

Report of QC Chair to FIDE Council September 2026

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1. Cooperation between Commissions (ARB-QC) – Arbiters Manual 2026

ARB asked for help and support for the preparation of new edition of Arbiters Manual 2026.

As there were not many changes in FIDE Regulations from 2025 edition, they will focus to add some comments where including some explanations could be useful.

Shaun Press collected suggestions from QC members regarding our Regulations.

2. Handling Forfeits in Tournaments

After 2 players forfeited their games against a KAZ player in Menorca, it was not possible for him to fight for a norm.

We were discussing options on how to avoid these forfeits such as:

-Organisers can submit names to FIDE who will maintain a list of players who fail to complete tournaments

- Games defaulted are included for rating
- Organisers can report players directly to EDC

3. FRS Form – Survey for Rating Officers

In March 2026, Alex proposed QC to update the tournament registration form on FRS. For that, we sent a survey to the rating officers asking for their feedback. For example, we asked which fields in the form they considered were not useful. We received feedback not only related to the form, but also about other topics such as the website, the algorithm, and the ratings office.

We had a meeting with Vladimir related to changes to the form and implementation of the changes.

A new FRS interface was implemented and changes are being made.

4. RUS Suspension

The Council resolved to impose the sanction of temporary suspension of membership of the Chess Federation of Russia.

At the same time, the idea was to protect the rights and interests of individual chess players.

Tournaments registered under RUS were marked as not approved and checked one by one.

All new registered tournaments are being approved after the verification process.

FIDE IDs are verified before being approved.

5. Rating Conversion – Swiss and Belgium Chess Federations

Following the success from Spain (2024), the Swiss Chess Federation (January 2026), and the Belgium Chess Federation (July 2026) converted their National Ratings into FIDE Ratings for the players that had only National Ratings.

Their National Ratings are not being calculated anymore, and all their tournaments are being submitted for FIDE ratings.

6. Norms checking

There was an idea 4 years ago about norms being checked automatically by the program.

This was not implemented yet.

It would help the work of the Commission a lot.

For Second FIDE Council, we received 91 TA, this means more than 270 norms that were checked by our members.

We would like to thank here the work of Paloma Gutierrez, Edgardo Campora, Walter Brown and Lorenginis Berti.

7. Rating Experiment

There was a FIDE Council resolution for converting online ratings to FIDE Rapid and Blitz ratings.

This program would let players earn their over-the-board FIDE Blitz and Rapid rating through online play.

To qualify for rating conversion, a player would need to play a minimum number of games in online rated tournaments.

The rating would have a fixed ceiling at 1.800. Players would be able to convert their rating to OTB once a calendar year.

The Qualification Commission did not participate in the development of this project and therefore has no recommendation at this stage.

8. Participation in tournaments to meet a requirement for a title

The awarding of titles by FIDE is intended to recognise the achievement of players in the field of competitive chess. The requirements for being awarded such titles are necessarily difficult, as the prestige of a title isn't just based on its level, but also on those who have earned the title, both past and present.

The FIDE Qualification Commission regard this as a guiding principle for the bestowing of such titles. Almost all titles consist of meeting two requirements, the performance in individual events (title norms and direct titles), and overall playing strength (the rating requirement). These two parts not only ensure the prestige of the title itself, but also protect the title system from being devalued through abuse of either part of the system.

FIDE QC has dealt with a number of cases where players have attempted to manipulate tournament results and participation to meet one or more requirements for a title, in contravention of standard chess tournament rules. Examples have included only playing certain rounds in swiss events to maximise their rating gain, playing a succession of short draws in privately organised events to achieve a norm or rating gain, or having pairings modified by the organiser to increase norm chances. Arranging events such as matches for this purpose, using retired or inactive players, or targeting events with significant rating differences (eg RR or team events) may also result in action by FIDE QC.

Note, FIDE QC recognise that players have legitimate tournament reasons for playing in a certain way, or targeting a specific result, and we do not wish to pass judgement on that behaviour. But the underlying ethos is that titles are awarded based on competitive tournament play, rather than just targeting a certain result.

Any queries about tournament formats and regulations, the validity of events for titles and ratings, and any other issues that may require clarification should be directed to QC. While advice from local arbiters and federations may be helpful, such advice is not authoritative.

9. Regulation on Matches

All matches that are submitted to the FIDE Rating System (FRS) require the approval of the FIDE Qualification Commission (QC). To clarify the approval process, below are certain conditions such matches must fulfil to be accepted by FIDE QC.

Conditions regarding individual matches:

For matches between individual players, the FIDE Rating System will

- (1) Only rate the first 4 games for Standard Chess
- (2) Only rate the first 8 games for Rapid Chess
- (3) Only rate the first 12 games for Blitz Chess

A player involved in any rated matches must play another type of rated event between matches, using the same time control classification (Standard, Rapid, Blitz) between consecutive matches, otherwise the following match(s) will not be accepted for rating.

