

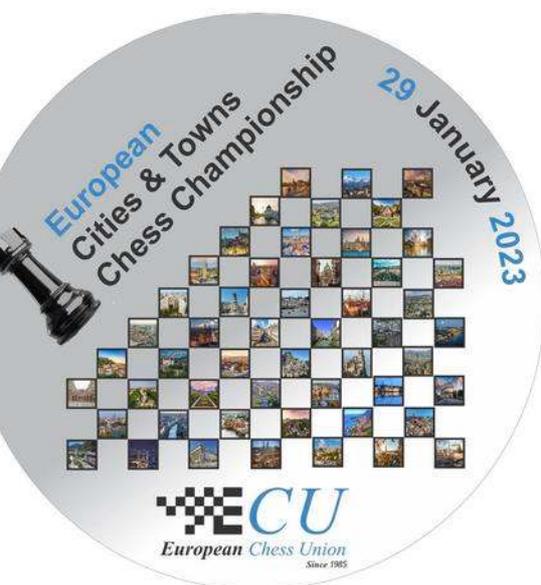


FIDE World Rapid & Blitz

FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Chess Championships 2022 took place from 25-30 December in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

European Cities & Towns

The 1st European Cities & Towns Chess Championship will be held on Sunday, 29th of January, in hybrid cities venues.



European Rapid & Blitz Chess Champions 2022 crowned in Katowice, Poland



In brief..

European Rapid & Blitz Chess Championship 2022 was held from 16-18 December in Katowice, Poland with participation of 1000 players from 40 European federations. David Navara and Alexandra Kosteniuk became European Open and Women Blitz Champions 2022 & Jaime Santos Latasa and Aleksandra Maltsevskaya became European Open and Women Rapid Champions 2022.

FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Chess Championships 2022 took place from 25-30 December in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Magnus Carlsen won both Blitz and Rapid Championships, and Tan Zhongyi won Rapid Women's event, while Bibisara Assaubayeva clinched gold in Women's Blitz Tournament.

European Chess Union published official regulations and invitations for the first six months of 2023 programme:

>**European Cities & Towns Chess Championship** is first on the schedule to be played on January 29th 2023 in hybrid cities venues.

>**European Individual Chess Championship 2023** will be held from 2nd-14th March in Vrnjacka Banja, Serbia with more than 190 players already registered for the event.

>**European Women's Chess Championship 2023** will be held from 17th-30th March in Petrovac, Montenegro.

>**European Amateur Chess Championship 2023** will take place from 16th-26th April in Sardinia, Italy.

>**European School Chess Championship 2023** will be held from 12th-21st May in Durres, Albania.

>**European Senior Chess Championship 2023** is going to be played from 25th May - 3rd June in Acqui Terme, Italy.

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 Open & Women's Rapid and Blitz Chess Champions 2022 crowned in Katowice, Poland

The 2022 European Open and Women's Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships took place from 16-18 December in Katowice, Poland.

The event gathered 1000 players coming from more than 40 European federations, with more than 800 participants in Blitz, and more than 900 participants in Rapid championship.



The first event on the schedule was the 2022 European Blitz Chess Championship, which was played on Friday, December 16th. After 11 double rounds (22 rounds in total), three players tied for the top with a score of 17.5 points: GM David Navara (CZE), GM Maciej Klekowski (POL), and GM Shant Sargsyan (ARM). Tiebreaks criteria determined David Navara as the new European Blitz Champion, Maciej Klekowski won the silver medal and Shant Sargsyan clinched bronze.

The Women's Championship was merged with the Open tournament and the best-ranked female players were crowned as the Winners. GM Alexandra Kosteniuk (FIDE) claimed the title of European Blitz Women's Chess Champion for 2022 with a score of 15.5 points. IM Aleksandra Maltsevskaya (POL) trailed by half a point and won silver with 15 points and GM Antoaneta Stefanova (BUL) came third with 14 points and best tiebreaks in a group of five players who tied for bronze.

