

Minutes of the Online Commission meeting of October 11th, 2017

(88th FIDE Congress, Antalya, Turkey)

Chairman: M. Kaloumenos (GRE)

Secretary: A. Dimitrijevic (BIH)

Member: Y. Gnyp (UKR), G. Wastell (AUS), J. Lehtivaara (FIN), A. Keles (TUR), V. Ungureanu (ROU), G. Oen (USA), K. Blackman (BAR), G. Borg (FIDE), A. Holowczak (ENG), A. McFarlane (SCO), R. Ricca (ITA), M. Pahlevanzadeh (IRI), G. Mastrokoukos (GRE), G. Unal (TUR), S. Tserendorj (MGL)

1. FIDE Online Arena (FOA) in numbers

Since inception 5,202 chess players have completed at least one online rated game – 1,243 more compared to last year. The number of active FOA members with a paid subscription is 2,490, 10% more than last year, representing 137 national chess federations, 15 more than last year. Among these members, 539 are FIDE flag players. AICF is the National Federation with the most members, a total of 427 players. We were pleased to discover that FIDE Online Arena platform was recommended to young players from India. Arena Titles were advertised as a certificate of basic chess skills among young players. This is actually the reason of introducing these titles in the first place, that is motivating players to jump from online chess to over the board chess.

The age distribution of our members remains almost the same: 30% under 30 years old, 47% between 30 and 50 years, and 23% over 50 years old. Barely, 6% (that is 146 out of 2,490) of members with a paid subscription are female.

There are 1,750 players who obtained a FIDE Title for the lower rated players, 575 more than the previous year. There are 296 AGM, 633 AIM, 589 AFM and 232 ACM. The Online Commission publishes all the names of Arena Title holders on our web site - <https://arena.myfide.net/news/list-of-players-with-arena-titles>

FIDE Online Arena provided FIDE with an income of 23,649 euros in 2016 and until end of September 2017 – 17,349 euros. We expect, by the end of the year, FIDE's income reaches the same amount as the previous year.

2. FIDE Online Arena activities

Since the last FIDE Congress in Baku, FIDE Online Arena continued its usual activities by organizing 7 more FIDE Online Grand Prix. A Grand Prix consists of 8 tournaments (4 blitz and 4 bullet) and the best 5 scores are summed up to decide the winner. Since the whole competition lasts more than 14 hours, the best score in only 5 tournaments facilitates participation from all over the world.

FIDE Online Arena has an updated daily schedule with rapid, blitz and bullet tournaments. FIDE welcomes local chess clubs to use the platform and organize closed tournaments among their members.

Technical problems, which are now resolved, did not allow us to implement tournaments according to annex 23, approved by EB of 86th FIDE Congress. RSA has expressed their interest, and we expect to help to Federation to implement their lower club league program, where teams have problems to travel from one part of the country to another. Caribbean Federations are also invited to take advantage of annex 23.

3. Anti-Cheating System

A supervisor of the Anti-cheating system will be assigned by the Online Commission in order a) to monitor the system of penalties applied to the offenders of our regulations, b) decide escalating punishments to the repeatedly offenders and c) consult the platform developers on the improvement of the system.

The Commission has requested the FIDE Treasurer to approve this project.

The FIDE Online Arena anti-cheating team applied minor penalties to the offenders of our anti-cheating policy during the past years, such as a strict reprimand, disqualification from official FIDE online competition, and suspension of FOA account for 24 hours. Only one player has been punished with suspension of FOA account for 30 days, for breach of 2.1.5, when he was discovered to challenge opponents and resign, leading his rating below the accepted threshold, that is removing his rating, in order to start from scratch.

4. Future development

Development of FIDE Online Services was implemented at a slower pace in 2016/17. The Commission is discussing with the platform developers new possible sources of revenue in order to implement the plan already announced in Baku Congress, that is:

- Develop applications for iOS and Android
- Interactive presentation and reports of FIDE Online tournaments
- Provide online searchable chess databases
- Develop additional services for members
- Open the platform to turn-based and corr chess
- Chess puzzles, basic endgames, chess openings, chess strategy
- Invite GMs to interact (play chess) with FOA members

5. Transfer regulations and rules of the eligibility for players

The new text of the regulations (annex 37) is a simplified version of the existing one:

- Terminology used in the text is explained in the “definitions” chapter.
- The Transfer fee and the Compensation fee must be paid only when the new Federation wishes to use the transferred player before the eligibility date in a FIDE event.
- The Compensation fee is related with the transferred player’s rating and applies to players with more than 2100 ELO points.

