



GENS UNA SUMUS

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES ÉCHECS

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FIDE ETHICS & DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION**REPORT TO FIDE COUNCIL****SEPTEMBER 2020**

Dear Mr President and members of the FIDE Council

This is a brief report covering the activities of the Ethics & Disciplinary Commission (EDC) for the last few months, since our previous report dated 31 May 2020.

1. Membership of the EDC

The EDC has 7 members: Francois Strydom (RSA), Ravindra Dongre (IND), Rajesh Joshi (NEP), Yolander Persaud (GUY), Khaled Arfa (TUN), David Hater (USA) and Johan Sigeman (SWE).

2. Fact-finding Committee

At the June 2020 FIDE Council meeting, the recommendation for appointment of Mr Ralph Alt (chairperson) and Ms Yumiko Hiebert to the EDC Fact-finding Committee was approved. The appointment of the third member stood over for further consultation and still needs attention.

3. Cases decided

3.1 In case **1/2020** the EDC Chamber (Y. Persaud as chair) decided a cheating case referred to it by the FIDE Fair-Play Commission. Mr Siddhart Banik (USA) was found guilty of a violation of Art. 2.2.5 of the Code of Ethics and sanctioned to a worldwide ban of 30 months from participating as a player in any FIDE rated chess competition, taking effect retroactively from 24 March 2019.

- 3.2 In case **2/2020** the EDC Chamber (J. Sigeman as chair) decided a cheating case referred to it by the FIDE Fair-Play Commission. Ms Easter Awinja (KEN) and Ms Julie Mutisya (KEN) were found guilty of match-fixing and sanctioned to a worldwide ban of 24 months (whereof the last six months is suspended and will serve as a probationary period) from participating as a player in any FIDE rated chess competition, taking effect from 21 June 2020.
- 3.3 In neither of cases 1/2020 and 2/2020 did the respondents exercise their right to appeal to the Appeal Chamber of the EDC against the decision of the First Instance Chamber.
- 3.4 No further cases have been registered although a few new complaints have been received which are currently being subjected to initial review for admissibility.

4. Anti-cheating initiatives

- 4.1 The EDC Chair was actively involved in attending a number of Zoom meetings and giving written advice to the FIDE Management regarding the special challenges facing FIDE to combat online cheating and assisting with formulation of the relevant tournament regulations.
- 4.2 The issues posed by the FIDE President to the chess public regarding FIDE's future policy in regard to online cheating cases were actively discussed in an internal debate amongst all EDC members.

Johannesburg, 16 September 2020

The Chairman of the Ethics & Disciplinary Commission
Francois Strydom