

## **GENS UNA SUMUS**

### **The moral strength of FIDE is manifested by the discipline of its members.**

Statutes of the World Chess Federation - Fédération Internationale des Echecs - FIDE, founded 20 July, 1924, Paris, France.

Approved on June 25, 1974

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### **Chapter 1 - Status, principles and aims of FIDE**

1.1. The International Chess Federation or Fédération Internationale des Echecs, (referred to in the ensuing text as FIDE for short), is the recognised international federation in the domain of chess, which was founded on July 20, 1924 in Paris. FIDE is recognised by the International Olympic Committee as the supreme body responsible for the game of chess and its Championships. FIDE has the sole rights to organise the World Chess Championships and the Chess Olympiads. (GA'00).

FIDE unites national chess federations throughout the world and oversees all International competitions.

1.2. FIDE is concerned exclusively with chess activities. FIDE is democratically established and bases itself on the principles of equal rights of its members.

It rejects discriminatory treatment for national, political, racial, social or religious reasons or on account of gender.

It observes a strict neutrality in the internal affairs of the national chess federations.

(a) FIDE events (competitions, congresses, meetings) may be hosted only by Federations in whose countries free access is generally assured to representatives of all Federations.

(b) The General Assembly may take exceptions for reasons of state of war or severe violence between countries, only on  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote.

1.3. Chess is one of the most ancient, intellectual and cultural games. It is a combination of sport, of scientific thinking and of the elements of art.

The purpose and aim of FIDE are therefore the diffusion and development of chess among all nations of the world, as well as the raising of the level of chess culture and knowledge on a sporting, scientific, creative and cultural basis. FIDE supports a close international cooperation of the chess devotees in all fields of chess activity, thereby also aiming to improve friendly harmony among all peoples of the world.

- 1.4. FIDE issues the rules of chess and the provisions pertaining to the organization of the World Championships and all other FIDE chess competitions. It awards the international chess titles. The General Assembly issues rules of chess, decides on the regulations for all FIDE-competitions and determines the conditions for the award of international titles.

FIDE competitions are in general open to players of both sex. A competition described as a women's event is reserved for women players but women players are entitled to compete in events as described as "men's events"

- 1.5. To facilitate the administrative work in FIDE, zones are created, if possible according to regional points of view. Each member-federation is assigned to a zone. The number of zones is not limited, but a zone should be created only if chess or administrative reasons require it. (1980 Congress Resolution: The General Assembly resolved that the following criteria be used in the future when changes in the Zonal division are necessary: a) geographic reasons; b) number of affiliated federations; c) strength of organisation; d) combined number of chess players; e) number of rated players; f) number of titled players; g) encouragement of play among affiliated federations; h) special considerations.)

## **Chapter 2 - FIDE members, their rights and their duties**

- 2.1. Members of FIDE are national chess federations, which have principal authority over chess activities in their own countries and which have been admitted to FIDE as member-federations, if they acknowledge the FIDE Statutes and develop activities not contrary to those statutes. Only one federation of each country can be affiliated to FIDE. In addition FIDE can grant the status of provisional member to chess federations, in accord with Art. 2.8. However, applicants granted full or provisional membership must have fulfilled any of the following conditions:
  - (a) They must have been previously recognised as a full or provisional member of FIDE.
  - (b) The Federation must belong to a country or a territory that is a member of the International Olympic Committee.

- (c) The Federation must belong to a country or a territory with a membership or an observer status in the United Nations (GA'97)
- 2.2. The admission of a national chess federation as a member is effected through an application. This application is to be submitted to the President. The provisional admittance is decided upon by the Executive Board/Presidential Board. Final admittance as a member is pronounced by the General Assembly after examination of the preconditions for admittance by the Executive Board.
- The application for admission must include all data, which will make evident that the statutory purpose and the previous activities of the applicant are in conformity with the FIDE Statutes.
- The application for admission shall be accompanied by the official questionnaire of FIDE approved by the General Assembly, completely filled out, together with a copy of the statutes of the federation, approved or recognised by the authorities of the country, if the country's law so requires.
- 2.3. The members have a seat and vote in the General Assembly; they are entitled to make use of the right to vote; they are authorized to submit proposals to FIDE; they are entitled to participate in all FIDE events, according to the regulations; they are also authorized to scrutinize, through the Verification Commission, the financial management of FIDE.
- 2.4. The members must acknowledge and observe the statutes, regulations, resolutions and decisions of FIDE. They are also obliged to pay the membership fees and the other FIDE-contributions fixed by the General Assembly at the designated time. Moreover they are obliged to support FIDE actively in its chess activities.

Each member is required to send to the Secretariat at the latest by April 1st of each year a report containing the following information:

- (a) the name and address of the Federation;
- (b) the name and address of the President;
- (c) the name and address of the Secretary;
- (d) the name and address of the officer who is the intermediary between the member and FIDE (the Permanent Delegate);
- (e) the names of the national champions;
- (f) the title and address of the official bulletin, if any;
- (g) the numbers of players belonging directly or indirectly to the federation on January 1st of the year in question, or, if this is not possible, at the end of the previous fiscal year;

- (h) the date and place and other details about international chess events which have been organised in the federation's country since the previous report or which are planned for the future.

If in the course of the year changes occur in the data mentioned in sub (a-d) and (f) above, the federation must inform the Secretariat immediately.

When a federation does not supply the data mentioned in sub (g), the President shall determine the number of members, after consultation with the President of the Zone. the same procedure shall be when the data given by the federation contain obvious mistakes.

- 2.5. Members not fulfilling the duties mentioned in art. 2.4, may be temporarily or definitely excluded from FIDE.

A member in arrears in the fulfilment of its financial obligations towards FIDE may be temporarily excluded by the President. This temporary exclusion shall be annulled if the temporarily excluded member has fulfilled its financial obligations 90 days before the General Assembly following the temporary exclusion. No participation in any FIDE event or meeting will be permitted during the exclusion period. Payments made after the 90 days but before the General Assembly will not allow participation without a majority approval of the general Assembly.

