



Planning Successful Chess Projects



Chess in Education Portal

ECU Educational Commission
releases "Chess in Education Portal"

IN MEMORIAM Yuri Averbakh

100 years old legendary
Grandmaster Yuri Averbakh
passed away



European School Chess Champions 2022 crowned



In brief..

The European School Chess Championship 2022 took place from 20th-30th April in Rhodes. Twelve players are crowned as new European School Champions.

Mitropa Cup 2022 the traditional event for teams from Central Europe took place from 27th April - 8th May in Corti, France. French teams won historical double gold in both Open and Women's sections.

ECU Educational Commission releases a project "**Chess in Education Portal**" - a guide to creating chess projects.

ECU Circular Letter No.2/2022 was published with important information for ECU elections 2022, European Championships 2024 and open bids.

Grand Chess Tour 2022 series of events kicked off with Superbet Chess Classic in Bucharest, Romania.

ECU published the official regulations&invitation for **European Youth Chess Championship 2022** to be held in Antalya,Turkey from 5-15 November 2022

The official invitation for **the 44th Chess Olympiad in Chennai, India** has been published.

European Chess Union has its seat in Switzerland,
Address: Rainweidstrasse 2, CH-6333, Hunenberg
See, Switzerland .

European Chess Union is an independent
association founded in 1985 in Graz, Austria;
European Chess Union has 54 National Federation
Members;
Every year ECU organizes more than 20 prestigious
events and championships;

www.europechess.org
ecu.secretary.general@gmail.com

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European School Chess Champions 2022 crowned

The European School Chess Championship 2022 took place from 20th-30th April 2022 in “Rodos Palace” Hotel and Conference center, Rhodes, Greece.

200 children from 22 European federations participated in the Championship which was played in 6 age categories: U7, U9, U11, U13, U15 and U17, open and girls section separately.

The Closing Ceremony of the European School Chess Championship 2022 took place on 29th April in the evening. The Vice Governor of South Aegean Sea Region, Mr. Nikos, Nokolis, the Mayor of Rhodes Mr. Antonis Kabourakis, the General Consul of Turkey in Rhodes Mr. Mr. Mehmet Atif Şekercioğlu the ECU President Mr. Azmaiparashvili the ECU Secretary General Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou attended the award ceremony and gave the prizes to the winners.

The Winners are:

- U17 - Can Isik (TUR)**
- GU17 - Can Isil (TUR)**
- U15 - Andreev Konstantin (FIDE)**
- GU15 - Akat Elifnaz (TUR)**
- U13 - Morkunas Gustas (LTU)**
- GU13 - Kirtadze Anastasia (GEO)**
- U11 - Erdogmus Yagiz Kaan (TUR)**
- GU11 - Aydogan Arya (TUR)**
- U9 - Sason Noam (ISR)**
- GU9 - Veselow Zoe (ENG)**
- U7 - Jakhria Kushal (ENG)**
- GU7 - Sivanandan Bodhana (ENG)**



The best teams/federations (combined results) were awarded with special prizes. The team of Turkey won 1st place, England 2nd place and Georgian team was third.

The fair play prize awarded to the 7 years old Romanian Girl Cretescu Eliza who accepted to play at the 4th round while her opponent was late to the game due to the misunderstanding on the round time.

Final rankings and detailed report on European School Chess Championship 2022 can be found on the ECU Website.



The fair play prize awarded to the 7 years old Romanian Girl Cretescu Eliza who accepted to play at the 4th round while her opponent was late to the game due to the misunderstanding on the round time.

Rhodes Chess Festival

European School Chess Championship

European School Chess Championship 2022 was part of the Rhodes Chess Festival. Rhodes Chess Festival 2022 includes European School Chess Championship 2022, FIDE World Youth Blitz & Rapid Championships and International Open Tournament “Rhodes Easter Cup” and it will host more than 1000 participants.

France wins historical double gold at Mitropa Cup 2022

The 2022 Mitropa Chess Cup took place from 27th April – 8th May in Corti, Corsica France.

The traditional event for teams from Central Europe was played in 9 round-robin rounds within Open and Women's sections.

French teams won the historical double gold, winning both Mitropa Cup events. French team in the Open section scored convincing 16 match points to win the event, with Slovakia taking silver with 14 match points. Bronze came to Hungary scoring 13 match points.

