

## **REPORT**

FIDE nominated me to investigate into the complaints received against the functioning of the Maldives Chess Federation & in particular about its President Mr Nooh Ali. I sent a detailed questionnaire on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018 seeking his answers. Initially he refused to answer but finally relented and replied to my questionnaire, which prima facei was not at all satisfactory. Therefore I had to visit Maldives to know first-hand of the prevailing situation and how it affects the game & that of the stake holders like players, arbiters, coaches, organizers etc.. I visited Maldives on 12<sup>th</sup> May 18. I met the Executive committee members of Maldives Chess Federation, past Executive Members of Maldives Chess Federation, Senior National Team Players, Women National Team Players, Coaches & Trainers, Arbiters and Parents of Junior Chess Players at Giyaasudin International School(about 100 people).

I have presented the facts as they emerged after talking to all stake holders and it looks that Mr.Noohu Ali had not conducted himself properly as the President of Maldives Chess Federation. There was wide spread disenchantment from all stake holders. There was not a single soul who stood up for Mr.Noohu Ali. I also spoke to the Maldives National Sports Council and its President Mr. Ibrahim Ismail Ali, who shared with me the decision being contemplated against the Maldives Chess Federation. I understand that the National Sports Council of Maldives after inspection have found lot of mismanagement and misadministration on the part of Mr.Noohu Ali and that we are initiating a series of measures to bring order into the functioning of the Maldives Chess Federation (mail from Mr.Ibrahim enclosed).

It is therefore recommended that we wait for some more time to see how things unfold and then think of corrective action.

### **Points which were highlighted against President of the Maldives Chess Federation and their members.**

#### **Only 2 members voted in the Maldives Chess Federation Elections:**

Participants alleged that for the last 10 years only 2 members to vote for the elections in Maldives Chess Federation. Among the 2 clubs, Club Gaamagu is owned by the President of the Maldives Chess Federation, Mr. Noohu Ali and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Club, DX Sports, is also a club of a very close friend of his who is from his native island.

It was further alleged that Mr. Noohu Ali (President of the Maldives Chess Federation) purposefully does not want the Federation to have more members. To discourage new members,it is said that he charges a huge amount of membership fee which is about MVR 1200.00 (US\$78.00) per month from each clubs towards registration fee. And for participation in tournaments additional

charges for the tournament which ranges from MVR 1200.00 to MVR 2500.00 (US\$78.00 – US\$162.00) per tournament.

### **Last Maldives Chess Federation elections:**

It is alleged that Mr.Noohu Ali does not conduct MCA elections properly. In June 2017, when the elections were held, it was alleged that no one knew about it. It was not announced publicly. Only a selected few are informed of the elections and whole thing is kept a secret. Mr.Ahmed Saeed who was at the meeting confessed that his club Gaamagu became a member only in 2018 and he has never participated in any election even though his club name figures as a voting member in 2017. It is pertinent to note that Mr.Ahmed Saeed was also the Executive Committee Member as he was the manager of in the Executive Committee and he happens to be partner of Mr.Noohu Ali.

### **Affiliation to Sports Council on hold:**

One of the participants also highlighted the Maldives Sport Council had kept on hold the affiliation of Maldives Chess Federation to Sports Council since for the last 10 years the members are just only 2 clubs registered with the federation and till today no associations are been added.

### **Have blood relation person in Executive Committee:**

It was alleged that the President of the Maldives Chess Federation has included his own sister Mrs.Hawwa Ali who has been the Treasurer for the past five years. Further it was also alleged that, he had previously appointed his son-in-law for the post of General Secretary who officiated close to 2-3 years. Treasurer post is an elected post as per the chess federation articles of association.

### **Manipulating Federation Funds for personal use:**

One member highlighted on manipulating funds of Maldives Chess Federation for his personal benefits. It was alleged that Mr. Noohu Ali had been taking money from various authorities/groups be it for national Olympic committee elections, or during FIDE elections at Norway. It was also alleged that a case has been filed against him by a group in FIDE. They alleged that due to Mr.Noohu Ali's bad reputation, the name of the county has been tarnished along with the game of chess. It was also alleged that there are strong evidences that he had transferred huge amount from Federation funds to his personal accounts or wife's company. It was also alleged that he had transferred Federation funds direct to his personal account and company accounts under his wife name.