The matter shall be submitted to the next General Assembly, which will decide on the definite exclusion of the negligent federation.

If this is not the case, the matter shall be submitted to the next General Assembly, which will decide on the definite exclusion of the negligent federation.

In other matters a definite exclusion can be ruled by the General Assembly only in case the member becomes guilty of a severe offence against the statutes, regulations, resolutions or decisions, or acts against the principles of FIDE. In the case mentioned in the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph the Presidential Board can set up a committee of three persons to investigate and examine an offence (or an act against the principles of FIDE); the committee shall report to the General Assembly or the Executive Board in non Olympiad years.

- 2.6. The members have the right to withdraw from FIDE. The President must be informed in writing of the withdrawal at the latest three months in advance. Payment of membership fees and all other contributions remains obligatory until the date of withdrawal becomes effective.

- 2.7. In connection with the exclusion or withdrawal of a member, neither membership fees nor other contributions will be refunded.
- 2.8. A provisional member has all the rights and obligations of a full member except that a provisional member does not have the right to vote in the General Assembly nor are its representatives eligible to stand for FIDE offices. The rules for withdrawal or exclusion are the same as for full members. If a provisional member has not achieved full membership status within five years, then the provisional membership may be reconfirmed for five year periods by the General Assembly, failing which the provisional membership would automatically cease.
- 2.9. Associate Membership (GA '93)  
Associate Membership status may be granted to a nation or territory which does not have membership or observer status in the United Nations, according to the procedure in Statute 2.2.
- (a) Should the territory of the applicant for Associate Membership be a part of a FIDE member, the application should be accompanied by the consent of the FIDE member. Associate Members have no voting rights in FIDE Congresses.
  - (b) To qualify, the applicant for Associate Membership and the parent federation should not have common borders, should be from different continents and should be under a process of separation agreed upon by both sides with a view to full independence of the applicant for Associate Membership.
  - (c) Associate Members may participate in Olympiads and other team and individual competitions.
  - (d) Tournament entry fees should be paid by the Associate Member. Other FIDE fees shall be agreed upon between the parent federation and the Associate Member.
- 2.10. Affiliated international chess organizations are
- (a) organizations whose legal relations to FIDE have been established by contract.
  - (b) organizations which represent the interests of regions, e.g. continents, or other groupings consisting of FIDE affiliated chess federations.
- The affiliation of international chess organisation under (b) is to be confirmed by the General Assembly.
- 2.11. Individual membership:

- (a) Honorary members and Honorary Presidents of FIDE are persons who are nominated as such because of their special merits for world-wide chess.
- (b) Life members and Friends of FIDE are persons who have made a financial contribution to FIDE, as then fixed by the General Assembly.

Special merits can be acquired by the repeated organisation of important international chess events, by the organisational work in the service of FIDE of many years' duration or by other extraordinary successful activities for the international chess movement.

Only former Presidents of FIDE can be nominated as Honorary Presidents. Only one Honorary President may serve on the Presidential Board at any time. When a new Honorary President is named by the General Assembly, the previous holder will retain the title, but no longer serve on the Presidential Board provided that the current holder of the title of Honorary President is excluded from the application of this rule as he shall continue to serve as Honorary President and retain his right to vote and reimbursement of expenses relating to his function as a member of the Presidential Board (GA '98)

### **Chapter 3 - FIDE officials and organizations**

(GA '96) The FIDE officials and organizations are:

- (a) the General Assembly,
- (b) the Executive Board,
- (c) the Presidential Board,
- (d) the President,
- (e) the Honorary President,
- (f) the Deputy President,
- (g) the Vice Presidents,
- (h) the Honorary Vice Presidents (GA '98),
- (i) the four Continental Presidents,
- (j) the General Secretary,
- (k) the Treasurer,
- (l) the Auditor,
- (m) the Zonal Presidents,
- (n) the Executive Director
- (o) the Marketing Manager
- (p) the permanent and temporary Commissions,
- (q) the delegates,
- (r) the Continental Representatives

The President and all other FIDE officials and organizations are elected or nominated and confirmed, as the case may be, for a period of four years.

The Executive Director shall remain in office until he resigns or his appointment terminated by the President on confirmation by the General Assembly. (GA '95)

Where an interim election is necessitated by resignation or death, the person elected shall serve for the remainder of the normal election period.

## **Chapter 4 - The General Assembly**

4.1. The General Assembly, being the highest authority of FIDE, exercises the legislative and - unless otherwise defined below - also the executive power. It supervises the activities of the Executive Board, the Presidential Board, the President and also the other FIDE officials and organizations. It approves the FIDE budget, elects the Presidential Board, Ethics Committee, Verification and Constitutional Committees and determines the schedule of FIDE activities.

(GA '02) When the General Assembly is not in session its powers are transferred to the Executive Board. However, the Executive Board cannot take decisions on the following:

- election of officials – as previously defined
- changes in Statutes,

The next General Assembly shall review all decisions taken by the Executive Board. The World Champion and the Women's World Champion shall be invited to attend the General Assembly with consultative voice, but no vote.

4.2. The General Assembly is composed of:

- (a) the representatives of the member-federations and their counsellors,
- (b) the members of the Executive Board,
- (c) the representative of the affiliated international chess organizations,
- (d) the Honorary Members, Honorary Presidents, Life Members and Friends of FIDE,
- (e) the chairmen of the permanent commissions, and delegates (Chapter 8).

4.3. Every member-federation is represented by its Permanent Delegate or by another person (Proxy), accredited by letter for such representation, and who either belongs to the federation concerned or is the representative (Permanent Delegate or Proxy) of another federation.

Every representative is permitted to represent, besides his own, only one additional federation.

A representative may be aided by one or two counsellors.

A proxy can be assigned to a member-federation only by written authorisation. The letter of assignment must have a signature of the Permanent Delegate or of an official authorised by the federation, as last registered with FIDE. In emergency the General Assembly can approve a Proxy on notification by other means.

- 4.4. Each member-federation represented in the General Assembly has one vote. The other participants in the General Assembly have a consultative voice only.