A dramatic final round decided the Winner of the Women's section as France and Slovenia had a direct encounter in the round 9. A narrow 2.5-1.5 victory for France brought the Winning trophy to the team and a historical result. Slovenia came second with 12 match points, and Hungary claimed bronze with 11 match points thanks to the best board results compared to Italy and Slovakia who had the same scored and tied for bronze.



During the Mitropa Cup organised by the French Chess Federation and Corsican Chess League, under the auspices of ECU, the Jellysmack Labs hosted the Mitropa hybrid General Assembly and Board Meeting.

Final rankings, results and detailed report can be found on the ECU Website.



About the Mitropa Cup

The Mitropa Cup is the annual team chess tournament for national teams from Central Europe. The traditional team event this year brings together 10 nations competing against each other in an Open and a Women section on 4 boards each. Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland. The event commenced in 1976 in Innsbruck.

ECU CIRCULAR LETTER



Circular Letter No.2/2022

Dear Chess Friends,

The following valid nominations have been received within the deadline of the 6th May 2022, for the ECU Board elections 2022:

A – Ticket of Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili:
President:
Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili (GEO)
Deputy President:
Mrs. Dana Reizniece-Ozola (LAT)
Vice President:
Mr. Malcolm Pein. (ENG)
Vice President:
Mr. Gunnar Bjornsson (ISL)
Secretary General:
Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou (GRE)
Treasurer:
Mr. Ion-Serban Dobronauteanu (ROU)

B – Nominations for the 3 Vice Presidents to be elected individually:
Mr. Sarkhan Gashimov (AZE)
Mr. Geert Bailleul (BEL)
Mr. Alojzije Jankovic (CRO)
Mr. Javier Ochoa (ESP)
Mr. Jean Michel Rapaire (MNC)
Mr. Adrian Mikhalchishin (SLO)
Ms. Eva Repkova (SVK)

All the candidates were nominated by their National Chess Federations, but Mr. Adrian Mikhalchishin nominated by three (3) National Chess Federations of Armenia, Iceland, and Ukraine. All candidates are eligible to be elected for the European Chess Union Board.

After the request of the Asian Chess Federation, FIDE Council decided on 28th of April 2022 to allow Continental Assemblies to be held before or after the Chess Olympiad in Chennai. ECU examines the possibility the ECU General Assembly to be held in Europe prior to the Chess Olympiad and FIDE elections (within the period 20-23 July). The main and exceptional reasons are:
A. The high costs for ECU for the organization of the General Assembly in Chennai, India, exceed the budget item.
B. The representation of the European Chess Federations at the highest level (Presidents or permanent Delegates) when the General Assembly is held in Europe.
C. The access of bidders to the General Assembly (presentation of their bids) taking into account the extremely high cost of travel to India.
D. The Asian Chess Federation has already decided not to hold its General Assembly during the Chess Olympiad, which will be organized in Chennai, India.

The ECU Board, taking into account all aspects and after consultation with all interested parties, will inform in the coming days about the final venue and date of the General Assembly ECU in case something changes.

ECU General Assembly 2022

ECU General Assembly 2022 and the ECU elections should be held in Chennai, India on 6th of August 2022. Nomination process for the individual elections was announced this April with the deadline- Friday 6th of May 2022. ECU acknowledges that in case of emergency that seriously impedes the conduct of the Assembly in Chennai, the venue may be changed by ECU Board decision.



CL No.2/2022

>European Chess Championships 2024 >European Chess Championships 2023&2024 open for bids

2. European Chess Championships 2024

By the deadline of the 29th of April 2022, the following bids has been received:

2.1 European Senior Teams Chess Championship 2024:

- >Lignano, Sabbiadoro, Italy
- >Brezice, Terme, Catez, Slovenia

2.2. European Senior Individual Chess Championship 2024

- >Porec, Croatia,
- >Lignano, Sabbiadoro, Italy

2.3 European Amateur Chess Championship 2024

- >Zagreb, Croatia

2.4 European Youth Team Chess Championship 2024

- >Thessaloniki, Greece

2.5 European Women's 2024 & Youth Chess Championships 2026 (combined bid)

- >Rhodes, Greece

2.6 European School Chess Championship 2024

- >Porec, Croatia,
- >Limerick, Ireland,
- >Bellaria, Rimini, Italy,
- >Mamaia, Romania,
- >Brezice, Terme, Catez, Slovenia

