

World Championship – the Knock-Out Format
Proposal by Vice-President Ignatius Leong

1. Qualification places from the Continental/Zonal Championships for the World Championship

1.1 Ever since the Knock-Out was started in 1997, the qualification process from the Continental/Zonal Championships and the number of allocated places were the same as that during the traditional Cycle involving Zonas, Interzonal, Candidates etc. When the Continental Championships were introduced, the number of qualifying places from each Continent was allocated without basis or formula.

1.2 Annex A is the record of the past 5 Knock-Out Championships. Based on the results, 2 points are awarded to players who lost in the 2nd round; 3 points for those who lost in the 3rd round; 4 points for the 4th round; 5 points for the 5th round (quarterfinal); 7 points for the 6th round (semifinal); 9 points for the loser of the final and 13 points to the Champion. For the 1997/98 series, Karpov was directly seeded into the final but Anand won the Knock-Out; hence no points was awarded for Karpov’s result.

1.3 The table below shows the summary of the points scored by players from respective Continents.

	1997-98	1999	2000	2001-02	2003-04	Total	%	Bonus
Africa	0	2	0	0	5	7	0.7	1
Americas	14	14	22	12	18	80	8	8
Asia	21	4	30	25	28	108	10.8	11
Europe	165	180	148	163	149	805	80.5	80
	200	200	200	200	200	1,000	100%	100

1.4 It is proposed that 100 players shall qualify from the Continental/Zonal Championships. Where Zonals are held in Continentals, the Continental Board decides on the basis of allocation of qualifying places for their Continental and/or Zonal Championships.

2. Number of Players for the Knock-Out

2.1 It is proposed to increase the Knock-Out to 256 players.

	Current		Basic	Bonus	NEW	Difference
World Champion	1		1	0	1	0
WC Loser	1		1	0	1	0
Semi-Finalists	2		2	0	2	0
World Junior Champion	1		2	0	2	1
Top Rated	20		10	0	10	-10
FIDE President's Nominees	9		6	0	6	-3
Organiser's Nominees	4		2	0	2	-2
Africa	6		7	1	8	2

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Americas	19		7	8	15	-4
Asia	19		8	11	19	0
Europe	46		10	80	90	44
Olympiads	0		0	100	100	100
Total	128		56	200	256	128

2.2 The World Champion, the loser of the previous Final and the losers in the previous Semifinal will automatic qualifiers.

2.3 In a 2-year Cycle, the winners of 2 editions of the World Junior Under-20 Championships shall qualify.

2.4 The top 10 players from the Rating List (as per current regulations) shall qualify.

2.5 The FIDE President's nominees shall be 6 players. In case a Cycle is delayed and a third edition of the World Junior Under-20 is held, then one of the FIDE President's Nominees shall include this winner.

2.6 The Organisers shall have the privilege to have 2 Nominees who may be players not from its Federation.

2.7 The Basic number of players from each Continent is based on 1 player for every 5 Federations affiliated in the Continent. There is no rounding up. In the event that the Basic Number increases, the FIDE President's Number shall be reduced.

2.8 One National Champion or Nominee from each of the top 100 National Federations from the Olympiad shall qualify. Teams not representing a National Federation do not have this privilege.

2.9 A total of 100 players from the Continental/Zonal Championships shall qualify. Each Continent shall receive Bonus places calculated from the previous Knock-Out based on the formula:

Round 1 losers – 0 point	Round 5 losers	- 4 points (8 x 4 = 32)
Round 2 losers – 1 points (64 x 1 = 64)	Round 6 (quarterfinal) losers	- 5 points (4 x 5 = 20)
Round 3 losers – 2 points (32 x 2 = 64)	Round 7 (semifinal) losers	- 7 points (2 x 6 = 12)
Round 4 losers – 3 points (16 x 3 = 48)	Round 8 (final) loser	- 9 points (1 x 7 = 7)
	Round 8 (final) winner	- 13 points (1 x 8 = 8)

The total points scored by players from each Continent shall be added. The percentage is the score divided by the total points. The percentage is the number of Bonus places for the Continent. Fraction equal or greater than 0.5 shall be rounded upwards.

