



Technical
Commission

2026 FIDE CONGRESS

TEC Commission

Commission Meeting and Term Report 2022 – 2026

20 September 2026

Session 1 09:00 – 10:30 CET | Session 2 11:00 – 13:00 CET

Chair: GM Tiberiu Georgescu | Secretary: IA Hendrik du Toit



Agenda



SESSION 1 · 09:00 – 10:30

Seq	Item	Lead	Time
1.	Introduction	GM Tiberiu Georgescu	09:00 – 09:10
2.	Commission Term Report 2022 – 2026	GM Tiberiu Georgescu	09:10 – 09:25
3.	C.02 Project – The Technical Acceptance Process	IA Hendrik du Toit	09:25 – 09:40
4.	Gacrux	IA Otto Milvang	09:40 – 09:50
5.	C.07 Tie-Break Amendments	TEC	09:50 – 10:10
6.	Closing first part	GM Tiberiu Georgescu	10:10 – 10:30

SESSION 2 · 11:00 – 13:00 · DETAILED DISCUSSIONS BY TOPIC

Seq	Topic	Lead	Time
7a.	Technical Acceptance Process: objectives, changes, corrections	IA Hendrik du Toit	11:00 – 11:40
7b.	Gacrux: verification at scale and use by vendors	IA Otto Milvang	11:40 – 12:10
7c.	Open discussion, wrap-up and closing	GM Tiberiu Georgescu	12:10 – 13:00

SESSION 1 · ITEM 1

Introduction

Welcome, attendance and objectives of the meeting

Chairperson: GM Tiberiu Georgescu

09:00 – 09:10



Technical
Commission



Introduction



1

Welcome and attendance

Welcome to members, guests and observers. Confirmation of attendance, apologies and the agenda as circulated.

2

Term report 2022 – 2026

Where the Commission started, how it organised itself, and what it delivered over the four-year term.

3

Decision: the Technical Acceptance Process

The Commission is asked to ratify the restructured C.02 framework, in force since 1 March 2026, together with the TEC Manual and the Technical Acceptance Process.

4

Technical updates: Gacrux and C.07 Tie-Break Amendments

Short presentations in Session 1; Gacrux and the Technical Acceptance Process are discussed in detail in Session 2.

Session 1 closes at 10:30. Session 2 starts at 11:00 and runs until 13:00.

SESSION 1 · ITEM 2

Commission Term Report 2022 – 2026

Where we started, how we organised, what we delivered

GM Tiberiu Georgescu

09:10 – 09:25



Technical
Commission



Where we started: The seven pillars for 2022 – 2026



The “pylons” received from the FIDE President at the start of the term, as first presented in 2022

1

Testing and setting advanced standards for equipment (boards, clocks)

2

Modernising venue requirements

3

Developing advanced technologies for capturing games, in collaboration with companies (scoresheets, e-boards, AI gadgets)

4

Improving broadcast technologies

5

Digitalising FIDE services, including the former agenda of SPP

6

Digitalising internal FIDE procedures and assisting other commissions

7

Ensuring compatibility across technologies and e-platforms

WORK PRINCIPLES

Meritocracy: each person's effort is presented and promoted through FIDE.
Democracy: important decisions are taken by the majority of the Commission.
Active members have priority in choosing projects.

Every project since 2022 traces back to one of these seven pillars.



The team (1/2)



24 members, including the two specialists who joined the Commission during the term

No.	Position	Name	Federation	Role in TEC
1	Chair	Tiberiu Georgescu	Romania	Management Board; Head of Management department
2	Honorary Chair	Andrzej Filipowicz	Poland	Management Board
3	Secretary	Hendrik du Toit	South Africa	Management Board; Management department; C.02 restructuring, Tournament Entry Portal
4	Councillor	Roberto Ricca	Italy	Head of SPP department; pairings, tie-breaks, THP verification
5	Councillor	Agnieszka Brustman	Poland	Product testing (Millennium eBoards, Clono)
6	Councillor	Mehrdad Pahlevanzadeh	Iran	Product testing (Millennium eBoards)
7	Councillor	Sultan Ali Al Taher	UAE	Management Board
8	Member	Abdelfattah Akkour	Morocco	
9	Member	Grant Oen	USA	
10	Member	Ni Hua	China	
11	Member	Dinu-Ioan Nicula	Romania	Head of Management & Procedure workgroup; testing (DGT 2500, ChessNoteR)
12	Member	Olexandr Prohorov	Ukraine	Product testing (Millennium, DGT 2500, ChessNoteR)



The team (2/2)



24 members, including the two specialists who joined the Commission during the term