2.7 The European Youth Chess Championship 2024 has already been awarded to Prague, Czech Republic

2.8. The European Corporate Chess Championship 2024 has already been awarded to Paris, France.

2.9 The European Youth & Rapid Chess Championship 2024 has already been awarded to Pardubice, Czech, Republic.

3. European Chess Championships 2023 & 2024 open for bids

3.1 – European Individual Chess Championship 2023 combined with European Club Cup 2024

3.2. – European Individual Chess Championship 2024 combined with European Team Chess Championship 2025.

3.3. European Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship 2023 and 2024

Bidding procedure

Detailed information about the ECU bidding procedure for ECU events in 2024 can be found on the ECU website.

The bids received by the deadline of 29th April 2022 have been published on the ECU website.

Superbet Chess Classic Romania 2022

The Superbet Chess Classic Romania, the first event of the 2022 Grand Chess Tour series, is played from 4th-15th May in Bucharest, Romania.

10 players participate in the event which will be played in 9 rounds, round robin system: Alireza Firouzja, Ian Nepomniachtchi, Levon Aronian, Richard Rapport, Fabiano Caruana, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Wesley So, Leinier Dominguez, Shakhriyar Mamedyarov and Bogdan-Daniel Deac.

After five played rounds, Wesley So emerged as the sole leader of the event scoring 3.5 points. He is followed by Levon Aronian, Bogdan-Daniel Deac and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave with 3 points, each.

The players had a well deserved resting day after 5 played rounds and the event continues with the 6th round on Wednesday, 11th May.

All the games start from 14:00 CET, and can be followed live through the Official website of the event.



The total prize fund of the event is 350.000\$ and the Winners will earn 12 Grand Chess Tour points. If the winner is decided without tiebreaks, he will get additional "bonus" Grand Chess Tour point.

The three players who score the most GCT Tour Points over the course of the 2022 season will become the 2022 GCT winners and will receive the bonus payment of 175.000\$ in total.



Wesley So in the sole lead after five played

Grand Chess Tour 2022 Superbet Chess Classic Romania 2022

The Superbet Chess Classic Romania, the first event of the 2022 Grand Chess Tour series, is played from 4th-15th May in Bucharest, Romania. The total prize fund of the event is 350.000\$ and the Winners will earn 12 or 13 Grand Chess Tour points, depending if the Winner is decided without or with tiebreaks.

The 44th Chess Olympiad will be held from 28th July - 10th August 2022 in Chennai, India. India will this summer host more than 2000 players from 200 countries who will participate in the event.



44th Chess Olympiad, Chennai, India

The 44th Chess Olympiad is the first ever to be held in India. The Olympiad venue will be Four Points by Sheraton Mahabalipuram Resort and Convention Centre. Transportation to the venue from the relevant hotels will be provided by the organizers.

The Chess Olympiad is open to all National Federations affiliated to FIDE, each of which can nominate one team for the open section and one for the women's section. Each team consists of four players, one reserve and one captain.

The event will be played in 11 rounds, swiss system.

The Chess Olympiad is open to all National Federations affiliated to FIDE, each of which can nominate one team for the open section and one for the women's section. Each team consists of four players, one reserve and one captain. The pairing system is described in "FIDE Olympiad Pairing Rules".

The time control shall be: 90 minutes for the first 40 moves, followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move starting from move 1.

Official invitation for the 44th Chess Olympiad can be found on the FIDE Website.

European Youth Chess Championship 2022

The European Youth Chess Championship 2022 will take place from 5th November (arrival day) – 15th November (departure day) in Antalya, Turkey.

The event will be played in 6 age categories: U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18, open and girls sections separately.

Each national federation, which is a member of the European Chess Union, can register one (1) invited player in each category – under 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 & 18 (boys and girls), with the maximum number of twelve invited players, and the unlimited number of extra players.

The registration deadline is 5th September 2022.

In European Youth Championship the board and lodging expenses from the official day of arrival to the breakfast of the day of departure shall be covered by the organising federation for (a) the 12 invited play designated by its federation, (b) the player(s) with a personal right, and (c) the chief of the delegation (captain), who must be a licensed FIDE Trainer.

