



# FIDE Rules Commission

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## Report to 2nd Quarter 2020 Council meeting

23 June 2020

### Special Thanks:

Rules commission thanks FIDE President to join meeting with rules commission members and following activity of the rules commission.

### Meetings:

Rules Commission after selecting the members made the first meeting in April 2019 in Dubai and minutes sent to FIDE Secretariat and approved, then in year 2020 made another three online zoom meetings:

On 20th May with Consulars , In this meeting decided to make an appendix for Online Chess to the official FIDE Laws of Chess.

On 28th May With FIDE President, FIDE Deputy President , FIDE executive director and Rules commission chairman, honorary chairman, Secretary, and consulars and had 2 hours online meeting on Zoom, In this meeting FIDE president described FIDE Policy during Pandemic period and after it and emphasis on importance of adopting rules for online chess with co-operation of relevant commissions. (Minutes is attached)

On 13th June With all members of the rules commission discussed about the received proposals and what was approved. It decided to Mr. Shaun Press coordinate with the Arbiters Commission in adjusting the commentaries on the Laws of Chess in Arbiter Manual.

On 24th June there will be another meeting about the received proposal from FIDE office about Proposal on Commission Objectives (RC, TEC, SPP).

### New Activity :

Lunching the new website on the new address of [www.rcc.fide.com](http://www.rcc.fide.com)

Lunching the instagram page : [instagram.com/fide\\_rules](https://www.instagram.com/fide_rules).

Collect and Publish approved Translation of FIDE Laws of Chess in different languages of Russian, French and Arabic, other FIDE official Languages will publish soon.

Recording teaching rules Video's in English and Arabic and publish on the website and Social Media,

### Online Chess

For online chess , FIDE Rules commission made **APPENDIX E** to add to the Laws of Chess, It's attached.

Mahdi Abdulrahim

FIDE Rules Commission

## Appendix E. On-line chess

- E.1 'On-line chess game' is one where the game of chess is played between two opponents who move their pieces on a computer display using a special 'chess program (portal)' for the game.
- E.2 The following Articles of the Laws of Chess do not apply during the 'On-line chess game': Article 4, 6.2.3-6.2.6, 6.5, 6.8, 6.10.1, 6.10.2, 6.11.2, 6.11.4, 6.12.1, 6.12.2, 7.1-7.2.2, 7.4.1-7.6 , 8, 9.1.2.3-9.6.2, 11.4, 11.12:
- E.3 'Chess program (portal)' should provide the following information on the display:
- chessboard,
  - chessclock,
  - scoresheet (recording of moves),
  - have the appropriate buttons which will enable the player to propose draw or declares he resigns,
- E.4 Arbiter should be present during online games. Arbiters and Players should be able to communicate through an audio/visual system which shows the player's images during the game and between rounds. The microphone device of players should always be on, and the Arbiter can mute or unmute them if necessary. The player's playing location must be monitored by at least 2 cameras, the image of cameras must be visible to both: the opponent and the Arbiter .
- E.5 The 'chess program (portal)' must comply with the Laws of Chess and automatically fix the following.
- all moves made,
  - all draw proposals with the symbol (=),
  - after completing the player's move, start the opponent's clock,
  - draw based on 3 time repetitions or 50 move rules,
  - game result in case of mutual agreement,
  - do not allow making illegal moves,
  - give the opportunity to choose a new piece in case of promotion,
  - stop the game immediately after its completion,
  - after end of the game, possibility to download the pgn file.
  - enable the Arbiter to intervene the game if necessary, or to impose sanctions in accordance with Article 12.9 of the Laws of Chess.
- E.6 During the game, the presence of other people in the playing area is strictly forbidden.
- In Rapid and Blitz, it is strictly forbidden for a player to leave the playing area, as long as his game is in progress.

In Standard Chess, leaving the playing area is allowed only after playing a move and with the consent of the arbiter and a limited number of times per game to be specified in the regulations of the tournament.

Players should not misbehave in front of the camera. Smoking is forbidden in front of camera.

The use of earphones is strictly forbidden. Players should maintain silence in the playing area as much as possible.

E.7 In case of violation of points E.4, E.5 and E.6, the player may be punished either according to the Arbiter's decision or according to the rules of fair play of FIDE.

# FIDE RULES COMMISSION

## MEETING WITH FIDE PRESIDENT

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### MINUTES

#### Attendance:

- Arkday Dvorkovich(FP)  
(FIDE President)
- Victor Bologan  
(FIDE Executive Director)
- Mahdi Abdulrahim  
(Chairman)
- Ashot Vardapetian  
(Horary Chairman)
- Mehrdad  
Pahlevanzadeh  
(Secretary)
- Stephane Escafre  
(counsellor)
- Hassan Khaled  
(Counsellor)
- Mike Hoffpauir  
(counsellor)

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Time: 12:00 - 14:00 hrs

(Moscow time)

Date: 28 May 2020

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#### Observers:

- Kouatly, Bachar  
(Deputy President)
- Turlej, Lukasz  
(Vice President)
- Stoisavljevic, Sava  
(Assistant to the COO)
- Tsykina, Vadim  
President advisor
- Shohreh Bayat  
Arbiters Commission

#### REPORTS OF ACTIVITY IN THE PAST MOUNTHS

Chairman Mr. Mahdi Abdulrahim started with the report of the activity of the rules commission in the past mouths as follow:

- Publishing official translation of FIDE Laws of Chess in Russian, Arabic (By Mr. Mahdi Abdulrahim) and French (by Mr. Laurent and Mr. Escafre) and waiting for approval of Spanish Language.
- Lunching new design of Rules Commission Website
- Producing few teaching videos in English and in Arabic and work for ideas to improve them.
- FIDE rules commission lunch instagram page and have plan to make it active and as an interesting source to communicate about Laws of chess.

