

# FIDE Charter

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## **DEFINITIONS**

The terms given below denote the following (unless the context otherwise requires, any words indicating the singular number only shall include the plural number and *vice versa*, and words indicating any one gender shall include the other gender);

**Affiliated Organisation:** an association or organisation which represents the common interests of a group of Member Federations, or an international region or transnational territory, or people with a common ground in regard to some specific chess activities, admitted to FIDE and as further provided for in this Charter;

**African Chess Confederation:** the FIDE Continent for Africa;

**Anti-Cheating Regulations:** the FIDE Regulations aimed to prevent and fight the manipulation of chess competitions, the illegitimate use of electronic devices or of any other source of information or advice, including false accusation of cheating, to be drafted and enforced in accordance with this Charter;

**Anti-Doping Regulations:** the FIDE and WADA Regulations aimed to prevent and fight

the use of banned performance-enhancing drugs, substances and practices by chess competitors, to be enforced by the Medical Commission in accordance with this Charter;

**Appeal Chamber of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission:** the panel of Ethics and Disciplinary Commission members nominated to hear and decide an appeal against a decision of the First instance chamber of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission;

**Asian Chess Federation:** the FIDE Continent for Asia and Oceania;

**By-laws:** the rules approved by the General Assembly finalised to add clarifications or official interpretations to the FIDE Charter;

**CAS:** the Court of Arbitration for Sport with seat in Lausanne, Switzerland which may hear appeals against FIDE decisions in accordance with this Charter;

**Chess:** the game of chess in its orthodox form played according to the standard Laws of Chess, whether played over-the-board, by correspondence or online;

**Chess Variations:** any of the numerous chess variants deviating from the rules of chess in its orthodox form, using different starting positions, or different number of pieces, or unorthodox boards or pieces or moves, or some other deviation;

**Chess Olympiads and Paralympiads:** the biennial international team chess competitions for all FIDE members organised by FIDE and hosted by one of the FIDE members as decided by FIDE;

**Confederation of Chess for Americas:** the FIDE Continent for North, Central and South America;

**Congress or FIDE Congress:** the annual FIDE Congress consisting of meetings of the General Assembly, the Council, the Commissions and the Zonal Council;

**Constitutional Commission:** an organ of FIDE, being the elected Commission provided for in Part III of this Charter;

**Continental President:** the elected head of a FIDE Continent and a FIDE official;

**Council or FIDE Council:** an organ of FIDE, being the strategic and oversight body and exercising both executive and law-making functions;

**Country:** any country, state, territory or a part of territory recognised by the international community, in conformity with the Olympic Charter and the IOC regulations;

**Day:** a calendar day;

**Deputy President:** the elected FIDE official with the responsibilities as provided for in Part III of this Charter;

**Directors:** the directors appointed by the President, with the approval of the Council, to be responsible from time to time of some given activities or offices;

**Ethics and Disciplinary Code:** the FIDE code of conduct and sanctions approved by the

General Assembly and enforced by the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission;

**Elected Commissions:** the Verification Commission, Ethics and Disciplinary Commission and Constitutional Commission;

**Electoral Commission:** an organ of FIDE, being the *ex officio* Commission provided for in Part III of this Charter;

**Electoral Rules:** the rules to be made by the General Assembly that regulate the organisation of elections for all aspects not expressly provided for by this Charter.

**Ethics and Disciplinary Commission:** an organ of FIDE, being the elected Commission provided for in Part III of this Charter;

**European Chess Union:** the FIDE Continent for Europe;

**Fact-Finding Committee of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission:** the general Fact-Finding Committee of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission responsible for investigations in matters other than cheating or doping;

**Fair Play Commission:** the non-elected commission responsible for enforcement of the Anti-Cheating Regulations;

**Fair Play Fact-Finding Committee:** the Investigatory Committee within the ranks of the Fair Play Commission responsible for investigations in cases of cheating or doping;

**FIDE:** Fédération Internationale des Echecs, also known as International Chess Federation or World Chess Federation;

**FIDE Ambassadors:** see Honourable Dignitaries;

**FIDE Budget:** the annual budget of FIDE as approved by the General Assembly and controlled by the Treasurer;

**FIDE Charter:** this document defining the composition and formal organisation of FIDE as a corporate body;

**FIDE Commissions:** the Elected Commissions, Non-Elected Commissions and the Electoral Commission;

**FIDE Continent:** a body comprising all FIDE Member Federations of the countries included in its respective Continent and responsible for continental chess governance and development;

**FIDE Continent Assembly:** an organ of a FIDE Continent, being the body with the highest authority in FIDE Continent;

**FIDE Database:** the official database with biographical (profile) details of players, arbiters, trainers, organisers and officials with FIDE identity number, home federation, FIDE rating, FIDE titles and FIDE positions held as per the FIDE Directory, rated tournaments and match results, as well as the world, continental and country rankings

occupied by the individual, as published on the FIDE website in accordance with general data protection rules;

**FIDE Delegate:** the official representative of a FIDE Member at the General Assembly meetings or other meetings forming part of the Congress as recognized by FIDE;

**FIDE Directory:** the record of all current FIDE employees and persons occupying FIDE positions as published on the FIDE website;

**FIDE Handbook:** a *compendium* of all the important documents concerning applicable rules and regulations in FIDE, published on the FIDE website, and including this Charter, By-laws, Ethics and Disciplinary Code, Electoral Rules, Financial Rules, Rules on Laws of Chess, Zonal Council Rules, Rules on Non-elected Commissions, other Regulations, Procedural Rules of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission, of the Fair Play Commission and of the Arbiters' Disciplinary Committee, Internal Rules of FIDE organs, Recommendations and Guidelines;

**FIDE Mission:** the mission and role of FIDE as stipulated in this Charter;

**FIDE Offices:** the official administrative offices kept by FIDE at Lausanne and such other places as approved by the Council in accordance with this Charter;

**FIDE Officials:** the elected or nominated persons who occupy a FIDE office and/or who represents FIDE on occasion of events or competitions, including in particular the persons mentioned in article 16.4 of this Charter;

**FIDE Organs:** the bodies mentioned in article 16.1 of this Charter, including the President;

**FIDE Positions:** the positions occupied by an individual in the organizational structures of FIDE, FIDE Continents and FIDE Zones and as published on the FIDE website as part of the FIDE Directory and FIDE database;

**FIDE Principles:** the principles and ideals set out in article 4 of this Charter;

**FIDE Rating:** the official international rating of a player for any one of the chess disciplines of standard (classical), rapid, blitz and Fischer random (Chess960) chess as calculated by FIDE and published as part of the FIDE database;

**FIDE Rules and regulations:** all of the laws, rules and regulations, including this Charter, in force from time to time in accordance with which the affairs of FIDE will be conducted, as specified in article 7 of this Charter and as published as part of the FIDE Handbook on the FIDE website;

**FIDE Website:** the official online presence of FIDE on the web at [www.fide.com](http://www.fide.com);

**First Instance Chamber of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission:** the panel of Ethics and Disciplinary Commission members nominated to investigate, hear and decide complaints regarding the breach of the Ethics and Disciplinary Code in the first instance as envisaged in Part III of this Charter;

**Friends of FIDE:** see Honourable Dignitaries;

**General Assembly or FIDE General Assembly:** the organ of FIDE, being the body with the highest authority in FIDE and as further provided for in Part III of this Charter;

**Honorary Members:** see Honourable Dignitaries;

**Honorary Presidents:** see Honourable Dignitaries;

**Honourable Dignitaries:** The honorary *status* bestowed on an individual by the General Assembly as either a Honorary President, FIDE Ambassador, Honorary Member and Friend of FIDE as provided for in article 15 of this Charter;

**IOC:** International Olympic Committee, a non-governmental sports organisation based in Lausanne, Switzerland and responsible *inter alia* for organizing the modern Summer and Winter Olympic Games;

**International Chess Federation:** see **FIDE**;

**International Chess Competitions and Events:** chess competitions and events open for participation by participants from more than one country, normally under the auspices of FIDE, a FIDE Continent, a FIDE Zone or an Affiliated Organisation;

**Internationally Recognised Human Rights:** the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the core international human rights treaties adopted by the United Nations;

**Internal Rules:** rules to be made by any FIDE organ that regulate the organisation and functioning of that organ for all aspects not expressly provided for by this Charter;

**Laws of Chess:** the official version of the basic rules of play and competition rules for over-the-board play;

**Management Board:** an organ of FIDE, being the executive, operational and administrative body and as further provided for in Part III of this Charter;

**Medical Commission:** the non-elected commission responsible for enforcement of the WADA World Anti-Doping Code and FIDE Anti-Doping Regulations;

**Member Federation:** the single national chess association or similar organisation which has principal authority over chess activities in its own country or territory and which has been admitted to FIDE as a FIDE Member;