The events will be played in 9 rounds, swiss system, with time control of 90 minutes for 40 moves plus 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from move one.

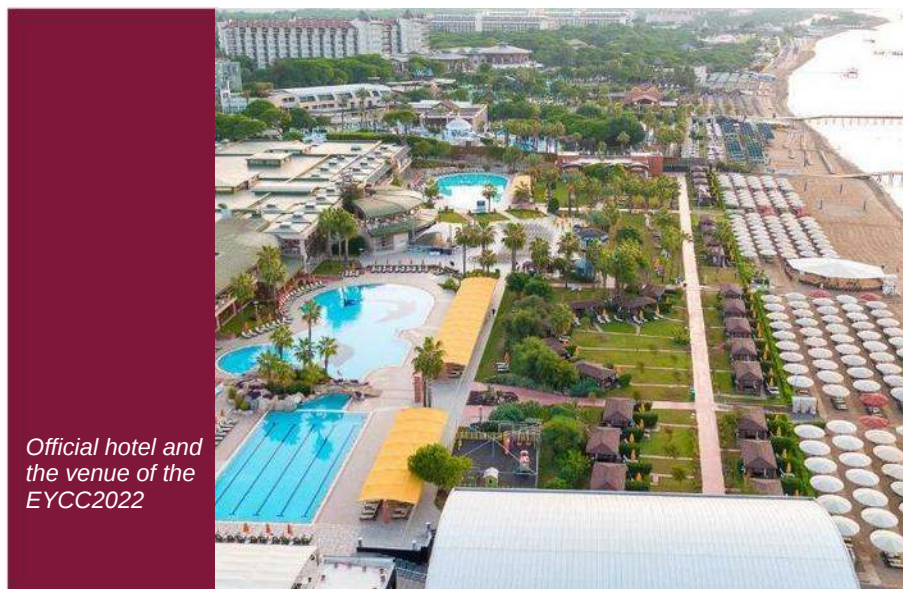


Légende Nemo enim ipsam voluptatem quia voluptas sit aspernatur.

The official venue of the event will be *****Pine Beach Hotel Convention Center, which as also the official hotel of the Championship altogether with *****Papillon Ayscha Hotel.

The first three players in each group will be awarded medals. The Winners of respective groups will become the European U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18 open and girls Champions. The best ranked six players of each group will be awarded medals and diplomas.

Official regulations, info bulletin and contact information can be found on the ECU Website.



Official hotel and the venue of the EYCC2022

#EYCC2022

Antalya, Turkey

The European Youth Chess Championship 2022 will take place from 5th – 15th November in Antalya, Turkey. The event will be played in 6 age categories: U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 & U18, open and girls sections separately, in 9 rounds, swiss system, with time control 90 minutes for 40 moves plus 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from move one.

Chess in Education Portal

ECU Educational Commission releases a project “Chess in Education Portal”.

The project has been developed since 2021 with the support of the FIDE Development fund.