The discussions may be carried through on the basis of a speaker's list to be kept by the General Secretary. the chairman can take the floor as often as required also outside the order of the speaker's list. Motions of order (closing of the speaker's list, closing of the discussion, adjournment of the agenda point, removing the point from the agenda) may be made at any time on a point under discussion. these motions should be considered and decided upon at once in so far as they do not entail an interruption of the session.

The same goes for objections because of violation of the statutes. Proposals regarding amendments or supplementary proposals will be treated only if they are seconded by another voting member.

- 4.5. In General Assemblies and Extraordinary General Assemblies no less than 50% of the affiliated federations (proxies included) shall be represented.

If the quorum is not fulfilled at the beginning of the General Assembly, the Executive Board will decide which items of the agenda can be submitted for decision by the truncated General Assembly. The items put on the agenda shall not include changes of statutes, financial regulations or election of officials of FIDE.

- 4.6. The sessions of the General Assembly are public, unless it is decided otherwise by simple majority vote.

- 4.7. Votes are made orally. Votes on elections are to be made by secret ballot, unless otherwise decided by a two-third's majority.

Each recommendation by the Executive Board is voted upon first, after discussion, in the General Assembly. In other cases amendments are voted upon first. Supplementary proposals are voted upon only after a decision



- on the main proposal; they will be discussed and voted upon in the reverse order in which they were made.
- 4.8. Decisions shall be made with the majority of the votes delivered, without taking into account abstentions. For the exceptions hereto see Art. 14.4 and 14.5.  
For elections, special election regulations are operative.
- 4.9. In the event of a tie in voting, the President decides (with the exception of elections).
- 4.10. Prior to voting all relevant communications from absent members shall be brought to the attention of those present.
- 4.11. Proposals of members or FIDE officials or organizations, or affiliated international organizations under Art. 2.9 sub (b), which are to be included in the agenda for the General Assembly, should reach the President not later than three months before the beginning of the General Assembly, together with the reasons for the proposals.  
Proposals submitted within this time limit must be included in the agenda for the General Assembly.  
At sittings of the General Assembly no new motion which was not previously included in the Agenda shall be entertained once there is a veto from 1/3 of the membership of the General Assembly present at the meeting.
- 4.12. The regular General Assembly is held every Olympiad year – or every other year beginning in 1998. It is convened by the President.  
The invitations shall be sent out at the latest four months prior to the opening date of the General Assembly. The President shall send the minutes of the general Assembly to the members and the FIDE officials and organisations at the latest three months after the closing of the General Assembly.  
The President shall send the participants the complete agenda and the relevant documents at the latest six weeks prior to the opening of the General Assembly.
- 4.13. Place and date of the General Assembly are determined:  
(a) by the preceding General Assembly, or  
(b) in the absence of such a decision, by the President.

- 4.14. Decisions made by the General Assembly concerning a certain cycle for the World Championship, cannot be discussed and changed again during that cycle, unless agreed to by a two-thirds' majority.
- 4.15. An Extraordinary General Assembly shall be convened by the President upon request of one-third of the member-federations within two months of such a request. In urgent cases the President, with the consent of the Executive Board or Presidential Board, also has the right to convene an Extraordinary General Assembly. The agenda for the Extraordinary General Assembly shall be sent to participants at least one month before the meeting is held.

#### **4.16. Proxies**

- 4.16.1 All proxies shall be registered on the first day, at the beginning of the General Assembly, during the period of the establishment of the legality of the meeting after which the register shall be closed. The register of the proxies shall then be reopened after the elections would have been concluded on the first day of the General Assembly
- 4.16.2 The Committee set up to establish the legality of a meeting shall examine the quorum and the proxies presented for verification.
- 4.16.3 For a proxy to be valid, it must be signed by any of the following accredited officials of the federation in the order of precedence of: President, Permanent Delegate or Secretary of the federation.
- 4.16.4 The proxy could either be an original copy of a letter or a faxed copy.
- 4.16.5 Where two or more proxies are received and there is a conflict, the order of precedence shall be as follows:
1. Proxies received from the President
  2. Proxies received from the Permanent delegate
  3. Proxies received from the Secretary
- 4.16.6 Where the order of precedence is established and there is still a conflict, the latest fax or letter shall be deemed to be valid.
- 4.16.7 All other rules pertaining to the use of proxies as contained in the Standing Orders shall continue to remain valid insofar as they are not in conflict with the express provisions as contained in Articles 4.16.1 to 4.16.6 of this Statute.

### **Chapter 5 - The Executive Board**

- 5.1. The Executive Board concerns itself with the general situation of FIDE, the activities of the President and those of other officials and

organizations; it deals with the annual reports of the President and the Treasurer as well as all further subjects listed on the agenda for the General Assembly and recommends actions. During Olympiad years the Executive Board will only hold an abbreviated meeting which will discuss only those issues which are paramount on the agenda and have broad interest or those that may generate controversy at the General Assembly

- 5.2. The Executive Board consists of:
- (a) (GA '96) the President, the Honorary President, the Deputy President, the General Secretary, the Treasurer, the Vice Presidents, the Honorary Vice-Presidents, the four Continental Presidents, the Zonal Presidents, and four representatives from each of the Continents, and the Auditor;
  - (b) the Men's World Champion, the Women's World Champion and a representative of FIDE's commercial rights holder with a consultative voice but without the right to vote.

With the exception of the Zonal Presidents the members of the Executive Board officiate in person. No replacement is possible. FIDE shall be informed of the name of the substitute of the Zonal President in writing. the Chairman of the Commission or his representative shall be entitled to attend the Executive Board and to speak upon matters affecting his Commission but shall not be entitled to vote unless he is a member of the Executive Board. the representative of the ICCF shall be invited to attend the meetings of the Executive Board and have an observer voice, but no vote. All countries are welcome to attend the meetings of the Executive Board and express their opinions on any item of pending legislation.

