

## Journalists Commission (CCJ) Minutes

Tromso, Norway

6 August 2014

### Present:

Chairman and Secretary: Georgios Makropoulos (GRE), Anastasya Karlovich (UKR)

Councillors: Michael Khodarkovsky (USA), Beatriz Marinello (USA), Goran Urosevich (SRB),

Members: Fatma Ozturk (TUR), Gaguik Oganessian (ARM)

Observers: Jamie Kenmure (AUS), Kazem Mortazavi (IRI), Abigail Tian (CHN), Ye Jiang Chuan (CHN), Shalala Oliver Sepiso (ZAM), Geoffrey Borg (MLT), Rafael Pinchas (ISR), Malola Prasath (IND), Jan Berglund (SWE), Walter Kastner (AUT), Robert Zsifkovits (AUT)

The meeting was held on 6th August from 9.00am at the Radisson Blue Hotel in Tromso.

Five councillors and 13 guests/participants attended the meeting.

The Chairman Georgios Makropoulos greeted the participants and opened the meeting. He explained that the Commission was created in order to help the professional journalists with coverage of the tournaments, travel and accommodation.

1. The first item of the Agenda - Principles of Chess Journalism was discussed.

The Commission members worked on the proposal for several months. The document was distributed to the meeting participants. The minor changes were proposed and included into the report.

2. Website of the Commission

Secretary Anastasya Karlovich informed that the website [journalists.fide.com](http://journalists.fide.com) has been created three weeks ago. She invited the colleagues to help with updating of the website.

Shalala Oliver Sepiso proposed building of contacts between FIDE, African news outlets and African chess organizers. He proposed better networking and possibly introduction of seminars/workshops in Africa. He added that the World Youth in Africa could be a good opportunity to make a start in this direction.

Chairman thanked Mr. Sepiso for the input and assured that his comments will be taken seriously.

Guest from Austria asked to create an archive of past FIDE events for easy access from FIDE website/homepage. Goran Urosevic said that already many websites of official FIDE events were hosted under [fide.com](http://fide.com) subdomains and perhaps only a better archive and navigation was needed.

Mikhail Khodorovskiy offered to make a proposal for Events Commission to take care of the achieve of events, which was supported by Chairman of the Commission.

General Secretary of Chinese Chess Federation Ye Jiangchuan explained that his country has many chess fans and asked for translation of FIDE website, EVE and CCJ websites into Chinese language. Chairman asked them to submit official proposal and FIDE will accommodate the request.

3. and 4. were discussed jointly.

Organizers of FIDE events should provide free accommodation for some of CCJ accredited journalists and significant discount for another group of journalists.

Guest from Austria asked CCJ to communicate with the FIDE Arbiters Commission and allow longer time for photos without flash especially during so huge events as Olympiad.

Secretary expressed concern that we should be careful and find a balance in order to fulfil needs of journalists and not to disturb the players at the same time.

Chairman said that 10 minutes before the games and 10 minutes into the game should be enough for professionals to make good photos, but this topic will be further discussed.

#### 5. Problems of Women events media coverage

Secretary said that not many journalists appear at the women events.

Various proposals have been given:

- include in organizing budget additional funds to bring journalists
- work with news agencies to spread the news about events
- Beatriz Marinello proposed to prepare press releases well in advance and translate to different languages

The participants then referred to the Commission report and amendments proposed to WCOC during the meeting in Lausanne:

- CCJ should check with WCOC if the clauses from Lausanne meeting have been included in the official Regulations of various events
- it was proposed to add a clause of "professional behaviour" in players' individual contracts (regarding availability for media)
- in the team events it was proposed that captains would sign the contracts and will be available for media after the end of the games

Guest from India asked if scientific researchers could be accredited to the press center of official events. In Chennai four researchers were denied access, but one professor from Norway was accredited. Chairman said that researchers are not journalists and that it should be solved on a case-to-case bases with organizers or FIDE officials in specific events.