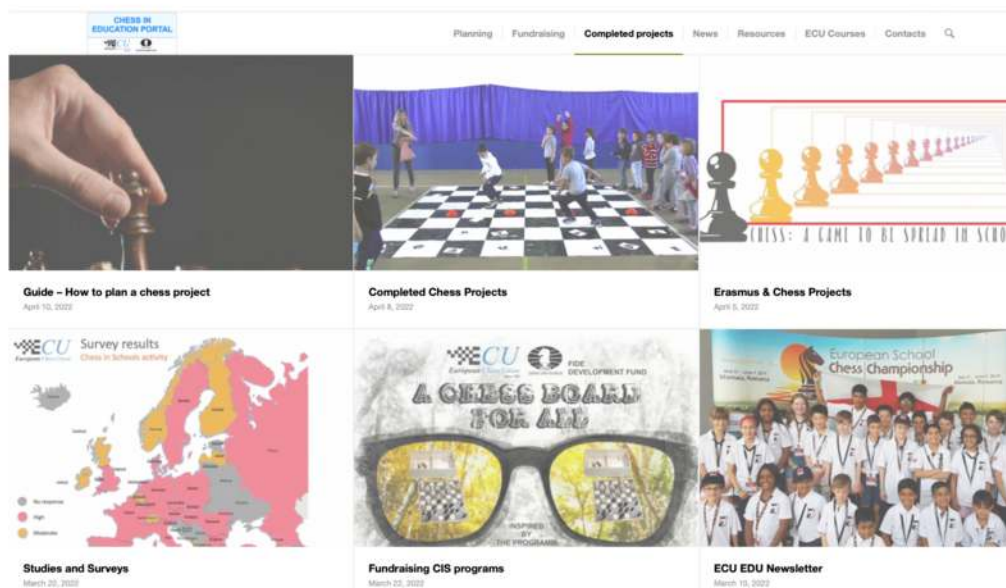
Planning Successful Chess Projects



The “Chess in Education Portal” is a guide to creating chess projects. Whether you are organizing a federation, chess club, chess-themed event, a competitive tournament or a school program, it takes considerable effort to ensure that a chess project is successful. To inspire you with what is possible, we have brought together a guide and descriptions of some chess projects in recent years which have made an impact.

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Chess in Education Portal:
<https://projects.europechess.org>



ECU101
The SMART Method to Teach Chess
 Training Course to **IMPROVE** your chess teaching skills

COURSE CONTENT

- ECU Education Commission
Chess in Schools (CIS) Survey
- Education Context
Levels of instruction
Managing Play
Games-based Learning
The ideal Chess Classroom
Lesson Structure
- First lesson delivery
- Tournament formats
- Mini-games
- Classroom rules
- Structured Thinking
Chess Thinking
- Method of questioning
- Method of repetition
- Scholastic Chess in Europe
Countries in practice
- Teaching Checkmate
- Chess language
- Planning
- Social formats
- The SMART Method
Self Learning
Motivation
Adjustment
Range of activities
Technology

Chess in Education
WWW.CHESSPLUS.NET

ECU101 – The SMART Method to Teach Chess

ECU 101 – The SMART Method to Teach Chess Seminar will take place Online on 11th and 12th June 2022.

Course information:

Course ID: ECU101
 Duration: 2 days
 Dates: 11-12 June 2022
 Time: Please note, all times are in London Time
 Day1 09.00 – 12.00
 13.00 – 16.00
 Day2 09.00 – 12.00
 13.00 – 16.00
 Language: English
 Fee: £150
 Early bird: (Register until the 1st of June 2022)
 Venue: on ZOOM
 Course Instructor: Jesper Hall / John Foley
 Contact: training@chessplus.net

It uses the SMART method developed by the professional ChessPlus team based upon years of practical experience supplemented by action research.

The course is suitable for teachers and tutors who want to make chess an exciting and educational experience for children. The course helps you to build up your teaching skills in chess so as to improve the general educational attainment of children. You can showcase this qualification on your CV and LinkedIn profile. The course qualifies towards Continuing Professional Development and is recognised across Europe by virtue of being accredited by the European Chess Union.

This Training Course is subsidised by the European Chess Union to members of national chess federations affiliated with ECU such that concessionary places will be provided for the following:
 a) Women applying individually from ECU federations
 b) ECU federation members of Small Nations and Development countries

Detailed information about the course and registration can be found on the ECU Website.

The ECU101 – The SMART Method to Teach Chess training course was designed by the leading chess educationists in Europe and is validated by the ECU Advisory Board which is an international academic panel with experts in disciplines from cognitive science and psychology to statistics and pedagogy. The certification was developed following the Declaration by the European Parliament on 15th March 2012 that Chess in Schools should be encouraged for educational purposes. The course is innovative in terms of content and delivery.

ECU101

The SMART Method to Teach Chess

The ECU101 - The SMART Method to Teach Chess course will take place from 11-12 June 2022, online. The course is subsidised by the ECU to members of national chess federations affiliated with ECU with concessionary places provided to:
 a) Women applying individually from ECU federations
 b) ECU federation members of Small Nations and Developing countries.

ECU EDU meeting for Chess in School programmes

The Chairman of ECU EDU Commission Mr. Jesper Bergmark Hall made a 3-day working visit to Finland from May 6 to 8.

On Friday, May 6, at the kind invitation of the President of the Finnish Chess Federation, Mr. Eetu Tiiva, Mr. Hall attended the GA meeting of the Federation.

Different possible solutions for further development of CiS in Finland were discussed and a future action plan was established.

