



## THE INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE CHESS FEDERATION

### **Tournament Rules Commission report 2011**

The members of the Commission are:

Duncan Chambers (ENG) (Chairman), Gerhard Binder (GER), Sergey Grodzensky (RUS), Leonardo Madonia (ITA), Ralph Marconi (CAN), George Pyrich (SCO), Gian-Maria Tani (ITA), Leo Lahdenmäki (FIN), Per Söderberg (SWE), Marco Caressa (ITA), Valer-Eugen Demian (CAN)

And as General Secretary and President:

Michael Millstone (USA) and Eric Ruch (FRA).

As Chairman, I am grateful to all the members for their hard work and constructive contributions.

During 2010–11, the Commission has discussed Tournament rules for Norm Tournaments and the ICCF Champions' League. The draft rules below are offered for discussion and amendment by the Congress. It is proposed that these rules would be inserted into the existing Tournament rules as sections 4 and 5 with subsequent sections being renumbered accordingly. The last two sentences of draft rule 4.5 were added at the suggestion of the ICCF President to enhance the security and fairness of these tournaments following recent evidence of fraudulent entries using the names of inactive Grandmasters.

#### 4. Norm Tournaments

4.1 ICCF norm tournaments comprise Master Norm tournaments and Grandmaster Norm tournaments. Organisation of these tournaments is the responsibility of the Title Tournament Commissioner. Tournaments may be played by webserver or by post.

4.2 All sections of this tournament type offer title norms which are specifically stated in the start list of the respective tournament section. Each section consists of 13 players (12 games for each player, 6 white and 6 black).

4.3 Only those players who meet one of the following qualifications have the right to participate in a Master Norm tournament:

- a. Fixed (based on more than 29 games) rating of at least 2300 on the latest ICCF rating list,  
or
- b. Unfixed (based on 12-29 games) rating of at least 2350 on the latest ICCF rating list, or

- c. FIDE rating of at least 2350 on the latest FIDE rating list, or
- d. Players who achieved places 1-3 in a National CC championship.

4.4 Only those players who meet one of the following qualifications have the right to participate in a Grandmaster Norm tournament:

- a. Fixed (based on more than 29 games) rating of at least 2450 on the latest ICCF rating list, or
- b. Unfixed (based on 12-29 games) rating of at least 2500 on the latest ICCF rating list, or
- c. FIDE rating of at least 2500 on the latest FIDE rating list.

4.5 Holders of the ICCF Grandmaster title or players with a fixed rating of 2600 or above on the latest ICCF rating list may participate in Grandmaster Norm Tournaments free of charge. Such entries coming from a player whose country is a member of ICCF shall be confirmed by the Member Federation Delegate. If the player comes from a country which is not a member of ICCF, he must prove his identity to the satisfaction of the Title Tournament Commissioner

4.6 Players without the qualifications listed in rules 4.3 and 4.4 may be allowed to participate in norm tournaments at the discretion of the Title Tournament Commissioner if their participation does not lower the tournament category.

4.7 A player may only start one webserver norm tournament in each 6-month cycle (January to June and July to December). A player may only start one postal norm tournament in each calendar year.

## 5. Champions' League

5.1 The Champions' League is a tournament for teams of four players. Players within a team may be of any nationality or mixture of nationalities. Mixed teams of men and women are allowed. Each team must have a designated Team Captain and a name, preferably related to correspondence chess or chess in general.

5.2 Organisation of the Champions' League is the responsibility of the Non-Title Tournaments Commissioner. All sections of the Champions' League are played by webserver. The playing rules in effect are the ICCF Playing Rules for Webserver Team Tournaments except where modified by these Rules.

5.2 The League is played in seasons lasting approximately 2 years, with promotion and relegation at the end of each season. There are three divisions, A, B and C. Division A comprises one group, while divisions B and C have multiple groups. Each player plays one game against each of the other players on the same board in the same group.

5.3 Groups will normally comprise 11 or 13 teams but these numbers may be varied as necessary to accommodate all entered teams. The composition of each division and the numbers of teams to be promoted and relegated will be determined for each season based on the number of entered teams and will be announced as soon as possible after the closing date for entries.

5.4 No player may play for more than one team in a season. Players can transfer from one team to another only at the beginning of each new season.

5.5 New teams can enter the Champions' League at the beginning of any new season. Changes of team name between seasons are allowed.

5.6 A team is allowed to replace players during and between the seasons. The number of replaced players is limited only to the following rule: If all the four players in a team are changed within two seasons, then the team will normally be relegated to a lower division. Exceptions of this rule are possible at the discretion of the Non-Title Tournaments Commissioner.

*Deferred topics*

The following topic has not yet been debated by the Commission because of lack of time: development of a good practice guide for tournament organisers. I propose that we should deal with this issue as time permits and present proposals to the 2012 Congress.

Duncan Chambers

June 5, 2011