



Recommendations for approval by  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> FIDE COUNCIL 2025  
(online, July 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025)

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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 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025. 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 November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 and March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 in FIDE Arbiters Commission (ARB) we worked on the following topics:

- A) ARB response to Fair Play Standards Violation Sanctions Proposal
- B) Statement of ARB to the proposal of FIDE Rules commission addressed to FIDE Council and reaction to the letter of a group of arbiters to change the existing system of Fair Play officials
- C) Ongoing cooperation with Fair Play Commission
- D) Proposal for the change in regulation B.06.1 – *FIDE Regulations for the Titles of Arbiters*
- E) Organisation of the Meeting of ARB Councillors
- F) Working group to present standards for on line seminars to prevent cheating
- G) Appointment of arbiters for World Events

### **A) ARB response to Fair Play Standards Violation Sanctions Proposal**

The ARB Commission welcomed the proposal as a positive step toward establishing a clear criteria for sanctioning Fair Play violations. We recommend enhancing the FIDE Code of Ethics rather than drafting a separate document. Importantly, we emphasize the need to distinguish between negligent behaviour (e.g. a player bringing a pen or watch into the playing hall) and intentional cheating (e.g. using external computer assistance). Sanctions should be based on a scale of severity, intent, and impact, rather than fixed penalties.

### **B) Statement Regarding the Proposal by the FIDE Rules Commission and Related Letter from Arbiters**

The FIDE Rules Commission submitted a proposal to the Council suggesting changes to the existing Fair Play roles and titles. Simultaneously, a group of arbiters submitted a letter requesting a return to the previous system of anti-cheating arbiters.

The ARB Commission affirms:

- The Fair Play official (FPO/FPE) should report to the Chief Arbiter (CA), ensuring unified team leadership.
- We oppose a dual leadership structure with separate heads for arbiters and Fair Play officials.
- While acknowledging that arbiters, like players, can theoretically commit violations, such cases should be dealt with through strict procedures and penalties—potentially more severe than those applied to players.
- The current system of FPOs/FPEs should not subject arbiters to the same scrutiny as players (e.g. being denied access to PGN files).

Regarding financial aspects, we object to assistants (FPEs) paying for remote supervision by an external FPO. The appointed FPO should assume full responsibility for their team's preparation and coordination on-site.

We acknowledge the diversity of opinions within our commission and the broader arbiter community. While some advocate for Fair Play Commission responsibilities to be limited to investigations and education, others support maintaining the current system, recognizing the specialized training Fair Play officers undergo. Cooperation and mutual respect between ARB and Fair Play roles remain essential.

### **C) Ongoing Cooperation with the Fair Play Commission**

Several Zoom meetings with the Fair Play Commission representatives were held to address the aforementioned concerns. We appreciate their willingness to acknowledge and incorporate our feedback.

A joint online meeting, chaired by FIDE President Mr. Arkady Dvorkovich and attended by Deputy Chair Mrs. Dana Reizniece, as well as representatives from ARB, Fair Play, and signatories of the arbiters' letter, was held on May 13.

We support continued dialogue and collaboration between commissions and stakeholders. Feedback from Chief Arbiters (CAs) and Chief Fair Play Officers (CFPOs) should be collected systematically to evaluate event success and identify potential systemic or individual issues.

### **D) Proposal to Amend Regulation B.06.1 – FIDE Regulations for the Titles of Arbiters**

IA Jens Wolter, team leader for titles and licenses, presented proposed revisions to Regulation B.06.1. This follows extensive feedback from arbiters seeking regulatory improvements. A preliminary version was discussed within the ARB Commission, and further suggestions are currently being incorporated.

Key goals include:

- Clarifying which events are eligible for title norms.
- Introducing additional criteria for becoming an International Arbiter (IA), such as age limits and progression timelines from FA to IA.
- At this stage a new version is under discussion in FIDE ARB.

Once finalized, the revised proposal will be submitted to the Management Board and FIDE Council.

## **E) Upcoming In-Person Meeting of ARB Councillors**

An in-person meeting is scheduled for late August in the United Arab Emirates, hosted by the Fujairah Chess Club and facilitated by Councillor IA Mahdi Abdulrahim.

Tentative agenda:

1. Appointment of Arbiters for World Events – in cooperation with GSC, EVE, and FP Commissions.
2. Formation of Arbiter Panels (2026–2027).
3. Activity Plan for 2026.
4. Arbiters' Education – ongoing meetings and refresher courses.
5. Collaboration with Asian and Chinese Chess Federations – including a workshop on practical topics.

## **F) Working group to present standards for on line seminars to prevent cheating**

During recent International Arbiters Seminars, several lecturers raised concerns regarding potential cheating by participants during online examinations—particularly through remote assistance from other arbiters. While this issue may have existed in the past, its scope and sophistication, especially with the growing use of AI, have made it a more pressing concern today.

In response, we have formed a dedicated working group that includes not only members of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission (ARB) but also representatives from other key FIDE Commissions. We greatly appreciate the collaboration and contributions of the Women's Commission, Trainers' Commission, Fair Play Commission and Rules Commission in our first online meeting, held on Friday, June 27th. During this meeting, each commission shared valuable experiences regarding cheating incidents and preventive strategies.

We acknowledge that in today's environment, being a knowledgeable lecturer is not sufficient; all lecturers must also implement preventive measures to safeguard the integrity of examinations. Our working group is now preparing a comprehensive written proposal that will serve as practical guidance for all lecturers—not just those involved with arbiters' seminars. The material will include recommended protocols and tools to help ensure fair and secure examination procedures.