No.	Position	Name	Federation	Role in TEC
13	Member	Almog Burstein	Israel	Product testing (Clono); Burstein pairing system
14	Member	Askin Keles	Turkey	
15	Member	Arasu B.	India	Head of Development TEC; Arbiters Manual contributor
16	Member	Otto Milvang	Norway	Management Board member; tie-breaks and software; author of Gacrux
17	Member	Fungirayiini Mushaninga	Zimbabwe	Head of Support TEC
18	Member	Mario Held	Italy	Head of Critical TEC; Exercises in Tie-Breaking
19	Member	Jolly Nepando	Namibia	
20	Member	Tania Karali	Greece	Head of Marketing & Communication; product testing
21	Member	Russell Smith	Trinidad & Tobago	Product testing (Millennium eBoards)
22	Member	Sergey Abramov	Russia	
23	Member	Pierre Dénommée	Canada	Management Board member; SPP (joined during the term)
24	Member	Laskarina Korou	Greece	Management Board member; technology (joined during the term)

Guest: Jose De Jesus Garcia Ruvalcaba (SPP). FIDE coordinators: GM Victor Bologan, WFM Sava Stoisljevic. Former member: Rohan Waithe (Barbados).



How the Commission is organised



Management Board, six departments and their workgroups

FIDE COORDINATION

GM Victor Bologan · WFM Sava Stoislavljjevic Coordinators of the Commission on FIDE's side: weekly calls between Victor Bologan and the Chair and Secretary, monthly emails to both, throughout the term.

MANAGEMENT BOARD

Chair Tiberiu Georgescu

Honorary Chair Andrzej Filipowicz

Secretary Hendrik du Toit

Councillors Roberto Ricca, Agnieszka Brustman, Mehrdad Pahlevanzadeh, Sultan Ali Al Taher

Extra Board members Otto Milvang (tie-breaks and software), Pierre Dénommée, Laskarina Korou

Heads of departments as listed below

SPP

Roberto Ricca

Pairing regulations · Tie-break regulations · Software for SPP (THPs)

Critical TEC

Mario Held

Boards, pieces and clocks · Venue requirements · Broadcast technologies

Support TEC

Fungirayiini Mushaniga

External digitalisation · Internal FIDE procedures, assisting other commissions

Development TEC

Arasu B.

Strategic digitalisation · Game-capture technologies with companies · Cross-platform compatibility

Management

Chair and Secretary

Management Board · Management and Procedure workgroup

Marketing & Communication

Tania Karali

Communication and promotion · Website and social media

Specialist members Otto Milvang (tie-breaks and software), Pierre Dénommée (SPP), Laskarina Korou (technology). **Guest** Jose De Jesus Garcia Ruvalcaba (SPP). **Workgroups** temporary (one task, e.g. testing a product) or permanent (one area). Every member belongs to at least one department and one workgroup; every meeting has minutes.



SPP became part of TEC



The former Systems of Pairings and Programs Commission was incorporated into the Technical Commission

WHAT MOVED

Pairings, tie-breaks and tournament software

Swiss pairing systems (C.04), tie-break regulations (C.07), the endorsement of pairing and tournament programs, TRF and data formats: all now under one commission, run by the SPP department.

WHAT IT MEANT

One technical hub, a much larger workload

TEC became the single point of contact for equipment, software and regulations. References to the SPPC in the Handbook now read as TEC. The workload grew accordingly, which is what the 2025 Annual Meeting was organised to absorb.

WHAT WE DID WITH IT

Consolidation, not just transfer

C.04.A software endorsement was merged into C.02.03; TRF16 became TRF26; the Dutch, Team and Double Swiss systems were clarified; Gacrux gives an independent reference for pairing and tie-break verification.

The standards applied in top-level events are now the same standards available to every FIDE tournament worldwide.



Three in-person annual meetings, and today's



The Commission met face to face every year of the term



2023 · Bucharest

First annual meeting: structure, departments, procedures



2024 · Budapest

During the Chess Olympiad and Congress



2025 · Durrës

World Youth Championships, six sessions in two days

2026 · Samarkand The fourth annual meeting is the one taking place today, during the Chess Olympiad and the Congress. Face-to-face time has been used for the topics that do not resolve online: product acceptance, the tie-break and pairing overhauls, the evaluation of new devices and software.



