

Agenda for QC meeting 2010

1. Report since Halkidike

The QC Chairman has had frequent communication with the QC members. The Chairman will present a comprehensive report about the activities since the meeting in Halkidike.

2. Meetings in London

The QC Chairman and the QC Secretary had a meeting in London in March and another meeting in May with the councillor Nick Faulks also participating.

Most of the issues have been touched in the QC Chairman communication.

Reports from these meetings are in annexes 1-3.

3. Rating Experts' Meeting in Athens

There was a rating experts' meeting in Athens June 1-3. An excellent summary by David Jarrett is in Annex 4.

4. Title Regulations Interpretations

There are several applications where interpretation or implementation of the Title Regulations is needed. The QC Chairman suggests these issues to be discussed and decided before handling the individual applications.

4.1. Unplayed Games/Byes

This matter has been discussed during the year (see Annex 1). Final decisions must be taken in Khanty-Mansiysk.

4.2. Time Controls

4.2.1 Validity of "old" time controls

There are some title applications where the time control is one that is not valid after 30.6.2009, for example, 2h+30 sec/move. The QC Chairman has rejected the norms and title applications based on those norms. This has caused protests by the organising federations. The QC and the GA must take the final decisions.

4.2.2. Extending 90min+30sec/move validity

This is a controversial issue for which the QC Chairman has been strongly criticized. The FIDE PB had decided in Bursa meeting in January 2010 to extend the validity of 90 min +30 sec/move until 31.12.2010. There was no consultation with the QC or even information to the QC Chairman before the meeting. The decision was told to the QC Chairman afterwards in connection with a rejected title norm with 2h + 30sec. The Executive Director told that the decision is subject to the QC approval in Khanty-Mansiysk. Neither the QC nor the federations were officially informed about this decision.

The QC Chairman answered the federation inquiries that the time control is not valid after 30.6.2010 and the organisers risk that eventual title results with that time control may not be approved.

In June FIDE changed the Title Regulation on the FIDE web to inform about the extension of the validity with no reference to that the QC has to confirm the decision.

The QC Chairman's opinion is that the organisers must be able to trust the information published on the FIDE web page meaning that the tournaments using 90 min + 30 sec/move must be valid for titles until 31.12.2010 although the decision was not correctly made.

4.2.2. Future Time Controls

The PB in Bursa appointed a group of four persons (Makropoulos, Leong, Yazici and Markkula) to make a recommendation for future time controls. The QC Chairman has sent a proposal (Annex 5), nothing further has yet happened. This matter will hopefully be discussed in the QC meeting.

4.3. Interim Results in (Double) Round-Robin tournaments

There are title results that are based on interim results in round-robin and double round-robins. Some of the tournaments are such that no title result could be achieved with all games included, for example, not enough opponents from other federations, not enough title players, or not enough opponents with the required titles.

The idea of the title results based on interim results was introduced to avoid problems in team tournaments, first in the Olympiad. There was a conflict of interest between the team goals and individual players' results. That is why it was made possible to register a title result before the end of the tournament and let the player keep on playing without a risk to spoil the title result. Later on this possibility was extended to other competitions. It is still understandable in Swiss tournaments to protect the title result and still fight for the top prizes.

In round-robins this possibility has been used in a strange way, the rounds have been in an order that is favouring some players for title result chances. In double round-robin tournaments the title players are counted once. What if the title player is played only once instead of twice? What if the number of players from one federation is too high, but the requirement is fulfilled by taking a couple of games from the second part of the tournament. The QC has to decide how to interpret the regulations.

4.4. Pairing Systems in Title Tournaments

There is no requirement which pairing system must be used for title tournaments. The only requirement is that the system is followed precisely and the pairings created according to the pairing system are not modified. If the pairing system is not one that is approved by FIDE and in the FIDE handbook, the regulations must be sent to FIDE with the results to have the title result valid.

The organiser may use a special type of competition, for example, a Swiss preliminary followed by knockout matches, if approved by FIDE in advance.

Only FIDE approved systems and also only FIDE endorsed programs to be allowed for title tournaments have been proposed.

Hopefully the QC can make a decision about these and give recommendations to the GA.

4.5. IO title Regulations Clarified

The regulations do not state that the events have to be rated, although that is how it has been interpreted. Another question that has been asked is the requirements of size of the tournaments. In principle, five small round-robin or Swiss tournaments are enough, but two or three very big opens are not.

The definition of Chief Organiser has to be defined in cases where the responsible organiser is the federation, a club or another body like that,

4.6. Age Group Titles in Combined Groups

Registered titles in age group competitions with age groups combined are unclear. The interpretation that has been implemented has been to award the title only to the first ranked players in the whole tournament, and not first ranked in all age groups in the combined group. This matter should be discussed and finalized in the QC meeting.

5. FM/CM Clarification

The FM/CM and WFM/WCM titles based on old ratings are unclear, because the regulations have been changed very much during the years.

Proposal by the QC Chairman to solve these problems is annexed (Annex 6).

6. USCF Proposal concerning 1.43e

The USCF has sent a proposal (Annex 7) to change Article 1.43e in Title Regulations. This may be discussed in the meeting, although the official schedule to change the regulations is in 2012.

7. Open Titles since Halkidike

List of the titles that were not approved in Halkidike or in the PB meetings in Bursa, Sofia and Tromsö will be presented in the meeting.

8. Title Applications

Title applications received since Trömsö PB meeting will be presented in the meeting. Summaries will be sent before the meeting. Some late applications are expected in the congress, too.

9. Rating Regulations Amendments proposed by the Rating Meeting

As described in the report about the rating experts' meeting some changes are proposed to the Rating Regulations.

