

**88th FIDE Congress**  
**Systems of Pairings and Programs Commission**  
**Göynük, Antalya, Turkey**  
**10 October 2017, 15.00 - 17.00**

## Congress Meeting Minutes

**Chairman:** R. Ricca (ITA)  
**Secretary:** O. Milvang (NOR)

**Present:** G. Unal (TUR), I. Vereshchagin (RUS), A. Burstein (ISR), A. Schuering (NED), G. Oen (USA), T. Delega (POL), W. Stubenvoll (AUT), G. van den Bergh (RSA), M. Abdulrahim (UAE), F. Dapiran (ITA), S. Bayat (IRI), R. Anantharam (IND), J. Lehtivaara (FIN), Y. Gnyp (UKR), W. Brown (USA), A. McFarlane (SCO), A. Holowacz (ENG), N. Faulks (BER), A. Vardapetyan (ARM), S. Reuben (ENG), C. Jarecki (IVB)

### 1. Endorsement matters (confirmations, approvals, removals)

The Commission presented a report regarding the endorsement procedures taken during the year. Based on that, the Commission recommends to:

- endorse Vega (the only program to have already received an interim certificate);
- extend the Transition Period for the programs Swiss Manager, Swiss Master, Swiss Sys, Win Swiss, Tournament Service until the report date for the first Presidential Board of 2018. At that time the SPPC will prepare a recommendation for the endorsement of the programs that, before such date, will have received an interim certificate;
- endorse Sevilla under condition that it receives a favourable report before the report date of the first Presidential Board of 2018 (a favourable report means that the program receives the same kind of approval that allows the already endorsed program to get an interim certificate);
- remove JavaPairing from the list of the endorsed programs.

The list of the endorsed programs annexed to the Appendix A of section C.04, will be updated after the first Presidential Board of 2018.

### 2. Subcommittee for endorsement of a Burstein System program

An application was presented for the endorsement of a program supporting the Burstein System. According to the current rules (C.04.A.6), since this is the first Burstein System-ready program, the Commission had to appoint a subcommittee of four people, who shall report to the next Congress about whether the program is suitable to be endorsed.

The four people appointed are:

Mario Held	<i>SPPC member</i>
Roberto Ricca	<i>SPPC secretary</i>
Jose de Jesus Garcia Ruvalcaba	<i>SPPC member</i>
Gunther van der Bergh	<i>QC councillor</i>

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### **3. FIDE Dubov System**

The Commission realized that the current definition of the FIDE Dubov System is not up to the same standards of rigour and unambiguousness which the FIDE (Dutch) System is subject to. Hence, the Commission tried to prepare a draft to complete the system. However, the task proved to be more complicate than expected - in fact, so much difficult that the prepared draft (available through a web-reference to the SPPC website - section Minutes 2017) could not be officially presented to the meeting, because too many points were still unclear.

Noticing that a simple restyling was not feasible, the Commission decided to completely re-write the system description/rules.

Mr. Igor Vereschagin offered his collaboration in doing the task.

A draft respecting the declaration of intents that is the new article C.04.2.A.4 is planned for next year Congress.

No decision was taken regarding the endorsement of Vega for the Dubov System.

### **4. Proposal to amend the section C.04.2.A**

Section C.04.2.A deals with those pairing systems that can be used in FIDE tournaments valid for ratings purposes.

A few modifications were needed in order to:

- remove restrictions on the use of acceleration methods that are published in section C.04.5;
- request that authorization be asked in advance for the use of unpublished pairings systems or acceleration methods;
- clarify (and consequently correct) that the request must be sent to, and evaluated by, the Qualification Commission, while the SPPC has an "expert" role;
- emphasize that the pairing systems defined by FIDE, besides being impartial and objective, must also be reproducible.

Attached to this report is the new proposed wording.

It is recommended that the modifications enter into force on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

### **5. Extension on methods for accelerated pairing**

The general schema for the Baku Acceleration Method was approved:

- the number of accelerated rounds is half the total (rounded up);
- the players are divided in two groups;
- the top half is given one virtual point in half of the accelerated rounds (rounded up) and half virtual point in the remaining accelerated rounds.

The modification will enter into force July 1<sup>st</sup> 2018. Programs endorsed before that date will not be requested to implement the extension.

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**6. New documentation for the FIDE (Dutch) System**

The Commission presented two documents in order to explain the FIDE (Dutch) System in deeper detail:

- Terms And Definitions
- Pairing Guidelines (for programmers)

For those new documents a reference will be created in the FIDE handbook, adding, in the introduction of section C.04.3 a sentence similar to: **Terms and Definitions and Pairing Guidelines For Programmers added at the 88th FIDE Congress in Goynuk 2017. See <http://pairings.fide.com/fide-dutch-extras>.**

The documents will be available on the SPPC website, where they can be easily updated following suggestions and corrections by readers, until perfected. Then they will be moved on the FIDE Handbook website.

**7. C.04.2.B.3**

The wording of the article needed to be clarified. Now the article reads:

**This ranking is used to determine the pairing numbers; the highest one gets #1 etc.**

**If, for any reason, the data used to determine the rankings were not correct, they can be adjusted at any time. The pairing numbers may be reassigned accordingly to the corrections.**

**No modification of a pairing number is allowed after the fourth round has been paired.**

**8. Team pairings rules**

The Commission postponed the report on the status of the project until next Congress.



Roberto Ricca  
(Acting Chairman)

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**Annex to SPPC report**

**Section C.04.2.A - NEW WORDING**

- 1 The pairing system used for a FIDE rated Swiss tournament should be one of the published FIDE Swiss Systems.  
Accelerated methods are acceptable if they were announced in advance by the organizer and are published in section C.04.5.
- 2 In derogation of the previous rule, unpublished pairing systems or accelerated methods may be permitted, provided that a detailed written description of their rules:
  - (a) be submitted in advance to the Qualification Commission (QC) and temporarily authorized by them; and
  - (b) be explicitly presented to the participants before the start of the tournament.
- 3 While reporting a tournament to FIDE, the Arbiter shall declare which official FIDE Swiss system and acceleration method (if any) were used, or provide the temporary authorization(s) given by the QC as per the previous rule.
- 4 The Swiss Pairing Systems defined by FIDE and not deprecated (see C.04.4) pair the players in an objective, impartial and reproducible way.  
In any tournament where such systems are used, different arbiters, or different endorsed software programs, must be able to arrive at identical pairings.
- 5 It is not allowed to alter the correct pairings in favour of any player.  
Where it can be shown that modifications of the original pairings were made to help a player achieve a norm or a direct title, a report may be submitted to the QC to initiate disciplinary measures through the Ethics Commission.