



Recommendations for approval by
the 2nd FIDE COUNCIL 2026
(online, August 23rd, 2026)

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 March 24th, 2026 and August 10th, 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 March 24th, 2026 and August 10th, 2026 in FIDE Arbiters Commission (ARB) we worked on the following topics:

- A) Preparation for 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad and 3rd FIDE Chess Olympiad for People with Disabilities
- B) Education of Arbiters
- C) Information about changes in B.06.5 – FIDE Arbiter Disciplinary Regulations
- D) Arbiters' Manual 2026
- E) Evaluation of Arbiters – Unified Format
- F) 2026 Arbiters' Awards
- G) ARB Seminar for African national chess federation as part of FIDE activities

A) Preparation for 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad and 3rd FIDE Chess Olympiad for People with Disabilities

Members of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission will represent the Commission at the upcoming Chess Olympiads in a variety of important roles, serving not only as arbiters but also as members of the Fair Play team. The Chief Arbiter of the 46th Chess Olympiad will be IA Ivan Syrovyy, Chairman of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission, while IA Nebojsa Baralic, Secretary of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission, is appointed as Chief Arbiter of the 3rd Olympiad for People with Disabilities.

Together with the other principal officials, particularly the Deputy Chief Arbiters and Sector Arbiters, they are focusing on the comprehensive preparation of the arbiter team. The preparation programme includes at least three online meetings as well as two in-person meetings to be held in Samarkand, ensuring that all officials are fully aligned and ready for the event.

In parallel with the preparation work, significant efforts are being devoted to the selection and coordination of arbiters. The Commission continues to address replacements and logistical challenges arising from various circumstances, including health issues, visa delays, and travel-related difficulties. These matters are being managed on a daily basis in close cooperation with the dedicated FIDE team and the Local Organising Committee.

We are proud to say that, for all nominated arbiters, participation in the Olympiad team is both a great honour and a unique opportunity to contribute to one of the world's most prestigious chess events while reconnecting with friends and colleagues from across the international chess community.

B) Education of arbiters

In April 2026, the FIDE Arbiters' Commission established a working group to review and modernize the arbiter education pathway. The review covered several key areas, including the content and duration of FA and IA Seminars, the allocation of topics between the two levels of education, and the structure and conduct of the examination process.

By August 2026, the Commission had already completed its 27th IA Certification Seminar under the current framework. Based on extensive feedback received from seminar lecturers, it became clear that the time had come to refine the distribution of topics between FA and IA Seminars. The objective is not only to determine which subjects belong at each level, but also to define the appropriate depth of coverage, avoiding unnecessary repetition and ensuring a clear progression from FA to IA education.

Particular attention is being given to the examination system. The ultimate goal is to develop well-educated and well-prepared arbiters while recognizing that professional practice is not based on memorizing every detail. Therefore, consideration is being given to introducing open-book elements for selected topics, allowing candidates to consult official reference materials during examinations. At the same time, strict measures must ensure that no external assistance is received, whether from other arbiters, lecturers, or remote contacts, thereby preserving the integrity and fairness of the assessment process.

C) Information about changes in B.06.5 – FIDE Arbiter Disciplinary Regulations

With approved changes of B.06.5 FIDE Arbiter Disciplinary Regulations, the DSC is now explicitly empowered to refer a case back to the Arbiters' Commission (ARB) for onward transfer to the Ethics & Disciplinary Commission (EDC) when, after review, it concludes that the matter falls outside its jurisdiction.

In addition to organizers and arbiters of FIDE-rated tournaments, complaints may now also be submitted by lecturers, and disciplinary matters may relate to misconduct occurring in FIDE seminars as well as tournaments. A new disciplinary offence has been added under “Offences Involving Dishonesty”: obtaining or intentionally providing external assistance during evaluations conducted in arbiter seminars. This change strengthens the integrity requirements for arbiter education and certification processes.

Documents submitted in languages other than English must now be accompanied by an unofficial English translation.

Finally, the 2026 regulations give the DSC Chairman greater flexibility in complex cases by allowing the remaining DSC members to be incorporated into the decision-making panel, provided no conflicts of interest exist and the members are available. The new text also expressly permits oral hearings in exceptional circumstances, provided they are recorded.