- The Rating Administrator is requested to provide a software tool to detect automatically infringements of the Transfer regulations.

6. Regulations for registration and licensing of players

The Online Commission proposes to replace the word “delist” with the word “deregister” in articles 2.3 and 2.4 which should become:

2.3 NCFs have the right to declare that a player is no longer representing their Federation. A player can be deregistered by FIDE upon a decision of the Board of the National Federation, mailed to FIDE Secretariat, explaining clearly the reasons of their decision. FIDE Presidential Board shall decide if the reasons are sufficient and confirm a player being deregistered.

2.4 Whenever a NCF deregisters and subsequently reregisters a player, the NCF shall pay FIDE a fee of 25 euros.

7. FIDE Flag players in numbers

There are currently 2,796 players under FIDE flag, 1,351 are players who either abandoned their old Federation or their old Federation, following National policies, decided not to provide services to these players. 1,445 players received their FIDE ID from FIDE Online Arena registration system. In fact, FIDE Online Arena issued a total of 2,311 FIDE IDs until today, but 866 players have already joined their National Federations. This number convinces us that one of the reasons for creating FIDE Online Arena is absolutely justified: invite newcomers to play chess online on a platform recognized by FIDE and then motivate them to play chess over the board.

A limited number of players have chosen to play over the board as FIDE flag players. FIDE's income from the relevant license fee is 3,453.47 euros (after deduction of bank expenses).

Michalis Kaloumenos
Chairman of Online Commission

Aleksandra Dimitrijević
Secretary of Online Commission

TRANSFER REGULATIONS AND RULES OF ELIGIBILITY FOR PLAYERS

1. REGISTRATION UNDER A FEDERATION

- 1.1. A player may be registered under a Federation if he or she has citizenship, naturalization or residency in the country of that Federation.
- 1.2. A player may only be registered with and only represent the same Federation at any particular time.
- 1.3. A player who has dual citizenship must be registered with and only represent the same Federation at any particular time.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. For the purpose of these regulations, **FIDE events** are all competitions under the aegis of the World Championship & Olympiad Commission or Events Commission and Continental competitions that provide qualifiers to any of the aforesaid competitions. The Presidential Board shall decide if otherwise.
- 2.2. The **old Federation** is the Federation that a player currently represents and wishes to transfer from. If a FIDE flag player was formerly registered under a National Federation, then this National Federation is considered to be the old Federation.
- 2.3. The **new Federation** is the Federation that the player wishes to transfer to.
- 2.4. The **notification date** is the date that documents described in 3.1 are submitted to the FIDE Secretariat.
- 2.5. The **last representation date** is the last date that the player represented the old Federation in a FIDE event.
- 2.6. The **length of residency** is the period of time prior to the notification date that the player resides in or became citizen of the country of the new Federation. In order to determine the length of residency, the dates of issue of the following documents can be taken into account:
 - 2.6.1. Identification card or travel documents by the authorities of the country of the new Federation.
 - 2.6.2. Contract of house rental or utility bill mailed to the player at an address in the country of the new Federation.
 - 2.6.3. If the date of last representation is later than the date of issue of the above documents, then the length of residency is calculated from the next day after the last representation date.
 - 2.6.4. If definite proof of residence is not available, then the length of residency starts from the Notification date.
- 2.7. The **transfer date** is the date that the transfer procedure is completed and the player is registered under the new Federation. This date is displayed in the Transfer registry available on the FIDE website.
- 2.8. The **eligibility date** is the date from which the player can represent the new Federation in a FIDE event.
- 2.9. If a player's rating is required for the calculation of the Transfer fee and/or the Compensation fee, then the rating of the player shall be that as published on the last standard chess FIDE rating list before the notification date.

