

Minutes of the Online Commission meeting of September 30th, 2018

(89th FIDE Congress, Batumi, Georgia)

Chairman: M. Kaloumenos (GRE)

Secretary: A. Dimitrijevic (BIH)

Present: Y. Gnyp (UKR), E. Yoseph (BAH), A. Holowczak (ENG), M. Fayed (AHO), J. Lehtivaara (FIN), G. Nesheim (NOR), W. Kastner (AUT), N. Kalesis (GRE), A. Herbert (BAR), Y. Peraud (GUY), R. Waithe (BAR), N. Avdiu (KOS), A. Keles (TUR), G. Mastrokoukos (GRE), K. Bonham (AUS), D. A. Madhloom (IRQ), U. Hernandez B (VEN)

1. FIDE Online Arena (FOA) in numbers

Since inception 6,203 chess players have completed at least one online rated game – 1,001 more compared to last year. The number of active FOA members with a paid subscription is 2,204, 12% less than last year, representing 118 National Chess Federations, 19 less than last year. Among these members, 647 are FIDE flag players. AICF is the National Federation with the most members, a total of 360 players, plus 136 FIDE Flag players who declared Indian nationality.

The age distribution of our members remains almost the same: 39% under 30 years old, 39% between 30 and 50 years, and 22% over 50 years old. Barely, 6% of members are female, compared to 14.5% which is the percentage of women active chess players in the FIDE Rating List.

There are 2,170 players who obtained a FIDE Title for the lower rated players, 370 more than the previous year. There are 373 AGM, 725 AIM, 724 AFM and 348 ACM. For another year, the average playing strength of Arena members is in the 1600-1800 range, more or less the same as in every online chess platform.

We are proud to announce that 5 amateur titleholders compete in the 43rd Chess Olympiad in Batumi. In the Open section AGM Georghiou Andreas (CYP), AGM Al Mutairi Hassan (KSA), AIM Prasitsoonthorn Teerachotti (THA) and AFM Stetsenko Ilya (ARU). In the women section AIM Zavala Galindo Alejandra (ESA).

The Online Commission publishes all the names of Arena Titleholders on our web site:

<https://arena.myfide.net/news/list-of-players-with-arena-titles>

FIDE Online Arena provided FIDE with an income of 22,233 euros in 2017 and until end of August 2018 – 12,336 euros. We hope, by the end of the year, FIDE's income reaches the same amount of 18,000 euros.

2. FIDE Online Arena in perspective

FIDE is not responsible for marketing the FOA project. FIDE has provided our support not only to encourage individuals to become members of FOA, but also, to attract National Federations to use this online platform for their national projects and activities. Federations like ITA and BRA implement nationwide online activities on the platform.

FIDE Online Arena has an updated daily schedule with rapid, blitz and bullet tournaments. FIDE welcomes local chess clubs to use the platform and organize closed tournaments among their members.

Annex 23, approved by EB of 86th FIDE Congress, is still in effect, but up to this moment, despite initial discussion, no FIDE rated standard chess activity has taken place on the platform.

FIDE continues to provide new ideas for the further development and expansion of the platform.

FM Walter Kastner (AUT) stated that FIDE should keep online chess activities totally separated from over the board chess, in order to secure that chess remains closely related with the sports family.

3. Anti-Cheating System

The Online Commission was planning to assign a supervisor of the Anti-cheating system, hoping to contribute to the further development of AceGuard. We understand that the platform was reluctant to share algorithmic details of their anti-cheating system. The Online Commission believes that AceGuard remains the best anti-cheating system of any online chess platforms.

4. Transfers

The new Transfer regulations (approved by EB in 2017) are in effect after July 1st 2018. The application for a transfer is separated from the application to represent the new Federation before the eligibility date. Breaches of the Transfer Regulations are monitored by Elista Office.

Kevin Bonham (AUS) proposed that the eligibility date (art 4.1 and 4.2) is calculated after the Notification date instead of the Transfer date. In this way a possible postal delay of the letter of consent or a deliberate silence from the old Federation, will not affect the Eligibility date, and the intention of the New Federation to use the player in "FIDE events" (according to Article 2.1 of the Transfer Regulations).

We ask the GA to approve that Articles 4.1 and 4.2 are replaced with

- 4.1 When the last representation date is 5 years prior to the transfer date or earlier, then the eligibility date is set 1 year after the Notification date without payment of the Transfer Fee and the Compensation Fee.
- 4.2 When the last representation date is less than 5 years prior to the transfer date, then the eligibility date is set 2 years after the Notification date without payment of the Transfer Fee and the Compensation Fee.

FM Walter Kastner (AUT) observed that Articles 1.2 and 1.3 of the Transfer Regulations use a different wording compared to Articles 1.8 and 1.9 of the Regulations for the Registrations and Licensing of Players. We request that the GA approves that the Articles in R&L Regulations are corrected according to the Articles from the Transfer Regulations.

Michalis Kaloumenos
Chairman of Online Commission

Aleksandra Dimitrijević
Secretary of Online Commission