- 5.3. The Executive Board meets at least once a year, as a rule immediately before the General Assembly and once per non Olympiad year.  
The Executive Board can be convened by the President at any time.  
Procedures are subject to Arts. 4.5, 4.8 and 4.9.
- 5.4. Recommendations by the Executive Board are subject to the regulations as applicable for the General Assembly, with the exception of Art. 4.3.
- 5.5. The Agenda of the meetings of the Executive Board and the summary of decisions at the meetings, shall be published by the FIDE Secretariat on the official FIDE web-site. (GA 98)

## **Chapter 6 - Continental Assemblies – Rights and Obligations**

### **6.1 The General Purpose**

The Continental Assembly (hereinafter referred to as CA) is established under FIDE for chess development in each Continent. America, Asia, Europe and Africa will each establish an operating organisation to strengthen ties between countries and establish mutual goals and representation. The CA will be responsible for the organisation of Continental championships under the auspices of FIDE.

### **6.2 Members**

Any National Federation on the respective Continent as defined in FIDE Statutes Art 2.1 is considered a member of the CA. Any International association can be accepted as an associate CA member with observer status.

### **6.3 Officials**

Each Continental Assembly will be responsible for choosing a President (then confirmed by the General Assembly) and 4 Representatives to the Executive Board, other officers may be chosen by the CA include but are not limited to a treasurer, and Secretary

### **6.4 Continental Assembly meeting**

At least annually at the FIDE Congress a Continental Assembly Meeting will be held. This meeting will be the official annual meeting at which time business of the Continent may be conducted. (Each Continent will be responsible for drafting statutes provisions that match cultural and economic diversity of the Continent. these Statutes are subject to approval by the FIDE General Assembly and will be published as an Annex of the FIDE Statutes. Financial Regulations should be drafted by the Continents to address revenues, accounting and expenses. these too will be published in the Annex. the FIDE Statutes and associated regulations can serve as model for this drafting process.) (Note--until such time that each CA has drafted these documents--these statutes will serve as the interim model)

- (a) the CA meeting is the highest authority of the CA
- (b) the CA meeting is composed of all member federations
- (c) associated members do not have the right to vote
- (d) every member federation is represented by a permanent delegate or another person (proxy)
- (e) a representative may have a proxy from only one additional federation beside their own
- (f) each member federation has one vote
- (g) the officers and Executive Committee delegates must represent the cultural and economic diversity of the entire Continent.

- (h) the CA meeting is permitted to pass resolutions if it has been convened according to the statutes. A quorum of 50% of the affiliated federations (including proxies) is required for votes on elections and changes of the statutes. If the quorum is not fulfilled no actions can be taken.
- (i) Votes are made orally unless a secret ballot is agreed to by the majority
- (j) votes on elections are cast by secret ballot
- (k) the annual meeting is convened by the President with 4 months notice
- (l) the agenda must be sent to member federations by email, fax or regular mail 6 weeks prior to the meeting
- (m) an additional fee may be charged member federations not to exceed 10% of the FIDE fee. this will be established to help the Board communicate to member federations. Entry fees for Continental events should be deposited in the CA accounts and managed by the treasurer
- (n) the annual CA meeting has the following duties that cannot be delegated to another body:
  - 1) Election of the board and the auditor(s)
  - 2) Election of the Executive Committee representatives
  - 3) Annual budget
  - 4) Vote on financial regulations
  - 5) Change of the statutes
  - 6) Change of the tournament regulations
  - 7) Vote on the new associate members
  - 8) Exclusion of members acting against CA interests
  - 9) Other duties defined as non transferable by the CA or the statutes

## 6.5 Board

- (a) the affairs of the CA are managed by the Board in the period between the CA's.
- (b) the Board consists of the President, the treasurer and at least four other members. The President and the treasurer are elected in function. the Board will appoint one of its members as Deputy President
- (c) the Board members are chosen for a period of four years.
- (d) the Board can elect from its midst a Steering Committee. The Board will establish regulations concerning the powers of the Steering Committee. The Board can nominate special Committees and

officials. The Board defines the duties of and supervises these special Committees and officials.

- (e) the members of the Board should belong to different federations.
- (f) the Board meets whenever the President deems necessary or when three Board members call for a meeting.
- (g) the Board can make decisions by letter, fax or email if no Board member demands a meeting. Minutes of the decision have to be made in all cases.

#### 6.6 Finances

- (a) the financial year shall coincide with the calendar year.
- (b) the CA budget and accounting will be based on the US dollar.
- (c) all CA bank accounts shall be in the name of the CA. the Board decides on signature rights.
- (d) each year at the annual CA meeting the treasurer shall present the final balanced account for approval by the CA.
- (e) the CA's revenues are generated through:
  - 1) membership fees
  - 2) Entry fees for tournaments organised by FIDE
  - 3) Fees for services provided by the CA
  - 4) Other revenues
- (f) the amount of membership and entry fees shall be fixed by special regulations that are approved by the CA.
- (g) members, who have not paid their current fees, lose their vote at the CA. the Board can exclude them from CA events.

#### 6.7 Miscellaneous Regulations

- (a) the CA decides on the location of a permanent office at the motion of the Board.
- (b) the official language of the CA is English. In documents containing versions in more than one language, the English version is the official one.
- (c) Communication within the CA shall be by letter, fax or email.

### **Chapter 7 - The Presidential Board**

- 7.1. In cases of emergency the Presidential Board exercises the rights of the General Assembly and the Executive Board between meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Board respectively. Such powers

include taking decisions, which require a 3/4 majority vote pursuant to Standing Order to 1.2. Any rights so exercised under this Article 7.1 have no continuing effect beyond the following General Assembly unless so authorized by the requisite majority vote. An emergency for these purposes is defined as a situation, which calls for a decision to be made before the next relevant meeting in the interest of good governance.

However, the Presidential Board cannot take decisions on the following:

- election of officials,
- changes in Statutes,
- Rules Commission matters,
- Qualification Commission matters,
- Budget reviews.

7.2. (GA '00) The Presidential Board consists of the President, the Honorary President, the Deputy President, the General Secretary, the Treasurer, the Vice Presidents, the Honorary Vice-Presidents, the four Continental Presidents and a representative of FIDE's commercial rights holder. Honorary Presidents are ex-officio members of the Presidential Board without vote.