### **Treasurer not given authorities:**

One of the members have mentioned that the previous Treasurer Mr.Ahmed Ashraf of Maldives Chess Federation mentioned that Mr. Noohu Ali doesn't give authorities to manage the finance by the treasure or even any other member of the Chess Federation. It seems nobody in the federation know how much funds is are coming into the Federation account and Money is withdrawn after taking signatures in blank cheques.

### **Influences results of tournaments:**

One of the participants highlighted that Mr. Noohu Ali interferes a lot and manipulates the results of important tournaments. For instance, in the recent Inter School Chess Tournament 2018 the results were manipulated.The members also alleged that there had been instances during the middle of the tournament name of the tournaments been changed. For example, the 2017 National Individual Selection Tournament was changed to National Individual Chess Championship. It was also alleged that some tournaments which starts in Swiss pairing have been changed to Round Robin System after couple of rounds. When players complained on these issues, they were asked to leave the tournament if they are not happy with the rules of the Maldives Chess Federation.

### **Mismanagement of federation:**

One of the executive member mentioned that when the Sports Council requested to conduct an AGM of the Maldives Chess Federation, only two members attended Some of the Executive committee members refused to sign the minutes, as not enough members were present in an AGM.-

### **Some of the key members Participated:**

#### **Current EXCO MEMBERS**

- Dr. Ismail Safeeu (Advisor to the President)
- Mr. Zeeshan Abdull Raheem (EXCO Member)

#### **EX-EXCO MEMBERS**

- Mr. Mohamed Zaheen (operations Manager)
- Mr. Hussain Shiyan (General Secretary)
- Mr. Ahmed Ashraf (Treasurer)
- Mr. Abdul Rahman Ali (EXCO Member)
- Mr. Hussain Vishau Mohamed (Fide National Trainer)

#### **SENIOR NATIONAL TEAM PLAYERS**

- Mr. Mohamed Hassan (Fide Rated Player, CM title Holder)

- Mr. Ahmed Ashraf (Fide Rated Player, FM title Holder)
- Mr. Hussain Nimal (Fide Rated Player)
- Mr. Hussain Shiyan
- Mr. Abdul Rahman Ali (Fide Rated Player)
- Mr. Abdulla Mufeed
- Mr. Noor Farooq
- Mr. Mohamed Aboobakuru

### **EX-EXCO General Secretary:**

- Mr. Hussain Vishau Mohamed (Fide National Trainer)

### **PARENTS OF JUNIOR PLAYERS:**

Player Name Ayaan (Junior Under 10 Champion 2017, Inter School U8 2017 champion, Inter School Under 10 2018 Champion), represented by father, **Mr. Mohamed Mirshaan Head of Marketing in DHIRAAGU** (the biggest telecom company in Maldives). Key influencing person in Maldives.

Player Name Akmal Thoha Saleem (Inter School Under 12 2018 Champion), represented by **Mr. Thoha Saleem, Principal of Giyaasudeen International School**, first and only school in the Maldives that have implemented chess as a subject. All of the Inter School tournaments, playing venue are provided by Giyasudin International School free of charge.

Player Name, Kiyani (Women National Team member, 2017 and 2018, Inter School Under 10 2017 Champion, Inter School Under 12 Champion 2018), represented by **Miss Zeeshan Abdul Raheem, Current EXCO member** of the Maldives Chess Federation, Director at the Maldives Sports corporation.

Player Name Shaihaan Mohamed Shainee (Inter School Under 8 2017 Champion, Inter School Under 10 2018 Champion, Junior Championship Under 10 runner-up), represented by Mother, **Ms. Shauna, wife of Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture.**

Player name Yoosuf Waseem (Inter School Under 10 2017 Champion, Inter School Under 12 Champion, Junior Championship Under 12 2017 Champion), represented by Mother, Ms. Waseema.

