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July 31, 2007

To:

FIDE Secretariat

Athens, Greece

Dear Chess Friends,

Re: Changes to the Regulations of the Chess Olympiad

As Chairman of TAP (Technical Administrative Panel) I take the liberty to introduce the following changes to the Regulations of the Chess Olympiad (FIDE Handbook, D.II.07):

1. The words 'Central' in paragraph 6.3.7 shall be replaced by 'Technical'.

2. Paragraph 6.3.7: I. The Technical Administration Panel (TAP)

The Technical Administration Panel (TAP) shall consist of a chairman and 3 other members, each from a different FIDE federation. The FIDE President shall appoint the chairman and two other members for a period of four years after consulting the chairman of FIDE Technical Commission. The fourth member shall be the representative of the organizing federation. If necessary, additional a programmer can be included to take care of the software and to adjust the software according to the local requirements or to internet transmission.

3. Paragraph 6.3.7.1: All the members of the Technical Administration Panel (TAP) shall be experienced in the field of electronic data processing and have to assure a backup function as each member shall be able to take over the work of any other member in case of technical or personal failure. Although the pairings shall be calculated with the help of a computer program, all the members of the Technical Administration Panel (TAP) must be able to check and/or produce the pairings manually.

4. The words 'Pairings Committee' in paragraphs 6.2.3, and 7.7.3, shall be replaced by 'Technical Administration Panel (TAP)'.

Yours sincerely,

Almog Burstein

TAP Chairman

Israel's Delegate to FIDE

Cc: Mr. Georgios Makropoulos - FIDE Deputy President
Mr. Israel Gelfer – FIDE Honorary Vice President
Mr. Ignatius Leong – FIDE General Secretary
Mr. Andrzej Filipowicz – Technical Commission Chairman

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To:
FIDE Secretariat
Athens, Greece

Dear Chess Friends,

Re: Changes to the Olympiad Pairing Rules

The decision, to change the scoring system in the next Chess Olympiads to that of match points (instead of game points) together with other decisions (introduction of TAP, 11 rounds, 4 boards + 1 reserve etc.) make it necessary to introduce some changes to the Olympiad Pairing Rules (FIDE Handbook, D.II.07a):

1. The words 'game points' (or just 'points') in rules 1 and 16 shall be replaced by 'match points'.
2. The following rules shall be changed:
7. Rank all teams in order of the average of their 4 highest FIDE-rated players. The team with the highest average rating shall be assigned Pairing Number 1, the second highest, Pairing Number 2, etc.
8. If two or more teams have the same average rating, rank them as to relative strength by consideration of all available information. In this case the following criteria in descendent priority will be used:
 1. the rating of the fifth player.
 2. the final rankings of the previous Olympiad.
 3. alphabetical order.
9. The number of rounds in both men`s and women`s championships shall be 11.
10. If there is an odd number of teams a bye should be given to one team which arbitrarily would be credited with **one match point and 2** game points.

The team given the bye in the first round would be that team which had the highest ranking number.

For example: if there are 85 teams, then the team ranked as No. 85 would receive the bye in the first round.

The team given the bye in subsequent rounds would be that team with the highest ranking number from the group with the lowest total number of **match** points.

No team shall receive more than one bye.

12. The position of teams that finish with the same number of **match** points shall be determined by application of the following tie-breaking procedures in sequence, proceeding from (a) to (b) to (c) to the extent required:

(a) by the sum of the match scores of all opponents, excluding the two opponents who scored the lowest number of match points, while each opponent's score is multiplied by the team's game result against that team;

(b) by the sum of the match scores of all the team`s opponents, excluding the two opponents who scored the lowest number of match points;

(c) by the number of the game points scored.

[The only change which is not 'technical' is that of rule 12 (tie breaking). The idea behind my proposal is to combine, in the main procedure of the tie breaking, both the strength of the opponents and the number of game points scored against each one of them. The more game points scored against stronger opponents, the better for the team. This way we also give the teams a substantial incentive to win as many game points as possible in each match and not to be satisfied with the minimal win of 2.5:1.5. The exclusion of the two weakest opponents is made in order to neutralize the effect of non played matches, byes etc. on the final results.]

25. In the first two rounds, **one 'imaginary' match point and two `imaginary` game points** shall be added, for pairing purposes only, to each of the teams in the top half of the initial list as per Section C. These `imaginary` points shall be deducted before making the pairings for the third round.

55. The pairings are to be made by the Technical Administration Panel (TAP) as outlined in paragraph 6.3.7 of the Chess Olympiad Regulations.

3. The title of Section J shall be changed to: Detailed Pairing Procedure for Rounds 4-11 (instead of 4-13).

4. The words 'Pairings Committee' in Section L (Mechanism for Making the Pairings) shall be replaced by the words 'Technical Administration Panel (TAP)'.

Yours sincerely,

Almog Burstein
TAP Chairman
Israel's Delegate to FIDE

Cc: Mr. Georgios Makropoulos - FIDE Deputy President
Mr. Israel Gelfer – FIDE Honorary Vice President
Mr. Ignatius Leong – FIDE General Secretary
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