



Anti-Cheating Committee

REPORT TO THE FIDE CONGRESS

Abu Dhabi, 4 September 2015

The Anti-Cheating Committee (ACC), the FIDE successor of the ACP/FIDE Anti-Cheating Committee, was set up following a decision by the Presidential Board held in Sochi on 8-9 November 2014. Nominations to the Committee have been finalized in December and the Committee started operation on January 1, 2015.

Originally it was FIDE's intention to grant the Committee a Commission status but the lack of a quorum on the final day of the FIDE General Assembly at Tromsø caused FIDE lawyers to call for prudence. At the beginning of the Summer, after the annual meeting in Porto Mannu, the ACC was on the verge of presenting its first reports to the Ethics Commission when a rather dense correspondence between FIDE Lawyers, EC Chairman Francois Strydom, ACC Secretary Yuri Garrett, CON Chairman Roberto Rivello and FIDE Executive Director Nigel Freeman brought to the fore the numerous legal problems associated with the missed quorum in Tromsø.

Based on the findings of further analyses, it was resolved to: i) confirm the ACC as a Committee, pending next GA's approval of the Commission Status; ii) reappoint all Investigative Chambers according to current statutory requirements; iii) devise an interim process that is in line with all applicable statutes, bylaws and regulations. Most pending issues will be dealt with in Abu Dhabi, thus allowing the ACC to resume its work. All other major statutory issues will be dealt with during the next FIDE General Assembly in Baku (2016).

While these legal complexities basically stalled the ACC's work in Q3/2015, the first half of the year has been very productive and the ACC accomplished quite a few results. We shall briefly illustrate them here below.

- **Ongoing investigations.** The ACC was entrusted with the task to investigate possible breaches by Mr. Ivanov and Mr. Nigalidze in incidents occurred during FIDE tournaments. While all investigations have been carried out and reports are ready to be presented to Ethics, the finalization of the process has been halted. Most likely, the reports will be presented to Ethics by the newly appointed ICs in the month of October. The only other pending case is the one regarding the incident involving Ms. Sandu at the WEICC, which will be investigated by the IC to be nominated by PB. The meeting in Abu Dhabi proved a valuable occasion to discuss some of the happenings there together with Chief Arbiter Tomas Delega and ARB Chairman Nikolopoulos Panagiotis, which shed light on possible improvements to the procedures for filing AC claims.
- **Computer-assisted fraud detection system and Internet-Based Screening Tool.** The system devised by Prof. Kenneth Regan and endorsed by FIDE proved to be a useful instrument in the hands of chief arbiters who dived to contact the ACC for monitoring their tournaments. It was also extremely exact in corroborating findings from investigation chambers (see below). Unfortunately the implementation of the Internet-Based Screening Tool has so far been hindered by substantial technical difficulties. Hopefully these should be addressed before the end of the year, as FIDE has decided to pour extra resources into the development of the tool. In the meantime, tournaments can still contact the ACC for monitoring purposes.

- **Developing a site.** The ACC feels it is desirable to develop an autonomous site to interact with the chess community and to build a repository of ACC information. A Committee made up of Laurent Freyd, Yuri Garrett and Andrew Howie will inquire about the next steps with FIDE Office and develop the project.
- **Tournament inspections.** Visiting top tournaments proved to be an effective means of spreading Anti-cheating awareness. So far, inspections were performed at the Reykjavik Open and the US Championships and were well received. New inspections are planned at the FIDE World Cup in Baku and the PokerStars Open at the Isle of Man. The ACC will draw up a list of potential candidates for inspections and contact the organizers with a view to arranging further inspections.
- **Hindering external communication.** Dr. Dmitrij Waldman, a leading expert in wireless communication systems, made an extensive presentation to the ACC. Finding suitable solutions to hinder fraudulent transmissions during chess events is no easy task, especially in view of the complex legal framework, and more research will need to be made in this area. We will be asking FIDE lawyers to study the matter in detail.
- **Improving procedures.** The ACC feels there is a need for improving procedure at ACC and IC level. Laurent Freyd, Andrew Howie and Salomeja Zaksaitė have been entrusted with the task to study similar Commissions in other sports and come up with suggestions for integrating ACC procedures.
- **AC Compliance form.** The part of the Guidelines regarding AC Compliance forms has not yet been implemented. QC Chairman Werner Stubenvoll acknowledged the need for developing this tool and will start working on the project after the Congress.
- **AC Guideline awareness.** There is widespread feeling that AC Guidelines are not sufficiently known by both organizers and arbiters. ACC intends liaising with other FIDE Committees (among them QC, EVE and ARB) with a view to promote full implementation of the Guidelines and to ensure that ACC-related training is implemented. It is clear however that the cooperation with other FIDE Commissions is improving and that there is a substantial opportunity for working together for making our fight against cheating more effective.
- **Transmission delay.** ACC feels that it lacks tools and/or powers to promulgate transmission delay as a general policy as there are too many non-chess aspects involved (sponsors, etc.). This is a task to be analyzed at higher levels in FIDE, so as to consult with the many parties involved. However, based on a proposal by Yuri Garrett and a proprietary system adopted at the recent Porto Mannu open, attention is drawn to the possibility of deferring transmission by one (or more) move(s) rather than by a given time (e.g. 15 minutes).
- **From Guidelines to Regulations.** The next step in fighting cheating is merging the guidelines into the existing set of regulations, possibly improving based on recent experience. This is a complex work and will be addressed by ACC in collaboration with ETH, RTR and COC. The goal is to obtain tangible results by 2016.
- **RCF Proposal** - The Russian Chess Federation submitted an interesting proposal to the ACC a few days before the meeting. While it was not possible to address it properly in Abu Dhabi, the proposals have been acknowledged and briefly discussed during the meeting. The ACC will comment on them in due time, alerting all other interested Commissions where relevant. The most difficult part seems to be related to the mandatory adoption of signal jammers, which appear to be outlaw in many jurisdictions.

ACC Secretary
Yuri Garrett

ACC Member
Konstantin Landa