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Photo from FIDE Grand  
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## FLAG HAS FALLEN FOR THE RATING REGULATIONS

A few days ago, FIDE QC announced the release of a new set of regulations for ratings and titles, which will come into force from January 1st, 2022 (<https://www.fide.com/news/1438>).

The new regulations result from a very long revision work, carried out from 2020 and after many consultations worldwide.

Noticeably, these new regulations come after the pandemic, which hit chess tournaments a lot in terms of the activity being stuck for a long time, with unpredictable effects on the rating system itself. Therefore, albeit any new regulations are intended to last for a long term, QC informs that *“possibly, some short-term adjustments will be required”*.

In this article, we will try to highlight the most significant changes.

A general change, which reflects the new FIDE Charter, is that the regulations will not be approved and amended by the General Assembly anymore, since it has been approved by the Council, and they will come into force from the next January.

Consistently, has also been eliminated the clause that reserved the titles approval to the General Assembly and only in “clear cases” to the Council (former Presidential Board). Still, many years praxis had factually cancelled this exception and made it the rule. In the new regulations, it is just a duty of the Council.

### >Most important changes on Standard, Rapid and Blitz Rating Regulations (B.02)

The new Regulations better specifies the role of the National Rating Officer, being the one who, on behalf of a National Chess Federation, operates in FIDE Server.

Unfortunately, the opportunity has been lost to let other entities, such as Continents or affiliated bodies, to have their own Rating Officer, that would have been useful especially now, since with Hybrid Chess, Continents and affiliated bodies are more involved in the direct organisation of similar competitions.

The requirement for the arbiters to be licensed for the tournament to be rated has been eliminated from these Regulations, but the rule still stands, since it was moved to B.05 about Arbiters Regulations and licensing process.

Speaking about the actual administration, the deadline to pre-register a tournament passes from seven days to only three days (but this doesn't affect the need to pre-register 30 days before the start tournament, which are valid for norms since this is still stated in B.01).

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## Most important changes on Standard, Rapid and Blitz Rating Regulations (B.02)

The most significant change stands in article 1, since the minimal move control has been shortened to 30 moves instead of the previous 40, and the rating levels increased by 200 Elo points concerning their minimal time controls. In the QC intentions, this will help the organisers of tournaments with shorter time controls to submit their events for FIDE rating: with the new regulations, in fact, the 120' minimum time control applies only over 2400 Elo for at least one of the players, so that if the players are both up to 2399 Elo, the game can be rated even with a time control of 60' + 30'' bonus increment (being it 90' considering the game will last 60 moves).

The new minimum time controls are as following:

- Where at least one of the players in the game has a rating of 2400 or higher, each player must have a minimum of 120 minutes.
- Where at least one of the players in the game has a rating 1800 or higher, each player must have a minimum of 90 minutes.
- Where both of the players in the game are rated below 1800, each player must have a minimum of 60 minutes.

In the following table there is a comparison among the new and the old minimums with some examples of allowed time controls.

The most remarkable novelty concerns players rated between 2200 and 2399, whose new minimal is not anymore 120' for the overall game, but 90'.

As we will see also in the next chapter, about titles, all the time controls allowed for players rated more than 2400 are now also potentially valid for norms (including the 120' QPF!).

Big news also comes when about tournaments that last more than 30 days, which must now be submitted monthly for the rating without any previously allowed exceptions.

Time Control (min.)	Old rating group	New rating group	Examples (minimum)	Norms
60' overall	<1600	<1800	60' QPF 30' + 30'' bonus	No
90' overall	>1600	>1800	90' QPF 60' + 30'' bonus 30' / 40 moves + 30' + 30'' bonus	No
120' overall	>2200	>2400	120' QPF 90' + 30'' bonus 60' / 40 moves + 30' + 30'' bonus	Yes

New article 5 gives the possibility to disregard for rating purposes some games if Fair Play regulations require this, thus giving the opportunity not to count a game for rating if there was proof that one of the players cheated in it.

Another significant change comes with article 6, formerly dedicated to the composition of the tournament and now meant to regulate how matches are rated, and specifically to state that a match is not rated where a player is not rated and that games played after one player has won shall not be rated, unless this requirement has been waived by prior request.

The last news is that new article 9 states that the regulations of a rated event must make clear that it will be rated.

Aside from these points, articles have been reworded (in a few cases dramatically) to eliminate unnecessary sentences or make some points more straightforward. Still, the system hasn't changed in its global functioning.

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## Most important changes on Titles Regulations (B.01)

The noticeable change in title regulations is an evident simplification of the bureaucracy around it: the sixty days' time frame for the application to be published on the FIDE website has been shortened to 30, and now The Chief Arbiter has to produce only one certificate, which will be shipped to the Chess Federation where the tournament took place, which will take care of further communications.

But actually, the new wording opens up the possibility to see again the classical 2h/40 moves + 30' QPF time control in a norm tournament.

One big novelty is contained in article 1.5.6, which states that after June 30th, 2022, any title application will have to include at least one norm from an individual Swiss-system tournament, with every round containing at least forty participants whose average rating is at least 2000.

Finally, it is worth quoting that now tournaments shall submit the pgn's of the games, eventually for fair play checks, and only in case of team competitions or Swiss-system tournaments only for the games where the norm achiever played.

To conclude, the overall Rating and Titles system did not change, but some crucial amendments were carried out.

Our suggestion to the arbiters is to carefully read the new regulations and compare to the old ones to be aware and well-informed about the changes.

Furthermore, IT3 Tournament Report Form doesn't exist anymore since any required information can be found on the FIDE website.

On the other side, some technical requirements have been changed, like the minimal time, which is now, generically, 2 hours and the number of games necessary to achieve a norm, which is 27 anyways, despite eight games norms are still existing, that means 26 games norm plus a forfeit shouldn't be possible any longer. The minimal 2 hours-time is quite a big news since FIDE is now withdrawing from the previous position that an increment time control was compulsory to get a valid norm. The new regulations, in fact, let back the possibility to have a QPF time control, which seemed almost forgotten in the past.

