



ECU Arbiters' Council Meeting

(Slovenia/ Terme Catez - November 12th 2021, 21:00)

Minutes.

1. Preface of the Chairman.

Presentation of the committee members: Mr. Tomasz Delega, chairman of the ECU Arbiters Council.

Welcome by Mr. Delega, chairman of ECU Arbiters Council, to all attendees.

Composition of the ECU Arbiters Council.

How is ECU Arbiters Council working (presentation on screen).

2. Annual report of the Arbiters' Council which will be submitted to the ECU General Assembly: Mr. Tomasz Delega, chairman of the ECU Arbiters Council.

Mr. Delega gives presentation with an overview of all activities of the council, the scope and the problems we faced, referring to the report made by the secretary.

General remark:

For all details of the points which were discussed during this meeting I would like to refer to the report of 2021 of the council at the end of these minutes.

All materials can be found on the ECU Arbiters Council website.

See annex A: Report of the ECU Arbiters Council in 2021.

3. Annual report of the arbiters' activity during ECU Events: Mr. Geert Bailleul, Secretary of ECU AC.

Overview of the reports with a difference between OTB tournaments and Online/Hybrid tournaments that have already been organized.

So 2 different reports were made.

Mr. Bailleul also gave an overview of the ratio of male/female arbiters and local/foreign arbiters.

4. Presentation of the Regulations for the appointments by ECU AC and GDPR collection status : Mr. Marco Biagioli.

Mr. Biagioli explained how the system works starting from the beginning in 2019 until now.

- Announcement
- Point system
- Invitations
- Composing the final list

He is convinced that the system will work better and better because every year evaluations will be included in this system.

5. Overview of the appointment of arbiters during ECU Events based on the "Call of Interest": Mr. Geert Bailleul, Secretary of ECU AC.

Mr. Bailleul gave an presentation in which he explained the practical way of appointing the arbiters for ECU Events.

He also explained the problems that have occurred.

Arbiters who work in European events are asked to fill in a GDPR consent form once.

Mr. Biagioli presented some problems that we faced concerning the collection of GDPR data.

Some problems which have occurred:

- Paper forms are not included in the database.
So arbiters have to consent again on an online form.
- Not all appointed and active arbiters have consented yet.

6. Presentation of the ECU AC Website and online evaluation system: Ms. Jirina Prokopova.

Ms. Prokopova gave an overview of what can be found on our website. She emphasized the possibility to subscribe on the news on the website. She also emphasized the importance of the evaluation forms, the tournament reports and arbiters reports.

Ms. Prokopova also explained how to fill in an evaluation report and grade the arbiters of an event according to their skills and performance. (She did this very clearly 😊)

7. Online Arbiters Certification Program: Ms. Tania Karali.

Ms. Karali presented an overview of all the online courses for online arbiters which were organized by ECU Arbiters Council and the topics which were covered during the courses.

8. Proposal of the ECU Arbiters Council to change ECU Tournament Regulations regarding direct encounter - to be submitted for ECU GA approval: Mr. Tomasz Delega, chairman of the ECU Arbiters Council (see Annex 1).

9. Discussion about the proposal of Mr. Marco Biagioli to change in the future ECU Tournament Regulations regarding Tie-Breaks (see Annex 2).

The majority of the attendants objected on Proposal 1 of Annex 2 and was in favour of Proposal 2 which will be discussed further in a future Council meeting.

10. Question of the attendees:

Some of the attendants asked questions regarding the Call of Interest and the point system.

Mr Goljovic suggested to amend the way of evaluating the languages spoken by the arbiters.

11. Closing of the meeting: Mr. Tomasz Delega, chairman of the ECU Arbiters Council.

Geert Bailleul
Secretary of the ECU Arbiters' Council

Tomasz Delaga
Chairman of the ECU Arbiters' Council.

Annex 1.

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.6.2 of the European Chess Union Tournament Rules, approved by the ECU General Assembly on the 25th of October, 2019, in Batumi, Georgia:

“(a) Results of direct encounters between the tied players (If all the tied players have met each other, the sum of points from these encounters is used. The player with the highest score is ranked number 1 and so on. If some but not all have played each other, the player with a score that could not be equalled by any other player (if all such games had been played) is ranked number 1 and so on.)”

