accurate rating system.

Before deciding if the event should be submitted or not, they should:

- Request PGN file and the scoresheets of the games to the organiser. This will show any quick draws, misreported results, or games that end in sudden or difficult to explain blunders.
- Check the playing history of the new players. Have they played non FIDE rated games within the National rating system, and if so, do their results match their performance in the tournament.
- Compare with player’s rapid and blitz rating.
- Check the tournament history of the organiser/club. Is this the normal format of their events, or is this something they have just organised for a specific purpose.
- Inform the organisers that they are investigating the structure and outcome of the event, and delay the submission of the event until they have reached a conclusion.

## **7. Tournament investigation form to submit complaints (TIF)**

We are working on a tournament investigation form to receive complaints. We are attaching a draft of the guidelines.

The document will be shared with the relevant commissions to receive feedback.

Examples of the kind of tournaments that may not be rated where there is a reasonable belief that the sole purpose of the event is to manipulate the ratings of the players involved:

- Tournaments organized to raise the ratings of certain players (in general Scheveningen composed of a team of young players against a team of adults)
- Tournaments organized for a player who needs a few rating points to reach the necessary rating for requesting a title (in general Round Robin)
- Tournaments organized for unrated players who participate in closed events to get a high initial rating (Round Robin or Scheveningen format where they perform very well)

- Matches between players with big rating difference (they make no sense unless their objective is to break a tie)
- Tournaments including high number of quick draws against the norm candidates
- Other kind of tournaments whose objective is to manipulate the rating system

## **8. Title Applications**

We are submitting our recommendations on title applications after 1<sup>st</sup> of April in order to consider several Title Applications that include norms achieved this month and were not rated yet.

3.2024

Sabrina de San Vicente

QC Chair