

CONCEPT IV

Decision of the FIDE Ethics Commission on the Youth World Chess Championship 2005 in Belfort (France)

Introduction

From 18th July till 29th July 2005 the Youth World Chess Championship took place in Belfort (France). The president of the organising committee was Mr. Jean-Paul Touzé.

During the 76th FIDE Congress from 17th till 24th August 2005 in Dresden (Germany) several complaints concerning the organisation in Belfort were made during the meeting of the Executive Board.

Representatives from Hungary and Turkey demanded a 3 years ban for Mr. Touzé to organise FIDE events because of "the attitude of the organiser that is not on the level parallel with the level of the World Championships". Representatives of the USCF, Trinidad and Tobago and England agreed with this view and complained about the bad conditions during the championship.

The representative of Germany demanded a 5 years ban and he was supported in this by Mr. Kutin (Continental President for Europe).

During the meeting there was no representative present of the French Chess Federation, although they were asked to come, as was stated by the General Secretary of FIDE.

The Executive Board decided the following:

1. The organizer of the event in Belfort Mr. Touzé will not have the right to organize any FIDE event for a period of 5 years with effect from 23rd August 2005.
2. All the complaints received by the FIDE Secretariat will be handed over to the FIDE Ethics Commission for further examination. The Organizer may present his views in the examination. The Ethics Commission can recommend additional measures to the Executive Board.
3. The Executive Board recommends to the European Chess Union to consider issuing a similar resolution regarding the organizer's participation in European chess matters.

A press release with the decision was published after this meeting.

Procedure of Ethics Commission

The Ethics Commission has received 4 written complaints with various contents after the Dresden meeting about the championship. These were from the federations of Turkey, Iran, Italy and Trinidad and Tobago.

The statements contained complaints about the distance between the playing hall and the hotels (sometimes a two hour drive by bus), the quality of the hotels, the way Mr. Touzé reacted on complaints, etc.

The Ethics Commission also received a copy of an open letter from Mr. Touzé to the President of FIDE. In this letter he denied all allegations made against him and complained about the way the decision was taken.

The Ethics Commission has asked the French Chess Federation to comment on the complaints made against the organisation. The French Federation referred to the above mentioned letter of Mr. Touzé. They also stated that participants of the championship misbehaved during their stay and that not all federations paid all their costs.

The Ethics Commission also asked the FIDE Secretariat for information. Mr. Gelfer from the FIDE Bureau undertook one inspection in Belfort. The Ethics Commission did not receive any report from FIDE concerning the inspection. Mr. Gelfer declared that when he inspected the site, the conditions promised were different to those that occurred.

The General Secretary of FIDE had expressed his concern about the organisation on forehand to the French organisers.

FIDE does not have a checklist in which it says what the conditions should be for the organisation of an event as in Belfort.

Conclusions

The Ethics Commission has taken the following issues into consideration:

- There are no guidelines in FIDE to check the conditions of the Youth World Championship (for instance the maximum distance between the hotel and the playing hall).
- From the complaints our Commission received we got the impression that the organisation of the event was not of high quality. The closing of all toilets and then opening a few "portaloos" was unacceptable. It was not possible to organise such a big event in the town that was chosen. Bussing people in from over 50 kms (if there was no room on the bus, you had a problem, so parents were stranded from their 10 year olds). Players and the people accompanying them had to wait for an hour or two between lunch and playing the game in a place with nothing to do.
- The attitude of the organiser towards people complaining was not set to solve problems, but lead to polarisation. The French Federation (who were the ones doing the bidding for the tournament) was complacent and when FIDE raised matters they did not seem interested in looking into the matter. When actual problems arose at the event (like with a handicapped boy), they did belatedly sort things out.

The Ethics Commission has reached the following conclusions:

- The Ethics Commission suggests that FIDE formulates conditions that should be met when organising events of this magnitude and importance. These conditions must be verifiable, in any stage of the organisation it must be possible to check them;
- It is recommended that once matters have been referred to the Ethics Commission, no decision should be made by any other FIDE entity unless requested by the Ethics Commission;
- No additional measures against the organisers are suggested. The Commission does not comment on the measures taken by the Executive Board.

The FIDE Ethics Commission
March 2006