European Rapid Chess Championship was played on 17-18 December. It was a tense fight until the very last minute of the event as seven players had a joint lead before the start of the last round. GM Jaime Santos Latasa (ESP) was the only one from the group who won the last-round game, and thus emerged as the sole Winner of the Rapid tournament with 9.5 points. As many as 11 players tied for silver with 9 points, each, but tiebreaks criteria favored GM David Navara (CZE) who came second and GM Daniel Fridman (GER) won bronze.

IM Aleksandra Maltsevskaya (POL) and GM Alexandra Kosteniuk (FIDE) were the best-ranked female players with 8.5 points, each. However, tiebreak criteria favored Aleksandra Maltsevskaya who clinched gold and Alexandra Kosteniuk came second. Five players tied for third place with a score of 8 points (each), but tiebreaks determined IM Jolanta Zawadzka (POL) as the bronze medalist.

The closing ceremony of the event took place at "Spodek" Sport and Entertainment Centre which was the playing venue of the Championships. The Ceremony was attended by ECU Deputy President and Mrs. Dana Reizniece-Ozola, ECU Vice President Mr. Gunnar Bjornsson FIDE Secretary General Lukasz Turlej, and other distinguished guests.

#ERBCC2022

The 2022 European Open and Women's Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships took place from 16-18 December in Katowice, Poland and gathered 1000 players coming from more than 40 European federations.

Final rankings can be found on the Official website of the event or ECU Website.

Photos by: Michal Walusza



Photo by:
Lennart Ootes

FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Chess Championships 2022 concluded in Kazakhstan

The 2022 FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Chess Championships were held from 25th-30th December in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Magnus Carlsen once again won the triple crown becoming the World Chess Champion in Classical, Rapid and Blitz chess. Tan Zhongyi clinched Women's World Rapid Chess Championship, while Bibisara Assaubayeva became Women's World Blitz Champion in blitz.

World Rapid & Blitz Chess Championships 2022

The Open and Women's competitions were held separately, with around 180 players in the Open events and 100 players in the Women's events. The first Championship on the schedule was the FIDE World Rapid Chess 2022 which took place from 26-28 December.

After 13 played rounds, Magnus Carlsen (NOR) emerged as the sole winner of the FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship 2022 with 10 points. Vincent Keymer (GER) and Fabiano Caruana (USA) trailed by half a point tying for the second place with 8.5 points, each. Tiebreak criteria favored 18-year-old German grandmaster Vincent Keymer who claimed silver, while Fabiano Caruana clinched bronze medal.

It was an exciting finish at the Women's World Rapid Championship 2022 as Dinara Saduakassova (KAZ) and Tan Zhongyi (CHN) tied for the top scoring 8.5 points, each. The Winner of the event was determined in the playoff match. Tan Zhongyi won the playoffs with 1.5-0.5 result clinching the title of Women's World Rapid Champion and Saduakassova won silver medal. 15-year-old Savitha Shri (IND) won bronze medal with 8 points and best tiebreaks among the group of four players who tied for third place.

After 21 played rounds at the Blitz event, Magnus Carlsen scored 16 points to be the sole Winner of the tournament, being a full point ahead of the runner-ups Hikaru Nakamura (USA) and Haik Martirosyan (ARM).



Photos by: Lennart Ootes

Hikaru Nakamura had better tiebreaks winning silver medal and Haik Martirosyan won bronze.

Bibisara Assaubayeva (KAZ) won the Women's Blitz Chess Championship 2022 scoring 13/17 points. She was half a point ahead of Humpy Koneru (IND) who claimed silver with 12.5 points, while Polina Shuvalova (FIDE) and Tan Zhongyi (CHN) tied for third scoring 12 points, each. Shuvalova Polina had better tiebreak criteria winning bronze medal, and Tan Zhongyi came fourth.

Final rankings & detailed information about the event can be found on the Official Website.



FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Chess Champions 2022

Photo by: Lennart Ootes

FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Championships 2022

The 2022 FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Chess Championships took place from 25-30 December in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The events gathered around 180 players in Open section and nearly 100 players at Women's tournaments. The total prize fund was 1.000.000 USD with 700.000 USD for Open events and 300.000 USD of prizes for Women's Championships.

TATA STEEL CHESS 2023

The 85th jubilee edition of the Tata Steel Chess will be held from 13-29 January in Wijk aan Zee.

