



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES ÉCHECS
System of Pairings and Programs Commission
<http://spp.fide.com>

91st FIDE Online Congress 2020
Protocol of the System of Pairings and Programs Commission:
Online Meeting December 3th

Secretary: Alon Cohen

Present:

FIDE 's President Arkady Dvorkovich, SPP Chairman Maciej Cybulski, Vadim Tsypin, Otto Milvang, Rupert Jones, Leander Eriksen, Roberto Ricca, Tomasz Zyzniewski, Diana Tsypina, Mario Held, Allan Herbert, Almog Burstein, Marco Verdoia, Alex Holowczak, Pierre Denommee, Gulmira Dauletova, Olexandr Prohorov.

Agenda:

1. Analysis of ChessID document, Marco Verdoia
2. Presentation of all approved programs, Maciej Cybulski
3. TournamentService, Otto Milvang
4. Update of the TRF format (TRF20), Tomasz Zyzniewski
5. Validation of the Burstein System Mario Held
6. Comparison between Swiss systems - Swiss Dubov and FIDE Swiss Mario Held (Dutch),
7. AOB

The meeting began with Greetings and blessing of FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich and SPP Chairman Maciej Cybulski

1. Summary: Marco Verdoia

The strategic vision of ChessID :

Chess ID will be an **unique reference and Identification code** for lifetime to any players, organizers, arbiters, Instructors/trainers, journalists... engaged in any chess activity related. ChessID will be used for online and offline worldwide recognition and ChessID holders will have access to multiple services and benefits as members of a global activities program. ChessID is not replacing the FIDE ID, but FIDE ID holders can get ChessID under the same reference number. ChessID will be the key to the ChessID **unified digital Ecosystem** that can be used by all chess players worldwide.

The goal is to increase the width of Chess Community, and ensure better Chess community interaction, services and marketing opportunities for all partners involved.

The CHES ID will be built on several modules to provide effective service and tools to players, National Federations, tournament organizers, chess servers/broadcasters, commercial and business partners, chess fans, sponsors, media, ... This is a common effort for an open system built on cooperation and a single umbrella with all the actors far from fragmentation and competition.



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Mr Verdoia presented in an Organigram the architecture of the identification and data exchange protocol among the different actors.

Mr Verdoia illustrated the advantages of the system with two illustrations: the game viewer with Online commentary module and the event and tournament/rating management module. Alex Holowczak asked if the pairing software system will be compulsory or if it is possible to use other FIDE endorsed softwares? The answer was it is not compulsory and that Arbiters and organizers are free to use the existing endorsed software but at the same time to create the most advanced solution you can find.

2. Mr Cybulski introduced and presented the eight approved softwares as they are appearing on the FIDE website on the following link: https://spp.fide.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/C04Annex3_FEP19.pdf

SPP commission plans to make a world map of Software repartition.

Mr Cybulski introduced and presented the main features and advantages of each software. Some of them with Videos Tutorials, VegaChess Vega Chess was the first software to use JaVaFo system. Mr Roberto Ricca points out that Vega endorsement, which is undoubtedly obsolete for Dubov, but is perfectly OK for FIDE (Dutch) Swiss - so Vega should remain in the endorsed software list. Mr Forlano should be recontacted in order to submit a proposal for endorsement of FIDE Dubov in Vega software.

Moreover there are SwissSys, SwissMaster, Swiss Manager most known for Chess-Results.com website, Mr Cybulski thanks Mrs IA Tania Karali for the publication of A guide for arbiters, Swiss Chess, UTU Chess, ChessManager with the special feature to send to players their pairing by SMS and STOP German Software.

3. TournamentService Re-endorsement

Otto Milvang, Harald Heggelund and Alon Cohen had a zoom meeting on November 19 to review the two problematic points of the Checklist. The two issues were:

- VCL.13 management of unusual results (like $\frac{1}{2}$ -0, 0- $\frac{1}{2}$ or an unforfeited 0-0) must be available; on the other hand, inconsistent scores (like 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ or 1-1) are not allowed,
- VCL.17 it must be possible to assign half-point byes; if the software allows the assignment of full-point byes: upon assignment, a warning must be issued, stating that this practice is deprecated by FIDE.

