



Technical
Commission



2026 FIDE Congress

Technical Commission Annual Report

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1. Introduction

The FIDE Technical Commission (TEC) continued during 2026 to fulfil its responsibility for the development, maintenance and practical implementation of FIDE's technical regulations, standards, and procedures. The Commission's work covers a broad range of areas, including chess equipment, Tournament Handler Programs (THPs), Swiss pairing systems, tie-break regulations, tournament technology, and the technical processes supporting the conduct of FIDE-rated competitions. This work is conducted through the Commission's management structure, specialised workgroups, and subject specialists, drawing on expertise from members and contributors across the international chess community.

A significant focus during the year has been the continued implementation and refinement of the regulatory framework introduced through the revised C.02 Chess Equipment Technical Specifications, Rules and Regulations and the associated technical processes. Attention has been given to establishing clearer and more transparent procedures for product compliance, technical acceptance, and endorsement. This includes the development of Verification Checklists (VCLs), Self-Declaration of Product Compliance (SDPC), Technical Acceptance of Product Compliance (TAPC), Acceptance Cycles, and the ongoing development of the TEC Manual. The endorsement process itself is not new, but TEC has undertaken a substantial review to make the existing system more structured, consistent, and easier for manufacturers and software vendors to follow.

The Commission has also continued its pairing and tie-break regulations, tournament software, equipment specifications, and modern technologies. Projects such as the Gacrux open-source reference platform demonstrate the increasing importance of independent testing, reproducible verification, and collaboration with software developers in ensuring that tournament systems correctly implement FIDE regulations. Gacrux provides tools for pairing verification, tie-break calculations, and large-scale tournament simulation, supporting both TEC and the wider chess software community.

In parallel with these regulatory and technical activities, TEC has maintained a substantial operational workload. The Management Board has met regularly throughout the reporting period, while the Commission has dealt with numerous enquiries and proposals received from arbiters, organisers, federations, developers, manufacturers, and other members of the chess community. This Annual Report provides an overview of these activities, the projects completed and currently in progress, the status of the endorsement programme, and the

principal technical matters referred to TEC during 2026.

2. Internal Organization and Responsibilities

The FIDE Technical Commission (TEC) operates with a clear organizational structure, designed to ensure that qualified individuals manage each area of responsibility. The commission consists of twenty-four members, including the chairman, honorary chairman, secretary, councillors, and general members.

No.	Position	Surname	Name	Federation
1	Chair	Georgescu	Tiberiu	Romania
2	Honorary Chair	Filipowicz	Andrzej	Poland
3	Secretary	Du Toit	Hendrik	South Africa
4	Councillor	Ricca	Roberto	Italy
5	Councillor	Brustman	Agnieszka	Poland
6	Councillor	Pahlevanzadeh	Mehrdad	Iran
7	Councillor	Al Taher	Sultan Ali	UAE
8	Member	Akkour	Abdelfattah	Morocco
9	Member	Oen	Grant	USA
10	Member	Ni	Hua	China
11	Member	Nicula	Dinu-Ioan	Romania
12	Member	Prohorov	Olexandr	Ukraine
13	Member	Burstein	Almog	Israel
14	Member	Keles	Askin	Turkey
15	Member	Arasu	B.	India
16	Member	Milvang	Otto	Norway
17	Member	Mushaninga	Fungirayiini	Zimbabwe
18	Member	Held	Mario	Italy
19	Member	Nepando	Jolly	Namibia
20	Member	Karali	Tania	Greece
21	Member	Smith	Russell	Trinidad & Tobago
22	Member	Abramov	Sergey	
23	Member	Pierre	Dénommée	Canada
24	Member	Laskarina	Korou	Greece

The key internal organization is structured as follows:

- Chairman: Tiberiu Georgescu
- Honorary Chair: Andrzej Filipowicz
- Secretary: Hendrik du Toit
- Councillors: Roberto Ricca, Agnieszka Brustman, Mehrdad Pahlevanzadeh, Sultan Ali Al Taher
- Members: The TEC includes representatives from several federations around the world, each responsible for different facets of chess equipment and technical processes.

The commission is further divided into workgroups responsible for specific areas such as pairing regulations, board and piece standards, and digital transformation efforts. Each workgroup is headed by a department leader and tasked with executing projects and initiatives related to their area of focus:

Department Heads

- SPP: Roberto Ricca (Italy)
- Critical TEC: Mario Held (Italy)
- Support TEC: Mushaniga Fungirayiini (Zimbabwe)
- Development TEC: Arasu B. (India)
- Marketing & Communication: Tania Karali (Greece)

TEC are also blessed with experts that are willing to assist with their expertise and knowledge:

Subject Specialists

- Tie breaks and Software Otto Milvang (Norway)
- SPP Pierre Dénomée
- SPP Jose De Jesus Garcia Ruvalcaba
- Technology Laskarina Korou

3. Meetings & Communications

The FIDE Technical Commission management board has been diligently meeting every two weeks to ensure the continuous progress of its tasks and projects. Since the last report on December 2025 period, the board has convened sixteen times, with each meeting lasting approximately two hours and typically held in the evening. These regular sessions reflect the commitment of the board members, many of whom have made personal sacrifices by dedicating their private time to FIDE's technical activities.

The commission acknowledges the hard work and dedication of its members, expressing gratitude for their continued contributions to the organization's objectives.

4. General Activities in Progress

4.1 FIDE-00113 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Proposal against cheaters during seminars

Chairman of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission invites chairs and secretaries of FIDE commissions to nominate members for a working group tasked with developing a proposal for preventing cheating in online FIDE Arbiters and International Arbiters seminars. The group, open to lecturers, IT specialists, and teaching professionals, will collect real-world cheating cases (e.g., remote assistance or AI use) and recommend practical detection and prevention measures. Interested participants should respond by June 25th.

4.2 Gacrux – An Open Reference Platform for Chess Tournament Technology

During 2026, the Technical Commission continued to strengthen the technical framework supporting the implementation and verification of FIDE tournament regulations. An important contribution to this work is Gacrux, an open-source software project developed by Otto Milvang.

