

Project Name: The Year of Women in Chess in 2022

Project submitted by: FIDE WOM

Project submitted for: FIDE Council approval

Date of project submission: June, 2020

Budget: to be submitted in the 2nd half of 2021

FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich in his statement in October 2019 stressed out:

“FIDE’s renewed policies are rooted in our firm commitment to women empowerment and gender equity. We believe that sport equate fairness, and equality of opportunity requires the recognition and understanding of social context. It is also our responsibility to address and dismantle any barriers that girls or women face at engaging in this sport. FIDE can only fulfill its global mission if we can inspire young girls and pave their way to immerse in the game, foster their talent and provide every opportunity for them to compete at the very top level.”

While women are achieving in once all-male or male-dominated pursuits at unprecedented levels, women’s achievement in chess significantly lags. As of May 2020, of the world’s Grandmasters, only 1.9% are women. Similarly, the number of women arbiters, organizers and lecturers trails their male counterparts in surprising numbers. The reasons for this are complex but there is a real interest for women and girls to participate in the game of chess. Data shows in a number of countries, that chess interest is almost equal in boys and girls up to the teenage years. A more significant drop-off of girls compared to boys is noticeable causing thereafter a real differential in participation.

To empower female participation in all spheres of chess life, we propose the Year of Women in chess to be proclaimed in FIDE in 2022, with the following actions and events:

- Mass online female tournaments in cooperation with continental organisations
- Webinars with sport psychologists for professional female players and their trainers and for talented girls U18, their parents and their trainers
- Urging continental organisations without WOM commission to create one and empower them to support their programmes
- 25% of overall budget given to continental organisations for development programmes to be spent on female empowerment in coordination with their respective WOM commission and FIDE WOM
- Free online educational seminars for women to help them gain knowledge and achieve titles and enable them actively participate in all aspects of chess life in cooperation with ARB, TRG and Events Commissions
- Encourage and help women in chess to assume leadership roles and be present at the decision-making table within FIDE, continental organisations and national chess federations
- Start a monthly Women in Chess e-magazine, launch WOM social media pages
- Other projects could be added