

General Assembly Internal Regulations

1. General Provisions

1.1. The General Assembly (hereinafter also referred to as "GA") is the organ of FIDE acting as the highest authority of FIDE.

1.2. All decisions of the GA are binding for all FIDE organs, employees and member federations.

2. Composition of the General Assembly

2.1. The General Assembly is composed of:

- a) the representatives (president or delegate) of the Member Federations;
- b) the representatives of the Affiliated Organisations;
- c) the Honourable Dignitaries;
- d) the members of the Zonal Council;
- e) the Chairmen of the Commissions;
- f) the current FIDE World Champion and Women`s World Champion;
- g) other persons invited to participate in the meetings of the General Assembly by the FIDE President directly or by the FIDE Vice-President and/or by the representatives of the Member Federations upon the approval of the President. Such invited participants shall not have a right to vote.

2.2. Representatives of Member Federations can be assisted by one counsellor each. The counsellors have neither right to speak nor to vote.

2.3. Presidents and delegates may represent Member Federations instead of the Federations presidents if all of the following conditions are followed:

- a) President / delegate either has a citizenship or at least two years' residency of the country or territory he/she represents, or has at least one year experience as an office holder of this Member Federation;
- b) President / delegate is duly elected or appointed by the appropriate body of that Member Federation;
- c) President / delegate represents one Member Federation at a time.

2.4. The General Assembly is chaired by the FIDE President. The FIDE President may temporary appoint another FIDE official as a deputy chairman for the part of GA session if needed.

3. Powers of the General Assembly

The GA exercises the following powers in its capacity as a FIDE organ:

- 3.1. approves and modifies the FIDE Charter, with a majority of two thirds of valid votes of those Members Federations present, without considering abstentions;
- 3.2. approves and modifies By-laws, Ethics and Disciplinary Code, Electoral Rules, Financial Rules, Rules on Laws of Chess and Zonal Council Rules, by simple majority;
- 3.3. decides on the admission of new Member Federations and Affiliated Organisations and on their temporary suspension and permanent expulsion;
- 3.4. elects the President and the Deputy President, on a joint ticket;
- 3.5. elects 4 Vice Presidents, the Chairman of the Verification Commission, the members of the Verification Commission, the Chairman of the Constitutional Commission, the members of the Constitutional Commission, the Chairman of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission and the members of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission;

- 3.6. elects the Treasurer, the Secretary of the Council and 3 Vice Presidents by confirming or not the nominations proposed by the elected President, in accordance with the Electoral Rules;
- 3.7. decides on motions of no confidence raised against the President, another member of the Council or the entire Council, with a majority of two thirds of valid votes, without considering abstentions. Motions of no confidence can be debated following a proposal supported by a minimum of 40 Member Federations or 7 members of the Council. If the motion is approved, the President and/or the other members of the Council must resign;
- 3.8. expresses general guidance on FIDE activities;
- 3.9. approves the FIDE budget and Treasurer's report;
- 3.10. approves the reports of the Verification Commission and of the Constitutional Commission;
- 3.11. awards hosting of Chess Olympiads;
- 3.12. acts as the internal appellate organ for all decisions taken by the Council and the President.

4. General Assembly Procedural Rules

- 4.1. The Ordinary General Assembly is convened by the President annually. A postponement may be approved by the Council if required.
- 4.2. The President and the Council may convene an Extraordinary General Assembly at any time at their own discretion.
- 4.3. The Council shall also convene an Extraordinary General Assembly if at least 65 Member Federations make a request to do so in writing. The request shall specify the items for the agenda. In this case the Extraordinary General Assembly shall be held within four months of receipt of the request.
- 4.4. Each Member Federation has one vote. Other participants of a General Assembly session have a consultative voice only
- 4.5. Invitations for the GA shall be sent in written (electronic) form, to the GA participants' registered email addresses, at the latest three months prior to the opening date for an Ordinary General Assembly or two months prior to the opening date for an Extraordinary General Assembly.

The FIDE Offices shall send the participants the complete agenda and the relevant documents, at the latest one month before the General Assembly. The FIDE Offices shall send the participants the additional materials later if such materials assist for proper discussion (additional experts' opinions, consultations received, FIDE organs and Member Federations detailed opinion, improved documents according to above-mentioned opinion, etc. The GA decisions will not be considered invalid in such cases of sending the additional materials.
- 4.6. Issues not included in the agenda may not be discussed by the General Assembly unless there is an emergency situation proved by evidence and a suggestion of a new issue is supported by at least 2/3 of the GA participants present.
- 4.7. Motions of no confidence not included in the agenda shall not be discussed by the General Assembly regardless of any emergency situation.
- 4.8. Proposals from Member Federations or Affiliated Organisations about items to be included in the agenda of the Ordinary General Assembly should reach the FIDE Offices not later than two months before the opening date of the General Assembly together with the reasons for them. Proposals submitted within this time limit must be included in the agenda.
- 4.9. The President shall, if a proposal submitted by Member is not subject to GA review, or may, if a proposal submitted by Member may be subject to another FIDE organ review, decline including such proposal into the GA agenda and pass it to another relevant organ or authority, of which the proposing Member Federation will be notified without undue delays.

