

From: Efstratios Grivas [mailto:grivasefs@yahoo.co.uk]  
Sent: 28 August 2013 15:42  
To: Nigel Freeman  
Cc: Mikhailchishin Adrian  
Subject: Re: Re: FIDE Chicago Academy

28.08.2013

Dear Nigel,

During the recent months that followed the 2nd FIDE PB we had no change on the position of USCF. On the contrary Mr. Sevan Muradian was willing to accept any 'demand' from the USCF (all are in the attached). Many efforts were made by me personally to explain the situation to USCF and to its President Mrs. Ruth Haring. I even convinced both sides to come to a sort of 'negotiation', but in vain (and not on Mr. Muradian fault). So, we see no reason to change our previous recommendation to the 2nd FIDE PB.

All the best  
Efstratios

**FIDE TRAINERS' COMMISSION (TRG)  
TRG Official Academy Application**

<b>National Chess Federation</b>	UNITED STATES CHESS FEDERATION
<b>Address/E-mail</b>	P.O. BOX 3967 CROSSVILLE, TN 38557 BHALL@USCHESS.ORG
Please return the application to grivasefs@yahoo.co.uk	

**Endorsed by National Federation – Official**

N	Surname	Name	Year of Birth	National Chess Federation	FIDE ID
1					

#	Applicant's Personal Data	Entry	Remarks
1	Full Name	NORTH SHORE CHESS CENTER	
2	Date of Establishing	9-1-2010 (SEPT 1, 2010)	
3	Country – Town	SKOKIE, IL 60077	
4	Address	5500 W. TOWHY AVE SUITE A	
5	Email Address	SEVAN@NACHESS.ORG	
6	Mobile Phone number	847-274-1352	
7	Residential Address (full)	519 N. Kenneth Ave Chicago, IL 60630	
8	Director's (Representative) Data (Name-Email-Mobile)	SEVAN A. MURADIAN same as #5+6	
9	Official Language	ENGLISH	

### 3. Guideline for TRG Academies:

3.1. An endorsed FIDE Academy must accept the following requirements/obligations:

3.1.1. Shall carry on all its official papers the FIDE title, flag, logo and symbols.

3.1.2. Shall follow FIDE & TRG proposed Guidelines and Educational Programme.

3.1.3. Shall follow the 'FIDE Trainers' Syllabus'.

3.1.4. Shall follow the 'FIDE Official Books', among others.

3.1.5. Shall pay the Registration Fee (200 €) and annual fee (300 € per year) to FIDE. These fees do not apply to the founding FIDE Academies of Berlin, New York and Singapore.

3.1.6. Shall cooperate with Lecturers / Seminar Leaders, approved by the TRG.

3.1.7. Shall cooperate with FIDE certified trainers approved by the TRG.

3.1.8. Shall cooperate with Internet sites proposed by TRG.

3.1.9. Shall provide the necessary information for TRG's archives and website.

3.1.10. Shall cooperate in harmony.

3.2. An endorsed Academy will have the following rights:

3.2.1. Can directly register its trainees (maximum two players per category - wild cards) to World Youth and World and Continental School Championships.

3.2.2. Can directly submit its internal tournaments for FIDE Rating calculations.

3.2.3. Can resell 'FIDE Official Books' and 'FIDE Trainers' Syllabus' up to +100% above cost.

3.2.4. Can organize official FIDE Training Camps.

3.2.5. Can issue FIDE official attendance certificates.

3.2.6. Can propose its best student for the FIDE Candidate Master title (once per year).

**Applicant's Signature**



**Date**

9/12/2012

**Stamp**

## **FIDE ACADEMY OPERATING AGREEMENT**

On this day \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ 2013, the United States of America Chess Federation (USCF) and Sevan A. Muradian and his business entities (OPERATOR) agree to the following conditions in relation to an academy granted by the World Chess Federation (FIDE):

