



Recommendations for approval by
the 4th FIDE COUNCIL 2024
(online, November 10th, 2024)

The present report presents the ARB Commission's activity, the list of FIDE Arbiters' Training Seminars, norms achieved and title and accreditation recommendations for approval by the FIDE Council.

The period covered is between September 5th, 2024 and October 31st, 2024. It was prepared in collaboration with Nebojsa BARALIC, Secretary of the Commission.

Note: other activities of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission are regularly reported on <https://arbiters.fide.com>

1) ARB ACTIVITIES IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN TWO FIDE COUNCIL MEETINGS

During the period between September 5th, 2024 and October 31st, 2024 in FIDE Arbiters Commission (ARB) we worked on the following topics:

- A) Meeting of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission in Budapest
- B) Evaluation of 45th Chess Olympiad
- C) Refresher courses
- D) ARB Education
- E) Cooperation with Fair play commission
- F) Appointment of Arbiters for World events

A) Meeting of FIDE Arbiters' Commission in Budapest:

The FIDE Arbiters Commission had two meetings - on 18th September 2024 (internal) and on 19th September 2024 (public) during the 45th FIDE Chess Olympiad, 10-23 September, 2024, Budapest, Hungary. These meetings were marked by informative discussions, acknowledgments, and presentations that highlighted the dedication and achievements within the Commission. The team leaders took centre stage during the public meeting, showcasing their accomplishments and outlining the progress made in their respective domains. Mahdi Abdulrahim, Jens Wolter, Alex McFarlane, Anantharam Rathinam, Nsakanya Chanda, and Carolina Munoz Solis spearheaded presentations on Tournaments, Titles, Education, Question & Answers, Publication and Social Media, and the Disciplinary Subcommittee (DSC), respectively.

B) Evaluation of 45th Chess Olympiad

After the end of the Chess Olympiad in Budapest we collected proposals from arbiters to better prepare for other World events, especially for the next Olympiad. Generally speaking arbiters

appreciated the good team spirit during the whole event, cooperation, enthusiasm and support from all sides. The system of on-line preparation before the event was the fundamental step as meeting at the event was time limited (on the same day as the first round). Requests from arbiters involved dealing with visa issues, expensive flight tickets hardly covered by the stipend for match arbiters. Most arbiters were ok with double rooms, though some missed the opportunity to pay the difference for a single room as this option was not available. Many answers were dealing with topics relating to organization – transport issues, long queues at the entrance before the start of the rounds, missing tea or coffee in refreshment area. Positive feedback was received regarding cooperation between CA, DCA's and other principals and also sector arbiters with their match arbiters.

C) Refresher courses

As mentioned in the goals for the next year, Refresher courses are the topic with the highest importance. We organised a meeting with leader of the team Mr. IA Laurent Freyd and presented the project to the FIDE supervisor. In respect to the IT support required, another meeting was held with FIDE IT (Mr. Vladimir Kukaev) to check the need to provide external IT support. After the meeting we need to adopt presented material to FIDE and include costs for external IT support. In the coming months we expect the work on the content of Refresher courses and during that time also selection of a company familiar with Chamilo to provide us with IT support.

D) ARB Education

During the 45th Chess Olympiad in Budapest the FIDE Arbiters' Commission organised both IA and FA seminars in-person. Such IA seminars are a good option, even we can say the better option than IA seminars online. The same applies to FA seminars. Before the end of the year we plan to organize 3 more IA seminars (two in November and one in December so all FA arbiters get a chance to join the IA seminar this year, including those who previously failed the exam.

The Lecturer Training Program has completed its selection process. Following an interview and presentation session the final six candidates have been selected. These experienced arbiters will now gain practical experience by assisting in two FA seminars. They will also meet with experienced Lecturers to discuss areas such as preparation and delivery of materials. On qualifying, these new Lecturers will contribute to improved standards of arbiting.

E) Cooperation with Fair play commission

The communication with the Fair Play Commission continued, discussing several topics including division of the roles of Chief Arbiter and Chief Fair Play Officer and cooperation with arbiters and the Fair Play team, stipend regulation for the Fair Play team where the Fair Play Commission takes inspiration from the Arbiters stipend regulations. One meeting was held with the FIDE President and both Chairmen of the FIDE Arbiters Commission and the Fair Play Commission. The idea is to find a safe environment for players but at the same time to let the players enjoy the game of chess. Other meetings on different levels can be expected soon.

F) Appointment of Arbiters for World events

After the end of the Olympiad we continued in the process of the appointment of arbiters for World Events - FIDE World Amateur Chess Championships, FIDE World Youth Chess Championships, FIDE Women's Grand Prix Series - 2nd leg, FIDE World Cadet U8, U10, U12 Championships, FIDE World Senior Championship, World Rapid & Blitz Championships. The issue for some events is the high travel costs exceeding the limit to be covered by the organiser. At the same time some organisers limit the number of foreign arbiters such that the number is not acceptable for World events, where we expect participants from the whole world.

G) Arbiters' Manual 2024

During the Olympiad in Budapest 500 copies of the new Arbiters Manual (Arbiters Manual 2024 edition) were distributed to all arbiters at the Olympiad, attendees during public meetings of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission, to all member of the team preparing the Arbiters Manual and many others (FIDE MB members and Delegates at the FIDE Congress).

