



#EACC2022

European Amateur Chess
Champions crowned in
Zagreb, Croatia

European Club Cup

The 37th European Club Cup and
the 26th European Women's Club
Cup will take place from 2nd – 10
October in Mayrhofen, Austria.



MONIKA SOCKO WINS
EUROPEAN WOMEN'S CHESS
CHAMPIONSHIP 2022



In brief..

European Women's Chess Championship 2022 took place from 19-31 August in Prague, Czech Republic. Monika Socko won the event and the title of European Women Chess Champion.

European Amateur Chess Championship 2022 took place from 14-21 August in Zagreb, Croatia. The event was played in 3 rating categories U1700, U2000 and U2300 with participation of more than 170 players from more than 20 federations.

The ECU Board Meeting took place on Friday 26th August through teleconference. The European Chess Union opened a call of interest for ECU/ FIDE Commissions 2023-2026.

The 37th European Chess Club Cup and the 26th European Women's Chess Club Cup will simultaneously take place from 2nd – 10th October in Mayrhofen, Austria. 78 teams already registered for the event. There are 64 registered teams in the Open section and 14 registered teams in the Women's event.

European Chess Union and European Chess Academy, supported by FIDE Development fund announce the **3rd ECU annual training program - Develop practical way of thinking.**

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;

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Monika Socko claims European Women's Chess Championship 2022

The 2022 European Individual Women's Chess Championship took place from 19-31 August in Prague, Czech Republic.

GM Monika Socko (POL, 2423) won the event scoring unbeaten 8.5 points.



European Women's Chess Championship 2022



GM Monika Socko secured the sole first place with a draw in the last round against IM Lilit Mkrtchian (ARM, 2362). Scoring 8.5 points, Socko was half a point ahead of the runner-ups.

IM Gunay Mammadzada (AZE, 2466) needed a victory in the last round to join Monika Socko on the top. After more than 4 hours of play, Gunay Mammadzada drew against IM Aleksandra Maltsevskaya (POL, 2360) to score 8 points and be in the group of five players who tied for silver medal. Mammadzada had the best tiebreak criteria and clinched silver. WGM Ulviyya Fataliyeva (AZE, 2413) won bronze with the same score of 8 points, and better tiebreaks than IM Lilit Mkrtchian (ARM, 2362) who came fourth, IM Aleksandra Maltsevskaya (POL, 2360) who finished fifth, and IM Irina Bulmaga (ROU, 2403) who came sixth.

The Closing ceremony of the event took place by the end of the games and it was broadcasted live. The ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmapairashvili addressed the players, congratulated the Winners and joined the awarding ceremony of the Championship.

Final report and link to the final standings and to the official website of the event can be found on the ECU Website.

The Polish Prime Minister, Mr. Mateusz Morawiecki congratulated GM Monika Socko - European Women's Chess Champion 2022 at the opening ceremony of the Polish Team Chess Championship - Enea Ekstraliga.

#EWCC2022

European Women's Chess Championship 2022 took place from 19-31 August in Prague, Czech Republic. More than 120 players from 28 European federations competed over 11 swiss rounds for the title of European Champion and 9 qualification spots for the next FIDE Women's World Cup.

European Amateur Chess Championship 2022

The European Amateur Chess Championship 2022 took place from 14th-21st August 2022 in Zagreb, Croatia. The event was played in three rating categories: U2300, U2000 and U1700, 9 rounds, swiss system.

17-year-old Novosel Lovro (CRO, 2212) emerged as the sole winner of the U2300 section with score of 7 points. After a slow start with two losses in the first five rounds, Novosel Lovro won four consecutive games to become the European Amateur Chess Champion of the U2300 category. Three players tied for silver with 6.5 points, each. Tiebreaks criteria determined Babic Zvonko (CRO, 2180) silver medalist, Vujec Ivan (CRO, 2192) came third and Krikunov Dmitry (FIDE, 2202) finished the event in the fourth place.

With score of 8 points, Celik Benrkay (TUR, 1878) won the U2000 section. He was a full point ahead of Tomasko Miljenko (CRO, 1935) who came second with 7 points. Three players were in a tie for the bronze medal scoring 6.5 points, each, but 13-year-old Pehar Borna (CRO, 1886) had best tiebreaks and came third.

Marfat Ivan (CRO) scored 8 points to triumph in the U1700 category. Tabakovski Dino (MKD, 1639) clinched silver medal with 7 points, while four players tied for the third place scoring 6.5 points, each. Pazarcioglu Ilker (TUR, 1428) had best tiebreaks criteria and won bronze medal.