In the event of any vacancy occurring on the Presidential Board, it shall be filled from within the Board by the Board, except in the case of a Continental Presidency vacancy which shall be referred for election by the particular continent, provided that the membership of the Presidential Board does not drop below the statutory requirements. (GA '95)

A Steering Committee consisting of the President, Deputy President, First Vice President, General Secretary and Treasurer can convene as necessary to discuss urgent and developing issues. All actions taken by the Steering Committee must be ratified by the Presidential Board.

7.3. The Presidential Board assembles at least once every three months. In addition the President may at any time convene the Presidential Board for consultation in person, by telefax or teleconference.

7.4. The Agenda of the meetings of the Presidential Board and the summary of decisions at the meetings, shall be published by the FIDE Secretariat on the official FIDE web site. (GA 98)

## **Chapter 8 - The commissions, or the delegates, of FIDE.**

- 8.1. For the accomplishment of certain FIDE-tasks the General Assembly can set up permanent or temporary commissions, or appoint delegates. The number of the commissions is not limited. However they can be created only if there is a good reason and organisational need.
- 8.2. Permanent FIDE Commissions and their (sub-)committees (GA '98):
- (a) Qualification Commission
    - Title and Ratings Committee
    - Arbiters Council
  - (b) Technical Commission
    - Rules and Tournament Regulations Committee (EB'01)
    - Swiss Pairings Committee
  - (c) Chess Events Commission
    - World Championship Cycle Committee
    - Youth and Junior Events Committee
    - Organizers Committee (FIDE Calendar Committee) (GA '95)
  - (d) Development Commission
    - Committee on Assistance to Chess Developing Countries
    - Committee on Chess in Schools
    - Committee on Women's Chess
    - Players' Council
    - Committee on International Organizations (UNESCO, IOC, etc.)
    - Trainers Committee (GA '95)
    - Committee on Chess for the Handicapped (GA '98)
  - (e) Special Commissions
    - Chess Art and Exhibition Committee (GA '98)
    - Computer Chess Committee
    - Chess Composition Committee
    - Chess Philately Committee
    - Chess Information, Publication and Statistics Committee
    - Committee on Intellectual Property Rights (GA' 98)
  - (f) Verification Commission – members of this Commission will be elected by the general Assembly only. The purpose of this Commission is to review the annual audit findings and report to the General Assembly



- (g) Ethics Commission – reference the Ethics section of the Statutes. This Commission will be elected directly by the General Assembly
  - (h) Permanent Fund
  - (i) Permanent Commission for Chess Compositions
  - (j) Constitutional Committee – responsible for reviewing any Statutes changes and reporting the legality of such to the General Assembly. Their advice and counsel will be non partisan. This Committee will be elected by the General Assembly.
  - (k) Administrative and Financial Commission (GA '95)
  - (l) Commercialisation Commission (GA '00)
  - (m) Medical Commission (GA '00)
- 8.3. In general the meetings of the Technical Commission and the Qualification Commission should be held immediately before the annual meeting of the General Assembly
- 8.4. Members of the Commissions are (GA '93):  
Members from the Presidential Board or the Executive Board appointed by the President. (GA '94)  
Up to five experts, appointed by the Chairman of the Commission. The experts should cover the fields of the (sub)committees.  
Representatives of each FIDE Zone, in case of the Qualification Commission the Zonal Presidents, who in case of absence may give a proxy to another representative of the Zone.  
The meetings of the Commissions are open to all federations.
- 8.5. Commission Membership  
The Chairman of the Commission is appointed by the President. Except those elected by the General Assembly.  
  
The members of the (sub-) committees are appointed by the Commission Chairman. The Committees shall generally have 3 to 7 members, at least 2 members of the Committees shall be members of the Commission.  
  
Exceptions are:

*The Player's Council*

Those Committees directly elected by the General Assembly

Up to ten players, one of them as the Chairman, are appointed by the President. The Chairman is an additional member of the Development Commission.

*The Organizers Committee*

The members, major organizers and two members of the Presidential Board or the Executive Board, and the Chairman are appointed by the President. The Chairman is an additional member of the Chess Events Commission.

- 8.6. The meetings of the (sub) committees are open to all federations. The Chairman of the Committee shall appoint additional representatives of federations as Committee Counsellors.

The (sub) committees shall meet before the day the Commission meets and prepare all matters and give a written report to the Commission.

- 8.7. To become legally effective, decisions of the commissions require the approval of the General Assembly.

**Chapter 9 - The President, Deputy President, Vice Presidents and Continental Presidents. (GA '95)**

- 9.1. The President represents FIDE officially.
- 9.2. The President presides over the meetings of the General Assembly, the Executive Board and the Presidential Board. He executes the decisions of these organizations. He offers himself as intermediary to the members in the interest of the expansion of chess.
- 9.3. The President supplies the General Assembly with the annual report.
- 9.4. Every party concerned may appeal decisions of the President to the General Assembly.
- 9.5. If the President is unable to act then he is represented by a Deputy President who shall exercise the powers of the President. (GA '95)

- 9.6. At the conclusion of elections for the Presidential ticket, the President shall be entitled to nominate 2 additional Vice-Presidents and no more, as the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-Presidents with voting rights on the Presidential Board to be covered under the financial regulations for an initial term of four years.
- 9.7. At the close of elections to the Presidential Board, the President may nominate no more than 4 Honorary Vice-Presidents to serve on the Presidential Board for a 4-year term.
- (a) the persons so nominated by the President as Honorary Vice-Presidents shall be chosen based on their personal merits and service to FIDE and shall be confirmed by the General Assembly.
  - (b) The Honorary Vice-Presidents shall have non-voting positions on the Presidential Board.
  - (c) They shall be responsible for payment of their expenses to meetings of the Presidential Board.
  - (d) They shall hold themselves out to represent FIDE in special events and act as intermediaries on FIDE's behalf in their approaches to sponsors.
- 9.8. The Continental Presidents will be specifically charged with the activities of their respective continents.
- In matters concerning only the interests of the members of their continents and their Zonal Presidents, but not concerning the rights and duties of a member towards FIDE, the Continental Presidents have equal rights and duties towards the members of the continent or Zonal Presidents as the President towards all members of FIDE.
- 9.9. When electing a Continental President the General Assembly - apart from exceptional cases - shall agree in principle with the opinion expressed in majority of representatives of the members belonging to the Continent.
- The appeal against a decision of a Continental President must be made in writing to the President with a copy to the Continental President. The Continental President must immediately send his comments to the President. When an appeal is made by a member federation it has to be signed by the federation's President and Permanent FIDE Delegate.
- The appeal against a decision of a Continental President must be made in writing to the President
- 9.10. In certain cases the President can also delegate specific tasks to other persons.