Four years in numbers

Indicative figures for the term, based on the annual and quarterly reports

~100

management board meetings
(the people in this room),
weekly in 2023, biweekly since

~200

smaller meetings: departments,
workgroups, vendors, other
commissions and FIDE office

~2 h

per board meeting, held in
the evening, in members'
own time

250+

tracked matters since 2023
(FIDE-00001 to FIDE-00223):
enquiries, proposals, projects

≈ 200 h

of board meetings alone ($100 \times \sim 2$ h);
roughly 1,400 person-hours for a seven-
person board

≈ 10,000 h

volunteer person-hours across board,
department and workgroup meetings,
an order of magnitude

4

in-person annual meetings (Bucharest,
Budapest, Durrës, Samarkand); 6
sessions in two days in 2025

Weekly

calls with GM Victor Bologan (Chair and
Secretary); monthly emails to Victor
Bologan and WFM Sava Stoislavjevic



2022 versus 2026



What did not exist at the start of the term, and what exists now

Area	2022	2026
Commission structure	A list of members	Management Board, six departments, workgroups, written procedures, minutes for every meeting
Pairings and tie-breaks	Separate SPP Commission	Integrated SPP department in TEC; Dutch, Team and Double Swiss systems clarified; new tie-break regulations in force
Product endorsement	Ad hoc, paper-based, case by case	Technical Acceptance Process: registration, Acceptance Cycle, VCL, SDPC, TAPC, endorsement; online forms
Handbook	C.02 and C.04.A scattered, overlapping	C.02.01 General Regulations, C.02.03 software, C.02.04 public register, TEC Manual; effective 1 March 2026
Tournament data	TRF16	TRF26 with team events, real-time exchange (ITDX) and new record types; approved by FMB May 2025
Verification tools	JaVaFo	Gacrux: open-source pairing, tie-break and tournament-generator reference
Working tools	Email only	Case tracking (FIDE-00001 onward), GitHub, workflow automation, online forms and archives



Main contributions 2022 – 2026 (1/2)



SPP: pairing systems, tie-breaks, tournament data and verification

Pairing systems

- **SPP integrated into TEC**
One commission for pairings, tie-breaks and tournament software
- **C.04 amendments 2024 and 2025**
Dutch clarified, Burstein corrected, bye and colour rules (FMB CM3-2025/17)
- **Team Pairing System**
TPN rules clarified with the ARB, QC and Rules Commissions
- **Double Swiss**
New pairing system added to C.04.5

Tie-breaks

- **Tie-break regulations 2023**
Virtual opponent removed, unplayed games redefined (FIDE Council)
- **Regulations in force 1 March 2026**
Direct Encounter, Sonneborn-Berger and Buchholz clarifications under review
- **Individual prizes in team events**
Rating-free equivalent to TPR, new C.07 section in progress
- **Exercises in Tie-Breaking**
Practical guide for arbiters by Mario Held

Data and verification

- **TRF26 replaces TRF16**
Team events, real-time exchange (ITDX), new record types (FMB, May 2025)
- **THP Verification Checklist**
With the Pairing Integrity chapter (PIWE) for the TEC Manual
- **Software endorsement consolidated**
Former C.04.A merged into C.02.03; online pairing program endorsed
- **Swiss rules in force 1 Feb 2026**
Non-published systems need prior QC authorisation

FLAGSHIP TOOL

Gacrux open-source reference platform by Otto Milvang: pairing checker, tie-break calculator and tournament generator, tested on 120,000+ generated tournaments, published on GitHub under the MIT licence.



Main contributions 2022 – 2026 (2/2)



Equipment, the Technical Acceptance Process, tools and governance

Equipment and acceptance

- **Equipment and software endorsed**
Scoresheets, clocks, e-boards and software; register in C.02.04
- **C.02 restructured**
C.02.01, C.02.03 and C.02.04 in force since 1 March 2026
- **Technical Acceptance Process**
VCL, SDPC, TAPC and Acceptance Cycles, presented to the FMB in 2025
- **TEC Manual**
Workflow, fees, vendor registration, forms and checklists online

Tools and digitalisation

- **Tournament Entry Portal**
Functional specification 2023, project completed
- **Case tracking**
FIDE-00001 onward: 220+ enquiries, proposals and projects
- **Paper processes eliminated**
Online forms and archives for every application
- **Collaboration platforms**
GitHub, Cognito and Make for development, authentication and workflows

Governance and community

- **Six departments and workgroups**
Written procedures and minutes for every meeting
- **Board rhythm**
Weekly, then biweekly meetings; four in-person annual meetings
- **Regular reporting**
Quarterly reports 2023 – 2024, annual reports 2025 – 2026
- **Cooperation**
QC, GSC, RC, EVE, ARB; Arbiters Manual; weekly calls with the FIDE office

THE COMMON THREAD

Ready to be handed over. Every item above is documented in a circulated report, tracked in a case file or published in the Handbook, the TEC Manual or an open-source repository.



Transition period



The end of a term is a hand-over point, whoever continues the work

CONTINUITY

We want to continue with the people who were active

The members, department heads and subject specialists who carried the work of this term did outstanding work. Our first preference is that they continue it, and the structure of departments and workgroups is built so that they can.

THE MISSION

Make sure the work continues, with or without us

The Commission's mandate is FIDE's technical framework, not our own tenure. If the work is not continued by us, our obligation is that it is ready to be handed over: documented, structured, and understandable by people who were not in the room.

