

**75th FIDE CONGRESS**  
**CALVIA, MALLORCA, SPAIN**  
**21-31 October 2004**  
**Sol Antillas Hotel**

**Committee/Commission: Technical Commission**

**Chairman: W. Stubenvoll**

**Secretary: D. De Ridder**

**Date: 25 October 2004**

**Venue: Sala Indurain**

**Present:** Dr. D. De Ridder (BEL), P. Nikolopoulos (GRE), M. Markkula (FIN), Dr. Dirk Jordan (GER), H. Bodach (GER), N. Divinsky (CAN), J-C. Basaille (FRA), A. Burstein (ISR), I. Vereschagin (RUS), A. Vasse (NED), G. Gijssen (NED), F. Campomanes – Honorary President, A. Filipowicz (POL), A. Hamid Majid (MAS), S. Reuben (ENG).

1. Chairman Werner Stubenvoll welcomed all commission members and observers and especially Honorary FIDE President Florencio Campomanes.
2. Swiss Pairing Committee  
A Windows environment was made for SwissMaster, however the software was not changed. The Windows version can be downloaded from the website of the Dutch Chess Federation (Demoverision for 3 rounds, working version for 40/50 €). The program is endorsed. Endorsement for SwissManager and Proteam/Protos (which is not commercial) is confirmed. The approved Swiss systems are Lim, Burstein, Dutch and Dubov. The general Swiss Pairing Rules published in the Agenda are accepted with minor changes (late entries shall be discussed in the Tournament Rules). For the Olympiad a ranking according to match and then game points is preferred. Accordingly the Olympiad pairings should be made according to match points followed by Buchholz on match points. However, such pairing should be compared with the system currently applied by the European Chess Union. A subcommittee to discuss the latter is composed by Mrs. Burstein, De Ridder, Gijssen, Krause, Markkula and Stubenvoll.
3. Rules Committee  
Two meeting were organised. The main changes per 1 July 2005:
  - no King capturing
  - no advance recording of moves
  - no mobiles/electronic devices in areas designated by the arbiter
4. Electronic scoresheets presented by Mrs. Brana Malobabic  
Recording of moves is possible in short or long notation, but not in chess board mode. No tournament with minimum 3 Grandmasters has been played yet. The contract signed with FIDE only allows 30 days to play such tournament (until the first week of December).

Representatives of FIDE Technical Commission have to be invited to observe the handling of this device in such a tournament. Only thereafter it can be endorsed.

Prize for an ECM unit: ~ 120 €

5. Standards of chess equipment and tournament venues for FIDE tournaments

See attached text

6. Approval of the electronic chess clock "Silver"

After a presentation a number of handouts and clocks are distributed.

A conditional endorsement (for version 1.3) is given until the next FIDE 2005 executive board.

7. Approval of the electronic chess clock "LISA"

This clock shall first be tested by Mrs. De Ridder, Gijssen, Krause, Markkula, Nikolopoulos and Reuben.

A conditional endorsement is given until the next FIDE 2005 executive board

8. Approval of the electronic chess clock "Phileon"

This clock is not endorsed due to the many errors, *e.g.*

- Flag fall in Fischer mode: if the stop is not stopped the clocks keep running
- 30 seconds increment is only added when the opponent starts the clock
- time corrections are very complicated

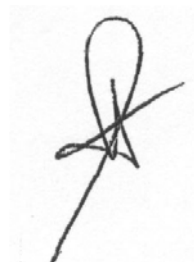
9. Miscellaneous

Tie-break calculation in case of defaults in Round Robin tournaments will be discussed by a subcommittee composed by De Ridder (chair), Gijssen and Markkula

After being addressed by some chess players Dirk De Ridder requests that a dressing code for players shall be discussed at the FIDE 2005 executive board meeting.

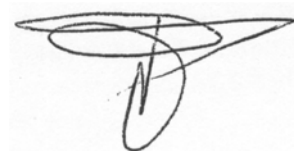
Werner Stubenvoll

Chairman



Dirk De Ridder

Secretary



## Proposal to change FIDE Handbook C.02

### C.02. Standards of chess equipment and tournament venues for FIDE tournaments

This document defines the general standards for chess equipment to be used in FIDE competitions.

1 The chess boards, pieces and clocks offered by the organisers (hosts) of a FIDE or Continental Championship, Olympiad and other FIDE registered tournaments shall conform with the standards mentioned below, and shall be approved by the Chief Arbiter.

1.1 The chess pieces used in the final of Individual World or Continental Championships shall be approved by both players. Their approval shall be obtained for other equipment - the chess table, the chair of each player, board and clock.

In case either side disagrees, the equipment to be used shall be decided by the Chief Arbiter of the match, bearing in mind the standards for its size and form as mentioned below.