## **Report of FIDE Journalist Commission**

1) The members of Commission accomplished its first goal of the Commission - development and implementation of professional standards regarding chess journalists, especially the standards of journalistic ethics and principles.

On the 27th of February all Commission members received via email a draft proposal of the principals of chess journalism (Russian, English versions). The principles of Journalistic codes of ethics are designed as guides through numerous difficulties, such as conflicts of interest, to assist journalists in dealing with ethical dilemmas. The codes and canons provide journalists a framework for self-monitoring and self-correction and we believe it is very important to specify such principals for those journalists who work in the chess world. The different and specific problems which chess journalists face, were taken into account as well.

All members reviewed the Principals, provided input and agreed on final version, which is included in the report below.

2) Commission proposals, after some amendments, were included in the new cycle Regulations by WCOC during the meeting held in Lausanne.

After the FIDE World Championship Match in India the Commission informed WCOC regarding challenges with the winners and medalists who sometimes refused to participate in exclusive interviews after the end of the event. There were also cases when winners refused participate in the final press conference.

The new proposal obliged winner and medalists to participate in the final press conference and/or give exclusive interview for the official website of the organizers.

3) The Commission website was launched few weeks ago

<http://journalists.fide.com>

## **PRINCIPLES OF CHESS JOURNALISM**

Freedom of speech is one of the fundamental human rights and plays a very important role, both as an individual right, and as a tool for protection of other human rights and necessary clause for integrity and freedom of the press. Emphasizing the importance of freedom of speech, recognizing the communication and information potential of journalism and specifics of a profession of chess journalist, expressing concerns that in many cases a variety of information can be used to harm human rights.

Guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, The Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Relying on Resolution 1003 (1993) of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly on the ethics of journalism, International Principles of Professional Ethics in Journalism. Taking into account the existing basis of journalists' activity both national and international, the following were adopted:

### **1. Respecting Human Rights.**

Chess journalists must respect human rights and human dignity. People have a right for privacy, that is why invasion of privacy, infliction of physical or mental suffering should be avoided. Only in exceptional circumstances or urgent need that it can become an excuse for intervention into the private life of other individuals. If freedom of speech comes into conflict with other fundamental rights, first of all with the right to privacy, a journalist makes a decision and takes all responsibility for the choice of priority of the right. Each situation should be evaluated taking into account protection of the rights and reputation of any individual, based on common sense and the public's right to information. A chess journalist keeps in mind the measures of their activities. Everyone has the right to know about people who were elected or hired to represent public interests, so ordinary citizens have more rights for privacy than officials who seek to gain public attention, influence or power. The delicacy from a chess journalist

requires those individuals, who may be harmed as a result of published information. Realizing that chess is directly related to intellectual activity and associated with serious psychological stress, chess journalists must take into account that some questions and comments may affect the chess players.

## **2. Truth and accuracy.**

Information broadcasted by chess journalists should be based on truthfulness and they should take all measures to ensure the appropriate means of verification and proof of materials. The information received from any source should be verified for accuracy and care to avoid casual errors. Under no circumstances shall the facts be misrepresented on purpose. A chess journalist avoids incomplete and inaccurate information, as well as its random distortion that could damage the honor and dignity of individuals. Significant mistakes or allegations which were published should be corrected as soon as possible after they were detected.

A chess journalist should carefully distinguish between facts or opinions, judgments, comments. Clear distinction of opinions, judgments and comments must be clearly identified and should not misrepresent facts or context.

Responsibility of a journalist is to ensure accuracy of the materials, published by them. Citations should be reliable and should not be taken out of context in the way that changes the meaning of statements. Overview of earlier events that can mislead the present, should be published with extra notification. Journalists strive to ensure that titles and other related information, photo, video, audio and graphic materials with provoking character and able to reflect a particular reaction, are accurate and do not lead to a simplified understanding of the material or its submission and consideration as out of context. Chess journalists' controls the photo and video materials so they are not misrepresented. Only those techniques should be considered which give more complete disclosure of the event or image.