2.10 Vacancies from Continents from be substituted by the Continents. All other vacancies shall be filled by a reserve list from the Rating List.

3. Nations Cup

3.1 Losers from the Knock-Out may choose to participate in the “losers pool” called the Nations Cup named after the hosting country of the Knock-Out.

3.2 The Nations Cup shall be a 16-round Swiss tournament. Losers of the Knock-Out may join after they have been eliminated from the Knock-Out. Players will be credited with points depending on which stage they have been eliminated from the Knock-Out.

3.3 Players who do not complete the Nations Cup shall receive only the prize they are entitled to from the Knock-Out.

3.4 In case of ties, Cash Prizes shall not be shared but awarded according to the TPR tiebreak.

4. Knock-Out Prize Fund & Credit Points to Nations Cup

4.1 Prize Fund for Knock-Out

ROUND	NUMBER	STAGE	K-OUT	PRIZE	AMOUNT	Entry to Losers' Pool	
						after round	with score
R 1	256		128	0	0	0	0
R 2	128		64	4,000	256,000	2	1.5
R 3	64		32	7,000	224,000	4	3
R 4	32		16	12,000	192,000	6	4.5
R 5	16		8	18,000	144,000	8	6
R 6	8	1/4-Final	4	25,000	100,000	10	7.5
R 7	4	1/2-Final	2	35,000	70,000	12	9
R 8	2	Final	loser	70,000	70,000		
			winner	100,000	100,000		
	sub-total \$				1,156,000		

4.2 Prize Fund for Nations Cup

1st	1	20,000	20,000
2nd	1	15,000	15,000
3rd	1	12,000	12,000
4th	1	10,000	10,000
5th	1	8,000	8,000
6th-15th	10	6,000	60,000
16th-25th	10	5,000	50,000
26th-50th	25	4,000	100,000
51st-75th	25	3,000	75,000
76th-100th	25	2,000	50,000
100th-150th	50	1,000	50,000
Total US \$			450,000

5. Schedule

5.1

Day	Knock-Out	Nations Cup
1	Arrival	
2	Round 1 Game 1	
3	Round 1 Game 2	
4	Round 2 Game 1	Round 1
5	Round 2 Game 2	Round 2
6	Round 3 Game 1	Round 3
7	Round 3 Game 2	Round 4
8	Rest	Rest
9	Round 4 Game 1	Round 5
10	Round 4 Game 2	Round 6
11	Round 5 Game 1	Round 7
12	Round 5 Game 2	Round 8
13	Round 6 Game 1	Round 9
14	Round 6 Game 2	Round 10
15	Rest	Rest
16	Round 7 Game 1	Round 11
17	Round 7 Game 2	Round 12
18	Round 8 Game 1	Round 13
19	Round 8 Game 2	Round 14
20	Round 8 Game 3	Round 15
21	Round 8 Game 4	Round 16
22	Departure	

5.2 The playing sessions for the Knock-Out and the Nations Cup shall be arranged in a manner that it encourages spectators for the Knock-Out matches and in particular, the Final Match.

5.3 The Organiser shall provide free board and lodging for players as long as they are still in contention in the Knock-Out. Players eliminated from the Knock-Out and who participate in the Nations Cup shall also receive free board and lodging.

6 Miscellaneous

6.1 Since the Knock-Out is not the World Championship (but only a World Cup), the number of games in Round 7 and Round 8 (Final) is not significantly important.

6.2 Especially for players who travel from far distances to the organizing country, there is the opportunity to play more games and another chance to win a better prize in the Nations Cup.