A particularly critical concern is the use of AI tools and remote assistance from other arbiters, which poses a significant threat to examination integrity. In this regard, we want to highlight that the FIDE Arbiter's Councillors have unanimously decided to refer the recent suspected cheating case during an IA seminar to the Arbiters Disciplinary Subcommittee. We all regard this matter with the utmost seriousness.

As arbiters are entrusted with upholding the integrity of the game, any form of unauthorized assistance—especially when coming from within the arbiters' community—is wholly unacceptable.

## **G) Appointment of Arbiters for World Events**

The second quarter of 2025 marked continued improvement in the arbiter appointment process. A key development was involving proposed Chief Arbiters in discussions about their teams, alongside local organizers. Several lists of appointments were submitted for approval, with coordination between ARB and the Fair Play Commission.

## **2) FIDE ARBITERS SEMINARS**

In the period from March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 twenty-one (21) FIDE ARBITERS' SEMINARS were organized in the following places and dates, under the auspices of FIDE. For eighteen (18), report and results have been published on the FIDE website:

1. **180<sup>th</sup> Internet Based Seminar, FRANCE, 4 March – 5 April 2025**  
17 participants from 5 Federations,
2. **Oslo, NORWAY, 13 – 16 March 2025**  
16 participants from 1 Federation,
3. **183<sup>rd</sup> Internet Based Seminar, ASIAN CHESS FEDERATION, 14 – 16 March 2025**  
20 participants from 4 Federations,
4. **182<sup>nd</sup> Internet Based Seminar, GUATEMALA, 21 – 23 March 2025**  
19 participants from 8 Federations,
5. **184<sup>th</sup> Internet Based Seminar, PHILIPPINES, 28 – 31 March 2025**  
20 participants from 1 Federation,
6. **Almaty, KAZAKHSTAN, 1 – 5 April 2025**  
18 participants from 5 Federations,
7. **Bagatelle, MAURITIUS, 4 – 6 April 2025**  
17 participants from 1 Federation,
8. **185<sup>th</sup> Internet Based Seminar, IRAQ, 9 – 14 April 2025**  
18 participants from 7 Federations,
9. **186<sup>th</sup> Internet Based Seminar, ASIAN CHESS FEDERATION, 18 – 20 April 2025**  
21 participants from 6 Federations,
10. **187<sup>th</sup> Internet Based Seminar, CUBA and CONFEDERATION OF CHESS FOR AMERICAS, 25 – 27 April 2025**  
20 participants from 7 Federations,
11. **JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA, 26 – 29 April 2025**  
7 participants from 1 Federation,
12. **Mombasa, KENYA, 23 – 25 May 2025**  
16 participants from 4 Federation,
13. **188<sup>th</sup> Internet Based Seminar, PHILIPPINES, 23 – 27 May 2025**  
23 participants from 2 Federations,
14. **Stavanger, NORWAY, 29 – 30 May 2025**  
4 participants from 2 Federations,
15. **Namangan, UZBEKISTAN, 29 May – 1 June 2025**  
14 participants from 1 Federation,
16. **Namangan, UZBEKISTAN, 2 – 5 June 2025**  
14 participants from 1 Federation,
17. **190<sup>th</sup> Internet Based Seminar, ASIAN CHESS FEDERATION, 16 – 20 June 2025**  
19 participants from 6 Federations,
18. **192<sup>nd</sup> Internet Based Seminar, ASIAN CHESS FEDERATION, 27 – 29 June 2025**  
20 participants from 11 Federations.

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

303 arbiters from 55 Federations took part in 18 seminars.

302 arbiters took part in the exam.

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

### **3) INTERNATIONAL ARBITER CERTIFICATION SEMINARS**

In the period from March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 six (6) INTERNATIONAL ARBITER CERTIFICATION SEMINARS were organized by the ARB Commission in the following places and dates, under the auspices of FIDE. Report and results have been published on the ARB website:

1. **12<sup>th</sup> IA Certification Seminar, ARB, 15 – 23 March 2025**  
26 participants from 18 Federations,
2. **13<sup>th</sup> IA Certification Seminar, ARB, 22 – 30 March 2025**  
25 participants from 11 Federations,
3. **14<sup>th</sup> IA Certification Seminar, ARB, 26 – 29 March 2025**  
25 participants from 1 Federation,
4. **15<sup>th</sup> IA Certification Seminar, ARB, 10 – 18 May 2025**  
25 participants from 18 Federations,
5. **16<sup>th</sup> IA Certification Seminar, ARB, 24 May – 1 June 2025**  
23 participants from 19 Federations,
6. **17<sup>th</sup> IA Certification Seminar, ARB, 28 June – 1 July 2025**  
15 participants from 1 Federation.

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

139 arbiters from 47 Federations took part in 6 seminars.  
137 arbiters took part in the exam.  
92 arbiters passed the exam and achieved IA Norm (*see Appendix B for the full list*).  
10 arbiters will be re-tested in the future period.

### **4) 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 2<sup>nd</sup> FIDE Council 2025, the Arbiters' Commission received 192 applications for Arbiters Titles. 49 IA, and 143 FA title applications were submitted for consideration by the Commission. 161 applications are approved, 23 rejected, and 8 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 2<sup>nd</sup> FIDE Council 2025.

#### **b) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ARBITERS' CLASSIFICATION UPGRADES**

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> FIDE Council 2025, the Arbiters' Commission received 28 applications for Arbiters' classification upgrades:

- 0 category A
- 7 category B
- 21 category C

23 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 2<sup>nd</sup> FIDE Council 2025.

**IA IVAN SYROVY**  
CHAIRMAN  
FIDE ARBITERS' COMMISSION