

# Disciplinary Regulations for Arbiters

## Article 1 (Penalties)

1. In exercising his duties the Arbiter must comply with the relevant FIDE Laws of Chess, rules and regulations, the regulations of the tournament, circulars, directives and decisions of the Arbiters' Commissions and other bodies of each organizing authority, the provisions of this Regulation, as well as the principles of good faith, ethics and sports probity, good sportsmanship, fair play and morality. The Arbiter shall also show excellent sporting and social behavior and ethics.

2. The Arbiter who acts in contradiction of the above commits a disciplinary offense and shall be disciplined. The disciplinary steps that will be applied will depend on the seriousness of the offense and the circumstances under which it was committed. The disciplinary steps may be a written reprimand, a temporary exclusion from serving in chess events (disqualification) and exclusion from lists of Arbiters of all categories. The disciplinary action shall be made upon written petition of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission.

3. Cases of disciplinary misconduct by the arbiters and their associated remedies shall be as follows:

a. Impaired performance of tasks (written reprimand and/or disqualification up to 6 months) .

b. Unjustified refusal to participate in a tournament for which he was appointed (**written reprimand and/or** disqualification up to 2 months).

c. The non- attendance of a game in which he had been assigned, or his coming after the start of the game, or his departure before the end of the game (**written reprimand and/or** disqualification for 1 to 3 months).

d. The participation in a tournament or a match, without the approval of the competent body (**written reprimand and/or** disqualification for 2 to 4 months).

e. Infringement (misinterpretation) of technical regulations of chess (disqualification up to 6 months).

f. Misrepresenting the score sheet, or the match protocol, or the report of the tournament (disqualification from 12 to 18 months).

g. Signing incorrect certificates of title results for players or/and arbiters of a tournament (disqualification up to 4 months).

h. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Tournament Regulations and with the Rules, instructions, circulars and decisions of the arbitration bodies (written reprimand or/and disqualification up to six months).

i. The oral or by acts abusive, indecent, inappropriate behavior towards members of the governing bodies of all kinds of chess and arbitration, to the players, coaches, other persons involved in the games and the spectators (disqualification for 3 to 12 months).

Also the brutal behavior towards those persons (disqualification for 1 to 2 years).

k. Corruption, as well as the direct or indirect admission of benefits or privileges of any nature associated with the conduct of arbitration activity (disqualification of 1 to 2 years or deletion from the lists of Arbiters).

l. The oral or written expression of adverse judgments against members of the governing bodies of chess and arbitration, as well as his colleagues (written reprimand and/or disqualification up to 9 months).

m. Every action of his sporting or social life which causes a reduction of his prestige as an arbiter or constitutes defamation of the game of chess (disqualification from 2 years to deletion from the lists of Arbiters).

#### 4. Relapse

In case of committing a new disciplinary offense by the same Arbiter in the same season (infringement throughout recurrence), the new disciplinary misconduct penalty **shall be increased**.

#### 5. Merge penalties.

If the Arbiter has committed more than one disciplinary offense, the total penalty to be imposed shall be the greater penalty of the offenses **and can be increased**.

6. The body for disciplinary control of the Arbiters and actions against their misconduct is the FIDE Arbiters' Commission and its **Disciplinary Sub-Committee**.

7. When disciplinary action is needed, the Arbiter shall be kept under suspension until the final decision of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission. **The Disciplinary Sub-Committee is entitled to take temporary measures.**

8. The decision of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission will be issued, after calling the Arbiter to present his explanations, according to Article 3 below (Appeals Procedure).

9. The disciplinary penalty is issued by the FIDE Arbiters' Commission and is communicated to the Arbiter, to FIDE and to the Arbiter's Federation. Also it will be communicated to the relevant sports association and any local arbitration committee, if the decision concerns Arbiter involved in local tournaments.

10. The imposed penalty by the FIDE Arbiters' Commission may be appealed to the FIDE Presidential Board.

### **Article 2 (Disciplinary Sub-Committee)**

1. Within the FIDE Arbiters' Commission a **Disciplinary Sub-Committee** is created.

It consists of three members (one Chairman and two members) and two substitutes.