THE CONSEQUENCE

Timelines were set with this in mind

Publication of the TEC Manual and the THP Verification Checklist, the corrections to C.02, the case-tracking records and the Gacrux reference are all sequenced so that they are complete or transferable at the end of the term.

Ready to be handed over is the standard we set for every project: written procedures, minutes, tracked cases, published documents and open-source tools.

Questions on this item

Short question round, then the next agenda item

SESSION 1 · ITEM 3

C.02 Project

The Technical Acceptance Process

IA Hendrik du Toit

09:25 – 09:40



Technical
Commission



How we got here

Restructuring of FIDE Handbook sections C.02 and C.04.A



Development process

- Internal discussions and regular online meetings of the Management Board
- Working sessions at the 2024 Congress and the 2025 TEC Annual Meeting

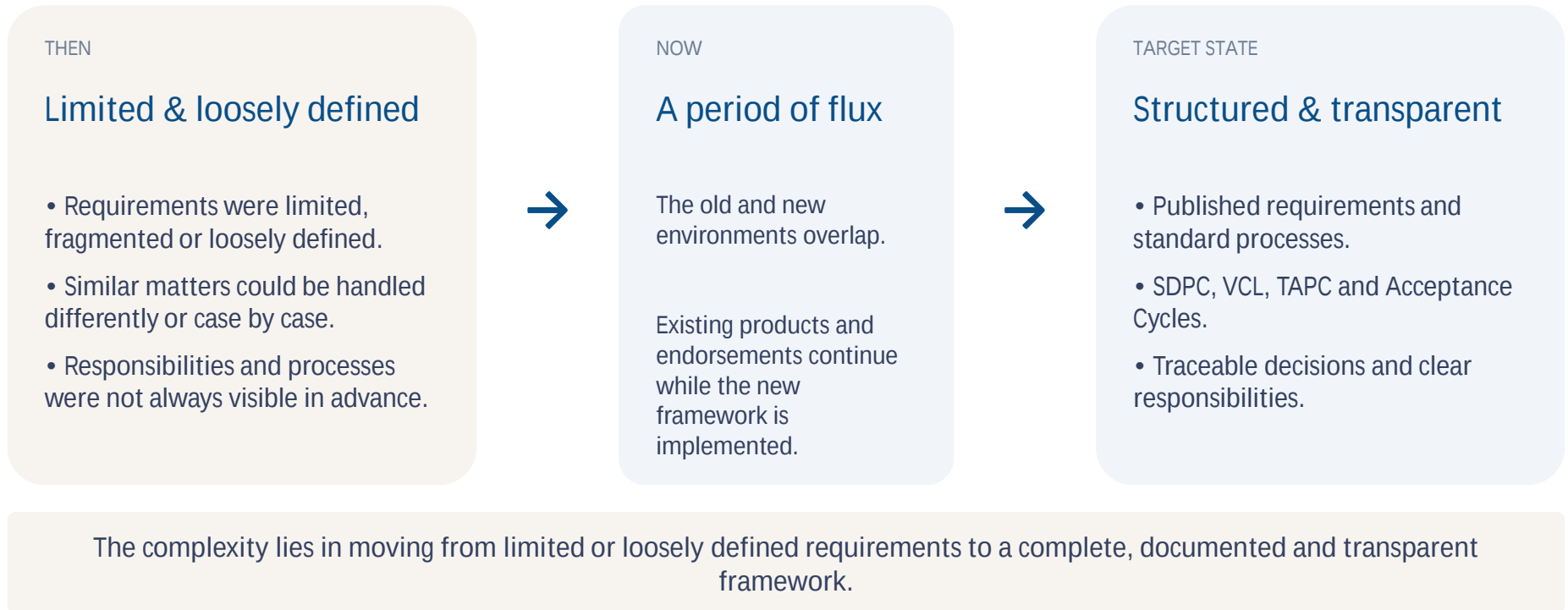
Collaboration

- Qualification (QC), Global Strategy (GSC), Rules (RC), Events (EVE) and Arbiters (ARB) Commissions
- Persons of interest from the manufacturer, developer and arbiter communities



A Framework in Transition

From loosely defined requirements to a structured and transparent system





Handbook chapter consolidation

From scattered provisions to a single structured framework



The problem

- Related information scattered across various chapters and sections
- Common rules repeated separately for each product category
- Overlapping content and duplication between C.02 and C.04.A
- Checklists and forms embedded in the Handbook and slow to update

The new structure

- C.02.01 General Regulations: common rules, definitions and the acceptance process
- C.02.03 absorbs the former C.04.A software endorsement material
- C.02.04 is the public register of certified and endorsed equipment
- Older TRF annexes moved to the TEC Manual; forms and checklists moved online

Reference document

“Restructuring of FIDE Handbook Sections C.02 and C.04.A – Table of Changes”, dated 26 August 2025, records the reasons for the restructuring and the main structural changes. It is the document to consult when a member or a vendor asks what actually changed. The current Handbook structure, effective 1 March 2026, matches that reorganisation.



