

## Reason for consultation

The conversion of the ECF grade to the FIDE rating equivalent attracts more attention than one might expect. The ECF grading team uses it only for non-English events where members have requested in advance for the event to be included in the grading calculations. The January 2014 list will include about 300 such games from 43 players competing in 20 separate events.

It is thought that the formula may be used by some event organisers for FIDE rated players with no ECF grade for determining acceptability for grading restricted events. One issue is whether the formula should then have a margin to limit English players being outclassed due to vagaries of the averaging.

The grading team have reviewed the formula and invite comments to this consultation paper.

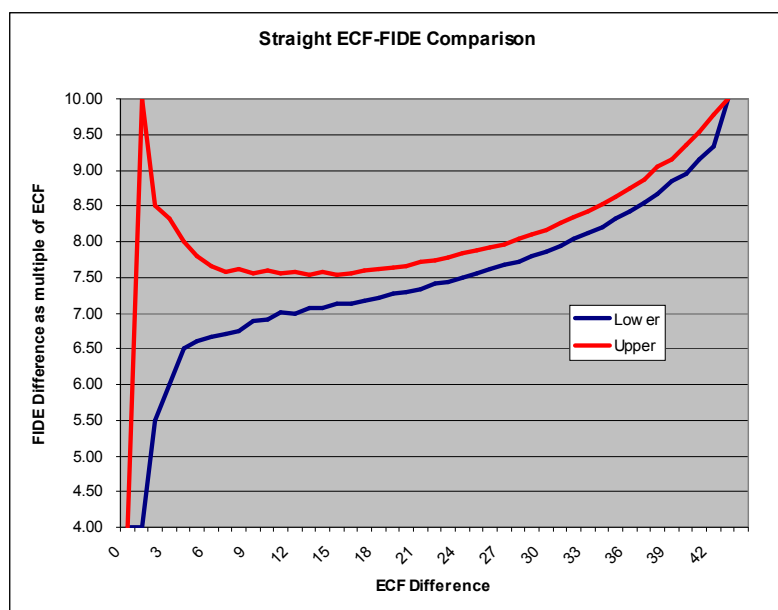
The current formula is:  $8 \text{ ECF} + 650 = \text{FIDE}$ .

The review found there are no grounds for having anything other than a straight line fit.

## The Multiple

The eight times multiple is the normal starting point with the main debate being over the addition.

The two scales can be translated by comparing the strength differences for the same expected score. The FIDE scale has a range of differences giving an identical expected score. However we can plot both the highest and lowest differences against the equivalent ECF grade.



The 8\* multiple works if the grading difference is between 27 and 32.

The actual average difference is 18; in which case the multiple should be between 7.22 and 7.61 (midpoint 7.42). If one weights the lower and higher multiples by the proportion of games played at each difference then the range is 7.12 to 7.97 (midpoint 7.55).

If we were to settle on a multiple of 7.5 then the addition would be 700.

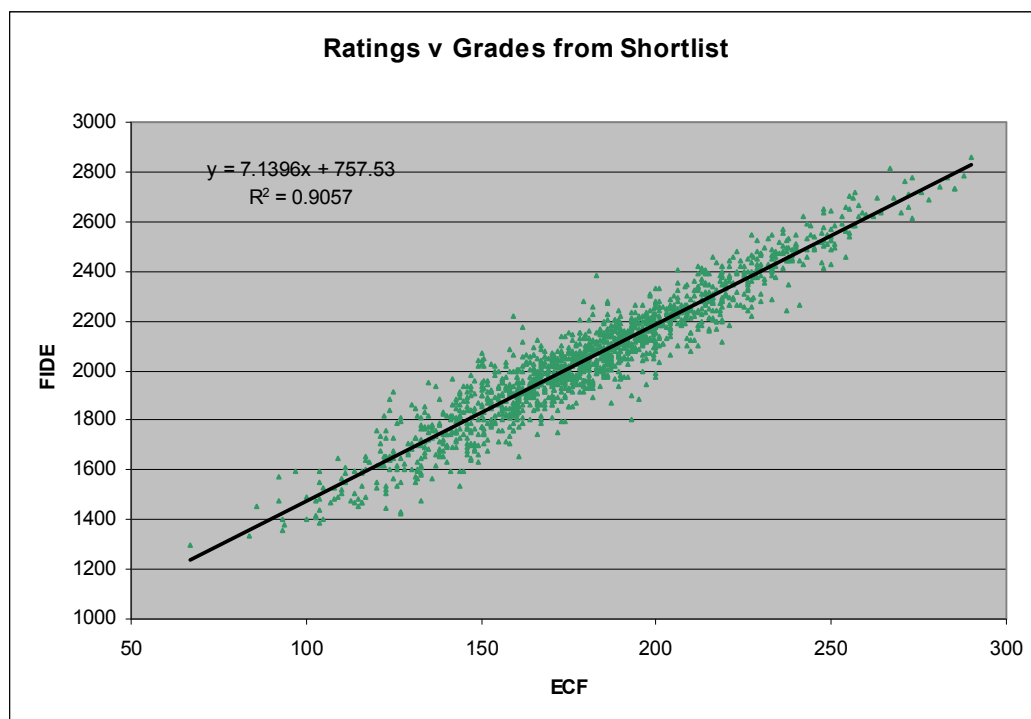
### **Members with an FIDE Elo rating**

Another way of looking at the conversion is to look at players with both a grading reference and a FIDE code. The best fit is

$$7.14 \text{ ECF} + 758 = \text{FIDE}$$

The standard deviations are .059 for the slope and 10.9 for the addition. The correlation is .906. Players here were restricted to adults since the junior equivalent is obscure and all players requesting the facility were adults.

A graph plotting the pairs for each player follows.



The grading team is proposing:  
 $7.5 \text{ ECF} + 700 = \text{FIDE}$

Q1: Should the proposal be accepted?

Q2: If not should we move to

(a) the "best estimate" of  $7.14 \text{ ECF} + 758 = \text{FIDE}$ ,  
or

(b) retain the long established multiplier and move  
to  $8 \text{ ECF} + 600 = \text{FIDE}$ .

Q3: Should the ECF recommend a different conversion for the treatment of ungraded players with FIDE-ratings for the purposes of entering grade-restricted tournaments? If so should this be different from that proposed above?

The plan is to use the formula for games played on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014. Comments are requested by 7<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

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