

*79th FIDE Congress
17-25 November
Congress Centre, Dresden, Germany*

**Swiss Pairings
MINUTES
17 November 2008**

Chairman: Mr. Christian Krause (GER)

Present: Mr. A. Kusima (POL), M. Markkula (FIN), D. Sedgwick (ENG), M. Abdul Rahim (UAE), W. Stubenvoll (AUT), F. Dapiran (ITA), E. Price (RSA), A. Burstein (ISR), G. Gijssen (NED), A. Filipowicz (POL), S. Milivojevic (SRB), A. Vardapetian (ARM), K. Pekar (SVK), G. Altanoch (MNG), V. Sakotic (MNE), N. Barrera (ARG), E. Androni (GRG)

1. First impressions of the Changes to the Swiss System Rules of the Olympiad

The Committee members discussed their impressions of the new Swiss System rules used in the running Olympiad. It was clear that a deeper analysis will be possible earliest after the end of the competition.

- acceleration of pairings
the goal of avoiding 4-0 results in the first round was achieved but in round 3 at the open tournament of 73 matches 21 ended 4-0 and 17 ended 3.5 - .5.
At the women tournament of 55 matches 29 4 – 0 and 10 ended 3.5 - .5
- change from scorepoints to matchpoints
the scoregroups are very large and the pairing is very sensitive to the tiebreak criteria
- tiebreak criteria
the tiebreak criteria (Sonneborn, Buchholz, Gamepoints) are not easy to be calculated by the participants and not easy to be understood by non chessplayers as journalists and sponsors.

2. Endorsement of the program „Tournament Service“ (written by Harald Heggelund (NOR))

The chairman, Mr. Markkula and Mr. Stubenvoll reported that they have tested the program, which is now producing fairly good pairings due to the Dutch Swiss rules. Therefore the committee proposes the endorsement of the program Tournament service for the pairings of Dutch Swiss rules.

The committee unanimously stated that the endorsement of a program is only concerning the pairings due to the specified rules. The committee will neither judge other special functional features of a program or its applicability at all nor give recommendations for choosing a special program.

3. Production of TRF files

The committee unanimously decided that the possibility to produce a TRF file of a tournament as report to FIDE will be mandatory for all programs to be endorsed.

Just now all endorsed programs are able to produce a TRF file.

4. Review of already endorsed programs

The committee agreed to postpone the check of already endorsed programs until the next meeting.

5. Searching for rules of a simple Swiss System

Mr. Tsorbatsoglou regretted that the Swiss System rules are grown up so complicated that neither players nor most of the arbiters understand them.

The chairman replied that the complexity is the price for increased fairness compared to older rules. Nevertheless the committee will welcome any proposals for new simple Swiss System rules.

Dresden, 2008-11-18
Christian Krause
Chairman