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Application procedure for FIDE or International Arbiters

Arbiters who want to get an International Arbiters' title must first be registered as National Arbiters with FIDE, collect the necessary norms and complete the seminar. But how is the application procedure to FIDE?

The application process is described in the FIDE handbook B06.5. To do this, the applicant fills out the relevant form FA2 (or IA2) and sends it to the person responsible for his federation, who then forwards it to FIDE.

Since January 1, 2024, new international arbiters must also take part in a seminar. These seminars take place online in English and are offered by the FIDE Arbiters Commission.

You can see that many of the title applications are rejected by the FIDE Arbiters Commission. In some federations (e.g. Germany and Italy) applications are examined by the National Arbiters Commissions before being forwarded to FIDE. In some cases, stricter rules apply in Germany than at FIDE. For example, in Germany only International Arbiters are allowed to issue IA norms.

The three International Arbiters Nebojsa Baralic (SRB), Gerhard Bertagnolli (ITA) and Jens Wolter (GER) are responsible for examining title applications in the FIDE Arbiters Commission.

However, the aim of all federations should be to pay more attention to the quality of the title applications submitted. Common errors are:

- Only the current forms may be used for title norms after July 1, 2021.
- There is no need for a written assessment by the referee. However, the checkbox on the form must be checked that the arbiter has achieved the required performance.

- Title norms must be issued and signed by the chief arbiter or the organizer of the tournament (only if she or he has the title International Organizer) promptly after the tournament.
- You cannot issue a norm for yourself.
- The tournament must meet the requirements for an FA or IA norm.
- If you only have swiss system tournaments, there must be a tournament in which more than 100 players played in all rounds.
- It is not permitted to obtain two norms in tournaments that overlap in time (exception: tournaments last more than 30 days).
- A maximum of one Blitz or Rapid tournament is permitted.

Over 200 title applications were reviewed for the 1st FIDE Council Meeting 2024. The rate of rejected applications was 12%. After the application has been examined by the FIDE Arbiters Commission, the next FIDE Council or the next FIDE General Assembly will decide on the report of the FIDE Arbiters Commission and thus also the title applications. However, you will only receive the title of FIDE Arbiter or International Arbiter once the application has been published on the FIDE website for at least 60 days. Please help to increase the rate of successful title applications!

ECU Arbiters Council

ECU Arbiters Council publishes monthly articles in the ECU Magazine about their activities and actual arbiters' topics.

Detailed information can be found on the ECU Arbiters Council website:
<https://arbiters.europechess.org>