**National Chess Federation:** a legal entity recognised by FIDE as the governing body for the sport of chess in its respective country which complies in all aspects with FIDE Rules and regulations, including this Charter;

**Non-Elected Commissions:** any FIDE Commissions other than the Elected Commissions and the Electoral Commission as provided for in Part III of this Charter;

**Official Chess Rating:** see FIDE rating;

**Official Ranking System:** the system maintained by FIDE for determining the world, continental and country rankings occupied by an individual player according to his or her official chess rating;

**Olympic Charter:** the codification of the fundamental principles of Olympism, the rules and guidelines for the organisation of the Olympic Games and for governing the Olympic movement as adopted by the IOC;

**Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions:** the Code approved by the IOC to provide sports organisations with harmonised regulations to protect all competitions from the risk of manipulation;

**Participants:** all chess players; player support personnel like managers, trainers and agents; organisers, arbiters and other competition officials; FIDE officials; members of the Local Organising Committee; and other members of any delegation who is or has been accredited to attend or participate in a competition, meeting or event that comes under the auspices of FIDE, a FIDE Continent or FIDE Zone;

**President or FIDE President:** an organ of FIDE, being the head of the organization and the official representative of FIDE in all external relations and as further provided for in Part III of this Charter;

**Procedural Rules:** the Internal Rules adopted by the Fair Play Commission, the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission and the Arbiters' Disciplinary Committee binding upon participants in the investigative and judicial proceedings of the respective body;

**Rules for Non-Elected Commissions:** the rules regarding the number, the composition and competences of Non-Elected Commissions as published on the FIDE website;

**Secretary of the Council:** the FIDE official with the responsibilities as provided for in Part III of this Charter;

**Treasurer:** the FIDE official with the responsibilities as provided for in Part III of this Charter;

**Verification Commission:** an organ of FIDE, being the elected Commission provided for in Part III of this Charter;

**Vice President:** the FIDE official with the responsibilities as provided for in Part III of this Charter;

**WADA:** World Anti-Doping Agency, an agency situated in Montreal, Canada with the aim to promote, coordinate and monitor the fight against drugs in sports with its key activities including scientific research, education, development of anti-doping capacities, and monitoring of the World Anti-Doping Code;

**Working Day:** a calendar day excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Public holidays;

**World Anti-Doping Code:** a document aiming to harmonize anti-doping regulations in all

sports and countries. It embodies *inter alia* an annual list of prohibited substances and methods that sportspersons are not allowed to take or use;

**WADA International Standards:** technical documents published by WADA binding on all signatories of the World Anti-doping Code as associated documents and governing matters such as testing and investigation procedures and uniform standards for accredited laboratories;

**World Chess Championships:** any championship organised by FIDE for players (open) or for certain groups of players, such as women, to determine the best chess player in a particular discipline, including but not limited to Classical, Rapid, Blitz or Fischer Random (Chess960) chess;

**World Chess Federation:** see FIDE;

**Zonal Council:** an organ of FIDE, being a council comprising all the Presidents of FIDE Continents and all of the Zonal Presidents as provided for in Part III of this Charter;

**Zonal Council Rules:** the rules adopted by the Zonal Council for its own functioning;

**Zonal President:** the elected head of a Zone as provided for in Part III of this Charter;

**Zone** - a body comprising all FIDE Member Federations of the countries included in its respective Zone and responsible for zonal chess governance and development as provided for in Part III of this Charter.

## **PART I – GENERAL PROVISIONS AND PRINCIPLES**

### **Art. 1 FIDE – Name, legal status and seat**

- 1.1 The *Fédération Internationale des Échecs* (hereafter FIDE), or International Chess Federation or World Chess Federation, is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation.
- 1.2 FIDE is an association of unlimited duration, with the *status* of a legal person, founded on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1924 in Paris, France, then recognised in Switzerland and registered in the Commercial Register, in accordance with the Swiss Civil Code.
- 1.3 The seat and the headquarters of FIDE are in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- 1.4 FIDE operational offices can be open in other countries and cities, if decided by the FIDE Council.
- 1.5 In order to fulfil its mission and carry out its role, FIDE may establish, acquire, control or delegate tasks to other legal entities such as foundations or corporations.
- 1.6 FIDE has exclusive rights on its name, both in the French and in the English version, as well as in the translations in other languages.



## Art. 2 Mission and role of FIDE

- 2.1 FIDE promotes chess activities, in all their forms.
- 2.2 Chess is one of the most ancient intellectual and cultural games, a combination of sport, scientific thinking and elements of art, it's also a useful means to improving cognitive skills and creating capabilities for people of any age.
- 2.3 The practice of the game of chess is fully recognised as a sport by the International Olympic Committee, that recognised FIDE as an International Sport Federation since 1999.
- 2.4 FIDE is recognised by its members and by the International Olympic Committee as the international federation in the domain of chess, the supreme body responsible for the sport of chess, its championships and events.
- 2.5 The mission of FIDE is 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, educational and cultural basis.
- 2.6 FIDE supports close international cooperation of chess devotees in all fields of chess activities, thereby also aiming to improve harmony and promote peace among all peoples of the world.
- 2.7 FIDE takes actions to strengthen unity of national and regional chess federations throughout the world and oversees all international competitions.
- 2.8 FIDE issues the rules of chess and the provisions pertaining to the organisation of chess competitions. National competitions that are not FIDE rated can be regulated by specific national rules, also when attended by players of different countries, including the possibility to use a national rating system.
- 2.9 FIDE determines the conditions for and awards international chess titles and ratings.
- 2.10 FIDE can directly organise international competitions and events.
- 2.11 FIDE especially encourages and supports:
  - the education of youth through chess sport and culture;
  - the promotion of women in all chess activities and events;
  - the promotion of ethics and any effort aimed to ensuring that, in chess, the spirit of fair play prevails;
  - any effort aimed to improve the inclusion of disabled or differently abled persons in chess events;
  - any effort aimed to improve the inclusion of refugees and migrants in chess events;
  - any efforts of private organisations and public authorities aimed to provide for the social and professional future of chess players;
  - any effort aimed to improve good governance in all chess organisations.
- 2.12 FIDE promotes chess solidarity aimed to carry out development programs and to bridge socio-economic divides among individuals and countries regarding access to chess activities.
- 2.13 FIDE observes the “Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance of the

Olympic and Sports Movement” adopted by the IOC.

Art. 3 Rights over Chess Olympiads, World Championships, chess events and ratings

- 3.1 FIDE has the sole rights to organise Chess Olympiads and the World Chess Championships, in all their forms, including competitions on internet and regarding variations of the traditional game of chess (as Fischer random - chess960, blindfold chess, etc.).
- 3.2 FIDE is the only due sports organisation authorised to specify conditions for (including registration and appointment regulations) and arrange Chess Olympiads and Paralympiads, World Chess Championships as well as other international chess competitions and events under auspices of FIDE.
- 3.3 FIDE reserves its exclusive rights for official chess ratings and official ranking systems and shall not accept any ratings (including online) for any official FIDE activities, other than those approved or specified by FIDE.

Art. 4 FIDE principles

- 4.1 FIDE is a democratically established and fully independent organisation, based on the principle of equal rights of its members.
- 4.2 FIDE preserves the autonomy of chess and sport.
- 4.3 FIDE is committed to respecting all internationally recognised human rights and shall strive to promote the protection of these rights.
- 4.4 FIDE rejects any kind of discrimination against a country, private person or group of people on account of race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, citizenship, birth, age, status, wealth, disability, language, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, sexual orientation, political opinions, or any other reason.
- 4.5 FIDE shall undertake all measures necessary to guarantee equal access to the game of chess and tournaments to all genders and to assure gender balance inside FIDE organs and management, in the percentages specified in the Electoral Rules.
- 4.6 FIDE shall undertake all measures necessary to guarantee equal access to the game of chess and tournaments to all countries, zones and continents and to assure fair representation of countries, zones and continents inside FIDE organs and management.
- 4.7 FIDE events may be hosted only by nations where free access is assured to representatives of all FIDE members. Exceptions can be admissible only for reasons of state of war or severe violence and conflicts between countries and have to be decided on a three-quarter majority vote of presents, by the General Assembly or the Council.
- 4.8 FIDE shall promote friendly relations between and among member associations, clubs, officials and players.
- 4.9 FIDE dedicates its efforts, in close collaboration with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), to fight any

form of doping, and takes measures to prevent endangering the health of competitors, accepting the WADA World Anti-Doping Code and its international standards.