## **3. Objectivity and impartiality.**

Chess journalists respect the diversity of opinions, safeguard freedom of speech and the existence of different points of view. All people have the right to acquire an objective picture of reality by means of accurate and complete information and have freedom to express their views through various media, so journalists' publications with accurate and complete image of the world, described nature of events, phenomena and processes are understood in the most objective way.

Chess journalists' strives for equity. Impartiality does not necessarily mean full coverage of the event, though materials which contain personal opinion or individual interpretation of the events should be clearly defined. This does not exclude journalist's right to publication materials supporting one side, but such position should be clearly defined.

Chess journalists' collect, use and present the facts without prejudice. Journalists' acts against any form of discrimination based on sex, age, race, nationality, language, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, ideology, and other distinguishing characteristics, avoids stereotypes associated with such characteristics. A journalist's aim is also to resist extremism and restriction of human rights. Chess journalists should be aware of the danger within a call to discrimination, spread through the media, and must take efforts to avoid any promotion of discrimination. Chess journalists' support disclosed exchange of opinions, even if they appear unacceptable. A journalist devoted to his own cultural values and avoids imposing those values to others. A journalist stands for the universal values of humanism, above all, human rights, peace, social progress, while respecting the identity and values of each culture, as well as the right of each individual to freely choose and develop its political, social, economic and cultural systems.

## **4. Fairness /Fair Play.**

Chess journalists should not resort to illegal, inappropriate means of gathering information. Chess journalists strive for fair, open and free publishing and distribution of any information.

Chess journalists should respect the rights of people involved in the overview of events and responsible to the public for the fairness and accuracy of representation of these events. Justice requires chess journalists to avoid slander, abuse and ungrounded accusations. Justice also requires people, whose actions were criticized, to have the opportunity to dispute the criticism and give explanations in a timely manner. If a chess journalist raises a public accusation of an individual there should be given the opportunity for recipients to respond to allegations made against them in the same article

Chess journalists shall use only that information, they received from a reliable source. Society has a right to information about the reliability of the source, so the source should be specified if there is no clear and specific need of confidentiality. Chess journalists' must show respect to the sources of information, publications' characters and colleagues. Chess journalists' should be attentive to those who may be harmed as a result of spreading information, show special understanding to children and other unprotected sources of information, as well as while collecting or publishing any information about those people who were directly affected by grief, disaster or tragedy. The journalist is aware that gathering and publishing any information can harm, cause physical, mental and moral suffering.

### **5. Independence.**

Chess journalists are independent in their professional activity and should not fall under any outer pressure. Journalists should avoid any conflict of interests. Chess journalists strive to keep balance between private and public interests, remembering the public's right to information.

### **6. Originality and respect for intellectual property.**

Chess journalists should use original content and language in the writing of their materials. Plagiarism is unacceptable. Appropriation of other's content of ideas, works or materials, partially or completely, is the basis for journalist to be censured by colleagues and judged for the shameful action.

Chess journalist respects the intellectual property. Not a single work may be published without agreement of the owner. If there is no possibility to define the owner of publication, photo, video, audio and graphic works, journalist should specify the source.

### **7. Responsibility.**

Chess journalists act with the whole responsibility, in this case, journalists are accountable not only to employers, but to readers, listeners, viewers, that is the general public and colleagues. Journalists assist the public access to information, and accept the right to make corrections, the right to criticize and the right to feedback.

Chess journalist should do everything possible to minimize any possible damage, as well as to correct or refute information that may cause such damage. Chess journalists' are ready to admit mistakes and correct false information. The journalist shall take all efforts to correct any published information which appeared to be inaccurate. Information which appeared to be false, should be corrected without any restrictions. Journalist explains and comments the materials, engages in dialogue with the public and encourages fair public criticisms.

Self-authority and reputation is of great value for a chess journalist, as they carry not only legal but moral responsibility to society for correct information and fair judgments they spread. Moral responsibility of a chess journalist requires from them to act according to the principles and values as well as ethical standards of journalism in all situations.