All matches must be registered on the FRS listing the names of the player in the tournament title.

Official FIDE matches or FIDE tie-break matches will be exempt from these conditions. Federations may request an exemption from these conditions for matches for National titles, between players from the national federation.

10. Visibility of Deceased Players

Profiles of deceased players should remain visible on the FIDE website.

This idea has been under consideration within the QC for some time and was also supported by feedback received in the Qualification Commission Survey conducted in March.

A player's profile is not only an administrative record but also an important part of chess history.

Players, arbiters, organisers, researchers, family members, and chess enthusiasts may wish to review a player's achievements, rating history, tournament participation, and other historical information long after the player has passed away.

Preserving these records also serves an important commemorative purpose.

QC proposed to introduce a "Deceased" status or indicator to the profile instead of hiding it.

11. Eligibility for events that award Direct Titles (Zonal, Regional, Continental Events)

Clarification on the eligibility requirements for participation in the events mentioned in the Table for Direct Titles: players should be allowed to participate only in events from their own Zone/Region/Continent.

FIDE has four Continents (Africa, America, Asia, Europe). Each of them holds a Continental event each year that belongs to the Table for Direct Titles.

At the same time, the Continents have Zones. Certain Zones organize Zonal/Sub-zonal events that award Direct Titles according to the Table.

Finally, the Continents organise Regional events for Junior, Youth, and Cadets (Youth/Junior North/Central/South America, West/Central/East Asia, Oceania). These events are included in the Direct Titles Table too.

Although it appears self-evident, at the moment we do not have any rule that explicitly prohibits players from participating in events held in "foreign" zones.

Allowing players from other zones to participate could inflate the number of players and increase the number of Direct Titles awarded by percentage.

Also, players could be able to look for more accessible tournaments to obtain Direct Titles.

QC proposed to add to article 1.2.2 of the Title Regulations "Only players registered with Federations contained within the Continent, Region or Zone organising the event shall be eligible to participate in these events."

12. Display of Gender Information in FIDE Profiles – KNSB proposal for GA

QC proposed to display gender information only when a player is registered as Female (F). For all other players, the gender field would be left blank on their public profile.

This proposal does not alter player eligibility for competitions. Its purpose is solely to simplify the public display of gender information and provide a neutral presentation.

As FIDE competitions consist of Open and Women's categories, rather than Men's and Women's categories, there is no practical need to display "Male" on player profiles. A visible "Female" designation identifies players who are eligible for women's events, while a blank field indicates that the player is not registered in that category.

This proposal has also been prompted by an increasing number of requests from federations and individual players regarding non-binary or unspecified gender registration.

Also, this would deal with the proposal for the GA from the Royal Dutch Chess Federation regarding the inclusion of gender "X".

13. Chess960 FIDE ratings – DSB proposal for GA

The German Chess Federation presented a motion for the GA to introduce FIDE ratings for Chess960.

Introducing official FIDE Chess960 ratings could encourage the growth of this discipline and provide players with an additional competitive incentive.

However, there are several aspects that should be considered before implementation.

It is important to assess whether there is currently sufficient tournament activity to support a reliable and meaningful rating system. If the activity continues low, we risk maintaining a rating list with only a few active players and ratings that are not representative. A rating list is only valuable if there is a critical mass of rated events and active players.

Precedent: there was a proposal in 2018 to calculate ratings for Chess960. They were requested to submit tournaments to start calculating ratings. Nobody reported any tournaments.

Only a small percentage of the chess population (established players) would be interested as this variant is not introductory.

The rating server would need to be adapted. Managing such a list would generate additional costs. Human resources would be needed to implement it.

Although FIDE does not charge any fee for Rapid and Blitz ratings, most of the federations charge an internal fee for the submission of the tournaments. The consequence is that we don't have as many tournaments as we would like. The active support of the federations would be needed for this project.

In case of implementation, it should start with a single rating list covering Standard and Rapid time controls. A lower K-factor should be applied to shorter time controls.

14. "Fast Classic" time control valid for Standard Rating – ISL proposal for GA

FIDE Council has approved a continuation of the trial program allowing events with a time control of 45m+30s (or longer, e.g. 60m+30s) to be rated on the FIDE Standard Rating List (FRL).

Events that wish to be included in this program must apply to the FIDE Qualification Commission, using the form. Such applications must be made at least 30 days before the scheduled start of the event, and QC evaluates the request before deciding to grant/refuse approval.

Given that the trial is primarily aimed at major events, and considering the QC's authority in defining this list, the QC is being guided by the following principles:

1. Events that meet the FIDE Circuit requirements – the QC will approve the use of both the 45m+30s and 60m+30s time controls for such tournaments.

Event's organizers should note that if the final lineup of the tournament does not meet the necessary requirements for the FIDE Circuit, a tournament with a 45m+30s time control will not be counted for the standard rating.

Therefore, in case of doubt, it is recommended to request the 60m+30s time control.

