

Proposed Changes to Membership Scheme and Voting Arrangements

The next two items on the agenda, namely the Board proposals on membership options in item C39.9 (2) and the NCCU resolution in item C39.9 (3) will be dealt with together as described below.

Council is invited to consider (1) the Board paper entitled “Membership Options Paper” which provides detail of the Board’s preferred change to the membership system (“Board Option 1”) and the Board’s second choice (“Board Option 2”); and (2) the NCCU resolution set out below which sets out the NCCU proposal in relation to the membership system. The detailed procedure set out below is designed to identify which of these three proposals is most to Council’s liking, with there then being a vote between the preferred option and no change.

Please note the following in relation to the voting procedures to be followed on this Agenda item:

- 1. As a first stage, Council will have a vote (to be decided by simple majority) to determine, solely as between Board Option 1 and Board Option 2, which of these two options for change they prefer. Council members are not able to vote for no change at this stage; those favouring no change are of course free to abstain from voting at this first stage, but it is suggested that they should consider voting for the option for change they dislike least. The winning option for change then proceeds to the second stage. The losing option for change leaves the process.***
- 2. The second stage is the consideration of an ordinary resolution (so again, to be decided by simple majority) to determine, solely as between the winning option in the first stage and the NCCU proposal, which is the preferred option for change. Again, Council members are not able to vote for no change at this stage; those favouring no change are again free to abstain from voting, but it is again suggested that they vote for the option for change they dislike the least. The option winning the second stage proceeds to the third stage. The losing option leaves the process.***
- 3. The third stage is the consideration of an ordinary resolution (so again, to be decided by simple majority) to consider the option for change chosen by Council in the second stage. Those in favour of the option for change should vote in favour of this resolution and those preferring no change should, of course, vote against this resolution.***
- 4. If the resolution passed in the third stage is the adoption of Board Option 1 or Board Option 2, Council will then as a fourth stage consider a further ordinary resolution (so again, simple majority vote) to replace, when change occurs, the two silver Direct Members’ Representatives with two additional gold Direct Members’ Representatives.***

If Board Option 1 is chosen in the second stage, then the following is the resolution to be proposed in the third stage:

“THAT option 1 as further described in the paper entitled “Membership Options Paper” shall be adopted and that with effect from a date to be determined by the Board (and subject to the Board so determining) the Direct Members Bye Laws be amended by:

- (a) deleting the defined terms “Silver Concessionary Members” and “Silver Members”;
- (b) amending the definition of “Bronze Concessionary Members” by adding after the words “renewal thereof” the words “and who were Bronze Concessionary Members at the time of Finance Council in 2024 (or such other date as the Board may determine) and whose membership of this category does not subsequently lapse or be replaced by a different level or category of membership”;

- (c) amending the definition of “Bronze Members” by deleting the existing definition and replacing it with “means Bronze Members who were bronze members at the time of Finance Council in 2024 (or such other date as the Board may determine) and whose bronze membership does not subsequently lapse or be replaced by a different level or category of membership”;
- (d) deleting “, Silver” in the wording above the table in paragraph 3 and the column headed “Silver” in the table in paragraph 3”.

If Board Option 2 is chosen in the second stage, then the following is the resolution to be proposed at the third stage:

“THAT option 2 as further described in the paper entitled “Membership Options Paper” shall be adopted and that with effect from a date to be determined by the Board (and subject to the Board so determining) the Direct Members Bye Laws be amended by:

- (a) deleting the defined terms “Silver Concessionary Members” and “Silver Members”;
- (b) deleting “, Silver” in the wording above the table in paragraph 3 and the column headed “Silver” in the table in paragraph 3”.

If the NCCU proposal is chosen in the second stage, then the following is the resolution to be proposed in the third stage:

"That the ECF resolves to abolish the Gold, Silver and Bronze membership categories and replace them with a single membership category, based on a recommended membership fee of £25 a year from September 2024. This membership category will allow ECF Members to take part in all rated club, league, tournament and congress events with free ECF and FIDE rating.

That Junior and Student Members and Supporters continue to enjoy reduced membership fees, with a recommended level of £10 per year from September 2024 and a continued commitment to free membership in their first year for Junior Members (players under the age of 18) and Students under the age of 21.

That Platinum Members be recategorized as ECF Patrons, with the same membership rights as other ECF Members, but with the addition of a free print copy of the ECF Yearbook each year. The recommended rate for Patrons from September 2024 will be £75 per year.

These proposals are introduced with the aim of reducing administrative and financial barriers to congress and tournament play, and particularly FIDE rated events, while establishing the principle of equality for all ECF members and keeping membership affordable for all.

That a proposal based on this resolution is put forward by the Board for approval by the Finance Council in April 2024."

The following is the resolution to be proposed at the fourth stage, if the fourth stage is reached:

“THAT, subject to and simultaneously with the amendments in the preceding resolution put to Council taking effect, paragraph 5 of the Direct Members’ Bye Laws be amended by (i) deleting paragraph 5.1 (d) in its entirety and re-lettering paragraph 5.1 (e) accordingly; (ii) deleting the first sentence of paragraph 5.2 and replacing it with: “Each of the categories in 5.1 (a), (b) and (d) above shall be entitled each year to elect two and the category in 5.1 (c) above to elect four representatives (who shall in all cases be Direct Members but not necessarily of the relevant category)”;

and (iii) in

the next sentence deleting the words “(c), (d) or “(e)” and replacing them with the words “(c) or (d)”.”