

From: Joby George [mailto:jobymg@knanaya.net]
Sent: samedi, 20. septembre 2003 12:17
To: ESDoyle@aol.com
Cc: koyachess@rediffmail.com; tournaments@fide.com; admin@fide.com;
fide@fide.ch; beachess@aol.com; praesident@schachbund.de;
azmai@hotmail.com; ignatiusleong@pacific.net.sg; wechesslove@itkm.ru;
secretary@eurochess.org; arabfide@emirates.net.ae; kstolk@schaakbond.nl;
herman.hamers@helnet.nl; "rating@ukr.netDerrickPerera"@netscape.net;
"gnca@vsnl.comscholastic"@uschess.org; magazines@uschess.org;
assisteditor@uschess.org; info@chessbase.com
Subject: Proposal on change of format for CHESS OLYMPIAD

Introduction

Chess Olympiad conducted every alternate year is the prime team event of FIDE to promote chess in various countries with less chess base, by providing them an opportunity to see strong players in action. But due to the lack of strength in the format, which is Swiss team league, presently, a number of strong players from weak teams (countries) are skipping this biannual event. Thus a little glamour is lost, which is not good for the game. This can be avoided only through a change of format, which can provide a minimum guarantee of the opponents rating. Otherwise, FIDE should avoid this event in calculation of rating which will also affect its glamour because only pride on playing for the nation should motivate players to participate in the event.

To realize the problem, some drawbacks of present format are mentioned below with cases.

- i) Garry Kasparov went to the top-board prize podium behind Al Modhiaki Mohammed of Qatar at Yerevan Olympiad even after scoring a heavy 9/11 for gold medallists, Russia. If board prizes were given based on rating performances, this situation could have avoided. This occurrence may lead some country men to perform badly to ensure their team mate is getting weak opponents on every round, and thus the board prize.
- ii) Viswanathan Anand has not represented India since 1990 in chess Olympiads, whereas he is for other tournaments. Reason: Very high probability of losing valuable rating points which he earned through tough high-level tournaments.
- iii) Only one day is obtained for preparing for next day's matches since for each round, the opponent is unknown till the pairings are finalized (Basic issue of Swiss format).
- iv) Much cost and inconvenience (in terms of arrangement of logistics, travel, media and accommodation) involved since around 150 teams are getting hosted.

With a background mentioned above, it will be welcomed to suggest a new format, which will attract all players to Chess Olympiad.

1. Format description

1.1 Ranking and Group Classification (only for the first championship)

Teams should be ranked based on the average rating of the team. (Six members for men's team and four members for women's team). Top 12 teams are to be clubbed into two groups named *GRAND A* and *GRAND B*. All the odd ranked teams can be in *GRAND A* and even ranked teams in *GRAND B*. Similarly next 12 teams can be clubbed into *1A* and *1B*, where *1A* includes odd ranked teams from 13 to 24 and *1B* includes even ranked teams from 13 to 24. In the same way, teams ranked from 25 to 36 can be clubbed in to *2A* and *2B*, 37 to 48 into *3A* and *3B* and so on.

1.2 Format of matches

Matches will be held like in normal FIDE team events. i.e. four v/s four in men's section and three v/s three in women's section. Teams will play double round robin with the color reversed on their second meeting. After the league, teams will be ranked according to the points obtained into GA1, GA2, GA3, GA4, GA5, GA6; GB1, GB2, GB3, GB4, GB5, GB6; 1A1, 1A2, 1A3.....1A6; 1B1, 1B2,.....1B6 ETC.

Now onwards, even team should play in a semi final/final knock out format. In Grand Semi Final, the matches should be GA1 v/s GB2 and GA2 v/s GB1. These matches can also be in a double round format with color reversed. Winners should meet in the final for the Gold Medal and losers for the Bronze Medal.

Similarly, knockout semifinals and loser's finals can be held from every section.

e.g: GA3 v/s GB4/ GA4 v/s GB3, GA5 v/s GB6/ GA6 v/s GB5, 1A1 v/s 1B2/1A2 v/s 1B1 etc.

Losing semifinalists of 5th-6th ranked in each pool will be demoted to the lower groups (e.g.: *Grand* to 1, 1 to 2 etc) and the winners of the semi finals of 1st and 2nd ranked teams of pools 1 and below will be promoted to the higher groups. (eg. 1 to *Grand*, 2 to 1 etc.)

In semi finals and finals, if the teams are leveled after the double games, then a proper tie break system can be chosen. E.g.: Top seeds can meet again as in the present FIDE world championship tiebreak system.

Since the significance of board prize is lost (actually no significance exists), medals can be given for teams in each group.

2. Format Features

2.1 Every team is to play in a total of 14 games (12 matches).

2.2 Probability of one-sided matches is very much reduced.

2.3 Better competition and team spirit, since the format includes knock out/relegation/promotion

2.4 Easy to organize since the competition can be splitted into two (say elite groups and plate groups), and held at different venues at different times.

2.5 Will introduce more predictability comparing with the present format. Now the last round pairing decides a lot. For example, in the penultimate round England beats India (2.5-1.5) and Philippines is getting 4-0 win over a weaker team and reaches the same point as India. There exists only one point different between India and England. Now all depends on England's performance in the last round against a higher team (say Hungary). If India gets a (4-0) victory over Philippines, nothing less than a (3-1) victory helps England to be in level with India.

2.6 Every year only 12 teams will vie for the medals.

2.7 1/4th of the teams are honored and individual brilliance will be rewarded only with a gain in rating.

2.8 A very strong (comparing with his team mates) player can safely participate with out fear of loosing rating points. This is because unpredictability in his opponent's identity is considerably reduced. This prevents him from running into drawn games as now he is prepared for a more risky game. Now the same player is forced to take a safer approach and more chance to end up with draws.