

**87<sup>th</sup> FIDE Congress****FIDE Journalists Commission report****Baku, Azerbaijan****8<sup>th</sup> September 2016, 11:00-13:00****Chairman:** G. Makropoulos (GRE)**Secretary:** A. Karlovich (UKR)**Present:** T. Hongwei (CHN), C. Zhun (CHN), G. Urosevic (SRB), I. Vereschagin (RUS), M. Pahlevanzadeh (IRI), A. Dzwowkowski (POL), S. Tserendorj (MGL), N. Stojanovic (SRB), L. Turlej (POL), S. Noori (IRI)

The FIDE Journalists Commission has prepared the material, including legal support information and accreditation of chess journalists, for the Commission website which started running from the 1st of April.

In a meeting with the organizers of the 2016 Baku Chess Olympiad, the Commission made recommendations and helped in preparation of the Media Guidelines for the Olympiad.

The membership cards for the FIDE accredited journalists are now available and delivered to the first group of members. The organizers of the Olympiad in Baku provided 30% discount for the holders of the FIDE journalist cards.

**Agenda:**

1. The website of the Commission
2. The press cards of FIDE journalists
3. Fees for accreditation and participation in the Olympiad and other FIDE events
4. Anti-cheating and security measures influence on the work of journalists
5. Journalists awards
6. Letter from Commission member Abdullah Rehab (UAE)
7. Other matters

**Minutes:**

The meeting was moderated by Commission Secretary Anastasya Karlovich.

1. The Secretary informed that the Commission website is active and ready to accept submissions of news related to chess journalists.

2. The Secretary reported that the first batch of press cards for FIDE accredited journalists has been issued and delivered. It has been pointed out that holders of FIDE journalist card were given discount on organizational fee for Olympiad in Baku (from 60 to 40 EUR).

3. The accreditation for FIDE journalists will always be free in FIDE events. However, the local organizers should have the right to charge the organizational fee which covers the costs of equipping the press center, transfers from airport, transportation between the hotels and playing venue etc.

4. Various issues that have arisen from anti-cheating and security measures in Olympiad have been discussed. The press in general and even the team employed by the Org Committee were having difficulties in accessing the playing hall and performing their duties.

It has been proposed to include FIDE Press Officer in the preparation of the most important events (Olympiad, WCC Match, Candidates, Women world ch, etc), in drawing the plans of the playing venue and planning the security measures. The status of the "official" photographers should be separated by badge of different color.

Chen Jun proposed to extend the time allowed for photographing in the Olympiad, World Youth, and other events with 1000+ participants, to 15 min (flash) + 15 min (no flash, no shutter noise) after the beginning of the round.

Goran Urosevic said that even in the current system of 15 minutes from the beginning of the round Grandmasters complain that they are being disturbed by the flashes.

Adam Dzwonkowski proposed to prepare a "Code of Conduct" as a sort of guide for chess journalists, as well as journalists that are not familiar with chess but are present to cover the chess events. The "Code" should be published on Commission website and include the instructions on how to behave in the tournament arena and avoid disturbing the players and guests.

Adam Dzwonkowski also proposed to consider allowing photography with phones strictly on a case-to-case basis and when sponsorship with tech companies is included.

Lukasz Turlej said that we have to make certain that the security protocols are standard and clear, and not changing every day.

5. It has been agreed to continue the yearly award for journalists, with valuable gifts instead of cash. The members are invited to submit their proposals for establishing the category(-ies) and criteria.

At the present the award nominations should be open to all journalists, but in 1 or 2 years it should be limited to FIDE journalists only.

6. The letter of Abdullah Rehab suggested improvement of the FIDE website and creation of FIDE TV/Video channel. The meeting participants were very enthusiastic about the proposals. Obviously there is great interest from many delegates to improve and modernize the FIDE website.

Adam Dzwonkowski proposed to form a FIDE IT Committee, which would work independently from Journalists Commission, tasked with the project of modernization of FIDE website. Poland can share their experience from the period of upgrading the website.

About the TV channel it is proposed to review the costs of development and maintenance, and compare with the possible revenues.

Igor Vereschagin proposed to cooperate with national federation that have news sections in English language to syndicate the content on the FIDE website.

Mehrdad Pahlevanzadeh proposed to establish FIDE Telegram Channel. This social service is very popular in certain countries and is ever-growing globally.

7. Igor Vereschagin invited the chess journalists to join AIPS - International Sports Press Association in order to establish a chess group within the agency and "push" chess news into distribution.

Lukasz Turlej proposed to launch "chess dressing" products because the niche is empty at the present.

Secretary Karlovich thanked the members and guests for attending the meeting and submitting constructive proposals. The meeting was concluded at 12:15.

Georgios Makropoulos

Deputy President