

Proposal to Amend the FIDE Transfer Regulations & Rules of Eligibility for Players

Submitted to the FIDE General Assembly

Submitted by:

Monaco Chess Federation

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Proposal

Recognition of a Genuine, Substantial and Effective Connection with a Member Federation as an Additional Eligibility Criterion for Federation Transfer

Purpose of the Proposal

The Monaco Chess Federation respectfully proposes an amendment to the FIDE Transfer Regulations & Rules of Eligibility for Players in order to recognise a genuine, substantial and effective connection with a Member Federation as an additional eligibility criterion for a transfer between Member Federations.

The purpose of this proposal is not to replace the existing eligibility criteria of nationality, naturalisation or residence, but to complement them by recognising the realities of modern international mobility.

Proposed Amendment

Amendment to Article 1.1

Current Rule

A player may be registered under a Member Federation in accordance with the eligibility criteria established by the FIDE Transfer Regulations, including nationality, naturalisation or residence.

Proposed Additional Paragraph

«A player may also become eligible to represent a Member Federation where he or she demonstrates a genuine, substantial and effective connection with the country of that Member Federation.

Such connection may be established through stable and ongoing professional activity, self-employment, long-term economic activity, or any other objective circumstances demonstrating sustained integration into the economic, professional or social life of the country, subject to verification by FIDE.»

Statement of Reasons

International mobility has evolved considerably over recent decades.

An increasing number of players pursue their professional careers in countries other than those in which they reside. This situation particularly affects cross-border workers, employees of international organisations, self-employed professionals and individuals whose economic activities extend across national borders.

Many such players develop strong and lasting ties with the country in which they work and actively participate in its economic and social life. They frequently become involved in the activities of the national chess federation of that country.

The current FIDE regulations recognise nationality, naturalisation and residence as eligibility criteria. While these criteria remain fully justified, they do not always reflect the diversity of modern professional and economic circumstances.

This proposal therefore seeks to introduce an additional criterion based upon the existence of a genuine, substantial and effective connection with the country concerned.

This criterion would not weaken the existing regulations. On the contrary, it would provide FIDE with additional flexibility while preserving objective and verifiable standards.

Evidence supporting such a connection could include, among other things:

- an employment contract;
- certification from an employer;
- registration as a self-employed professional;

- proof of long-term economic activity;
- or any other official documentation accepted by FIDE.

Legal and Institutional Considerations

This proposal reflects the increasing international mobility of individuals while preserving legal certainty and sporting integrity.

The concept of a genuine, substantial and effective connection is well recognised in international legal practice as a means of assessing meaningful links between individuals and States or institutions.

Introducing this additional criterion would allow FIDE to consider exceptional but legitimate situations where a player's relationship with a country extends beyond nationality or residence alone.

Each application would remain subject to individual examination by the competent FIDE authorities, based upon objective evidence and in accordance with the principles of fairness, transparency and equal treatment.

Expected Benefits

The proposed amendment would:

- modernise the FIDE Transfer Regulations;
- better reflect contemporary patterns of international mobility;
- recognise legitimate long-term professional and economic connections;
- provide greater flexibility while maintaining objective eligibility criteria;
- ensure equal treatment for players whose genuine connection with a country is not based solely on nationality or residence.

Conclusion

The Monaco Chess Federation respectfully submits this proposal in the spirit of strengthening fairness, flexibility and good governance within FIDE.

The proposed amendment does not replace the existing eligibility criteria but complements them by allowing FIDE to recognise genuine, substantial and effective connections with a Member Federation where objectively demonstrated.

The Monaco Chess Federation respectfully requests that this proposal be considered by the Constitutional Commission and, subject to its recommendation, be submitted to the FIDE General Assembly for consideration and adoption.

Respectfully submitted,

Best chess regards

Jean-Michel Rapaire
President and Delegate
Monaco Chess Federation