The best ranked female players are:
U2300: Ruzic Pia Marie (SLO, 1996)
U2000: Golub Nikolina (CRO, 1818)
U1700: Karij Petra (CRO, 1452)

The Closing ceremony of the event took place by the end of the last round with the ECU Vice President Mr. Alojzije Jankovic and the President of the Mitropa Chess Association Mr. Marco Biagioli joining the awarding ceremony.

Final report and link to final standings and official website of the event can be found on the ECU Website.



The closing ceremony of the event took place

European Amateur Chess Championship

The European Amateur Chess Championship 2022 took place from 14th-21st August in Zagreb, Croatia.

More than 170 players from more than 20 European federations competed in the Championship and the best ranked were crowned the 2022 European Amateur Chess Champions.

European Club Cup 2022 & European Women's Club Cup 2022

The 37th European Chess Club Cup and the 26th European Women's Chess Club Cup will simultaneously take place from 2nd – 10th October in Mayrhofen, Austria.

78 teams already registered for the event. There are 64 registered teams in the Open section and 14 registered teams in the Women's event. More than 450 players will compete in the 37th European Chess Club Cup, and 64 players will defend the colors of their clubs at the 26th European Women's Chess Club Cup.

Both events will be played in 7 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. The total prize fund of the event will be 40.000 EUR (25.000 EUR for the Open event and 15.000 EUR for the Women's event).

The open teams shall be composed of six (6) players plus two (2) and the women teams shall be composed of four (4) players plus one (1) reserve player. There is no restriction on the composition of women teams and all female player's license fees are waived for the year 2022.

Some of the top seed players are: Carlsen Magnus (Offerspill Chess Club, Norway), Mamedyarov Shakhriyar (Schachclub Viernheim 1934e.V., Germany), Vachier-Lagrave Maxime (Asnieres Le Grand Echiquier, France), Anand Viswanathan (CSU ASE Superbet) Erigaisi Arjun (TAJFUN - SK Ljubljana, Slovenia), Harikrishna Pentala (Novy Bor Chess Club, Czech Republic). And in the Women's tournament: Muzychuk Mariya (TAJFUN - SK Ljubljana, Slovenia), Muzychuk Anna (Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo, Monaco), Abdumalik Zhansaya (Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo, Monaco).

Official regulations of the events can be found on the ECU Website.



The playing venue of the event - Europahaus Mayrhofen – Congress Zillertal. ©TVB Archiv Mayrhofen Norbert Freudenthaler

Magnus Carlsen will play the European Club Cup 2022 for Offerspill Chess Club (Norway).





Communique of the ECU Board Meeting

The ECU Board meeting took place on Friday 26th of August through teleconference. Main information and decisions can be found below:

1. The status of ECU staff/officers has been confirmed for the new term

2. Mr. Erald Dervishi (ALB) reappointed as CEO of European Chess Union

3. ECU Board appointed the ECU Commissions Chairpersons for the 4-years term

ECU Arbiter Council: Geert Bailleul

ECU Educational Commission: Jesper Bergmark Hall

ECU Events Commission: Paris Klerides (CYP)

ECU Commission on Women's Chess: Regina Theissl Pokorna

For the rest positions in ECU Commissions and the ECU representatives-members to the FIDE Commissions a call of interest opens till mid of September.

4. ECU Board discussed and endorsed the creation of a new ECU Media and Communications Commission and a Social Projects Commission or Directorate.

5. ECU Board decided as an internal rule of the ECU administration for more transparency and distinction of roles that each appointed director, officer, chair, and secretary of the Commission must resign at least 4 months before the ECU elections if he/she decides to run for an elected ECU Board position. The 4 month period is the deadline for announcing the ECU election meeting and the start of the pre-election period.

ECU notes that similar rules in connection of the decision number 5 apply to most European countries.

6. ECU Board decided to subsidize through the FIDE European development fund, the medalists' seniors' players of European Senior Chess Championship 2019 that lost their personal rights because World Senior Chess Championships 2020 and 2021 were not organized. Each of these players that were not qualified through World Senior Chess Championship 2019 or European Senior Chess Championship 2021 will be supported with 1000 euros with direct transfer to organizers of World Senior Chess Championship 2022 in Assisi, Italy.

7. ECU Board confirms the organization of the 1st European Cities & Towns Chess Championship in hybrid venues the weekend 3-4 December 2022. The official regulations will follow.