The Technical Acceptance Process

Six stages, from registration to FIDE endorsement



Three distinct concepts

- Compliance: the vendor's declared conformity (SDPC)
- Acceptance: TEC's verified technical acceptance (TAPC)
- Endorsement: the subsequent commercial status with FIDE

Vendor response

- Extensive and overwhelmingly positive engagement from manufacturers and developers
- Strongest participation from THP developers, clocks, publishing software and chess pieces



The TEC Manual



Companion to the FIDE Handbook — in case of conflict, the Handbook prevails

PURPOSE & STATUS

A companion, not a substitute

The Manual carries the operational detail that does not belong in the Handbook. Where the two differ, the FIDE Handbook prevails.

SCOPE & KEY CONCEPTS

Registration and definitions

Registration of manufacturers and vendors, the handling of applications, and definitions of the core tools and terms used throughout the process.

PROCESS

Workflow and maintenance

The application workflow end to end, TAPC maintenance and revocation, and THP-specific testing and verification requirements.

FEES

Initiation and testing fees

A once-off initiation fee plus classification and testing fees, with higher fees for equipment containing electronic components and for Tournament Handler Programs.

Status

The Manual is drafted and the THP chapter is in final review with vendors. Publication is requested as part of today's decision.



FIDE Handbook and TEC Manual

Authority, purpose and relationship — the Handbook always prevails



Current framework: C.02.01–C.02.04, as published in the FIDE Handbook

FIDE HANDBOOK

Sets the authoritative principles and rules

- The governing principles and requirements are published in the FIDE Handbook.
- Handbook provisions are approved by the FIDE Council.
- TEC cannot amend or change the FIDE Handbook on its own.



TEC MANUAL

Provides the implementation roadmap

- Translates the Handbook principles into detailed procedures and practical implementation steps.
- Supports the C.02.01–C.02.04 framework; it does not create a separate regulatory authority.
- May explain and operationalise the Handbook, but can never contradict, replace or override it.

Authority flows from the FIDE Handbook to the implementation process — never the other way around.



Vendor Registration and Communication

A single entry point for manufacturers, vendors and software developers



STEP 01

Register

Vendor identifies the company, contact person, product category and products concerned through the TEC registration form.

STEP 02

Communicate

TEC uses the registered contact channel for consultations, regulatory changes, Acceptance Cycles, applications and testing.

STEP 03

Consult

Draft Verification Check Lists and relevant TEC Manual sections are circulated for comment before requirements are finalised.

TEC MENU

Online registration and communication hub

cognitoforms.com/FIDE/TECMenu

Why this matters

One traceable communication channel from first contact through technical acceptance and, where applicable, FIDE endorsement.



Self-Declaration of Product Compliance (SDPC)



The vendor's formal declaration that the product complies with the applicable FIDE requirements

01

Vendor responsibility

Identify the exact product or version and assess it against the applicable Handbook requirements and Verification Check List.

02

Declaration & evidence

Complete the SDPC through the online process and provide the supporting information required for the product category.

03

Baseline for verification

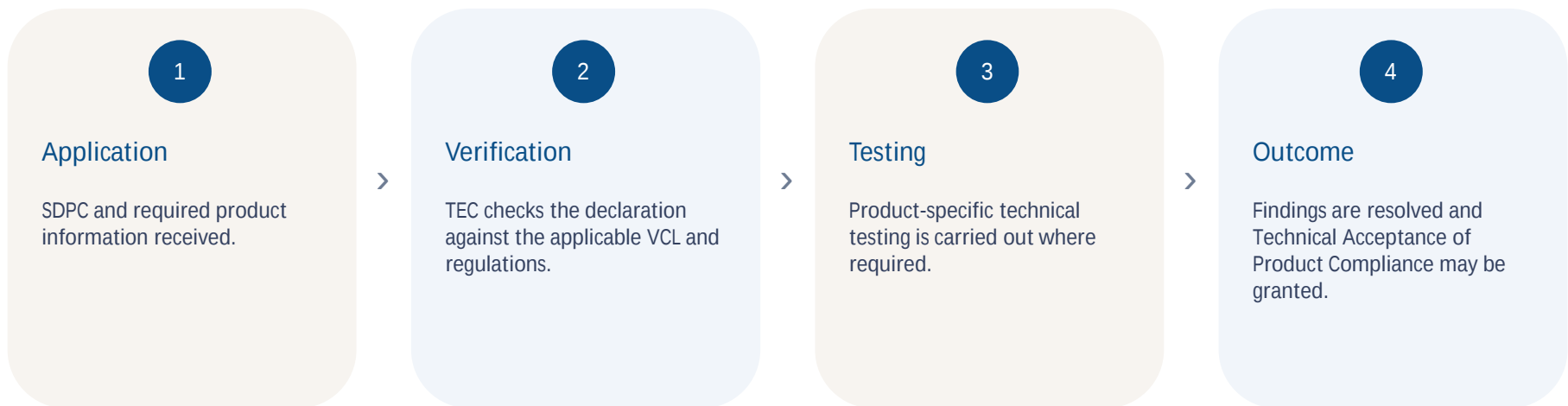
The declaration becomes the technical baseline against which TEC performs its independent TAPC verification and testing.

