



Recommendations for approval by  
the 1<sup>st</sup> FIDE COUNCIL 2026  
(online, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026)

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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 December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 and March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026. 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 December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 and March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 in FIDE Arbiters Commission (ARB) we worked on the following topics:

- A) Information about changes in B.06.1 – FIDE Regulations for the Titles of Arbiters
- B) Proposed Amendments to B.06.5 – FIDE Arbiter Disciplinary Regulations
- C) Meeting of ARB – Fair Play – Rules Commissions (24-25 January 2026)
- D) Call of interest for arbiters at the 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad and 3rd FIDE Chess Olympiad for People with Disabilities
- E) 2026 Arbiters' Awards
- F) Arbiters' Manual 2026
- G) Disciplinary Cases – Report
- H) Evaluation of Arbiters – Unified Format

### **A) Information about changes in B.06.1 – FIDE Regulations for the Titles of Arbiters**

The Commission's proposal to amend B.06.1 – FIDE Regulations for the Titles of Arbiters was approved by the 4th FIDE Council 2025 and published in the FIDE Handbook. The amendments become effective on 1st March 2026. They consolidate experience from recent cycles and streamline title-award procedures to reflect current best practice.

### **B) Proposed Amendments to B.06.5 – FIDE Arbiter Disciplinary Regulations**

An explanatory memorandum was prepared to address operational gaps observed in recent cases and to strengthen both integrity and due process. The proposals maintain the existing structure of B.06.5 while introducing targeted clarifications and safeguards.

**Key changes (overview):**

- Article 2.4: Empower the DSC to refer a case back to ARB (with reasons) where review indicates that EDC jurisdiction applies.
- Article 2.6: Extend standing to submit complaints to include a Lecturer and clarify that complaints may arise from a FIDE-rated tournament or from a Seminar context.
- New Article 3.3 (f) – Dishonesty: Define as an offence the obtaining of external assistance in evaluations conducted during arbiter training seminars.
- Article 5.2: Require an unofficial English translation when documents or evidence are submitted in another language.
- Article 5.6: Permit oral hearings only in exceptional circumstances and require that such hearings be recorded.
- Article 5.7: In complex cases, allow the Chairman to incorporate the remaining DSC members into the decision-making body (subject to availability and no conflict of interest).

**Rationale:**

These measures aim to improve jurisdictional certainty and efficiency, protect the integrity of seminar assessments, reduce delays arising from non-English submissions, and enhance robustness of deliberations in complex matters while preserving fairness and confidentiality.

**C) Meeting of ARB – Fair Play – Rules Commissions (24-25 January 2026)**

A joint in-person meeting of the Arbiters' Commission (ARB), the Fair Play Commission (FPL), and the Rules Commission was held at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam on 24–25 January 2026. The FIDE President underlined that the Chief Arbiter must be recognised as the single point of ultimate responsibility at tournaments ('one captain on the ship').

Key agreements and follow-ups:

- Responsibility for appointments will be shared between ARB and FPL, with ARB coordinating to ensure that appointed teams work effectively at World Events.
- After a transition period of three years, all Fair Play Experts (FPEs) must hold the title of FIDE Arbiter (FA).
- After the transition, arbiters wishing to become members of the Green, Blue, or Red Panels must also hold the FPE title.
- Chief Arbiters (CAs) remain ultimately responsible for fair play at tournaments and may earn FPE norms when acting as CAs at World Events.
- The FPE title will be retained. The designation Fair Play Officer (FPO) will be replaced by Senior Fair Play Expert (SFPE).
- A target of 20 SFPEs is established. Diversity of nationalities among SFPEs is essential to avoid conflicts of interest and to ensure neutrality at top events.
- FPL is responsible for organising FPE seminars; priority for lecturing will be given to ARB lecturers. Two courses are planned during the Olympiad, subject to confirmation.
- Current FPEs/FPOs must complete the FA course if they wish to serve as FPEs after the transition period; it will be explored whether priority courses can be offered free of charge.

- For new FAs, the fair play component in the Arbiter's Course will be expanded. Additionally, all existing FAs and IAs will be required to attend a mandatory one-day fair play refresher course to retain their licence.
- The Rules Commission will propose amendments to the Laws of Chess addressing cheating and fair play violations, enabling proportionate and flexible sanctions; fair play personnel will be explicitly recognised in the Laws to underline their role inside the playing venue.

