

**87th FIDE Congress - Baku, Azerbaijan**  
**Systems of Pairings and Programs Commission**  
**8<sup>th</sup> September 2016, 09:00-11:00**  
**Congress Meeting Minutes**

**Chairman:** C. Krause (GER)

**Secretary:** R. Ricca (ITA)

**Present:** M. Held (ITA), O. Milvang (NOR), I. Vereschagin (RUS), Z. Nasreldin (SUD), D. Porat (ISR), K. Bonham (AUS), A. Filipowicz (POL), F. Dapiran (ITA), J. Lehtivaara (FIN), T. Delega (POL), A. Dwdowkowski (POL), H. Thowfee (MDV), A. Nooh (MDV), A. Holowczak (ENG), W. Brown (USA), A. Burstein (ISR), G. K. Arka-Dadzie (GHA), M. Pahlevanzadeh (IRI), A. White (BAH), Gopalkumar MS (IND), S. Noor (IRI) K. Turdialiev (UZB), R. Anantharam (IND), C. Jarecki (IVB)

### 1. New wording for the Dutch Rules

The new wording, just presented in the minutes, was approved and will enter into force July 1st, 2017.

### 2. Report on methods of accelerated pairing

A complete report (*Report on methods of accelerated pairings* in <http://pairings.fide.com/meeting-minutes/2016.html>) about the performances of accelerated systems was presented.

An accelerated system (called Baku Acceleration System) was proposed for standardization and was approved.

The full description of the system will be published in the FIDE handbook.

### 3. Endorsement matters

- a proposal for endorsement cycle management was presented and approved, as per the attached document (*Endorsement Management*).
- the proposal to lower the acceptable error ratio to 0.2% was approved
- to address the endorsement of web-based programs, the commission stands by for technical solutions offered by software producers to allow the testers to check the program in a controlled environment - possible legal problems were mentioned
- any program requesting the endorsement must present an interface in English
- the following programs were presented for endorsement this year:

SWIPS (JaVaFo engine)	swips.sk	SWIPS Team	Slovakia
ChessManager (JaVaFo engine)	chessmanager.com	Maciej Cybulski, Tomasz Zyniewski	Poland
Swiss Sys (own engine)	swissys.com	Thad Suits	U.S.A.
Swiss Sys (JaVaFo engine)			
ChessArbiter Pro 2016 (JaVaFo engine)	chessarbiter.com	Polish Chess Federation	Poland

The endorsement of SwissSys with its own pairing engine was recommended.

The finalization of the endorsement procedure for ChessArbiter Pro 2016 is expected before the end of the year.

### 4. Amendment to General Handling Rules (section C.04.2)

In order to facilitate the work of the pairing checkers, the following provision was added to article C.04.2.B.3: **If, for any reason, the data used to determine the rankings were not correct, they can be adjusted at any time. The pairing numbers may be reassigned accordingly to the corrections, but only for the first three rounds. No modification of a pairing number is allowed after the fourth round.**



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**5. Wording clarification in the Basic Rules (section C.04.1)**

The wording clarifications for rules 1.c, 1.d and 1.e were approved.

**6. Team pairings rules**

The Commission will define a team-pairing system and present it at the next Congress (2017).

This system will ideally be a superset of the Olympiad Team Pairing System (the only one currently defined in the FIDE handbook), in the sense that it will contain specific pairing options that will support the choices made by the Olympiad Team Pairing System (in other words: the Olympiad Team Pairing System will not be touched).

**7. Restructuring of Section C.04**


The proposal to change the structure of Section C.04 of the handbook was discussed and approved.

The new structure is shown below.

- 4.1 Basic Rules**
- 4.2 General Handling Rules**
- 4.3 FIDE System (Dutch)**
- 4.4 Other FIDE-approved Pairing Systems**
  - Use of these systems is deprecated unless for a system there is a FIDE endorsed program (see, in Appendix 4.A, the Annex-3 "List of FIDE Endorsed Programs") with a free pairing-checker (see article 5 in the same appendix) able to verify tournaments run with this system.*
  - 4.4.1 Dubov System
  - 4.4.2 Burstein System
  - 4.4.3 Lim System
- 4.5 FIDE-approved Accelerated Systems**
  - 4.5.1 Baku Acceleration
- 4.6 FIDE Teams**
- Appendix A Endorsement Process**

**8. Miscellaneous**

*The Commission regrets that the Qualification Commission did not follow the proposal to systematically verify title norms by an endorsed pairing-checker.*

  
Christian Krause  
(Chairman)



# Endorsement Management

## The SPPC Evolution Plan

The **SPPC Evolution Plan** is based on a sort of **Endorsement Cycle**. The latter is a four-year period running from January 1<sup>st</sup> of Year<sub>X+1</sub> to December 31<sup>st</sup> of Year<sub>X+4</sub>, where X is a leap year (for instance 2016, 2020, ...). At any moment an endorsement is given, it will last until the end of the Endorsement Cycle.

