

Arbiting Matters Too



Newsletter of the Chess Arbiters Association

July 2014 Issue 5

Apologies for this issue being slightly later than intended but the work involved in organising the Commonwealth Championships meant other things being relegated.

The ECF and Chess Scotland have issued and approved the CAA Guidelines on applying the new Laws with regard to mobile phones and other communicating devices (eg laptops). It now appears that although these changes only came into effect with the new Laws of Chess 1st July 2014 there is a move within FIDE to have the relevant parts of the Laws altered.

Congratulations

The CAA is delighted to see that founding members Stewart Reuben and Gerry Walsh have both been awarded recognition for Meritorious Long Service by FIDE. Both have been International Arbiters for over 35 years and have officiated at a number of FIDE events.



In Stewart's case his activity includes a World Championship Tournament (Moscow 2001/2), the Women's World Championship in 1997 and 5 Olympiads. Gerry's events include a number of junior world championships and four Olympiads.

The ECF applied to FIDE for both to be considered and, unusually in recent times, FIDE has accepted such a nomination.



The awards will be presented at the Arbiters' Commission Meeting held in Tromso, Norway on 7 August.

FIDE Proposals For Disciplinary Regulations

FIDE is intending to bring in a code of conduct for Licenced Arbiters. Comments please to either myself or David Sedgwick. Since this will be discussed at Tromso comments should

be made quickly please.

Disciplinary Regulations for Arbiters

Article I (Penalties)

1. In exercising his duties the Arbiter must comply with the relevant FIDE Laws of Chess, rules and regulations, the regulations of the tournament, circulars, directives and decisions of the Arbiters' Commissions and other bodies of each organizing authority, the provisions of this Regulation, as well as the principles of good faith, ethics and sports probity, good sportsmanship, fair play and morality. The Arbiter shall also show excellent sporting and social behaviour and ethics.

2. The Arbiter who acts in contradiction of the above commits a disciplinary offense and shall be disciplined. The disciplinary steps that will be applied will depend on the seriousness of the offense and the circumstances under which it was committed. The disciplinary steps may be a written reprimand, a temporary exclusion from serving in chess events (disqualification) and exclusion from lists of Arbiters of all categories. The disciplinary action shall be made upon written petition of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission.

3. Cases of disciplinary misconduct by the arbiters and their associated remedies shall be as follows: a. Impaired performance of tasks (written reprimand and/or disqualification up to 6 months).

b. Unjustified refusal to participate in a tournament for which he was appointed (written reprimand and/or disqualification up to 2 months).

c. The non-attendance of a game in which he had been assigned, or his coming after the start of the game, or his departure before the end of the game (written reprimand and/or disqualification for 1 to 3 months).

d. The participation in a tournament or a match, without the approval of the competent body (written reprimand and/or disqualification for 2 to 4 months).

e. Infringement (misinterpretation) of technical regulations of chess (disqualification up to 6 months).

f. Misrepresenting the score sheet, or the match protocol, or the report of the tournament (disqualification from 12 to 18 months).

g. Signing incorrect certificates of title results for players or/and arbiters of a tournament (disqualification up to 4 months).

h. Failure to comply With the provisions of the Tournament Regulations and with the Rules, instructions, circulars and decisions of the arbitration bodies (written reprimand or/and disqualification up to six months).

i. The oral or by acts abusive, indecent, inappropriate behaviour towards members of the governing bodies of all kinds of chess and arbitration, to the players, coaches, other persons involved in the games and the spectators (disqualification for 3 to 12 months). Also the brutal behaviour towards those persons (disqualification for 1 to 2 years).

(There doesn't appear to be a j)

k. Corruption, as well as the direct or indirect admission of benefits or privileges of any nature associated with the conduct of arbitration activity (disqualification of 1 to 2 years or deletion from the lists of Arbiters).

l. The oral or written expression of adverse judgments against members of the governing bodies of chess and arbitration, as well as his colleagues (written reprimand and/or disqualification up to 9 months).

m. Every action of his sporting or social life which causes a reduction of his prestige as an arbiter or constitutes defamation of the game of chess (disqualification from 2 years to deletion from the lists of Arbiters).

4. Relapse In case of committing a new disciplinary offense by the same Arbiter in the same season (infringement throughout recurrence), the new disciplinary misconduct penalty shall be increased.

5. Merge penalties. If the Arbiter has committed more than one disciplinary offense, the total penalty to be imposed shall be the greater penalty of the offenses and can be increased.

6. The body for disciplinary control of the Arbiters and actions against their misconduct is the FIDE Arbiters' Commission and its Disciplinary Sub-Committee.

7. When disciplinary action is needed, the Arbiter shall be kept under suspension until the final decision of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission. The Disciplinary Sub-Committee is entitled to take temporary measures.

