

Meeting on Tie-break Regulations

May 7, 2021

Minutes

Present:

1. Mr. Victor Bologan, FIDE Executive Director
2. Ms. Sava Stoisavljevic, FIDE COO.
3. Mr. Hendrik Petrus Du Toit, SPP Commission, Councilor.
4. Mr. Andrzej Filipowicz, Technical Commission, Secretary.
5. Mr. Alex Holowczak, Qualification Commission, Secretary
6. Mr. Mehrdad Pahlevanzadeh, Rules Commission, Secretary.

Mr. Bologan greeted all representatives of all FIDE Commissions. He said that the minutes of this meeting will be presented to the Management Board & FIDE Council for their final approval. Each Commission's voice will be heard.

Previously the Technical Commission was dealing with the tie-breaks but then the FIDE Council decided to re-distribute the responsibilities among the RC, SPP & Technical Commission.

The matter of the tie-breaks was given to the SPP. Mr. Du Toit to advise.

Mr. Holowczak took the floor. He said that he discussed this issue with Mr. Nick Faulks. There are three things they are interested in.

1. The responsible body for the tie-breaks.
2. The list of definitions that the organizers can use during the tie-breaks.
3. Direct title events. They would like the Global Strategy Commission (GSC) and the Events Commission to specify what the tie-breaks should be used to avoid the organizers define their own regulations.

Mr. Filipowicz admitted that the Commission to which the tie-breaks were moved to - had never made any remarks on this. He proposed to wait for the next FIDE elections when the new Commission will be announced, and the work of the Commission will be concentrated on different matters. He informed that he had received many remarks from the Rules Commission, Arbiters' Commission, and some other people regarding the improvement of the theoretical system. They can only prepare the definitions and explain the difference between the tie-breaks that can be used in the tournaments.

Mr. Bologan thanked Mr. Filipowicz for his reasonable remarks.

Mr. Pahlevanzadeh raised two concerns about the tie-breaks: 1. There should be a separate chapter about the tie-breaks with the clear definitions in the FIDE Handbook. 2. The calculation is connected to the Swiss pairing program and should be developed by the SPP Commission.

Mr. Bologan said that the Rules Commission and the Technical Commission are ready to take over the tie-break's definitions.

Mr. Du Toit expressed his assumption that there is a concern that if the tie-breaks are passed to the SPP Commission, we might be in trouble.

Mr. Holowczak said that the SPP Commission had never been responsible for the tie-breaks till recently.

Mr. Du Toit remarked that it was important for him to understand the concerns. This was also his understanding that the tie-breaks were not in the domain of the SPP Commission before. He said that from the constitutional point of view we should respect the decision of the FIDE Council to leave this question under the SPP Commission. There should be a cooperation between all the Commissions. The solution is that when it comes to the tie-breaks the members of the Technical Commission and the Rules Commission would sit in occasionally to discuss it and it might make a little bit easier in transferring the information.

Mr. Du Toit said that he was curious why Mr. Holowczak didn't want to include the recommendations for the definitions for the tie-breaks into the FIDE Handbook but regarding the comments of Mr. Pahlevanzadeh there should be some examples even put in a separate document.

Mr. Holowczak noted that examples of the calculations are fine and, in some way, explaining the definition. They want to avoid the tie-breaks rule saying, 'we recommend you...'

Mr. Du Toit mentioned that in the past he received the document, part of the FIDE Handbook.

Ms. Stoisavljevic informed that the tie-break regulations are part of the chapter C02 in the FIDE Handbook - C.02 - Standards of Chess Equipment and tournament venue for the FIDE Tournaments.

Mr. Du Toit added that the tie-break regulations had been published in the Arbiters' Manual prepared by the Arbiters Commission.

Mr. Holowczak explained to him that the Arbiters' Manual was basically a 'copy & paste' document from the FIDE Handbook.

