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National Online Arbiter (NOA) Certification Course, April 12th - 13th

For a Course to be organised a minimum of 20 participants is needed and maximum number can be 30.

The application deadline is on April 8th and there are still available places, so make sure to register in time.

For almost one year, ECU and FIDE have turned to online chess as a means to continue chess activity. Many minor and major tournaments were organised, various formats were tested and a lot of experience gathered. In the beginning of 2021, several commissions put all of this experience together and published the FIDE Online Chess Regulations.
ECU soon followed and published the ECU Annex for Online Competitions.

However, publishing regulations is usually not enough. In the past months, the ECU Arbiters' Council has organised 3 successful seminars for International or FIDE Arbiters who wished to be trained as Online Arbiters and work in ECU events. The seminars consisted of both theory (explanation of regulations) and practice (familiarising with playing zones) and concluded in an exam on the final day.

After certifying 60 arbiters from 27 European federations and 5 arbiters from other continents (the full list can be found here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Pn5JLJxobvZp004BGycNsE2qqcfbNDvNP2t5NQ6A8fY/edit#gid=0) it is time to launch the National Online Arbiter Certification Course.

The Course addresses all arbiters who are licensed as NAs or higher and wish to be informed about
• the FIDE Laws of Chess (overview)
• the FIDE and ECU Regulations for online events
• Fair Play regulations
• the various Hosting Internet Platforms
• handling Video Conference Calls through Zoom
• using Slack as means of communication among arbiters
• Hybrid events

It will be organised in two days, April 12th and 13th, for 2.5 hours on each day, and will consist of lectures and various examples from practical experience. Regarding Hybrid events, the ECU Online Youth Championship will be presented as a model, where more than 700 players from 40 federations participated and were spread in 60 venues.
 After the Course, a certification from ECU will be given to attendants who fulfil the following criteria:
• Sufficient knowledge of English (conversational level)
• Sufficient skills to work on a personal computer (advanced user level)
• Sufficient knowledge of at least one platform for online chess
• Deep understanding of Fair Play principles for online chess

The language of the Course will be English, but there is a chance to organise it in the future in other languages (for example, Russian, Spanish, German and French), provided that a sufficient number of participants express their interest in advance. To register for the Course in English, you may click here.

If you wish to preregister for a future course in a different language, you may click here.
Detailed regulations for the seminar can be found here.
By attending the seminar you will be taught all you need to know about working in online events and will get a thorough view of the duties of an online arbiter. You will get acquainted with the different platforms and gain a good understanding of the Fair Play regulations.
Links related to the Article can be found within the Online version of Magazine.