- 4.10 FIDE observes strict neutrality in the internal affairs of its members but has the right and duty to evaluate their compliance with FIDE principles and their obligations towards FIDE.
- 4.11 Member Federations can apply national rules to their tournaments and activities, also if different from FIDE rules and regulations, however, FIDE principles must always be applied, except if otherwise provided in the present FIDE Charter.
- 4.12 FIDE may grant patronage, upon such terms and conditions as it may consider appropriate, to chess competitions and events on condition that they take place in compliance with FIDE rules and principles.
- 4.13 FIDE is committed to the protection of personal data of all chess stakeholders with respect to general data protection regulations.

#### Art. 5 FIDE motto, seal, flag, emblems and anthem

- 5.1 The FIDE motto is *Gens Una Sumus* (We are one family).
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 The FIDE flag is the FIDE seal at the centre of a sky-blue background, on both sides of the flag, measuring 100 x 150 cm or in proportion thereto.
- 5.4 Other FIDE emblems, which can also be finalised to specific events or activities, can be introduced by additional regulations.
- 5.5 The FIDE anthem is the musical work entitled *Inno della FIDE*, composed in 1951 by Gian Carlo Dal Verme<sup>1</sup>. Other anthems can be adopted for specific categories of events, such as the anthem of Chess Olympiads.
- 5.6 The Council can approve changes regarding forms and colours of the FIDE seal, flag and emblems.

#### Art. 6 Official languages

- 6.1 English is the official language of FIDE.
- 6.2 A translation into French of this charter will be provided on occasion of its registration in front of Swiss authorities. In the case of divergence between the English and the French texts, the English text shall prevail.
- 6.3 In the FIDE General Assembly delegates and participants can speak in English, French, Spanish, Russian or Arabic. Qualified interpreters shall translate into these languages. Delegates may speak in a different mother tongue if they ensure qualified interpretation into one of the above-mentioned languages.
- 6.4 Member associations are responsible for the translation into their official languages of the FIDE Charter, rules and regulations.

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<sup>1</sup> Words of Marcel Berman. The anthem can also be played without words. Different words can be adopted, following a decision of the Council.

## Art. 7 FIDE rules and regulations

- 7.1 The system of FIDE rules and regulations is hierarchically organised as follows:
- FIDE Charter;
  - By-laws, Ethics and Disciplinary Code, Electoral Rules, Financial Rules, Rules on Laws of Chess, Zonal Council Rules, Rules on Non-elected Commissions;
  - Regulations;
  - Procedural Rules of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission, of the Fair Play Commission and of the Arbiters' Disciplinary Committee;
  - Decisions;
  - Internal Rules of FIDE organs;
  - Recommendations and Guidelines.
- 7.2 There will be no other rules or regulations in FIDE.
- 7.3.1 The FIDE Charter contains the primary rules and the main principles of the organisation and cannot be superseded nor derogated by any other FIDE rule, regulation or decision. The FIDE Charter is approved and can be modified only by the General Assembly, with a majority of two-thirds of valid votes. The FIDE Charter is registered in the Swiss Commercial Register. An official version of the FIDE Charter, on paper, signed by the President, is filed in the FIDE offices; a scanned copy of this document is made available on the FIDE website.
- 7.4 By-laws can add clarifications or official interpretations to the rules included in the FIDE Charter, when necessary or useful, and are approved by the General Assembly, by simple majority.
- 7.5 FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code, Electoral Rules, Financial Rules, Rules on Laws of Chess and Zonal Council Rules are approved and modified by the General Assembly, by simple majority, and cannot be superseded nor derogated by rules of an inferior level.
- 7.6 Regulations and Rules on Non-elected Commissions are adopted, approved and modified by the Council.
- 7.7 Procedural Rules of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission, of the Fair Play Commission and of the Arbiters' Disciplinary Committee are approved by the Council: they must be applied also by all parties involved in the proceedings in front of these organs.
- 7.8 Decisions concerning disciplinary or sport justice matters are issued by the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission and, for some specific arbiters' behaviours, by the Arbiters' Disciplinary Committee. Ethics and Disciplinary Commission decisions are final, as better specified in Parts III and V of this Charter. Arbiters' Disciplinary Committee decisions can be appealed in front of the Council.
- 7.9 Decisions concerning specific administrative or executive matters are issued by the President or the Management Board and can be appealed in front of the Council.
- 7.10 Each FIDE organ can approve Internal Rules, concerning its functioning, by

majority of its components. Internal Rules cannot supersede nor derogate other FIDE rules, in accordance with the hierarchy listed in 7.1.

- 7.11 All FIDE members, organs and officials must observe FIDE rules and regulations.
- 7.12 All FIDE members must include, in their statutes, the obligation for their members to observe FIDE rules and regulations.
- 7.13 All FIDE rules and regulations must be made available on the FIDE website, on a digitalised version, mentioning clearly the date of their approval and of any changes of them. If not differently provided in this Charter or by the competent organs that approved them, new rules and regulations become applicable 15 days after their publication on the FIDE website.
- 7.14 All FIDE rules and regulations are collected in the FIDE Handbook, whose index, structure and updating must be approved by the Constitutional Commission that, in accordance with its Internal Rules, will instruct FIDE offices about the publication.

#### Art. 8 Interpretation of FIDE rules and regulations

- 8.1 The interpretation of FIDE rules and regulations must be in conformity with the Olympic Charter, the World Anti-Doping Code and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions.
- 8.2 When textual, systematic and teleological interpretation are not sufficient to give a solution to a specific case or issue, general principles of law can be applied.
- 8.3 The definitions inserted above, before Article 1, are part of this Charter, they have an interpretative value of the meaning in which those words are used in the Charter, but only if not otherwise evident from the text.

### **PART II – MEMBERSHIP**

#### Art. 9 Member Federations

- 9.1 Member Federations are national chess associations or corresponding organisations which have principal authority over chess activities in their own countries or territories and which have been admitted to FIDE.
- 9.2 Only one Federation for each country can be affiliated to FIDE as a Member. This rule shall not apply to Federations that were accepted as FIDE Members before the date of this Charter entering into force.
- 9.3 The request of admission by a different federation, as a representative of a given country, can be considered only if the previously recognised Member Federation has been expelled by the General Assembly or has withdrawn from FIDE or is disbanded according to the procedure set out in its statutes and regulations. If a disbanded Member Federation was not in good financial standing with FIDE at the time of its disbandment, the new Member Federation shall take over all financial obligations of the former one, unless the General Assembly decides otherwise.

- 9.4 For new members, the country of the federation must be a country recognised by the United Nations or the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- 9.5 The expression “country” shall mean any country, state, territory or a part of territory recognised by the international community, in conformity with the Olympic Charter and the IOC regulations.
- 9.6 Member Federations are full ordinary members of FIDE.

#### Art. 10 Rights of Member Federations

- 10.1 Member Federations have the following rights:
- a) to take part and to vote in the General Assembly, with one vote;
  - b) to make proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly and of the Congress;
  - c) to nominate candidates for the President, other members of the Council, Zonal President of their Zone, chairmen and members of the Commissions;
  - d) to take part in FIDE competitions and to benefit from FIDE’s assistance, development and educational programmes, according to the existing regulations;
  - e) to scrutinise, through the Verification Commission, the financial management of FIDE, in accordance with the Financial Rules;
  - f) to exercise all other rights arising from FIDE rules and regulations;
  - g) to withdraw from FIDE. The FIDE Offices must be informed in writing of the withdrawal at the least three months in advance. Payment of membership fees and all other contributions remains obligatory until the date of withdrawal becomes effective. Membership fees or other contributions will not be refunded if a member withdraws or is expelled.
- 10.2 The exercise of these rights is subject to the provisions in this Charter and other FIDE rules and regulations.

#### Art. 11 Obligations of Member Federations

Member Federations must:

- a) observe all rules, regulations and decisions of FIDE and ensure that their members and various bodies, including leagues and clubs, also comply with them;
- b) ensure that their statutes and rules fully comply with FIDE rules and regulations;
- c) comply with their own statutes, rules and regulations, refraining from taking discriminatory decisions or actions;
- d) maintain full control and governance of chess in their country, including, without limitations, control over their national competitions, excluded unofficial and unrated events;
- e) develop chess activities, chess culture and chess education in their country or territory;
- f) ensure the participation of their players and teams in the most relevant

- international competitions, in the limits of their possibilities;
- g) remain in good standing, including in good financial standing;
  - h) pay membership fees and other FIDE obligations;
  - i) recognise FIDE's authority and position;
  - j) effectively support FIDE in all chess activities;
  - k) correctly exhibit FIDE logo and name, in accordance with FIDE Regulations;
  - l) act independently from any government, public or private institution, except for what provided as mandatory by their national legal order;
  - m) promote amicable and courteous relations with other Member Federations and their members, officials and players;
  - n) communicate a copy of their current statutes to FIDE Offices, adding a translation into English, if written in a different language;
  - o) communicate any change of their statutes, not later than two months after their entry into force. In the event of doubt or conflict, only timely communicated changes will be considered as valid in front of FIDE organs;
  - p) inform FIDE about their chess activities and their institutional and financial situation, answering an annual questionnaire distributed by FIDE Offices, and also sending, if requested, copies of their official documents (minutes of assemblies, financial statements, etc.);
  - q) regularly organise general assemblies and elections, in accordance with their statutes and national legal order;
  - r) communicate and update, within one month of any change, the following data:
    - address and contacts;
    - registered email address, to be used for all official communications to and from FIDE, that allows to legally track and prove the delivery of their emails and documents, signed electronically;
    - name and contacts of their President and FIDE Delegate.

