SYSTEM OF APPOINTMENT OF THE ARBITERS IN OFFICIAL ECU CHAMPIONSHIPS

PREAMBLE

One of the responsibilities of the ECU Arbiters' Council is to train, manage and appoint European arbiters to Championships organised under the auspices of the European Chess Union.

We seek to create a system that will:

1. Provide equal opportunity for all qualified European arbiters to be appointed to an ECU Championship.
2. Improve the quality of arbiters working at ECU Championships.
3. Promote gender equality and rotation.

To achieve this goal, we propose a ranking methodology for European arbiters who are qualified and interested in being selected for the appointments.

The purpose of this document is to define a point system, based on each arbiter's skills and experience, which will resolve a ranking of applicants each year.

In addition to the ranking, the system should motivate arbiters to:

- Gain experience as arbiters.
- Continue their professional development.
- Master new tools and skills.
- Study more foreign languages.

SECTION I – GENERAL

1. The following rules are approved according to ECU Rulebook B.10 as amended in 2019 and 2024 ECU General Assemblies.
2. Only the ECU Arbiters' Council may amend the present Regulations.
3. As per decision of 2024 ECU General Assembly, the ECU Arbiters' Council will appoint directly 30% of the arbiters of any ECU official championships, other than the principals mentioned in ECU Rulebook B.10.2.1. The 30% appointed by the ECU Arbiters' Council shall be foreign arbiters not belonging to the hosting federation (see ECU Rulebook B.10.2.2).
4. Additionally, the ECU Arbiters' Council will appoint the Head of anti-cheating for the European Individual championships, the European Teams Championships, the European Youth Championships and the European Club Cup.
5. The ECU President has always the right to appoint the Chief Arbiter, the Deputy Chief Arbiter and any other needed position.

SECTION II – APPLICATIONS

6. The Arbiters' Council will appoint the arbiters from a list of applicants for positions on specific call of interest to be published every year not later than November 15th.
7. An additional entry may be added to include FIDE events where the ECU is required to appoint a number of arbiters.
8. Any qualified (FA or IA) arbiter, having a regular arbiter's license and registered under any Federation included in ECU Statute Annex 1 may apply for no more than five ECU official championship by submitting his application directly through the Arbiters' Council website (see https://arbiters.europechess.org/call-of-interest/).

In case of any website breakdown, the deadline for submission can be extended.

9. Applicants shall send the application forms not later than December 5th of every year. Applications received after the abovementioned deadline will be disregarded.
10. In case of extraordinary changes in the ECU official calendar, if the new term does not suit to the appointed arbiter, the appointed arbiter shall have the right to move his appointment to another tournament agreed with the Arbiters' Council.
    Only in extraordinary cases, The Arbiters' Council might open one extraordinary call of interests.

SECTION III – APPLICANTS LIST

11. After the deadline has expired, the Arbiters' Council will publish the list of the applicants in its website within December 10th of any year.
12. Any National Federation can send to the Arbiters' Council, to its e-mail address ecuarbiterscouncil@gmail.com, remarks on the opportunity to appoint the applicant arbiters (with specific reasons in case of negative statements), not later than December 20th of any year.
    Remarks received after the abovementioned deadline will be disregarded.
13. Every sending Federation can only submit remarks on arbiters who are registered under that Federation at the publication of the list of the applicants.
14. Such remarks are not binding for the Arbiters' Council.

SECTION IV – GRADING

15. To choose the arbiters, the Arbiters' Council will prepare three different lists graded on points allotted according to the following criteria and the grading table in appendix I.
16. A fourth list to appoint the Head of Anticheating will be created and graded according to the grading table in appendix II.
17. Anyway, applicants who don't meet basic requirements or are suspended will be straight excluded before the list is published.
18. The Arbiters' Council may, by unanimity of its members, exclude an application if the applicant is believed to be untrustful or unsuitable for the position. In such case, the decision shall be notified to the applicant, who may apply for review within five days. Requests for review received after the abovementioned deadline will be disregarded.
19. The Arbiters' Council will compile one general list (*"the open list"*), one subsidiary list including only female arbiters (*"the women list"*), a second subsidiary list including only arbiters who had never officiated in European or World championships (*"the newbies list"*), and another list (*"the anticheating list"*) including all the arbiters who declared to be interested in the Head of Anticheating position.