SDPC confirms declared compliance. It is not a TAPC and it is not FIDE endorsement.



TEC Assessment of Product Compliance (TAPC)

Independent technical verification by the FIDE Technical Commission



Key distinction

TAPC is technical acceptance. FIDE endorsement remains a separate subsequent commercial status, where applicable.



Verification Check Lists (VCL)

One checklist — used by both the vendor and the TEC tester



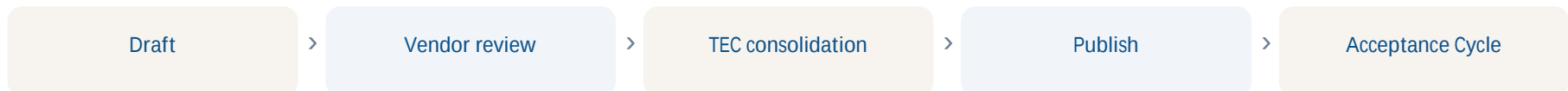
What a VCL does

- Turns regulatory requirements into verifiable checks
- Defines the evidence or behaviour expected for each requirement
- Creates a common reference for vendor self-assessment and TEC verification
- Provides a documented record of what was checked

Why the checklists moved outside the Handbook

- They can be maintained as implementation tools without rewriting the core regulations
- Product-specific requirements can evolve with technology
- Vendors can review draft requirements before an Acceptance Cycle is opened

VCL LIFECYCLE





Implementation for Chess Equipment

Applying the acceptance framework to equipment without electronic components



01

Applicable rules

The product category requirements remain in the FIDE Handbook, supported by the common rules in C.02.01.

02

Vendor assessment

The manufacturer identifies the product and completes the applicable VCL and SDPC.

03

TEC verification

TEC reviews the declaration and supporting information and performs any verification required for the category.

04

Result

A compliant product can receive TAPC and may then proceed to FIDE endorsement where applicable.

Same process, proportionate evidence and testing for the product category.



Implementation for Electronic Chess Equipment



Additional verification where electronic functionality affects tournament use

Scope

Digital clocks, electronic scoresheets, electronic boards and other tournament equipment containing electronic components.

Configuration

Hardware, software or firmware versions must be identified so the accepted configuration is clear and reproducible.

Testing

Verification can include functional behaviour, tournament use, interfaces and data handling where these are relevant to compliance.

Maintenance

Material product changes must be assessed against the accepted configuration so continued compliance can be established.

The TEC Manual provides a higher fee/testing tier for equipment containing electronic components.



Commission Transition and Timing of TAPC



Why new TAPC assessments will commence under the incoming Technical Commission

1

New Commission appointed

A new FIDE Technical Commission will be appointed for the next term, creating a natural governance hand-over point.

2

VCLs not yet finalised

The Verification Check Lists could not be completed within the current Commission's term. The technical baseline should be final before TAPC begins.

3

Avoid mid-process hand-over

Starting TAPC now could leave applications halfway through assessment when responsibility transfers to the incoming Commission.

4

Start TAPC next term

The current Commission will complete and hand over the framework; new TAPC assessments will commence under the newly appointed Commission.