1. OPERATOR agrees to forgo the right defined by FIDE in relation to registration of participants for official FIDE Championship events;
2. OPERATOR further agrees to forgo the right defined by FIDE in relation to direct submission of tournaments for rating to FIDE;

In understanding of the above, USCF agrees to the following:

1. USCF agrees to continue rating of events with FIDE for all time controls and ratings so long as the event is compliant with the FIDE rating regulations;
2. USCF agrees to provide immediate approval with no further conditions to FIDE for OPERATORs FIDE Academy application;

This agreement shall be enforced until such time as OPERATOR no longer wishes to operate the Academy. Upon written notification from the OPERATOR, any academy under the control of OPERATOR will cease to have USCF approval.

The laws of the State of Illinois shall govern this agreement.

Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this contract, or breach thereof, shall be settled by arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association under its Commercial Arbitration rules, and judgment on the award rendered by the arbitrator(s) may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof.

We the undersigned agree to the terms set forth in this agreement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sevan A. Muradian                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
USCF Representative



## **FIDE Trainers' Commission (TRG)**

**21.02.2013**

**Attention: United States Chess Federation**

**President: Mrs. Ruth Haring**

**Subject: North Shore Chess Center**

**FIDE Academy Application**

Dear Mrs. President,

TRG was informed in late December 2012 that an application for a FIDE Academy (North Shore Chess Center) has been made by Mr. Sevan Muradian to the USCF (09.12.2012), according to the FIDE regulations.

On 08.02.2013 Mr. Muradian appealed to the FIDE Trainers' Commission with the following e-mail:

*Dear Mr. Grivas,*

*I was informed today from Bill Hall, the Executive Director of the USCF, that they have denied my application for a FIDE Academy.*

*I am asking at this point for the FIDE Trainers Commission to review my application for a decision. I have attached my application again for your records.*

*Thank you,*

*Best regards,*

*Sevan*

TRG is obliged to make a recommendation to the next PB and for this reason we would like to have the federation's official position on the subject and the reasons of rejection. We would appreciate your help.

With kind regards,

The Chairman  
Adrian Mikhalchishin

The Secretary  
Efstratios Grivas

Ms. Ruth I. Haring  
President, United States Chess Federation  
[www.uschess.org](http://www.uschess.org)  
Cell Phone (408) 887-3131  
email: riharing@aol.com

February 24, 2013

GM Adrian Mikhalchishin, Chairman, TRG  
GM Efstratios Grivas, Secretary, TRG

Subject: USCF Official position on the subject and reasons of rejection of FIDE Academy application of Mr. Sevan Muradian

Dear Mr Mikhalchishin and Mr. Grivas,

The email is the official response to your request for the USCF official position on the subject and reasons of rejection of Mr. Sevan Muradian's application to USCF for a FIDE Academy.

The "FIDE Academy" gives powers reserved for National Federations to FIDE Academies. Therefore USCF has rejected the application for a FIDE academy from Mr. Muradian.

Furthermore, the board has voted that the USCF create a FIDE Academy in the US to support seminars and other activities without relinquishing the rights of a national federation. Once the USCF Academy is established, Mr. Muradian can apply to USCF to hold seminars under the auspices of the USCF's FIDE Academy.

I would also like to remind the Commission of the correspondence of 27 November 2012 about FIDE academies from Mr. Grivas to Mr. Freeman which was forwarded to Mr. Vega and myself.

In the first paragraph it is stated, "*And at any time this approval can be revoked by the federation due to various (logical) reasons. So, the federations are truly respected in this manner.*"...

In the third paragraph of that letter it is stated, "*All in all to conclude with, the national federation has full power over its Academies, when logical restrictions are on*"....