8. The decision of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission will be issued, after calling the Arbiter to present his explanations, according to Article 3 below (Appeals Procedure).

9. The disciplinary penalty is issued by the FIDE Arbiters' Commission and is communicated to the Arbiter, to FIDE and to the Arbiter's Federation. Also it will be communicated to the relevant sports association and any local arbitration committee, if the decision concerns Arbiter involved in local tournaments.

10. The imposed penalty by the FIDE Arbiters' Commission may be appealed to the FIDE Presidential Board.

Article 2 (Disciplinary Sub-Committee)

1. Within the FIDE Arbiters' Commission a Disciplinary Sub-Committee is created. It consists of three members (one Chairman and two members) and two substitutes. Its members shall be International Arbiters of great experience, coming from different Federations and are appointed by the FIDE Arbiters' Commission. Their term coincides with the term of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission.

2. Appeals against decisions of Arbiters shall be first submitted and examined by the Appeals Committee of every tournament that is appointed before the start of that tournament.

The Disciplinary Sub-Committee of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission may accept/examine appeals against decisions of Arbiters in events that have not been designated Appeals Committee.

Cheating at Chess

Also to be discussed are proposals on preventing cheating at chess. The Arbiters' Commission has already spoken unfavourably on many of the proposals.

As they currently stand an event like the 4NCL would have to ban spectators from the playing area and also try to ensure that players could not meet spectators on their way to the toilet. Failure to achieve these targets would result in the event not being rated.

The proposals as worded simply could not be applied to any normal British event. This is quite a large document so I don't intend to reproduce it here.

There is no doubt that the objectives of the document are to be welcomed but it does contain some controversial proposals.

As well as those mentioned earlier there is also a proposal to use software to analyse a game and to decide on the probability that a chess engine has been used to give advice. There are two obvious concerns with this. The first is the situation where a player has prepared for an opponent with the help of a silicon friend. The game goes down the prepared lines. Will the player be accused—or convicted—of cheating. Even if one accepts the reliability of this software will it be good enough to spot the case of a player who uses a computer only two or three times during a game at critical positions?

The document specifies three types of measures dependant on the nature of the event.

Maximum protection

Organizers clearly and carefully designate areas for players (the “Playing Area”) and for spectators. Organizers and arbiters shall prevent getting any chess information from outside the “Playing Area”. Organizers shall try, in so much as possible and reasonable, to avoid contact between players and spectators. If possible provide separate refreshment/toilet/smoking areas for players and spectators.

- Arbiters should remind players of the existence of the new AC regulations.
- Tournaments that are found not to materially comply with AC requirements shall not be rated.
- Organizers and arbiters are encouraged to carry out regular screening tests via the FIDE Internet-based Game Screening Tool
- Integral application of Law 11.3.b. In case of breach, the arbiter shall take measure in accordance with article 12.9.f and forfeit the player.
- Additional security in the form of ACC-certified metal detectors/x-ray machines, scanners, electronic jamming devices, manned by qualified security staff, subject to applicable restrictions in each individual jurisdiction. Each tournament should adopt at least one measures from the ones listed in Annex D. The list is to be adjourned on a time-to-time basis by the ACC.
- Obligation to send in all tournament games in pgn format for screening (only recommended for Rapid and Blitz events).
- Tournament Director and all arbiters need to be “Anti-Cheating Educated”.

- Obligation to present the AC Form at least 4 weeks before the start of the tournament (or as otherwise specified in Paragraph 02 of then current FIDE Rating regulations).

Increased protection

The Committee recommends that the current wording of this paragraph be changed from “electronic means of communication” to “other device capable of processing or transmitting chess analysis”.

- Organizers clearly and carefully designate areas for players (the “Playing Area”) and for spectators. Organizers and arbiters shall prevent getting any chess information from outside the “Playing Area”. Organizers shall try, in so much as possible and reasonable, to avoid contact between players and spectators. If possible provide separate refreshment/toilet/smoking areas for players and spectators.

- Organizers are strongly encouraged to provide for secure storage facilities for electronic devices.

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- Additional security in the form of metal detectors/x-ray machines, scanners, electronic jamming devices, manned by qualified security staff, subject to applicable restrictions in each individual jurisdiction. Each tournament should adopt at least one measure from the ones listed in Annex D. The list is to be adjourned on a time to time basis by the ACC.

- Obligation to send in norm-related tournament games in pgn format for screening.