9.1. Change of the K Factor

The changes decided by the QC in Dresden were not confirmed the PB. A comprehensive study about the rating effects of the K factor change was carried out by Jeff Sonas. It was recommended that the K factor for players having fewer than 30 rated games should be changed from 25 to 30, all other K factors (15 from 30 games onwards and 10 after the player's rating has reached 2400+) are proposed to remain as they are.

9.2. 1-2 Games to be Rated for New Players having Partial Ratings

The regulations require now that an unrated player has to have at least three games against rated players to have a partial rating from the tournaments. This applies also to players who have got a partial rating in an earlier tournament, but has not yet got a rating. It was recommended that all games (even one or two games) against rated opponents should be included to the player's rating. This would make it a little faster and easier to get a rating.

9.3. Modification of the Round-Robin Iteration

To have a rating from a Swiss tournament the player has to score at least one point against rated opponents. In round-robin tournament this has not been required. It is recommended that the iteration will be amended so that an unrated player must get at least one point against rated opponents to have a rating from the tournament. Although such a player does not get a rating, the calculated rating is used for the calculation of the ratings of the previously rated players as it is done now.

9.4. Rapid and Blitz Rating Lists

It was recommended that separate rating list for Rapid and Blitz Games will be started. The idea to combine games played with different times to the same list using different weights was rejected. The details of the list, the schedule for starting it, tournaments to be included and the fees have to be decided.

9.4. Lowering the Floor

There is no objection to lower the rating floor until 1000 (the floor is now 1200). This has been the plan since the floor was lowered down form 2000.

9.5. Moving to Monthly Lists

There has been interest to have more frequent lists. It is technically possible to move to monthly lists. There are some consequences, if we go to monthly lists. The conditional titles may have to wait more than one list to ensure that tournaments are not missing from the player's rating.

9.6. Reporting of Leagues and Other Long Tournaments

Leagues and other long tournaments cause a minor problem in the rating history. If it is decided that monthly lists are started, it would be necessary to rate the tournaments spanning over several periods round by round to have the players' rating histories correct.

10. Validity of Partial Initial Ratings

When calculating the rating for a previously unrated player only two years (eight periods) are included. This has been questioned by players. There are players who play only a certain annual tournament. If the player gets three games in three tournaments, he does not get a rating.

It may be technically difficult to keep more periods? FIDE has reused the FIDE IDs for different players from the same federation. If a player who had an ID did not get the rating in two years, the ID has been given to another player.

11. Restarting Rating as a New Player

Some players may have low ratings they have achieved in junior competitions. When the player starts playing FIDE rated games after a long break, his strength may be totally different from the junior years. To get the rating to the "correct" level may take many competitions (many years). At the same time the player may drag down his opponents' ratings because of his rating to be lower than it should be.

The only way to get rid of an old rating is to drop below the floor and the start as a new player. This will also need a lot of bad tournaments and harming other players' ratings. There have been requests by some players to ignore the old rating and start as a new player. This is not possible according the regulations.

Whether to change the regulations to allow starting over, or to change the rating calculations in cases where the player's result differs significantly from the expected value has to be considered. Also the rating used for calculating the opponents' ratings may have to be adjusted, if a new way of calculation these exceptional ratings is used.

12. Adjusting the Regulations

There are some articles that are not worded very clearly in the current Title and Rating Regulations.

One of the unclear items is Scheveningen tournaments and matches. Matches with unrated players are not allowed to be rated. Neither are private matches (to increase the ratings of a player?).

Matches that are, for example, playoffs of a national championship are part of that tournament, and are rated.

Using of Scheveningen tournaments for title tournaments must be considered. Is that really needed any more. Is there a risk this is abused?

There are other articles that may be unclear. The QC members are asked to read the regulations carefully to detect unclear points.

13. Preparing for the next Amendment Cycle 2012

In the report of the Athens meeting there are listed items that may have to be changed in Title and Rating Regulations. The preparation for the next cycle has to be started as soon as possible.

14. Players Removed by Their Federations

More and more notes about not to include some players in their rating list are received by the federations. The regulations in the federations seem to be very different as to who can be included. In some federations the players are required to pay a special fee or be official members of the federation (or a club that is member of federation) to be allowed to represent the federation on the list.

When the announcement of removal has been received, the players do not appear on the list causing problems to organisers. During the recent years the number of these cases has been increased rather much.

Clear procedures for this must be established.

15. 2300+/2100+ without FM/WFM title for Opponents

The Title Regulations require that at least 50 percent of opponents have to be WFM or higher. From 1.7.1999 2300/2100 is not equivalent to the FM/WFM as it was earlier. During

the years a number of title results have been rejected because of too few titled opponents, although some of the opponents could be awarded the titles based on the ratings. The QC Chairman proposes that some special rules could be established for the applicants, for example, the applicant's federation could pay 50 percent of the FM/WFM title fee to have the opponent to be counted as an FM or WFM. This would not give the title to the opponent concerned.

16. Creating a Complete Rating/Title Database

History of the titles and rating is needed for several title applications. For the moment there are no consistent data base files to check the nationalities, titles and ratings of players at the time of a title result.

To check the old title results also the regulations valid at the time of the competition are needed. The QC Chairman has spent quite a lot of time to create a history of changes in the title and rating regulations. Some important documents are missing causing some changes to be unclear as to the point of time when the change was made. The QC Chairman will present the "certain" changes in the meeting hoping to find the missing links, too.

17. Creating a FIDE Rated Tournaments Results Server

The chess-results.com is very helpful in providing tournament results. Some organisers do not use these services, and the results are not available on the web. Now that individual results have to be sent to FIDE rating server, it would be very useful to create a server (perhaps with the help of the author of chess-results.com) where all FIDE rated tournament results are stored. The results source files are available in the FRS, but a more developed server would help in title checking procedure.

18. Other Matters