#### Art. 12 Admission of Member Federations

- 12.1 The General Assembly is competent to decide on the admission of new Member Federations, after the Council's examination of the preconditions for admittance.
- 12.2 Decisions on the admission of new federations shall be made before any other order of business, except elections. A new member can fully participate in all FIDE meetings, including the right to vote, from the moment it is accepted for membership by the General Assembly.
- 12.3 The requests of admission have to be submitted to FIDE Offices, providing all information requested, filling in the form specifically approved by the Council, including information regarding national rules about the legal nature of the applicant and the necessity or not of an approval or recognition by national authorities.

### Art. 13 Suspension and Expulsion of Member Federations

- 13.1 Member Federations not fulfilling their duties may be suspended from FIDE membership by a decision of the Council that is immediately effective but is subject to confirmation by the General Assembly, and may be permanently expelled from FIDE by a decision of the General Assembly.
- 13.2 A Member Federation in arrears in the fulfilment of its financial obligations for a period of two consecutive years or more will be suspended, except if justified by the Council, following an advisory opinion by the Verification Commission. The suspension for this reason shall be annulled by the Council if the suspended Federation Member has fulfilled its financial obligations.
- 13.3 In other matters the confirmation of the suspension or the expulsion of a Member Federation can be decided by the General Assembly only for compelling reasons related to severe violations of its duties, following an advisory opinion by the Constitutional Commission.
- 13.4 Decisions by the General Assembly on the suspension or expulsion of a Member Federation shall be made before any other order of business. Decisions on expulsion requires a two third majority of valid votes. The Member Federation whose suspension or expulsion is requested has the right to submit written defences and to be heard before the decision, in front of both the Council and the General Assembly.
- 13.5 If a Member Federation permanently loses the right to represent the chess community in its country, according with national law and after exhausting all national remedies, this situation shall justify its expulsion as well.
- 13.6 During the suspension period the suspended Member Federation forfeits its rights under Art. 10 and its officials and national teams may not participate in any FIDE congress, competition, event or activity. Players, arbiters and trainers can still participate in individual competitions and other events, under their national flag or under FIDE flag, if not otherwise decided by the Council or the General Assembly.
- 13.7 In case of minor violations of the obligations of a Member Federation, or of internal difficulties of a Member Federation that can also directly request its intervention, the Council, following an advisory opinion of the Constitutional Commission, can decide to apply different measures. Among these measures, the following ones are proposed: nomination of a FIDE reverse delegate, nomination of a fact finding commission, nomination of a FIDE special envoy, warning, monitoring and recommendations.

### Art. 14 Affiliated Organisations

- 14.1 The General Assembly, following an advisory opinion of the Council, can be admitted as Affiliated Organisations:
  - a) organisations grouping Member Federations;



- b) associations or organisations which represent some regions or transnational territories;
  - c) associations or other organisations representing people with a common ground or with same interests on some specific chess activities.
- 14.2 Affiliated Organisations have the right to take part in FIDE Congresses and in the General Assembly, without voting.
- 14.3 Affiliated Organisations can organise and participate in some specific FIDE competitions or events, according with FIDE rules and regulations.
- 14.4 Affiliated Organisations can be authorised to organise events under the auspices of FIDE.
- 14.5 Affiliated Organisations can be temporarily suspended or permanently expelled by the General Assembly, for just cause.

#### Art. 15 Honourable Dignitaries

- 15.1 Honourable Dignitaries are:
  - a) Honorary Presidents;
  - b) FIDE Ambassadors;
  - c) Honorary Members;
  - d) Friends of FIDE.
- 15.2 Honourable Dignitaries are awarded by the General Assembly, following a proposal of the President or of the Council, recognising their special contribution to the world of chess. Friends of FIDE can be directly nominated by the Council, following a proposal of the President.
- 15.3 Only former FIDE Presidents can be nominated as Honorary Presidents.
- 15.4 Honourable Dignitaries have the right to attend the FIDE General Assembly, without voting rights.

### **PART III – THE ORGANISATION OF FIDE**

#### Art. 16 FIDE organs and officials

- 16.1 FIDE organs are:
  - a) the General Assembly;
  - b) the President;
  - c) the Council;
  - d) the Management Board;
  - e) the Zonal Council;
  - f) the Verification Commission;
  - g) the Constitutional Commission;
  - h) the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission and its Chambers;
  - i) the Electoral Commission;
- 16.2 FIDE organs are the organisational elements of FIDE as a juridical person and as a centre of attribution of legal situations: FIDE acts through its own organs and the effects of FIDE organs' activities, subject to the limits of their competences

and powers as provided for in this FIDE Charter, are directly attributed to FIDE. The number, the composition and the competences of the FIDE organs are established exclusively by the FIDE Charter. No new organ can be created without modifying the FIDE Charter.

- 16.3 Non-elected Commissions and *ad hoc* commissions or committees can be instituted by the Council, the General Assembly and the President, but just as consultative bodies of these organs and not as separate organs.
- 16.4 FIDE officials are all persons who bear a FIDE office and/or who represents FIDE in occasion of events or competitions, even if temporary. Among others, the President, the Deputy President, the Treasurer, the Secretary of the Council, the Vice Presidents, the Continental Presidents, the Zonal Presidents, the Chairmen of Commissions, the Directors and also the principals of FIDE Olympiads and World Championships are FIDE officials.
- 16.5 All members of FIDE organs are elected or nominated for a period of four years, if not otherwise provided for in this Charter. Elections of the Chairmen and the members of the Verification Commission, of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission and of the Constitutional Commission are held two years after the other elections. Where an interim election or a new nomination is necessitated, the person elected or nominated shall serve for the remainder of the normal election period.
- 16.6 Representation or voting by proxy is never allowed for any FIDE organ.
- 16.7 Internal Rules regulate the organisation and the functioning of each organ for all aspects not expressly provided for by this Charter.
- 16.8 Electoral Rules regulate the organisation of elections for all aspects not expressly provided for by this Charter.
- 16.9 Persons elected or nominated as members of FIDE organs shall sit on those organs in their individual capacity and must act exclusively in the best interest of FIDE, without undue influence from third parties, their Member Federation or FIDE Continent.
- 16.10 Whenever any FIDE official has a financial or personal interest in any matter coming before any FIDE body on which has a deliberative voice or vote, the affected person shall fully disclose the nature of the interest to the relevant body and withdraw from discussion, lobbying, and voting on the matter. Situations of conflict of interest can find a specific regulation in the Ethics and Disciplinary Code and in the Internal Rules of the different organs.
- 16.11 All income received by FIDE officials as a player, an arbiter or an appeals committee member regarding FIDE events, including Continental events, shall be disclosed.
- 16.12 FIDE officials may not simultaneously hold another position within the organisation that creates a conflict of interest.
- 16.13 With the exception of the President, when an elected FIDE office becomes vacant for any reason during the course of a term, new elections are organised in the next

General Assembly. Until that moment the Council appoints, only if absolutely necessary for a task established as mandatory by this Charter, a temporary substitute, if possible from among the other members of that FIDE organ.

- 16.14 When a nominated FIDE office becomes vacant for any reason during the course of a term, the President makes a new nomination, to be confirmed at the first following meeting by the competent FIDE organ, General Assembly or Council, if previewed.
- 16.15 Elected FIDE officials can be removed from their position only following a sanction by the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission or the approval of a vote of no confidence, when previewed.
- 16.16 Appointed FIDE office bearers, members of the Management Board included, can be removed from their position only for cause, following a written motivated decision by the President.
- 16.17 Directors can be removed from their position by the President, at his own discretion, with the following confirmation of the Council.