### **FEDERATION OFFICIAL MEETING:**

Three officials namely Yoosuf Saeed, Abdul Muhsin from federation including Mr Noohu Ali met me on 13<sup>th</sup> May at my hotel. When I raised all the complaints that I received from the other stake holders, none of the officials including

Mr.Noohu Ali had answers for those complaints. In fact one of the executive member Mr Yooshau..... said that there is no transparency in maintaining Federation accounts. When I requested Mr.Noohu Ali to provide documents to check the attendance and other minutes, he did not provide the same. Further he failed to provide attendance sheets of executive meeting and also not willing to part with the constitution of MCF.

Later on, on 13<sup>th</sup> I visited sports ministry, government of Maldives and met the following officials 1. Ibrahim Ismail (President of National Sports Council) 2. Farhath Jaleel (Member of National Sports Council) 3. Ali Zakee (Member of National Sports Council) 4. Aminath Munnawara (Member of National Sports Council) 5. Ahmed Ibrahim(Secretary of National Sports Council) 6. Shafaath Habeeb ( Assistant Director / Commissioner of Sports)

Officials had expressed their unhappiness about Maldives Chess Federation functioning. They informed me that they conducted enquiry into the affairs of Maldives Chess Federation and found lot of anomalies. They have sent a mail asking us for details of financial assistance sent to Maldives Chess Federation from FIDE which has been sent to them. However details from Asian chess federation is awaited to be forwarded to them.

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**Ibrahim Ismail**

14 May (5 days ago)

to me, abdul.muhsin, Ahmed

Dear Mr. Bharat Singh,

I hope that you had a good and productive visit to Maldives.

Thank you for meeting yesterday with National Sports Council on the issue of Chess Federation of Maldives. Our discussion has been quite useful and managed to share a lot of information on the issues.

As discussed at the meeting, the NSC has already done a study on the management of the Chess Federation of Maldives, based on the dissatisfaction from the Chess Community about the management of Chess Federation. A decision was made by the Council after scrutiny, to bring about several changes to the Federation. This task as per Maldives Sports Law has been handed over to the Commissioner of Sports for implementation.

Several issues and inconsistencies were identified, in the management of Finance, general management, efforts to develop Chess etc.

In order for us to look into the issue more, as discussed, I would appreciate if you would provide us the following information .

1. financial assistance provided to Chess Federation by the various international bodies during the last 4-5 years. appreciate if we can get the details as well.
2. Other assistance provided .

Kind regards and hope you had a good visit to our country.

Ibrahim Ismail Ali  
President "

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**Bharat singh chauhan <bharatsingh64@gmail.com>**  
to noohali6466, Nooh, amuhusin

18 Apr

Dear Mr.Nooh Ali

Sub: Complaints received against Maldives Chess Federation regarding

FIDE had received complaints against Maldives Chess Federation and I have been asked to investigate and file a report.

Some of the complaints are serious in nature and as such they have to be addressed immediately. Please let us know the following.

1. When was the last elections held for the office bearers and the committee of the Maldives Chess Federation?
2. How many members were allowed to vote? Their names and designations.
3. Who was the returning officer for the elections?
4. What was the process / program adopted (like last date for nomination, last date for withdrawal, etc.,)?
5. Is your Sister or any other relative has been elected as Treasurer?
6. Is any of your relative in the Board?
7. On what basis the voters were determined?
8. Have you organised any classical National Championship in the last 5 years? If so date and venue. The names of Men and Women Champion of the classical National Championship for the past 5 years.

9. Did you promise to give voting rights to the National team players?

10. How many Executive Committee Meetings and Annual General Body Meetings have been conducted in the last 5 years?

Further, you are directed to kindly send copies of

a). Your Bye laws and Constitution

b). Copies of the minutes of all the Executive Committee meetings conducted in the last 5 years with attendance sheet.

c). Copies of minutes of all the Annual General Body Meetings conducted in the last 5 years with attendance sheet.

d). A copy of the Voters list in the last elections of Maldives Chess Federation.