## **Chapter 10 - The Zonal Presidents**

- 10.1. The management of each zone is assigned to a Zonal President. It is his responsibility to co-ordinate the activities of the affiliated federations in his zone.
- 10.2. The Zonal President represents, to the best of his ability, the interests of FIDE within his zone and those of the zone within FIDE. In matters concerning only the interests of the members within a zone but not concerning the rights and duties of a member towards FIDE, the Zonal President has equal rights and duties towards members of the zone as the President and the Continental Presidents towards all members of FIDE.
- 10.3. Appeals against decision of a Zonal President may be made to the Continental President of his continent.

The appeal against the decision of a Zonal President must be made in writing. It must be sent to the Continental President for his Continent with a copy to the Zonal President, who must immediately forward to the Continental President his point of view. When the appeal is made by the national federation, it has to be written personally by the President and Permanent Delegate of the federation, otherwise it will not be considered.
- 10.4. When electing a Zonal President, the General Assembly - apart from exceptional cases - shall agree in principle with the opinion expressed in the General Assembly by the majority of the representatives of the members belonging to the zone, or, if the zone consists of one member only, take into consideration the opinion expressed by the representative of this member.
- 10.5. If unable to act, the Zonal President is entitled to delegate his duties to a representative of the members of the zone.

## **Chapter 11 - Other officials and organizations of FIDE**

- 11.1. The General Secretary aids the President in the accomplishment of his obligations. He is especially charged with executive FIDE-matters. In addition he performs all FIDE-tasks assigned to him according to the statutes or by the Presidential Board, Executive Board, the General Assembly or the President.

- 11.2. The Executive Director shall be nominated by the President and confirmed by General Assembly. (GA '95)
- 11.3. The Treasurer is responsible for the financial management of FIDE. He executes all decisions of FIDE concerning the financial management and reports on the status of FIDE's finances every quarter to the Presidential Board. (GA '95)
- 11.4. If the General Secretary or the Treasurer is unable to act, his obligations are taken over by the President up to the next General Assembly. (GA '95)
- 11.5. The Auditor heads the Verification Commission appointed by the preceding General Assembly. He is authorized to examine the FIDE ledgers and to demand information pertaining to the financial management. He may be assigned additional financial control by the General Assembly or the President.

## **Chapter 12 - Election conditions**

- 12.1. Eligibility for office pertains only to those persons who belong to a member-federation.
- 12.2. No person can be elected to a FIDE-office against the will of his national federation. This stipulation may be waived by the General Assembly only in exceptional cases.
- 12.3. The first day of the General Assembly at which elections shall be held shall be without adjournment until the elections are concluded (GA '97).
- 12.4. Elections shall be held after the consideration of the report of the President and that of the Treasurer on the first day of the General Assembly (GA '97).

## **Chapter 13 - Financial regulations**

- 13.1. The financial year of FIDE begins on January 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year (GA '97).
- 13.2. The budget of FIDE is handled on the basis of the Swiss monetary system. In exceptional cases the Treasurer is entitled, in agreement with the

President, to change to another monetary system. In exceptional cases he is also authorized to transfer the financial administration to another country. All FIDE bank accounts and investment accounts must at all times be held in FIDE's name.

- 13.3. The financial management must be conducted on the basis of an annual budget set up by the Treasurer and approved by the General Assembly.
- 13.4. The Treasurer submits to the General Assembly the balance-sheets and the profit-and-loss accounts (accompanied by the necessary documentation, when required) together with the audit report of a registered accountant. To finish his report, the Treasurer will give to the General Assembly the latest financial figures. (GA '95)
- 13.5. After examination and approval of the documentation listed under Art. 13.4 the General Assembly will discharge the Treasurer of his obligations for the financial year in question.
- 13.6. Every member shall pay FIDE the annual membership fee established by the General Assembly, before March 1st of each year (GA '97).
- 13.7. The amount of the membership fees and other contributions and financial obligations will be established by the General Assembly by the financial regulations in which all other principles of financial policy of FIDE are also to be included.
- 13.8. According to a deed dated May 9, 1927, a Permanent Fund of FIDE has been instituted, which is administered independently from the finances of FIDE. The assets and liabilities of the Permanent Fund are not to be mixed with the finances of FIDE. The administrative work is handled by three administrators, as follows: by an administrator appointed by the Swiss Chess Federation, who is the manager of the Fund, and two administrators to be appointed, one by the Italian Chess Federation, and one by the British Chess Federation.  
  
The interest of the capital of the Permanent Fund accrues to FIDE to cover its general expenses.
- 13.9. The Treasurer shall nominate a permanent accountant to handle FIDE accounts. (GA '95)

- 13.10. All expenses of FIDE should be paid by bank checks. A petty cash check will be given to the Treasurer to cover the petty cash expenses. (GA '95)
- 13.11. Financial transactions shall be signed by two persons, the Treasurer and one of the following officials, the FIDE President or the General Secretary. (GA '95)
- 13.12. The accountant shall open an official accounts books, using receiving and payment vouchers. (GA '95)
- 13.13. The official bank statements should be sent to the Treasurer for information and comments. (GA '95)  
Donations to FIDE explicitly made to the Permanent Fund are to be paid into the Fund.

