



Recommendations for approval by
the 3rd FIDE COUNCIL 2025
(online, October 28th, 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 July 8th, 2025 and October 15th, 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 July 8th, 2025 and October 15th, 2025 in FIDE Arbiters Commission (ARB) we worked on the following topics:

- A) ARB Councillors Meetin in Fujairah (UAE)
- B) Proposal to Amend Regulation B.06.1 – FIDE Regulations for the Titles of Arbiters
- C) Proposal to include %age of nominations done by ARB, organiser and appropriate FIDE Commission (GSC or EVE)
- D) Integrity exam
- E) Arbiters Manual

A) ARB Councillors Meetin in Fujairah (UAE)

Fujairah Chess and Cultural Club invited Councillors of FIDE ARB to hold the in person meeting from August 29th (arrival day) until September 1st (departure day).

The Agenda of the meeting was:

- Opening, introduction
- Information about FIDE ARB in 2025 (statistics and others)
- Cooperation with the Fair Play Commission, (latest update about current situation, education)
- Evaluation of arbiters - (improvement, how to avoid mistakes), preparation of panels for 2026 -2027
- Appointment of arbiters for World events (problems we face and solutions) Cooperation with organisers and involved Commissions especially GSC and EVE
- Education (Regular meetings with arbiters, Refresher courses)

- Changes in Regulations - Arbiters Stipend Regulations (request to increase the Stipend, B.06.1 and B.06.3)
- Info about Disciplinary cases this year
- Arbiters Manual 2026
- Miscellaneous

The Commission remains committed to continuous improvement in transparency, fairness, and education across all arbiters' activities.

B) Proposal to Amend Regulation B.06.1 – FIDE Regulations for the Titles of Arbiters

The Commission finalised the proposal to change B.06.1 – FIDE Regulations for the Titles of Arbiters and implemented the listed changes. The proposal was presented to our coordinator for his consideration. After his approval, we presented the material to FIDE for approval. We would like to express our gratitude to the leader of the team Mr. Jens Wolter and also our member Gerhard Bertagnolli for their contribution in preparing the changes.

C) Proposal to include %age of nominations done by ARB, organiser and appropriate FIDE Commission (GSC or EVE)

Before we present the list of arbiters for World events for approval to FIDE President we are in close contact with organisers and the appropriate FIDE Commission (GSC or EVE). Often we face an issue that organisers propose almost the whole arbiters' team. For this reason, we suggest to approve on % of arbiters to be appointed by FIDE ARB, GSC (or EVE) and the local organiser. In this way FIDE ARB can promote chess and arbiters worldwide by ensuring the appointment of arbiters from all continents while respecting their experience and categories when presenting the list.

D) Integrity exam

The Commission recognises the importance of maintaining the integrity of exams and avoiding cases of cheating during exams. Unfortunately, several cases were discovered where an arbiter used either help from artificial intelligence (AI) or external support during an exam. This behaviour is entirely unacceptable to the Commission and for this reason we started disciplinary procedures in two cases. Both have been decided already, the arbiters found guilty and punishments are being imposed (decisions are valid and published on our webpage). To minimise such case in the future we established, in cooperation with other Commissions, a working group on Exam Integrity. This group included experienced lecturers, teachers, IT skilled people so we can put together our knowledge and provide for all lecturers material useful for organising other online seminars (not only for arbiters, but also other chess activities).

We sincerely appreciate the support and willingness of Commissions that joined this team and to those and other FIDE Commissions that supported this work and whose members contributed to our goal.

E) Arbiters Manual

The FIDE Arbiters' Commission intends to present a new edition of the Arbiters Manual 2026 during the Chess Olympiad in Samarkand (UZB). This will be a printed version. Several FIDE commissions were asked to be involved and provide members for the team preparing the Arbiters' Manual with positive feedback. Once the team is formed, under the leadership of Mr. IA Anatharam Rathinam the team will meet and start working on the new edition. The goal is to have useful material not only for arbiters but also to Fair Play teams, organisers and officials.

