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## The Appeals Committee during the ECU Events

According to the General ECU Tournament Regulations (B.11), during every ECU Tournament there has to be an Appeals Committee (AC). The composition of the AC depends on the kind of tournament involved. In any case, the ECU President appoints the chairman of the AC. In addition, the AC consists of effective members and reserve members. It is also written that all members shall belong to different federations; non of the members shall belong to the chief arbiters federation.

Protests against the decision of the chief arbiter (CA) or his assistants must be submitted in written form to the Chairman of the appeals committee within one hour after completion of the respective game. The protest must be accompanied with the sum of 200 €. This deposit must be handed to the Chairman of the appeals committee. If the appeal is granted, the sum shall be returned immediately. If the appeal is refused, the deposit is forfeited to the European Chess Union.

So far for what is mentioned in the ECU regulations. Nothing is mentioned about the necessary qualification(s) of the chairman and of the members of the AC.

There is no doubt at all about the great importance of the Appeals Commission in all kind of tournaments because only they can overrule the decision of the chief arbiter. This is also why the designation of the members of the appeals committee is so important.

It doesn't happen very often that the AC has to take decisions during ECU tournaments, but at the moment an appeal will be submitted, the members must be able to handle the situation in the best possible way.

This means that they must have an excellent knowledge, not only of the Laws of Chess, but also about the Fair Play regulations and of course the specific regulations of the event.

Before writing this article, I have asked the opinion of some of the most experienced and respected arbiters in ECU. What qualifications does a chairman or member of AC need to have?

The CA of any major ECU tournament is, according to the ECU Tournament Regulations, always an International Arbiter Category A (IA-A) or Category B (IA-B). For this reason, there is a great unanimity between the experienced arbiters that it would be necessary that the chairman of the AC is preferably an IA-A, if possible with huge experience during ECU tournaments. The AC requires someone as chairman who possesses an expert-level understanding of the Laws of Chess and a thorough familiarity with competition regulations.

The advantage of such an experienced IA-A for sure will be that, prior to submitting an appeal, players will have the opportunity to consult with him.

### ECU Arbiters Council

The ECU Arbiters Council publishes monthly articles in the ECU E-Magazine.

Detailed information about the council and its activities can be found on the official website of the council:  
<https://arbiters.europechess.org/>

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*photo from  
European Club Cup  
2023, by Niki Riga*



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His explanations are not always solely based on instinct but will be rooted in the FIDE Laws and ECU regulations. This approach allows people to better comprehend with the CA's decisions. What about the members of the AC?

It could be a possibility that an individual with experience in organizing, coaching, or playing can serve as a member. Therefore, the AC (members) may include several specialists like one Grandmaster/ FST, a Fair Play Officer or an International Organiser.

In this case different points of view can be presented and considered. This persons should have strong listening skills and the ability to synthesize information effectively.

If a player would be appointed as a member in the Appeals Commission, in general it would be good that he/she has the higher title possible, because he/she probably has the better understanding of the regulations that are needed in order to take a fair decision. The aim should be also to ensure that the player's expertise is commensurate with the level of competition. For instance, a Grandmaster (GM) would be suitable for an individual European Chess Union (ECU) championship.

Finally, perhaps it could be considered that the AC would also be accessible for complaints about organisational issues (playing venue, hotel accommodation...etc).