#### Art. 17 The General Assembly

- 17.1. The General Assembly is the highest authority of FIDE and exercises the powers listed below.
- 17.2 The General Assembly:
  - a) approves and modifies the FIDE Charter, with a majority of two thirds of valid votes of those Members Federations present, without considering abstentions;
  - b) approves and modifies By-laws, Ethics and Disciplinary Code, Electoral Rules, Financial Rules, Rules on Laws of Chess and Zonal Council Rules, by simple majority;
  - c) decides on the admission of new Member Federations and Affiliated Organisations and on their temporary suspension and permanent expulsion;
  - d) elects the President and the Deputy President, on a joint ticket;
  - e) elects 4 Vice Presidents, the Chairman of the Verification Commission, the members of the Verification Commission, the Chairman of the Constitutional Commission, the members of the Constitutional Commission, the Chairman of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission and the members of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission;
  - f) elects the Treasurer, the Secretary of the Council and 3 Vice Presidents by confirming or not the nominations proposed by the elected President, in accordance with the Electoral Rules;
  - g) decides on motions of no confidence raised against the President, another member of the Council or the entire Council, with a majority of two thirds of valid votes, without considering abstentions. Motions of no confidence can be debated following a proposal supported by a minimum of 40 Member Federations or 7 members of the Council. If the motion is approved, the

President and/or the other members of the Council must resign;

- h) expresses general guidance on FIDE activities;
- i) approves the FIDE budget and Treasurer's report;
- j) approves the reports of the Verification Commission and of the Constitutional Commission;
- k) awards hosting of Chess Olympiads;
- l) is the internal appellate organ for all decisions taken by the Council and the President.

17.3. The General Assembly is composed of:

- a) the representatives of the Member Federations (who can be assisted by one counsellor. The counsellors have no right to speak);
- b) the representatives of the Affiliated Organisations;
- c) the Honourable Dignitaries;
- d) the members of the Zonal Council;
- e) the Chairmen of the Commissions;
- f) the current FIDE World Champion and Women's World Champion;
- g) other persons can be invited to participate in the meetings of the General Assembly, in accordance with its Internal Rules.

17.4 Each Member Federation represented in the General Assembly has one vote. The other participants in the General Assembly have a consultative voice only.

17.5 Each Member Federation shall be represented at the General Assembly by its president or delegate, in accordance with Electoral Rules and General Assembly Internal Rules.

17.6 Presidents and delegates may only represent one Member Federation at a time and must, on the date of the meeting of the General Assembly, have a citizenship or at least two years' residency of the country or territory they represent. They must also be elected or appointed by the appropriate body of that Member Federation. (*art. 17.6 modified by FIDE GA decision CM2025-15, 14 December 2025*)

17.7 The Ordinary General Assembly is convened by the President. As a rule, it shall be held every year. Every postponement will be approved by the Council.

17.8 The President and the Council may convene an Extraordinary General Assembly at any time.

17.9 The Council shall convene an Extraordinary General Assembly if a minimum of 65 Member Federations makes such a request in writing. The request shall specify the items for the agenda. In this case the Extraordinary General Assembly shall be held within four months of receipt of the request.

17.10 Invitations for the General Assembly shall be notified, in writing, to registered email addresses, at the latest three months prior to the opening date for an Ordinary General Assembly or two months prior to the opening date for an Extraordinary General Assembly. The FIDE Offices shall send the participants the complete agenda and the relevant documents, at the latest one month before

the General Assembly. The agenda may not be altered after this deadline. No other item, not included in the agenda, may be discussed by the General Assembly, except in an emergency situation, which must be established by evidence, with the approval by a two thirds majority vote of those present. Motions of no confidence shall not be discussed by the General Assembly if not included in the agenda, regardless of any emergency situation.

- 17.11 Proposals from Member Federations or Affiliated Organisations, about items to be included in the agenda of the Ordinary General Assembly, should reach the FIDE Offices not later than two months before the opening date of the General Assembly, together with the reasons for them. Proposals submitted within this time limit must be included in the agenda.
- 17.12 The sessions of the General Assembly are public, unless it is decided otherwise by simple majority vote.
- 17.13 The FIDE President chairs the General Assembly.
- 17.14 In meetings of the General Assembly, the quorum shall be 50% of the present voting participants. This shall be established by a roll call at the beginning of the meeting and no further roll calls are needed to establish a quorum unless requested by a motion supported by at least 5 Member Federations.
- 17.15 Votes on elections for the President and the members of the Council must be made by secret ballot. The elections for Zonal Presidents and for elected Commissions shall be made by secret ballot, except when there are no more candidates than positions to be filled. A secret ballot is held for the award for hosting the Olympiad and for decisions on motions of no confidence. All other decisions will be taken by open vote: in this case, in the event of a tie in voting, the FIDE President –who usually has no right to vote- decides. A proposal or a decision which raises no objection is accepted unanimously as a decision of the General Assembly. General applause is also regarded as acceptance of a decision. If there is an objection, then a decision is made by vote. Electronic roll calls and voting are possible, if available, in accordance with Electoral Regulations.
- 17.16 Decisions made by the General Assembly will come into effect on the last day of the General Assembly, after the General Assembly is closed, except if otherwise decided.

#### Art. 18 The President

- 18.1 The President represents FIDE officially.
- 18.2 The President shall aim to foster a positive image of FIDE and to ensure that FIDE's mission, strategic direction, policies and values, as defined by the General Assembly and by the Council, are protected and advanced.
- 18.3 The President shall seek to maintain and develop good relations between and among FIDE Member Federations, Affiliated Members, International Olympic Committee, other International Sports Federations, political bodies and international organisations.

- 18.4 The President is the only one who can sign documents and contracts and assume obligations for FIDE. However, he can delegate other members of the Council or of the Management Board to sign on his behalf, especially regarding everyday payments, minor contracts and obligations, in accordance with Management Board Internal Rules. The President can also delegate other specific tasks to the Deputy President, to the Treasurer, or to other members of the Council or of the Management Board.
- 18.5 The President chairs the meetings of the General Assembly –except in case of Presidential elections, when the electoral phase of the meeting is chaired in accordance with Electoral Rules- and of the Zonal Council, without voting rights.
- 18.6 The President presents an annual report to the General Assembly.
- 18.7 The President presides over meetings of the Council, he shall have one vote in the Council. In the event of a tie in voting, the President decides.
- 18.8 The President presides over meetings of the Management Board. Decisions of the Management Board should be taken by *consensus*. If there is no *consensus*, the President's vote shall be deciding.
- 18.9 In accordance with the Internal Rules of the Council and with the Financial Rules, the contracts signed by the President and the decisions taken by the President or by the Management Board shall be subject, in some cases, to prior approval or subsequent ratification by the Council or just communicated to the Council. When approval or ratification is requested, it may not be denied by the Council without due reasons and evidence confirming either lack of good faith or FIDE benefit.
- 18.10 The President decides the structure and the composition of FIDE Offices, hires and dismisses FIDE employees, appoints Directors and terminates their powers, appoints other officials in the manner prescribed by the Charter.
- 18.11 The President's decisions are immediately applicable and mandatory, they may be appealed to the Council – when established by the Internal Rules of the Council- and to the General Assembly.

#### Art. 19 The Deputy President

- 19.1 The Deputy President is the principal assistant of the President and shall perform any function the President may assign to him or her.
- 19.2 If the President is temporarily prevented from performing official functions, the Deputy President shall assume the powers and responsibilities of the President.
- 19.3 If the President is permanently incapacitated or has been temporarily substituted for a period longer than 6 months, the Council must convene new elections in the General Assembly that has to be organised in the year of next Chess Olympiad, and the mandate of all members of the Council is concluded after them.

#### Art. 20 The Council

- 20.1 The Council is the strategic and oversight body of FIDE, it has executive and legislative functions and exercises the powers listed below.

20.2 The Council:

- a) approves and modifies, by a two-thirds majority of votes, Procedural Rules of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission, of the Fair Play Commission and of the Arbiters' Disciplinary Committee;
- b) approves and modifies, by a two-thirds majority of votes, Regulations concerning general rules about tournaments, titles and ratings;
- c) approves and modifies other Regulations and Recommendations;
- d) defines FIDE's mission, strategic direction and policies, in particular with regard to the organisation and development of chess at worldwide level and all related matters;
- e) approves the draft of the FIDE budget and can propose amendments;
- f) in accordance with its Internal Rules, approves President's proposals about the composition of the Management Board;
- g) in accordance with its Internal Rules, approves or ratifies all FIDE contracts worth more than 150.000,00 euros;
- h) in accordance with its Internal Rules, in some other specific cases approves, ratifies or is just informed about the decisions taken by the President and the Management Board;
- i) supervises the activities of non-elected Commissions, which must submit to the Council their reports, twice per year.
- j) resolves on all matters not otherwise and explicitly reserved to another body by this Charter

20.3. The Council is composed of:

- a) the President;
- b) the Deputy President;
- c) the Treasurer;
- d) the Secretary of the Council;
- e) 7 Vice Presidents;
- f) the 4 Presidents of FIDE Continents.

20.4 The Council may invite current FIDE World Champion and Women's World Champion to its meetings with the right to an advisory vote, in accordance with its Internal Rules.

20.5 During their term of office, members of the Council who, in addition, represent their Member Federation and/or their Continent or Zone in the General Assembly, must clearly distinguish their different functions when they express their opinions during the meetings and must always be guided by the best general interest of FIDE. Fiduciary duties to FIDE by members of the Council include the duty of care and the duty of loyalty.