F) Working group to present standards for on line seminars to prevent cheating

During recent International Arbiters Seminars, several lecturers raised concerns regarding potential cheating by participants during online examinations—particularly through remote assistance from other arbiters. While this issue may have existed in the past, its scope and sophistication, especially with the growing use of AI, have made it a more pressing concern today.

In response, we have formed a dedicated working group that includes not only members of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission (ARB) but also representatives from other key FIDE Commissions. We greatly appreciate the collaboration and contributions of the Women's Commission, Trainers' Commission, Fair Play Commission and Rules Commission in our first online meeting, held on Friday, June 27th. During this meeting, each commission shared valuable experiences regarding cheating incidents and preventive strategies.

We acknowledge that in today's environment, being a knowledgeable lecturer is not sufficient; all lecturers must also implement preventive measures to safeguard the integrity of examinations. Our working group is now preparing a comprehensive written proposal that will serve as practical guidance for all lecturers—not just those involved with arbiters' seminars. The material will include recommended protocols and tools to help ensure fair and secure examination procedures.

A particularly critical concern is the use of AI tools and remote assistance from other arbiters, which poses a significant threat to examination integrity. In this regard, we want to highlight that the FIDE Arbiter's Councillors have unanimously decided to refer the recent suspected cheating case during an IA seminar to the Arbiters Disciplinary Subcommittee. We all regard this matter with the utmost seriousness.

As arbiters are entrusted with upholding the integrity of the game, any form of unauthorized assistance—especially when coming from within the arbiters' community—is wholly unacceptable.

G) Appointment of Arbiters for World Events

The second quarter of 2025 marked continued improvement in the arbiter appointment process. A key development was involving proposed Chief Arbiters in discussions about their teams, alongside local organizers. Several lists of appointments were submitted for approval, with coordination between ARB and the Fair Play Commission.

2) TENTATIVE AGENDA

A) Appointment of Arbiters for World Events

We finalised the list of Arbiters for World events for all world events in 2025 so are ready to begin work on the list for World events in 2026.

B) Formation of Arbiter Panels (2026–2027)

The FIDE Arbiters' Commission released a new process for the selection of arbiters in the Panels (Green, Blue, Red and Yellow) for the next cycle 2026-2027. The call of Interest for Panels of arbiters and World Events 2026-2027 was opened for one month, from August 28th 2025 to

September 27th 2025. Immediately after the closing date all voting members of FIDE ARB (Chairman, Secretary and 4 Councillors) assigned points to arbiters who answered the call and met together to discuss the proposal for panels.

An innovation is that voting members will be assigned to panels as decided by the FIDE President, This enhances the fairness of the current system.

The proposal of panels for 2026-2027 was presented to the FIDE President with the goal of being published not later than November 1st 2025.

C) ARB Congress Meeting (November 2025)

The FIDE Arbiters' Commission plans to organise its meeting as a part of the FIDE Congress 2025 programme. The topics for the meeting are: a) obituaries b) statistics c) appointment of arbiters for FIDE World events in 2026, d) Refresher courses – current stage and launch of the program e) Arbiters Manual 2026, f) Proposal to changes in B.06.3 FIDE Regulations for the Classification of Arbiters, g) Evaluation of arbiters – format, h) disciplinary cases – report i) education of young arbiters – programme j) miscellaneous

3) FIDE ARBITERS SEMINARS

In the period from July 3rd, 2025 and October 15th, 2025 twenty-three (23) FIDE ARBITERS' SEMINARS were organized in the following places and dates, under the auspices of FIDE. For twenty-two (22) of them and two (2) from the previous period (Foz do Iguacu – CCA and 189th Internet Based - CCA), report and results have been published on the FIDE website:

1. **Novi Sad, SERBIA, 3 – 6 July 2025**
20 participants from 1 Federation,
2. **Penang, ASEAN, 5 – 8 July 2025**
12 participants from 5 Federations,
3. **Cairo, AIDEF, 12 – 14 July 2025**
6 participants from 1 Federation,
4. **Zhuhai, CHINA, 17 – 20 July 2025**
20 participants from 1 Federation,
5. **193rd Internet Based Seminar, ASIAN CHESS FEDERATION, 18 – 20 July 2025**
19 participants from 14 Federations,
6. **194th Internet Based Seminar, NIGERIA, 25 – 27 July 2025**
20 participants from 1 Federation,
7. **191st Internet Based Seminar, ENGLAND, 25 – 27 July 2025**
20 participants from 11 Federations,
8. **195th Internet Based Seminar, IRAN, 7 – 11 August 2025**
18 participants from 1 Federation,
9. **196th Internet Based Seminar, ASIAN CHESS FEDERATION, 10 – 14 August 2025**
20 participants from 9 Federations,
10. **Bhubaneshwar, INDIA, 16 – 18 August 2025**
10 participants from 1 Federation,
11. **Karaikudi, INDIA, 22 – 24 August 2025**
22 participants from 1 Federation,
12. **197th Internet Based Seminar, ASIAN CHESS FEDERATION, 29 – 31 August 2025**
21 participants from 13 Federations,
13. **Monastir, TUNISIA, 3 – 5 September 2025**
13 participants from 2 Federations,
14. **Copenhagen, DENMARK, 4 – 7 September 2025**
6 participants from 3 Federations,

15. **Samarkand, UZBEKISTAN, 8 – 11 September 2025**
20 participants from 2 Federations,
16. **Samarkand, UZBEKISTAN, 12 – 15 September 2025**
20 participants from 2 Federations,
17. **198th Internet Based Seminar, ASIAN CHESS FEDERATION, 10 – 19 September 2025**
19 participants from 6 Federations,
18. **Gladenbach, GERMANY, 18 – 21 September 2025**
17 participants from 3 Federations,
19. **Almaty, KAZAKHSTAN, 18 – 21 September 2025**
14 participants from 4 Federations
20. **Madgaon, INDIA, 19 – 21 September 2025**
20 participants from 1 Federation
21. **Guntur, INDIA, 26 – 28 September 2025**
21 participants from 1 Federation
22. **199th Internet Based Seminar, ASIAN CHESS FEDERATION, 26 – 28 September 2025**
19 participants from 14 Federations
23. **Brisbane, AUSTRALIA, 27 – 29 September 2025**
7 participants from 1 Federation

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

390 arbiters from 79 Federations took part in 24 seminars.

380 arbiters took part in the exam.

192 arbiters passed the exam and achieved FA Norm (*see Appendix A for the full list*).

4) INTERNATIONAL ARBITER CERTIFICATION SEMINARS

In the period from July 8th, 2025 and October 15th, 2025 two (2) 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. **18th IA Certification Seminar, WOM/ARB, 30 August – 7 September 2025**
26 participants from 24 Federations,
2. **19th IA Certification Seminar, ARB/KAZ, 18 – 21 September 2025**
10 participants from 3 Federations,

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

36 arbiters from 27 Federations took part in 2 seminars.

36 arbiters took part in the exam.

33 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 3rd FIDE Council 2025, the Arbiters' Commission received 236 applications for Arbiters Titles. 37 IA, and 199 FA title applications were submitted for consideration by the Commission. 195 applications are approved, 31 rejected, and 10 postponed to the next Council.

Appendix C contains the recommendations of the Arbiters' Commission for the IA and FA title applications that have been submitted for approval by the 3rd FIDE Council 2025.

b) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ARBITERS' CLASSIFICATION UPGRADES

For the 3rd FIDE Council 2025, the Arbiters' Commission received 39 applications for Arbiters' classification upgrades:

- 1 category A
- 6 category B
- 32 category C

34 applications are approved, and 5 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 3rd FIDE Council 2025.

IA IVAN SYROVY
CHAIRMAN
FIDE ARBITERS' COMMISSION