On May 7 and 8, several meetings were organised with key people for Chess in School programmes in Finland, including a workshop in groups with the aim of obtaining a SWOT-analysis of CIS in Finland.

The working visit ended with a presentation, a short course, on how to teach chess when the goal is to develop social intellectual skills.

More information about ECU EDU Commission work can be found on the official website of the ECU EDU Commission.



The Reykjavik Open 2022 took place from 4th-12th April 2022 in Harpa Concert Hall of Iceland.

After 9 played rounds Praggnanandhaa R (IND, 2624) became the sole Winner of the event scoring 7.5 points.



Praggnanandhaa wins Reykjavik Open 2022

Praggnanandhaa won the intense last round game against his compatriot Gukesh D (IND, 2637) to leap on the top and win the tournament.

Four players tied for the second place with score of 7 points, each: Warmerdam Max (NED, 2599), Andersen Mads (DEN, 2582), Gretarsson Hjorvar Steinn (ISL, 2542), and Mishra Abhimanyu (USA, 2524). Tiebreaks criteria decided that Warmerdam Max takes silver and Andersen Mads was bronze.

Final results can be found on the ECU Website.

The Closing ceremony of the event took place after the end of the last round, taking place in the Reykjavik City Hall. ECU Vice President and President of Icelandic Chess Federation Gunnar Bjornsson took part in the awarding ceremony.

The Reykjavik Open 2022 was played in 9 rounds, Swiss system, with time control: 90 min for 40 moves + 30 minutes after move 40. Increment of 30 sec. for every move starting from move one. The total prize fund of the event was 11.500 EUR with 5.000 EUR reserved for the Winner.



Judit Polgar in Blankenberge

The annual Belgian Youth Chess Championship took place at the Floreal Hotel in Blankenberge from April 10 to 16, 2022. For a whole week, 346 children competed for the title of champion of Belgium in their respective age category.

For the side events of the tournament, the organizers had invited the real 'Beth Harmon', Judit Polgar, the strongest female chess player ever. The Hungarian became the youngest grandmaster ever at the age of 15 and always played at the top of the world, with an 8th place in the world ranking as her highest ranking. Since she quit competitive chess in 2014, the champion has been committed to promoting women's chess and school chess. She firmly believes that more girls would make it to the top if they were challenged more and did not limit their goals themselves to the desire to become "the best girl". She mainly denounces the difference in expectations that society places in boys and girls and she illustrated this by citing an example from education. Doesn't a teacher tend to ask the more difficult questions to boys and reserve the easier ones for the girls and the weaker students?

Since the World Chess Federation has chosen "Women and Chess" as its theme this year, this was an excellent opportunity for the organizers to invite Judit Polgar to the Belgian Youth Championship.

For Polgar's master class on Friday 15/04, the allowed number of 60 chess players was immediately reached and the simultaneous game held later. In the end, half of the girls competed against the Hungarian champion. Twenty-six girls lost, but 15-year-old Diana Musabayeva who plays in East Flanders at LSV-Chesspirant chess club, was able to hold the champion to a draw.

With one female participant out of six in the youth championship, the girls do not seem to have found their way to the chessboard yet, but this is already a big improvement over the field of participants thirty years ago, when only a handful of girls were counted in the championship. In the U20 category only Daria Vanduyfhuys from Ghent registered. Sterre Dauw won all his games in that category and may compete in August for the Belgian title in the adults series.

Yet this tournament teaches us that girls in chess should increase. If the number of participants respected the proportions in our society, you would probably not distinguish between boys and girls in the world of chess.

Final results can be found through the ECU Website.

Belgian Youth Chess Championship 2022

The annual Belgian Youth Chess Championship 2022 was held from April 10-16, at the Floreal Hotel in Blankenberge.

For a whole week, 346 children competed for the title of champion of Belgium in their respective age category.

Judit Polgar visited the tournament.

Queens' Online Chess Festival 2022

The Queens' Online Chess Festival 2022, a series of continental women's online blitz tournaments, starts on June 05, 2022.

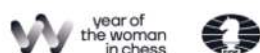
The event is organized by FIDE Commission for Women's Chess in cooperation with FIDE Events Commission, and is supported by the Asian Chess Federation, the African Chess Confederation, the European Chess Union, and the Confederation of Chess for Americas. Female players from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas will compete in the Continental Online Blitz Qualification Tournaments first, and those who qualify will advance to the Queens' Online Individual and Team Finals.