The Endorsement Cycle should start with a **Transition Period** lasting from January 1<sup>st</sup> of Year<sub>X+1</sub> to the Congress of that year. The **Transition Period** is the period during which the SPPC has to run the endorsement procedures of the programs that either were already endorsed or are presented for endorsement before the end of the previous Endorsement Year (i.e. December 31<sup>st</sup> of Year<sub>X+1</sub>).

Any program that passes the endorsement during the Transition Period gets an *interim certificate*, which will allow the program to be immediately used.

The ensuing Congress will then transform such patent in an official endorsement, unless (just to have a way to leave the final decision to the Congress) a formal complaint against such software is brought to the attention of the SPPC before the Congress itself.

That Congress will also be the moment to revoke the endorsement of any program that couldn't pass the endorsement procedure during the Transition Period.

In this way, any endorsement given during Year<sub>X+1</sub> will last at least four years. The endorsement given at the Congress of Year<sub>X+2</sub> will last at least three years. The one given at Year<sub>X+3</sub> will last at least two years.

Therefore, on average, an endorsement lasts three years, which is somewhat a request made by the programmers.

No endorsement should be given during the last year of the Endorsement Cycle. Applications for endorsement can still be presented, but the endorsement procedures will be run during the Transition Period of the following Endorsement Cycle.

The rules amendments and clarifications are integral part of the Evolution Plan. If there is any variation or major clarification on the rules, the SPPC has to define such changes for the Congress of Year<sub>X+3</sub>. They come into force on July 1<sup>st</sup> of Year<sub>X+5</sub>. However, as said before, *interim certified* programs can already use them as soon as they are endorsed during the following Transition Period.

*It is a very practical solution. It seems quite difficult for the programmers to leave the old version on their website until June 30th and replace it with the new one on July 1st. And it seems even more difficult for the arbiters to download a new version of the software between June 30th and July 1st.*

*It should be more practical to define a window, i.e. a period where an arbiter can use whichever rules he chooses, provided that the players know that (i.e. it must be declared by the arbiter at the start of the tournament).*

Hence, the years to work on the rules are Year<sub>X+2</sub> and Year<sub>X+3</sub>. Consequently if, for instance, something new is to be proposed, the proper year to start the discussion is 2018.



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Note that the target of the SPPC Evolution Plan is mainly the rules of the Dutch System. Exceptions may be made for other pairing systems.

## **Endorsement procedures in 2017**

Even before existing, the SPPC Evolution Plan has been practically in use, at least for the evolution of the Dutch Rules. Amendments were discussed for a few years before being finalized last year (this year we worked only on the wording).

In a similar way, the endorsement phase might also follow the SPPC Evolution Plan. Thus, for all the endorsed programs, their endorsement should end on December 31st, 2016.

There are currently six such programs. They may become seven or eight before the end of the year.

The expire of the endorsement may seem harsh towards the programs approved this year. However, their programmers were clearly informed that an endorsement given this year would be short-lived. The 2017-rules were already defined and, starting from 2017, the SPPC (on behalf of FIDE) will be interested only in endorsing programs that supported the 2017-rules.

Of course, the list of the endorsed programs (officially published in the FIDE handbook), which may be updated before the end of the year, won't be updated again until next year. So, any program endorsed before the end of the year will stay on the above list for a few more months.

Accordingly to the SPPC Evolution Plan, the Transition Period will start on January 1st, 2017 and last until the minutes of the next year Congress are published. As said in the SPPC Evolution Plan, during the Transition Period all the endorsed procedures will be run, indipendently on whether the program was already endorsed or is a new entry.

Each program that passes the endorsement procedure will receive an interim certificate, and any such program can be immediately used with the new rules, even before July 1st 2017. The list of interim certified programs will be made available on the pairings website (<http://pairings.fide.com>)