

Arbiting Matters Too



Newsletter of the Chess Arbiters Association

November 2015 Issue 11

Editorial

It was very disappointing to see several ECF officials declaring that there was a conspiracy amongst arbiters to influence the voting at the ECF AGM. It should come as no surprise to hear that when challenged on this those making the allegations did not answer.

As a result of the accusations the phrase Controller-Arbiters Nexus seems to have passed into the English Chess language.

The term was first used by John Foley who went on to say that as a result "So we have all been wasting our time at the ECF."

The CAA was initially set up as a pressure group (as well as a self help body) but at no time has it ever tried to instruct members to influence votes at the ECF AGM in the manner being insinuated.

One very positive aspect of the situation has been the reaction of ordinary chess players in dismissing the claims.

There has long been complaints that there are too many arbiters involved in chess administration but isn't that a bit like saying there are too many nurses involved in medicine. Many who show an interest in arbiting are going to be interested in administration.

If John Foley reads this I look forward to publishing his letter of apology.



Potential Law Changes from 2017

At the 87th Congress to be held in Baku in 2016, the FIDE Rules Commission along with arbiters, organizers, players, trainers and national federations globally will have the opportunity to amend the FIDE Laws of Chess.

This process is a vital one to ensure the Laws are written as clearly and accurately as possible to ensure uniform understanding by the chess world. As such certain changes in the procedures for reviewing changes will take place prior and before the upcoming Congress to ensure the review is performed in an orderly fashion.

The deadlines for requests for changes are as follows:

- 17.June.2016 for a draft copy of the request;
- 1.August.2016 for a final copy of the request;

To submit a request please download, complete and return the following form: [Form LoC Change Request.docx](http://rules.fide.com/Form_LoC_Change_Request.docx) (from <http://rules.fide.com/>)

Please return the form to the Secretary of the FIDE Rules Commission, Sevan A. Muradian (sevan@chessiq.com)

All forms must be submitted in English.

FIDE invites concerned parties to submit proposed alterations to the Laws.

National federations are also being asked for any none-standard Laws being used in events which are not FIDE rated. These have to be returned by 28th February.

Amongst the items discussed at the 86th Congress in Abu Dhabi were:

Article 1.2 It was unsuccessfully suggested that this should be changed to reflect that players are not always playing for a win.

Articles 3.8 and 4.3 It was proposed that castling no longer be considered as only a move of the king. This would mean that a player unable to castle may be forced to move the rook. This is to be discussed further.

Article 5.2 It is proposed to reword this to reflect the 'new' draw situations (75 moves and 5 time occurrence of a position).

Article 5.2c The proposal to remove the ability to offer a draw or to record such an agreement as scoring 0-0 was defeated.



The Rules Commissioners including Stewart Reuben

Articles 7.5 and 7.6 It was agreed that this should be reworded to state that after 10 moves an illegal move would stand.

Article 8.7 (signing the scoresheet) It was agreed that this should remain in the Laws.

Article 9.2.2 It was agreed that when considering repetition of position castling rights were lost only when the king or a rook had been moved.

More radical changes to draw by repetition claims were also rejected.

Article 9.5 It was agreed that players should assist the arbiter in determining the accuracy of a draw claim.

Article 9.6a It was agreed that the word consecutive should remain in the 5 occurrence of a position draw.

Article 9.6b It was agreed that the 75th move only needs to be made rather than completed for a draw to be declared.

Article 10.1 A change to having a default situation of scoring 2 for a win and 1 for a draw was rejected as was specifically stating that the total score could not be more than one point.

Article 11.3b The wording would be changed to follow the recommendation of the Anti Cheating Committee regarding mobile phones being put in a bag.

Article 11.3c would be changed so that electronic cigarettes were also banned.

Article 12.2 would be changed to show that arbiters should follow anti-cheating guidelines.

Article 12.9 The idea of introducing a system of yellow cards was rejected.

