

# Pairing System for the ECU Teams' Events

## *Final Report of the subcommittee*

*established by 2017 ECU GA in Hersonissos, Crete, Greece*

According to the decision of the 2017 European Chess Union Congress held in Hersonissos, Crete, Greece (1-5 November 2017) a three person subcommittee (T. Delega, A. Burnstein and S. Logothetis) was established to deal with the matter of the pairing system for the ECU teams' events. The members of the subcommittee have made a several tests using the Swiss Manager program (the only one with Chess Olympiad pairing system implemented) and they concluded that to achieve a better pairings (more fair) we need a change the ranking of the teams for pairing purposes from current:

1. Match points
- 2. Game points**
3. Ranking number

to

1. Match points
- 2. Olympiad Sonnenborn-Berger**
3. Ranking number

(for details see ECU TR 2018 section M and FIDE Handbook section D.02 point 10)

The members of the subcommittee have discussed two options:

1. with the Olympiad Sonnenborn-Berger as a second criterion (as written above)
2. with the Ranking Number (starting number) as a second criterion, like in a normal individual swiss system.

The benefits of the first option is that the Olympiad Sonnenborn-Bergers shows a current strength of the teams during the competitions and we are using this as second tie-break criterion (after match points) for the final results. So finally this same tie-break criterion will be used for the pairing and for the final results.

The benefits of the second option is that this system is probably more understandable by a chess players, because is used in individual swiss tournaments. The ranking number of the team shows a strength of their highest FIDE-rated players, according to a number of the players composing a team.

Finally the members of the subcommittee have voted for one on the above option and a results was 2:1 in favor of option 1 (with the Olympiad Sonnenborn-Berger as a second criterion).

If the subcommittee proposal will be approved by the ECU GA, we recommend also to send request from ECU to FIDE to change their system for Chess Olympiad accordingly.

IA Tomasz Delega (POL)  
Chairman of the subcommittee