Gacrux provides a collection of tools for the calculation, testing, and verification of chess tournament data. Its main components include Gacrux Pairing, Gacrux Tie-Break and the Gacrux Tournament Generator. Together, these tools provide an independent reference environment for evaluating the implementation of FIDE Swiss Pairing Rules and Tie-Break Regulations in Tournament Handler Programs.

The pairing component can generate and analyse Swiss pairings and can be used to compare the pairings produced by other software with an independent implementation of the FIDE rules. The tie-break component supports a wide range of individual and team tie-break systems and provides detailed calculations that help arbiters and developers understand how a particular ranking was determined.

An important strength of Gacrux is its ability to support large-scale testing. The Tournament Generator can create synthetic tournaments with different numbers of players, rounds, ratings, forfeits, byes, and other tournament conditions. During development, Gacrux has been evaluated against more than 120,000 generated tournaments, helping to identify rare situations and differences in rule interpretation.

Gacrux also makes use of structured tournament data formats, enabling tournament information to be exchanged between checking tools, pairing engines and Tournament Handler Programs. This supports repeatable testing and makes it easier for software developers to compare their implementations against a common reference.

The project is publicly available through GitHub under the MIT open-source licence. The source code developed by Otto Milvang has been made available for use within the FIDE open-source project, allowing developers to examine, test and, where appropriate, incorporate the implementation into their own software.

Gacrux does not replace the FIDE regulations, which remain authoritative. Rather, it provides a transparent and reproducible technical reference that supports TEC, arbiters, and software vendors in improving the accuracy and consistency of tournament software.

The Technical Commission acknowledges and appreciates Otto Milvang's significant contribution to FIDE and the wider chess software community through the continued development of Gacrux.

4.3 FIDE-00168 - TEC - Projects - TEC Manual Update

The draft updated FIDE Technical Commission Policies and Procedures Manual (TEC Manual), Version 2.1, is attached to this Annual Report. The Manual has been developed as a practical companion to the FIDE Handbook, providing the additional definitions, processes, comments, and clarifications required for the consistent implementation of FIDE's technical regulations; where any discrepancy exists, the FIDE Handbook remains the authoritative reference.

The Manual documents the procedures for manufacturer and vendor registration, Self-Declaration of Product Compliance (SDPC), Technical Acceptance of Product Compliance (TAPC), FIDE Endorsement of Accepted Product (FEAP), and the revocation and renewal of technical acceptance. It also significantly expands the technical requirements for Tournament Handler Programs (THPs), including compliance verification through Pairings and Tie-Breaks Checkers and Random Tournament Generators, large-scale tournament testing, structured warning levels, pairing-integrity safeguards, rating and rating-list management, and clarifications and recommended conventions for TRF26 and in-tournament data exchange.

The publication of this Manual is an important part of TEC's broader objective of making FIDE's technical framework more structured, transparent, consistent, and accessible to federations, organisers, arbiters, manufacturers, and software developers.

5. Completed Activities

5.1 FIDE-00132 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Arbiters Manual 2026

Ivan Syrov (Chair, FIDE Arbiters' Commission) requests support from all FIDE Commissions to prepare the Arbiters Manual 2026. The goal is to present a printed edition at the Chess Olympiad in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, with copies for Congress voting members, Olympiad arbiters, and Fair Play teams, seven commissions, and authors.

Since there are few regulation changes from 2025, the 2026 edition will focus on adding clarifying commentary/explanations.

Commissions are asked to nominate contributors and submit proposals. TEC nominated IA Arasu B to the commission.

6. Endorsements Process

Endorsment Status			Endorsment Status		
Project Nr	Product	Type	Company	Contact Person	Web
FIDE-00039		Digital Clocks	Swiss Chess Federation	Matthias Lobmayer	
FIDE-00042		Pieces	A&A Chess Sets	Alex.H & Abel.C	
FIDE-00062	Champion Swiss	THP	Champion Swiss App	Roberto Cabrera	https://championsswiss.com/en/demo/
FIDE-00076	IdChess	Publishing Software	Firflex	Petr Cheryshev	https://idchess.com/en
FIDE-00078		Digital Clocks	Shenzhen Junsd Idustry Co., Ltd.	Roland Pan	www.junsd.com
FIDE-00093	CHESSpress	THP	CHESSpress	Tomasz Bittel	
FIDE-00098	Notationary	Publishing Software		Lamar Lockett	https://www.notationary.app/
FIDE-00103	PMChess	THP	Fanavaran Parsamehr Bushehr	Ali Dehghani	pmchess.com
FIDE-00110	Sharly Chess	THP		Pascal Aubry	https://sharly-chess.com
FIDE-00111	ChessNoter N5X		Black Mirror Studio	Joey Troy	https://www.blackmirrorstudio.com/
FIDE-00130		Digital Clocks	Navek Sport	Ozkan Oz	naveksport.com
FIDE-00131		Digital Clocks		Yukai Li	
FIDE-00156	Chess Nut			Nick Lampros	https://chessnut.club/
FIDE-00178	Chess Pairings	THP		Michael Shapiro	
FIDE-00180		Digital Clocks	NIVIA Sports	Imranjeet Singh	
FIDE-00187	Chess Control	THP	Chess Control	Paul Cutlpa Loayza	https://www.chess-control.com
FIDE-00189	SwissSys	THP		Colin Scheriff	https://www.chessroster.com/swissys
FIDE-00190	WinTD	THP	Estima	Tom Doan	https://estima.com/chess/index.shtml
FIDE-00192	Diclano	Digital Clocks Publishing Software	Diclano, Inc	Srikant Vemparala	www.diclano.com
FIDE-00193	Chess Clock Draw Indicator	Draw Indicator	Schachsport Koch, Inh.	Burkhard Koch	
FIDE-00194	Chess Fox	THP	Schachfuchs	Florian Helbig	https://schachfuchs.net/
FIDE-00195	AidaChess	THP		Rita Atkins	
FIDE-00196	Swar	THP		Steven Bellens	https://blog.frbe-kbsb-ksb.be/software/
FIDE-00197	COPP	THP		Andrey Goryachev (RUS)	https://chessresults.ru/en
FIDE-00198	ChessPass	THP	Blitz Bishops	Aba Nassif	https://www.blitzbishops.com/
FIDE-00199	Chess Organizers Pro	THP	Chess Organizers Pro		https://www.chessorganizers.com/
FIDE-00200	SwissEasy	THP		Marcius Gomes Brandão	
FIDE-00201	@echecs	THP		Adrián de la Rosa Bretin	https://github.com/echecsjs
FIDE-00202	ChessRoster	THP	ChessRoster	Colin Scheriff	https://www.chessroster.com/
FIDE-00203	Vesus Pairings	THP		Santino Puleio	https://vesus.org/donate
FIDE-00204	ChessPairings	THP		Stefano Loberti	https://chesspairings.org/
FIDE-00206	ChessPublisher	THP		Kyamran Bilyal	
FIDE-00210	MasterClock	Digital Clocks			
		THP	Romanian Chess Federation	General Secretary	
	Vega	THP		Luigi Forlano	vegachess.com
	SwissMaster	THP		Royal Dutch Chess Federation	schaakbond.nl/swissmaster
	Swiss-Manager	THP		Heinz Herzog	swiss-manager.at
	Swiss-Chess	THP		Franz-Josef Weber	swiss-chess.de
	ChessManager	THP		Tomasz Żyżniewski	chessmanager.com
	TournamentService	THP	Hammerfest sjakkklubb	Harald Heggelund	tournamentservice.com
	Tornelo	THP		David Cordover	tornelo.com
	UTU Swiss	THP		Neil Hayward	utuswiss.co.uk
	STOP	THP		Alexander Lenhard	freebasic-portal.de/...

