

**FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING 13 APRIL 2013**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE GAME FEE BYELAWS**

A paper on a proposed registration scheme for events was posted for comment on the ECF website between 30 January and 18 February 2013. In the light of the feedback received, the Board is intending to apply the scheme as described in the appendix to this paper to all events starting on or after 1 July 2013 that intend to submit their results for ECF grading or FIDE rating.

The Game Fee Byelaws already require events to be registered, with paragraph 4.3 stating:

“Each organisation paying a Membership Fee shall register any graded events which it proposes to organise and shall at the same time furnish the designated officer with an estimate of the expected number of grading results. Chess Leagues and Chess Congresses shall do so at the time of first applying for membership and annually thereafter no later than 31st October. Constituent Units, County Associations and Other Organisations shall do so not later than 31st October, and annually thereafter. Each organisation shall also provide the designated officer with an estimate at any such time as he may require, and shall when requested explain the basis for calculation of the estimate.”

In a sense, the new scheme is simply codifying what is meant by registration in the context of this paragraph. The paragraph does not seem to be totally satisfactory as it stands, since:

- (a) It places emphasis on one particular aspect that is covered by the new scheme (estimate of the expected number of grading results), whereas the new scheme requires broader information to be provided.
- (b) It only refers to organisations paying a Membership Fee, whereas the new scheme extends to non-Member organisations submitting results for grading or rating.
- (c) It has in any event not been complied with, as Constituent Units, County Associations and Other Organisations have not in practice been providing the indicated estimates by 31 October and have not been chased for failing to do so.

The Board proposes substituting the following text for the existing paragraph 4.3.

“Each organisation paying a Membership Fee or submitting games for ECF grading or FIDE rating shall register any graded/rated events which it proposes to organise. Registration will be effected by submitting such details to the designated officer by such date as the Board may from time to time prescribe. Events that are not registered within the deadline set will only be graded with the permission of the Board.”

Alex Holowczak

Director of Home Chess

21 March 2013

## **APPENDIX – EVENT REGISTRATION SCHEME**

With effect immediately, all events which start after 1st July, 2013, that intend to submit their results for ECF grading or FIDE rating must be registered. This registration will be free of charge.

### **Rationale**

The ECF is obliged by its Articles and Bye-Laws to run a system of registration of events, for the purpose of Game Fee collection. This is linked to various functions, including the Voting Register. This document seeks to “introduce” something we should already have been doing anyway!

There are various advantages to doing this administratively for the ECF, some of which are listed here:

- (1) The ECF will have contact details for league secretaries and congress organisers each season. At the moment, contacts have a tendency to be outdated. This means that communications from the ECF to those organisations sometimes get lost in the ether of an outdated e-mail address.
- (2) The Voting Register Officer will know precisely which events belong to which Organisations. At the moment, new VROs have to take educated guesses, particularly if an organisation begins running new events.
- (3) Organisers occasionally fail to make FIDE deadlines for registrations and rating-file submission, and as a result, receive fines of up to £100 from FIDE. This process should enable organisers of FIDE-rated events to be aware of their commitments before deciding to FIDE-rate their events.
- (4) It helps with the speedy invoicing of organisations who grade events.
- (5) Players know, in advance, whether or not their event is graded. There have been instances this year where that was not the case, and didn't know their event was not to be graded.

### **How It Works**

Depending on the type of event, the following will apply.

#### ***ECF-graded Leagues***

Team events (e.g. leagues), starting between 1st September and 31st March of the following year must be registered by 1st September. Leagues starting between 1st April and 31st August of a given year must be registered before 1st April.

By registering a League, the organiser is committing to:

- (1) Submitting grading reports by the deadline set by the ECF Grading Administrator for both grading lists;

- (2) Paying the Game Fee for the half-results of any non-members playing in their League, which will be invoiced to the registrant.

### ***ECF-graded Congresses***

Individual events (i.e. Congresses) must be registered 35 days in advance of the event's start date.