1.2 It is highly recommended that the chess equipment used in a competition shall be the same for all games.

## 2. Chess Pieces

### 2.1 Material

Chess pieces shall be made of wood, or an imitation of this material.

### 2.2 Height, weight, proportions

The preferred King's height shall be 9.5 cm. The diameter of the King's base shall measure 35 to 40% of its height.

The size of the other pieces shall be proportionate to their height and form; other elements such as stability, aesthetic considerations, etc., may also be taken into account.

The weight of the pieces shall be suitable for easy movement and stability.

### 2.3 Form, style of pieces

Pieces are recommended for use in FIDE competitions as per the 'Staunton style'.

The pieces shall be shaped so as to be clearly distinguishable from one another. In particular the top of the King shall distinctly differ from that of the Queen.

### 2.4 Colour of the pieces

The colours of the black and white pieces shall be clearly distinguishable. The dark pieces shall be brown or black, or of other dark shades of these colours. The light pieces may be white or cream, or other light colours. The natural colour of wood (walnut, maple, etc.) may also be used for this purpose. The pieces shall not be shiny.

### 3. **Chess boards**

For FIDE registered tournaments, wooden boards are recommended. The boards shall be rigid. The board may also be of stone or marble with appropriate light and dark colours, provided the Chief Arbiter finds it acceptable. Natural wood with sufficient contrast, such as birch, maple or European ash against walnut, teak, beech, etc., may also be used for boards. The boards shall have a dull or neutral finish. Boards shall never be shiny. Due care shall be taken for colour-blind people.

Combination of colours such as brown, green, or very light tan and white, cream, off-white ivory, buff, etc., may be used for the chess squares in addition to natural colours.

Referring to 2.2 the size of a square shall be twice the diameter of a pawn's base. It is recommended that the side of the square shall measure between 5 and 6 cm.

A comfortable table of suitable height may be fitted in with a chessboard. If the table and the board are separate from one another, the latter must be fastened to prevent it from moving during play.

### 4. **Chess tables**

The size of a table shall have a minimum length of twice the length of the chessboard and a width of 15 – 20 cm more than the chessboard. It is recommended to use tables with a minimum size of 120 x 80 cm for top level FIDE tournaments. The maximum width shall be 83 cm.

The height of a table (preferably 74 cm) and the chairs shall be comfortable for the players. Any noise when moving the chairs shall be avoided.

### 5. **Chess clocks**

No easy moving of the chess clocks shall be possible.

#### 5.1 **Mechanical chess clocks**

Mechanical chess clocks shall have a device signalling precisely when the hour hand indicates full hours. They shall have the so-called "flag" fixed so that its fall can be clearly seen, helping the arbiters and players to check the time. The clock shall have no shine, which would make the flag difficult to see. It shall run as silently as possible in order not to disturb the players during play.

#### 5.2 **Electronic chess clocks**

(a) Clocks must function in full accordance with the FIDE laws of chess.

(b) The display at all times shall show the time available to each player.

(c) The displays must be legible from a distance of at least 3 meters.

(d) From at least a distance of 10 meters a player must have a clearly visible indication which clock is running.

- (e) Clocks shall make no sound at any stage.
- (f) In case of passing a time control, for minimum 5 minutes a sign on the display must indicate clearly which player first passed the time limit.
- (g) For battery powered clocks, a low-battery indication is required.
- (h) In case of a low-battery indication the clock must continue to function flawlessly for at least 10 hours.
- (i) Special attention shall be given to the correct indication of passing time control.
- (j) In case of cumulative or delay timing systems, the clock shall not add any additional time if a player passed the last time control.
- (k) In case of time penalties it must be possible that time (including seconds) and move counter corrections are executed by an arbiter within reasonable time.
- (l) It must be impossible to erase or change the data in display with a simple manipulation.
- (m) Clocks must contain a short user manual on the clock.

Electronic chess clocks for FIDE events shall be endorsed by FIDE Technical Commission.

#### 6. **Tournament halls**

For top level tournaments a minimum space of 9 square meters per board is necessary, space for arbiters and captains not included. For other tournaments there shall be a minimum space of 5 square meters per board.

The distance between the chessboards and the spectators shall be not less than one meter, for top-level tournaments 1.5 meter.

In the playing area, white light shall be used, which does not cause shadows on the chessboards or which is noisy. No light (artificial or sunlight) may disturb the players. For the sake of consistency in lighting strong preference is given to start all the rounds with artificial light.

Floor covering the hall shall be such that as little noise as possible shall be caused when players walk around.

7. The above regulations apply only to FIDE events.

Werner Stubenvoll  
Chairman

Dirk De Ridder  
Secretary