8. The 4th quarter ECU Board meeting will take place in the first half of November. The exact dates and venue will be announced.

Detailed information can be found on the ECU Website.

ECU Board Meeting

The first ECU Board Meeting after the ECU Elections and General Friday 26th of August through teleconference.

The list of main information and decisions are published on the ECU website.



Open Call of Interest ECU/FIDE Commissions 2023 – 2026

According to FIDE regulations, each Continent has the right to nominate one non-voting member to each of 16 FIDE non-Elected Commissions. According to FIDE regulations, each Continent has the right to nominate one non-voting member to each of 16 FIDE non-Elected Commissions. The 16 ECU representatives in the FIDE Commissions will be informed on the ECU directory and they will have the special duty to communicate and interact the ECU positions to the FIDE structures.

European Chess Union opens a call of interest for the 16 FIDE Commissions' members who will be nominated by ECU and for the 4 existing ECU Commissions.

1. ECU Educational Commission: Chairperson*, Secretary 3 Councillors and 5 members
2. ECU Arbiters Council: Chairperson*, Secretary and 3 Councillors
3. ECU Events Commission: Chairperson*, Secretary and 3 Councillors
4. ECU Commission on Women's Chess: Chairperson*, Secretary and 3 Councillors

*The Chairpersons are appointed by the ECU President. In exceptional cases the ECU-Board may include additional members to Commissions.

National Federations members or interested applicants shall submit the online form <https://forms.gle/6BteajRYVZtiSY6h6> till the Monday September 12, 2022. The form can be found on the ECU Website.

The final selection will be made by the ECU Board. The main criteria, but not restricted, for the selection are the following:

- >The qualifications related with the position.
- >The adequate ECU representation in key areas.
- >The ability of communication in an international environment.
- >The wide representation of the Federation members.
- >The dedication to the mission, providing that the applicant is not nominated for the respective FIDE Commission.

Detailed information and important links for the Open Call of Interest can be found on the ECU Website.

Call of Interest

ECU/FIDE Commissions 2023 - 2026

According to FIDE regulations, each Continent has the right to nominate one non-voting member to each of 16 FIDE non-Elected Commissions. According to FIDE regulations, each Continent has the right to nominate one non-voting member to each of 16 FIDE non-Elected Commissions. <https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/NonElectedCommissions2022>



Workshop in Zagreb, Croatia



Attendees of the Madrid Conference



ECU EDU Course in Zagreb, Croatia

ECU EDU Commission activities



The Chairman of the ECU EDU Commission Mr. Jesper Hall paid a working visits to Zagreb and Madrid last month.

The ECU EDU workshop in Zagreb was held with the main topic - Chess in Schools - the future of chess. The Workshop was aimed to help Croatian Chess Federation with the development of clubs and Chess in schools with meetings, discussions and courses.

The Conference in Madrid, with the CGS-project (Chess - a Game to be spread in Schools) gathered teachers from Italy, Spain and Sweden who tested the latest developed methods for Chess in Education. "As chairman of ECU Education I feel great hope for the future when I meet the enthusiasm and great work from all these teachers from around Europe" emphasized Mr. Jesper Hall.

Madrid Conference on CGS project (Chess - a Game to be spread in Schools)



Madrid Conference on CGS project (Chess - a Game to be spread in Schools)

FIDE releases Chess for Protection project Curriculum

FIDE Chess for Protection is a project that helps refugees learn the game of chess and acquire new important life skills, socialize, and release stress through it.

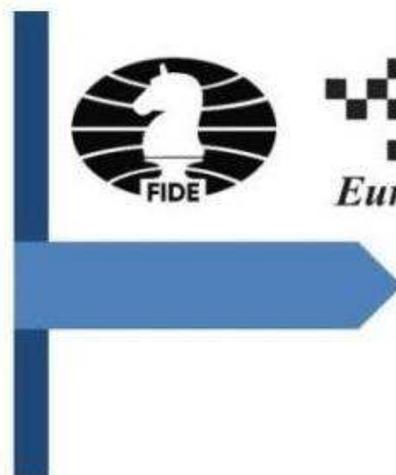
"We're thankful to the European Chess Union for supporting the implementation of this project. We believe it is an essential step to scale the Chess for Protection project to a larger audience," states the FIDE press release.

One of the essential parts of the Chess for Protection project is Girls Club, aiming to educate girls and women. The pilot by FIDE and UNCHR was launched in Kakuma, Kenya, in 2021 and continues running in 2022. Within the project, girls not only learn chess but also read and discuss books, improve various skills and achieve personal goals.