The event features 14 super grandmasters who will compete in a 13-round round-robin tournament.

The field is headlined by World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen.

List of participants:

- > **Magnus Carlsen** (NOR, 2859)
- > **Ding Liren** (CHN, 2811)
- > **Fabiano Caruana** (USA, 2766)
- > **Anish Giri** (NED, 2764)
- > **Wesley So** (USA, 2760)
- > **Richard Rapport** (ROU, 2740)
- > **Levon Aronian** (USA, 2735)
- > **Dommaraju Gukesh** (IND, 2725)
- > **Arjun Erigaisi** (IND, 2722)
- > **Parham Maghsoodloo** (IRI, 2719)
- > **Nodirbek Abdusattorov** (UZB, 2713)
- > **Vincent Keymer** (GER, 2696)
- > **Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa** (IND, 2684)
- > **Jorden Van Foreest** (NED, 2681)

The rate of play will be 100 Minutes for 40 moves, followed by 50 minutes for 20 moves, then 15 minutes for the remaining moves with 30 seconds cumulative increment for each move starting from the first move.



Photos: © Jurriaan Hoefsmit – Tata Steel Chess Tournament 2022

With both the number one and number two in the world (Magnus Carlsen and Ding Liren), five top 10 players and a total of eight top 20 players, the Masters group of the jubilee edition of the Tata Steel Chess Tournament has a very strong field of participants.

The 85th edition promises to be an exciting battleground, as a number of great talents are also present to compete with the world class players. The tournament will take place from 13 to 29 January 2023 in Dorpshuis de Moriaan, Wijk aan Zee in the Netherlands.



Photo from Tata Steel Chess Tournament 2022; © Jurriaan Hoefsmit

Tata Steel Chess 2023

The Tata Steel Chess Tournament is one of the most prestigious events in the international chess calendar. The “Wimbledon of Chess” attracts the very best chess grandmasters in the world, along with thousands of amateur players, live event visitors and online visitors from around the world. In 2023, the Tata Steel Chess Tournament celebrates its 85th year.



Photos from Tata Steel Chess Tournament 2022; © Jurriaan Hoefsmit

TATA STEEL CHESS CHALLENGERS 2023

Simultaneously with the Tata Steel Chess Masters 2023, Wijk aan Zee will host the Tata Steel Chess Challengers tournament.

The field consists of a mix of established players and promising young talents. The winner of the Challengers will earn a starting ticket for the Masters of the Tata Steel Chess Tournament in 2024.

The participants are:

- >Amin Tabatabaei (IRI, 2686)
- >Javokhir Sindarov (UZB, 2654)
- >Jergus Pechac (SVK, 2637)
- >Alexander Donchenko (GER, 2627)
- >Erwin L'Ami (NED, 2627)
- >Max Warmerdam (NED, 2616)
- >Adhiban Baskaran (IND, 2610)
- >Mustafa Yilmaz (TUR, 2609)
- >Luis Paulo Supi (BRA, 2608)
- >Velimir Ivic (SRB, 2585)
- >Abhimanyu Mishra (IND, 2559)
- >Thomas Beerdsen (NED, 2515)
- >Rameshbabu Vaishali (IND, 2425)
- >Eline Roebers (NED, 2361)



European Cities & Towns Chess Championship

European Chess Union announces the 1st European Cities & Towns Chess Championship which will take place on Sunday, 29th January 2023, in hybrid cities venues. The event consists of four categories: Open, Women, Seniors, and Youth (U12).

Each City or Town can participate in one or more tournament without being obliged to compete in all tournaments. The teams are registered by the city representative (municipality) or/and by the local Chess Union or club. Each City/Town will appoint one representative for the technical meeting and any communication during the event. The registration/ECU entry fee is 100 euros per team per tournament to be paid directly to ECU. The registration deadline is January 20th, 2023. Detailed information about the event, official regulations, registrations link and the prize list can be found on the ECU Website.

Each City or Town has the right to nominate one team of 4 players in each of 4 categories:

- 1) Open Tournament (any age)
- 2) Women Tournament (female participants)
- 3) Seniors Tournament (players over 50 years, born in 1972 or earlier)
- 4) Youth Tournament (players up to 12, born in 2010 or later)

The event will be played in 9 rounds, Swiss System, with rate of play 10 minutes for a game per player + 3 seconds increment after each move. All the players compete from the approved tournament hall(s) per city/town. Tournament halls are selected and installed by the local organisers.