The festival welcomes all women chess players from around the world of all ages and all rating groups, including unrated chess fans.

To facilitate the registration process national federations are asked to appoint team captains and to send their contact details to queensfestival@fide.com. Registrations for the tournaments are made by the National Federations by filling this form and sending it to the organizers' email address: queensfestival@fide.com.

The deadline for registration: Friday, May 27, 2022 for America; Friday, June 03, 2022 for Africa & Asia; Friday, June 09, 2022 for Europe.

Presentation of the 2022 Queen Chess Festival and the regulations of events can be found on the ECU Website.



June 05-26, 2022

Queens' Online
Chess Festival 2022



June 05-26, 2022

Queens' Online
Chess Festival 2022

Individual and Team Blitz Tournaments



Text by:
IA Marco Biagioli



CALL OF DUTY

After over-the-board chess re-started, 2021 was definitely the year of the Calls of interests.

The European Chess Union Arbiters' Council relaunched the project, which started in 2019, of the Call of Interests for the 2022 European Championships.

Noticeably, FIDE Arbiters' Commission followed ECU in this pioneering idea and started a similar project. Both calls were launched in 2021 to be operational in 2022.

However, the similarities between the two end here.

Reading the relevant Regulations, many differences between the systems can be spotted. This article aims to underline them and try to understand their purposes.

The ECU based its Call of Interests on clear regulations and, most importantly, the criteria are numerical and expressed in the Regulations' appendix (you can find Regulations on the ECU website).

Thus, any arbiter participating in the Call can potentially reconstruct his final score when he applies, assigning himself the grades to his skills or experience.

In other words, the system is objective: if any arbiter is not in his correct position, it may depend only on a mistake in assigning grades. These mistakes are promptly corrected when claimed or spotted.

On the other side, FIDE Call of Interests works on a different system.

Given a questionnaire that doesn't focus on experience and skills but rather on wishes, the "profiles" are subjectively evaluated without specific regulations and numerical parameters (Regulations can be found on FIDE website)

The consequence is that the system is much more discretionary, and nobody, when participating, can know who and how will evaluate him.

In other words, the system is entirely unpredictable: if any arbiter is not in the position he expects, there is no way to check how and why his application has been graded.

Another critical difference is that ECU Call of Interests put all participants on a graded list. Then arbiters are invited to tournaments following this list from top to bottom: again, the system is objective and does not leave any space for discretion.

On the opposite, FIDE Call of Interests divides arbiters into some "baskets" marked by different colours. Any organiser can choose among these baskets, which means that belonging to a particular basket doesn't guarantee to the particular arbiter that he will be invited or not in the future. Still, it makes sure he will not be invited if he doesn't belong to the "right" panel.

Text by:

IA Marco Biagioli

International Arbiter - IA
Attorney at Law –
ITA Calendar Commission,
ECU Arbiters' Council,
MITROPA President

-> In conclusion, the systems work the opposite way.

The ECU Call of Interests works affirmatively, creating a list to invite arbiters to participate in a tournament where approximately the first thirty positions will almost probably receive an invitation (here depending on the number of available spots), whilst FIDE Call of Interests works negatively, meaning its purpose is to exclude some arbiters from senior positions, although they would have the requirements to cover them.

However, it is also true that ECU Call of Interests is entirely managed by the Arbiters' Council and intended to appoint Match Arbiters, whilst FIDE one aims to be used to appoint Principals, albeit the process is not autonomous as it involves many other organs (President, GSC, EVE and so on). On a side, this causes a possible clash of opinions about people to be appointed and Arbiters' Commission evaluations and, on the other, puts the Arbiters' Commission in a non-responsible position of the system.

But the most critical part is that, at the end, whilst ECU Call of Interest's main aim is to focus on quality and improve the global level of the arbiters, FIDE Call of Interest does not grant that such a purpose will be reached at all, since qualitative parameters in composing the "baskets" were not considered.

Another hard-to-understand outcome of the FIDE Call of Interest is the coordination of such "baskets" with arbiters' categories.