6.3 Players need not have to worry about living expenses.

- 6.4 All Arbiters will be retained for the entire Knock-Out and Nations Cup.
- 6.5 Through the Olympiad qualification, more countries will be represented in the Knock-Out. Federations and their players are encouraged to compete and do well in Olympiads. The National Championships have value-add.
- 6.6 More spectators will be there to watch the proceedings of the Knock-Out unlike recent editions when players eliminated leave immediately.
- 6.7 The host federation may nominate not more than 10 players to participate in the Nations Cup.
- 6.8 The Women's Championship shall have 128 players using these regulations as a guideline to formulate.

Annex A : Records of previous World Championships based on the Knock-Out Format

NO	RD	2003-04	FED	AF	AM	AS	EU	2001-02	FED	AF	AM	AS	EU	2000	FED	AF	AM	AS	EU	1999	FED	AF	AM	AS	EU	1997-98	FED	AF	AM	AS	EU	
1	13	Kasimdzhanov				13		Ponomariov					13	Anand					13		Khalifman					13	Anand				13	
2	9	Adams					9	Ivanchuk					9	Shirov					9		Akopian					9	Adams				9	
3	7	Topalov					7	Anand				7		Adams					7		Adams					7	Gelfand				7	
4	7	Radjabov					7	Svidler				7		Grischuk					7		Nisipeanu					7	Short				7	
5	5	Kharlov					5	Shirov				5		Khalifman					5		Kramnik					5	Dreev				5	
6	5	Dominguez			5			Gelfand				5		Topalov					5		Movsesian					5	Shirov				5	
7	5	Akopian					5	Bareev				5		Tkachiev					5		Polgar					5	Krasenkow				5	
8	5	Grischuk					5	Lautier				5		Bareev					5		Shirov					5	Van Wely				5	
9	4	Kozul					4	Dreev				4		Macieja					4		Topalov					4	Tkachiev				4	
10	4	Smirnov					4	Adams				4		Leitao			4				Dreev					4	Zvjaginsev				4	
11	4	Nakamura			4			Morozevich				4		Svidler					4		Fedorov					4	Almasi				4	
12	4	Belavsky					4	Ye			4			Dreev					4		Georgiev					4	Akopian				4	
13	4	Almasi					4	Nikolic				4		Morozevich					4		Zvjaginsev					4	Azmaiparashvili				4	
14	4	Krasenkow					4	Ehlvest				4		Ehlvest					4		Gelfand					4	Belavsky				4	
15	4	Dreev					4	Azmaiparashvili				4		Gelfand					4		Ivanchuk					4	Georgiev				4	
16	4	Nisipeanu					4	Topalov				4		Gulko			4				Short					4	Svidler				4	
17	3	Movsesian					3	Tkachiev				3		Lputian					3		Korchnoi					3	Lautier				3	
18	3	Aronian					3	Zvjaginsev				3		Belavsky					3		Psakhis					3	Aleksandrov				3	
19	3	Hamdouchi		3				Gurevich				3		Leko					3		Almasi					3	Khalifman				3	
20	3	Filipov					3	Sutovsky				3		Nataf					3		Rublevsky					3	Piket				3	
21	3	Ivanchuk					3	Anastasian				3		Yermolinsky			3				Timman					3	Seirawan			3		
22	3	Zvjaginsev					3	Sakaev				3		Peng			3				Leko					3	Rublevsky				3	
23	3	Tkachiev					3	Delchev				3		Georgiev					3		Svidler					3	Milos			3		
24	3	Mamedyarov					3	Zhang Z			3			Van Wely					3		Bareev					3	Tiviakov				3	
25	3	Leitao			3			Motylev				3		Vladimirov				3			Magem Badals					3	Oll				3	
26	3	Sakaev					3	Kasimdzhanov			3			Kasimdzhanov				3			Krasenkow					3	Bareev				3	
27	3	Moiseenko					3	Smirin				3		Movsesian					3		Lautier					3	Jussupow				3	
28	3	Ye				3		Khalifman				3		Serper			3				Asrian					3	Milov				3	
29	3	Anastasian					3	Van Wely				3		Gurevich					3		Leitao			3			Sadler				3	
30	3	Lastin					3	Georgiev				3		Piket					3		Shipov					3	Sokolov A				3	
31	3	Bacrot					3	Milov				3		Aleksandrov					3		Belavsky					3	Vaganian				3	
32	3	Rublevsky					3	Pigusov				3		Azmaiparashvili					3		Milos			3			Espishin				3	
33	2	Delchev					2	Nielsen				2		Bologan					2		Tiviakov					2	Slobodjan				2	
34	2	Elarbi		2				Kobalija				2		Rublevsky					2		Dolmatov					2	Nikolic				2	
35	2	Asrian					2	Sasikiran			2			Krasenkow					2		Ponomariov					2	Topalov				2	
36	2	Kotronias					2	Macieja				2		Galkin					2		Smirin					2	Ivanchuk				2	
37	2	Harikrishna				2		Leko				2		Volkov					2		Kobalija					2	Timman				2	