Cities and towns which confirmed participation in the event are: Dures/Albania, Tirana/Albania, Nikosia/Cyprus, London/England, Bastia/France, Ioannina/Greece, Thessaloniki/Greece, Kudiga/Latvia, Monte Carlo/Monaco, Katowice/Poland, Iasi/Romania, Snagov/Romania, Ljubljana/Slovenia, Grosuplje/Slovenia, Collado Villalba- Madrid Spain, Stockholm/Sweden.



The first edition of the European Cities & Towns Chess Championship is supported by FIDE Development Fund.

TITLES – PRIZES - QUALIFIERS

- ✓ The first winner team in each of 4 categories is the European Chess City/Town Champion 2023 in the respective category. The first 3 winners of each category will be awarded with Trophies and their players with special e-medals (gold, silver, bronze).
- ✓ The first winner City/Town of the combined categories of the competition (Sum of the match points from 4 - tournaments, then, if equal, sum of the game points) receives the title "Absolute European Chess City/Town Champion 2022".
- ✓ The 4 players of Winner Open team will be hosted in the European Individual Chess Championship 2023 (2 double rooms FB) with ECU expenses.
- ✓ The 4 players of Winner Women's team will be hosted in the European Individual Chess Championship 2023 (2 double rooms FB) with ECU expenses
- ✓ Winner Team in Senior Section will be hosted in European Senior Team Championship 2023 with ECU hosting expenses for 4 players (2 double rooms FB).
- ✓ Winner team in Youth Section would be hosted in European Youth Team Championship 2023 U18 (2 double rooms FB) with ECU expenses
- ✓ The 4 players of 2nd and 3rd team of Youth Section will be awarded with annual training Program (7 months) through the European Chess Academy program with top chess trainers.



EUROPEAN INDIVIDUAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2023

2nd – 14th March 2023,
Vrnjacka Banja, Serbia

European Individual Chess Championship 2023, (2nd - 14th March 2023) Vrnjacka Banja, Serbia



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2023

17th-30th March,
Petrovac, Montenegro

European Women's Chess Championship 2023, (17th-30th March 2023) Petrovac, Montenegro

European Individual Chess Championships 2023

European Open and Women's Individual Chess Championships 2023 will take place in March this year. European Individual Chess Championship 2023 will be held from 2nd-14th March in Vrnjacka Banja, Serbia, followed by European Individual Women's Chess Championship 2023 which will take place from 17th-30th March in Petrovac, Montenegro.

The total prize fund of the European Open Chess Championship will be 100.000 EUR, and the prize fund for European Women's Chess Championship amounts 60.000 EUR.

European Individual Chess Championships are qualification tournaments for FIDE World Cup. According to FIDE regulations and ECU Board decision, 23 players will qualify from Open and 9 players will qualify from the Women's Championship. Already more than 190 players registered for European Individual Chess Championship in Vrnjacka Banja. Detailed information can be found on the Official website of the event.

Registration deadlines are:

Open Championship: 2nd of February
Women's Championship: 1st of February



European Senior Chess Championship 2023 -Official invitation

The European Senior Chess Championship 2023 will take place from May 25 to June 4 in Acqui Terme, Italy. The event will be played in two age categories: 50+ and 65+, with separate open and women's sections.

The Championships will be played in 9 rounds of the Swiss System. The time control will be 90 minutes for 40 moves followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an addition of 30 seconds per move starting from move 1. According to the ECU regulations if there are less than 9 women participants in one age group the tournament merges with the respective open category, with separate prizes for the best women players.

The event is open to all players who have reached the age of 50 and 65 (by December 31st of the year in which the tournament commences) and represent National federations that are listed as ECU members. There is no limit of number of participants per federations, and players can register regardless on their title or rating.