D) Arbiters' Manual 2026

The work on the Arbiters' Manual 2026 is in its final stage. The last round of proofreading and corrections is currently underway, with all identified errors being reviewed and corrected using

the four-eyes principle. The book is being prepared for printing and is expected to be available in time for the Chess Olympiad in Samarkand.

As the Olympiad will also host the FIDE Congress and elections, we anticipate strong interest in this publication. The Manual covers a wide range of regulations and practical guidance relevant not only to arbiters, but also to organisers, team captains, delegates, rating officers, and other chess officials. It is intended to serve as a comprehensive reference for everyone involved in the administration and conduct of chess events.

E) Evaluation of Arbiters – Unified Format

Development of the unified evaluation format progressed further, including preparation for pilot applications at selected FIDE events. Feedback is being incorporated into the final version, with the goal of standardising arbiter assessment across all World Events. A proposal has also been received to move from a paper-based assessment system to a fully online format. The potential benefits, requirements, and practical implications of such an approach are currently under consideration before a final decision is made.

F) 2026 Arbiters' Awards

The ARB Commission closed 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); and
- Participation as an Arbiter in at least three (3) Major FIDE Events.

National Federations and FIDE Officials submitted nominations and 7 arbiters met all criteria to be awarded during the ARB Commission meeting held at the FIDE Congress in Samarkand (Uzbekistan).

G) ARB Seminar for African national chess federations as part of FIDE activities

FIDE organised a Capacity Building Seminar for national chess federations across the continent in the framework of the African Chess Confederation (ACC) General Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Ivan Syrov, Chair of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission represented ARN and delivered a presentation on the professional development of chess arbiters and Fair Play officials. He outlined the pathway from National Arbiter to the highest international categories, explained FIDE nomination and appointment procedures, and emphasized the importance of technical expertise, integrity, objectivity, and player-focused service. The session also highlighted the growth of the African arbiters' community and the vital role of arbiters and Fair Play measures in ensuring the integrity of chess competitions.

2) FIDE ARBITERS SEMINARS

In the period from March 24th, 2026 and August 10th, 2026 Thirty-three (33) FIDE ARBITERS' SEMINARS were organized in the following places and dates, under the auspices of FIDE. Thirty-two (32) of them and three (3) from the previous period (Reykjavik – ISL, Bukhara_1, Uzbekistan, and Bukhara_2, Uzbekistan) reports and results have been published on the FIDE website:

1. 218th Internet Based Seminar, SOUTH AFRICA, 19 – 28 March 2026

17 participants from 7 Federations,

2. **221st Internet Based Seminar, ZIMBABWE, 20 – 23 March 2026**
17 participants from 9 Federations,
3. **220th Internet Based Seminar, ITALY, 26 – 29. March 2026**
19 participants from 7 Federations,
4. **222nd Internet Based Seminar, WOM, 27 – 29. March 2026**
21 participants from 18 Federations,
5. **Algiers, ALGIERS, 2 – 4 April 2026**
16 participants from 2 Federations,
6. **219th Internet Based Seminar, ENGLAND, 3 – 6 April 2026**
22 participants from 14 Federations,
7. **Abu Dhabi, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, 5 – 8 April 2026**
21 participants from 3 Federations,
8. **Mississauga, CANADA, 10 – 12 April 2026**
6 participants from 1 Federation,
9. **Rio de Janeiro, BRAZIL, 21 – 26 April 2026**
4 participants from 1 Federation,
10. **Vijayawada, INDIA, 24 – 26 April 2026**
19 participants from 1 Federation,
11. **223rd Internet Based Seminar, ECUADOR, 4 – 10 May 2026**
14 participants from 7 Federations,
12. **Chandigarh, INDIA, 8 – 10 May 2026**
15 participants from 1 Federation,
13. **225th Internet Based Seminar, SYRIA, 13 – 17 May 2026**
22 participants from 2 Federations,
14. **224th Internet Based Seminar, ASIAN CHESS FEDERATION, 15 – 17 May 2026**
20 participants from 8 Federations,
15. **Siliguri, INDIA, 22 – 24 May 2026**
4 participants from 1 Federation,
16. **226th Internet Based Seminar, CONFEDERATION OF CHESS FOR AMERICA, 28 – 31 May 2026**
22 participants from 16 Federations,
17. **227th Internet Based Seminar, GUAM, 29 – 31 May 2026**
15 participants from 8 Federations,
18. **Abu Dhabi, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, 4 – 7 June 2026**
20 participants from 2 Federations,
19. **228th Internet Based Seminar, GUAM, 5 – 7 June 2026**
17 participants from 11 Federations,
20. **Ahmedabad, INDIA, 12 – 14 June 2026**
17 participants from 1 Federation,
21. **Casablanca, MORROCO, 12 – 14 June 2026**
13 participants from 1 Federation,
22. **Batumi, GEORGIA, 17 – 21 June 2026**
24 participants from 3 Federations,
23. **Quang Ninh Province, VIETNAM, 24 – 28 June 2026**
18 participants from 1 Federation,
24. **Korumdu, KIRGIZSTAN, 2 – 6 July 2026**
10 participants from 3 Federations,
25. **233rd Internet Based Seminar, ASIAN CHESS FEDERATION, 3 – 5 July 2026**
21 participants from 14 Federations,
26. **Novi Sad, SERBIA, 3 – 6 July 2026**
17 participants from 3 Federations,
27. **Algiers, ALGIERS, 9 – 11 July 2026**
17 participants from 1 Federation,
28. **230th Internet Based Seminar, WOM, 10 – 12 July 2026**