Appendices A & B It was agreed that it would require a second illegal move in Rapid and Blitz before a player lost.

Appendix E (Adjournments) There was a motion to remove this from the Laws. The Commission voted 4-4 but the floor was in favour.

Appendix G (Quickplay Finishes) There was a motion to remove this from the Laws. The Commission again voted 4-4 but the floor was in favour.

Editors Comments: The British contingent voted against the removal of the Appendices. There is clearly a strong move towards 'forcing' the use of incremental times. My own feeling is that this move is 4 years too early.

The idea of yellow cards initially has some appeal and has been used in some Asian events. The general feeling was that whereas in football it is obvious why a card is being produced it would not necessarily be so in chess and could lead to more disruption as players queried its use. The proposal also suggested that the card be used for offences of differing severity and therefore two yellows would not necessarily mean that the game was lost.

The prohibition on going back more than 10 moves to correct an illegal move was



suggested to stop the situation where a player knew a move was illegal but played on until in an obviously lost position before raising the matter. This is used in the USA. Any change in the Laws will need to deal with illegal positions which have occurred and continue to do so. I'm sure many of us have had junior games where the king has been in check for at least 10 moves.

Report on 86th FIDE Congress

There were a number of British representatives at the Congress which is a series of meetings. As many meetings overlap even the most masochistic person would be unable to attend them all. Anyone is allowed to contribute to the meetings but in some there will be a vote of everyone present but in others another vote of the members of the Commission will also be taken. Such a vote will normally have precedence.

I give below the main outcomes which will affect arbiters.

Rules Commission: The discussion on the Laws of Chess is given in the previous article.

Also discussed was a proposal to ban food from the playing table. It was agreed that those suffering from allergies should notify the Chief Arbiter and Chief Organiser to make them aware in case a situation arises.

Another suggestion was to ban handshakes because of a potential to pass disease. The Medical Commission found no increased risk in this action given scenarios such as sneezing, touching of pieces, etc could also have effects.

Arbiters Commission: The Welsh request to lower the minimum age for IAs and FAs was rejected though that for NAs was reduced to 16. The main reason for rejection was that in some countries there could be legal problems if a young arbiter made a decision that affected prize money. Arbiters were asked to send interesting cases to be included in a magazine (please send them here as well!). It was announced that it may be decided that in future one IA norm will need to be obtained from a 'foreign' federation. An Irish Chess Union problem led to the decision that for an arbiter to receive an FA or IA norm they had to be present for every round. The British U8 Championship 2014 'dispute' was raised. However, only the result (1- ½) was discussed. No information was given as to the circumstances leading up to such a result. No action was to be taken against any arbiter involved. Under disciplinary

matters it was announced that 2 Mongolian arbiters had been suspended for creating false IA norms and that 2 Indian arbiters had been suspended for failing to carry out their duties to the required standard. The next issue of the Arbiters' Manual will be produced in 2016.

Pairings Commission: From 2017 norm events will have to use approved software to be checked by a specially designed program (from rounds 2 onwards). This may cause problems for those using non-standard systems (eg UK and USA). The main officials seem willing to consider the recognition of other systems. Acceleration is being looked at both to standardise a method and to be able to check the pairings submitted to FIDE. Work is still being done on the Dutch system to remove anomalies in its standard pairings.

Anti-Cheating Committee: The progress of this body had been hampered by questions over its status. There was a proposal that arbiters could face disciplinary action if they refused to co-operate with it.

Some cases of alleged cheating have been examined (Ivanov and Nigalidze) but the results have not been published until legal and FIDE statute aspects have been checked. Future changes to the Laws may have to be Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) compliant. Progress is being made on having the computer system of detection available to Chief Arbiters. It is hoped that the technical problems delaying this will be solved by the end of the year. The program examines strings of moves rather than individual ones. A positive result is not proof of cheating but is an alert to arbiters. Despite these problems tournaments can still contact the ACC if they have concerns. There are site inspections being carried out. (One was done at the Poker Stars Isle of Man tournament-Ed.)

