



GENS UNA SUMUS

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES ÉCHECS

Recognized by the International Olympic Committee (1999)

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FIDE ETHICS & DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

REPORT TO FIDE COUNCIL

DECEMBER 2020

Dear Mr President and members of the FIDE Council

This is a report covering the activities of the Ethics & Disciplinary Commission (EDC) for the past year, since the FIDE Congress in Abu Dhabi in February 2020.

1. Membership of the EDC

- 1.1 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).
- 1.2 The EDC Chair (elected by the Batumi GA, 2018) is Francois Strydom.
- 1.3 The FIDE Statutes requires the election of an EDC Deputy Chair, to be chosen by the EDC members in accordance with the EDC Internal Rules. It has been previously decided that the election will take place once the new Rules have been formulated and all members have been given the opportunity to chair a case and show their ability. In the circumstances, it is trusted that the election of an EDC Deputy Chair will take at the EDC's next meeting in the first quarter of 2021.

2. Fact-finding Committee

- 2.1 At the 2nd quarter FIDE Council meeting, the recommendation for appointment of Mr Ralph Alt (GER), as chairperson, and Ms Yumiko Hiebert (JAP) to the EDC

Fact-finding Committee was approved. At the 3rd quarter FIDE Council meeting the appointment of Mr Dabilani Buthali (BOT) as the third member was approved.

- 2.2 The Fact-finding Committee has been established to act as an investigatory body in complex cases. It has yet to start its activities and is awaiting the referral of all the materials in the EDC case 5/2016 concerning an alleged fraud of the European Chess Union by former ECU officials and individuals associated with the Bulgarian Chess Federation.

3. Meetings

- 3.1 On 20 May 2020, at the initiative and invitation of the FIDE President, the EDC held a virtual meeting on the Zoom electronic platform. The FIDE President and various other members of FIDE's top management attended the meeting.
- 3.2 On 2 December 2020, as part of the upcoming Congress, the EDC will have its second meeting for the year, again on a virtual platform. Members of the EDC Fact-finding committee have been invited to attend the public session.

4. Cases decided

- 4.1 In case **1/2020** the EDC Chamber (Y. Persaud as chair; J Sigeman and K Arfa as members) 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.
- 4.2 In case **2/2020** the EDC Chamber (J. Sigeman as chair; K Arfa and D Hater as members) 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.
- 4.3 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.

5. Cases underway

- 5.1 In a resumption of case **4/2018** the EDC Chamber (K. Arfa as chair; R Joshi and D Hater as members) have to consider a complaint of GM Efstratios Grivas against the Mongolian Chess Federation. The proceedings are underway.
- 5.2 In case **3/2020** the EDC Chamber (D Hater as chair; Y Persaud and R Dongre as members) have to consider a complaint by Obay Izzeldin against the President of his national federation, the Sudan Chess Federation, namely Omer Deab. The proceedings are underway.

6. Statistics

- 6.1 It is the prerogative of the EDC chair to nominate a First Instance Chamber of three members for each case. In the event of an appeal against the decision of the First Instance Chamber, the EDC chair and two other members will sit as the Appeal Chamber.
- 6.2 During 2020 it was the policy of the EDC chair to rotate the chairmanship of the First Instance Chambers between the EDC members.
- 6.3 The statistics relating to the four cases handled by the EDC during the year, showing the participation of each EDC member, is as follows:

Yolande Persaud – 2 cases (incl. chair in 1 case)

Johan Sigeman - 2 cases (incl. chair in 1 case)

Khaled Arfa – 3 cases (incl. chair in 1 case)

David Hater - 3 cases (incl. chair in 1 case)

Rajesh Joshi – 1 case.

Ravindra Dongre – 1 case.

7. Review of FIDE Code of Ethics and EDC Procedural Rules

- 7.1 The EDC members shall undertake a review of the current Procedural Rules to allow for the new procedures in use following the adoption of the new FIDE Charter. This will take place in consultation with the Constitutional Commission. It is planned that the first draft will be presented to the FIDE Council at its first quarterly meeting in 2021.
- 7.2 There needs to be a review of the Code of Ethics, which will be a joint project with the Constitutional Commission. It is planned that a Task Force will perform the initial drafting work before the full complement of the two commissions become involved.

8. Anti-cheating initiatives

- 8.1 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.

- 8.2 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, 20 November 2020

The Chairman of the Ethics & Disciplinary Commission
Francois Strydom