SECTION V – POINTS FOR THE ROLE OF MATCH ARBITER

20. To grade the lists, arbiters receive points according to their title and classification.
21. To grade the lists, arbiters receive points according to their skills on endorsed pairing programmes and the use of live boards or anti-cheating tools if they can manage them.

22. To grade the lists, arbiters receive points for each ECU seminars or refreshing courses delivered through the ECU Training and Innovation Hub attended in the previous two years.
23. To grade the lists, arbiters receive points according to their previous experiences at Over the Board European or World level events in the previous two years.
24. To grade the lists, arbiters receive points according to their previous experiences in FIDE rated events where players' norms are achievable, considering only standard time control and a minimum of nine rounds, in the previous two years.
25. To grade the lists, arbiters receive points for their capability to speak English.
    For the purposes of the present Regulation:
    - An arbiter is considered to be advanced in English in case he can explain general and particular regulations, deal with a threefold repetition claim, give his decisions rationales, answer to players', captains' and chiefs of delegations' questions in a fluent a complete level.
    - An arbiter is considered to be basic in English in case he can intervene in a board if he is summoned and understand the players' requests.
26. Arbiters receive extra points if they speak additional languages, including their native ones, at least at a basic level.
    For the purposes of the present Regulation non-European or extinguished languages are disregarded.
27. The points given to the Arbiters are reduced in case they don't speak any English.
28. The points given to the Arbiters are reduced for each previous bad evaluation.

SECTION VI – POINTS FOR THE ROLE OF HEAD OF ANTICHEATING

29. To grade the lists, arbiters receive points according to their title and classification.
30. To grade the lists, arbiters receive points according to their skills on the use of the anti-cheating equipment, including the ability to read statistical analysis.
31. To grade the lists, arbiters receive points if the hold the certification of ECU anti-cheating arbiter.
32. To grade the lists, arbiters receive points according to their previous experiences at Over the Board European or World level events in the position of anti-cheating arbiter or head of the anti-cheating team.
33. To grade the lists, arbiters receive points for their capability to speak English.
    For the purposes of the present Regulation:
    - An arbiter is considered to be advanced in English in case he can explain general and particular regulations, give his decisions rationales, answer to players', captains' and chiefs of delegations' questions in a fluent a complete level.
    - An arbiter is considered to be basic in English in case he can intervene in a board if he is summoned and understand the players' requests.
34. Arbiters receive extra points if they speak additional languages, including their native ones, at least at a basic level.
    For the purposes of the present Regulation non-European or extinguished languages

are disregarded.

35. The points given to the Arbiters are reduced in case they don't speak any English.
36. The points given to the Arbiters are reduced for each previous bad evaluation.

SECTION VII – APPOINTING PROCEDURE

37. As soon as it is possible according to the appointments' schedule, the Arbiters' Council will start inviting the arbiters according to the lists compiled pursuant point 14 and 15.
38. In case the Arbiters' Council would appoint one arbiter, this shall belong to the open list. If the Arbiters' Council would appoint two arbiters, the second one shall belong to the women list. If the Arbiters' Council would appoint three arbiters, the third one shall belong to the newbies list. In case the Council can appoint more than three arbiters, the invitations will follow the same rotation as described above.
39. For women-only events the sequence of open and women would be reversed for any numbers of cycles.
40. In case of a refusal, the following invitations shall belong to the same list of the refuser.
41. In case the women list ends without finding anyone, who can accept the invitation, the following invitations shall belong to the newbies list.
42. In case the newbies list ends without finding anyone, who can accept the invitation, the following invitations shall belong to the open list.
43. When having the right number of invited arbiters willing to accept the invitation, the Arbiters' Council will send the list of the proposed arbiters to the organiser.
44. Within the following five days the organizer might send to the Arbiters' Council his remarks or objections on the proposed arbiters (with specific reasons in case of negative statements).
    Such remarks are not binding for the Arbiters' Council.
45. After having received and duly considered the remarks or after the deadline has expired, the Arbiters' Council will finally appoint the relevant number choosing from the top of the graded lists.
    Exceptions may be done in special cases (quotas, bad reports, investigations in progress).
46. In case the organizer sent any remark and the Arbiters' Council decides not to take it into consideration, the Council will send a brief explanation for its decisions.
47. The Arbiters' Council will not appoint arbiters from the organizing Federation.
    This doesn't prevent the organizer or the ECU Board to appoint arbiters from the organizing Federation.
48. At least two months before the starting date of the tournament, according to the ECU official calendar, the Arbiters' Council will ask the organizer to submit the list of the arbiters he invited in respect to ECU Rulebook B.10.4.
    This does not prevent the organizer to propose extra names or changes on his list even after the deadline in case of significant increase of the registered participants.
49. The organizers' list shall respect the ECU Rulebook regarding foreign arbiters, female quotas, arbiters' titles (national arbiters can be accepted as much as 10% of the total

