



Recommendations for approval by
the 2nd FIDE COUNCIL 2024
(online, July 29th, 2024)

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 28th, 2024 and July 15th, 2024. 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 28th, 2024 and July 15th, 2024 in FIDE Arbiters Commission (ARB) we worked on the following topics:

- A) Olympiad in Budapest
- B) Preparation of Hungarian arbiters
- C) IA Seminars
- D) FA Seminars
- E) Lecturer training program (LTP)
- F) Questions answers
- G) 100-year FIDE Awards
- H) Appointment of arbiters for World events
- I) Guinness record
- J) Arbiters' manual
- K) Articles on our webpage

- A) **Olympiad in Budapest:** In the FIDE Arbiters Commission we feel the importance of the upcoming Chess Olympiad in Budapest 2024. Thanks to FIDE President and FIDE's support and cooperation we got the whole list of arbiter positions (CA, DCA, TAP, Sector, and match arbiters) approved. There was enormous interest from arbiters, and once appointed, almost every arbiter immediately confirmed his/her interest in becoming a part of the team. All match arbiters are already assigned into sectors and sector arbiters have started communication with them.

Not every arbiter can be appointed to the Olympiad team. Some arbiters will be disappointed at not being selected, but they should understand we have a system - after communication with Continental arbiters' commissions and National federations and collecting data about each arbiter who answered the Call of Interest we presented the list of arbiters which included representatives from each Continent, had Women arbiters representation of at least 25%, and, even better, more

arbiters able to include an Olympiad in their profile. The downside of this approach means that some arbiters with experiences from previous Olympiads did not get selected, but this is the only way to give a chance to newcomers at the Chess Olympiad.

In cooperation with both DCA's and IA Marika Japaridze we prepared a letter to Sector arbiters and match arbiters which assigned duties (including, in part, how to prepare before the Olympiad for the role of arbiter). We would like to have detailed knowledge about each arbiter, including not just language skills but also details about the current stage with their visas, flight details, etc. At least one month before the Olympiad we will organise online seminars (3x, one each week) to prepare arbiters, additionally each sector arbiter is supported in planning the preparation of the team as well. We know some arbiters face difficulties – mostly regarding Schengen visas, insurance, appointments at Embassies for visas, expensive flight tickets and many other difficulties.

B) Preparation of Hungarian arbiters: On June 15th - 16th the Hungarian Chess Federation in cooperation with FIDE organised a seminar for Hungarian arbiters, having 41 participants: 8 IA, 8 FA and 25 NA, or in other terms 28 men and 13 women arbiters from all over Hungary. FIDE ARB supported this idea to enhance the quality of arbiters in Hungary. Lectures were given by IA Ivan Syrový (Chair of the FIDE ARB Commission), IA Nebojsa Baralic (Secretary of FIDE ARB Commission) and IA Laurent Freyd (Chair of the FIDE PDC Commission), the HUN ARB Commission was represented by its Chair, IA Miklós Orsó. Thanks to the organiser we could also visit the venue of the 45th Chess Olympiad (BOK Stadium). More detailed information you can find on the FIDE Arbiters webpage.

[Preparation of Hungarian arbiters for Olympiad in Budapest 2024 – Arbiters' Commission \(fide.com\)](https://fide.com/Preparation_of_Hungarian_arbiters_for_Olympiad_in_Budapest_2024_-_Arbiters'_Commission)

C) IA Seminars: Every month we organise one IA Seminar, with different lecturers. The feedback is good, arbiters consider it useful to have another level of education, different from the FA seminars. Unlike the FA seminars with one Lecturer, IA seminars are supported by two Lecturers and in this way each lecturer can also benefit, getting new ideas through cooperation with his/her colleague. We plan to continue IA seminars in the future as there are still some FA arbiters who need to get a norm from this type of seminar as part of becoming an IA and there are also new FA arbiters who will want to apply for IA seminars.

D) FA Seminars: FA seminars contribute to the education of arbiters who want to act at an international level and participate at World Events. Arbiters show great interest in being part of the team at World events, showing the high level of these events, including the conditions provided to all arbiters. FA seminars can be in any of the FIDE languages, but a basic chess vocabulary in English is important to include in these seminars. The common language of English can reduce obstacles between arbiters.