On 25 January, the Commission Chair persons reviewed how the agreements can be incorporated into FPL's appointments and title regulations and the definitions framework. A substantial set of amendments was drafted for further consolidation and circulation.

#### **D) Call of interest for arbiters at the 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad and 3rd FIDE Chess Olympiad for People with Disabilities**

At the beginning of March 2026 we launched the Call of Interest for the 46<sup>th</sup> FIDE Chess Olympiad and 3<sup>rd</sup> FIDE Chess Olympiad for people with disabilities in Samarkand (Uzbekistan). This way we would get necessary information from arbiters who wanted to join the team of arbiters for this top events.

The call of Interest for arbiters at the 2026 Olympiads is opened from 7th March 2026 to 29th March 2026, 23:59 CET.

#### **E) 2026 Arbiters' Awards**

The ARB Commission opens nominations for the 2026 Arbiters' Awards to honour long-standing professionalism and service.

Eligibility criteria:

- A minimum of 35 years of service as an International Arbiter (IA); the IA title must have been held since at least 1991.
- Participation as an Arbiter in at least three (3) Major FIDE Events (e.g., Olympiad; World Championship cycle events including Candidates, World Cup, Grand Prix, Grand Swiss; World Rapid & Blitz; World Team; World Junior).

Submissions: National Federations and FIDE Officials may submit nominations including the candidate's full name, FIDE ID, year the IA title was awarded, and the list of Major FIDE Events served. Please send proposals to [secretary.arbiters@fide.com](mailto:secretary.arbiters@fide.com) and [chairman.arbiters@fide.com](mailto:chairman.arbiters@fide.com).  
Deadline: 31 May 2026.

Award ceremony: Diplomas will be presented during the ARB Commission meeting held at the FIDE Congress in Samarkand (Uzbekistan). Travel and accommodation costs are borne by the awardee. If the awardee is not present, the diploma will be sent to his/her federation.

#### **F) Arbiters' Manual 2026**

Work on the new edition of the Arbiters' Manual is on track for presentation at the Olympiad in Samarkand (UZB). The Manual will be released in both printed and online versions. It will cover the latest regulatory changes and offer expanded commentary to improve practical application by arbiters at all levels. The project is led by IA Anantharam Rathinam, with contributors drawn from ARB and other FIDE Commissions.

## **G) Disciplinary Cases – Report**

Two new disciplinary cases were registered in the period under review: (a) a case of incorrect application of the Laws of Chess, and (b) a prohibited change of pairing. One case was already decided in this period and decision taken is final and published on our webpage.

## **H) Evaluation of Arbiters – Unified Format**

The Commission is advancing a unified evaluation format to be used consistently at FIDE world events. A dedicated team will be established and the evaluation form is planned for publication in the first half of 2026. The goal is to ensure transparent, consistent, and developmental feedback for arbiters, aligned with the panels' framework.

## **2) FIDE ARBITERS SEMINARS**

In the period from December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 and March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 twenty-seven (27) FIDE ARBITERS' SEMINARS were organized in the following places and dates, under the auspices of FIDE. For twenty-two (22) of them and five (5) from the previous period (Ulaanbaatar – MGL, 211<sup>st</sup> Internet Based – ZIM, 207<sup>th</sup> Internet Based – NAM, 212<sup>th</sup> Internet Based and Bangkok - ACZ) reports and results have been published on the FIDE website:

- 1. 208<sup>th</sup> Internet Based Seminar, ASIAN CHESS FEDERATION, 4 – 8 December 2025**  
17 participants from 3 Federations,
- 2. Tashkent #1, UZBEKISTAN, 4 – 7 December 2025**  
20 participants from 1 Federation,
- 3. 201<sup>st</sup> Internet Based Seminar, PANAMA, 5 – 7 December 2025**  
20 participants from 9 Federations,
- 4. Tashkent #2, UZBEKISTAN, 8 – 11 December 2025**  
20 participants from 2 Federations,
- 5. 204<sup>th</sup> Internet Based Seminar, FRANCE, 12 – 14 December 2025**  
17 participants from 12 Federations,
- 6. 206<sup>th</sup> Internet Based Seminar, NAMIBIA, 19 – 21 December 2025**  
19 participants from 11 Federations,
- 7. 205<sup>th</sup> Internet Based Seminar, FRANCE, 19 – 21 December 2025**  
17 participants from 12 Federations,
- 8. 209<sup>th</sup> Internet Based Seminar, CONFERATION OF CHESS FOR AMERICAS, 19 – 21 December 2025**  
20 participants from 17 Federations,
- 9. 214<sup>th</sup> Internet Based Seminar, COLOMBIA, 19 – 21 December 2025**  
8 participants from 1 Federation,
- 10. Hyderabad, INDIA, 23 – 25 December 2025**  
22 participants from 1 Federation,
- 11. 210<sup>th</sup> Internet Based Seminar, ENGLAND, 27 – 30 December 2025**  
22 participants from 10 Federations,
- 12. Guwahati, INDIA, 28 – 30 December 2025**  
16 participants from 1 Federation,
- 13. Sydney, AUSTRALIA, 7 – 12 January 2026**  
7 participants from 1 Federation,
- 14. 213<sup>th</sup> Internet Based Seminar, WOM, 9 – 11 January 2026**  
23 participants from 21 Federations,
- 15. 215<sup>th</sup> Internet Based Seminar, COSTARICA, 9 – 12 January 2026**  
16 participants from 5 Federations,