#### CORONA VIRUS ARENA

Secretary Mr. Mehrdad Pahlevanzadeh opened the discussion about current situation and new circumstances during Corona Virus and after it, and Mr. Bologan mentioned that we should make situation in a way that after Corona, normal tournament still be preferable than live tournament.

#### Online Chess regulations

After discussion about recommendations of the Rules commission and draft of the new appendix drafted by Mr. Ashot Vardapetyan and comment by other members , FIDE President asked from rules commission to finalize the appendix for online chess as soon as possible, to introduce which part of laws of chess should not be consider in online chess and what is needed to add to be able to keep under control play in the online chess.

Idea of only allow desktop computer or laptops should be use for official FIDE tournaments approved, but for lower level or unofficial tournaments all devices or mobiles even might use.

General conclusion was that representative of all relevant commissions should co-operate to make appropriate regulation for online chess.

Mr. President said that he doesn't believe that results of online chess can mixed with on the board games.

It's recommended by Mr. Hassan Khaled to issue online ratings for standard, rapid and blitz separate from current official ratings, but use current ratings as initial rating for the same kind of time control.

#### **Identification problem**

Since Identification of players is very important for organizing online tournaments, when the level of players going little lower than elite players, the Idea of publishing Handles of top players in their FIDE profile page of on FIDE website discussed and Mr. President said he believes that it is possible to do it now only for top players that are interested to publish their Handles from different platforms in their profile page on FIDE website.

#### **Fair Play measurements**

One of the most important matters that is in-front of Online Chess is Cheating, Since even when players play on the board, it's very difficult to avoiding cheating, many chess people do not believe that it's possible to avoid cheating during online chess, but recent experiences shows it's very possible. The measurements are at-least 4 groups:

- 1- Controlling the player environment such as room and isolation of player from other people. We need to define Playing area and Playing venue to be able to define feasible rules. Observation need atleast 2 cameras from front and back, better cover 360 degree preferable with motion detectors Plus Microphones should be on and test time to time.
- 2- Stop access of others to the computer of player via internet, there are several ways for do it, that technically it's easy to avoid .
- 3- Make delay in the streaming to make it difficult for others to be able to hint, for example by one pair of moves.
- 4- Test moves to find if any player used engines to generate moves after the games.

Before the game Arbiter should ask the players to show the environment around them and their Ear or any other test that he need on computer of the player to be sure that situation is under control.

Start of the games should be by arbiter on time but he should be able to stop the games if needed or add time to any or both players and check again the environment if needed.

Recording sessions of games should not stop even when the player is disconnected. Arbiter should check if any disconnection happens during the games and decide what decision should take because of it.

#### **Rules Commission Seminars**

Idea of making Rules Commission seminar for the Arbiters who wants to upgrade from FIDE Arbiter level to International Arbiter disused and approved to rules and arbiter commission co-operate with-together to handle them. In each lecture will be 2 lecturers, one from Rules and one from Arbiter commission.

#### **Rules Commission activity in Social Media**

Decided to Rules commission be more active in the Social Media as Instagram, Facebook, Twitter by open discussions about rules and proposals.

#### **Teaching Arbiters new rules, apps and equipments for online Chess**

Decided to Rules commission with other relevant commission make material for teaching how to organize online Chess events and how to handle online video recordings during the games.

#### **FIDE Arbiters Manual**

In addition of support to the great work of Arbiters Commission, it's suggested to co-ordinate with rules commission in adding comments to the FIDE Laws of Chess.

#### **Rules Commission is responsible to answer question about Laws of Chess**

FDIE president mentioned that the Rules Commission should be the source to address all questions about FIDE Laws of Chess.

Decided to answer questions about Rules only by FIDE Rules Commission.

#### **Teaching Rules video's**

Even rules commission made few teaching rules videos with actions and few by describing rules in the Arabic Language by Mr. Mahdi Abdulrahim. Since we need some feedbacks to continue our work, we wait for other members and FIDE president opinion.

It's decided to with technical help of FIDE partner's as chesskid, Rules commission make appropriate videos for different Audience, as Children, Adults, Arbiters, top players ...

#### **PROJECTS AND BUDGET**

The requested budget and plans was sent to FIDE Executive director.

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

Rules commission will organize another meeting to make conclusion for the Appendix of online chess before FIDE online presidential board meeting in ... June 2020.

And at the end all Members of the Rules Commission appreciate from FIDE president to arrange this meeting and accept proposals of the Rules Commission.