The total prize fund of the Championship is 10.000 EUR. The Winners of the event will become European Senior Chess Champions 2023 of the respective category. According to FIDE Handbook D.03.7, the top 3 players from each category of the European Senior Championship 2023 are qualified with personal rights (free board and lodging) to the World Senior Championship 2024. Any change of regulations is a FIDE matter.

Detailed information and official regulations for the European Senior Chess Championship 2023 can be found on the ECU website.



The playing venue of the event will be Acqui Terme Conference Centre.



European Amateur Chess Championship 2023

The 2023 European Amateur Chess Championship will be held from 16th-26th April 2023 in ClubEsse Posada Beach Resort 4*, Palau – Sardinia, Italy.

The event will be played in three rating categories: U1700, U2000 and U2300. In each rating section, a separate championship for women shall be organized only if there are at least 10 women entries otherwise the women's event will be merged with open section.

The championships will be played in a 9-round Swiss system, in accordance with FIDE Laws of Chess and the ECU Tournament Rules. The rate of play will be 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 Championships are open tournaments for players registered or approved by their federation. ECU member federations shall have the right to send as many players as they wish. All players must not hold any title above CM (or WCM for women) in the sections Under-1700 and Under-2000. All players must not hold any title above FM (or WFM for women) in the section Under-2300.

The registration deadline is 10th of April, the players should register by filling out the official form available through the ECU Website.



The total prize fund of the event is 4.000 EUR. The Winners of each category will become European Amateur Chess Champions for the respective rating category. The winner of each European Amateur championship section and the winner of each women European Amateur championship section will be personally invited to participate (with free accommodation sharing a double room) in the next World Amateur Championship, (as long as they don't reach or exceed 2300 rating by the registration deadline) and their places cannot be substituted. The complete prize list can be found in the Official regulations of the event which are published on the ECU Website.



ClubEsse Posada Beach Resort 4, Palau – Sardinia, Italy is the Official Hotel and the venue of the Championship*

#EACC2023

European Amateur Chess Championship 2023

The 2023 European Amateur Chess Championship will be held from 16th-26th April 2023 in ClubEsse Posada Beach Resort 4*, Palau – Sardinia, Italy.

Contact information: E-mail: ecuamateur2023@gmail.com

Official website of the event: <http://www.europeanamateursardinia2023.com/>



ECU Commissions coordination and team building meeting

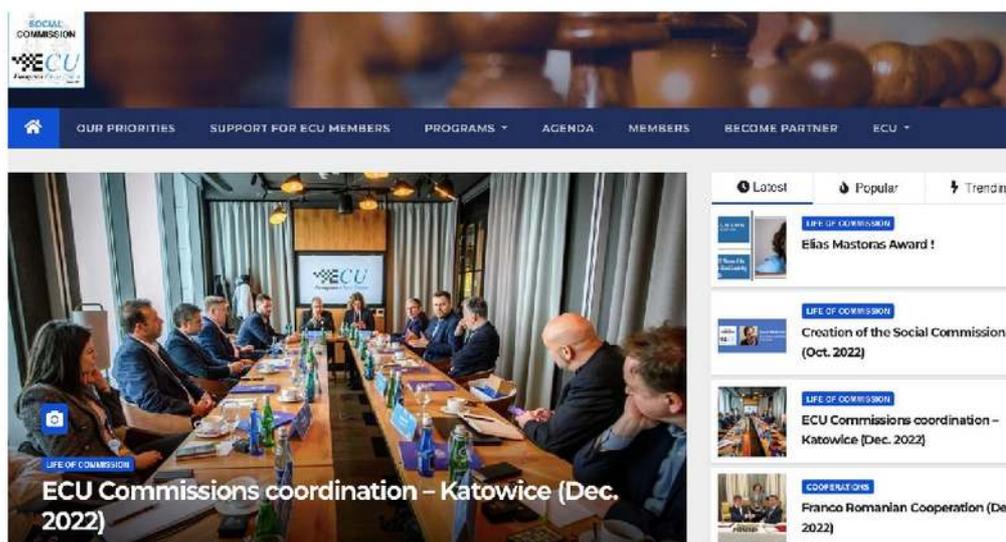


The ECU Commissions coordination and team building meeting took place in Katowice, on 17th of December.