The FIDE Technical Commission's product endorsement process is not a new initiative. FIDE has evaluated and endorsed chess equipment and software for many years. During 2026, however, TEC continued a substantial review of this existing process with the objective of making it more structured, consistent, transparent, and easier for manufacturers and software vendors to understand and follow. The revised regulatory framework is supported by clearer definitions, documented procedures, and the introduction of standardised verification requirements.

Under the refined process, manufacturers and vendors first register with TEC and identify the products for which compliance or endorsement is sought. Products are then brought into the applicable Acceptance Cycle (AC). Vendors are required to assess their products against the applicable FIDE regulations and Verification Checklist (VCL), make any necessary technical changes, and complete a Self-Declaration of Product Compliance (SDPC). A vendor wishing to proceed to formal technical acceptance may then apply for a Technical Acceptance of Product Compliance (TAPC). TEC performs the required verification and testing against the applicable regulations and VCL. Where applicable, a successfully accepted product may subsequently proceed to the FIDE endorsement stage.

For Tournament Handler Programs (THPs), TEC is currently finalising the resolute VCL and the supporting TEC Manual. Vendors have been invited to review the draft documentation and provide comments before the requirements are finalised. TEC will consolidate the feedback received, amend the documents where appropriate, publish the final VCL and TEC Manual, and announce the relevant new Acceptance Cycle. Vendors will then implement the necessary changes before completing the SDPC and TAPC processes.

The response from the vendor community has been overwhelmingly positive and extensive. The table above reflects the sizeable number of manufacturers, developers and products that are already participating in, or have contacted TEC regarding, the endorsement process. The responses cover a broad range of products, with particularly strong participation from Tournament Handler Program developers, as well as vendors of clocks, publishing software, chess pieces, and other technical products. The level of engagement demonstrates both the importance of the endorsement framework to the industry and the willingness of vendors to work with TEC in establishing a clearer and more reliable compliance process.

7. Projects Completed

7.1 FIDE-00032 | TEC | Projects | Tournament Entry Portal

The Tournament Entry Portal represents a pivotal initiative by the International Chess Federation (FIDE) to modernize and streamline the process of tournament entry and management. This digital transformation aims to replace the current manual and disparate systems with an integrated, efficient, and user-friendly online platform. The project is motivated by the need to address existing challenges in tournament organization, enhance the experience for players and organizers, and align with FIDE's strategic objectives of promoting chess globally through the adoption of modern technology.

8. Projects in Progress

8.1 FIDE-00123 | TEC | Projects | Add default time controls to specifications

During the scrutiny of the C.02 documents in “General Rules and Technical Recommendations for Tournaments” by the commissions, we received two requests to add default time controls to the specification for clocks.

1. Increasingly common time limits in FIDE events:
 - a. 45+10 (rapid)
 - b. 45+30 (standard)
2. FIDE World Championship and Candidates
 - a. 120 minutes for the first forty moves, followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move starting from move forty-one

8.2 FIDE-00125 | TEC | Projects | Display minimum number of moves on scoresheet.

During the scrutiny of the C.02 documents in “General Rules and Technical Recommendations for Tournaments” by the commissions, we received a request to display a minimum number of moves on the scoresheet.

8.3 FIDE-00137 | TEC | Projects | Management of individual prizes in team competitions

A new, dedicated section was added to the Tie-Break (TB) regulations to govern individual prizes in team events (“medals”). We suggest:

Include the current Olympiad criterion (the main/only one used there) plus at least one rating-free equivalent to TPR (the long-standing goal).

Define additional candidate criteria (to refine/replace or supplement existing practice):

- a. Number of games played OTB (optionally counting forfeits).
- b. Valid Presence (VP, with threshold X) — a binary check (e.g., $\geq 70\%$ of rounds as default).
- c. Performance (TPR or PTP) applied only if VP is satisfied, optional cuts.
- d. Average tied to a common TB (e.g., Buchholz/Sonneborn-Berger) if missed games are not already treated as unplayed.
- e. Team Placement effect (players from better-placed teams ranked ahead/behind).
- f. VP + TPR-equivalent — highlighted as most important since it avoids rating unreliability and works at all levels.
- g. Timing: He supports adding the section once (f) is finalized. This returns to the earlier objective discussed in Golem and TSPP:1037/1038—developing a robust rating-independent TPR equivalent—and calls for making good on that earlier commitment.