Mr Heggelund made a demonstration and showed the full Respect of FIDE rules, therefore **SPP commission voted unanimously that Tournament Services should be re-endorsed.**

4. Update of the TRF format (TRF20), Tomasz Zyzniewski

TRF is a text file with a three digits numbers list, each line For example 012 the Name of the tournament 022 the place of the tournament and so on...

Mr Zyzniewski pointed out the absence of Tie Break appearance in the file, and suggested the creation of a new extension that would describe which tie breaks has been chosen.

Mr Ricca explained that the TRF files was born as a cooperation between SPP and the qualification commission and are used by Rating Officer. From his point of view the main problem is that we don't know how the tie-break behave, and there is no full description of definition of them, For example there are different views related to the value of the virtual



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opponent (introduced on 2009) or unknown issue still to be discussed such as the score for a player who played vs an opponent who missed some games, or a player who has some games missing. Mr Ricca suggests first to take care of the code for the tie breaks after they have been defined, it can be the result of a cooperation between the 2 commissions during 2021. Moreover TieBreak should be included in the TRF files in order to verify the pairing program.

Mr Ricca also stressed out that in the TRF file there are no codes for the changes made manually by Arbiters in the pairings.

Mr Zyzniewski pointed out that TRF details are important for transfer between softwares or to prevent “manual” work or double work. Another detail missing is an unifying code of TRF for the time control. Clarification of codes and small details are in the same spirit, logic and strategy vision of ChessID.

Alex Holowczak explained that others commission like the event Commission or the rating Officer have interest in a quality TRF.

5. Validation of the Burstein System Mario Held

Mr Held recapitulates the historical development of the Burstein System,

Mr Ricca and Held did a rewording in cooperation with Mr Burstein,

Knowing that :

- The structure of the new draft is consistent with the general structure of FIDE Handbook Section C.04, (FIDE Swiss Rules)
- All the issues pointed out by the subcommittee report presented in Batumi (2018) Congress have been addressed and solved.
- Apart from the known modifications, the pairings are as much the same as before as possible.
- The draft rules contains no more ambiguities in the expected behaviour of the pairing system.

The SPP commission unanimously approves the presented draft of Burstein Pairing System Rules, which can be downloaded from the FIDE website by the following link:

<http://spp.fide.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/NewBursteinSystem1a.pdf>

and recommends that the General Assembly approve it.

Five parts:

A. Introductory Remarks and definitions

B. Pairing Procedures

C. Pairing Criteria

D. Order of Pairings

E. Color Allocation Rules

A. Introductory Remarks and definitions

- The ranking order (for pairing purposes only) has been unequivocally defined- the first evaluator is now Buchholz, followed by S-B.
- The overall round-pairing procedure is formally defined, along with the “complete pairing”
- Acceleration is not part of the system anymore, (C.04 provides standard acceleration method).



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B. Pairing procedure

- The PAB is now allocated considering also : the completion criterion (the PAB allocation must allow a complete pairing of the remaining players)
- The number of games played by the participant.
- The pairing is defined as a two step process:
- First determine the number pairs (and floaters)
- Then select the best possible pairing (and hence the best choice of floaters)

C. Pairing Criteria

The pairing criteria are divided in three groups:

- The Absolute Criteria - which any pairing must abide to . Those criteria are in full compliance with general swiss rules (C.041, C.04.2)
- The Completion Criterion - stating that the choice of outgoing floaters must allow a complete pairing of the remaining players,
- The Quality criteria- which state when a candidate pairing is better than another one.

D. Order of pairings

This section gives operating instructions for the actual construction of pairing candidates, thus permitting to choose the correct pairing when several candidates are of the same quality.

E. Color Allocation Rules

- The wording of these rules is essentially identical to that of Dubov System
- Assigned colors are consistent with those of both FIDE Dutch and Dubov.
- The difference between weak and strong color preferences is now honored , even if it takes no active role in the pairing selection process.

Mr Burstein thanked Mr Ricca and Held for their work during last 3 years and their investment during last months.

6. Comparison between Swiss systems - Swiss Dubov and FIDE Swiss Mario Held (Dutch)

- documents: <https://spp.fide.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Dubov-vs-FIDE-Swiss.pdf> .

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Chairman: Maciej Cybulski