



FIDE Events Commission

2nd Quarter FIDE Online Council Meeting Report

Dear Mr. FIDE President and FIDE Council members,

Pandemic situation all over the world directly and fully affected our commission events and all the 2020 events postponed till October 2020.

FIDE World Senior Teams (50+ & 65+) Championships organized at Prague, Czechia.

In the first half of 2020 only FIDE World Senior Teams (50+ & 65+) Championships organized at Prague, Czechia. Tournament scheduled as March 5 to 15 but it was concluded 2 days early, just after 7th round, because of successive measures taken by the Czech government to control COVID-19. Participation was successful, with 55 teams in 50+ and 51 teams in 65+, for a total of 482 players.

Tournament organized at a high satisfactory level although Pandemic situation affected tournament from the beginning.

World Senior Teams Championship 2020 at Prague was one of the most difficult and challenging events of FIDE because of the fast-growing pandemic situation at Czechia, Europe, and all over the world.

Organizers put huge effort to run the tournament by cooperating with FIDE. They really deserved a big congratulation and respect.

Despite all the negative issues that happened because of the fast-growing pandemic situation, FIDE and organizers managed together to finalize the tournament after round 7 and even organized the prize ceremony.

We have to mention special thanks from the entire chess community to the Deputy Minister of Health of the Czech Republic Roman Prymula who, besides being a FIDE master, is also an epidemiologist - the biggest authority of the country in this field. He personally supervised the situation of the World Senior Team Championship. Mr. Prymula also assisted before the tournament started: when there was a shortage of sanitizers and masks, he helped the organizer to get supplies, so the tournament could follow all the advice and recommendations from the medical commission.

There were many issues that happened during the tournament. Organizers had to deal daily with reducing the capacity of playing halls, early team departures, hotel cancellations, increased hygiene, etc.

All participants received souvenirs, certificates of participation for individuals and teams. They planned side events such as trips and a blitz tournament, etc.

After the tournament organizers refunded accommodation payments of participants who had early check out due to early finish. They sent emails regarding refunding process and proposal to all participants that who effected from the early finish of the tournament.

Special thanks to all Organization and Arbiters team who worked hard successfully to run the tournament.

EVE provided facilities to make the survey online and %30 of the participants completed questionnaires. That is a lower ratio compared with previous tournaments in which players completed the questionnaire during the tournament (not online).

During evaluation of the survey, we must take into consideration that only %30 of all participants answered survey and the percentages shows the ratios due to %30 of the participants. Also, we have to take into consideration, in that kind of surveys the dissatisfied participants have much more desire to express their opinion than the ones who were satisfied.

58% of respondents found that the corona pandemic situation was well handled and 35% found the handling “acceptable” which makes %93 in total where it shows the success of the organisers and FIDE.

The overall appreciation was 22% incredibly good; 46% good; 18% average which makes in total %86 as a high percentage.

Most the participants, totally % 83, were satisfied about the quality of their hotel. On the part of the organizers, due to the expected record attendance (a few days before the event, 120 teams were registered), it was decided to use two playing halls within one complex and expand the offer of hotels by another two hotel which had a wide range of prices in the range of from 32€ to 88€ / person per night.

As it was an official FIDE World Championship, anti-cheating rules were followed strictly. I think it also shows the respect to the tournament and to players. On the other hand, we could discuss with related commissions to follow some special anti-cheating measures for senior tournaments due to the requests came from some of the players.

Joint statement by FIDE and the ECU 9th March 2020

As you know, three major events are planned for April 2020 in Crete, Greece.

1. World Cadet & Youth Rapid & Blitz Chess Championships 2020
2. World Amateur Chess Championship 2020
3. European School Championships 2020.

These events involve the travel and presence of hundreds of players and others at the venue. Given the current health situation in Europe and worldwide with the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19), recommendations and instructions of WHO, sports and national authorities, as also concerns expressed by many participants and national federations, both organizations believe that priority is the protection of the public health.

In view of the above, and after consultation with the organizers, FIDE and ECU have decided that all three events listed above will be postponed. The events are rescheduled for after the 15th of June 2020 and the new dates and venue in Greece will be announced the next days.

Bookings have been already made and deposits will be transferred to the new dates and in case that participants will not be able to attend will be fully refunded for their hotel bookings and registration fees.

We would like to note that since that the reason for the postponement is force majeure and a recognized worldwide big threat for public health, neither FIDE, nor ECU, nor the organizers can be responsible for other expenses incurred by participants, including travel expenses and air tickets. Many companies decided to redirect to new dates/destinations or refund tickets that cancelled due to the global threat of (COVID-19).

EVE Tournaments at 2021 were awarded at Executive Board at Abu Dhabi FIDE Congress.

Below you could find the decisions taken at FIDE Executive Board meeting at Abu Dhabi.

EB/15 It is decided that the bids for the year 2022 will be opened in March.

EB/16 The bid from Russia for the World Senior Championships 2021 was approved.

EB/17 The bid from Malta for the World Amateur 2021 was approved.

EB/18 The bid from Italy for the World Senior Team Championship 50+ and 65+ 2021 was approved.

EB/19 The bid from Italy for the World Junior and Girls U-20 Championship 2021 was approved.