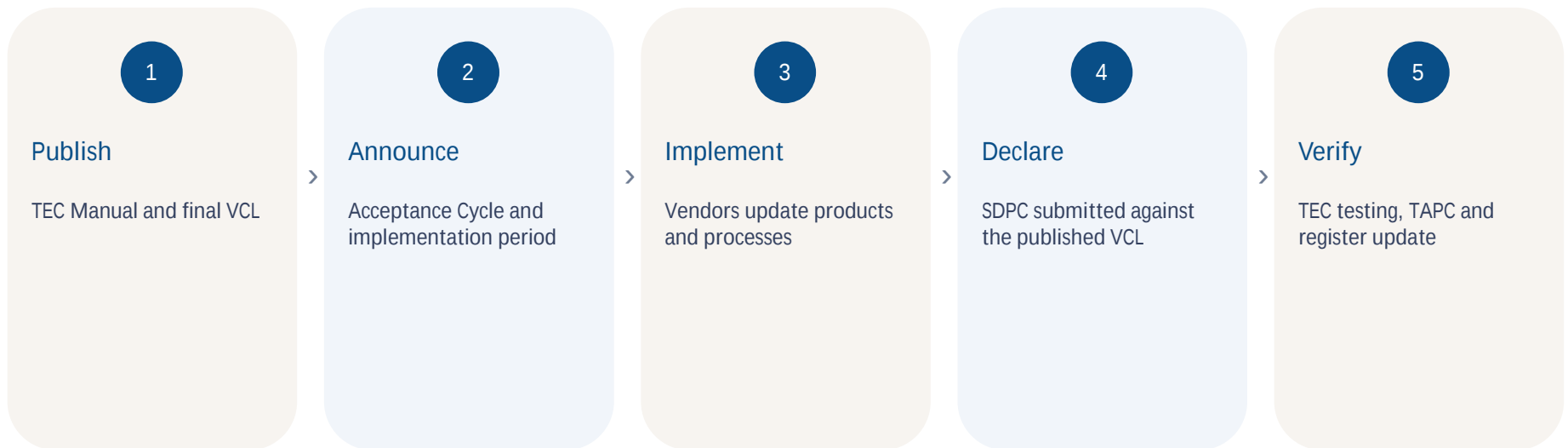
Complete the framework now. Begin TAPC under the new Commission with a clean baseline and clear accountability.



The New Acceptance Cycle



A controlled implementation window for the new regulations and technical standards



Each Acceptance Cycle gives vendors a defined implementation period and gives TEC a common baseline for verification.



Transition from Existing Endorsements to the New Framework



Moving to the new process without disrupting tournament operations

What changes

- Products are brought into the current Technical Acceptance Process
- Compliance is documented through the applicable VCL and SDPC
- Products requiring verification proceed through TAPC under the new rules
- The public register is updated to reflect the resulting status

What the transition protects

- No uncontrolled overnight cut-off for tournament organisers
- A defined implementation period before the Acceptance Cycle opens
- Products already entering re-acceptance can continue under the published transition arrangements
- Vendors receive the same requirements and the same communication process

Transition is controlled, published and traceable.



Implementation Status – Where We Are Today



Current vendor/application pipeline from the endorsement-status register

Register status	Count	Stage
Consultation Invite	29	Vendor consultation
Send consultation invite	2	Consultation to send
Send introduction	7	Initial contact
Waiting on Vendor	2	Vendor action required
TAPC	1	Technical acceptance
Not-Operational	2	Closed / unavailable
Unclassified	1	Register clean-up
TOTAL	44	Tracked records

PIPELINE SNAPSHOT

44 records tracked

30 THP-only records

The software pipeline is the largest single category, with additional mixed THP/publishing entries.

SELECTED CURRENT STATUS

Waiting on Vendor	idChess
Waiting on Vendor	ChessNoteR N5X
TAPC	Diclano
Not-Operational	UTU Swiss
Not-Operational	STOP



Next Steps and Implementation Timeline



From consultation to the first full Acceptance Cycle under the new framework

- Now Complete vendor registration and collect outstanding feedback
- 1 TEC consolidates feedback and amends the VCL and TEC Manual
- 2 Publish the final TEC Manual and Verification Check Lists
- 3 Announce the Acceptance Cycle and vendor implementation period
- 4 Vendors implement changes and submit SDPC applications
- 5 TEC performs TAPC verification, testing and register updates

Key dependency: final publication of the applicable VCL before the Acceptance Cycle opens.



Building a Transparent and Consistent Technical Standard



The purpose of the new framework is consistency — for FIDE, vendors, arbiters and organisers

1

One published standard

Requirements are known before a product is submitted.

2

Same checklist

Vendor and tester work from the same VCL.

3

Clear terminology

Compliance, acceptance and endorsement are distinct.

4

Traceable decisions

Applications, testing and register status are documented.

5

Maintainable framework

The Handbook provides the rules; the TEC Manual and VCLs provide operational detail.

Endorsement is not new. The new framework makes the path to it structured, transparent and repeatable.



Questions and Discussion

Technical Acceptance Process · TEC Manual · SDPC · TAPC · VCL · Acceptance Cycle



Questions?

Clarifications on the process, transition arrangements or implementation?

Open points to record before publication and the next Acceptance Cycle?

