

## REPORT

### Schedule

The World Cup was held according to the time schedule, which was approved in advance and published on the official site of the tournament and according to the drawing of lots during the Opening Ceremony in Khanty-Mansiysk on 28 August, 2011.

### Playing Conditions

Competition was held in a new modern building of “The Ugorian Chess Academy” situated in the downtown of city. The playing conditions were excellent. A spacious, modern hall, sufficient distance from the spectators, bathrooms close to the playing hall, good illumination air conditioning, adequately furnished and equipped FIDE officials’ and arbiters’ rooms supported to organize normal conditions for the chess players and arbiters’ work. Taking into account the fact that it was forbidden to smoke in the whole building, a special area was allocated for smoking needs in 15-20 meters from the playing zone. Coffee, tea, soft drinks, fruits and sweets were provided to the participants in a special area near the playing zone. A metal control was installed on the doorways excluding the entry of players with cell phones or other electronic means of communication to the tournament hall and playing zone.

A big time countdown display was set in the tournament hall. In my opinion, this innovation was appreciated by the players and contributed to the fact that there were no late arrivals. Simultaneously, due to the Chief Arbiter’s decision there were placed additional speakers, which provided high audibility of the announcements in all main areas of the building (lobby, space for analysis, smoking area, hallways, restrooms, medical center, etc.). The Chief Arbiter regularly was announcing that 5 to 1 minute was left for the games start.

A screen was placed in the tournament hall and all games were demonstrated for the spectators simultaneously. All the games were demonstrated on line on the Internet. Adequate equipment was installed in the lobby of the tournament hall that gave opportunity for the spectators and journalists to follow commentary of all games after each hour.

It was foreseen a medical service for the participants at the tournament hall.

The only problem was that the chess tables were not stable, sometimes creating discomfort for the players. The attention of the organizing committee was invited on this matter and suggested to make 8-10 new tables for the future FIDE top events according to the FIDE standards.

### Pairings

The World Cup was played according to the Regulations for the World Chess Cup 2011 following the principle of top half vs. lower half reversed (1-128, 127-2, 3-126, 125-4...). Pairings were published on the FIDE web site and World Cup official web site since 24 July 2011.

Two player’s Vladimir Akopian from Armenia and Wang Hao from China did not participate in Round 1. They preliminary informed FIDE office that because of their health problem they were not able to participate in the tournament. The official correspondence and medical resolution are attached.

Drawing of colors had been made by lot during the Opening Ceremony. The top seeded player Sergey Karjakin from Russia in Round 1 received Black.

### Players Meeting

According to the Regulations of the tournament, the Players’ Meeting took place before the Opening Ceremony.

It was announced that the tournament would be held according to the Regulation published on the official site of FIDE and that the Match for the 3rd place would be played at the same time with the Final match. As to the late appearance of the players to the start of games the Rule of 0 Minute would be applied.

### **Opening & Closing Ceremony**

The Opening Ceremony of World Cup 2011 took place in the CTC “Ugra-Classic” on 27 July in Khanty-Mansiysk. The FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov and Mayor of Khanty-Mansiysk warmly welcomed participants of the World Cup 2011.

The Chief Arbiter held the drawing of colors. The top seeded GM Sergey Korjakin was requested to choose one of the two boxes. Grandmaster chose the box with black pawn which meant that all odd-numbered participants would start the first round with black.

Afterwards the evening was transformed into a virtual voyage to the past where we were taken by the regional Chamber Orchestra headed by Boris Nodelman that presented the pieces of Vivaldi, Bach, Khachaturian, Strauss and Astor Piazzolla to the attention of spectators. The vocal group «Quarto» performed such famous Italian songs as «Pan American», «Volare» and «Con te partiro».

The Closing Ceremony was held in the same building. Both events were perfectly and exceptionally organized.

### **Time Control**

#### *Normal games*

a) For Normal games the Time Control was 90 minutes for the first 40 moves followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an addition of 30 seconds per move from move one.

#### *Tie-breaks*

б) For Tie-breaks the Time Control was the following:

TB 1-2	– 25 minutes on the clock with an addition of 10 seconds after each move
TB 3-4	– 10 minutes on the clock with an addition of 10 seconds after each move
TB 5-6	– 5 minute games with an addition of 3 seconds after each move
SD	– 5 minutes for White and 4 minutes for Black and addition 3 sec per move from move 61

### **Arbiters**

All Arbiters assigned for the World Cup held the tournament on a good level. All of them have the required high level, knowledge in handling the electronic clocks. They performed excellent mutual cooperation and well done job with the players.