2. Other events with the participation of at least one player rated 2400+ – Only the 60m+30s time control may be approved for such tournaments. There is no requirement to have a special letter of support from the national federation. The QC reserves the right to reject a request from the particular event.

3. Minor events in which no player with a rating of 2400+ participates.

According to current regulations, such tournaments may already be held with a 60m+30s time control.

In line with the overall direction of the pilot project, all such tournaments may be conducted with a 45m+30s time control.

QC recommendations:

- 60+30: valid for Standard rating for all players.
- Three rounds per day permitted for rating purposes.
- Maximum two rounds per day where norms are available.
- Maximum one Fast Standard norm per title application.

The Icelandic Chess Federation presented a motion to approve 45+30 as a classical time control without limitations and allowing 3 rounds per day.

The proposed removal of the current restrictions would allow tournaments using 45+30 to award standard ratings and title norms on essentially the same basis as traditional classical tournaments.

This could have a substantial impact on the title system, particularly if the number of tournaments using this format increases significantly. This could generate inflation of GM/IM/WGM/WIM titles.

To allow up to three games per day is another matter of concern. According to the proposal, 3-day events with 3 rounds on each day would be valid for norms.

A 45+30 game can still be demanding, and three rounds in a single day may create conditions that are fundamentally different from those normally associated with classical chess. Fatigue, preparation time, recovery between games and the possibility of playing important norm games under heavily compressed schedules should all be taken into account.

The proposed safeguard that only one norm achieved in a 45+30 tournament may count towards a particular title is useful, but it does not fully address these concerns.

For these reasons, we cannot support the proposal in its current form. We would, however, support further examination of the 45+30 format, including its impact on playing quality, rating performance, title norms, tournament scheduling and player welfare, with the possibility of introducing carefully defined changes following such an assessment.

15. Transfers' motions for GA (Syria – Monaco)

Two proposals regarding Transfer Regulations were received (Syria and Monaco). They go in completely opposite direction.

The federations should not acquire a permanent right over the player.

We should distinguish between emigration/residence/genuine nationality and the sporting recruitment of players by another federation.

In general, almost all financial investment comes from the family (for coaching and travel) or from more local sources (such as chess clubs). However, even then, the current transfer rules are designed to deal with this. Federations do receive financial compensation when players leave (or at least they are supposed to).

Monaco's proposal would cover situations such as cross-border workers or individuals developing their professional lives in one country while formally residing in another.

The proposal could create an economic imbalance between federations.

Certain federations would increase their playing strength using their financial advantage to recruit players. This is something the vast majority of federations can not do.

The existence of a coaching or playing contract with a federation should not, by itself, establish the connection required for a transfer, especially where the contractual relationship is entered into for the purpose of qualifying the player to represent that federation.

The current regulations keep a balance between both motions.

16. QC Meeting

There was a QC internal meeting on August, 28th.

Paloma Gutierrez, Edgardo Campora, Nick Faulks, Elena Polovina, Walter Brown, Lamine Cisse, Lorenginis Berti, Alexander Moiseenko, and Shaun Press joined the meeting (excused Cristobal Vega).

The meeting focused on preparing for the upcoming FIDE Congress in Samarkand.

There was a discussion on various proposals received for the congress agenda, including the "Super Grandmaster" title, a proposal to standardize players' names, and changes to time controls for rated events. The commission agreed to change the blitz time control definition to include 2 minutes plus 1 second increment. They also discussed to allow 60 minutes plus 30 seconds for standard ratings for all players, not just for those below 2400. Other topics included a proposal for Chess960 ratings, and a proposal to allow round-robin tournaments to generate initial ratings for new federations. The conversation ended with a reminder that the next QC would need to review the effects of the rating changes implemented two and a half years ago.

17. Title Applications

We are submitting our recommendations on title applications.

18. Closing Remarks

As my term comes to an end, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone with whom I have had the privilege of working over the past four and a half years.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Arkady Dvorkovich for the trust he placed in me by giving me the opportunity to serve in this position. I deeply appreciate the confidence he showed in me and the opportunity to contribute during these years.

I would also like to express my gratitude to our Coordinator Emil Sutovsky, whose cooperation was greatly appreciated throughout this period. Also, to Aleksandr Martynov for all his support.

I would like to give special recognition to Alex Holowczak and Nick Faulks for their help during the transition period.

Finally, a special word of appreciation goes to QC Secretary Shaun Press, whose work behind the scenes was essential to keeping our activities running smoothly.

Thank you all for your trust, support, and cooperation throughout these years. It has been a privilege to serve as Chair of the Qualification Commission and to work with so many dedicated colleagues.

I leave the position with great appreciation for what we have achieved together and with confidence in the continued work of the Commission. I sincerely wish FIDE and the Qualification Commission every success in the future, and hope that it will continue to uphold a fair, clear, consistent and reliable qualification system for players and the chess community.

9.2026

Sabrina de San Vicente

QC Chair