8.4 FIDE-00145 | TEC | Projects | Probability for the outcome of a chess game based on rating

Tournament simulations are powerful tools to explore the properties of pairing systems and tiebreaks. In 2015 I wrote “Probability for the outcome of a chess game based on rating” [1] which was a statistical analysis of 53 305 tournaments between 2010 and 2014. A remarkable observation is that the probability for the outcome of a chess game based on rating did not follow the probability given in the rating regulation in FIDE handbook [2], in tables 8.1.

In 2023 FIDE Qualification Commission did an analysis of the rating system, and built on Jeff Sonas proposal [3], the entire rating system was compressed one. March 2024. This means that after the compression the expected score for a player meeting another player shall match the tables in FIDE handbook.

8.5 FIDE-00168 | TEC | Projects | TEC Manual Update

TEC circulated a proposed new chapter for the THP section of the TEC Manual on Pairing Integrity. The draft defines a Pairing-Integrity Wrecking Event (PIWE) as any event occurring after first-round TPN use that compromises the integrity of the pairing process and causes pairings to fail verification by a Pairing Checker. It classifies several PIWE types, namely Manual Pairing Alteration, Exchange, Regeneration, Correction, Adjournment, and Multi-Exchange, and sets out how a THP should detect them, isolate them, warn the user at specified levels, and log them in the

TRF. The most detailed provisions concern manual pairing alterations, including separation of manual and automatic phases, warnings for violations of absolute pairing criteria, and a Level 4 warning with display of the correct pairings if the altered pairings fail verification. Roberto also noted that the acronym PIBE is provisional and invited suggestions for a better alternative.

9. Projects “Parked”

9.1 FIDE-00053 | TEC | Projects | Valuation of Tie-breaks and Pairing Systems – Parked

Define the need and the objective.

9.2 FIDE-00067 | TEC | Projects | Hilton Pairing System – Alex Holowczak

9.2.1 Summary:

It was shared with us background and use-cases for the “Hilton Pairing System,” a team format where different boards face different opponents each round—useful for one-day events with many teams. The system relies on pre-computed pairings defined by three parameters: number of teams (t), players per team (p), and rounds (r); teams pick a letter at the start to map onto those pairings, and most game points wins. A key constraint is that p should be even (odd t and p together cause byes). He cites UK examples:

1. Birmingham League three-way playoffs (t=3, p=6, r=1),
2. 4NCL triangular matches to avoid byes on odd-team weekends (t=3, p=6, r=2)—accepting colour imbalance (e.g., 4W–2B), and
3. EPSCA county championships for juniors (typically t variable, p=20, r=3; moving toward p=12 and r=4–5). was suggested that FIDE consider endorsing the system to promote accurate software implementations and reduce reliance on complex manual spreadsheets.

10. Enquiries & Proposals

10.1 FIDE-00111 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Endorsement ChessNoteR N5X

The sender, previously involved in the endorsement of ChessNoteR N6 and N9, has obtained US Chess certification for the ChessNoteR N5X, a smaller model with a fingerprint sensor running the same OS and software (v2.3.2). They are seeking FIDE endorsement for the N5X in the same manner. They ask if any further information or assistance is needed.

10.2 FIDE-00122 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Improving the Swiss Pairing System - Wissam Pheng

Wissam Pheng, a recent EPFL graduate in mathematical engineering, has conducted a master’s thesis on enhancing the Swiss System of Pairings for chess tournaments. He identifies shortcomings in accurately ranking players beyond first place and has devised two innovative approaches:

- Poster_New_Pairing_System: minor, statistically supported tweaks shown via simulations
- Report_Pheng_New_Pairing_System: an AI-based system with promising early results that

needs further refinement

He offers to present his findings in person at FIDE headquarters (he is based in Lausanne) and is keen to discuss these proposals with Mr. Ricca or another commission member.

10.3 FIDE-00129 | TEC | Proposals | KoroChess - Koorosh Kamali

Koorosh Kamali introduces a new chess variant called KoroChess, which aims to offer a fresh strategic experience while preserving classical chess principles. The variant features a symmetrical setup for pieces, where players can freely arrange back-rank pieces within a symmetrical rule, creating diverse starting positions. The movement and rules remain consistent with standard chess. Kamali requests FIDE's acknowledgment of KoroChess as an official variant or guidance on how to gain international recognition. He has also provided detailed documentation with rules, diagrams, and examples for review.

10.4 FIDE-00138 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Dutch Pairing Algorithm - Thomas Tscherrig

Thomas is about to release a web-based tournament program implementing the latest Dutch pairing and asks

1. the official process to obtain FIDE approval/certification, and
2. whether sample tournaments exist to evaluate compliance with the 2026 update.

10.5 FIDE-00140 | TEC | ENQUIRY | TRF16 Rejected - Christer Nilsson

Christer Nilsson reports that a TRF file is being rejected and asks why. The referenced help link does not explain the error, and he cannot find a general TRF test/validation tool on the FIDE site (they use Swiss Manager but want a tool-agnostic checker). He also notes positively that FIDE appears to accept successive TRF submissions containing all played games, which could enable more frequent Elo updates in future. He requests guidance and, ideally, a validator.

10.6 FIDE-00143 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Drawing of Lots in Round-Robin Tournaments - Mateusz Nowak

Mateusz Nowak inquires whether drawing of lots is strictly required for pairing in round-robin tournaments, highlighting the issue of higher-rated players often having an unfair advantage with more white pieces, while lower-rated players are disadvantaged with more black pieces. He argues that this practice contradicts the idea of random pairing and believes that drawing of lots should be mandatory in all FIDE-regulated round-robin tournaments, not just top tournaments. He seeks confirmation of his thinking from the FIDE Technical Commission.

