

Procedures for Voting at the ECF Annual General Meeting

These notes are published for the guidance of Council members on how voting will be conducted in the Zoom environment being used for the Annual General Meeting. It also discusses the particular, somewhat complicated, arrangements that are being made to preserve the integrity of the secret vote used for elected positions.

Hand Votes

For motions not expected to be controversial hand votes are normally taken. This does not allow for the fact that some representatives will have multiple votes but the result of a hand vote is only acceptable if it is obvious that the result is not in doubt. The chairman will make a decision, but this can be challenged from the floor. There are involved rules about how many such challenges are required which will be explained in the meeting if necessary. However, the number is low.

Hand votes will be conducted using Zoom's internal poll facility and this will be explained on the day.

Card Votes

A card vote is taken if there is any doubt that a hand vote does not indicate a decisive vote or where the Chairman decides that a card vote is in any case necessary. At this AGM there are a number of constitutional resolutions that are "Special Resolutions" requiring a 75% vote in favour of those cast. These will in any event be taken as card votes.

The Zoom poll facility is not sophisticated enough for a card vote since different Council members will have a different number of votes so an alternative approach will be used.

During the meeting a link will be given to a voting form and each person attending will need to fill this in for each organisation or role they are representing. The organisation or role can be selected from a drop down list and this list will also indicate how many votes have been given to the selected organisation or role. Representatives will also need to add their names. The motion being voted on will normally be displayed on the voting form and there will be spaces for votes in favour and against the motion.

The software behind this automatically generates a spreadsheet of results which will be checked by the tellers for duplicates or for an excess number of votes cast. The spreadsheet will then be used to generate the total vote count.

The full results of card votes are public and details of voting are published on the ECF website in the week following the meeting.

Elections

The election votes will be card votes in all cases, but as these votes are by secret ballot special procedures are in place to ensure that the confidentiality of the votes is maintained.

The procedure mirrors the that used at physical meetings. Each Council member will be allocated a PIN that will be sent out by email a couple of days ahead of the meeting. This pin will be entered by the voter along with the voting decision. The tellers, who will be the ECF office staff, will have a list of valid PINs and the number of votes relating to that PIN. They will not know to whom the PIN has been allocated. The votes are automatically collated on to a spreadsheet by the software

being used and the job of the tellers is to ensure that no duplicate votes have been cast and that the number of votes matches the number allocated to the PIN. Total votes are calculated by the spreadsheet.

The match between organisations and PINs is done separately by the Voting Registration Officer who supplies a list matching Council members to PINs to the chairman of council and a separate list of valid PINs and voting entitlement (lacking details of the Council member) to the tellers. The Chair of Council is responsible for emailing all Council members with details of their PIN and the number of votes it carries. During the meeting the chairman will have a printed list of Council members and their PINs which is solely for the purpose of giving help to members (by private communication) if a PIN has not been delivered to them. At the end of the election procedures this list will be sealed in an envelope and all electronic records (held away from the ECF office) will be destroyed. The contents of the sealed envelope could be compared with the spreadsheet but that is a precaution only in the case of an irregularity. In such circumstances the comparison would be done by someone entirely independent of the whole process. For the avoidance of any doubt, the spreadsheet of results will only be available to the tellers and, in particular, will not be available at any time to the Voting Register Officer nor to the Chairman of Council (who at the present time happen to be the same person).

Two minor modifications to the procedure will be made for practical reasons of the Zoom environment.

(1) In physical meetings there has traditionally been one voting card for all elections, but in order to make screen navigation of the form more manageable the election voting will happen in two stages. The first stage will cover election of the Board and then there will be a separate second vote for other officers (eg FIDE delegate, Chair of Council and members of Standing Committees).

(2) In physical meetings Council members received a ballot form for each organisation or individual that they were representing. In that case the relevant PIN could be pre-printed on the ballot paper. It has been decided, however, that to send several PINs to representatives for each organisation they represent and require multiple completion of the election form for each organisation would be cumbersome and unreasonable. Therefore only one PIN will be issued and will be sent with a statement of the total number of votes allocated and an explanation of how this total is made up. It will be possible for representatives to split their vote allocation in accordance with any instructions received from the organisations or individuals that they represent.