<https://www.europechess.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/ECU-TR-2020.pdf>

to:

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

The reason of this proposal is to align with the definition given in Article C.02.3.15 of the document “Standards of Chess Equipment, venue for FIDE Tournaments, rate of play and tie-break regulations”, as approved by the 2018 FIDE General Assembly:

“Direct Encounter”

If all the tied players have met each other, the sum of points from these encounters is used. The player with the highest score is ranked number 1 and so on.”

<https://handbook.fide.com/files/handbook/C02Standards.pdf>

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

Annex 2.

Proposal to amend ECU Tournament Rules regarding tie breaks.

Current:

B.6. Scoring and tie-breaking system

B.6.1 The score in each game is 1 for a win, 1/2 for a draw and 0 for a lost game.

B.6.2 Tie-breaking in individual competitions.

The order of players that finish with the same number of points shall be determined by application of the following tie-breaking procedures in sequence, proceeding from (a) to (b) to (c) to (d) to (e) the extent required:

(a) Results of direct encounters between the tied players (If all the tied players have met each other, the sum of points from these encounters is used. The player with the highest score is ranked number 1 and so on. If some but not all have played each other, the player with a score that could not be equalled by any other player (if all such games had been played) is ranked number 1 and so on.),

(b) Buchholz Cut 1,

(c) Buchholz,

(d) The greater number of games played with black,

(e) The Greater number of wins

Proposal 1:

Reverse Buch Cut 1 and Buch so that the article will be worded as following:

(...)

(b) Buchholz,

(c) Buchholz Cut 1,

(...)

Explanation: the Buchholz system counts the sum of the opponents' scores in a particular tournament. In case there are BYES or unplayed games (for whatsoever reason) in a tournament, the current regulations provide the *virtual opponent* solution. The *virtual opponent* is a numerical system which creates a value to be summed as Buchholz contribution.

However, this value is artificial: having as first criterion Buchholz Cut 1 increases the impact of the virtual opponent (either, if it is the lowest contribution, either, if it is the highest), which is dome undesirable effect.

Reversing the order gives the priority to the system where the virtual opponent has the lesser value in the total sum.

Proposal 2:

Remove (d) the greater number of games played with black, and (e) the Greater number of wins and replace them with Sonneborn-Berger and ARO so that the article will be worded as following:

(...)

(d) Sonneborn-Berger,

(e) ARO.

Explanation: the current criteria "*greater number of black*" and "*greater number of wins*" are poor quality criteria to measure the best performance.

The overall idea of a tie-break is to put upper in a standing the one who gained a better performance.

That is not the case of the mentioned criteria, which make no sense in terms of "better performance".

The proposed new ones are based on results and opponents, thus ordering players according to an order that is effectively related to their performance during the tournament.

ANNEX A:

Full Report from ECU Arbiters' Council (ECU AC) to ECU General Assembly (2021)

Preface.

The biggest challenge for the ECU AC in 2021 was, without any doubt, the Covid 19 pandemic and its consequences for the organization of online and OTB tournaments, and for the education and retraining of arbiters.

On the one hand we wanted to create a new kind of arbiters title, the Online Arbiter, to ensure that online tournaments were organized in a professional way.

On the other hand we wanted to be well prepared in case OTB tournaments could be organized again.

That's why ECU AC organized two kind of courses: the ECU Online Arbiters Course and the ECU National Online Arbiters Course.

Subsequently, we discussed and restarted the "Call of Interest"- appointment procedure

1. First ECU AC Online Arbiters Course 2021.

ECU Arbiters Council organized 3 Online Arbiters Certification Courses.

As explained in the preface, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, many online tournaments were organized in national federations as well as in ECU

ECU AC wanted to ensure that those tournaments were organized as good as possible, with arbiters who knew how to act during this kind of tournaments.

The course was for any FIDE Arbiter or International Arbiter who are interested in getting a "Certification of Online Arbiter".

For the European arbiters, the OA certification will be required to work as an arbiter during the ECU online tournaments.

The course was open also to all arbiters around the world who are interested to learn about online chess.

However note that no arbiters outside of the ECU will be appointed to online ECU events.

The lecturers were the ECU AC members Tania Karali, Marco Biagioli, Jirina Prokopova.