Taking into account the big number of Tie-breaks during the first rounds local chess arbiters and players were assigned as Arbiters’ Assistants for the tournament. I had arranged an adequate seminar to inform them about the particular rules of Regulations for WCC and specific features of their job. Almost all of them managed their work and I highly appreciated it.

I highly appreciated also Mr. Mikhail Kryukov’s job as the Deputy Chief Arbiter and thanked him for excellent cooperation during the whole tournament.

### **Press-Center**

The Press-Center staff, leading by Press-officer Mr. Nikita Kim carried out an outstanding work on a high level. Every day they took many interviews from the players and the principals of the World Cup. The cooperation with the players was excellent.

### **Games' transmission**

A team of technical specialists from FIDE Elista office did a good job and had an excellent cooperation with the organizers and the Arbiters. Starting from Round 1 all games of World Cup were transmitted on line on the Internet.

One of the most succeed innovations of the World Cup was on-line display picture of games with comment. I am confident that this innovation greatly increased the interest of the visitors of the official website. I would like also to note that according to many experts and fans opinion, the quality of comments in English was high, but during the comments in Russian, there were sometimes incorrect statements and biased comments. The broadcasting was conducted at a high level, with 4 cameras. However, there were numerous requests to have a fixed camera showing the entire room.

### **Technical equipment**

Electronic boards and clock of DGT-XL were used for the games. We had no problems with their programming.

### **Accommodation**

The players were accommodated in 4\* Wellness Hotel "Ugra Valley", 4\* Hotel "Taray", 3\* Hotel "Cronwell Inn Business Centre" and 3\* Hotel "Ugra". The conditions provided by the hotel were sufficient. All principals stayed in 4\* Wellness Hotel "Ugra Valley". The menu was quite various. It was foreseen a medical service for the participants at the hotels as well.

I would like especially to mention the good job of the whole staff of "Ugra Valley" Hotel, who did their best for the players and the FIDE representatives during the whole period of their stay.

### **Prizes & Stipends**

There were no complaints related to the payments of prizes and stipends. All the players and principals were paid in time.

### **Organizing Staff**

The Executive Director of Organizing Committee Mr. Vyacheslav Zhuravlev and Chief of OC Office Ms. Oxana Osintseva carried out an exceptional work and showed a great hospitality for organizing the World Cup on such a high level. The whole Organizing staff did their best to work jointly and to achieve high standards.

### **Transportation**

The transportation service of the Organizing Committee perfectly managed their job. We had no problems concerning quality and schedule of transportation.

### **Conclusions and Proposals**

The World Cup 2011 in Khanty-Mansiysk (Russia) was organized and held on a very high level that was a great success. All the FIDE Handbook requirements for organizing top level chess events were fulfilled. All participants (chess players, coaches, principals, journalists, etc.) were satisfied not only with the quality of how the tournament was held (in their interviews and individual speeches they had positive comments for the event), but expressed also wish to hold many top level chess competitions in Khanty-Mansiysk in future.

I would like also to mention the correctness of all players and their readiness to have a fair fight, thanks to which the arbiters had no problem during the whole period of the tournament.

The media had a lot of comments about the 2<sup>nd</sup> game Moiseenko-Navara. The situation in this game was completely controlled by the Arbiters. In my opinion, Navara did not break the rules at any

moment of the game and the offer of a draw in a winning position proved his willingness to win only in fair play.

In my opinion, the system of tie-breaks was improved compared with the previous World Cup. But most of the players and experts believe that "Armageddon" is still not the best way to determine the winner, especially for the players playing the tournament on a system with the time addition, it is very difficult to play last game. I suggest considering the following system during the FIDE Commissions.

My proposal is - 2 games of 25'+10", 2 games of 10'+10", 2 games 5'+3" but change the concept of last game: just continue it with the same time control till the first win with drawing of color after each 2<sup>nd</sup> game.

I suggest also considering changes of prizes for 3-4 places (if the match is played), for example, \$55,000 and \$45,000 instead of \$50,000, according to the present Regulation.

All the relevant information of the event is included in the attached documentation.

Ashot Vardapetyan  
World Chess Cup 2011  
Chief Arbiter