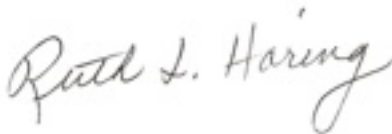
Please be advised of the two motions below passed by the USCF board on February 4th 2013:

*The Board moves that because the authority outlined for FIDE academies would grant them powers that have long been reserved for national federations, the USCF does not approve the application for a FIDE academy made by Sevan Muradian.*

*The Board moves that because the authority outlined for FIDE academies would grant them powers that have long been reserved for national federations, the USCF will establish any future FIDE academy in the United States. The Executive Board directs the Executive Director to develop a plan to establish such an academy for review and approval at the May EB meeting.*

Please contact me if you have additional questions.

Best Regards,



Ms. Ruth I. Haring  
President, United States Chess Federation



## **FIDE Trainers' Commission (TRG)**

**30.03.2013**

### **Attention: FIDE Presidential Board**

### **Subject: North Shore Chess Center FIDE Academy Application**

Dear Mr. President,

TRG received an appeal by Mr. Sevan Muradian, concerning a rejected FIDE Academy Application made to the USCF (09.12.2013), according to the regulated procedure. The TRG Board asked the official position of the USCF on the matter, which was kindly sent on 24.02.2013. All three documents are attached.

TRG Council examined the subject and decided to recommend to the PB to approve the 'North Shore Chess Center' application, on the following reasons:

1. The Academies' Regulations were approved by the FIDE GA and have to be followed by all federations. Here we have a case where a federation is declining to follow the approved regulations stating that it doesn't agree with them - no other reason.

2. Rights for the federations have been reserved in the past but according to the new regulations Academies have rights as well, which must as well be respected.

3. Of course at any time the approval of the federation can be revoked due to various (logical) reasons, but here we have an unlogical reason of rejection at the very first, before it was even approved. So, the federations are truly respected in this manner, but they should follow the GA and PB decisions.

4. There is already one approved TRG Academy according to FIDE/TRG regulations in USCF, the 'American Chess Academy' run by M.Khodarkovsky. This creates a conflict already and it doesn't make sense to reject a new application which wishes to operate under exactly the same rights and obligations. But of course it must be noted that the ACA is one of the three original FIDE Academies established back in 2005, where the regulations were different.

Note that TRG Board Councilor M.Khodarkovsky wished to remain neutral on this subject for obvious reasons. All other four Councilors (A.Mikhalchishin, E.Grivas, U.Boensch and J.Petronic), shared the present recommendation.

With kind regards,

The Chairman  
Adrian Mikhalchishin

The Secretary  
Efstratios Grivas

15.05.2013

Dear Ruth

At the last PB, the FIDE Trainers' Commission, unanimously recommended (Khodarkovsky remaining silent) that FIDE should accept the North Shore Center FIDE Academy Application, as the USCF rationale for refusal was not acceptable.

The PB decided, before accepting their recommendation, that we should write to you again on this matter, requesting a clearer rationale.

We note that you say that the "board has voted that the USCF create a FIDE Academy in the US" and that once this "Academy is established, Mr Muradian can apply to USCF to hold seminars...." Are we correct that in these circumstances, Mr Khodarkovsky's Academy will also no longer be a FIDE Academy and he would have to apply to USCF to hold seminars?

We look forward to your answers.

Best regards

Nigel

25.05.2013

Dear Nigel, Presidential Board and Trainers' Commission members,

The USCF's rationale for not approving the FIDE academy application submitted by Mr. Muradian remains the same, as documented in my letter of 2/24/2013 to the Trainers' Commission. The approval of a FIDE Academy results in the granting of powers that have long been reserved for national federations to the FIDE Academy. For this reason, USCF did not approve Mr. Muradian's application.

USCF is very disappointed with the FIDE Trainers' Commission recommendation to the Presidential Board regarding Mr. Muradian's appeal. In our recent correspondence we were assured by the Trainers' Commission that national federations will be respected and have full power over the FIDE Academy process in our respective countries.

As you also know, American Chess University (ACU) was approved in 2005 by FIDE along with the Berlin and Singapore FIDE Academies. These academies were grandfathered by FIDE when rules were changed in 2012 Congress in Istanbul.