The panels' composition doesn't reflect the arbiters' categories, thus going, on one side, against them (putting arbiters of upper categories in lower positions) and depriving them of any meaning if arbiters of superior categories are not entitled to be appointed for tournaments their category would be suitable for.

Basing on some questions received by European Arbiters, the Arbiters' Council, in fact, sent an e-mail to FIDE Arbiters' Commission to understand on what criteria they based their evaluations.



Unfortunately, it got only vague answers and it wasn't possible to understand anything more. What it can finally be said about this short confrontation is that probably FIDE Call of Interests will need some adjustments in the future, as regarding the process, which leaves too much discretionary power to the compilers, finally hitting many arbiters without a specific reason and without the possibility for them to know why they were dropped and as regarding the coordination with categories, that is currently not granted.

**Text by: IA Marco Biagioli
(IA Attorney at Law – ITA Calendar
Commission, ECU Arbiters' Council,
MITROPA President)**

Arbiters Corner
April 2022

"Call of Duty"

100 years old legendary GM Yuri Averbakh passed away

Only Grandmaster, who reached 100 years passed away in Moscow.

When I was twelve I was lucky to buy one of the best endgame books! It was Yuri Averbakh three volumes endgame manual. I studied every position from the books! It was his main endgame evergreen work. I could never imagine in that moment ., that after 10 years my first win against Grandmaster will be against Yury Lvovich in the Soviet Semifinal! In endgame! It means, that his education was great.

In eighties, he modernized this work into five books, which are translated into different languages till nowadays! He established himself as one of the most important chess authors of the 20th century. Later he published great memoirs "Silence of the pieces", "Chess behind the curtains" and "Life of chess player in the System". Plus many manuals for children and one great book on the Karpov-Kasparov match in Merano 1981. For many years he had Chess school on Soviet TV. For more than 30 years he was a Chief editor of one of the best World Chess magazines "Шахматы в СССР" and "Шахматный Бюллетень".

He was not just a prolific author, but a very famous Arbiter and Chess functioneer. From 1962 to 1992 he was Vice President and then President of the Soviet Chess Federation, Chairman of the few FIDE Commissions. He introduced a very important system against Kings Indian, which is named after him.

He was active as a second on top level , working with World Champions Mikhail Botvinnik and Tigran Petrosian. He was a Trainer of Soviet Youth Teams in 80ies on many training camps and Youth World Championships. I was lucky to be a member of these teams. I must say, that nobody else had such an honest attitude to the young generation, and his dinner talks to the team we all remember still! Such stories about great players and tournaments helped our generation simply to love chess more!



He was a very warm person with a fantastic sense of humor.

Averbakh himself called himself a fatalist. He was top 10 player in 50ies, winning USSR Championship in 1954 and qualifying for World Candidates Tournament in 1953. In his young years, he could not choose between chess and his engineer work. He graduated from one of the most prestigious and difficult technical Universities MVTU in Moscow. Difficult war times 1941-45 he spent far from Moscow on the tank repairing factory.

Nobody else in the chess World was active on every level of chess!

Obituary by GM Adrian Mikhalchishin

IN MEMORIAM

Yuri Averbakh
(1922-2022)



>It is impossible to ignore a highly important factor of the chess struggle - psychology.

In April 2022 edition of the ECU Magazine, we present three positions where White mates in three moves!

YURI AVERBAKH SAID ABOUT CHESS

>The impression of chess as an art connected me forever with the game. I wanted to get into chess, to understand its laws, its secrets.

>I don't have a Champion character. I am interested in analyzing. I am a researcher, not a fighter or a "killer" behind the chessboard.

>Frankly speaking, science hinders chess, and chess interferes with science

Solutions from March Magazine

#Puzzle 1:

1.Qxh7!+ Kxh7 2.Rh1 Kg8
3.Rh8#

#Puzzle 2:

1.Bf6!+ Kh6 [1...Kf8 2.Rd8#]
2.Bg7!!+ Kh5 3.Rh6#

#Puzzle 3:

1.Bxf7+ Rxf7 [1...Kh8 2.Qxh6#]
2.Qxf7+ Kh8 3.Qxg7#

#Puzzle 4:

1.Rc8!!+ Ka7 [1...Kxc8 2.Nb6#]
2.Bb8+ Ka8 3.Nb6#



"Chess makes you smarter!"