3. TRANSFERS BETWEEN FEDERATIONS

- 3.1. All transfers shall be the responsibility of the new Federation and must be submitted to the FIDE Secretariat on the prescribed form in Annex A "Notification of change of Federation" together with the supporting documentary evidence of date and place of

birth, citizenship and residence. A Notification Fee of € 250 is payable for all transfers.

- 3.2. No notification fee is required for FIDE flag players who have never been registered with a National Federation.
- 3.3. Upon receipt of a "Notification of change of Federation" form, FIDE shall inform the old Federation and request their consent to complete the transfer. No transfer is completed before either the old Federation has written a letter of non-objection or 90 days have passed since the old Federation was informed.

4. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TRANSFER FEE AND THE COMPENSATION FEE

- 4.1. When the last representation date is 5 years prior to the transfer date or earlier, then the eligibility date is set 1 year after the transfer date without payment of the Transfer Fee and the Compensation Fee.
- 4.2. When the last representation date is less than 5 years prior to the transfer date, then the eligibility date is set 2 years after the transfer date without payment of the Transfer Fee and the Compensation Fee.
- 4.3. A FIDE flag player who has never been registered with a National Federation is eligible to participate in FIDE events immediately after the transfer date.
- 4.4. The new Federation may apply to FIDE to allow a player to represent the new Federation in a FIDE event before the eligibility date, by providing supporting evidence to determine the length of residency.
- 4.5. The length of residency and the player's rating are calculated according to articles 2.6 and 2.9, with the Notification date as a reference date.
- 4.6. A Transfer Fee payable by the new Federation to FIDE must be provided together with such an application according to the following scale:

FIDE Title/rating	Length of Residency	
	0 to 12 months	More than 13 months
GM	€ 5000	€ 3500
IM	€ 2000	€ 1500
FM or rated above 2300	€ 1000	€ 750
WGM	€ 2000	€ 1500
WIM	€ 1000	€ 750
WFM or rated above 2100	€ 500	€ 300
Others	€ 500	€ 300

- 4.7. If the player has a rating of 2100 or higher, a Compensation Fee is payable by the new Federation to the old Federation and this should accompany the application.
- 4.8. The amount of the Compensation Fee from is according to the following scale:

FIDE rating	Amount of Compensation Fee
Rating 2700 and above	€ 50000

Rating from 2600 to 2699	€ 30000
Rating from 2500 to 2599	€ 10000
Rating from 2400 to 2499	€ 6000
Rating from 2300 to 2399	€ 4000
Rating from 2200 to 2299	€ 2000
Rating from 2100 to 2199	€ 1000

- 4.9. The old Federation may inform FIDE and the new Federation in writing that it waives all or part of the Compensation Fee due from the new Federation.
- 4.10. The Compensation Fee is waived for a player under the FIDE flag if the player was deregistered by the old Federation.
- 4.11. A player may deliberately abandon his/her old Federation and continue his/her career under the FIDE flag by prior approval of the FIDE Presidential Board. If this player finds a new Federation, then his old Federation is entitled to the Compensation Fee. (Exception see 4.12)
- 4.12. Should players playing under the FIDE flag become members of a Federation new to FIDE, then no Compensation Fee will be paid.

5. PROTESTS

- 5.1. Any objection or protest regarding transfers that is submitted to the FIDE Secretariat must be accompanied with a fee of € 500, which shall be refundable if the protest is upheld. The FIDE Presidential Board shall decide upon all protests.

6. PENALTIES

- 6.1. The penalties in this section shall be imposed if it is found that a player participated in a FIDE event in breach of the Transfer regulations.
- 6.2. Penalties shall be imposed as follow:
- 6.2.1. Individual competitions: the offending player is excluded from the final standings. The offending player's games are submitted as played losses. The opponents' games are submitted as:
- 6.2.1.1. played win, if the opponent won the game
- 6.2.1.2. unplayed win, if the opponent drew or lost the game
- 6.2.2. Team competitions: The offending player's team receives last position in the final standings. The results of the team matches and the opponents' team standings remain unchanged. Individual games are rated according to 6.2.1
- 6.3. The Federation which registered the offending players shall be fined a penalty fee of € 5000 for each competition that the player was in breach of Transfer regulations.