80TH FIDE CONGRESS 2009
Kallithea, Greece

Swiss Pairings Programs Committee Meeting
13 October 2009
09.00-11.00

Minutes

Chairman: C. Krause
Secretary: M. Markkula

Present: W. Stubenvoll (AUT), P. Nikolopoulos (GRE), R. Haring (USA), S. Stoisavljevic (SRB), V. Tsorbatzoglou (GRE), I. Mitrou (GRE), M. Prevenios (GRE), A. Vardapetian (ARM), I. Vereshchagin (RUS), A. Burstein (ISR), G. Gijssen (NED), M. Pahlevanzadeh (IRI), E. Price (RSA), R. Alt (GER), F. Dapiran (ITA), H. Karimi (IRI), A. Filipowicz (POL), W. Brown (USA).

1. Endorsement of the new swiss program
"TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR" written by Mr. Neil Heyward (ENG)
Due to technical problems the final pairings check by Mr. Markkula, Mr. Stubenvoll and Mr. Gijssen could not be finished. The committee unanimously agreed to entitle the chairmen, Mr,Markkula, Mr, Stubenvoll and Mr. Gijssen to decide after the check, This check will be finished until end of November 2009..

2. Procedure for prolongation of the endorsement of programs
The committeee unanimously agreed to the proposed endorsement procedure as follows:.
The endorsement of a swiss program is lasting as long as it is not withdrawn.
The endorsement may be withdrawn if the performance of the program will differ very much to the requirements given by the pairing rules.
The investigation of already endorsed programs will be performed if
- there is a valuable claim that a program has changed so far that it is dubious whether the functions of the program will meet the requirements of the swiss rules
- the swiss rules were subject to such severe changes that the Swiss Pairings Program Committee decides to investigate the endorsed programs.

3. General Rules for individual Swiss Systems
The committee agreed unanimously to the general basic Swiss rules for individual tournaments.
These rules represent the minimum requirements which must be met by each swiss system to be regarded as a fair system:
    a. Two players shall not meet more than once
    b. Should the total number of players be (or become odd), one player ends up unpaired. He recieves a bye: no opponent, no colour, 1 point
    c. A player who has recieved a point without playing, either through a bye or due to an opponent not appearing in time, shall not receive a bye.
    d. No player's colour difference will become >+2 or < -2, except for a player having a score of 50% or more in the last round, if this helps to avoid additional floaters.
    e. No player will recieve the same colour three times in row, except for a player having a score of 50% or more in the last round, if this helps to avoid additional floaters.

f. Colour allocation with descending priority
   Grant both colour preferences
   Grant stronger Colour preference
g. The difference of the scores of two players paired against each other should be as small as possible and ideally zero
h. The pairing rules must be such transparent that the person who is in charge for the pairing can explain them

4. Discussion of the so called Amalfi System
The committee postponed the discussion of the Amalfi System until furthér information and examples from real tournaments are available.

5. Amendments to the Dutch Swiss Rules
The committee agreed unanimously to the amendments to the Dutch swiss rules as follow:

5.1 A7
Old wording:
(c)   While pairing an odd-number round players having a strong colour preference (players who have had a bye before) shall be treated like players having an absolute colour preference as long as this does not result in additional downfloaters.

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New wording:
(c)   While pairing an odd-number round players having a strong colour preference (players who have had a bye before) shall be treated like players having an absolute colour preference **(according to B2a) and B2b)** as long as this does not result in additional downfloaters..

5.2 Notes to B6:
Old wording::
B2 may not be applied when pairing players with a score of 50% in the last round if this is helpful to avoid additional downfloaters.
B5 and B6 do not apply when pairing players with a score of over 50% in the last round. (GA 2001)
:
New wording::
Ignore B2, B5 and B6 when pairing players with a score of 50% or more in the last round if this is helpful to avoid additional downfloaters.

5.3 Amendment to C13

Old wording:

In case of the lowest score bracket: the pairing of the penultimate score bracket is undone. Try to find another pairing in the penultimate score bracket which will allow a pairing in the lowest score bracket. If in the penultimate score bracket p becomes zero (i.e. no pairing can be found which will allow a correct pairing for the lowest score bracket) then the two lowest score brackets are joined into a new lowest score bracket. Because now another score bracket is the penultimate one C13 can be repeated until an acceptable pairing is obtained.

New wording:

In case of the lowest score bracket: the pairing of the penultimate score bracket is undone. Try to find another pairing in the penultimate score bracket which will allow a pairing in the lowest score bracket. If in the penultimate score bracket p becomes zero (i.e. no pairing can be found which will allow a correct pairing for the lowest score bracket) then the two lowest score brackets are joined into a new lowest score bracket. Because now another score bracket is the penultimate one C13 can be repeated until an acceptable pairing is obtained.

Such a merged scoregroup shall be treated as an inhomogeneus scoregroup with the latest added scoregroup as S1.

6. Enhancement of Olympiad Pairings using the CDA method.
The paper was transferred to the TAP Committee.

7. Handling of unplayed games in Swiss tournaments
The committee agreed unanimously to handle unplayed games in Swiss tournaments as follow:

There are two points of view:
a.   For the player himself who gets a result by default or is absent
b.   For the opponents in other rounds of the player who gets a reult by default

a.   The new style Buchhloz uses a virtual opponent to calculate the Buchholz score for a result by default. A virtual opponent has the same points at the beginning of the round and the result by default of a player is treated as a normal result, so a loss by default (by absence) is a win for the virtual opponent and vice versa. For each next round the virtual opponent gains half a point.
b.   For reducing the consequence for the opponents when calculating Buchholz, each result by default of a player is counted as a half point (draw) for the buchholz of the player's opponents

Examples:
1   In a 9 round swiss the player A achieves 6 points including a default win in round 3. After round 2 A had 2 points score.
       The contribution of round 3 for A is 2 + 0 + 6 x 0.5 = 5 points Buchholz
       The contribution of A for his opponents' Buchholz is 5.5
2   In a 9 round swiss the player B was absent in round 7 and scored 6 points after round 9. After round 6 B had 4 points.
       The contribution of round 7 for B is 4 + 1 + 2 x 0.5 = 6 points Buchholz
       The contribution of B for his opponents' Buchholz is 6.5

8. Other matters
The Italian FIDE Arbiter Roberto Ricca is working on a pairings engine which is using the FIDE TRF file without pairings as input and producing e TRF file with pairings as output. This file may once be available at FIDE website for download and use in swiss programs.

Kallithea, 2009-10-14

Christian Krause