Arbiters were warned that monitoring incoming signals was ineffective as the incoming signal could be too small to be caught. Hand held scanners are capable of detecting devices hidden in the ear. Jamming outgoing signals was a minefield, even where the use of such devices was legal. Timed delayed transmission of moves could create problems for example with sponsors. Software can now be bought which delays transmission by a fixed number of moves rather than by time.

Concern was expressed on extra work for arbiters who will have extra paper work (e.g. pgn file entry into checking software) and be expected to patrol frequently.

Qualifications: The problem of increasing numbers of people with low ratings

getting direct titles was discussed. It was recommended that such titles should only be awarded when the player was within 200 points of that normally required for the title.

The problem of getting norms from double round tournaments was discussed. The regulations are currently so tight that such events are difficult to organise. This was because of abuse in the past. (In some situations more titled players are needed than actual competitors!!!)

In discussing the problem of rating fluctuation (inflation) of players with a k factor of 40 it was decided that from 1st July 2016 in such cases the k factor would be 700/number of games where this was lower. (A young American has shot up the rating list to a level higher than any performance he has had!)

The minimum time for a game to be rated would be looked at.

It was suggested that the ratings of players returning after a ban for cheating should be reduced. This was seen as a punishment and was therefore for ethics to decide.

It was agreed that tournaments sending results for rating which were more than 1 month late would be refused. There have also been cases where a federation refused to forward a tournament's results. It was accepted that FIDE cannot get involved in such situations and those games should not be rated.

Complaints about having to register to see some ratings data was raised. This was said to be a matter for the On-line Commission. (When I raised this matter at its meeting I was told that it was not their area!!!)

Tournament fees, in particular the cost of all-play-alls were not a matter for this Commission.

Technical Commission: Tie Break systems will be looked at for both team and individual events with a recommendation to be made. A new method of broadcasting live games was considered (See Chess Vision).

Disabled: Conditions which should be offered to disabled players in FIDE rated events will be presented to the General Assembly in 2016. Clock manufacturers will be asked to seek certification for clocks for visually impaired players.

Stewart Reuben has long advocated that more British officials should attend these meetings. I can certainly say that those of us present were listened to and seemed to have some effect. Gatherings of this type also allow for networking and discussing common problems.

One item which attracted some media interest was a 'proposal' from the Russian Federation that the FIDE President should stand for the equivalent post in FIFA (World Football). Even though one delegate expressed his delight in such an idea I considered at the time that it was a joke. Subsequently I began to wonder but I think that my initial reaction was correct.

Communications

This was received from Kevin Markey following the change in policy of the ECF regarding child protection and the need for DBS clearance.

"I am an English Chess Federation qualified Arbiter we have our own official organisation the Chess Arbiters Association. In order to become qualified I had to pass a test and obtain reference from two qualified one of whom was a Senior chess Arbiter the widely respected (and sadly deceased) Ron Powis. I also had to obtain and renew a CRB (now DBS) check every three years to retain my status.

I do not take part in activities supervising children/minors/venerable persons on a regular basis.

I work at two to four Junior events per year plus two adult events per year which include junior competitors.

The below is taken from the English Chess Federation website

<http://www.englishchess.org.uk/>

<http://www.englishchess.org.uk/ecf-insurance-child-protection-policy/>

In our email and web entry of 11th September 2015 concerning renewal of the ECF Insurance, we informed you that the Child Protection Policy is being reviewed. A draft version of a new policy is now under discussion, and we hope to publish the final version on the website once finalised and agreed. In the meantime, there are some changes that need to be brought to clubs' attention.

Previously, guidance was that ANYONE who has unsupervised access to children,

for instance, an adult running a junior club, should need to have a DBS (formerly CRB) check undertaken. Following revised guidance from the Government, there is a reduced requirement to undertake DBS checks as part of an organisation's safeguarding measures that need to be in place. This is because the definition of regulated activity has changed.