European Chess Union has expanded its capacities and number of remarkable businessmen, media experts and technocrats who joined the ECU team. The roundtable of ECU Commissions' Chairs helped to set goals and next steps of the ECU actions. It was a fruitful meeting fulfilled with information exchange and generation of new ideas and projects. We have got a professional & motivated team that wants to work for the benefit of European chess.

European Chess Union want to thank Polish and Silesian federations for hosting and organising the ECU meetings and Championships in Katowice, Poland.





Develop social activities among ECU members!

A central mission of the ECU Social Commission is to **promote** and **help** the social initiatives of member federations.

We are therefore at your disposal to **talk** about it and **analyze** with you how we can contribute to the development and influence of your projects!



ECU Social Commission launches its website

The Chairman of the ECU Social Commission Mr Franck Droin welcomes all who wish to participate in the activities of the Commission and in future projects:

“Chess brings tremendous benefits to society and individuals. Improve inclusiveness for players with disabilities, allow the integration of the most fragile or excluded in a structured and rewarding universe, participate in improving the diet of players (especially young people) in the practice of the game , promote professional integration. The opportunities are many.

Participate in national and European public policies, allow private companies to express their social responsibility, support foundations in the implementation of their ambitions. Such are our ambitions, such are our actions.”

The ECU Social Commission already scheduled a number of activities for the upcoming months, including three upcoming open webinars.

More details to be found on the ECU Social Commission webpage: <https://social.europechess.org/>



GM Ivan Sokolov
Netherlands - Council
Chairman



GM Adrian Mikhalchishin
Slovenia - Council
Honorary Chairman



GM Miguel Illescas
Spain - Council
Member



GM Efstratios Grivas
Greece - Council
Secretary



GM Antoaneta Stefanova
Bulgaria - Council
Member



GM Iossif Dorfman
France - Adviser



GM Luke McShane
England - Adviser

On the proposal of the ECU President, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, the ECU Board appointed Mr. Ivan Sokolov as the Chairman of the newly established ECU Trainers Commission, whose main goal is to provide innovative and high-quality training programs for chess coaches and players.

European Chess Union establishes the ECU Trainers' Commission

The Chairman of the ECU Trainers Commission GM Ivan Sokolov suggested his team and the proposal was accepted by the ECU board.

We welcome all distinguished grandmasters and wish a good and creative work. The ECU takes another step to complete its technical competences.

The new ECU commission is composed as follows:

- >GM Ivan Sokolov - Chairman
- >GM Adrian Mikhalchishin - Honorary Chairman
- >GM Efstratios Grivas - Secretary
- >GM Miguel Illescas - Member
- >GM Antoaneta Stefanova - Member
- >GM Iossif Dorfman - Adviser
- >GM Luke McShane - Adviser

JUDIT POLGAR

« I want to demonstrate the diversity of chess »



Last December, **GM Judit Polgar** was inducted into the **World Chess Hall of Fame** in St. Louis, USA. Well deserved, because she is the strongest female player of all-time and an excellent ambassador of the game.

Judit received her grandmaster title at the age of 15 years and four months. In doing so, she *broke a record previously held by Bobby Fischer*. At the age of twelve, she entered the TOP 100 in the world. Later she made it to the TOP 10 and inspired many people to learn chess.

Nowadays she uses her popularity to **bring more women into chess** and to strengthen chess as an educational tool in raising children. **Chess activist Lilli Hahn (Councilor of the ECU Women's Chess Commission)** interviewed Judit Polgar for the **FIDE Podcast** on the occasion of the **Year of Woman in Chess**. Here is the Interview: <https://www.schachgefluester.de/judit-polgar-interview-2/>



*Judit Polgár vs The World chess record attempt at the Hungary Pavilion, Expo 2020 Dubai
Photo by Christophe Viseux)*

« Curiosity is enormously important to be successful in chess. »

Article by Michael Busse
(Schachgeflüster Podcast)

Text by:
IA Alon Shulman,
ECU Arbiters Council
member



My experience as a Fair Play Officer at the World Junior (U-20) Championship in Sardinia

In this article I would like to shed a light on my experience as a Fair Play Officer at the World U-20 Youth Championship which took place in Cala Gonone, Sardinia.