Mr. Du Toit said that he always found it helpful from the arbiters' and organizers' point of view for several reasons:

- a. Once the regulations are in the FIDE Handbook – it is considered to be an official document. But, to a certain extent, it sometimes becomes a problem.
- b. It helps the arbiters.
- c. It tries to keep expanded what should be used. Instead of cutting it from the Handbook, it is better to give more explanation. Everything should be in the Handbook in one single place.

Mr. Holowczak said that he had a slightly different view. He finds it unhelpful. Because if it is a zonal Individual Swiss, they will not use this tie-break as they have different ones. Even for the independent tournaments. If the people want some guidance and advice, they can easily look for the rules of zonal tournaments, continental or some other Individual Swiss events. All these 'recommendations' are causing arguments only among the people.

Mr. Filipowicz said that the Swiss tournament was complicated. To choose a proper tie-break system is a difficult matter. It depends on the level of the participants, their ratings and etc. there should be an experienced person to choose a proper tie-break system.

Mr. Bologan said that we have two documents: 1st document that is in FIDE Handbook and 2nd document is in Arbiters' Manual. He agreed with Mr. Filipowicz that it was difficult to decide which tie-break system to use. The recommendations should be in the Arbiters' Manual. He said that he would address it to the arbiters and discuss it during the arbiters' seminars. Because the

arbiters are mostly doing the pairings. As per the FIDE Handbook, it is important to highlight some important things.

Ms. Stoisavljevic said that it is important to clarify two issues:

1. The proposal of Mr. Filipowicz to postpone everything till the next elections. It means that the Technical Commission continues to update the tie-break regulations. Another possibility is that the Rules Commission and the SPP Commission will overtake the responsibility of the tie-break regulations update.
2. The tie-break regulations should be excluded from the C 02 document and prepared as a separate document in the FIDE Handbook.

As per the Arbiters' Manual it is not a big issue, we can advise them what should be included regarding the Tie-break regulations.

We have to think about the wording in the objectives of the Commissions, especially, the Technical Commission, the SPP Commission and the chapter C 02 of the FIDE Handbook - Standards of Chess Equipment, venue for FIDE Tournaments, rate of play and tie-break regulations. If the Technical Commission continues to do this work till the next FIDE Elections, maybe we should consider including one additional clarification in their objectives. It would be good to hear the opinion of the GSC and the Events Commission regarding the recommended tie-breaks or the fixed ones.

Mr. Pahlevanzadeh proposed to set one tie-break system. In case it is not possible, it should be clearly defined which category of the tournament & the system of the tie-breaks should be used.

Mr. Filipowicz noted that our sport was a special one. We have the beginners and the world champion in one tournament. This is a big problem. We need to consider the fact that the unrated player plays against the champion.

Mr. Bologan said that he supported the opinion of Mr. Filipowicz. He added that according to his experience the different tie-break systems for different tournaments make sense. We will try to keep the variety of the tie-break systems for certain things.

Regarding the GSC and the Events Commission, we keep it in mind, moreover, we have a clear request from the GSC that it is up to them to decide or propose to the FIDE Council the most appropriate tie-break system. The clear list of definitions is definitely needed.

Mr. Holowczak agreed with Mr. Bologan that we need a flexible approach.

Mr. Du Toit said that probably the answer was somewhere in between all of this. One of the strains that we have - the tie-breaks and the variety of the tournaments that Mr. Filipowicz mentioned. This is a positive thing in our sport, but it also causes problems we are facing now. He agreed with Mr. Pahlevanzadeh that it was their responsibility. If we are not willing to do the necessary recommendations, we are missing our goal. The documentation should be there, should be proper updated, and should have all the necessary recommendations. The documentation should be expanded to include more scenarios and rules. The arbiters or organizers should go on the site and choose the best scenario. We need the guidance.

Mr. Holowczak noted that the Arbiters' Commission has adopted this system in its manual. The Rules Commission provides the rules and the Arbiters' Commission provides comments to these rules. Is there a scenario where the Handbook officially defines what the tie-breaks are, but then the Arbiters' Manual gives the recommendations on the tie-breaks.

Mr. Bologan said that everyone would support this idea.