E) Lecturer training program (LTP): FIDE ARB issued a further Call of Interest for potential new Lecturers to be part of the **Lecturer Training Programme**. The Lecturer Training Programme (LTP) is designed to ensure that those presenting Arbiter Seminars are of a high quality. The Seminars provide the theoretical part of the knowledge required to become a FIDE qualified arbiter. There is also a practical part gained from officiating at events. The programme is restricted to International Arbiters of category A or B. The selection process tries to ensure that those who qualify are not only experienced arbiters but have an ability to teach others as well. There was a total of 32 applicants for the LTP. Each applicant was asked to outline their experience and to provide a sample of 5 multiple choice questions. Using these, and with consideration to geographical needs, the very difficult task of selecting a short list was carried out. 12 Arbiters have been chosen for the next stage. These 12 are currently preparing a short presentation of the type that would be given to students (National Arbiters) wishing to gain the Seminar norm for FIDE Arbiters. The next step is to ask the 12 candidates to give a presentation of this material, as if to a seminar, and to have an interview. These will take place in September

or October. Those successful in this process will then be invited onto the LTP where they will gain further practical experience before qualifying as Full Lecturers.

- F) **Questions and answers:** FIDE ARB gets a lot of questions and the team, under the leadership of Mr. IA Anantharam Rathinam, answers them and in this way also contributes to the education of arbiters. Many times, we get a complaint about an arbiter, but in reality, we find out it was just the lack of knowledge of complainant and not the mistake of the arbiter. When this is the case, we still try to do our best to explain why the arbiter acted correctly.
- G) **100-year FIDE Awards:** For this special year (FIDE 100) we participated with more commissions or in working groups. FIDE ARB Councillors prepared the list of arbiters for FIDE 100 Awards, so a jury can choose from this list the best arbiter.
- H) **Appointment of arbiters for World events:** In the previous period we faced a problem when an organiser of a FIDE World event, because of financial problems, did not accept the list of arbiters approved by FIDE and decided to invite only the Chief arbiter and Deputy chief arbiter from foreign countries, relying just on arbiters from the hosting country. We ensure that organisers who apply in the bid procedure are aware that a condition of being allowed to organise is that the event includes invitations to arbiters of all continents.
- I) **Guinness record:** FIDE ARB is involved in the Guinness World record attempt. We published article, shared on social medias the presentation and contacted arbiters via Continental arbiters' commissions and also directly. As it is an arbiter who is allowed to register the event for GWR, we feel it important to be a part of this goal. Big thanks belong to PDC chair, Mr. IA Laurent Freyd for his contribution and cooperation with ARB.
- J) **Arbiters' manual:** We are proud to announce that the next version of the Arbiters' Manual will be presented during the Olympiad. In the last period the team made a huge effort to finalise its work. We believe this edition will contribute to education of all arbiters so they get new ideas from experienced arbiters and can better understand the new regulations. In FIDE ARB we consider the Arbiters Manual not just as a book but as a part of our family. Once one edition is finished, we start thinking about a new generation with a new edition and further improvements.
- K) **Articles on our webpage:** The ARB Commission is active on social networks, presenting articles and useful information on its webpage. We are proud that arbiters share on their own profiles the articles published on the webpage not only dealing with arbiters but with chess in general. We are one family – we are proud of every successful chess event, and every good performance of the team of arbiters that contributes to it. We feel good support from organisers, and cooperation with other commissions (GSC, EVE and Fair play commission).

2) GOALS WHICH WERE BE ACHIEVED IN THE FOLLOWING PERIOD

During the next period, in FIDE Arbiters Commission (ARB) we will work on the following topics:

- A) Present a proposal of arbiters (all positions) for the 45th Chess Olympiad to GSC and FIDE President.
- B) Start new FIDE Lecturer Training Programme (LTP) according to 2.2 B.06.2 – FIDE Regulations for the Training of chess arbiters, give chance to become Lecturer to new profiles, both men and women and especially from parts of the World where there is a need to cover FA Seminars with new Lecturers.
- C) Maintain high standard of FA Seminars.