EB/20 The bid from Egypt for the World Cadet Championship U-8, U-10, U-12 2021 was approved.

EB/21 Two bids were received for the World Youth Championships U-14, U-16, U-18 2021, respectively from Italy and Russia. The EB was called to vote and the results of the voting were the following: 2 votes for Italy and 30 for Russia, 7 abstentions. Therefore, these Championships were awarded to Russia.

EB/22 Two bids were received for the World Cadet & Youth Rapid and Blitz Championships U-8, U-10, U-12 2021, respectively from Georgia and Croatia. The EB was called to vote and the results of the voting were the following: for 15 Croatia and 24 for Georgia. Therefore, these Championships were awarded to Georgia.

EB/23 A bid from Mexico for the World Youth U-16 Chess Olympiad 2021 was received when the prescribed bidding period was already over. It was approved to extend the bidding period for two weeks so that the Mexican Chess Federation could properly submit its bid.

Note: We reopened the bidding for World Youth U-16 Chess Olympiad 2021 after decision above, but we did not receive any bid.

EVE renewed and published the “List of Lecturers for FIDE International Organizer Seminars” at 23rd March 2020 at EVE website.

World School Chess Championships is postponed at 08th April 2020

The International Chess Federation has decided to postpone the World School Chess Championship, which was scheduled to take place in Panama City, from May 28th to June 7th.

The new dates are November 1-11, 2020. The Wyndham Panama Albrook Mall Hotel & Convention Center remains as the official hotel and playing venue, as it was initially planned: this hotel is located within 35 minutes from the two main airports: Tocumen International Airport (one of the main hubs in Central America), and the Panama Pacifico Airport.

We regret the inconveniences that this may cause to the participants, but both FIDE and the Panama Chess Federation understand we have no option but to postpone the event in response to the coronavirus outbreak. The decision was made following the recommendations of the World Health Organization, the national sports authorities in Panama, and also attending to the concerns expressed by many participants and National Federations. Our top priority is the protection of public health.

Bookings and deposits will be transferred to the new dates, and in case any participant is not able to attend the event in these new dates, he will be fully refunded for their hotel bookings and registration fees. We would like to note that since the reason for the postponement is force majeure and a recognized worldwide serious threat for public health, neither FIDE nor the organizers can be responsible for other expenses incurred by participants, including travel expenses and air tickets. However, since this is a global issue, most airlines are offering free changes or full refunds to all passengers who were supposed to travel during this period.

FIDE is also considering the possibility to postpone all the remaining 2020 competitions to 2021, and the 2021 competitions to 2022. We will keep monitoring the situation, and an announcement will be made a minimum of 4 months prior to the planned starting date of the event.

EVE announced Call for Bids for FIDE World Championships 2022 at 08th April 2020.

We mentioned the important phase that FIDE is considering an option to postpone the 2020 competitions to 2021, and the 2021 competitions to 2022. Thus, all those bidding for the 2022 events shall be prepared that their bids will be considered for 2023.

The deadline is 4th of September 2020

1. World Junior Chess Championships 2022
2. World Youth U16 Chess Olympiad 2022
3. World Youth (U14, U16 & U18) Chess Championships 2022 (Europe)
4. World Cadets (U08, U10 & U12) Chess Championships 2022 (Europe)
5. World Youth & Cadets Rapid & Blitz Chess Championships 2022
6. World School Chess Championships 2022
7. World Senior Chess Championships 2022
8. World Senior Team Chess Championships 2022
9. World Amateur Chess Championships 2022

World Youth (U14-U16-U18) Chess Championships 2020 postponed at 22nd May 2020

In response to the Romanian Chess Federation's request to postpone the 2020 World Youth Chess Championships, the FIDE Management Board convened at 12:00 UTC on Friday, May 22, 2020, took its decision:

"WHEREAS the FIDE Management Board received and duly examined a request from the World Youth Chess Championship 2020 organizers; and

WHEREAS there still exists a large degree of uncertainty in the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. To postpone the World Youth Chess Championship 2020 scheduled for September 2020 to a later date.
2. To determine the new dates of the World Youth Chess Championship 2020 in coordination with the organizers, taking into account the epidemiological situation.
3. To announce the new dates no later than four (4) months before the start of the event."

EVE send it proposal including organizers opinions and agreements regarding postponement of 2020 EVE tournaments to 2021 and postponement of 2020 EVE tournaments to 2021.

Planned to do for the last half of 2020

- To work on and update Events Commission responsibilities
- To organize two online IO Seminars
- To organize Online Organizers Conference
- To work on the draft calendar of 2021
- Preparing EVE Tournaments statistics and putting to EVE website
- Working and preparing on the FIDE Technical Delegate regulations and related documents together with Events Department
- To work on updated in the FIDE Organizers Manual
- To organize an Online Commission meeting
- To improve format of the Calendar at FIDE website
- To work on tournament regulations amendments and new tournament formats
- To work on regulations of new organizer titles, IO Seminars standards, procedures, process
- To work on some changes about tournament regulations,
- To work on bidding procedure and bidding forms

Best Regards,

FM-IA-IO Ozgur Solakoglu

FIDE Events Commission Chairman