number of match arbiters) and categories.

50. The organizers' list can be rejected in case it doesn't comply with ECU Rulebook. Exceptions can be done in some special cases.

SECTION VIII – FINAL DISPOSITIONS

51. The ECU Secretariat will advise the Arbiters' Council on the principals appointed by the ECU President for the tournament.
52. The Arbiters' Council will not appoint arbiters who made false statements in their application forms for the following two years starting from the one for which the false statement was made for.
53. The Arbiters' Council will collect information on the arbiters' performances from ECU technical delegate of the tournament.

APPENDIX I – POINTS TABLE FOR THE MATCH ARBITER POSITION

POINTS PER TITLE (MAX. 20)	IA-A IA-B IA-C IA-D FA	20 16 12 8 4
POINTS PER ENGLISH LANGUAGE (MAX. 3)	ADVANCED BASIC	3 1
POINTS PER ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES (MAX. 3)	5 OR MORE ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES 3-4 ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES 1-2 ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES	3 2 1
POINTS PER SKILLS (MAX. 5)	SOFTWARES (PER ANY, MAX. 3) LIVE BOARDS ANTI CHEATING TOOLS	3 1 1
POINTS PER WORLD OR CONTINENTAL EXPERIENCE (MAX. 25)	PER ANY TOURNAMENT AS C.A. AND D.C.A. PER ANY TOURNAMENT AS S.A. PER ANY TOURNAMENT AS OTHER ROLES	5 3 1
POINTS PER ANY OTHER EXPERIENCE IN FIDE RATED EVENTS (MAX. 9)	PER ANY TOURNAMENT AS C.A. PER ANY TOURNAMENT AS OTHER ROLES *only standard time control, with a minimum of 9 rounds, valid for players' norms*	3 1
POINTS PER ECU HUB SEMINARS (MAX. 6)	PER ANY SEMINARS BEING LECTURER	1 2
POINTS TOTAL (MAX.)		71
REDUCTIONS	NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS BAD EVALUATIONS OR REPRIMANDS FROM THE ARBITERS' COUNIL (PER TOURNAMENT)	-5 -4

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APPENDIX II – POINTS TABLE FOR THE HEAD OF ANTICHEATING POSITION

POINTS PER TITLE (MAX. 20)	IA-A IA-B IA-C IA-D FA-D	20 16 12 8 4
POINTS PER ENGLISH LANGUAGE (MAX. 3)	ADVANCED BASIC	3 1
POINTS PER ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES (MAX. 3)	5 OR MORE ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES 3-4 ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES 1-2 ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES	3 2 1
POINTS PER SKILLS (MAX. 5)	STATISTICAL ANALYSIS ADVANCED EQUIPMENT BASIC EQUIPMENT (HAND SCANNER ONLY)	3 2 1
POINTS PER WORLD OR CONTINENTAL EXPERIENCE (MAX. 15)	PER ANY TOURNAMENT AS HEAD PER ANY TOURNAMENT AS ANTI-CHEATING	3 1
ECU ANTICHEATING ARBITER CERTIFICATION (MAX. 5)	YES NO	5 0
POINTS TOTAL (MAX.)		51
REDUCTIONS	NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS BAD EVALUATIONS OR REPRIMANDS FROM THE ARBITERS' COUNIL (PER TOURNAMENT)	-3 -2

(*) Arbiters who never served in any over the board European or World Championships.

ECU System of appointment of the arbiters in official ECU Championships – Version 2026
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