Organisations and Clubs are advised to check the guidance on eligibility for applying for DBS checks before applying for any new ones.

For example, if the role involves teaching, training, supervising, advising, transporting or caring for children or vulnerable adults, and this occurs once a week or more OR 4 or more days in a 30 day period, then an enhanced DBS check may be applied for. **If the activity does not take place once a week (or 4 times or more in a 30 day period), then it may be illegal to try to obtain one.**

The ECF is also recommending in its new policy and procedures that organisations designate a safeguarding officer to support their own safeguarding activities and measures.—*Gary Willson, ECF Office Manager*

This issue has been discussed elsewhere notable at the Chess Arbiters Association 2015 AGM which I attended.

I believe the government needs to reflect and initiate a change as the DBS check demonstrates competency and reflect positively on any adult participating/organising a Junior/junior & Adult event

1. It provides the parents/guardians with confidence in the integrity of the organiser
2. It is only a matter of time before either an innocent organiser is wrongfully challenged with potentially life changing effects
3. Or a dubious person slips through the net under the radar because of the lack of requirement and brings the whole situation down.
4. The cover of running charity events raising money for charity or a few good deeds can be extended and bring power which is abused.

Do we want this?

For me the answer is no and for that reason I have written to my MP on this very issue. If you agree and recognise the dangers do so too. We do not want the wrong people to get through and we do want DBS checked organisers for all junior/

vulnerable persons events without the fear of prosecution!”

As an aside it appears that a condition by the provider of the ECF’s insurance scheme for clubs and congresses would have required a risk assessment to be carried out. It may be that implementation of the new ECF Protection Policy will be sufficient.

In Scotland the scheme is known as PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups). Initially bodies in Scotland, including Chess Scotland, continued to seek PVG registration but this is now being reviewed.

Following “Arbiting Mistakes?” in the previous issue Tyson Mordue sent this.

“Thanks for the many interesting bits and pieces you contributed in the latest Arbiting Matters Too.

I was intrigued by the description of the Petrosian-Botvinnik incident. In Vasiliev's biography on Petrosian it is claimed that Petrosian was in the habit of putting a small tail on his figure sevens. Combined with the European trait of putting a horizontal bar across a figure seven this led Golombek at first to read Kf7 as Kf8, which is obviously an illegal move. Petrosian naturally objected, Golombek realised his error and corrected the move on the board. However, I find it difficult to believe that a player as professional as Botvinnik allowed this incident to "prey on his mind ... and contribute to his loss later in the week"! Nor does it sound like anything that, in my opinion, Botvinnik would say.

I have never heard any other comments about Petrosian's handwriting and even Korchnoi, a bitter personal enemy, has never said anything on the subject. I think this was a simple case of Golombek under pressure (opening and executing a sealed move at a World Championship) misunderstanding a Russian's handwriting then immediately accepting the explanation offered and correcting himself without any undue fuss, which was his usual way.”

Further research by Tyson produced this.

“Chess Notes 7146 (by Edward Winter—Ed) reiterates the Vasiliev passage which says ‘Undoubtedly the strongest, which unexpectedly called forth a protest from the opponent. Here Botvinnik turned to the match arbiter and claimed that White had sealed the impossible move 41 K-B8?? (into check!). This seems to be a contradiction because in the other article Botvinnik goes on to say he had requested a photocopy of the scoresheet which clearly he wouldn't have needed had he

seen the original!

I suppose the truth will never be known but your basic point stands. Players need to ensure sealed moves are legible and unambiguous.

I once had Steve Boniface pause over two sealed moves that he'd just opened in my games *in the same tournament*. The first, my opponent's, was written in longhand because it could have been construed as ambiguous in shorthand (two Rooks capable of going to the same square). The second, mine, had Steve's head bobbing back and forth between scoresheet and board as he tried to understand what was going on. When Steve finally played the move on the board my IM opponent's jaw literally dropped in shock. It was a winning Queen sacrifice.