10.7 FIDE-00146 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Clarification on Leuven Open Pairings, Time Control Rule, and Software

Chief Arbiter IA Bernard Malfliet replied to FA Markus Hansson's queries about the 36th Leuven Open (A section):

- Accelerated pairings (Baku rules): Used due to 7 rounds with >128 players. Although the written regulations accidentally omitted this, it was announced before Round 1 and is standard for the event; correction promised in future documents.
- Time-control modification clause: On days with multiple rounds, if a game exceeds 4h20 (in rounds 2,4,6,7), arbiters may add 5 minutes to each clock, disable increments, and continue under Art. G.5 to finish on time. Applied rarely (≈3 games). Arbiter notes similar clauses are commonly used when clearly stated in regulations.
- Pairing software: Not yet FIDE-endorsed but claimed to produce pairings fully compliant with FIDE Swiss rules; developer has ~30 years' experience (first release in 1993). Endorsement process has begun and approval is hoped for soon.

Bernard thanks Markus for the analysis and affirms the value of publishing results on chess-results.com; missing regulation notes will be corrected next time.

10.8 FIDE-00148 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Getting involved - Rustam Kaiyrbekov

Rustam Kaiyrbekov, an International Master and International Chess Arbiter, proposes the establishment of an IT Chess Commission within FIDE to focus on evaluating modern technologies and artificial intelligence projects related to chess. Rustam is part of an IT startup and seeks FIDE's consideration of this initiative.

10.9 FIDE-00151 | TEC | Proposals | FIDE Smart ID Card to Streamline Tournament Operations

A proposer suggests introducing a smart electronic/magnetic player card linked to each participant's FIDE account. The card—read by scanners at boards—would show current Elo (and optionally recent performance), integrate with pairing software, and enable automatic rating updates after each game/round. Claimed benefits include faster more accurate administration, fewer manual errors, and a more modern experience for players and arbiters. They recommend piloting the system using RFID/smartcard tech tied to the FIDE database and gathering feedback to refine the solution; the author offers to share technical details and mock-ups.

10.10 FIDE-00152 | TEC | Proposals | New “Arias” Type-B Tie-Break

IA/IO Mario A. Arias Gaviria submits a new tie-break method (“Arias tie-break”) defined as a Type-B criterion under FIDE C.07, based solely on a player's own results. The tie-break explicitly distinguishes OTB games from non-appearances, ensuring active participation ranks above forfeits while remaining compatible with current Tie-Break Regulations. A technical document with definition, application, and a worked example is attached. He requests review by the Arbiters' Commission and consideration for pilot use.

10.11 FIDE-00153 | TEC ENQUIRY | Swiss Pairing Discrepancy vs Swiss Manager - Artem Nesytov

Artem Nesytov is developing a Swiss pairing engine and found a round-7 discrepancy compared to Swiss Manager. He believes there may be a critical error in criteria C16–C19. Two pairings match (7–3 and 10–2), but three differ (his: 9–5, 8–6, 4–1; Swiss Manager: 4–8, 9–6, 1–5). He

provides an .xlsx analysis (ups/downs from rounds 5–6 and his C16–C19 calculations) and the Swiss Manager TUNx file and asks Ivan Syrový to confirm which pairing set is correct or direct him to someone competent to verify.

10.12 FIDE-00157 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Scope and status of FIDE endorsement for pairing programs

René Coenjaerts asked FIDE for clarification on the meaning and practical effect of FIDE endorsement for pairing programs, including whether FIDE accepts rating reports only from endorsed programs. He also noted that the endorsement procedure he could locate in the FIDE Handbook, C.04.A, appeared to be valid only until 31 December 2024, and requested clarification on what procedure applies from 1 January 2025 onward. In addition, he asked whether FIDE endorsements currently apply only to programs implementing the FIDE Dutch system, or also to other recognised Swiss systems such as Dubov, Lim, and Burstein, referring to Vega's earlier endorsement for Dubov.

10.13 FIDE-00160 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Reconsideration of Direct Encounter Article 6.3

Luigi Forlano asked the TEC Chairman to reconsider Article 6.3 of the Direct Encounter tie-break. In his attached note, he accepts the improvement introduced by the revised rule for incomplete Swiss mini groups but argues that the repeated reapplication of Article 6 to the remaining unranked players can lead to a counterintuitive result. His example shows that, after the subgroup winner is removed, a player may be ranked behind another participant whom he had beaten in direct encounter. He therefore asks TEC to review the sentence requiring Article 6 to be reapplied to the remaining players. This concern was raised against the wording effective from 1 August 2024, and the same reapplication sentence is also present in the current regulations effective from 1 March 2026.

10.14 FIDE-00162 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Request for More Program Details

The FIDE Office forwarded a very brief enquiry, who says he is creating a chess program and asks FIDE to point him in the right direction. The message does not explain what type of program it is, what it is meant to do, or what kind of help is being requested.

Reply

Clarified that “Chess Kingdom” is intended as an after-school chess program for elementary and middle school children, focused on exposure to chess, basic training, and club-style participation rather than competition. He asks what help may be available regarding acceptance or endorsement, equipment, and financial provisions.

10.15 FIDE-00164 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Non-Endorsed Clocks at Local Events

Report of several FIDE-rated events organised by a club to allegedly use DGT 2000 clocks and older Leap models alongside DGT 2010 clocks. He supplied photographs and asked whether FIDE enforces its equipment rules for local tournaments. He also said he contacted FIDE directly

because he believed going through the national federation could create a conflict of interest.

10.16 FIDE-00165 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Complaint on Illegal Swiss Pairings

Reported a complaint about a small tournament advertised as a Swiss event, submitted for rating, and intended for FIDE submission. He states there was no notice of any experimental pairing method, so local practice would assume FIDE Dutch; he also notes a mismatch in arbiter names, one player receiving two pairing-allocated byes, no chief arbiter report on player complaints, and a suspicion that a non-endorsed experimental tournament-handling program was used. He asks TEC-SPP for a considered view on whether the pairings were illegal and whether that should support local disciplinary proceedings against the arbiter.

