

2024 annual report of ECU AC: Most important items

During the previous General Assembly of ECU (ECU GA) in Budapest, the ECU Arbiters Council (ECU AC) presented their annual report. Three proposals were also presented.

The first proposal concerned the number of foreign arbiters during ECU championships which can be appointed by the ECU AC. You will remember that the ECU GA of 2019 in Batumi approved the change of ECU Tournaments Regulations B.10.2.2. by which the ECU AC was able to appoint 20% of foreign arbiters during the ECU championships. During the past years all appointments which were made by the ECU AC were based on objective criteria. Therefore each year the ECU AC launched the Call of Interest by which every Fide Arbiter and International Arbiter in ECU was able to sign up for a position as match arbiter during an ECU competition ECU AC could guarantee that all the appointed arbiters were excellent arbiters, some of them with huge experience. Every arbiter who was appointed by the ECU AC proved to be an added value to the arbiters team of the championship.

During the past years there was always a very good cooperation between the ECU AC and the organizer of the ECU championship. For all those reasons the ECU AC proposed to make it possible that we could appoint 30% of the foreign arbiters during the ECU championships. During the General Assembly of ECU in Budapest (September 2024) this proposal has been unanimous approved.

The second proposal for the ECU GA concerned the definition of the tie-break "Direct Encounter". We suggested to amend this definition as written in Article B.6 of the European Chess Union Tournament Regulations. The reason for this proposal is that the definition that is currently given in the ECU Tournament Regulations is no longer in accordance with the definition presented in the FIDE Handbook and

given by the FIDE Endorsed Pairing Programs and, therefore, we suggested it to be amended. ECU GA approved our proposal.

The third proposal concerned the appointment of a fair play officer during the major ECU championships. There is no doubt that, during all World and European chess championships, fair play has become very important. Therefore ECU AC suggested that, for every major ECU championship, at least one fair play arbiter will be appointed. The fair play arbiter will not be included in the number of match arbiters during the championship. Also this proposal was approved by the ECU GA. Over the next few months, the ECU AC will work out the practicalities of this proposal.

Furthermore... This year, until now, the ECU AC appointed has appointed 25 arbiters. Among them were 6 female arbiters which is according to the 25% female arbiter regulation. We also appointed one arbiter responsible for fair play.

A detailed overview of all the arbiters who were appointed can be found on our website. In this overview all arbiters who were active during these events are listed and are classified by title and category (IA - FA/ A-B-C-D). It is possible to find in what event the arbiter was active, what position he/she had in that event and the number of events in which he/she was active. It is also possible to find the man/woman ratio and the local/foreign ratio. Furthermore, a report of each tournament with the arbiters also can be found.

At the end of last year ECU AC set up a new call of interest for all European FIDE Arbiters and International Arbiters in order to be appointed as arbiter during ECU championships in 2024. The system of points was based on the system which was already used in the previous years. ECU AC graded all applications giving points to

the arbiters. In that way we created 3 lists according to the given points: the open list, the female list and a list of arbiters who were not yet active during an ECU championship. Depending of the numbers of arbiters whom we could appoint, the arbiters were invited from each list alternately. We received 173 applications. After checking all of them, all 168 applications were accepted.

Finally... Just like in the previous years, the members of the council monthly wrote an article for the Arbiters Corner of the ECU Magazine. Every article which was published in the ECU Magazine was also published on our website. We invite all European arbiters to write an article which can be published in the ECU Magazine.

ECU AC would like to thank everyone who helped us succeed in all our goals this year. Our special thanks to the ECU Board who supported us in our work and in our goals. Without this very good cooperation this would not have been possible!

IA Geert Bailleul
Chairman of the ECU Arbiters' Council.

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