Those were the days ...”

A very valid comment

In the World Cup at Baku 2015, personal pens and watches were banned from the tournament floor, which caused Roger de Coverly to ask on the ECFForum: **“Are they still using zero default times? It’s a double hit to demand that players be on time, but deny them the means to achieve this.”**

Peter JB Wilson † (b. July 1943 d. 16 Oct 2015)

It is with regret we record the death of International Arbiter Peter Wilson. Originally from the Midlands he is better known for his times in London and Guernsey. Peter had been involved in world chess as Chair of the FIDE Computer Chess Committee and the Commonwealth Chess Association. He received the ECF President’s Award in 2014.

He contracted cancer five years ago and as a result became less active.

He is survived by his wife Mary who is also an IA.

Still More Cheating

We all know to watch for mobile phones with chess engines running but now, following a tournament in Italy we have to add pendants to the list of items to be watched.

An Italian chess player, Arcangelo Ricciardi, has been expelled from the International Chess Festival of Imperia after he allegedly used Morse code and a pendant containing a hidden camera to communicate with an accomplice.

Suspicious were raised not just by his score but because he always had his arms folded with his thumb permanently under his armpit.

The arbiter attempted to expose Ricciardi by asking him to empty his pockets, but nothing was found. When he was asked to open his shirt, he refused.

Tournament organizers then asked the 37-year-old to pass through a metal detector and a pendant was found hanging around his neck underneath a shirt that contained a tiny video camera as well as a mass of wires attached to his body and a 4 cm box under his armpit.

Ricciardi claimed they were good luck charms.

It is thought the camera was used to transmit the chess game in real time to an accomplice or computer, which then suggested moves for Ricciardi through a series of signals received in the box under his arm.

It is believed that the box transmitted info in Morse code. The reason for thinking this that Ricciardi was apparently blinking in an unnatural way probably in time to the incoming message.

It is reported that Ricciardi constantly drank from a glass of water and wiped his face with a handkerchief to conceal the pendant around his neck.

An investigation has been opened by FIDE and the Italian Chess Federation, which is currently evaluating whether to press charges for sports fraud.

Pendants such as the one illustrated are available over the Internet.



Chess Vision

Currently the market for broadcasting live games is dominated by DGT. It requires a special board and set. This is an expensive way of getting the games onto the Internet. Monroi also has a system. This involves a player using a tablet to enter his moves. I believe only Hastings in Britain tried the system. Licencing costs mean that this is even more expensive than the DGT system.

Another system is being developed which has attracted FIDE interest. Although still in its infancy it has been used at events in Israel.



It is estimated that it will cost about £50 per system (one board). Normal chess sets are used and the game is recorded onto a smartphone which is held above the board.

The phone records the game. The image is converted into the normal computer display which is familiar to everyone. Software detects illegal moves.

In operation the smartphone screens are turned off and the devices password locked to prevent access to any other app loaded. Broadcast stops when the phone is touched.

One current downside is that clock times cannot be recognised and therefore displayed on the Internet broadcast. It is not clear how the camera/phone knows when the game has ended or how to record the result. An advantage is, as well as the cost factor, the manufacturer claims that set up will only take minutes.

Arbiting Mistakes?

This situation is slightly different in that the decision of the initial arbiter is clearly faulty.

The 2014 FIDE U16 Olympiad in Gyor, Hungary used the Sofia Rule that players were not allowed to agree draws in under 30 moves.

The instructions given by the Chief Arbiter to the other arbiters was that if a draw was agreed before 30 moves and it was not by repetition then the arbiter should order the game to continue. If one player refused that player would lose, if both players refused then the game would be recorded as 0-0.