20.6 No more than one representative from the same Member Federation may serve on the Council simultaneously. This rule does not apply for Presidents of FIDE Continents.

20.7 The Council, if not otherwise provided, makes its decisions by simple majority.

- The *quorum* shall be 50 % of the voting members. These quorum requirements apply also to absentee voting. If Charter requires a two-thirds majority, the said majority shall be calculated from the quorum specified in this paragraph.
- 20.8 The Council should meet at least once every four months. In addition, the President may at any time convene the Council for consultation in person or tele- or online conference.
- 20.9 The agenda of the meetings, as well as the relevant documents, shall reach members at least one week before the meeting. Any other item may be excluded from discussion. Commissions' reports must be received two weeks before the meetings, twice per year. The final minutes shall be distributed to members of the Council no later than one month after a meeting is closed. FIDE will publish the agenda and decisions on the FIDE web site, together with Commissions' reports.
- 20.10 The Chairman of the Verification Commission and the Chairman of the Constitutional Commission shall be invited to the Council meetings to assist the Council, in their respective competences, giving advisory opinions. They will also have the duty to report to their Commissions on alleged violations of the existing regulations, if any.
- 20.11 The members of the Council will not receive any fees for their participation in the meetings and for their voluntary activities for FIDE, they will just be reimbursed of their expenses.

#### Art. 21 The Treasurer

- 21.1 The Treasurer is responsible for the financial resources of FIDE, for the good financial standing of FIDE, to safeguard FIDE's finances, acting always in accordance with Financial Rules.
- 21.2 FIDE financial resources accrue from membership fees, entry fees for participation in FIDE's competitions or tournaments, contributions for services rendered or rights granted by FIDE to members or to third parties, sponsorships, charitable donations and other contributions.
- 21.3 In strict co-operation with the Council, the Management Board and with designated staff competent on financial matters, the Treasurer ensures that appropriate financial systems and controls are in place, that record-keeping and accounts meet the conditions of Financial Rules and relevant national and international legislation, oversees budgets, accounts and financial statements. The Treasurer co-operates with the Verification Commission and can be invited to participate in their meetings. The Treasurer can be delegated by the President to sign contracts and make payments.
- 21.4 The Treasurer reports to the General Assembly and to the Council on the status of FIDE's finances and on the budget, acts as an advisor on financial matters for the President and for the Council, clarifying financial impacts of proposals, to ensure checks and balances.



#### Art. 22 The Secretary of the Council, the Vice Presidents and the Continental Presidents

- 22.1 The Secretary of the Council aids the President and the Council in the accomplishment of their tasks.
- 22.2 The Secretary of the Council is responsible for the contacts with the Management Board, co-operating with the Management Board in the maintenance of the FIDE Calendar, in the organisation of the meetings both of the Council and of the General Assembly, and in the recording of the minutes.
- 22.3 The Vice President who received the most votes in the election chairs the Council, in case of absence of the President and of the Deputy President.
- 22.4 The Vice Presidents, following a proposal of the President, confirmed by the Council, are in charge of specific tasks, mainly related to the supervision of Non-Elected Commissions, regularly liaising with their Chairmen, analysing and presenting their reports and proposals to the Council.
- 22.5 The Continental Presidents liaise with Continents and Zones, updating the Council about their activities and initiatives.

#### Art. 23 The Management Board

- 23.1 The Management Board is the executive, operational and administrative body that assists the President in the day-to-day management of FIDE activities and implements specific mandates given by the President and the Council.
- 23.2 The Management Board is composed of:
  - a) the President;
  - b) a minimum two other members of the Council;
  - c) other FIDE officials, directors or employees.
- 23.3 The composition of the Management Board and the appointment of its members are approved by the Council, following President's proposals.
- 23.4 The Management Board:
  - a) manages ordinary activities and resources;
  - b) coordinates current activities of officials, Commission, offices and employees;
  - c) implements decisions and reaches objectives set by the President and the Council;
  - d) monitors and supervises the implementation of decisions and progresses towards objectives set by the President and the Council;
  - e) provides drafts budget for the Council and recommendations on budget amendments if required;
  - f) supervises implementation of the budget, determines reasons for overspending and for any other deviation from approved estimates;
  - g) resolves labour conflicts;
  - h) approve contracts in accordance with Internal Rules.
- 23.5 The President and the Management Board can appoint experts and advisors to advise and assist them in fulfilling their duties.

- 23.6 Management Board's decisions may be appealed to the Council and to the General Assembly.

Art. 24 FIDE Offices

- 24.1 FIDE Offices are organised in accordance with the President's directives.
- 24.3 FIDE Offices receive and send all communications from and to FIDE members, receive all bids for events and all complaints and reports.

Art. 25 The Verification Commission

- 25.1 The Verification Commission is composed of the Chairman and four members, one of them will act as Deputy Chairman, chosen in accordance with the Verification Commission Internal Rules.
- 25.2 The Chairman and the other members of the Verification Commissions are elected by the General Assembly among candidates having sufficient background and expertise on finances and accounting or in FIDE administration (at least 4 years of experience as auditor in public or private institutions, including sport associations, or as accountant or similar professional experiences, or scholar or professor on financial subject matters or business financial management, or at least 6 years of experience as FIDE office bearer or Member Federation office bearer). They may not belong to the same Member Federation.
- 25.3 The Verification Commission is authorised to examine the FIDE ledgers and to all information pertaining to FIDE financial management. The Verification Commission shall have access to all documents related to income and expenses including, but not limited to, contracts for services provided to FIDE and other agreements stipulated by event contracts for consulting services.
- 25.4 The Verification Commission shall participate in the hiring of the independent auditors by reviewing such bids and making a recommendation of the audit firm to management, communicate directly with the independent auditors before the audit begins to communicate any specific concerns of the Commission for the auditors to examine, receive the report on the financial statements and any other recommendation letter to management or those charged with governance of FIDE.
- 25.5 The Verification Commission, acting in accordance with the Financial Rules, shall review the annual accounts, the financial statements prepared by the Treasurer and the Management Board and the external independent audit reports, directly communicating with the external independent auditors when necessary. The Commission shall compare the financial results to the approved budget and obtain management explanations for any variances. The Commission shall make recommendations to the Council and the General Assembly regarding changes in the Financial Rules, issues with the auditors, accounting system design and function, the budget, and other financial management matters.
- 25.6 The Verification Commission shall submit an annual report to the General Assembly.

#### Art. 26 The Ethics and Disciplinary Commission

- 26.1 The Ethics and Disciplinary Commission is composed of the Chairman and six members, one of them will act as Deputy Chairman, chosen in accordance with the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission Internal Rules.
- 26.2 The Chairman and three members of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commissions are elected by the General Assembly among candidates having sufficient practical background and expertise in law and justice (at least 4 years of experience as judge, or lawyer, or notary, or scholar or professor on legal subject matters, or similar professional experiences). The other three members are elected by the General Assembly among candidates having sufficient background in the administration of FIDE or of a Member Federation (at least 6 years of experience as FIDE or Member Federation office bearer). They may not belong to the same Member Federation and shall not be re-elected for more than two consecutive terms.
- 26.3 The functioning and organisation of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission shall be laid down in the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission Procedural Rules.
- 26.4 To consider cases brought before it, the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission shall sit in a single-member formation – only for decisions on admissibility and for decisions on the merit of minor cases, as defined in the Ethics and Disciplinary Code-, in First Instance Chambers of three members, in an Appeal Chamber of three members. The Appeal Chamber shall always include the Chairman of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission. When a case, judged on the merit by a First Instance Chamber, is appealed in front of the Appeal Chamber, no members of the First Instance Chamber which rendered the judgment shall sit in the Appeal Chamber.
- 26.5 A single member, usually the Chairman, may declare inadmissible or strike out of the Commission's list of cases a received complaint or report, in accordance with the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission Procedural Rules. If the single member does not declare the received complaint or report inadmissible or strike it out, that member shall forward it to a First Instance Chamber or to another single member formation, for further examination, in accordance with the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission Procedural Rules.
- 26.6 The Ethics and Disciplinary Commission shall consider and decide on any alleged breach of FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code and impose a sanction or grant other measures as specified in the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code, acting in accordance with the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission Procedural Rules.
- 26.7 The Ethics and Disciplinary Commission shall have jurisdiction over the conduct of FIDE officials, FIDE Honourable dignitaries, electoral candidates and FIDE employees.
- 26.8 The Ethics and Disciplinary Commission shall have jurisdiction over the conduct of officials, players, players' agents, match agents, arbiters, trainers, organisers,

representatives of chess associations, leagues and clubs, who are associated to FIDE Member Federations or Affiliated Organisations or FIDE Continents, or who participate in or organise FIDE events, tournaments and congresses, except when their conduct is limited to a national sphere, as in the case of national events not rated by FIDE.