By registering a Congress, the organiser is committing to:

- (1) Submitting grading reports to the ECF Grading Administrator within 21 days of the end date of the event. This is to ensure congresses held at the end of June have been graded by 21st July, which means the new season's grading list can be produced before the end of July;
- (2) Paying any Pay-to-play fees due from games played by Bronze members or non-members in the event, which will be invoiced to the registrant.

### ***FIDE-rated events***

FIDE-rated events of any type must be registered at least 35 days in advance of the event's start date. This is a present requirement by FIDE – nothing will change with this. A registered FIDE-rated event will automatically be registered for Grading.

By registering a FIDE-rated event, the organiser is committing to:

- (1) Submitting a FIDE-rating report for the event "on time", i.e. in time for the monthly rating list for which it is registered. This is a present FIDE requirement, and FIDE may impose financial penalties for breach of this which are outside the control of the ECF.
- (2) Paying any FIDE-rating fees that are due for the rating of the event, which will be invoiced to the registrant.
- (3) Ensuring that for standard chess, any player registered to England on the FIDE rating list, or any other player who wishes to be registered to England on the FIDE rating list, is a paid-up Gold member of the ECF. For rapidplay chess, the same rule applies, but instead of Gold membership, Silver membership is required. (There is no requirement at all for blitz chess.)

### **Other Conditions**

It is the responsibility of the Organiser to provide the ECF with suitable grading and/or rating files for the event. Neither the Grading Administrator nor the International Rating Officer will create grading or rating files on behalf of an Organiser.

### **How to Register**

Registrants will be able to register their event by filling in the registration form, which will take the form of a webpage on the ECF website. This will be sent directly to the ECF Office. A copy of the registration details will be e-mailed to the Organiser who registers the event.

## **Late Registration**

Events that are not registered in accordance with the deadlines set will only be graded and rated with the permission of the Board. Additionally, FIDE has the right to decline an event for rating that has not been registered with FIDE in accordance with its deadlines.

## **Non-compliance with terms of Registration**

Any registered events not complying with any of the grading or rating requirements will not count towards the Grand Prix, if applicable. Any registered events not complying with any of the financial terms will not be allowed to register any additional events until the debt from their previous events is paid for. The Director of Home Chess has the discretion to overturn these sanctions, on condition that a £20 fine is paid within 7 days of the grading file being submitted. Any fines issued by FIDE to an event for late-submission will be levied upon the Organiser of the event. No events submitted for registration by the Organiser shall be registered with FIDE until the debt owed is cleared.

## **Information that will be asked for at Registration**

Name of Event: {For the Tournament Calendar}

Event Type: (League/Congress/Club Internal) {For the Voting Register}

Junior-only: Yes/No {To invoice the correct Game Fees/Pay-to-Play fees}

FIDE-rated: Yes/No {If yes, the IRO should get an e-mail for him to register the event with FIDE}

Time control: {For the Tournament Calendar/IRO – standardplay, Rapidplay, blitz}

Sections: [If the event is a League, then Division One, Division Two etc. Necessary because in some competitions, only certain sections or divisions are graded.] {Again, for the Tournament Calendar}

Entry form: (Attach file) {For the Tournament Calendar}

Organisation: [If the event is organised by a League, Constituent Unit, County etc. this should be put here] {For the Voting Register}

Organiser Name: [In the case of a League, this should be the League Secretary] {The registrant. To be linked to organiser norms. Necessary for FIDE-rated events.}

Organiser E-mail: {Primary communication}

Organiser Telephone: {Secondary communication}

Deputy Organisers: {If all-else fails... - This may be, for example, the Treasurer}

Deputy Organisers' E-mail: {Primary communication}

Deputy Organisers' Telephone: {Secondary communication}

Chief Arbiter: [In the case of a League, this should be someone appointed by the League to deal with rules issues. This may be the Secretary, or a separate individual.] {To be linked to arbiter norms. Necessary for FIDE-rated events.}

Deputy Arbiters: {To be linked to arbiter norms. Necessary for FIDE-rated events.}

Grader: {This is the link between the Grading team and the event.}

Grader e-mail: {Sufficient: Grading files submitted by e-mail anyway.}