Its members shall be International Arbiters of great experience, coming from different Federations and are appointed by the FIDE Arbiters' Commission. Their term coincides with the term of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission.

2. Appeals against decisions of Arbiters shall be first submitted and examined by the Appeals Committee of every tournament that is appointed before the start of that tournament. The Disciplinary Sub-Committee of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission may accept/examine appeals against decisions of Arbiters in events that have not been designated Appeals Committee.

**The Disciplinary Sub-Committee of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission may also accept/examine (as a second judging body) appeals against decisions of Arbiters in events that have a designated Appeals Committee which has already taken a decision on the same appeal.**

**The procedure to be followed in case of an appeal shall be in the following order:**

- 1. Submit an appeal to the Appeals Committee of the tournament that has been appointed before the start of that tournament (if any).**
- 2. Submit an appeal to the Federation's judging body (if any).**
- 3. Submit an appeal to the Disciplinary Sub-Committee of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission.**

### **Article 3 (Appeals Procedure)**

1. The Disciplinary Sub-Committee is comprised of five (5) members (one (1) Chairman, two (2) Members and two (2) substitutes), belonging to five (5) different Federations.

2. The Appeal must be against decisions of any Arbiter (Chief, Deputy Chief, Section, Match, Arbiter etc.) in any chess event.

**Appellant (individual or federation) submits a signed (physical signature or email stating 'This appeal is authorized by [appellant's name]') appeal to the Appeals Sub-Committee ([appeals@fide.com](mailto:appeals@fide.com)).**

The appeal must be submitted not later than **14** calendar days after the last round of the tournament where the appeal stems from.

It is the Appellants responsibility to furnish as much information as possible. **The Disciplinary Sub-Committee may perform any investigative work throughout the appeal process, if it finds it appropriate.**

Within 7 calendar days of appeal submission, the appellant submits an appeal fee, which is refundable if the Disciplinary Sub-Committee determines the appeal valid. The fee shall be three hundred (300) euro, which must be deposited in the FIDE bank account.

Within 7 calendar days of receipt of the appeal and the fee, the Appeals Sub-Committee will provide an acknowledgement that they have received the appeal and fee and are in the process of reviewing the appeal.

The Disciplinary Sub-Committee will, within 14 calendar days of providing acknowledgement of the appeal and fee, provide guidance as to whether or not the Sub-Committee will accept the appeal as valid and continue with deliberation on it. The Sub-Committee will vote on the matter with the chair being able to vote twice in the case of a tied vote.

If the appeal is determined to be not frivolous, the appeal fee will be refunded. If the appeal is determined to be frivolous, the fee will not be refunded and a response will be provided to the appellant as to why the appeal is considered frivolous.

Should the Disciplinary Sub-Committee accept jurisdiction on the matter, they will send an email to the party (ies) in question including the entire appeal and request a written response from the party (ies) in question. The party (ies) will have 14 calendar days to provide a written and signed response to the Disciplinary Sub-Committee.

Upon receipt of all responses or the expiration of the 14-calendar day window, the Disciplinary Sub-Committee, within 5-calendar days, will forward their opinions and recommended actions to the commission most suitable for the appeal (Arbiters, Rules & Tournament Regulations, or Qualification) and request their responses within 5-calendar days. Upon receipt of all responses or expiration of the time window, the Disciplinary Sub-Committee will review the responses and craft a response from it.

Within 14 calendar days of all information provided by the Appellant, the Disciplinary Sub-Committee will provide a final determination with the recommended actions and penalties.

The final determination can be appealed to the FIDE Presidential Board. If the appeal to the Presidential Board is made, it must be appealed by the next scheduled meeting. If the next scheduled meeting is less than 30 calendar days away, then it can be appealed at the following Presidential Board meeting.

**Appeals made to the Presidential Board may be submitted in writing with correspondence being sent to the FIDE Secretariat. The FIDE Secretariat will handle communications to and from the Presidential Board. The appellant may request a physical meeting, at their own expense, at a Presidential Board meeting. The Presidential Board may, at their discretion, provide a telephone conference call in lieu of physical presence; otherwise all matters will be handled via email.**