10.17 FIDE-00166 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Proposal on Technical Arbiter Recognition

Arasu B submitted a proposal asking FIDE to formally recognize Live & PGN / Technical / Broadcasting Arbiter roles within the tournament arbiter structure. The proposal dispute handling, fair play analysis, ratings, live transmission, and event reputation, and requests defined authority, eligibility, certification, remuneration, and inclusion in official appointments and reports.

Comment:

The current FIDE technical regulations already recognise and regulate the underlying technical ecosystem through C.02.01 and C.02.03, including electronic boards, electronic scoresheets, publishing hardware, publishing software, and tournament handler programs. They also require support for PGN recording, broadcasting, and arbiter-mode correction functions in relevant systems. C.02.04 further lists endorsed products in these categories, and the TEC Manual is expressly referenced as complementary guidance for implementing the technical regulations, however, define only the FA and IA titles, while the current world-event appointment regulations list roles such as Chief Arbiter, Deputy Chief Arbiter, Sector Arbiter, Pairing Officer, Arbiter, and Match Arbiter. They do not presently define a separate Live/PGN/Technical/Broadcasting Arbiter role.

10.18 FIDE-00167 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Current FIDE Clock List - Jiří Kolman

Jiří Kolman asks whether there is a current official list of chess clocks allowed for FIDE-rated tournaments. He says he had understood that only DGT 2010, DGT XL, DGT 2500 and DGT 3000 were allowed, but an arbiter seminar indicated that more clocks are permitted. He found a 2017 list that does not include DGT 2500, believes that list is outdated, and asks for the up-to-date reference.

Regulatory note:

Under the current C.02 regulations effective from 1 March 2026, equipment in FIDE-registered tournaments must comply with the applicable C.02 standards, and the C.02 General Regulations point readers to the TEC Manual for related definitions, processes, and clarifications. The current

official digital-clock list appears in “04. FIDE Certified and Endorsed Equipment” and includes CE Clock, DGT 2010, DGT 2500, DGT XL, DGT 3000, Leap KK9908, Leap KK9909, Sistemco, and Silver Timer. Mechanical clocks are also regulated separately in the current non-electronic equipment chapter.

10.19 FIDE-00169 | TEC | ENQUIRY | FIDE Endorsement for Pairing Software - David

David from Chopenings says he is considering developing new pairing and tournament management software and asks what the official requirements and procedure are to become a FIDE-endorsed provider, including which documentation he should consult and which commission he should contact.

10.20 FIDE-00171 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Tournament Software Endorsement Enquiry – Peng

Peng, a software engineer developing a cross-platform tournament management application, asks whether FIDE currently has an active framework for endorsing tournament management software. He requests guidance on whether FIDE approves such software, which body handles applications, what the application process is, what technical and regulatory requirements apply, what testing or file-format standards are required, and which official documents or forms he should consult in advance.

10.21 FIDE-00172 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Swiss Manager Acquisition Guidance – Mário Neves

Mário Neves, President of the Angolan Chess Federation, asks for guidance on how to proceed with the acquisition of the Swiss Manager program for organising and managing chess tournaments. He requests clarification on the correct communication channel, any authorization or licensing requirements, relevant technical or regulatory considerations, and what documentation should accompany the request.

10.22 FIDE-00173 | TEC | ENQUIRY | SwissSys Ownership Update – Colin Scheriff

TEC replied to Colin Scheriff regarding the SwissSys ownership record and the new THP framework. He noted that the current C.02.04 register still lists SwissSys under the previous owner, that the previous endorsement has expired, and that the program may nevertheless continue to be used during the transition period, and longer if the re-acceptance process has already started. He also pointed Colin to the new C.02.01 and C.02.03 framework, mentioned that the public register is now in C.02.04 rather than the old Annex 3, and highlighted new requirements such as TRF26, tie-break implementation, PTC and RTG, and applicable fees. He further observed that bbpPairings alone would not satisfy the full current THP requirements.

10.23 FIDE-00174 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Endorsement Register Discrepancy – Aristophane Chay

Aristophane Chay reported an inconsistency in the current C.02.04 FIDE Endorsed Equipment page. He noted that official FIDE decisions and announcements endorsed the LEAP KK9909 clock and ChessNoteR, but the current handbook page appears not to show the corresponding “Endorsed” checkmarks for those entries.

10.24 FIDE-00175 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Buchholz Rules for 2026 – Alex

Alex asks where the latest Buchholz rules can be found, noting that Swiss-Manager reflects 2026 changes while the only handbook version he found was the 2024 tie-break regulations.

10.25 FIDE-00176 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Electronic Elo Card Proposal – Sofiane

Sofiane Smahi proposed a smart electronic or magnetic card linked to each player’s FIDE account, capable of displaying current Elo and recent performance history, being scanned at tournament tables, and potentially updating ratings after each game or round. He argues that this could improve tournament management, reduce manual errors, and integrate with existing tournament software, and he suggests starting with a pilot event using RFID or smartcard technology.

10.26 FIDE-00177 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Strategic Time Credit Proposal – Onder Kuren

Onder Kuren proposes a new classical time-control mechanism called Strategic Time Credit, under which each player would receive three 10-minute credits usable only within the first twenty moves. He argues that this would reduce the time asymmetry created by deep engine-assisted opening preparation, protect over-the-board creativity, and improve spectator interest by adding a visible strategic decision point.

10.27 FIDE-00179 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Budget Proposal for Tablets – York Cleave

York Cleave says his revised idea is to use two Android tablets communicating by Wi-Fi or Bluetooth to transmit and record chess moves. He has obtained a quote from a technology company in India and asks whether FIDE can provide both funding and approval for the project.

10.28 FIDE-00180 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Clock Approval Request – Imranjeet Singh

Imranjeet Singh of NIVIA Sports says the company is preparing to launch a new line of chess clocks and seeks guidance on the procedure and requirements for obtaining FIDE approval for them.