- 26.9 The Ethics and Disciplinary Commission shall also have jurisdiction over FIDE Member Federations and Affiliated Organisations, as legal entities, in relation to acts or omissions, by their organs and representatives, that constitute ethical violations or disciplinary offences.
- 26.10 If the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission decides, in its discretion, to impose the sanction of the temporary exclusion from membership of a FIDE Member Federation or a FIDE Affiliated Organisation, such sanction is not immediately effective, and, at the end of the proceedings in front of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission, any appeal included, it is subject to confirmation by the Council. After the confirmation by the Council, the temporary exclusion is immediately effective but, in any case, the decision of the Council on the temporary exclusion must be submitted to the vote of the General Assembly, at its first useful session. The decision of the General Assembly is final. In the case of a non-confirmation, by the Council or by the General Assembly, of the decision to sanction a FIDE Member Federation or a FIDE Affiliated Organisation with a temporary exclusion from membership, the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission can decide to impose another, less severe, sanction, different from the exclusion from membership and from the exclusion to participate in a session of the General Assembly.
- 26.11 The Ethics and Disciplinary Commission shall have jurisdiction over cases within a national sphere only if:
- the case on which the alleged violation is based has international implications or affects various national Member Federations of FIDE and has not been judged at national level through the national federation's own ethics process;
  - the national ethics process has operated in a manner that in itself is a breach of the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code or of the fundamental principles of law and fair trial.
- 26.12 The Ethics and Disciplinary Commission shall also have jurisdiction over national cases that have international implications if Member Federations attribute to the Appeal Chamber of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission an appeal competence over decisions of their corresponding national organs (national ethics commissions or other national sports justice organs). When requested by a Member Federation, the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission will attribute general validity in FIDE to national decisions on violations of FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code, if adequately motivated and decided in compliance with the fundamental principles of law and fair trial.
- 26.13 The Ethics and Disciplinary Commission may give an advisory opinion on the

interpretation of the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code and linked questions, at the request of any FIDE organ, and shall be consulted on any proposed change of the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code.

- 26.14 There shall be a permanent, independent Fact-Finding Committee of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission, composed of three members, who shall not belong to the same Member Federation nor to the same Federation of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission members, appointed by the Council taking into account the recommendations of the Chairman of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission. The members of the Fact-Finding Committee are appointed for a period of four years and cannot be appointed for more than two consecutive terms.
- 26.15 There shall be a specialised standing Fair Play Fact-Finding Committee, established within the ranks of the Fair Play Commission, which will be competent for cases concerning complaints of cheating and doping, in accordance with the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission and Fair Play Commission Procedural Rules.
- 26.16 The Ethics and Disciplinary Commission may refer matters on specific cases to the Fact-Finding Committee or to the Fair Play Fact-Finding Committee, when deemed necessary, for investigations or fact-finding.

#### Art. 27 The Constitutional Commission

- 27.1 The Constitutional Commission is composed of the Chairman and four members, one of them will act as Deputy Chairman, chosen in accordance with the Constitutional Commission's Internal Rules.
- 27.2 The Chairman and two members of the Constitutional Commission are elected by the General Assembly among candidates having sufficient practical background and expertise in law and justice (at least 4 years of experience as judge, or lawyer, or notary, or scholar or professor on legal subject matters, or similar professional experiences). The other two members are elected by the General Assembly among candidates having sufficient background in the administration of FIDE or of a Member Federation (at least 6 years of experience as FIDE or Member Federation office bearer). They may not belong to the same Member Federation.
- 27.3 The Constitutional Commission has competence:
- a) to review and to recommend proposed changes of the FIDE Charter, By-laws, Electoral Rules, Ethics and Disciplinary Code, Financial Rules and Rules on Non-elected Commissions;
  - b) to ensure that proposed changes of FIDE Charter, Electoral Rules, Ethics and Disciplinary Code, Financial Rules and Rules on Non-elected Commissions occur in conformity with the established procedural rules;
  - c) to establish the correct index and structure of the FIDE Handbook, in accordance with the FIDE Charter, checking the regularity of its updating;

- d) to report to the Council and to the General Assembly on all violations of FIDE Charter, checking all new or updated FIDE rules and regulations, in accordance with Constitutional Commission's Internal Rules;
  - e) to deliver mandatory advisory opinions on any dispute concerning Part II of FIDE Charter, when it does not concern FIDE elections.
  - f) to deliver advisory opinions on any other interpretative question about the FIDE Charter, By-laws, Electoral Rules, Financial Rules and Rules on Non-elected Commissions submitted by a FIDE organ.
- 27.4 The Constitutional Commission shall meet at least once a year. If there is a need, for urgent reasons, an extraordinary meeting may be called by the Chairman of the Commission.
- 27.5 The Constitutional Commission shall submit an annual report to the General Assembly.

#### Art. 28 The Electoral Commission

- 28.1 The Electoral Commission is composed of three members: the Chairman of the Verification Commission, the Chairman of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission and the Chairman of the Constitutional Commission. If the Chairman of one of these Commissions cannot be seated for the Electoral Commission for any reason, the Deputy of the same Commission will take his place.
- 28.2 Each FIDE Continent nominate an observer who can attend all Electoral Commission's meetings, except when the Electoral Commission has to decide on cases of alleged violations of the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code. The observers have no right to vote, nor to participate in the discussion. They can submit written notes, before the beginning of the first meeting concerning a given election, regarding situations related to Member Federations and candidates of their Continent. They can be consulted at any moment by the Chairman of the Electoral Commission, when deemed useful.
- 28.2 All complaints arising from FIDE's elections, except elections of the Chairmen and the members of the Verification Commission, of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission and of the Constitutional Commission, including but not limited to the eligibility of candidates and the conduct of elections, must be brought before the Electoral Commission.
- 28.3 Any such complaint must be addressed to the Electoral Commission in writing within two weeks following the event which gives rise to the complaint. Any complaint regarding the eligibility of any candidate for the position of President or Deputy President must be addressed to the Electoral Commission in writing within two weeks following the official announcement of the candidatures by the FIDE Offices on the FIDE web site.
- 28.4 The Electoral Commission is also competent to decide on all complaints or reports concerning alleged breaches of the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code

- by candidates to elective positions, if submitted in the two months before elections.
- 28.5 The Electoral Commission has also the competences assigned by the Electoral Rules.
- 28.6 The Chairman of the Electoral Commission shall be the Chairman of the Constitutional Commission, except when the Electoral Commission decides on cases of alleged violations of the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code, then the Chairman of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission shall preside.
- 28.7 The Electoral Commission decides by majority vote. In the event of a tie, the vote of the Chairman shall be decisive. The Electoral Commission must issue a reasoned decision in English in writing to the complainant, preferably within 10 days of its receipt of the complaint.
- 28.8 All decisions of the Electoral Commission are final and cannot be appealed to the General Assembly or another FIDE organ. Any decision of the Electoral Commission taken before the election can be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) only as of the day after the close of the General Assembly (which day shall also be the start date of the 21-day deadline provided for in the CAS Code or any other deadline for such appeals subsequently enacted by the CAS). Negative decisions concerning the eligibility of a candidate can be immediately appealed to the CAS.
- 28.9 The Electoral Commission shall verify who is entitled to vote in FIDE's elections, in accordance with the Electoral Rules.
- 28.10 Three scrutineers, elected by the General Assembly in accordance with the Electoral Rules, will act as the Electoral Commission for the election of the Chairmen and the members of the Verification Commission, of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission and of the Constitutional Commission.

#### Art. 29 Non-Elected Commissions

- 29.1 The number, the composition and the competences of Non-Elected Commissions are specified in the Rules on Non-Elected Commissions.
- 29.2 Non-Elected Commissions are supervised by the Council and coordinated by the Management Board and can only have delegated or advisory competences.
- 29.3 Non-Elected Commissions shall address to the Council regular periodic reports and proposals.
- 29.4 The composition and the competences of the Fair Play Commission are specified in the Procedural Rules of the Fair Play Commission.

#### Art. 30 FIDE Congress

- 30.1 The annual Congress includes the meetings of the General Assembly, the Council, the Commissions and the Zonal Council.
- 30.2 The annual Congress may also host meetings of FIDE Continents, Zones and Affiliated Organisations.

## **PART IV – FIDE CONTINENTS AND ZONES**

### **Art. 31 FIDE Continents and FIDE Zones**

- 31.1 There shall be four FIDE Continents, namely: the African Chess Confederation (for Africa), the Asian Chess Federation (for Asia and Oceania), the Confederation of Chess for Americas (for North, Central and South America) and the European Chess Union (for Europe).
- 31.2 The number and composition of FIDE Zones are established by a separate regulation, taking into account geographical proximity, common historical, linguistic and cultural traits, level of chess activities, events and traditions, number of Member Federations, number of chess players, number of titled and rated chess players.
- 31.3 FIDE Continents and FIDE Zones are established to develop chess activities in the regions and territories of their competence, strengthen ties between Member Federations and promote mutual goals and representation.

