



GENS UNA SUMUS

# FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES ÉCHECS

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## THE RULES COMMISSION

Subject: Rules Commission activities – Second half 2023  
**Report to the FIDE Council**

### Summary:

- 1) **Activities.**
  - 2) **Online Chess Regulations.**
  - 3) **Strategic projects.**
  - 4) **Updates.**
  - 5) **Cooperation.**
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- 1) In the second part of 2023 the Rules Commission worked on three different lines:
    - Urgent reviews: for regulations that urgently needed to be reviewed, especially regarding the Online Chess Regulation (see below);
    - Strategical reviews: long term projects which require long planning, mainly dedicated to renewing documents which are currently into force since many years and need to be updated but do not need immediate action or require a comprehensive work, meaning C.05 and Laws of Chess (see below);
    - Special documents: mostly dedicated to one particular event and required by the MB. These activities are normally proceeding through a “fast track” as they are suppose to come within a certain time, e.g. the guidelines developed for the World Cup.
  - 2) Online Chess Regulations: the Millennium Boards development has led to the need to create special regulations.

The original plan coming from the previous term was to implement a brand-new Regulations. However, it was lately decided to amend the Online Chess Regulations in order to have a global document including all cases where moves are transmitted by the Internet. The Rules Commission took the opportunity to clarify or better re-write some parts of the mentioned documents which needed to be improved.

This project was conducted quickly and successfully in cooperation with several commissions.
  - 3) The Rule Commission started two crucial strategic projects regarding the review of C.05 and the Laws of Chess.
    - C.05: a special sub-committee is currently working on deeply re-writing such document and the job is currently 50% done. Once the sub-committee will complete it, the document will be passed through the whole Commission session and then forwarded to the MB for approval and subsequent dispatchment. The

new document has been designed with the purpose to include also the use of new technologies (such as VAR) in the regulations as a new instrument for the arbiters;

- Laws of Chess: earlier in 2023 the Rules Commission established a sub-committee to examine proposals to adjust the current Laws of Chess, and significantly, to overhaul all aspects with regards to penalties. As the subcommittee went deeper into the job, they soon realised the Laws of Chess are hampered by a broader problem: they are structurally obsolete. The core of the Laws of Chess was written almost fifty years ago. Changes since that time have been implemented piece by piece, a process that has introduced numerous inconsistencies and contradictions within The Laws. This has led to situations that cause confusion among players and arbiters alike.

During a meeting of the Councillors held on September 6th, 2023, the Rules Commission agreed that to overcome this “*stalemate*” we need a comprehensive new approach — the Laws of Chess must be entirely rewritten from cover to cover to remove all inconsistencies and create a fresh new text. The Rule Commission hence proposed a project to the MB to write the new Laws of Chess from the beginning. The project is based on two working groups under the umbrella of the Rules Commission: the first will write the new text, the second will provide quality control. The idea is to have a first draft for the 2024 Congress and present to the audience in the Rules Commission public meeting, then gather feedback and finalise it, considering all the received feedback for presenting at the following 2025 General Assembly.

The two working groups are as follows: Stéphane Escafre (FRA), Marco Biagioli, Aris Marghetis (CAN), Ashot Vardapetyan (ARM), Nebojša Baralić (SRB), Sabrina de San Vicente (URU), Gopakumar Sudhakaran (IND), Alex Holowczak (ENG) for the re-writing group (which already held two meetings) and Stéphane Escafre (FRA), Mike Hoffpauir (USA), Gregor Johann (GER), Allan Herbert (BAR), Michal Krasenkow (POL) for the quality control group.

- 4) From previous running projects we must highlight the end of the “*translations*” project with the conclusion of the Laws of Chess Arabic translation and its integration in the Rules Commission website.
- 5) The Commission actively cooperates with the Arbiters Commission and other departments.

Regarding the Arbiters’ Manual, Marco Biagioli and Ashot Vardapetyan will cooperate with the ARB in creating the new Arbiters’ Manual.

Venice, dated today December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

*IA Stéphane Escafre, Chairman*  
*IA Marco Biagioli, Secretary*