- Recommendation to send all games in pgn for screening

- Tournament Director and 50% of all arbiters need to be “Anti-Cheating Educated”

- Obligation to present the AC Form at least 4 weeks before the start of the tournament (or as otherwise specified in Paragraph 02 of then current FIDE Rating regulations);

- Law 11.3.b will be adopted in a milder version to take account of the circumstance that many amateur players will take part in a tournament after work or other social activities. It may become inconvenient or impossible for them to leave all devices out of the playing venue. The ACC therefore recommends to adopt the following rule5:

“In tournaments open to amateur players, the prohibition to introduce electronic devices in the playing venue may, and indeed should be waived. However, under no circumstances a player shall be allowed to carry an electronic device, whether switched on or off, working or not, on his body during play. This includes, but is not limited to, carrying a device in a bag or in the pocket of a jacket. Any player found carrying such a device shall immediately be forfeited his game, with rating points calculated. A second offense during the same tournament shall imply an immediate ban from the tournament, with the player’s name forwarded to the ACC for further investigation.

Standard protection

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- Recommendation to use security equipment (1 item)
- Recommendation to send all available games in pgn for screening
- Tournament Director needs to be “Anti-Cheating Educated”
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arrying such a device shall immediately be forfeited his game, with rating points calculated. A second offence during the same tournament shall imply an immediate ban from the tournament, with the player's name forwarded to the ACC for further investigation.

Organizers of A and B-type events may liaise with the ACC with a view to finding adequate AC measures that are tailored to the tournament's size and budget. The ACC's decision following contact by the organizers is final.

Does an Arbiter Need to be Present for a FIDE Rated Event?

An interesting question. The following sounds like a made up story but is unfortunately true!

The Chess Scotland International Ratings Officer asked the FIDE Office if, following licencing, it was still allowed to have the arbiter 'off-site' for FIDE rated events. It is quite clear that this is not allowed for norm events but there were concerns that non-licenced team captains could be deemed to be acting as arbiters and therefore the event would not be rated.

The answer from the FIDE Office was that it was not allowed but that they were copying in the Chairman of the Arbiters' Commission for confirmation. The IRO then had an email conversation with the Chairman which left him in no doubt that it was not allowed and that the 'solution' was to have each team captain licenced as a National Arbiter. Not only would this be a costly exercise but would have meant that the Chess Scotland policy in only applying for NA titles for those who were recognised as arbiters would need to change.

There then followed a discussion on the ECForum about the matter. Nick Faulks, the Secretary of the Rules Commission stated that it was possible and that Bermuda had its IRO licenced for that reason. The question was then asked of the Chairman of that Commission who initially replied that it was not allowed. He very quickly changed his opinion.

It looks like the matter will be settled once and for all at the Congress in Tromso in August where the matter has been put on the agenda.

Stewart Reuben, and I agree with him, has expressed the opinion that if no arbiter is present then a number of the Laws, particularly applying to mobile devices, cannot be applied. It then becomes a question as to whether these games are then

conducted under the Laws of Chess or not and can they therefore be rated. Some examples of problems that occur with no arbiter present are given in the next article.

No Arbiter Present—What happens?

With the number of league games played without an arbiter there are surprisingly few disputes. Unfortunately those that do arise can cause considerable problems.

Here are some from the current season. Opinions welcome.

A) A player with 18 seconds on his clock claims a draw on both grounds that opponent is not trying to win and cannot do so by normal means. The League controller (not a qualified arbiter) is there and says that the position is drawn. The opponent is far from happy and protests. The position is sent to experienced arbiters. As there was a mate in one on the board for the opponent they felt that the League Controllers decision was premature. The question then was whether a decision had been made which could not be appealed. The Management Committee met and decided that the 'real' arbiters decision should be the one to stand.

B) White claims a draw by repetition stating that his next move will create the repeated position. Neither player is in time trouble. At first it appears that the only dispute is whether the move was played before the draw was claimed or if it had correctly been written down but not played. Further investigation reveals that Black is also actually disputing whether this is the second or third occurrence of the position but does not have an up to date scoresheet. As this is an adjourned game no teammates of either player are present and other club members refuse to get involved. The White scoresheet shows the position repeating on consecutive moves.

As the players do not agree on anything the match was annulled and recorded as 0-0.

C) The following is almost unbelievable. A titled player (Black) is losing over the board to a strongish club player but is well up on the clock. With the position White K, N and P to Blacks K, N and 2 pawns, Black takes White's last pawn with his knight. As White makes the capture he drops the pawn. He picks it up, replaces it on its original square and removes his own knight from the board! He stops his clock and starts his opponent's. At this point White's clock shows 1 sec (Black 28

minutes).

Black correctly points out that an illegality has occurred and asks what should happen. The position immediately before the capture is reinstated by the captains (acting as arbiters) but Black claims that his opponent should reconstruct this on his own time. A 'discussion' takes place. It is eventually agreed that the reinstated position is the correct. Black then demands his extra two minutes (which he obviously needs!) As the clock is being reset, Black complains that his opponent has gained an advantage from the time delay. The reset clock is placed in position but the 'discussion' continues with black claiming that the punishment is not sufficient. Whilst this point is being debated Black restarts White's clock and claims the game. Black is told that the clocks can only be started when the players are both ready and that White will have one second on his clock. Black claims that White actually had less than one second as the one second had been showing for a fraction before the clock was stopped and insisted that he be given less than one second! On being told that 0 and 1 second was the only possible settings and that it would be the latter he refused to play on and claimed the game!