Alex Holowczak, Chief Arbiter of the FIDE Online Olympiad, was also one of the lecturers.

Welcome speeches were held by Tomek Delega (chairman of the ECU AC) and Geert Bailleul (secretary of the ECU AC)

The following topics were covered:

- ✚ **Online chess and fair play regulations (two hours).**
- ✚ **The platforms and zoom management (two hours) .**
- ✚ **Online chess tournament for arbiters (two hours).**
- ✚ **The exam, theory and practice (two hours).**

85 arbiters attended to the course of which some of them repeated.
66 arbiters successfully passed the exam and received the “ECA Online Arbiter Certification”.

So after the 3 courses, ECU AC created a group of 66 arbiters who are able to organize and run an online tournament in a professional way.

This ensures that all ECU online tournaments can be organized as they should be organized.

This should be a reassuring finding for the ECU Board.

2. ECU Magazine Arbiters’ Corner.

Every month one of the members of the ECU AC has written an article which has been published in the Arbiters’ Corner of the ECU E-Magazine.

Names of the authors (ECU AC members):

Tomasz Delega, Jirina Prokopova, Marco Biagioli, Tania Karali and Geert Bailleul.

Authors, non members of ECU AC:

Prodromos Gerontopoulos.

Some of the topics which were discussed in the articles:

- ✚ The National Arbiters course.
- ✚ OTB tournaments against Online tournaments.
- ✚ Arbiters issues during tournaments in Belgium.
- ✚ Chess tournaments and languages.
- ✚ Hybrid tournaments.
- ✚ Post Covid appointments for ECU Events

3. Appointment of arbiters for ECU Events based on the “Call of Interest”-list.

At last, after more than one “Covid”-year the ECU AC was able to appoint arbiters for the ECU Events.

This was approved by the ECU GA in 2019.

The appointments were based on the list that was made after the “Call of Interest” at the beginning of 2020.

ECU AC decided to use the same list for 2021 without any adjustments.

Adjustments and upgrades on the list were not necessary because no OTB tournaments were organized in 2020 since, at the beginning of 2020, we finalized the list.

The procedure of appointment remained the same for all ECU Events this year.

The arbiters who we appoint receive an email with all information concerning the tournament.

The arbiters who are the highest on the list are appointed first.

They are asked to reply within a few days.

Some arbiters were already appointed for ECU Events at the beginning of last year.

They even bought already their flight tickets.

Unfortunately, as mentioned before, due to Covid 19 these tournaments were cancelled.

ECU Arbiters Council decided to invite these arbiters first for the tournaments in 2021.

The ECU AC also decided that arbiters who declined twice will not be appointed anymore.

A few colleagues already have been appointed.

The appointments were all approved by the organizer as well as by ECU:

- ✚ European Individual Chess Championship in Reykjavic (Iceland): Argiris Kitharidis (GRE) and Donatas Vaznonis (LTU).
- ✚ European Senior Team Chess Championship in Prague (Czech Republic): Arild Rimestad (DEN).
- ✚ European Chess Club Cup in Ohrid (North Macedonia): Almog Burstein (ISR) and Olexandre Prohorov (UKR).
- ✚ European Senior Chess Championship in Budoni (Italy): Alon Shulman (ISR).
- ✚ European Team Chess Championship in Terme Catez (Slovenia): Gerhard Bertagnolli (ITA), Alexandra Dimitrijevic (SRB) and Dario Marinello (ITA).

ECU Arbiters Council appointed also one arbiter for the European Individual Women Championship in Iasi (Romania).

However, due to the ECU Covid 19 protocol, this arbiter wasn't able to go to Romania.

Because this was the first OTB tournament in more than one and a half year, ECU didn't want to take any risks concerning the health of the players.

So, at the very last moment (the tournament had already started) the arbiter had to decline.

4. ECU Arbiters' Council Annual report 2021 – Arbiters reports of ECU Events in 2020.

The Secretary of ECU AC made an annual report of all the ECU Events in 2021.

In this reports all arbiters who were active during these events are listed and are classified by classification (IA – FA/ A – B – C – D).

It is possible to find in what event the arbiter was active, what position he/she had in that event and the number of events in which he/she was active.

