

TEXT BY: Jirina Prokopova and Marco Biagioli

Call of Interest: How does it work.



The ECU Arbiters' Council came up with a new idea for appointing arbiters for official ECU Championships.

The first step was to create this possibility at all, so we proposed the idea to the ECU General Assembly and they gave us a green light. Next thing on the list was to have some interested people and a new piece of legislation based on which the candidates will be appointed. But how does it work exactly now?

First, we prepared a new regulation and we launched the Call of Interest based on it. We received 176 valid applications from titled arbiters from 40 federations. We are very happy to see that so many people wish to participate.

Last year 20 % would mean a little over 30 spots for arbiters from this pool of candidates since it only concerns foreign match arbiters or arbiters, not the principals.

Based on answers provided by arbiters in our online application we assigned points according to the new regulation. In this way we created a graded list from the arbiter with the highest number of points all the way to the arbiter with the lowest number of points. During this process, we also asked for the cooperation of the ECU Federations which were able to submit their remarks on the arbiters who applied.

Now simply once an event is coming up, we look at the top of the list for the first arbiter, who is interested to be appointed to this particular event. If there is more than one spot to be granted, we look for the next highest score with an interest of the same event. These names are sent to the organizer who has a right to send us their remarks. Then the spot is officially offered to the chosen arbiter who can then make arrangements.

In case he or she is no longer available for this tournament for serious reasons, it is also possible to decline and we just repeat the process. Unless they decline, their name is then crossed off from the list for the rest of the year and arbiters with lower score may get the opportunity to be appointed next time.

This whole process is happening two months prior to the event.

Almost 80 % of the arbiters can still be selected by the organizer, excluding the Principals, such as the Chief Arbiters and Deputies who are appointed by the ECU President. With our 20 % we would like to give a chance to those who are hopefully the most qualified for the job, as well as give an opportunity to those who didn't have much chance to prove themselves yet.

That may sound logical and right maybe even noble but it is not so easy to turn it into a reality.



Autors:
 Members of ECU
 Arbiters Council:
 Marco Biagioli and
 Jirina Prokopova



We are very well aware that we will never be able to create a completely fair system. That is just not possible, there are too many variables and viewpoints and so on. Everybody can have their own opinion on what is fair and we can argue about it. And we did. And at the end we agreed on some compromises.

Let us state just a few examples. We all want to have arbiters who know the Laws and Regulations perfectly, who are not afraid to act, who can resolve situations in a polite manner, who can behave properly and who can handle the clock with no troubles, etc. etc. But we cannot really test these things in the online application and we have no resources to do it otherwise. And how would we?

At least not until we have enough evaluations from tournaments, which is our long term goal. But you can still argue whether is it the right choice.

Is the person writing those evaluations able to observe everyone properly and judge them fairly? Does the person have the same “grading system” as another person at the next event? And, how hard is it to evaluate your colleagues and friends?

In any case it is good to have people with experience. So we decided to ask about their tournaments in the last two years. Of course we don’t know how they got there and whether they did their job well, but they were there and that is enough right now, don’t forget, we are only at the first step and the system can get better and better.

On the other hand some people can be very good at their job and just couldn’t show the world yet, because there are no such events in their federations and they don’t know any organizers. So they get at least something to start with.

.....

**WHAT ELSE IS
THERE?**

To be continued
in the next March
edition of the
ECU E-
Magazine...