



## **ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

### **REPORT – 27 JULY 2026**

The Electoral Commission (hereafter ELC), composed of Roberto Rivello (chairman of the Constitutional Commission), Yolander Persaud (chairwoman of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission) and Allen Priest (chairman of the Verification Commission), having convened on 26 and 27 July 2026, not in person, but exclusively remotely, online and via electronic communications, examined and discussed the following agenda items, unanimously adopting the following decisions.

#### **D) Approval of a list of valid Presidential ticket candidacies**

In accordance with art. 21 of the Electoral Rules (Elections of the President and of the Deputy President):

- candidacies for the Presidential ticket (President and Deputy President) must reach FIDE Offices at the latest two months before the opening of the meeting of the General Assembly;
- the candidates for President and Deputy President of the same ticket must not be representative from the same Member Federation;
- each ticket must be endorsed by nominations from at least five Member Federations, among them at least one from each of the four FIDE Continents, but by no more than eight Member Federations in total. Each Member Federation is entitled to endorse only one Presidential ticket;
- the ELC is competent to carry out a preliminary examination of the submitted candidacies and to approve a list of valid candidacies, which shall be announced on the FIDE website and made visible and accessible to all Member Federations.

The ELC is also required to verify whether the eligibility criteria listed in art. 4.1 of the Electoral Rules are met (including, in particular, the following ones: “the candidate must have reached the age of 18; the candidate must not be deprived of his or her civil rights, as an additional sanction related to the commission of a crime, as a result of an

enforceable judgment of a national or international judicial authority; the candidate must not have incurred any sanction of ineligibility, ban or exclusion from office, in relation to any violation of the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code, following a final decision of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission or of the Electoral Commission) and whether the submitted application forms contain all data and declarations requested by art. 5.2 of the Electoral Rules (including, in particular, the following ones: “if the candidate enjoys civil rights in the state of citizenship or residence; if the candidate incurred in any measure or sanction in relation to any violation of the FIDE Charter and FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code or any other applicable regulations issued by FIDE organs; if incurred any measure or sanction in relation to any violation of regulations issued by a FIDE Member Federation; if incurred any measure or sanction in relation to any violation punished as a criminal offence at a national or international level”).

Before the stipulated deadline, FIDE Offices received three candidacies for the Presidential ticket, respectively from (in alphabetical order):

- Mr. Jan Henric Buettner and Mr. Malcolm Pein;
- Mr. Wadim Rosenstein and Mr. Gordon Tang Yigang;
- Mr. Timur Turlov and Mr. Anand Viswanathan.

Regarding all these candidacies, the ELC has verified that:

- the candidates for President and Deputy President of the same ticket are not representative from the same Member Federation;
- the submitted application forms contain all data and declarations requested by art. 5.2 of the Electoral Rules; in particular, all candidates have declared that they enjoy civil rights in their state of citizenship or residence, that they have not incurred in any measure or sanction in relation to any violation of the FIDE Charter and FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code, that they have not incurred in any measure or sanction in relation to any violation punished as a criminal offence at a national or international level;
- eligibility criteria listed in art. 4.1 of the Electoral Rules are met, at least on the basis of the candidates' self-declarations.

The ticket of Mr. Jan Henric Buettner and Mr. Malcolm Pein is endorsed by the nominations of the following Member Federations: Bermuda (America), England (Europe), Gambia (Africa), Monaco (Europe), New Zealand (Asia), South Africa (Africa), Wales (Europe), Ireland (Europe). Given that the ticket is endorsed by the nominations of at least five Member Federations, including at least one from each of the four FIDE Continents, this candidacy is declared valid and admissible.

The ticket of Mr. Wadim Rosenstein and Mr. Gordon Tang Yigang is endorsed by the nominations of the following Member Federations: Germany (Europe), Panama

(America), Sudan (Africa), Thailand (Asia), Mongolia (Asia), Latvia (Europe), Bolivia (America), Mozambique (Africa). Given that the ticket is endorsed by the nominations of at least five Member Federations, including at least one from each of the four FIDE Continents, this candidacy is declared valid and admissible.

The ticket of Mr. Timur Turlov and Mr. Anand Viswanathan is endorsed by the nominations of the following Member Federations: Aruba (America), Austria (Europe), Colombia (America), Italy (Europe), Kazakhstan (Asia), Moldova (Europe), Morocco (Africa), Tanzania (Africa). This ticket received also another endorsement, communicated directly by another Member Federation, correctly not included in the candidacy of the ticket. This endorsement, in any case, this endorsement cannot be considered as a nomination, as it exceeds the number previewed by art. 21.7 of the Electoral Rules. Given that the ticket is endorsed by the nominations of at least five Member Federations, including at least one from each of the four FIDE Continents, this candidacy is declared valid and admissible.

In conclusion, the ELC approved the following list of valid Presidential ticket candidacies:

- Mr. Jan Henric Buettner and Mr. Malcolm Pein;
- Mr. Wadim Rosenstein and Mr. Gordon Tang Yigang;
- Mr. Timur Turlov and Mr. Anand Viswanathan.

The ELC asks FIDE Offices to publish this list on the FIDE website, together with this report, and to make it visible and accessible to all Member Federations and to all voters, in accordance with art. 21.8 of the Electoral Rules.

The ELC reminds all Member Federations that this is just a preliminary decision taken after a preliminary exam of the candidacies, based on self-declarations of the candidates and a simple cross-check between the submitted nominations and the documents provided, without a more specific assessment of their authenticity and formal correctness, and that, in accordance with art. 21.9 of the Electoral Rules, “any complaint regarding the eligibility of a candidate for the position of President or Deputy President must be addressed to the Electoral Commission in writing within two weeks following the official announcement of the candidacies by the FIDE Offices on the FIDE web site”.

