

Pairing System for the ECU Teams' Events

Report of ECU Arbiters' Council – January 2019

After several tests using the Swiss Manager pairing program, a three persons subcommittee established by 2017 ECU GA in Hersonissos (Crete, Greece) concluded, that there is a need for better pairings (more fair). The subcommittee has discussed two options as criterion for sorting the teams for pairing purposes in the groups, contains teams with this same number of the match points, the starting rank of the teams and the Olympiad Sonnenborg-Berger (OSB) and concluded, that in the team competitions OSB is better for sorting than starting rank.

Therefore we need a change the ranking of the teams for pairing purposes. This proposal was presented for Batumi GA (for details see report of the subcommittee), but the final decision was postponed till next ECU GA.

The new appointed ECU Arbiters' Council once again discussed the matter and after voting **support recommendation of the subcommittee** because of the following reasons:

The OSB is a sum of Sonnenborn-Berger points used in ECU Team Competitions as a tie-break, calculated as match points of each opponent, excluding the opponent who scored the lowest number of match points, multiplied by the number of board points scored against each opponent respectively. The highest number wins. (In case of two or more opponents with this same number of match points the lowest results of multiplication is excluded).

Using other words, the OSB is sum of multiplications, where each opponent's match score is multiplied by the team's game result against this opponent (excluding the opponent who scored the lowest number of match points). The benefits of the OSB is that it shows a current strength of the teams during the competitions. The idea behind this is to combine, in the first tiebreak, both the strength of the opponents and the number of game points scored against each one of them. The more game points scored against stronger opponents, the better for the team.

Currently we are using this as second tie-break criterion (after match points) for the final results, so, if approved by GA, this same tie-break criterion will be used for the pairings and for the final results. We will keep things simple and unified. Using many different systems leads to confusion (and protests). In this way we also give the teams a substantial incentive to win as many game points as possible in each match and thus not to be satisfied with the minimal win of 2.5:1.5.

Using current systems based on the game points (board points) caused many wrong pairings such as strong teams (in the same score group) playing with each other, while weak teams playing among themselves.

As it is logical that the FIDE and ECU pairing systems for team events should be absolutely the same, so we propose to send ECU GA decision to FIDE for further implementation. After all, we have the same players, same captains, same officials in all these events.

IA Geert Bailleul
Secretary of ECU Arbiters' Council

IA Tomasz Delega
Chairman of ECU Arbiters' Council