USCF has an agreement with American Chess University which provides that ACU will only hold Trainers' seminars when approved and coordinated with the USCF office at our key events. In fact, all seminars held by American Chess University have been sanctioned by USCF and held in conjunction with major USCF events.

Currently, Mr. Muradian can apply to the USCF office for approval to hold a FIDE trainers' seminar. Provided the event details and arrangements meet the requirements outlined by the FIDE Trainers' Commission for conducting a Trainers' Seminar and provided the event is not in conflict with another FIDE Trainers' Seminar already scheduled in the same geographic area, Mr. Muradian and others who might want to organize a Trainers' Seminar can expect due consideration from the USCF office.

Regarding American Chess University: As I previously stated, ACU only holds trainers' seminars which are approved and coordinated with USCF. So to answer part of your question, Yes, American Chess University has to apply to USCF to get approval to hold a trainers' seminar.

Regarding the other part of the question, I assume you are asking if USCF will revoke American Chess University's status as a FIDE academy? The board has not considered this question because the agreement with The American Chess University academy is for trainers' seminars only, and based on the 2005 definition of a FIDE Academy. Because of this agreement, American Chess University has no special rights that would normally be reserved for national federations, and does not operate as a FIDE Academy as currently defined by FIDE per Istanbul 2012 changes. If the American Chess University academy were to breach the agreement with USCF, the



board would take appropriate action. At this time we have no reason to revoke ACU's FIDE academy status.

Please contact me if you have additional questions.

Best Regards,  
Ruth Haring

Dear Ms. President,

The Trainers' Commission's recommendation to the last FIDE PB was strictly based on the current active Regulations, which were approved in the 2011 FIDE Congress in Krakow. According to these Regulations the rights that were long preserved for federations (as you are quoting) are not belonging any more strictly to federations and FIDE Academies can have their own share as well if they wish so. This is a fact, which the USCF continuously ignores in its letters concerning the case in question.

If you do not agree with the decisions and the opinion of the majority of the federations that voted positively for the changes, you are welcomed to propose changes to the next FIDE Congress. But until then we feel that at least the FIDE Trainers' Commission should respect and follow strictly these Regulations.

We did assured you (Trainers' Commission) that national federations will be respected and have full power over the FIDE Academy process in the respective countries and we mean it. But we never promised that we will overlook the FIDE regulations and our recommendation remains the same, as your rejection of the North Shore CA application is based on Regulations that are not anymore valid - they have been replaced and this is what we are trying to explain you.

As for your personal agreements with the ACU, we have no comments, as this is an internal affair.

We hope that you understand that our actions are based on the FIDE Regulations and we do wish to get involved in anything else out of it.

With kind regards

TRG Secretary

Efstratios Grivas

P.S. As I am flying from Manila to Athens shortly, I will not be able to contact my e-mail for the next 20 hours.

Dear Mr. Grivas,

Thank you for your quick reply. I assure you that USCF is not ignoring the TRG Rules and Guidelines which apply to officially endorsed FIDE academies. As you have noted, FIDE Academies have certain rights which apply to officially endorsed academies. The academy in question has not been endorsed by the national federation, USCF. If we had endorsed the academy, then we would be in agreement about the duties and privileges of the academy.

On the "FIDE Academy Official Application" it is required that the applicant apply for and receive the endorsement of the National Chess Federation, and the application has a section called "Endorsed by National Federation". Mr. Muradian applied to USCF for endorsement. The USCF Executive Board met and considered Mr. Muradian's application and decided NOT to endorse the North Shore Academy. We had a long discussion of the matter and there were several factors in play not discussed in our correspondence with FIDE. USCF has been assured many times that FIDE will respect the authority of the national federations and that the national federations will have full power over the FIDE academy process in their respective country. This does not seem to be true in practice, however. Has FIDE made changes to the TRG Rules and Guidelines for FIDE Academies to remove the requirement for an endorsed

FIDE Academy to get the endorsement from the National Federation? Where is it written in the Rules and Guidelines that TRG will judge the reason for approval or denial of an application made by a national federation?