The whole Fair-Play issue has raised its ugly head only recently with the great increase of computer power and cellphone power. When I started my arbitering career in 1982, Fair-Play challenges were basically limited to intercepting players who were talking to each other during game. No one suspected a player would sneak out of tournament hall to browse the new edition of the Chess Informant.

When I was informed about my duty and doing it for the first time I had to devise a strategy.

The first question I asked myself was what is the threat. In order to formulate a defense we need to know which attack are we need to fend against.

The concept was that it is unlikely for a lone FP violator to orchestrate a violation alone. In this day and age trying to smuggle a cellphone to a tournament hall is like trying to smuggle contraband to an airport. Most chances it would be detected.

What we were worried about are transmitters. Small devices who might be attempted to be smuggled inside the tournament hall, to be used for communication with a person outside of the tournament hall who can relay computer moves to the player.

Transmitters are small and could be attempted to be concealed in a shoe, a bra, a belt, or other dark places. All those places while scanned would beep because of the metal.

We were equipped with only 2 hand held metal detectors so that increased the challenge. In a perfect world we would have been happy with a tight sealed playing zone with one entrance, occupied full time during the round and completely locked before and after.

Palmasera resort in Cala Gonone where all players stayed and played is a great place. Nice rooms, friendly staff, Good food and pristine beaches. However it's not a military base and can't become one. We had to compensate for that. As part of the FP operation, we were assisted by Professor Kenneth Reagan, the oracle of FP violation detection.

Prof. Regan analyses the games of each round and uses million algorithms to try and determine if there is any suspicion with the player's play. Of course, if we would have an unrated player beating Grandmasters at ease, we would not need the assistance of the honorable professor. However, there are more minute performance algorithms which in some cases would trigger a red flag and we need to know about it and on the spot.

ECU Arbiters Council

The ECU Arbiters Council publishes monthly articles in the ECU newsletter. All the articles can be found on the ECU Arbiters Council webpage.

ECU Arbiters Council contact:
ecuarbiterscouncil@gmail.com

ECU Arbiters Council Website:
arbiters.europechess.org

I would now elaborate a bit more about what we did, the measures conducted by our team:

1. We tried to limit the playing zone as much as possible to obtain maximum control of all players during game.
2. Toilets were checked constantly.
3. There were ventilation windows in toilets, we made sure no one had access to the area on the other side of those windows.
4. The team would circle the playing venue making sure no one attempts to get too close. Especially individuals with cellphones with apps containing chess positions.
5. Live board transmission had a 15 minute delay.
6. Every player/visitor were scanned prior to entry.
7. We had 2 lines, one for boys, one for girls with 2 gender appropriate checkers positioned on each line.
8. Boys were not allowed to bring in backpacks at all. Ladies were allowed small ladies bag.
9. No person other than players/arbiters/ staff was allowed in tournament hall during the round.
10. Players after finishing their games were politely requested to leave and were not allowed to re-enter.
11. In each round, 3 boys and 3 girls were randomly selected for another post game screening. After me being given the list, I would discreetly relay the names of the selected players to the respective arbiters. Arbiters were requested to escort those selected players to me after they finish their games. Those screenings were conducted in a special private room.



12. Do the screenings in pairs if possible so you always have a witness for any irregularity which might occur, and for any statements/admissions by the player.
13. When entering the checking room the player would be instructed to put all belongings on the table. Those items should be inspected too. Best if the player does not beep at all. That's the easy check.
14. The playing zone was clearly marked and toilets were controlled monitoring too frequent visits and too long visits.
15. Those too frequent toilet visitors were sometimes checked entering/ leaving the toilet.