10.29 FIDE-00181 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Talking Chess Boards Enquiry – Shirley Jang

Shirley Jang, on behalf of Neotech Corporation / Excellent media Group, introduced two “talking

chess boards for the elderly,” described one as ELO>2200 (Big Chess for adults), and attached product brochures. She asks for a response and indicates that the company also offers OEM/ODM custom manufacturing. On page 1 of the email, the embedded product image shows a large-format electronic chess board with labelled features such as a magnetic design, LCD countdown, and training/talking functions.

10.30 FIDE-00182 | TEC | ENQUIRY | TRF26 Name Format Clarification – Anantharam

Shaun Press replied to Sivakasi Chess Club that he is not aware of any mandatory rule requiring a comma between a player’s last name and first name when entering names in pairing software. He added that using a comma can make registration of inexperienced players easier on the FRS, and that he would have no issue if a national federation chose to enforce such a requirement.

10.31 FIDE-00183 TEC | Proposals Multiple Meets in Swiss – Otto Milvang

Otto Milvang proposes a new long-format Swiss tournament model for marathon blitz events in which players may meet more than once. His suggested structure would allow only one meeting between the same players in the first ten rounds, then progressively increase the permitted number of meetings every ten rounds, up to six meetings in the last ten rounds of a 60-round event. He suggests adapting the Dutch Swiss system by changing the basic rule on repeated pairings and by adding a new quality criterion to minimise repeat meetings. He also attached two 60-round sample tournament files, one with fifty players and one with twenty-five players, to illustrate the concept.

Under the current rules, this would sit outside the published FIDE Swiss systems, because the basic Swiss rules state that two participants shall not play each other more than once. At the same time, non-published systems may still be used if their detailed written rules are submitted in advance to the Qualification Commission for temporary authorisation and are disclosed to participants before the event. The rules also require FIDE Swiss systems to be objective and reproducible, so any further draft would need very precise wording.

10.32 FIDE-00184 | TEC | Proposals | Under-Table Panel Proposal – Lyes Yala

Lyes Yala submitted a formal proposal to amend C.02 by requiring a central under-table privacy panel at FIDE-rated events. He argues that current table standards regulate the tabletop dimensions and height but do not address the space below the table, where accidental or deliberate foot contact may disturb players. He proposes a rigid or semi-rigid panel extending at least 30 cm below the tabletop, including detachable solutions for existing tables, and says this could improve personal space, reduce disputes, and raise professional standards.

10.33 FIDE-00185 | TEC | ENQUIRY | C.02 Review Document Request – Luc Cornet

Luc Cornet asked whether there is a review document showing the substantive changes behind the March 2026 rewrite of C.02 Chess Equipment Technical Specifications, Rules, and Regulations without having to work through all the rewording and restructuring. There does in fact appear to

be a helpful document for that purpose: “Restructuring of FIDE Handbook Sections C.02 and C.04.A – Table of Changes” dated 26 August 2025. It expressly describes itself as a “Table of Changes” and a record of modifications, and it outlines both the reasons for the restructuring and the main structural changes, including the creation of C.02.01 General Regulations, the renaming of the former C.02.01 and C.02.02 sections, the incorporation of the former C.04.

To be discussed with HendrikA software-endorsement material into C.02.03, the move of older TRF annexes to the TEC Manual, and the move of forms/checklists online. The current FIDE Handbook structure effective from 1 March 2026 matches that overall reorganisation.

10.34 FIDE-00186 | TEC | Proposals | Modified Median Proposal – Chris Bird

Chris Bird proposed that FIDE consider adding the USCF-style Modified Median tie-break to the official FIDE tie-break regulations in a future update. He explained that this method is widely used in the United States and differs from the current FIDE Buchholz Median modifiers, particularly in how it excludes opponents’ scores for even-score, plus-score, and minus-score ties, including a stronger reduction in events of nine or more rounds.

10.35 FIDE-00188 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Event Format Opinion – Coralys Alvarado

Coralys Alvarado asked for a technical opinion on whether a national championship format of five rounds over one weekend and, for a nine-round event, four more rounds the following weekend, using 90 minutes for 40 moves + 30 minutes to finish with a 30-second increment from move one, is suitable.

10.36 FIDE-00212 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Sonneborn-Berger C2 Ambiguity – Tom Doan

Tom Doan identified an ambiguity in the application of the C2 modifier to Sonneborn-Berger under Articles 16.5.1 and 16.5.2 of the current Tie-Break Regulations. The issue arises when the lowest contribution from a Virtual Unplayed Round (VUR) is equal to the least significant value from another round. Although Article 16.5.1 determines which value should be cut, it does not clearly specify which element should be removed when the two values are equal but come from different rounds. This becomes significant when C2 requires a second cut, because the result may differ depending on whether the VUR or the other equal-valued element was removed first. Tom suggests that removing the VUR in the event of a tie may be the logical interpretation, but notes that this is not explicitly stated in the regulation.

10.37 FIDE-00214 | TEC | ENQUIRY | ChessNoteR Use in FIDE Events – Jon Haskel

Jon Haskel asks whether a ChessNoteR electronic scoresheet may only be used in a FIDE tournament when the device is supplied by the organiser, or whether a player may use their own device. The current C.02.04 register lists ChessNoteR 2.3.2 as having a TAPC but not current endorsement. Under C.02.01, endorsement is a subsequent status to TAPC and requires a commercial agreement with FIDE. ([International Chess Federation (FIDE)][1])

10.38 FIDE-00215 | TEC | Proposals | TuVi 100-Cell Chess Review – Viktor Vasylichenko

10.38.1 Summary:

Viktor Vasylichenko, co-author of TuVi 100-Cell Chess, requested an expert evaluation of a proposed chess variant played on a 10×10 board with an additional piece called the Mage, which has special teleportation and capturing rules. He seeks professional feedback on the concept's originality, internal consistency, balance, and prospects, while acknowledging that he is not presently requesting formal FIDE recognition.