I am disappointed that we cannot agree on the the simplest of questions about the TRG Rules and Guidelines governing the FIDE Academies, and how those rules and guidelines apply in this instance.

Since such a basic question has arisen, over whether a national federations' endorsement is required to start an "Endorsed FIDE Academy", I suggest that the Trainer's Commission do a complete review of the FIDE Academy Rules and Guidelines to clarify them so that there will be no questions of such a major nature in the future.

I am awaiting your response or further questions with regards to this matter.

Best Regards,  
Ruth Haring

Dear Ms. President,

There is nothing to add in the Regulations or in the TRG's approach on contact with the federations - all are absolutely clear, fair and respected. And of course the endorsement of the national federation is obligatory. The problem in the case of the North Shore CA is that USCF rejected its application on grounds that are not in accordance with the regulations. And because of this clear mistake (for TRG at least) Mr. Muradian appealed to TRG and FIDE.

A federation can accept or reject an Academy application on legal or any other reason that is fair and acceptable on logical grounds but cannot do it with reasons that are controversial with the FIDE Regulations. In your previous letters to FIDE and TRG you didn't state any other reasons of rejection but simply reasons that are not acceptable, as they are not in line with the Regulations. You have power over Academies in your region, but also the Academies-to-be have the right to appeal and ask for a more 'fair' examination (in their opinion). And TRG accepted the NNCA appeal, because of your 'clear mistake' (at least for us) as we stated above.

We would kindly suggest re-examining the North Shore CA application, forgetting the reasons that you have rejected it by now. And maybe, you can also come to the same agreement as you did with the ACU of M. Khodarkovsky (who by the way proposed and created the most of the Regulations in the Academies).

FIDE and TRG would like to see more FIDE Academies coming-up in every country, operating in harmony with the national federations and we do not see any reason to get involved in so many controversies and disagreements.

With kind regards  
TRG Secretary  
Efstratios Grivas  
P.S. Regards from Dubai!

Dear Efstratios

I would like to discuss confidential information with you on Skype before I make my next reply on this matter to the entire group.

I just sent you a Skype invitation. Let me know when it will be a good time for us to talk. I know you just returned from a long trip :-)

Best Regards,  
Ruth Haring

Whenever you feel like. My skype is grivasefs - haven't received your invitation yet.  
Efstratios

My invitation is to Grivas Efstratios located in Greece.

Regards,  
Ruth Haring

Dear Mrs. President,

As I am aware of some opinions that I have been offended you and USCF with my responses, I would like to make clear that this was not my intention at all. I thought that these e-mails were brain-storming exchange (there was no official letters), and felt like helping the conversation by stating the procedure on how we (TRG) came across our positive recommendation.

It is clearly not our (TRG) decision and the matter is something that USCF and FIDE will solve in the end. I understand that I should probably have remained silent and after our today skype conversation I will do it.

All the best  
Efstratios

Dear Sevan,

After a lot of conversation and e-mails exchanging I feel that it would be good for you (and for all involved parties) to have a compromise with the USCF and make a similar agreement as M.Khodarkovsky did for his Academy. After all a FIDE Academy should cooperate in harmony with the national federation. Personal differences (if any) shouldn't be ruling here.

My personal feeling is that it would be a good idea to contact the USCF Executive Director and try to work out a solution that would satisfy both parties. I have spoken with President Ruth Haring and I am sure that USCF would welcome cooperation in harmony, as also it is stating in the Guidelines.

All the best  
Efstratios

P.S. I am coping this to President Ruth Haring.

