

Lausanne, August 30, 2020

The Appeals Committee considered the protest of the Indian team against the result of the games of the 2nd match of the final India-Russia (Esipenko - Nihal, Divya - Shuvalova). These games were previously considered defeats for the Indian team due to the disconnection of India's players from the Internet. It should be noted that according to the published rules, which were discussed in detail with the team captains, the quality of Internet traffic (internet connectivity) is the responsibility of the players.

The Appeals Committee considered the issue in the composition of: FIDE Vice-President Michael Khodarkovsky (USA), International Arbiter Sava Stoisavljevic (Serbia). The Chairman of the Appeals Committee, The FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich, did not participate in the consideration of the issue, as one of the interested parties was the Russian team.

In the appeal, the Indian team pointed out that the failures in the relevant connections were caused by a global Internet outage, as evidenced by numerous links and media reports. which became known from the media.

The Appeals Committee requested information from the [Chess.com](https://www.chess.com)' technical specialists and received confirmation of the global nature of the failure in the Internet. In addition, it was taken into account that problems with the quality of the Internet arose from players who were located in different places. At the same time, Internet outages occurred for participants who had finished their games in other places.

Thus, from the point of view of the members of the Appeals Committee, this situation significantly differed from previous precedents, in particular, from the case considered earlier in the match India - Armenia.

With this in mind, the members of the Appeals Committee agreed that the Indian team's protest was justified on its merits. At the same time, the members of the Appeals Committee did not come to a unanimous opinion on possible follow-up actions. Each of the possible options (finishing from the moment of interrupted positions, replaying disputed games) had certain disadvantages in terms of fairness and integrity of the match.

It should take into account that the replay (or the continuation) of the relevant games could remain unrealized due to ongoing global Internet quality problems for several hours at the time of the decision.

In this regard, the Appeals Committee made the following decisions:

- a) to recognize the protest of the Indian team as justified on the merits
- b) to state that the Appeals Committee is not able to approve unanimously the option of continuing the match
- c) to inform the FIDE President of the decisions taken
- d) to not charge the Indian team for the appeal.

In accordance with the rules of the competition, the final decision in cases of dispute and other cases that are not regulated by the rules (which, undoubtedly, can be attributed to the absence of an unanimous decision of the Appeals Committee) is the prerogative of the President of FIDE. After reviewing all aspects of the current situation (first of all, taking into account the draw result of the first match and the inability to determine the winner of the second match in a short time), the FIDE President decided to declare the Russian and Indian teams the winners of the Olympiad.