It is also possible to find the man/woman ratio and the local/foreign ratio.

Two reports were made: one for online and hybrid events, and one for OTB events.

5. ECU Arbiters' Council Online evaluation forms.

All evaluations forms are now available online.

Also the possibility has been foreseen that any other arbiter present at an event can send us their remarks on the performance of the Chief Arbiter.

The evaluation is a part of our regulations for appointments and will be used for the next “Call of Interest”.

6. ECU AC National Online Arbiters Course.

ECU AC also wanted to educate and train National Arbiter in case they were needed for Hybrid tournaments.

It is very important that National Arbiters also know what to do during online/hybrid tournaments.

That's why, on April 12th and 13th, ECU AC organised a National Online Arbiters Course.

25 National Arbiters attended to the course: 5 of them were IAs, 4 were FAs and 16 were NAs.

They all received the ECU NOA-certificate.

The lecturers were the ECU AC members Tania Karali, Marco Biagioli, Jirina Prokopova and Geert Bailleul.

The following topics were covered:

- ✚ Overview of the FIDE Laws of Chess
- ✚ Online Chess and Fair play Regulations
- ✚ Overview of online chess platforms
- ✚ Zoom and Slack management
- ✚ Preparation for Hybrid events
- ✚ Running a Hybrid event

7. FIDE Arbiters Seminar.

On November 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th ECU Arbiters Council will organize a FIDE Arbiters Seminar.

The lecturer will be IA Jirina Prokopova.

Assistant lecturer was IA Tania Karali.

Both are members of the ECU Arbiters Council.

8. ECU Arbiters Council meeting.

On November 12th ECU AC organized a meeting (in Slovenia) to inform ECU arbiters about our work during the past year.

The agenda of the meeting can be found in annex 1

9. GDPR.

The ECU AC faced some problems collecting and processing data from GDPR forms received from arbiters.

As some forms were collected as a scan of signed printout and some electronically via ECU AC website and signed using token, the data was inconsistent.

We received also some remarks from arbiters about the procedure of generating the tokens, as it was not clear what the idea is.

It was decided that in the future we will collect only the forms submitted via ECU AC website and the procedure of the token used to sign the form will be explained to the arbiters more precisely.

10. Worth to mention:

- ✚ ECU AC prepared proposals for ECU Tournament Regulations amendments. These proposals can be found in the agenda of the ECU AC meeting in Slovenia (see annex 1).
- ✚ ECU AC had meeting to discuss and prepare future online ECU events. We wanted to be fully prepared to organize online events so that those events could be organized in a professional way. We discussed all possible issues.
- ✚ ECU AC organised an “ECU Call of Interests” for ECU Hybrid World Cup qualification.
- ✚ ECU AC prepared “[Arbiter Appointments Guidelines for ECU Organizers](#)”. We want to ensure that ECU events will be led by the most experienced and highest qualified arbiters.

- ✚ ECU AC was active supporting the organisation of ECU Online and Hybrid events, preparing presentations and presenting technical requirements. We gave all kind of advice to organizers concerning possible issues that might occur in all possible fields.
- ✚ All arbiters can order the ECU outfit for arbiters using the form available on the ECU AC website
- ✚ ECU AC prepared the “ECU Annex for Online Chess Competitions” after FIDE published online regulations. Considering the fact that ECU AC wanted to be fully prepared to make sure that online events were organized and led in a professional way by arbiters and organizers, we prepared this document. The document was based on the FIDE Online Regulations.
- ✚ During the European Team Chess Championship a non linear detector will be used as part of anti-cheating. The detector is very easy to use. It is a highly sensitive device. The only more or less negative remark is the weight. It's quit heavy compared with other detectors.

Conclusion...

2021 was a very challenging year for the ECU AC.

Due to Covid 19 pandemic many new challenges occurred.

We did our very best to accept these challenges and to make sure that new and necessary projects were launched.

It was a pleasure and an honour to work together so well with all the council members and with everyone who wants to best for chess in general and for chess in ECU.

ECU AC would like to thank everyone who helped us succeed in all our goals this year.

Without this very good cooperation this would not have been possible!

On behalf of the ECU Arbiters' Council...

Geert Bailleul
Secretary

Tomasz Delega
Chairman