

## Report of Chess in Schools Commission Chairman Kevin O'Connell

This year we produce a single combined report, incorporating the CiS Council report following the Council meeting on 27 June and also including our specific proposals. We hope the reduction in number of documents will make information easier to find.

Our proposals are in item 3 (requiring amendments/additions to Article 3, changes to Article 7 and addition of new Article 9 in the School Instructor Regulations).

Our mission:

- Chess for Education (CFE) not Education for Chess (EFC).
- Using chess within the educational framework to improve educational outcomes rather than using the educational environment to produce chess players (although that is an inevitable and very welcome by-product).
- The main focus of CiS is a social educational programme in primary and secondary schools, with particular emphasis on the ages 4-11.
- 'CiS' now provides a social educational programme for pre-schoolers at home, in kindergarten or the early years of primary school (Early Years Skills - EYS).
- 'CiS' is also important at third level, in further education, especially aiming to encourage research and to develop the professionalization of chess teaching.

The main areas of activity since the last General Assembly in Baku:

1. Promotion of chess in schools through multiple means, such as the most important Chess and Education conferences – Chairman, sometimes with one or more others, has been in Tsaghkadzor, Batumi & London in 2016, Madrid (Gredos), Turin and Madrid (CASTLE) in 2017 and we will also be represented in Montevideo and Chongqing before Goy nuk.
2. Budget cuts, austerity & consequences. Our activities have been substantially curtailed, especially in the area of FIDE Student Membership. Nonetheless, we have continued to generate income to FIDE (from 2016-09-14 to date: €2000+ from PSMs, €1800 fees from Seminars and €2800 in title fees 56 new SI title).
3. We must move more and more to the use of Distance Learning, delivered electronically online, by direct download or by email. This move was approved in Baku and at Athens PB. Providing the School Instructor title by Distance Learning requires the following amendments to the *FIDE-CiS Regulations – School Instructor Title*. Additions/Clarifications to the existing regulations are shown in italics:
  - 3.1. By successful participation in a 15-hour CiS Seminar *or by successful completion of the SI online course.*
  - 3.4. *By accepting the online examination fee of €30.*
  - 3.5. [Existing text of old 3.4.].
  - 7.1. *A School Instructor Seminar shall be organized by a chess body (Federation, Chess Club, Chess Academy or other Chess Organization), after the submission of an*

*application form (see Application Forms for National Chess Federations and Others) to the FIDE Chess in Schools Commission and its approval.*

7.2. [Existing 7.1. text]

7.3. [Existing 7.2. text]

7.4. *After the end of the Seminar the Lecturer shall send a report and the results of the examination for approval to the FIDE CiS Commission. The titles achieved from the Seminar shall be approved by the FIDE Presidential Board, or Executive Board, or General Assembly, after the recommendation of the FIDE CiS Commission and will be published on the FIDE website.*

7.5. *The organizer shall be invoiced for the number of participants.*

#### *9. Online Course Evaluation*

9.1. *Examination for the SI title will normally be done online for individuals taking the SI course online.*

9.2. *Examination for the SI title may be done online or in an exam room at the choice of a Seminar Organizer.*

9.3. *Successful candidates will need 50 marks to pass, including not less than 50% of the marks available for the exam.*

9.4. *'Attendance' will count 0-10 marks (evaluation by the Lecturer or Coordinator).*

9.5. *Teaching experience will count 0-30 marks, counting 3 marks for each year of experience.*

9.6. *Chess experience will count 0-20 marks, counting 2 marks for each year of experience.*

9.7. *Exam will count 0-40 marks.*

4. Council approved addition of GM Gilles Miralles to list of CiS Lecturers (for French language).
5. The new online Diploma course for FIDE School Chess Leader (FSCL), thanks to financial help from the IOC, will finally be complete this year. All who successfully follow the course and pay their fees will receive the Diploma.
6. The Early Years Skills (EYS) programme, developed as part of the EU Erasmus+ CASTLE project, is available in four languages (English, German, Italian and Spanish) on our site [eys.fide.com](http://eys.fide.com).
7. Other developments:

#### **6.A. Chess in Schools – Our Global Future**

- This full colour 48-page booklet has been the cornerstone of our promotional materials. The current 2<sup>nd</sup> edition is available for free download from our web site. You are free to use it to promote chess in schools in your country.
- Financial support from the IOC means that a 3<sup>rd</sup> edition is in development. Although we cannot afford to print it this year, the PDF version should be ready by year end.

We hope to find a sponsor for a print edition by the time of Batumi Congress and Olympiad.

### **6.B. Class and Teacher books**

- The *Planet Chess* series (mini curriculum) is available for free download in English, Arabic, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish.
- The English edition of both a Russian class book and workbook has been completed: *Chess: The First Year of Study* by Elvira Umanskaya and Ekaterina Volkova.
- The class books for years one and two and the teacher guide by Dr Olgun Kulaç, which are at the core of the highly successful Turkish programme, have been translated into English, French and Arabic.
- The latest development is the creation of the Early Years Skills curriculum, teacher e-book and series of how-to videos. See [eys.fide.com](http://eys.fide.com).

### **6.C. FIDE Student Magazine (FSM)**

This was available in many languages until Baku. Sudden budgetary clampdown meant immediate collapse of the magazine. We will try to restart a limited magazine service (a small monthly edition in English language only) before Goynuk.

### **6.D. FIDE Student Membership**

Started in 2012, there are now more than 9000 members (up from just under 8000 a year ago). More than 20% of members are Premium members. Ben Chui (Hong Kong) deserves special credit for building up the HK membership to 305 (91% Premium).

### **6.E. Teachers**

Teachers have been given the foundations of teaching chess in schools in Albania, Algeria, Ethiopia, Greece, India, Ireland, Lebanon, Malawi, Mauritius, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Trinidad & Tobago. Our collaboration with FEDA and FIBDA will add to this in 2017 and beyond, as will our fledgling collaboration with AIDEF.

### **6.F. Documents & Statistics**

We would also like to draw your attention to some documents, full of useful statistics, at [cis.fide.com](http://cis.fide.com). Please check that information from your federation is both present and correct.

- *CiS Worldwide Statistics* – information about where there are CIS programmes, who runs them, how many schools, children and teachers are involved.
- *School Year Worldwide* – see at a glance the school year (start and finish) for each country.
- *Chess in Curriculum* – our attempt (late 2014) at compiling a list of countries and/or regions that have introduced chess to the curriculum. We need your input to build this information.