

Report of the FIDE Trainers Commission

FIDE Council Meeting Q3 2020

ACTIVITIES

1. FIDE Trainer Seminars

From April to June 2020, TRG directly organised eight (8) online seminars, covering most regions and a few major languages.

These were 1) Replacement Europe (combining seminars cancelled by COVID-19 in Germany and Sweden), 2) German Language, 3) East Asia & Oceania, 4) Spanish Americas, 5) Europe English (together with ECU), 6) North Americas, 7) Indian Sub-Continent, and 8) Russian Language (with support from WOM).

In September, after demonstrating a working model, our focus has shifted to working with Regional FIDE Academies to offer the same in collaboration for continental and other FIDE affiliated organisations.

On 10-12 September 2020 in Middle East organised with the Asia Chess Academy with support from the Arab Chess Federation and on 25-27 September 2020 in East Asia & Oceania organised by the Philippine Academy for Chess Excellence with support from the Asian Chess Federation and the FIDE Development Fund.

Individually, the Russian Chess Federation is also organizing a seminar 22-24 September 2020 in conjunction with the 'White Rook' tournament, ICCD has applied for a seminar in October 2020, and AIDEF in December 2020, and all will be under the COVID-19 guidelines for events provided by MED.

2. Trainer Professional Education & Development Workshop Program

We have started a workshop series for continuing professional learning to complement the limited coverage of topics at seminars and to prepare the way to offer a Chess Sports Science diploma.

The first was Analysis Engines Workshop held three times, on 29 August, 5 and 12 September 2020.

3. FIDE Endorsed Academies

From our existing academies we have so far identified three able to successfully organise seminars for TRG and with continental and other FIDE affiliated organizations.

This is already the case with the Asia Chess Academy (West Asia and North Africa) and the Philippine Academy for Chess Excellence (East Asia & Oceania) and we are looking to do the same in October/November 2020 with Academia Brasileira de Xadrez for South & Central America.

We have two new academy applications, Vulgar Gashimov Chess Academy in Baku, Azerbaijan, and Mechanics Institute in San Francisco, USA, as well as a request for reinstatement by Bouhjar International Chess Academy from Tunisia which was terminated for non-compliance, and we have agreed to recommend the same, subject to receipt of a financial guarantee by the Tunisia Chess Federation.

One application, from Bahrain, was confirmed by their National Chess Federation to be fraudulent and with their letter of support actually given for another project and another entity, and so was rejected.

There is one unfortunate case with an existing academy where EDU is filing an ethics complaint alleging that they misrepresented the right to organize an EDU course and to award FIDE titles when no such permission was given to and when the said program is not even ready.

Furthermore, the Argentine Chess Federation has advised TRG that this academy is not recognized by them and not even located in Argentina as was registered.

EDU has now officially informed TRG that the same academy has aggressively used their FIDE Academy status in the promotion and that the lecturer and co-organizer whom EDU had earlier rejected permission to do EDU courses is also a FIDE Senior Trainer.

We have advised FIDE Management/Legal, and the decision of TRG Council, after failing to receive a proper reply to our enquires, has suspended the academy till such is received, and based on the ethics decisions, will recommend any further action from FIDE Management and the FIDE Council as deemed appropriate.

4. Set-up and Work of Exam Panel

TRG has implemented a clear separation from roles between lecturers and examiners for over a year now and now we have set up a separate Exam Panel to oversee the trainer title evaluation process from selection of examiners, preparation of questions and review of the marking/scoring.

It is important to shield the organizers and lecturers from expectations of seminar participants and all the more so the examiners.

5. FIDE Seminar Teaching Curriculum

Seminars from 2021 will be at two levels, the first being a pre-requisite unless the participant is clearly qualified for the second.

The first level seminar is to prepare trainers teaching 1201-1700 level students and the second level is to prepare trainers teaching 1701-2200 level students. Of course, there is still the possibility to combine both levels.

We are looking to integrate our seminars, curriculum and titles with that being offered by EDU, notwithstanding there will be some overlap with different target audiences.

The development of the full teaching curriculum is well underway and will be complete before the FIDE Congress at the end of the year.

6. Foundation Program for Developing Countries

In parallel with the preparation of the teaching curriculum, TRG is preparing a program with comprehensive courseware for use by licenced trainers for teaching 1201-1700 students.

To align the teaching of methods at the first level seminar with foundation materials the trainers can use.

In the case of developing countries, TRG is planning to engage PDC and the continents and other FIDE affiliated organizations to fund the cost of training delivery in 2021.

At the same time TRG is inviting publishers to contribute and when offered suitable materials that are discounted, to recommend as alternative or supplementary materials.

NEW TITLE AND ACADEMY APPLICATIONS

These are attached separately as TRG endorsement/recommendation and ask for FIDE Council approval.