### **Art. 32 FIDE Continents**

- 32.1 FIDE Continents are autonomous entities that can freely decide about their organs and functioning. The recognition of their autonomy entails mutual respect of the respective institutional areas of competence as set forth in this Charter, however FIDE Continents must:
  - a) accept as their members all FIDE Member Federations of the countries included in their respective Continent;
  - b) observe all rules, regulations and decisions of FIDE and ensure that their members and various bodies also comply with them, being mandatory for all FIDE Members and organs;
  - c) ensure that their statutes and rules fully comply with FIDE rules and regulations;
  - d) communicate a copy of their current statutes and of any change of them to FIDE Offices, adding a translation into English, if written in a different language;
  - e) organise every year a continental general assembly;
  - f) remain in good standing, including in good financial standing;
  - g) actively support FIDE in all chess activities.
- 32.2 FIDE Continents are responsible for the organisation of Continental championships under the auspices of FIDE.
- 32.3 Each FIDE Continent is represented to the FIDE Council, with its Continental President.
- 32.4 Presidents of FIDE Continents are FIDE officials, they can participate in the General Assembly, without voting rights.
- 32.5 Appeals against decisions of the Continental Presidents or of the other bodies of FIDE Continents shall be made to FIDE President or to another competent FIDE organ.



#### Art. 33 Zonal Presidents

- 33.1 The management of each Zone is assigned to a Zonal President, who has the responsibility to coordinate the activities of the Member Federations in the Zone.
- 33.2 Zonal Presidents are elected by Member Federations of their Zone.
- 33.3 The Zonal President represents the interests of FIDE within this Zone and those of the Zone within FIDE and the relevant FIDE Continent.
- 33.4 The Zonal President liaises both with the Council and with the relevant FIDE Continent.
- 33.5 Appeals against a decision of a Zonal President shall be made to the Zonal Council or to the General Assembly.

#### Art. 34 Zonal Council

- 34.1 The Zonal Council is composed of:
  - a) the Presidents of FIDE Continents;
  - b) the Zonal Presidents.
- 34.2 The Zonal Council is chaired by the FIDE President, without voting rights.
- 34.3 The main functions of the Zonal Council are specified in the Zonal Council Rules, they include:
  - a) to deliver advisory opinions on FIDE financial support to FIDE Continents and Zones;
  - b) to coordinate the organisation of Zonal tournaments and events;
  - c) to coordinate the organisation of initiatives of common interest of different Zones;
  - d) to deliver advisory opinions on the FIDE calendar;
  - e) to cooperate in the development and promotion of chess activities in Member Federations that are in need of technical, financial and chess skills assistance.

### **PART V – SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

#### Art. 35 Appeals against FIDE decisions

- 35.1 Except if otherwise provided in this Charter, any final decision taken by a FIDE organ may be challenged exclusively by way of appeal before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, which will resolve the dispute in a final and binding manner in accordance with the Code of Sports-related Arbitration.
- 35.2 The decisions of the General Assembly and of the Electoral Commission, relating to matters falling within their respective competencies, and the decisions that conclude the proceedings in front of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission are final. The decisions of other FIDE organs may be challenged by an internal appeal to the General Assembly.
- 35.3 An appeal before the CAS may only be brought after FIDE's internal procedures and remedies have been exhausted.

- 35.4 Only parties directly aggrieved by a decision may appeal to the CAS.
- 35.5 The time limit for appeal is twenty-one days from receipt by the appellant of the decision appealed against or, in the case of a decision by FIDE General Assembly, twenty-one days from the close of the General Assembly. The time-limit for appeal against decisions of the Electoral Commission is twenty-one days from the close of the elective General Assembly.
- 35.6 An appeal does not suspend the execution of the decision, unless the CAS so decides upon request of the appellant.
- 35.7 The CAS shall not take into account facts or evidence which the appellant could have submitted to an internal FIDE body by acting with reasonable diligence required under the circumstances, but failed or chose not to do so.
- 35.8 The CAS shall decide the dispute according to the FIDE Charter, regulations and rules as well as according to Swiss law. The seat of the arbitration shall be Lausanne (Switzerland). The language of the arbitration shall be English. The decision of the CAS shall be final and binding on the parties, subject to any challenge to the Swiss Federal Court which may be permissible in terms of Swiss law.
- 35.9 Neither CAS nor any ordinary courts shall have jurisdiction to deal with matters related to the application of a purely sporting rule, such as the Rules on Laws of Chess, or the technical rules of a competition (e.g. FIDE Swiss Regulations, FIDE Competition Regulations).

#### Art. 36 Other disputes

- 36.1 The ordinary courts in Lausanne, Switzerland, shall have exclusive jurisdiction to resolve any dispute between FIDE and third parties, including but not limited to Member Federations or any of their officials, players, organisers, arbiters, FIDE officials, candidates to any function as FIDE officials, or Affiliated Organisations, in respect of a matter arising out of or in connection with the FIDE Charter, Regulations and rules, or agreements between FIDE and these persons and/or entities.
- 36.2 The ordinary courts in Lausanne shall apply the FIDE Charter, Regulations and rules as well as the substantive law specifically chosen by the parties to govern the merits of the dispute or, in the absence of such a choice, Swiss substantive law, excluding the conflict-of-laws rules.

#### Art. 37 Fair Play, Doping and Drug Use

- 37.1 FIDE, in close collaboration with Member Federations, the International Olympic Committee and the National Olympic Committees dedicates its efforts to ensuring that in chess the spirit of 'Fair Play' prevails, leads the fight against cheating and doping in sport and takes measures in order to prevent endangering the health of competitors.
- 37.2 FIDE has accepted the World Anti-Doping Code and its international standards. Within FIDE the body responsible for this policy is the Medical Commission.

The Medical Commission will agree, with the International bodies, on the list of prohibited substances and methods of doping that are applicable to chess players. The Medical Commission will be responsible for drafting Anti-Doping Regulations, to be approved by the Council, and their execution.

- 37.3 The Fair Play Commission is responsible for drafting Anti-Cheating Regulations, to be approved by the Council, and their execution, especially on fighting and prevention of cheating. The Fair Play Fact-Finding Committee of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission is competent on investigations or fact-finding concerning both cheating and doping.

#### Art. 38 Final Matters

- 38.1 FIDE will dissolve as soon as the number of Member Federations has been reduced to two. Moreover, FIDE can be dissolved by a decision of the General Assembly, if at least two-thirds of all Member Federations express themselves in favour of dissolution.
- 38.2 In case of dissolution, or of relocation of FIDE headquarters outside Switzerland, 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 and pledged to a Charity or Non-Profit Organisation located in Switzerland and tax exempted.

### **PART VI – INTERIM TEMPORARY PROVISIONS**

#### Art. I Composition of the Council until 2022

- I.1 Upon adoption of this Charter and for the remainder of their mandate, until elections in 2022, the current members of the Presidential Board will be deemed to be members of the Council. Honorary Vice Presidents will have no voting rights, as they have none in the current Presidential Board. Also the current World Champion and Women`s World Champion will have no voting rights.

#### Art. II Composition of the General Assembly and of the Zonal Council until 2022

- II.1 Upon adoption of this Charter and for the remainder of their mandate, until elections in 2022, the current members of the Executive Board will be deemed to be members of the Zonal Council and they will also participate in the General Assembly, without voting rights.

#### Art. III Extraordinary Elections

- III.1 In view of the increased number of members of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission, extraordinary elections will be held immediately after the adoption of this Charter regardless the provisions of Art. IV.1. Requirements for candidates specified in art. 26.2. are not applied for these elections.
- III.2 The mandate of all members of current elected Commissions will be extended for two more years after the next Presidential election.

#### Art. IV Entry into Force

- IV.1 All provisions of this Charter become effective on March 01, 2020.
- IV.2 Provisions of Art. 26.10 of this Charter with respect to confirmation of the temporary exclusion from membership of a FIDE Member Federation or a FIDE Affiliated Organisation by the Council and subsequent voting by the General Assembly, as well as with respect to consequences of non-confirmation of the said Annex 5.1.1 2 sanction, are applicable to any decision of FIDE body or independent arbitral tribunal imposing the said sanction if such decision is pronounced after Art. 26.10 of this Charter enters into force.

#### Art. V Time period considered in Art. 13.2

- V.1 The period of two consecutive years or more of missing fulfilment of its financial obligations, as a reason for the automatic suspension of a Member Federation, must be determined not counting the period before the entry into force of this Charter.