

**Proposal to amend the Tournament Rules, regarding the definition of the tie-break**  
**“Direct encounter”**

The Arbiters' Council hereby suggests to amend the definition of the tie-break “Direct encounter” as written in Article B.6 of the European Chess Union Tournament Regulations:

“Results of direct encounters between the tied players (If all the tied players have met each other)”

<https://www.europechess.org/regulations/tournament-regulations/general-tournament-regulations/b-6-scoring-and-tie-breaking-system/>

to:

*“Results of direct encounters between the tied players (if the tied participants have not played all the games against each other, but one of them will be alone at the top of the separate standings whatever the outcome of the missing games, that participant is ranked first among the tied participants – the same applies to the second rank when the first is assigned this way; and so on)”*

The reason for this proposal is to align with the definition given in Article C.07.6.3 of the FIDE Handbook, titled “C. General Rules and Technical Recommendations for Tournaments / 07. Tie-Break Regulations / 07. Tie-Break Regulations (effective from 1 August 2024)”, as approved by the FIDE Council on July 29th, 2024:

**6. Direct Encounter (DE) (Type A, i.e. multi-listable)**

**6.1** If some or all the tied participants have met each other, the sum of the scores from these encounters is used to produce separate standings, with the following caveats:

**6.1.1** forfeit wins or losses not covered by Article 15.2 are excluded unless the specific regulations of the tournament state otherwise - when included, forfeit wins or losses are equivalent to games played.

**6.1.2** contrary to the provisions of Article 4.4, if two participants have met more than once, the addend to be used by them in the aforementioned sum is the average score of these games.

**6.2** If all the tied participants have met each other, the separate standings determine all rankings among them, except for any further ties among any subset of them, for which Article 6 shall be reapplied until no further ties can be resolved.

**6.3** In Swiss tournaments, if the tied participants have not played all the games against each other, but one of them will be alone at the top of the separate standings whatever the outcome of the missing games, that participant is ranked first among the tied participants – the same applies to the second rank when the first is assigned this way; and so on.

Article 6 shall then be reapplied to all remaining unranked participants of this set.

<https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/TieBreakRegulations082024>

The definition that is currently given in the ECU Tournament Regulations is no longer in accordance with the definition given in the aforementioned document and the FIDE Endorsed Pairing Programs and, therefore, we suggest it to be amended.