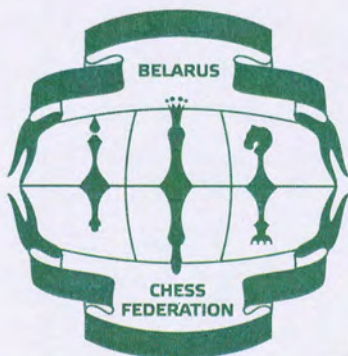




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To the attention of:
FIDE Offices
office@fide.com

Proposal for inclusion in the agenda of the FIDE General Assembly

Dear Colleagues,

Belarus Chess Federation respectfully submits this proposal for inclusion in the agenda of the FIDE General Assembly.

We ask the General Assembly to consider the status of the Chess Federation of Russia (CFR), the resolution adopted by the FIDE Council on 10 June 2026 following CAS 2024/A/10911, and the steps necessary to restore a normal and unified framework for the participation of the all the chess community in FIDE events.

Chess has a special capacity to preserve human contact where political relations have deteriorated. For generations, players from countries in serious disagreement have sat at the same board, observed the same rules and recognised each other's sporting achievement. This is not indifference to human suffering. It is one of the practical contributions that sport can make when other forms of dialogue are limited.

For that reason, every restriction should be tested against a simple question: does it genuinely protect chess and its participants, or does it merely reproduce political separation within the FIDE family? The suspension of a national federation, exclusion of its officials and teams, and removal of ordinary national identity are grave measures. They should continue only if they are necessary and capable of producing a concrete sporting benefit.

We do not see such a benefit in the present circumstances. The relevant CAS order concerns the regulation of chess in specified territories. Suspending the CFR from all FIDE membership activity does not itself create a solution for the players living there. It does not provide them with competitions, ratings, coaching or a stable

administrative pathway. Nor does it assist Russian and Ukrainian chess representatives in reaching arrangements that preserve both the development of chess and the legal position recognised by the Award.

The CAS Panel itself identified the constructive path. In paragraph 172, it strongly encouraged FIDE, the CFR and the Ukrainian Chess Federation to enter into good-faith dialogue, potentially managed by a special committee of independent experts, so that athletes in the relevant territories may compete in FIDE-sanctioned events and chess may continue to develop. We believe that FIDE should place this recommendation at the centre of its response.

Dialogue requires recognised counterparts and functioning institutional channels. A federation deprived of its rights and excluded from FIDE activities is a less effective partner in a compliance process than a federation that remains present, accountable and subject to continuous engagement. Restoration of membership is therefore not an abandonment of responsibility. It can be the condition for a more practical and transparent solution.

The treatment of players and teams should follow the same logic. FIDE has already demonstrated that Russian players and teams can participate in international chess. The General Assembly's decisions of December 2025 admitted teams to official tournaments and restored national symbols in youth and junior events. The Council's resolution of 10 June 2026 also sought to protect individual access, although through a complex set of distinctions and special procedures.

Since then, the international sporting landscape has changed. On 7 July 2026, the IOC stated that its earlier recommended conditions of participation relating to Russian athletes and teams were no longer applicable.

FIDE should respond in a manner consistent with the character of chess. Normal participation means more than permission for selected individuals to enter a tournament under an exceptional designation. It means that players, teams, coaches and officials can take part under the same transparent rules as their peers.

At the same time, our proposal does not seek to minimise the concerns that gave rise to the proceedings. We support an independent mechanism with a defined mandate, equal opportunity for the relevant federations to be heard, and clear reporting to FIDE. Such a mechanism should focus on workable arrangements for players, the integrity of FIDE-rated activity and the continued development of chess, rather than on symbolic exclusion.

This case should also prompt a measured discussion about the effectiveness of suspension as a disciplinary tool. Temporary exclusion may appear decisive, but in a global sport it often requires numerous exceptions to protect players and maintain ratings, titles and competition structures. The General Assembly should examine whether the same objectives can normally be achieved through monitoring, mediation, compliance directions and measures tailored to the particular activity at issue.

We respectfully submit that reconciliation within chess begins by keeping the chess community together. The General Assembly now has an opportunity to replace a broad exclusion with a structured process that respects the Award, protects participation and preserves the institutional unity of FIDE.

For the above reasons, we propose the following:

1. The temporary exclusion of the Chess Federation of Russia recognised by the FIDE Council on 10 June 2026 shall not be confirmed, and the CFR's full membership rights shall be restored.
2. CFR officials, players and national teams shall be eligible for FIDE congresses, competitions, events and activities on equal terms.

Sincerely,

Chairperson of the Belarus Chess Federation



Siarhei Sychuk