"The idea of the project "Chess for Protection" (Chess for refugees) came to my mind a long time ago," shared Project leader WIM Anastasia Sorokina. "I have always been concerned for people living in and recovering from stressful situations. It is vitally important to keep their mind busy. Chess is one of the options to help such people to get out of stress and enter the wonderful world of this beautiful game."

You can find the complete press release and download Curriculum Chess for Refugees (pdf) from the ECU Website.

As part of the FIDE Girls Club initiative, WGM Anastasiya Karlovich, WFM, IA Shohreh Bayat and WFM Martina Skogvall created a Curriculum that will be used to teach chess in refugee camps. The program was reviewed by another experienced chess trainer, WIM Natalija Popova.



Curriculum Chess for Refugees

Global Chess Festival 2022

The 8th edition of the Global Chess Festival will take place on 8th of October 2022, in Budapest, Hungary.



The event is organized by Judit Polgar Chess Foundation and it will be held in the Hungarian National Gallery. The theme of the festival is unchanged, it will be turning on the lights, but illuminating from new perspectives how chess shapes our lives, showing the game's social, scientific, educational, artistic and sporting connections. As 2022 is the Year of Women in Chess, the spotlights will be specifically focused on them in the themes "Women in Science" and "Women and Chess". The festival will keep its hybrid nature, so for those who cannot come to Budapest in person, there will be an open "gate" in the online space and provide access to the event.

The festival features the following topics/ activities on the program:

- >Women in Chess - Women in Science
- >Educational Chess Summit 2022
- >Chess artistry adventure in memory of Pal Benko
- >Morgan Stanley chess cafe
- >Judit Polgar method - The power of game
- >LEGO robot programming
- >Test your chess
- >Simuls: Catch me if you can

Detailed information about the 2022 Global Chess Festival and its program can be found on the official website of the festival.



European Chess Union and European Chess Academy, supported by FIDE Development Fund, announce the annual training program in period from November 27th 2022 to May 20th 2023.

The lecturers are: GM and FST Adrian Mikhalchishin, GM and FST Georg Mohr, and IM and FT Tadej Sakelsek.

3rd ECU annual training program – Develop practical way of thinking

The ECU annual training program is open for all ages and levels and will be organised within four levels open for ages and categories:

- > LEVEL 1 – for players below 1600 ELO
- > LEVEL 2 – for players between 1600 and 1900 ELO
- > LEVEL 3 – for players between 1900 and 2200 ELO
- > LEVEL 4 – for players above 2200 ELO

The lectures will be held every Saturday at 10:00 am CET time (for level 1 and 3) and every Saturday at 12:00 pm CET time (for level 2 and 4).

The tuition fee is 200 eur with special discounts for chess clubs and federations and. The registrations can be done until November 20th 2022. The registration is completed with tuition payment on the European chess Academy Bank account or PayPal.

- Subsidised free spots:
- >2 to each European National Chess Federation - 110 in total
 - > Additional 3 to European Small Nations (FIDE Zone 1.10) - 30 in total
 - >First 6 places in European youth from each category – 72 in total

The detailed program and information about the training, as well as the registration link, can be found on the ECU Website.

Text by: IA Tania Karali



When in doubt, who do you ask?

Being an arbiter is not a solitary journey, it is more of a team effort. We cooperate in tournaments, share experience, get together in seminars and workshops. An arbiter is a member of a pack, not a lone wolf.

So, what happens when an arbiter faces a situation where they need to make a decision or reply to a question to clarify regulations?

If the arbiter is well-rounded, keeps up with the regulations or has faced a similar case in the past, it is quite easy to handle it. On the other hand, when it comes to less experienced arbiters (no shame there, we've all been through it!), it usually comes down to two scenarios: a) they ask a more experienced arbiter or b) they check the regulations to find the answer by themselves.

In my experience, the most common scenario is (a), ask someone else, get an answer, solve the matter quickly. (Spoiler alert: the more experienced arbiter usually checks the regulations before replying...)

Scenario (b) is much more rare to occur. I find that less experienced arbiters are a little intimidated by the regulations, have no idea where to start looking or have convinced themselves that they would not understand the text, even if they tried, so they just choose the easier option (scenario (a)). It is a pity, because we are talking about the same regulations that they were taught in the Arbiters' Seminars they have already attended (**Important note here: one seminar is never enough. Make it a habit to attend a seminar once a year to freshen your memory and hear interesting incidents from actual events**).