## **II) Approval of the list of Member Federations entitled to vote (together with the names of the Presidents and FIDE Delegates)**

In accordance with art. 3.4 of the Electoral Rules, sixty (60) days before elections, the FIDE Offices shall make public, both on the FIDE website and by sending them to all Member Federations, a list of Member Federations entitled to vote and a separate list

of suspended Member Federations, if any, together with the names of the Presidents and FIDE Delegates.

These lists are only provisional; the ELC has the task of approving them by carrying out only a very preliminary examination, given that, until thirty (30) days before the elections, each Member Federation may communicate any election or nomination of a different FIDE Delegate or President.

The FIDE Charter provides that the Council may suspend a Member Federation, with a decision that is immediately effective but subject to confirmation by the General Assembly.

In the past months the Council suspended the Federations of Russia and Rwanda.

Therefore, the list of suspended Federations must indicate the names of these two Federations.

Then, the ELC examined the data communicated by the FIDE Offices regarding the other Federations.

Recently, both the Constitutional Commission and the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission received complaints and reports concerning alleged violations of FIDE rules by some of these other Member Federations and/or their representatives. However, to date, no final decisions have been adopted on these issues. Therefore, as regards the list of the Member Federations entitled to vote, with the names of their Presidents and FIDE Delegates, it may be provisionally approved as communicated by the FIDE Offices.

Both lists, annexed to this report, shall be published by the FIDE Offices on the FIDE website and shall be communicated to all Member Federations, together with the part of this ELC report regarding this issue.

### **III) Requests received from Mr. Jan Henric Buettner**

Mr. Jan Henric Buettner, as FIDE Presidential Candidate, submitted two “proposals” to the Council and the ELC: the first concerns scrutineers (he proposes that “by 21 August each presidential candidate submit their proposed name to office@fide.com; by 4 September the FIDE Council announces the nominated names to the GA as scrutineers”), while the second is related to “the integrity of the electoral process” (he proposes that “the Council appoint Mr. Andy Howie, Chair of the FIDE Fair Play Commission, to oversee the integrity and secrecy of the voting process within the polling area and to establish such practical procedures as he considers appropriate to safeguard the secrecy of the ballot”).

The ELC notes that these proposals would imply an amendment of the FIDE Electoral Rules, which falls outside the competence of both the Council and the ELC and is also clearly prohibited by the FIDE Charter (“Electoral Rules regulate the organisation of

elections”, “Electoral Rules are approved and modified by the General Assembly, by simple majority, and cannot be superseded nor derogated by rules of an inferior level”).

The Electoral Rules and the restrictions on their amendment were introduced precisely to prevent disputes among candidates for elective offices as well as 'last-minute' changes.

Clear Electoral Rules are established and approved by the General Assembly regarding the matters covered by the aforementioned proposals:

“Art. 13.1 The Council, with a decision taken at least twenty (20) days before elections, shall nominate three (3) persons, that are not candidates in the election and are not participating in any way in the electoral campaign, to act as scrutineers. The Council shall also indicate three other persons designated, in the order, as possible substitutes. Scrutineers shall be elected by the General Assembly by on open vote. If one of the nominated is not elected by the General Assembly, or more than one, another open vote shall concern the substitutes”.

“Art. 12.1 The Electoral Commission. To secure a fair and impartial electoral process, elections shall be held under the supervision of the Electoral Commission, that has competence to decide, also *ex officio*, on all aspects related to electoral process, if not otherwise provided by the FIDE Charter and the Electoral Rules”.

Such rules cannot be modified in any way.

This will not preclude the ELC, if and when it deems it appropriate and useful, from drawing upon the valuable contribution of Mr. Andy Howie, a person who has already provided valuable support in previous elections, or of other individuals it deems suitable according to the needs of the moment, but always and exclusively in strict compliance with the Electoral Rules and in the exercise of the powers conferred upon the ELC.

#### **IV) Request received from the Management Board**

The FIDE Management Board requested the ELC to specify the modalities by which Member Federations may appoint counsellors and to establish a deadline for their appointment, as it exists for the registration of delegates (30 days before GA meeting).

The ELC notes that art. 17.3 of the FIDE Charter establishes that “The General Assembly is composed of: a) the representatives of the Member Federations (who can be assisted by one counsellor. The counsellors have no right to speak)”, nothing else.

No deadlines are provided for.

The ELC understands the need for the FIDE Offices to be informed in advance of the names of the counsellors, if any, in order to prepare badges and similar arrangements; however, no new rules can be added at this stage to the existing ones. It is therefore possible only to invite Member Federations to communicate the names of any counsellors preferably no later than 30 days before the GA meeting (without the need to

comply with any specific formal procedure, an email sent from the official address of the federation will suffice); however, no loss of rights shall result from communication after that deadline.

## **V) Observers**

In accordance with the FIDE Charter and the Electoral Rules, each FIDE Continent nominates an observer who may attend Electoral Commission's meetings, except when the Electoral Commission has to decide on cases of alleged violations of the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code. More precisely, the observers will be invited to participate in all meetings related to submitted complaints concerning the right to vote and the eligibility of some candidates. The observers have no right to vote, nor to participate in the discussion. They can submit written notes, at any moment in the electoral period, regarding situations related to Member Federations and candidates of their Continent. They can be consulted at any moment by the Chairman of the Electoral Commission, when deemed useful.

The ELC notes that, to date, it has not been notified of the names of the observers appointed by the FIDE Continents, and it appears that, as of today, only one FIDE Continent has made such an appointment. This is not mandatory; however, the ELC invites the representatives of the FIDE Continents to inform the ELC of the names and email addresses of any observers they may have appointed. These observers will be invited to participate in meetings concerning any complaint submitted from now on.

Turin, 27 July 2026

Roberto Rivello