- D) Continue with IA Seminars, so all FIDE arbiters can participate and get the required norm to become International Arbiters.
- E) Continue with process of checking the tournament norms of arbiters and prepare and present material for FIDE Council for approval (FA arbiters, IA Arbiters and upgrades in their categories).
- F) Propose arbiters for World Events, with respect to gender, rotation, geographic areas as well as to give a chance to new and suitable arbiters.
- G) Make progress with Refresher Courses, start working on materials for each topic (content).
- H) Work on other topics that arise during this period.

3) FIDE ARBITERS SEMINARS

In the period from March 28th, 2024 and July 15th, 2024 twelve (12) FIDE ARBITERS' SEMINARS were organized in the following places and dates, under the auspices of FIDE. For eleven (11), report and results have been published on the FIDE website:

1. **154th Internet Based Seminar, IRAN, 21 – 25 March 2024**
22 participants from 1 Federation,
2. **Tashkent, UZBEKISTN, 31 March – 02 April 2024**
12 participants from 3 Federations,
3. **153rd Internet Based Seminar, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CHESS FEDERATION, 5 – 7 April 2024**
22 participants from 4 Federations,
4. **Victoria Falls, ZIMBABWE, 26 – 28 April 2024**
22 participants from 4 Federations,
5. **156th Internet Based Seminar, IRAN, 12 – 16 May 2024**
21 participants from 1 Federation,
6. **Bordeaux, FRANCE, 02 – 20 May 2024**
14 participants from 2 Federations,
7. **155th Internet Based Seminar, PANAMA, 11 – 13 May 2024**
19 participants from 10 Federations,
8. **157th Internet Based Seminar, EUROPEAN CHESS UNION, 01 – 09 June 2024**
18 participants from 13 Federations,
9. **Ha Noi City, VIETNAM, 4 – 8 June 2024**
21 participants from 1 Federation,
10. **Beirut, LEBANON, 28 – 30 June 2024**
19 participants from 6 Federations,
11. **158th Internet Based Seminar, ASIAN CHESS FEDERATION, 26 – 30 June 2024**
20 participants from 6 Federations
12. **Durban, SOUTH AFRICA, 1 – 4 July 2024**
13 participants from 1 Federation



Map 1 – Seminars reported for the 2nd FIDE Council 2024

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

193 arbiters from 49 Federations took part in 11 seminars.

190 arbiters took part in the exam.

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

4) INTERNATIONAL ARBITER CERTIFICATION SEMINARS

In the period from March 28th, 2024 and July 15th, 2024 four (4) INTERNATIONAL ARBITER CERTIFICATION SEMINARS were organized by the ARB Commission in the following places and dates, under the auspices of FIDE. For all of them, report and results have been published on the ARB website:

- 1. 3rd IA Certification Seminar, ARB, 13 – 14 April 2024**
24 participants from 14 Federations,
- 2. 4th IA Certification Seminar, ARB, 19 – 20 April 2024**
25 participants from 9 Federations,
- 3. 5th IA Certification Seminar, ARB, 25 – 26 May 2024**
25 participants from 15 Federations,
- 4. 6th IA Certification Seminar, ARB, 22 – 23 June 2024**
25 participants from 17 Federations,

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

99 arbiters from 38 Federations took part in 4 seminars.

98 arbiters took part in the exam.

84 arbiters passed the exam and achieved IA Norm (*see Appendix B for the full list*).

5) 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 2024, the Arbiters' Commission received 160 applications for Arbiters Titles. 35 IA, and 125 FA title applications were submitted for consideration by the Commission. 119 applications are approved, 26 rejected, and 15 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 2024.

b) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ARBITERS' CLASSIFICATION UPGRADES

For the 2nd FIDE Council 2024, the Arbiters' Commission received 19 applications for Arbiters' classification upgrades:

- 1 category A
- 3 category B
- 15 category C

14 applications are approved, and 5 rejected.

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 2024.

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CHAIRMAN
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