

Report of the ECU Arbiters' Council

2021 annual report of ECU Arbiters' Council



Dear arbiters, dear friends,
We would like to present you on ECU Magazine an extract from materials we prepared for the ECU General Assembly in Slovenia, November 2021.

For details, please see
<https://arbiters.europechess.org/councils-meeting-materials/>

We wish you Happy New Year and a lot of success on a chess field, but not only!

Summary of 2021

>It was a challenging year, as we need to focus first half of the year for online activities, than second half of the year we need to switch to the OTB activities (with exception for EHY&JCC 2021)
>We need to create from the beginning program of teaching and certification of online/hybrid arbiters, to have arbiters prepared for new ECU needs
>We need to describe new standards of cooperation with Federations/Local organisers in case of hybrid competitions

How we see our mission?

>In front of ECU – advisory role regarding ECU Tournament Rules, consultation/decisive* role in case of arbiters appointments
>In front of Organisers – cooperation to have the event well prepared from the perspective of regulations and technical needs
>In front of society of Arbiters – to create and run the system of fair competition between arbiters about European appointments
* - 20% of arbiters for the event

Main challenges 2021

>Covid19 pandemic limited ECU activity regarding OTB tournaments at the beginning of the year
>FIDE published Online Chess Regulations and there was a need to adopt it on the ECU level, creating ECU Annex for Online Chess
>Based on above regulations and ECU experience from 2020, we created Online Arbiter and National Online Arbiter certification programs
>On the second half of the year we were come back to the OTB tournaments activity

Projects

>ECU Online Arbiter (OA) Certification program, three courses
>ECU National Online Arbiter (NOA) Certification program, one course
>Call of interest for ECU Hybrid World Cup qualification
>Online reporting procedure from ECU events, including GDPR consent
>FA Seminar in mixed format (on site and online the same time)

OTB appointments

>Nomination for the ECU events based on the evaluation of arbiters (decision of 2019 ECU GA Batumi, 20% arbiters appointed by ECU AC) - call of interest 2020, evaluation of arbiters (title, languages, technical skills, experience, seminars)
>16 arbiters appointed directly by ECU AC in 2021

Online/hybrid appointments

>Only arbiters with OA certification are proposed by the ECU AC to work as online arbiters during European online and hybrid events
>After 3 courses, 66 arbiters from 26 federations affiliated to ECU were certified; +5 arbiters from other countries

Problems

>Rules legislation process within FIDE (is difficult to follow FIDE rules changes, as attachments are not published after the FIDE Council meetings and changes are not underlined in FIDE handbook)
>Organisers are not following rules regarding appointments of arbiters according to their title or category (for example on the Continental level NA shall not be appointed*)
>GDPR collection – process explanation is needed;
* - it is only allowed in exceptional circumstances