- 22 participants from 19 Federations,
- 29. Jamshedpur, INDIA, 17 – 19 July 2026**
14 participants from 1 Federation,
- 30. Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA, 23 – 26 July 2026**
11 participants from 4 Federations,
- 31. 229th Internet Based Seminar, GUAM, 24 – 26 July 2026**
11 participants from 9 Federations,
- 32. Almaty, KAZAKHSTAN, 5 – 8 August 2026**
Waiting for the Report,
- 33. Pune, INDIA, 17 – 19 July 2026**
Waiting for the Report.

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

572 arbiters from 87 Federations took part in 35 seminars.

560 arbiters took part in the exam.

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

3) INTERNATIONAL ARBITER CERTIFICATION SEMINARS

In the period from March 24th, 2026 and August 10th, 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 (3) the reports and results have been published on the FIDE website.

- 1. 25th IA Certification Seminar, ARB, 9 - 17 May 2026**
25 participants from 15 Federations
- 2. 26th IA Certification Seminar, ARB-GEO, 22 – 26 June 2026**
6 participants from 2 Federations
- 3. 27th IA Certification Seminar, ARB, 1 – 8 August 2026**
24 participants from 14 Federations, waiting for the report

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

55 arbiters from 27 Federations took part in 3 seminars.

55 arbiters took part in the exam.

44 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 2nd FIDE Council 2026, the Arbiters' Commission received 222 applications for Arbiters Titles. 37 IA, and 185 FA title applications were submitted for consideration by the Commission. 187 applications are approved, 25 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 2nd FIDE Council 2026.

b) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ARBITERS' CLASSIFICATION UPGRADES

For the 2nd FIDE Council 2026, the Arbiters' Commission received 31 applications for Arbiters' classification upgrades:

- 5 category B
- 26 category C

29 applications are approved, 1 rejected, and 1 postponed for the next FIDE Council.

Appendix D contains the recommendations of the Arbiters' Commission for the upgrades of the Arbiters' classification that have been submitted for approval by the 2nd FIDE Council 2026.

c) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDITIONS TO THE FIDE LECTURERS LIST

For the 2nd FIDE Council 2026, the Arbiters' Commission recommends the following for approval:

- IA Bertagnolli, Gerhard (ITA, 815985), immediate addition to the list, as he fulfill the requirements of the FIDE regulations for the training of the Chess Arbiters,
- IA Karali, Tania (GRE, 4264584), immediate addition to the list, as she fulfill the requirements of the FIDE regulations for the training of the Chess Arbiters.

Appendix D contains the updated list of FIDE Lecturers for Arbiters submitted for approval by the 2nd FIDE Council 2026.

IA IVAN SYROVY
CHAIRMAN
FIDE ARBITERS' COMMISSION