As new regulations are effective from July 1st, not covered by the last edition, the team under the leadership of Mr. Anantharam Rathinam was asked to present a table of changes so each arbiter can find it on our webpage to check for changes.

2) GOALS WHICH WERE BE ACHIEVED IN THE FOLLOWING PERIOD

During the next period, in FIDE Arbiters Commission (ARB) we will work on the following topics:

- A) Continue with IA and FA seminars, so every FA arbiter gets an opportunity to join an IA seminar this year. We want to offer similar opportunities to NA arbiters who wish to join the FA seminar.
- B) Review the list of lecturers, include new lecturers, and delete those inactive. A first meeting was held with leader of EDU Team Mr. Alex McFarlane so those lecturers who were not active in the last four years as lecturers (even as assistant lecturers) will be considered as inactive, but with the chance to become lecturers again.
- C) Once the criteria for members working on Refresher courses are approved by FIDE, organize a meeting with the team and schedule next steps.
- D) Organise on-line sessions for arbiters about different topics, support the idea of having these sessions announced where the speaker will present the topic and other participants can contribute with their ideas.

3) FIDE ARBITERS SEMINARS

In the period from September 5th, 2024 and October 31st, 2024 eleven (11) FIDE ARBITERS' SEMINARS were organized in the following places and dates, under the auspices of FIDE. For seven (7), report and results have been published on the FIDE website:

1. **Budapest, HUNGARY, 12 – 17 September 2024**
21 participants from 10 Federations,
2. **167th Internet Based Seminar, ASIAN CHESS FEDERATION, 27 – 29 September 2024**
22 participants from 5 Federations,
3. **Manama, BAHRAIN, 1 – 5 October 2024**
20 participants from 1 Federation,
4. **170th Internet Based Seminar, ASIAN CHESS FEDERATION, 4 – 6 October 2024**
20 participants from 12 Federations,
5. **Banja Luka, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, 8 – 13 October 2024**
The review process is underway.
6. **168th Internet Based Seminar, IRAN, 10 – 14 October 2024**
22 participants from 1 Federation,
7. **Pavlodar, KAZAKHSTAN, 17 – 20 October 2024**
The review process is underway.
8. **169th Internet Based Seminar, PERU, 18 – 20 October 2024**
19 participants from 5 Federations,

9. **Mysuru, INDIA, 18 – 20 October 2024**
22 participants from 1 Federation,
10. **171st Internet Based Seminar, ASIAN CHESS FEDERATION, 25 – 27 October 2024**
The review process is underway.
11. **Guwahati, INDIA, 25 – 27 October 2024**
The review process is underway.



Map 1 – Seminars reported for the 4th FIDE Council 2024

A few statistics (based on received reports to date):

- 146 arbiters from 31 Federations took part in 7 seminars.
- 146 arbiters took part in the exam.
- 91 arbiters passed the exam and achieved FA Norm (*see Appendix A for the full list*).

4) INTERNATIONAL ARBITER CERTIFICATION SEMINARS

In the period from September 5th, 2024 and October 31st, 2024 one (1) INTERNATIONAL ARBITER CERTIFICATION SEMINARS were organized by the ARB Commission in the following places and dates, under the auspices of FIDE. Report and results have been published on the ARB website:

1. **8th IA Certification Seminar, ARB, Budapest, 22 – 23 August 2024**
18 participants from 14 Federations,

A few statistics (based on received reports to date):

- 18 arbiters from 14 Federations took part in 1 seminar.
- 18 arbiters took part in the exam.
- 14 arbiters passed the exam and achieved IA Norm (*see Appendix B for the full list*).

5) APPLICATIONS TO BE VALIDATED BY THE COUNCIL

Incomplete applications at the time of reporting were skipped for now and postponed to the next report for recommendations to the FIDE Council.

That means that only *Approved* and *Rejected* applications will be listed as recommendations below.

a) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IA AND FA TITLE APPLICATIONS

For the 4th FIDE Council 2024, the Arbiters' Commission received 98 applications for Arbiters Titles. 10 IA, and 88 FA title applications were submitted for consideration by the Commission. 78 applications are approved, 14 rejected, and 6 postponed to the next Council.

Note 1: One application from the 3rd FIDE Council 2024 was rejected by missing complete information about the hybrid tournament. Federation sent clarifications and the recommendation is to approve FA title retroactively:

- Richards, TrisAnn (23000058, LCA), proposed award date – 6th September 2024.

Appendix C contains the recommendations of the Arbiters' Commission for the IA and FA title applications that have been submitted for approval by the 4th FIDE Council 2024.

b) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ARBITERS' CLASSIFICATION UPGRADES

For the 4th FIDE Council 2024, the Arbiters' Commission received 11 applications for Arbiters' classification upgrades:

- 2 category B
- 9 category C

7 applications are approved, and 4 rejected.

Appendix D contains the recommendations of the Arbiters' Commission for the upgrades of the Arbiters' classification that have been submitted for approval by the 4th FIDE Council 2024.

c) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDITIONS TO THE FIDE LECTURERS LIST

For the 4th FIDE Council 2024, the Arbiters' Commission recommends the following for approval:

- IA Nsakanya, Chanda (ZAM, 8700532), immediate addition to the list, as they fulfill the requirements of the FIDE regulations for the training of the Chess Arbiters.

Appendix E contains the updated list of FIDE Lecturers for Arbiters submitted for approval by the 4th FIDE Council 2024.

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