You are directed to reply to the above along with the documents requested before 28th April 2018. I plan to visit Maldives for the enquiry and would like elicit the views of all stake holders like the office bearers, prominent players, former office bearers and the sports department of Maldives in the near future to complete my investigation and to file a factual report to FIDE.

Hope you would co-operate and help FIDE to find the right solutions for the problems being faced by Maldives Chess Federation.

Yours Sincerely

Attachments area

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Reply from MCF

Date of last election – 07<sup>th</sup> June 2017

During this election office bearers were elected for the positions of;

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer

As per the basic Regulations of the Maldives Chess Federation, clause (14), two registered clubs who were eligible to vote participated in the Elections. The following are the requested details of the clubs and their respective representatives;

- Club Gaamagu represented by Mr. Ahmed Saeed
- Club DX represented by Mr. Ali Moosa

The Returning Officer for the last elections were Mr. Ali Saleem and Mr. Mohamed Ali (A profile of their work ATTACHED)

The elections were announced as per clause (11) and clause (21) of the Maldives Chess Federations Regulations. The announcements for elections were gazetted publicly, 21 days prior to the election date. Find below the general process that were followed;

- Announcement published in public gazette
- Submission by interested candidates for the announced posts
- Elections supervised and monitored by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Maldives Olympic Committee
- Announcement of Results
- Submission of Elections Report to the Ministry of Home Affairs

Yes, however, she has submitted her resignation on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. Her resignation has been accepted on the Executive Committee (EXCO) meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018

The Maldives Chess Federation do not have a Governing Board, instead executive decisions are taken by the Executive Committee (EXCO). She has resigned from her post as the Treasurer on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018

The voters are determined based on clause (21) and (11) of the basic regulations of the Maldives Chess Federation

The details of the classical tournaments held by the Maldives Chess Federation in the last five years and other requested details are ATTACHED  
NO. This is a baseless accusation.

The details are as follows;

- EXCO Meetings – 34 meetings
- AGM Meetings – 7 meetings

Documents to be submitted;

- (a) Bylaws and constitution copies ATTACHED
- (b) Copies of Executive Committee (EXCO) meetings held in the last five years and copies of Attendance Sheets ATTACHED
- (c) Copies of voters list of the last elections ATTACHED

According the attendance sheet provided by him of 2017 election voters were Nooh ali and Ali moosa but his reply he says voters were  
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- Club Gaamagu represented by Mr. Ahmed Saeed
- Club DX represented by Mr. Ali Moosa”



Ibrahim Ismail

14:49  
(2  
hours  
ago)

to me, ali.umar, abdul.muhsin, Ahmed

**vv urgent**

Dear Mr. Bharat Singh,

As said below, the Commissioner and the National Sports Council decided to work on the following schedule, regarding the Chess Federation review.

1. Revise the statutes of the Federation 10 days from **22 May 2018**
2. Approve the new statutes by the Commissioner of Sports and send it to Chess Federation  
**6th June 2018**
3. Call for a Congress of the Federation advertise on **7th June 2018**
4. Hold a special Congress Meeting to approve new statutes **14th June 2018**
5. Appoint an electoral Committee to conduct the new applications for membership and to hold a new election  
**17 June 2018**
6. Open up for new membership from **18th June to 2nd July 2018**
7. Advertise for Executive Board positions **4th July 2018**
8. Submit applications for positions of the Executive board from **4th July 2018 to 14th July 2018**
9. Process the applications and identify the nominees for the positions **17th July 2018**
10. Call Congress for election as per new statutes. **18th July 2018**
11. Hold Election at a Special Assembly **1st August 2018**

A Committee selected by the Commissioner will work through out the process. The Committee will consist of 3 members.

If there i any clarification necessary please communicate with me or the Commissioner.

Kind regards

Ibrahim Ismail Ali  
President  
National Sports Council