**Text by:
IA Alon Shulman**

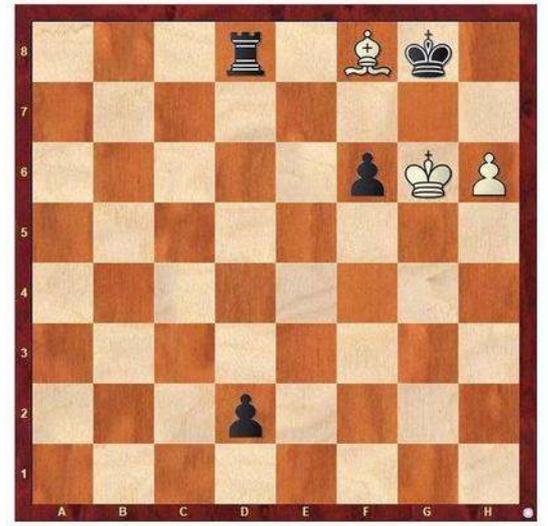
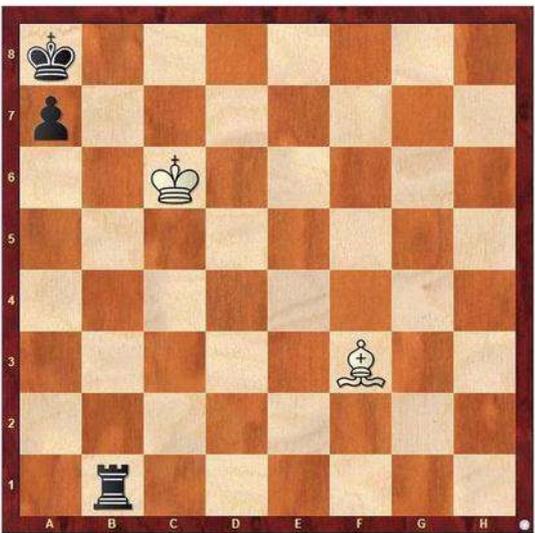
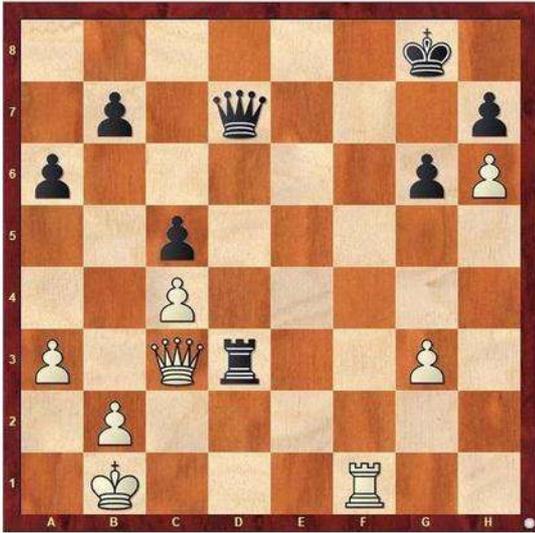
"When I started my arbitering career in 1982, Fair-Play challenges were basically limited to intercepting players who were talking to each other during game. No one suspected a player would sneak out of tournament hall to browse the new edition of the Chess Informant."

Conclusion:

Performing a Fair-Play position is not for everyone. Hard to say how many chess arbiters would like it but you should try it at least once. It has the somewhat advantage for you are not manacled to a game/match/ sector and can technically move around. On the other hand you must operate as a policeman and be always on the lookout.

Don't be discouraged if you believe there was FP violation and you failed to discover it.

It's a long stretch battle against a rogue minority but we have a huge integral advantage.



SAVIELLY TARTAKOWER SAID ABOUT CHESS:

>Chess is a fairy tale of 1001 blunders.

>A game of chess has three phases: the opening, where you hope you stand better; the middlegame, where you think you stand better; and the ending, where you know you stand to lose.

>Whenever you have to make a rook move, and both rooks are available for said move, you should evaluate which rook to move and, once you have made up your mind, move the other one.

>In chess, there is only one mistake: over-estimation of your opponent. All else is either bad luck or weakness.

>I never defeated a healthy opponent.

>A draw can be obtained normally by repeating three moves, but also by playing one bad move.

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

Solutions from November Magazine

#Puzzle 1:
1.Qc8!+ Bxc8 [1...Qd8 2.Qxd8#]
2.Re8#

#Puzzle 2:
1.Qc8!+ Bxc8 [1...Qe8 2.Qxe8#]
2.Rf8#

#Puzzle 3:
1.Qxh6!+ Kxh6 2.Bf6#

#Puzzle 4:
1.Nf5!+ Kg8 2.Ne7#



"Chess makes you smarter!"