#### **Chapter 14 - (GA'00)**

- 14.1. FIDE has the sole right to all radio, television and Internet rights in relation to all FIDE events (being events for specific competitions for which FIDE Regulations are prescribed in Section D of the 2000 FIDE handbook other than Continental events where the rights belong to the Continents except where a Continental Individual Championship is treated as a qualification event for the World Championships or the Grand Prix or the World Cup in which case such rights belong to FIDE), which shall included without limitation, all standard television, cable television, satellite television (including Director Broadcasting by Satellite (DBS), Master Antenna Systems (MATS) and Satellite Master Antenna Systems (SMATS)) (including free, pay per view, subscription, licence and rental), radio theatric, non-theatric, videogram, video on demand and multimedia rights including, without limitation, CD-Rom, CDI, videodisc, video, CD, DVD and all software platforms.
- 14.2. At the time that FIDE awards the right to hold a FIDE event, it shall stipulate the extent to which (if at all) the rights shall be shared with the organiser of such event and shall in making such decision take into account any contractual obligations entered into prior to the 2000 FIDE Congress and the importance of the rights to the organiser in obtaining financial support for such event.

- 14.3. At the time rights are awarded to hold a Continental event, for which FIDE Regulations are prescribed where such rights belong to the Continents, the extent to which (if at all) FIDE is entitled to the rights for such event shall be stipulated by the relevant Continental Assembly or any Continental body having delegated powers to do so.

## **Chapter 15 - Miscellaneous regulations**

- 15.1. The General Assembly shall establish the location of the office of FIDE. FIDE shall have its seat in the country in which the office is established until the General Assembly shall change the location of the office.
- 15.2. The official FIDE-languages are Arabic, English, French, German, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. In case of divergence in FIDE documents issued in different languages, in general the English version is the valid one. However, if a document was originally written in one of the other FIDE languages, that version will be considered as the authentic one. Any other language is permitted, however, to facilitate correspondence and discussions.
- 15.3. The FIDE Motto is "Gens Una Sumus" (We are one family).  
The FIDE seal is a white Knight intersected by five white latitudinal lines on a black globe, with the word "FIDE" in black at the base of the Knight, and the FIDE motto in black below the globe.  
  
The FIDE flag is the FIDE Seal at the center of a sky-blue background, on both sides of the flag, measuring 100 x 150 cm. or in proportion thereto.
- 15.4. The present statutes can be changed by the General Assembly only upon proposal by the President, the Executive Board, Presidential Board or any member-federation. Two thirds of the votes delivered without taking into account abstentions are required to effect such changes.
- 15.5. FIDE will dissolve as soon as the number of members has been reduced to two.  
Moreover, FIDE can be dissolved by a decision of the General Assembly, if at least two-thirds of all members express themselves in favor of a dissolution.
- 15.6. In case of a dissolution according to the first paragraph of Art. 14.5 the Central Committee, and in case of dissolution according to the second



paragraph of Art. 14.5 the General Assembly, shall decide how to dispose of the FIDE assets, which are to be used for chess or for any other purpose contributing to the general good.

## **Chapter 16 - Ethics**

- 16.1. The game and concept of chess is based on the assumption that everyone involved / concerned observe existing rules and regulations and attaches the greatest importance to fair play and good sportsmanship.
- 16.2. It is impossible to define exactly and in all circumstances the standard of conduct expected from all parties involved in FIDE tournaments and events, or to list all sets which would amount to a breach of the Code of Ethics and lead to disciplinary sanctions. In most cases common sense will tell the participants the standards of behaviour that are required. If any participants in a FIDE event has any doubt as to the conduct which is expected of him or her, the FIDE officials present should be contacted or the local organizer who has been put in charge of the event
- 16.3. Disputes arising during a game or tournament shall be resolved in accordance with the rules of play in existence at the time and with the tournament regulations.
- 16.4. This Code of Ethics is applicable to:
  - FIDE office bearers,
  - member federations, delegates and counsellors,
  - affiliated organizations
  - organizers, sponsors
  - all competitors in FIDE registered tournaments.

This Code of Ethics shall govern what action may be taken against any person (meaning either an individual or organization) who deliberately or through gross negligence violates the rules and regulations of the game or neglects to observe the precepts of fair play.

- 16.5. Breach of Ethics  
The Code of Ethics shall be breached by a person or organization who directly or indirectly

- 15.5.1 offers, or attempts to offer or accepts any consideration or bribe with a view of influencing the result in a game of chess or election into FIDE office.
- 15.5.2 in other respects acts contrary to this Code.
- 15.5.3 Of particular importance in this respect are the following:
- (a) Fraud in the administration of any FIDE or national federation office. The same applies where incorrect information is given in order to obtain unwarranted advantages or gain.
  - (b) Office bearers who through their behaviour no longer inspire the necessary confidence or have in other ways become unworthy of trust.
  - (c) Organizers, tournament directors, arbiters or other officials who fail to perform their functions in an impartial and responsible manner.
  - (d) Failure to comply with normally accepted standards of courtesy and chess etiquette. Misbehaviour of a personal nature which is generally unacceptable by normal social standards.
  - (e) Cheating or attempts at cheating during games and tournaments. Violent, threatening or other unseemly behaviour during or in connection with a chess event.
  - (f) Players withdrawing from a tournament without valid reason or without informing the tournament arbiter.
  - (g) Gross or repeated violations of FIDE Laws of Chess or other approved tournament regulations.
  - (h) In any top level tournament, players, delegations or teams must comply with a high standard dress code. Delegations include both a player's seconds and any other individual who the player allows to conduct business on behalf of the players. Players are responsible for the actions of acknowledged members of their delegations.
  - (i) Players or members of their delegations must not make unjustified accusations toward other players, officials or sponsors. All protests must be referred directly to the arbiter or the Technical Director of the tournament.
  - (j) In addition, disciplinary action in accordance with this Code of Ethics will be taken in cases of occurrences, which cause the game of chess, FIDE or its federations to appear in an unjustifiable unfavourable light and in this way damage its reputation.
  - (k) Any conduct likely to injure or discredit the reputation of FIDE, its events, organizers, participants, sponsors or that will not enhance the goodwill which attaches to the same.

## 16.6. Breach of Ethics

The tournament officials will take all necessary steps to ensure the proper conduct of both games and tournaments according to the Laws of Chess and the tournament regulations.