True, it is one thing to discuss selected part of the regulations with a lecturer's guidance and another to search the whole handbook to find what you need.

However, the FIDE Handbook is not as "chaotic" as some arbiters may feel. It is very well structured in various sections and, after spending a little time with the table of contents, it will be a lot easier to know where to look. Another indispensable tool is the Arbiters' Manual, where you will find literally anything an arbiter may need, plus bonus explanations to clarify obscure points. Both documents are updated following changes in regulations. This can be done at any moment and there is usually a time reference, indicating which regulation is in effect during which period (most times the old regulations are still there bearing the time reference that makes them no longer valid).

Certainly, there is always room for improvement. I am not arguing that the format is the best possible, nor that it cannot be optimised. What I would like to see, for example, in the near future, is a table of the specific changes that were announced for every part of the regulations, not just the new document. Arbiters cannot be expected to go through the documents by themselves to see if they can identify the differences...

ECU Arbiters Council

ECU Arbiters Council publishes all the information about the Council's work on the Official website:
<http://arbiters.europechess.org/>

Contact email:
ecuarbiterscouncil@gmail.com.

Text by:
IA Tania Karali



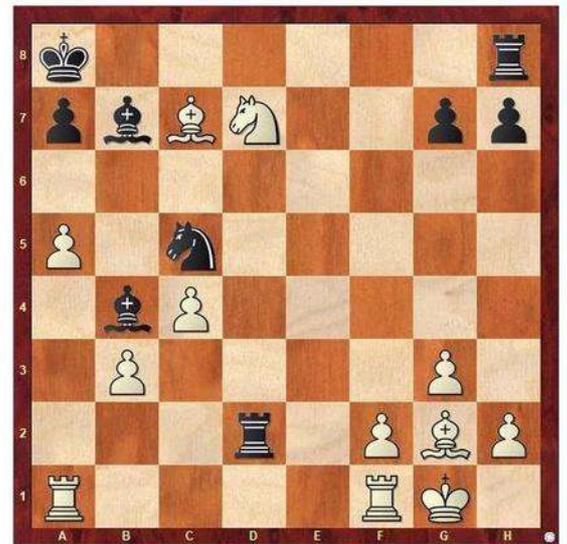
What would be even more helpful would be that these changes were presented in a clear way on the relevant FIDE Commission's website (Rules, Qualification, Pairings, Fair Play) and gathered all together on the FIDE Arbiters' Commission website, considering they all affect arbiters in their every day work.

To sum up, I'm not advocating in favour of asking colleagues or checking the regulations. I am favouring of doing both, provided that any arbiter of any level of experience would be able to check the regulations by themselves and confirm with other arbiters their understanding of them.

And remember:
The ECU Arbiters' Council is always willing to answer your questions, doubts, requests to clarify regulations, opinions on any matter that you may wish to discuss. Feel free to email us at ecuarbiterscouncil@gmail.com

Useful links
FIDE Handbook:
<https://handbook.fide.com/>

Arbiters' Manual 2022:
<https://arbiters.fide.com/wp-content/uploads/Publications/Manual/ARBManual2022.pdf>



>Typically, in the last round of open tournaments the level of play is markedly lower, the number of blunders higher.

>Sometimes players need to gain time on the clock by repeating the position, but most often its purpose is to wear down the opponent psychologically.

>The business of the endgame is maneuvering to control critical squares, advancing or blockading passed pawns, preparing a breakthrough by the king, or exploiting the subtle superiority of one piece over another.

>There is nothing wrong with trying to exploit the natural human tendency to become impatient when forced to play a boring position.

In August 2022 edition of the ECU Magazine, we present four positions where White mates in five moves!

PAL BENKO SAID ABOUT CHESS:

Solutions from July Magazine

#Puzzle 1:

1.Qxf8!+ Rxf8 2.Rxg7+ Kh8
3.Rg6+ Rf6 4.Bxf6#

#Puzzle 2:

1.Qxh7+ Kxh7 2.Bf6+ Kg8
3.Rh8!+ Bxh8 4.Rxh8#

Puzzle 3:

1.Rd8+ Bf8 2.Bh6! Rg1+
3.Kxg1 f5 4.Rxf8#

#Puzzle 4:

1.Qxg6!+ Kxf6 2.gxf6+ Qg3
3.Rxg3+ Kh5 [3...Kh7 4.Be4#]
4.Rh2#



"Chess makes you smarter!"