4.10. FIDE President and FIDE Council may add items to the agenda at least one month before the scheduled GA date.

4.11. Motions of order (closing of the discussion, adjournment of the agenda point, removing the point from the agenda, etc.) may be made at any time on a point under discussion by a Member Federation. The President shall consider the motions and shall either pass them to the General Assembly to make a decision or decline the motions if they:

- a) entail an interruption of the session;
- b) are made with or lead to obvious violation of the Charter;
- c) are made out of obvious abuse of rights;
- d) raise other obstacles to regular session proceedings.

4.12. Sessions of the General Assembly are public unless it is decided otherwise by simple majority vote.

4.13. Quorum for GA sessions is 50% of the voting participants. The quorum shall be established by a roll call at the beginning of the meeting and no further roll calls are needed to establish a quorum unless requested by a motion supported by at least 5 Member Federations.

Roll-call is equivalent to any procedure that allows to reliably determine the presence of delegates at the session (when a delegate receives a voting card or other sign during registration, or uses electronic procedures that confirm registration). In this case, the number of delegates is announced at the opening of session. There is no additional roll-call.

4.14. Votes on elections for the President and the members of the Council must be made by secret ballot. The elections for Zonal Presidents and for elected Commissions shall be made by secret ballot, except when there are no more candidates than positions to be filled. A secret ballot is held for the award for hosting the Olympiad and for decisions on motions of no confidence. All other decisions will be taken by open vote: in this case, in the event of a tie in voting, the FIDE President – who usually has no right to vote- decides. A proposal or a decision which raises no objection is accepted unanimously as a decision of the General Assembly. General applause / acclamation is also regarded as acceptance of a decision in case of an open vote. For a vote by secret ballot general applause / acclamation shall be counted as acceptance of decision in case of a non-alternative vote (when there is only one candidate / item / position to be selected or declined). If there is an objection, then a decision is made by vote. Electronic roll calls and voting are possible, if available, in accordance with Electoral Regulations.

4.15. The FIDE President in his capacity as a GA Chairman (or deputy GA Chairman if assigned subject to art. 2.4 hereof):

- a) shall grant permission to speak. No one may take the floor without having previously obtained the permission of the Chairman;
- b) may remind a speaker that the speech and remarks must be, and remain, relevant to the subject under discussion;
- c) may decide to limit the time to be allowed to a speaker and the number of times each speaker may speak on any one item. If necessary, he / she may grant the right to speak on an item only once;
- d) may call the speaker to order without delay, specifically when debate is limited and a delegation has exceeded the allotted time;
- e) may deny the right to speak in case of an obvious rights abuse or violation of law, FIDE Charter or general sportsmanship principles.

4.16. Votes shall be counted judging by number of hands raised or ballots submitted. Chairman shall be responsible for the votes count or may delegate such responsibility by publicly announcing a participant of the GA session who will be calculating votes. Electronic voting systems may only be

applied if approved by the Council. The Council shall be responsible for checking quality, usability order of use and other applicable features which shall be provided to the Member Federations and to the FIDE President in advance before the GA session.

For electoral votes count, specific electoral regulations shall apply.

4.16. The General Assembly sessions may be held online if necessary. The rules for offline sessions shall apply to the online GA sessions mutatis mutandis unless otherwise decided by the GA for certain sessions with the following reservations:

- a) a reliable, well-known system / platform shall be used (Skype, Zoom, etc.);
- b) the system / platform and voting specifics shall be pre-approved by the FIDE Council;
- c) each session participant shall be solely responsible for his technical equipment and web connection;
- d) technical requirements and details of the system / platform use shall be specified by the President and notified to the participants in advance by the secretariat;
- e) participants are strongly recommended to inform the Chairman of their intention to deliver a speech in advance in order to form a comfortable schedule to cover all items of the agenda, otherwise such speech may be limited.

5. Miscellaneous

5.1. In the FIDE General Assembly delegates and participants can speak in English, French, Spanish, Russian or Arabic. Qualified interpreters shall translate into these languages. Delegates may speak in a different mother tongue if they ensure qualified interpretation into one of the above-mentioned languages.

5.2. Decisions made by the General Assembly will come into effect on the last day of the General Assembly, after the General Assembly is closed, unless otherwise decided.

5.3. All and any organizational/ administrative issues regarding venue, financing, accommodation with respect to organizing GA sessions shall be subject to the FIDE Congress Regulations.