Mr. Pahlevanzadeh proposed FIDE to make, for example, 3-4 sets of tie-breaks for each category of the tournament.

Mr. Filipowicz made an example with the tie-break of Ian Nepomniachtchi at the Candidates Tournament. He said that system of tie-breaks was important for the top-level tournaments, countries and so on.

Mr. Bologan agreed with both of them. Unfortunately, we don't have here the representative of the GSC. Definitely, he would say that all tie-breaks should be known well in advance and should be established by the GSC. We all agree that for important competitions the tie-breaks should be fixed, as per the other competitions, we can have these recommendations which might be in the Arbiters' manual. In the Handbook it is possible to make the reference to the arbiters' manual.

Mr. Du Toit added that instead of changing every time the Handbook, the Appendices to the documents can be changed very easily. For example, the arbiters or some other Commissions' manuals can be attached to the Handbook rather than to be the part of it. The Appendices can be changed as needed.

Mr. Bologan agreed that it was an important point. He is working on the general structure of the Handbook together with Ms. Stoisavljevic and Mr. Holowczak. They will think about the annexes and how to incorporate them into the FIDE Handbook.

Mr. Bologan summarised all the raised issues.

Issues raised by Ms. Stoisavljevic: the issue regarding the Commissions objectives. For the moment, the tie-breaks were removed from the list of the Technical Commission's objectives. The new version of the FIDE Handbook is in process.

We have two approaches, one is strategical (development), the other is what we have now.

In the long term, we see the cooperation between the Rules Commission and the SPP Commission. In the short term, we have these responsibilities aligned to the Technical Commission. We have specialists working on the tie-break system. He suggested that a working panel be kept till the next FIDE Elections. We will not touch for the time being the objectives of the Commissions, we will find a functional solution.

From the functional point of view, the members of the Technical, the Rules and the SPP Commissions will meet, agree on the definitions and the way of calculation.

In the strategical way, after the next FIDE Elections, the calculation part will lay on the SPP, definition part – on the Rules Commission. The aim of the new FIDE is to have more interactions, exchanging the ideas between the Commissions etc.

Mr. Filipowicz drew his attention to the Hendrik's words when he mentioned the unplayed games. It is a big problem in all tie-breaks systems. It is difficult to find a proper solution. It should be the cooperation of many bodies, FIDE members to find the solution in a Swiss system, Round Robin tournaments and so on.

Ms. Stoisavljevic summarised the meeting and said that she was always happy to see the cooperation between the Commissions. She liked the idea of creating the working panel.

The following questions should be clarified:

- Who will submit the proposal on the tie-break regulations changes to the FIDE Council?

- In case of any requests and explanations needed regarding tie-breaks, which Commission (Technical Commission or another) should be addressed to?
- Creation of the working panel. Do we need an approval from the FIDE Management Board?

Mr. Bologan replied to the first question that it should be the Rules Commission.

Regarding the questions about the tie-breaks, it should also be addressed to the Rules Commission, but the calculation issue should be addressed to the SPP Commission.

The working panel will be created and work till the next FIDE Elections and will consist of the experts. FIDE Council raised this question after the receiving of the report of the Technical Commission and asked to find the solution to whom it should be referred to.

This is a kind of roadmap for all of us.

Ms. Stoisavljevic asked Mr. Filipowicz to share the document that he presented for the last FIDE Council meeting and together with Messrs. Du Toit and Pahlevanzadeh to try to improve it.

Mr. Bologan said that this document should be a fundamental one for the next meetings.

Ms. Stoisavljevic concluded that the separate document for the tie-break's regulations will be created.

Mr. Holowczak paid attention to the chapter C 02 document and proposed to separate the different areas into the smaller parts. The GSC might be interested in it as well.

Mr. Bologan agreed on the Mr. Holowczak's remarks.

Mr. Bologan thanked everyone for the participation and suggested that the next meeting between Messrs. Du Toit, Filipowicz and Pahlevanzadeh will have a practical implementation of what was discussed today. At the same time after their meeting, a document for the FIDE Council with all the resolutions will be prepared.