Had Black simply played on from the reinstated position there is no way that White would have been able to claim a draw before his flag fell.

As I write this no decision has been taken but Black has gone from a near certain win to a potential loss for refusing to continue the game.

D) Another 10.2. $K, R + P \vee K, N + P$. Eventually both pawns are taken off. And the game continues for what later transpires to be 17 moves. The player with the knight claims a draw at this point with 32 seconds on his clock. The opponent wants the win with his club needing the draw to tie the match. The argument here is that the player with the rook has been denied the opportunity to win.

PUNCH UP AT CHESS BOXING

If you think you've met some tough players then I doubt if you've encountered anything like the following—and if you have we want to hear about it.

The following is an incident which happened at a Chess-Boxing match in Exeter. The 'referee', who is a London based gold member of the ECF and had a 186 grade in 2006, but shall otherwise remain unidentified ignored the time-keeper's signal to end the chess round. There would seem to be some dispute as to whether the

time-keeper was correct or not as the referee claims that the times on the clock indicated that the round was not complete.

The time-keeper was allegedly so annoyed by the referee's actions that he walked round the ring and punched him on the chin. The referee suffered a broken jaw which had to be pinned in an operation.

The case ended up in court with the time-keeper claiming self-defence.

ECF and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks

The ECF has removed its need for arbiters to be DBS (formerly CRB) checked in order to be listed. As a result of this BCF arbiters will be allowed to transfer across on satisfactory completion of the current ECF arbiter's exam.

The change in policy is as a result of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. The relevant part of the Act restricts the scope of the 'vetting and barring' scheme for protecting vulnerable groups and makes changes to the system of criminal records checks .

Chess Scotland still requires arbiters to be PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) approved.

The Scottish system is superior to the English one in any case. The DBS is very much like a car's MOT, it shows the person was fit on the day of the 'test' only. The PVG system means that if you are registered with an organisation it will automatically be informed if there is a potential change in a persons suitability. The PVG is therefore for life rather than a one-off.

Taking Things Literally

There is a well known critic of arbiters who always complains that things should be in black and white and that arbiters should have no discretion. I wonder how he would react to the following situation.

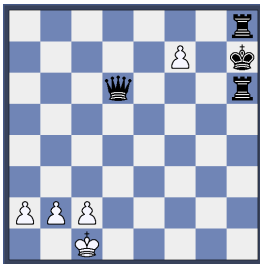
Consider the new 7.5a "If during a game it is found that an illegal move has been completed, the position immediately before the irregularity shall be reinstated. If the position immediately before the irregularity cannot be determined, the game shall continue from the last identifiable position prior to the irregularity. Articles 4.3 and 4.7 apply to the move replacing the illegal move. The game shall then continue from this reinstated position.

If the player has moved a pawn to the furthest distant rank, pressed the clock, but

not replaced the pawn with a new piece, the move is illegal. The pawn shall be replaced by a queen of the same colour as the pawn. “

The new part is designed to stop a player short of time gaining some extra thinking space by playing the pawn to the 8th but not promoting.

Consider the following situation. In the



position opposite, White plays f8 and immediately starts the opponent’s clock. An illegal move has been played. Law

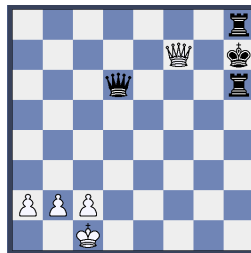
7.5a must be enforced. The first part says that the position immediately before the illegality must be returned. So we are back at the position in the diagram. The second part clarifies that this was illegal and goes on to say that the pawn must be replaced by a queen of the appropriate colour.

The pawn on the seventh is therefore replaced with a queen and mate is announced!!

Obviously this is not what the Law intends.

To be honest though, I’m not sure on exactly what should happen from the

wording given. Does the second part over-ride the first? If that is the case does the arbiter simply replace the pawn on the



8th with a queen or do we go back to the first position and insist that the player moves the pawn and promotes it to a queen?

My inclination is to go with the latter which seems more in keeping with the general principles of the rule. This would also mean more consistency with the arbiters actions if the pawn could not be promoted anyway e.g. the pawn cannot move without exposing the king to check.

CAA AGM

There is still no decision having been made on the date or location of the AGM. It proved impossible to hold at the 4NCL. It was also decided that holding it during the British in Aberystwyth was unlikely to attract many participants.

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

ahmcfarlane@yahoo.co.uk