38	2	Short				2	Baklan				2	Lutz				2	Peng				2	Granda Zuniga			2	
39	2	Malakhov				2	Dominguez			2		Short				2	Yermolinsky			2		Giorgadze				2
40	2	Tiviakov				2	Vescovi			2		Benjamin			2		Kotronias				2	Salov				2
41	2	Sokolov I				2	Gyimesi				2	Dao				2	Gulko			2		Malaniuk				2
42	2	Felgaer			2		Khenkin				2	Xu				2	Aronian				2	Polgar				2
43	2	Adianto				2	Luther				2	Bacrot				2	Bauer				2	Alterman				2
44	2	Ni				2	Shabalov			2		Adianto				2	Dizdar				2	Ehlvest				2
45	2	Neelotpal				2	Lputian				2	Kharlov				2	Aleksandrov				2	Korchnoi				2
46	2	Azmaiparashvili				2	Bruzon			2		Nisipeanu				2	Shaked			2		Luther				2
47	2	Sadvakasov				2	Sulskis				2	Malakhov				2	Ehlvest				2	Adianto				2
48	2	Gurevich M				2	Zhang P			2		Sasikiran				2	Antonio				2	Hracek				2
49	2	Iordachescu				2	Milos			2		Milos				2	Tkachiev				2	Hjartarson				2
50	2	Nielsen P				2	Polgar				2	Almasi				2	Nielsen				2	Nijboer				2
51	2	Aleksandrov				2	Tiviakov				2	Tregubov				2	Andersson				2	Miladinovic				2
52	2	Kobalia				2	Psakhis				2	Lesiege				2	Miles				2	Kaidanov				2
53	2	Vallejo Pons				2	Shipov				2	Ivanchuk				2	Sakaev				2	Shaked				2
54	2	Bologan				2	Campora			2		Iordachescu				2	Speelman				2	Kindermann				2
55	2	Sulskis				2	Movsesian				2	Smirin				2	Sadler				2	Rozentalis				2
56	2	Kritz				2	Grischuk				2	Ivanov A				2	Kamsky			2		Morozevich				2
57	2	Lputian				2	Lastin				2	Onischuk				2	Macieja				2	Garcia G				2
58	2	Graf				2	Belavsky				2	Minasian				2	Azmaiparashvili				2	Retarsson				2
59	2	Wojtkiewicz				2	Nataf				2	Dizdarevic				2	Stefansson				2	Andersson				2
60	2	Ghaem Maghami				2	Dautov				2	Nevednichy				2	Wahls				2	Nenashev				2
61	2	Van Wely				2	Vallejo Pons				2	Vallejo Pons				2	Hamdouchi			2		Istratescu				2
62	2	Kudrin				2	Vaganian				2	Akopian				2	Fridman				2	Bologan				2
63	2	Guseinov				2	Xu				2	Baklan				2	Salov				2	Sokolov I				2
64	2	Acs				2	Nguyen				2	Chernin				2	Sokolov I				2	(blank)				2

5	18	28	149
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0	12	25	163
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0	22	30	148
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2	14	4	180
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0	14	21	165
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