27.05.2013

Dear Nigel,

Today Efstratios and I had a substantive Skype discussion. He informed me that USCF's official response to FIDE on the matter of Mr. Muradian's FIDE Academy application and appeal should be addressed to you and the email exchanges we have had thus far were brainstorming on his part, and not official position of FIDE. I appreciate Mr. Grivas' candor and the good dialog that we had by email.

Because of this new information, I will address my response on this matter to you in due course. Please confirm that USCF's response should be addressed to you and advise who you would like me to include cc'ed, on the email, for example, the Trainer's Commission members, etc.

Regards,  
Ruth Haring

Dear Ruth

Write to me, copied to TRG.

Best regards  
Nigel

Hi Sevan,

If your time permits tomorrow mid-morning (maybe around 10am), please give me a call so that we can discuss the Academy issue. If that is not a good time, you may call anytime after that.

I will be going to Crossville on Saturday morning, for two weeks. At first, I will be trying to figure things out there, so I will be, as you can imagine, very busy. Once I discuss with you, I want to get the EB's input...

Anyway, I will talk to you tomorrow.

Thanks!

Franc

Hi Franc,

I will give you call around 10:30am after I get my round started here.

To recap what I had stated in my previous email:

My understanding is that the concern is the current ability that academies possess of sending representatives to FIDE Youth events (World Youth, etc).

It is also my understanding that the current academy that is headed my Michael Khordakovsky has agreed to forgo this capability.

If this is the underlying cause of concern, I would have no issue that via a written agreement between the USCF and myself, that my academy would forgo the right of sending representatives to FIDE championships via the Academy.

Best regards,

Sevan

Hi Franc,

Thanks for taking the time to speak today.

As noted in our conversation here is what I would expect going both ways, with everything being in writing and publicly available to those requesting it:

1. Academies do not send players to the FIDE official events;
2. Academies do not submit rating reports;
3. All academies (the current one held by Michael Khordakovsky, mine, and all future ones) have these conditions documented in writing and publicly available to those requesting it.

Best regards,

--Sevan

Franc,

Per our discussion last week I'm following up with you now that we are past mid-week.

Please advise on the status.

Best regards,

--Sevan

Hi Sevan,

Sorry...as you probably suspect, I have been swamped this week!

I think that what we need to do is come up with a proposed agreement outlining the things we have discussed...

Could you send me something? I have asked Michael to send me his.

Thanks!

Franc

Hi Franc,

OK I'll put it together and send it over.

--Sevan

August 23, 2013

Dear FIDE Presidential Board,

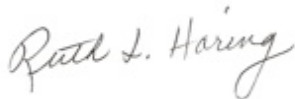
This letter is in response to your request to provide more information about why USCF did not approve Mr. Muradian's application for a FIDE Academy. As you know, USCF recently held elections, and the newly elected board reviewed this matter in August 2013 at our Madison Wisconsin meeting and confirmed that USCF's decision stands, and we do not approve Mr. Muradian's application.

The USCF's rationale for not approving the application remains the same, as documented in my letter of 2/24/2013 to the Trainers' Commission. An approval results in the granting of powers that have long been reserved for national federations to the FIDE Academy. In our correspondence and discussions we were assured by the Trainers' Commission that national federations will be respected and have full power over the FIDE Academy process in our respective countries.

Currently, Mr. Muradian can apply to the USCF office for approval to hold a FIDE trainers' seminar if he wishes to organize an event. In fact, he has done so, and Mr. Grivas recently gave a seminar organized by Mr. Muradian. I wish to ensure FIDE that provided the event details and arrangements meet the requirements outlined for conducting a Trainers' Seminar and provided the event is not in conflict with another Trainers' Seminar already scheduled in the same geographic area, Mr. Muradian and others who may want to organize a Trainers' Seminar can expect due consideration from the USCF office.

Please contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,



Ruth I. Haring  
President, United States Chess Federation  
Email: [riharing@aol.com](mailto:riharing@aol.com)  
PO Box 1993  
Chico, CA 95927