Technical Administration Panel – Initial Report

The Technical Administration Panel (TAP) is the successor of the Parings Committee. TAP is dealing with the technical aspects of the Chess Olympiads, but its main task has been the use of the Swiss System in the Chess Olympiads. This started in Haifa 1976 with the Haley System which was based on ratings. The so called Burstein System which was based on Buchholz has been applied since Moscow 1994. So I may say that 30 years of Swiss Olympiads are quite an experience.

Regarding the system which is used in this Olympiad I would like to recommend to every body to wait with their remarks, evaluation and criticism until the Olympiad is over next week.

There were three major changes in this Olympiad concerning the Swiss System.

The first one was the reduction of the number of rounds from 14 or 13 to only 11. The second one was the changing of the basis for the ranking from Game Points + Buchholz as first tie-break to Match Points + Sonnenborn-Berger. The third change was the introduction of the accelerated pairings in the first two rounds. The result of the accelerated parings was that in the first two rounds we had smaller differences between the playing teams and less results of 4-0 than in previous Olympiads.

But in subsequent rounds we find more 4-0's than in the past and this is due to the use of MP's instead of GP's. Using MP's in round-robin team tournaments and in Swiss tournaments of 40 or 50 teams is maybe better than using GP's. But in an Olympiad with 140 teams, with so big differences between top teams and bottom teams, the outcome of using MP's is smaller number of score groups but bigger number of teams in each one of them. Foe example, after 6 rounds, half of the score groups had more than 20 teams each.

So, to conclude this short report, I propose to check the results of the various changes after the Olympiad, to make some more simulations with the various systems and bring the consequences to the next congress.

Almog Burstein
TAP Chairman