

**Minutes of Technical Commission
Istanbul, September 3, 2012 at 09:00-13:00**

Attendance:

Chairman: Dr. Dirk J.A. De Ridder

Secretary: IA Andrzej Filipowicz

A. Surender (SWE), G. Bjernsson (ISL), G. Gijssen (NED), R. Alt (GER), D. Jordan (GER), C. Krause (GER), J. Vega (GUA), N. Faulks (BER), E. Price (RSA), I. Vereschagin (RUS), A. Vasse – DGT (NED), F. Dapiran (ITA), S. Boyd (FRA), M. Zumbado (CRC), W. Brown (USA), J. Lehtivaara (FIN), A. Burstein (ISR), R. Ricca (ITA), K. Deventer (GER)

Agenda for the Technical Commission

1. Opening by chairman Dirk De Ridder
2. Ratio of king height to square size
3. Guidelines for the production of electronic score sheets
4. Cheating in chess: technical and human aspects
5. Chess for disabled: situation after the Dresden and Brussels meeting
6. Minimum-Speed Game Timer
7. Proposal to produce a TEC Manual
8. Clocks to be endorsed: hbtimer
9. Presentation of new materials
10. Miscellaneous

1. Opening

Chairman Dr. Dirk J.A. De Ridder welcomed the members of the FIDE Technical Commission and observers. Chairman explained in detail the results of the TEC core group meeting Brussels in April.

2. Ratio of king height to square size

The suggestion of Mr. Summerville to vary the king height proportionally with the size of the squares was accepted. TEC expresses the opinion to add proportionality for all pieces and to establish the size of pieces (maximum and minimum). Then it will be added to the Tournament Regulations.

3. Guidelines for the production of electronic score sheets

Many years ago, FIDE signed a contract with MonRoi Company, but Mr. A. Vasse who represents the DGT Company expressed the opinion, that another electronic score sheet can be developed parallel.

Chairman introduced all remarks regarding the DGT Electronic score sheet prepared during the Brussels meeting. Some details were once again discussed:

- a) Common: Size of the score sheet should be comparable to the MonRoi score sheet, A6 paper size is interesting as it would fit in the pocket of a jacket, it should be smaller than A5 paper size. Most important is an easy readability of the screen.

- b) Game mode: players' signatures can be made directly on the score sheet after which the game mode shall be closed immediately. The necessity of entering a 5-digit code is withdrawn. Delete figurine notation for clock times in 10.b. Delete 10.g. (automatic move counter). Change art. 8.6 into 8.6.c in point 11. Add: no connection to any other outside device shall be possible.
- c) Arbiter mode: no amendments.
- d) Owner mode: Art. 1: replace "shall" by "must". Art. 2: change second sentence into "Otherwise it shall be completely blocked". Art. 3: replace by "No chess playing program is allowed". Art. 4: replace "then" by "than". Art. 5: replace "For anybody it is easy..." by "For anybody it shall be easy..."
- e) Transfer of played games should be possible via a USB connection (flash) or a docking station. By all means the extraction of games should be easy.
- f) Any problem regarding illegal moves should be dealt with as close as possible to the Laws of Chess: *i.e.* no information should come from the device.
- g) Identification of ownership of the device (players or organisers) can be done via the serial number.

4. Cheating in chess: technical and human aspects

The problem was discussed in Brussels and most of the TEC proposals were used in the 2012 Chess Olympiad, for instance: captains or federation's officials (even everyone related to a team) should never be allowed to place himself behind the team of the opponents: for this a system with different colours of badges for all members related to one team can be used. In case of matches, the seconds should remain behind their own player.

The meeting is of the opinion that the wording "proposes the following regulations" should be replaced by "recommends the following procedures".

During the Meeting the following recommendations were made:

- a) Add a new first sentence to Appendix 3: "The organizers will do their utmost to avoid cheating"
- b) Any contact of player during the game is forbidden, except with the match arbiter. The role of captain should be limited due to the lack of possibility to offer a draw before the 30th move. In other words: there should be no exchange between players and opponents, and/or captains inside the playing venue.
- c) The selection of arbiters for matches must take into consideration the nationality of the playing teams. We should avoid arbiters from the same country to decide in the matches with participation of players of their country.
- d) The good and big tournament hall (like Torino Olympiad 2006) helps the arbiter to keep the order.
- e) A delay of 15 or 30 minutes in transmitting games on internet should be used. The meeting suggests that a two-move delay (instead of a fixed time) might be more effective.
- f) The RTR should be asked to extend the list of electronic devices from mobile phones to iPods, extended whist watches, or any other device that can transmit.

5. Chess for disabled: situation after Dresden tournament and Brussels meeting

The participants accepted the proposals made in Dresden and Brussels and added the new proposals as follows:

- a) The new condition regarding the tournament hall must be fulfilled: corridor twice as wide for easy access of wheel chairs; additional tables for the blind players etc.
- b) The neutral assistants must be appointed by the CO or CA to avoid discussion regarding cheating.
- c) The beginning of the round will be announced by music for blind players and by video for silent players
- d) To extend "Silver Voice" to all FIDE languages.

The conditions will be reviewed by TEC and forwarded to RTR to be added to the Tournament Regulations.

IBCA, ICSC and IPCA should clarify the conditions for disability to be valid for all federations. It is mentioned that IPCA might prefer to following the conditions set by the Paralympics.

The appendix in the Laws of Chess regarding the blind will only be changed upon such request by IBCA.

6. Minimum-Speed Game Timer

The device should first be tested in a tournament before it can be thoroughly discussed.

7. Proposal to produce a TEC Manual

TEC agree to prepare the Manuel including all chess programme for pairing, the list of endorsed clock and electronic scoresheets etc.

8. Clocks to be endorsed: hbtimer

Hbtimer was not endorsed because according to the members and observers the procedure of testing was not followed, so it does not comply with all the requirements of the testing procedure, for example the testers were not appointed by the chairman of TEC. According to Mrs. Vasse and Jordan the clock still has a number of software bugs. The TEC will clarify the procedure with the PB.

9. Presentation of new materials

No new materials were received.

10. Miscellaneous

- a) The TASK meeting organized before the start of the commissions has asked TEC to work out a single formula to calculate Performance Ratings.
- b) TEC invites manufacturers to think about the possibility to construct a new chess board which implements the chess clocks and which produces score sheets immediately after the game. Such complete chess board will be very useful for kids, old men and disabled chess players.
- c) DGT is organizing a two day seminar "DG e-Board Technology" in Enschede (Netherlands) on 21-22 November 2012.

- d) QC forwarded a question to TEC regarding a rapid tournament in Russia where non-FIDE-endorsed clocks were used. According to some players a lot of clocks failed so they asked the tournament not to be rated. The meeting is of the opinion that this request should not be accepted since poor-working clocks are not a reason to stop rating the event (this would open a door not to rate a large number of events).
- e) Seminars for IA and FA arbiters are necessary at least every 4 years so that they can be updated with all electronic novelties.

Dr. Dirk De Ridder
Chairman



Dr. Andrzej Filipowicz
Secretary

