

To the delegates of the FIDE General Assembly  
Istanbul 2013

betreft	kenmerk	datum
Arbiter's license fee	12/AZaz/0659/JB	5 June 2012

Dear delegates,

On the Agenda for the Executive Board Meeting in Krakow 2011 were several proposals to increase fees for title holders, tournament organizers and federations. Before the Krakow meeting the Dutch Chess Federation sent a letter to the members of the Executive Board arguing that these measures would have counterproductive effects and were detrimental to the chess world.

During the Krakow meeting most of the proposals were withdrawn from the Agenda.

However, unfortunately, one such proposal seems to have slipped by almost unnoticed. In a meeting of the Arbiter's Council the introduction of license fees for international Arbiters and FIDE Arbiters was discussed and adopted. The proposal was sent to the Executive Board, included in a report of the meeting of the Arbiter's Council and adopted. The proposal was not sent before the Krakow meeting to the members of the Executive Board as is required in the Statutes of FIDE (art. 5.4).

For the meeting of the Executive Board in Krakow a proposal was sent to the members of the EB concerning raises in the title fees of arbiters. For International Arbiter a raise from € 100 to € 300 and for FIDE Arbiter a raise from € 50 to € 200.

Our federation objected against this and this proposal was removed from the agenda.

However in a meeting of the Arbiter's Council a license fee for arbiters was introduced out of the blue. An International Arbiter (A-Category) has to pay € 300 and a FIDE Arbiter (C-Category) has to pay € 120 for a license. Every arbiter who wants to be an arbiter in a FIDE rated tournament has to pay this license, otherwise the tournament will not be rated.

This license system will come into force from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2013.

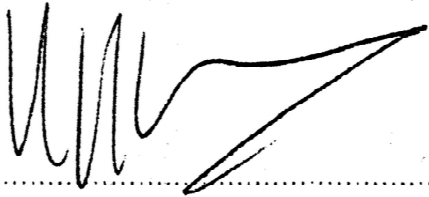
This means that someone first has to pay € 100 to FIDE for the title IA and after that he or she has to pay an additional € 300 to get a license to be allowed to act as an arbiter in FIDE rated tournaments. So an amount of € 400 in total. A raise even higher than the one we objected against!

The Arbiter's Council states that this direction has been chosen to make arbiters more active and to solve the problem that FIDE now has, i.e. thousands of inactive arbiters. However FIDE rates something like 8.000 tournaments every year. In all these tournaments arbiters with an official title are active, these arbiters now have to pay an additional € 120 to € 300 to be allowed to do the job many of them have been doing for many years.

The Dutch Chess Federation strongly opposes this license system for arbiters and seeks its abolition.

We therefore ask the General Assembly of FIDE, which meets in Istanbul 2013, to review the decision of the Executive Board taken in Krakow concerning the introduction of a license system for arbiters and to turn back this decision. The GA has this right according to art. 4.1.

Yours sincerely,  
ROYAL DUTCH CHESS FEDERATION (KNSB)



Herman Hamers  
FIDE Delegate, the Netherlands