10.39 FIDE-00216 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Electronic Result Collection – Jacob Oommen

10.39.1 Summary:

Jacob Oommen, a chess organizer in Kuwait, asks whether organiser-managed tablets or mobile devices may be used by floor arbiters solely to collect and transmit game results during a FIDE-rated tournament without requiring separate FIDE technical approval. The results would be reviewed by the Chief Arbiter and then manually entered Swiss-Manager for pairings and the FIDE rating report. The devices would not be used by players, would not function as electronic scoresheets, and would not replace the official tournament management system.

10.40 FIDE-00217 | TEC | Proposals | Swiss Pairing Reform Proposal – Ivo

10.40.1 Summary:

Ivo submitted a detailed proposal to reform the current FIDE Dutch Swiss pairing system, arguing that it can create significant differences in opponent strength and disadvantage underrated or rapidly improving players. Based on an analysis of the 2026 Ostravský koník Open C, he proposes a Dynamic Model 1–2, using adjacent pairings in round one and a Dynamic Strength calculation combining initial rating and current tournament performance for subsequent rounds.

10.41 FIDE-00218 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Chess Set Sourcing – Adam Robson

10.41.1 Summary:

Adam Robson asks where FIDE sources the chess pieces and boards used for its events.

10.42 FIDE-00219 | TEC | ENQUIRY | C.02 Article 5.11.1 Omission – Ivan Syrový

10.42.1 Summary:

Ivan Syrový identified an omission in C.02.01 General Regulations, Article 5.11.1.4, where the published sentence ends with “permanent cancellation of the” without identifying what may be cancelled. The current published version still contains this incomplete wording. The intended wording is “permanent cancellation of the TAPC.”

10.43 FIDE-00220 | TEC | ENQUIRY | SDPC Form Link Correction – Russell Bryant

10.43.1 Summary:

Russell Bryant reported that the link to the Self-Declaration of Product Compliance (SDPC) form in the C.02.01 General Regulations was not working. The published link directed him to .../FIDE/TechMenu, preventing access to the intended TEC online forms.

10.44 FIDE-00221 | TEC | ENQUIRY | FIDE Data API Access – Med Abdelhay Baba

10.44.1 Summary:

Med Abdelhay Baba, a Mauritanian chess player and software developer, is developing the “Mauritanian Chess Transparency” platform to provide public information on Mauritanian players, ratings, tournament results, performance statistics and comparisons. He asks whether FIDE provides an official API for programmatic access to player profiles, Standard/Rapid/Blitz ratings, rating history, tournament results and performance data, and requests information about credentials, agreements, non-commercial use and possible pricing.

10.45 FIDE-00222 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Scoring and Penalty Clarification – Roberto Ricca

10.45.1 Summary:

Roberto Ricca asked the FIDE Rules Commission for an authoritative clarification of Articles 10.2, 12.9.4 and 12.9.5 of the Laws of Chess so that TEC can meet unambiguous requirements for THP developers. He questioned the meaning of the “maximum score” in Article 10.2 when alternative scoring systems such as 3-2-1-0, 3-2-0, or 1-0-(-1) are used, and proposed revised wording based on the combined normal scores for a win and loss. He also highlighted that Article 12.9.4 places an upper limit on increasing an opponent’s score, while Article 12.9.5 does not expressly specify a lower limit when reducing an offender’s score, raising the question of whether a negative score could be imposed. Roberto requested an official Rules Commission position rather than an individual interpretation before TEC incorporates requirements into THP verification.

The issue remains relevant because the currently published Laws still use the same wording: Article 10.2 states that the total score cannot exceed the “maximum score normally given for that game,” while Articles 12.9.4 and 12.9.5 retain the asymmetrical wording identified by Roberto.

10.46 FIDE-00223 | TEC | ENQUIRY | Automated Move Detection Proposal – Cap10 BEN

10.46.1 Summary:

Cap10 BEN proposes that FIDE introduce sensory-equipped chessboards that automatically stop a player's clock and start the opponent's clock when a piece is released. The stated objectives are to remove physical gamesmanship associated with pressing the clock, make recorded thinking time correspond more closely to the moment a move is completed on the board, and bring over-the-board timing closer to the precision of digital chess.

11. Summary

The 2026 reporting period reflects a year of continued consolidation and implementation for the FIDE Technical Commission. TEC has concentrated not only on maintaining FIDE's technical regulations, but increasingly on providing the practical structures, documentation and verification mechanisms required to ensure that arbiters, organisers, manufacturers, and software developers can consistently implement those regulations.

One of the most key areas of progress has been the refinement of the FIDE product compliance and endorsement framework. The revised process provides a clearer progression from vendor registration and regulatory self-assessment through SDPC, TAPC, technical verification and, where applicable, FIDE endorsement. For Tournament Handler Programs, TEC is finalising the dedicated Verification Checklist and supporting TEC Manual, with vendors actively participating in the review process before the next Acceptance Cycle is announced. The response from the vendor community has been extensive and overwhelmingly positive, demonstrating strong industry interest in a more transparent and reliable compliance framework.

The Commission has at the same time continued to develop its technical capacity. The Gacrux project provides an important open and reproducible reference environment for testing pairing systems, tie-break calculations, and tournament data, while work continues matters including default time controls, scoresheet requirements, individual prizes in team competitions, statistical modelling of game outcomes and further development of the TEC Manual.

The sizeable number and diversity of enquiries and proposals received during the year also illustrate the expanding technical demands placed on modern chess administration. Matters referred to TEC ranged from pairing algorithms, tie-break interpretations and tournament software endorsement to electronic scoresheets, digital clocks, tournament data formats, automated result collection, and proposals for new tournament technologies. This interaction with the wider chess community remains important: it identifies areas requiring clarification, exposes practical implementation issues and provides valuable input for future regulatory

development.

Overall, TEC has continued to move from regulations alone toward a more complete technical governance framework built around clear rules, documented procedures, transparent compliance processes, objective verification, and active engagement with stakeholders . The work completed in 2026 provides a stronger foundation for the next phase of implementation, particularly the introduction of the new Acceptance Cycles, completion of the TEC Manual and Verification Checklists, and continued cooperation with manufacturers and software vendors to improve the reliability and consistency of technology used in FIDE chess.