However there was one game which was agreed drawn at move 28 and the match arbiter did not realise for several minutes that 30 moves had not been played. Clearly both players are at fault but so too is the arbiter. By the time the mistake was realised one player (Black) had left the tournament hall and could not be found immediately.

After several more minutes the team captain located the player and brought her back.

The Chief Arbiter decided that the game should continue, assuming that a further two moves would be made and the game would then be agreed drawn. Unfortunately for him Black managed to obtain a won position by move 30 and continued to win the game.

As Black had left the hall there is no way of knowing if the player had received advice from someone or had put the game into a computer.

There would have been nothing wrong with the player having received advice as it was thought that the game was complete. In those circumstances a comment by a friend such as "Why did you agree a draw 29. xxx was a clear win?" would not be inappropriate. If this is the case the player should have told the arbiter when she returned (though it would be understandable if a junior in that position was afraid that they might be penalised and therefore keep quiet).

Was the Chief Arbiter correct to order the game to continue? See page 15 for my opinion.

Over the Sea to Ireland

Without getting involved in Irish politics it seems appropriate to mention two incidents involving the Irish Chess Arbiters' Association. In both allegations of internal

politics have been made.

In the first case the Irish Chess Union refused to pass on to FIDE an FA norm. The information was therefore passed on to FIDE by the ICAA. The ICU rejected the norm as the arbiter had only been at 5 of the 9 rounds. Following on from Mongolian arbiters probably not even being at the tournament it is hardly surprising that arbiters must now be present at every round for a norm to be available. The arbiter concerned withdrew the contentious norm and replaced it with another.

The second is almost a mirror image. Here the ICU wanted to propose someone for the FIDE NA title. The ICCA expressed concerns stating that it was unwilling to recommend someone who was not an Irish National Arbiter. There may have been some confusion over the two different NA titles.

The two cases may be linked. They have certainly caused considerable ramifications within the ICU which readers can find on the Internet.

The New Phone and the Boss

An American chess player bought a new mobile phone. Before going into a tournament he texted his manager to say that he would be out of contact for 4 hours. The player then switched off his phone, or so he thought. During the game his phone went off and the player was defaulted.

The cause of the phone going off was a text from his boss in reply saying something like "No problem".

Comments on "Arbiting Mistakes?"

With hindsight the Chief Arbiter was probably wrong. The player may have had advice on how to win the game and therefore it is impossible to guarantee that the game proceeded under equal conditions for both players. However, I think most of us would have made the same decision if being presented with that situation for the first time. It is so easy to assume that the players simply make two non-moves and agree the draw and that the arbiter's error will go unnoticed. I've known of cases where one player thought the game was drawn and the opponent thought he had won. When this is discovered early enough the players have been ordered to resume the game. But is this fair and more importantly what is the option? In the case discussed the original draw could have been accepted and the situation explained. Once the game had resumed I don't think there was any option (unless cheating could be proved) of giving any result other than the Black win.

Your comments are welcome.



CAA Officials

Chairperson - Lara Barnes
 Secretary - Alan Ruffle
 Treasurer - Tony Corfe
 Chief Arbiter - Alex McFarlane
 Information officer - Alex McFarlane
 Committee - David Welch, Kevin Staveley and Neville Belinfante.
 ECF delegate - Neville Belinfante.
 Chess Scotland Delegate - Alex McFarlane
 Welsh Chess Union - Kevin Staveley
 Independent Examiner - Richard Jones

The above illustrates an additional reason why electronic devices should be banned from the playing hall. This picture was created on an I-pad by Dutch player Pia van Rossum at the Scottish International Open, Edinburgh 2015. I have no idea who the person in the CAA top is!



Unusual Use of Chess Pieces



This picture shows William Dieterle and Max Reinhardt, co-directors of the 1935 film version of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" playing what might appear to be a weird 3-D form of chess. In fact they are using the pieces to represent characters on a model of the set used in the film.

Items for inclusion in future issues should be sent to Alex McFarlane

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