- (a) FIDE federations, officials and affiliated organizations acting in contravention to this code can be temporarily excluded from membership or office.
- (b) Anyone acting in contravention of this code can be excluded from participation in all FIDE tournaments or from specific types of tournaments for a period of up to 3 years. Weight shall be given to the type of violation and to any previous violations in deciding upon the length of the exclusion period.
- (c) Tournament arbiters who fail to act in accordance with the code of ethics can lose their authorization or refused the right to supervise FIDE tournaments for a period of up to 3 years. In such cases any new authorization will only be granted according to ordinary regulations.
- (d) Tournament organizers who act in contravention of the code, can be refused the right to organize FIDE events for a period of up to 3 years.
- (e) In the event of a player or member of delegation creating an unreasonable disturbance or distraction relating to rules, procedures or conditions, at the direction of the Appeal Committee, a player may be fined up to Five Thousand U.S. Dollars (US\$5,000) and may be forfeited one or more games, depending on the disturbance.
- (f) In the case of physically or verbally aggressive or intimidating conduct of a player or a member of delegation towards any other individual involved with an event, FIDE may take any or all of the following actions:
  - (i) fine a player up to Twenty Five Thousand U.S. Dollars (US\$25,000).
  - (ii) rule that a player has forfeited a game or a match.
  - (iii) if the offensive act was committed by a member of the player's delegation, ask such person to leave the event. Refusal by such a person to comply may result in penalties to the player as described.

## 16.7. Administrative Procedures

- 15.7.1 Breach of the regulations of this code by any Federation or FIDE official shall be reported to the FIDE Secretariat.
- 15.7.2 Breach of the regulations of this code by any person shall be reported to and decided by the FIDE Ethics Committee.
- 15.7.3 The proceedings shall be recorded in writing. Grounds must be given for any decisions taken and these must also be in writing after the defendant must have been given sufficient grounds to defend himself in writing and orally if necessary
- 15.7.4 Appeals against a decision taken by any FIDE official can be submitted to the FIDE Ethics Commission. The appeal must be sent by registered mail together with a deposit of Two Hundred Fifty U.S. Dollars (US\$250). The deposit will be returned should the appeal to all intents and purposes prove to be justified
- 15.7.5 Any decisions made by the Ethics Commission may be the object of appeal arbitration proceedings in accordance with the Code of sports-related arbitration of the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland
- 15.7.6 The time limit for appeal is twenty-one days following the communication of the decision concerning appeal. All recourse to ordinary courts is excluded.

## **Chapter 17 - Recall and Expulsion**

- 17.1. Any member of the Presidential Board may be removed from office for cause. Cause is defined as being contrary to the spirit and text of the statutes and regulations of their office. The action must have the agreement of the Ethics Committee and requires a 2/3 vote of the Executive Board or a majority in the General Assembly.

## **Chapter 18 - Final Settlement of Disputes at the Court of Arbitration for Sport**

- 18.1. Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in this Statute, FIDE hereby subscribes to the final settlement of any dispute directly or indirectly related to chess in its whole or partial practice, be it commercial or relating to the practice and development of chess or a dispute following a decision by FIDE, to be sent to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne without recourse to any other court or tribunal, as earlier subscribed to by FIDE on 11 October 1995.

- 18.2. For all practical purposes, the practise of the game of chess in all its ramifications is fully recognised as sport by the International Olympic Committee at the IOC session in Seoul, Korea in June 1999 and therefore any form of practice of the game of chess and any decision thereon by FIDE or any form of activity relating thereto either directly or indirectly falls within the definition of sport.
- 18.3. The settlement of all disputes under Article 17.1 above shall be applicable to acts performed by :
- (a) FIDE as an Organisation
  - (b) FIDE Office bearers
  - (c) Member Federations, their clubs and individual players
  - (d) Sponsors
  - (e) Any person or body with whom FIDE has entered into any form of contractual arrangement either directly or indirectly related to Chess
- 18.4. The Decision of the Court of Arbitration for Sport shall be final and binding on the parties.

## **Chapter 19 - Doping and Drug Use**

- 19.1. FIDE, its affiliated member Federations, bodies and players hereby subscribe where appropriate for chess players as agreed between FIDE and the International Olympic Committee, to be bound by the relevant rules and guidelines prescribed by the International Olympic Committee and other relevant agencies or bodies set up for the monitoring of drug use and doping by athletes in all FIDE competitions.
- 19.2. A Medical Commission comprising medical experts and laymen chosen on the basis of their personal merits shall be appointed by the Presidential Board to liaise with the relevant organs of the International Olympic Committee and agree from time to time on the list of prohibited substances and methods of doping that are applicable to chess players in FIDE competitions.

## **Chapter 20 - Miscellaneous regulations**

- 20.1. These statutes were approved by the General Assembly on 25 June 1974 in Nice, France, and amended by the General Assembly on 6 November 1976 in Haifa, Israel, on 7, 8 and 10 November 1978 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 3 and 6 December 1980 in Valletta, Malta, on 29 July 1981

in Atlanta, USA, on 16 November 1982 in Lucerne, Switzerland, on 8 October 1983 in Manila, Philippines, on 28-30 1986 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 28 November 1988 in Thessaloniki, Greece, on 7-9 August 1989 in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, on 30 November to 3 December 1990 in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, on 21-23 June 1992 in Manila, Philippines and on 22-24 November 1993 in Curitiba, Brazil; 13-15 December 1994 in Moscow, Russia, 22-24 November 1995 in Paris, France, 29 September to 1 October 1996 in Yerevan, Armenia, 2-10 September 1997 in Kishinev, Moldova, 2-13 October 1998 in Elista, Russia and 7 October 1999 in Doha, Qatar.

- 20.2. The Statutes of FIDE may be changed/modified/deleted with a 2/3 vote at the General Assembly meetings.
- 20.3. Decisions made by the General Assembly concerning the statutes, the standing orders or the electoral regulations will come into effect on the last day of the General Assembly, after the General Assembly is closed except amendments to Financial Regulations which come into operation on the first day of the next fiscal year.