16. **Puducherry, INDIA, 23 – 25 January 2026**  
22 participants from 1 Federation,
17. **216<sup>th</sup> Internet Based Seminar, ASIAN CHESS FEDERATION, 27 – 31 January 2026**  
20 participants from 10 Federations,
18. **Reykjavik, ICELAND, 20 – 22 February 2026**  
6 participants from 1 Federation (not approved yet),
19. **Pune, INDIA, 28 February – 3 March 2026**  
20 participants from 1 Federation,
20. **Tashkent #1, UZBEKISTAN, 2 – 4 March 2026**  
20 participants from 2 Federations,
21. **Tashkent #2, UZBEKISTAN, 5 – 7 March 2026**  
20 participants from 1 Federation,
22. **217<sup>th</sup> Internet Based Seminar, ASIAN CHESS FEDERATION, 6 – 8 March 2026**  
20 participants from 8 Federations,
23. **Thoothukudi, INDIA, 7 – 9 March 2026**  
22 participants from 1 Federation,
24. **Bukhara #1, UZBEKISTAN, 9 – 11 March 2026**  
20 participants from 1 Federation (not approved yet),
25. **Bukhara #2, UZBEKISTAN, 12 – 14 March 2026**  
20 participants from 1 Federation (not approved yet),
26. **218<sup>th</sup> Internet Based Seminar, SOUTH AFRICA, 19 – 28 March 2026**  
Waiting for the Report,
27. **221<sup>st</sup> Internet Based Seminar, ZIMBABWE, 20 – 23 March 2026**  
Waiting for the Report.

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

408 arbiters from 84 Federations took part in 22 seminars.

404 arbiters took part in the exam.

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

### **3) INTERNATIONAL ARBITER CERTIFICATION SEMINARS**

In the period from December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 and March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 three (3) INTERNATIONAL ARBITER CERTIFICATION SEMINARS were organized by the ARB Commission in the following places and dates, under the auspices of FIDE. For all three and two (20<sup>th</sup> IA Seminar and 21<sup>st</sup> IA Seminar) from the previous period the reports and results have been published on the FIDE website.

1. **22<sup>nd</sup> IA Certification Seminar, ARB, 3 - 11 January 2026**  
25 participants from 16 Federations
2. **23<sup>rd</sup> IA Certification Seminar, ARB, 21 February – 1 March 2026**  
26 participants from 17 Federations
3. **24<sup>th</sup> IA Certification Seminar, ARB, 13 – 21 February 2026**  
26 participants from 16 Federations

A few statistics (based on received reports to date, for all 5 seminars):

127 arbiters from 54 Federations took part in 5 seminars.

124 arbiters took part in the exam.

103 arbiters passed the exam and achieved IA Norm (*see Appendix B for the full list*).

#### **4) 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 1<sup>st</sup> FIDE Council 2026, the Arbiters' Commission received 226 applications for Arbiters Titles. 60 IA, and 166 FA title applications were submitted for consideration by the Commission. 195 applications are approved, 27 rejected, and 4 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 1<sup>st</sup> FIDE Council 2026.

##### **b) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ARBITERS' CLASSIFICATION UPGRADES**

For the 1<sup>st</sup> FIDE Council 2026, the Arbiters' Commission received 29 applications for Arbiters' classification upgrades:

- 1 category A
- 3 category B
- 25 category C

21 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 1<sup>st</sup> FIDE Council 2026.

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