Questions on this item

Short question round, then the next agenda item

SESSION 1 · ITEM 4

Gacrux

An open reference platform for chess tournament technology

IA Otto Milvang

09:40 – 09:50



Technical
Commission



What Gacrux is



A reference engine and shared data model for Tournament Handler Programs

Core purpose

- Provides a consistent, transparent and verifiable representation of tournament data throughout the lifecycle of an event.
- Covers players, rounds, pairings, results, rankings and tie-breaks.

Tools and integration

- Command-line tools support pairing generation and verification, tie-break calculation, ranking checks and test tournament generation.
- Works with JSON and common tournament formats, including FIDE TRF-26; it can run standalone or be embedded in a THP.

IMPORTANT

Gacrux is an engine, not a Tournament Handler Program, and is not itself “FIDE approved”. It provides a reference implementation and testing engine that can help a THP demonstrate compliance during the Technical Acceptance Process. The FIDE regulations remain authoritative.



How THPs use Gacrux



Embed it, benchmark against it, or use it to verify and explain results

USE 01

Embed the reference engine

A THP may embed Gacrux components directly in its own software.

Core components include Gacrux Pairing, Gacrux Tie-Break and the Tournament Generator.

USE 02

Benchmark an implementation

Developers can compare their own pairing and tie-break implementation against the published reference before applying for TAPC.

The same test cases can be repeated across later software versions.

USE 03

Verify and explain

Structured outputs include status codes, diagnostics and detailed explanations of pairing and tie-break decisions.

This allows arbiters, developers and organisers to trace results back to the applicable rules.

Gacrux is a living technical reference. If testing exposes a weakness in the reference implementation, it can be corrected. The FIDE regulations remain the authority.

Questions on this item

Short question round, then the next agenda item

SESSION 1 · ITEM 5

C.07 Tie-Break Amendments

2026 update: clarifications, corrections and targeted additions

FIDE Technical Commission

C.07 · 2026 regulations update





Unplayed games: Buchholz and Sonneborn-Berger



The main substantive change in the 2026 update

PREVIOUS RULE

Dummy score based on own score

For an unplayed game, the dummy's score was simply based on the participant's own score.

This could create an unintended advantage after a forfeit win, particularly for a strong player.

NEW RULE

The dummy score is limited

For a forfeit, the dummy's score cannot be higher than the score of the scheduled opponent.

For a bye, the dummy's score is limited to an all-draws score.

PRINCIPLE

No artificial tie-break benefit

The purpose is simple: an unplayed game should not give a player an artificially strong contribution to Buchholz or Sonneborn-Berger.

This is the principal substantive amendment highlighted in the 2026 C.07 update.



Predetermined pairings: treatment of forfeits



Clarifying tournaments such as round-robins and Scheveningens

The previous ambiguity

- Some tie-break definitions referred to games played over the board.
- Another provision stated that, in predetermined pairings, forfeited games counted as played games.

The new wording

- For rating-based tie-breaks, forfeited games are not treated as played games.
- For tie-breaks based only on the participant's own data, forfeited losses are likewise not counted as played games.

CLARIFICATION

The amendment resolves the distinction between games actually played and forfeited games when the pairing schedule is predetermined.



Other C.07 amendments



Targeted additions and clarifications in the 2026 update

01

Four simple tie-breaks added

Added mainly to provide a final way of resolving ties without drawing lots.

02

Fore Buchholz clarified

The wording of Fore Buchholz was clarified.

03

Team tie-break codes

New codes were introduced for certain team tie-breaks.

04

Standard Points

Standard Points were added for tournaments using a non-standard scoring system.

OVERALL EFFECT

C.07 was not fundamentally redesigned. Most amendments are clarifications and additions; the main substantive change is the treatment of dummy scores for unplayed games in Buchholz and Sonneborn-Berger.

SESSION 1 · ITEM 6

Closing first part

Any Other Business, decisions taken and hand-over to Session 2

GM Tiberiu Georgescu

10:10 – 10:30



Technical
Commission



Any Other Business

Items raised by members not on the agenda



Items notified in advance

Members who gave notice to the Secretary before the meeting are taken first, in the order received.

Items raised from the floor

Short items only. Anything requiring preparation or a decision is referred to Session 2 or to the next Management Board meeting.

Referrals to other commissions

Matters outside TEC's scope are recorded and redirected, most often to the Qualification, Rules or Arbiters Commissions.

Standing note

Each item is recorded in the minutes with an owner and a target date. Items without an owner are not carried forward. Where an item concerns a product or a vendor, it enters the Technical Acceptance Process rather than being handled separately.



Session 1: decisions and hand-over



What was decided this morning and what moves to Session 2

Decisions taken

- Commission Term Report 2022 – 2026 noted
- Restructured C.02 framework and the Technical Acceptance Process ratified
- Publication of the TEC Manual approved
- Corrections to C.02.01 and the C.02.04 register mandated
- Next Acceptance Cycle authorised, subject to the final THP VCL

Carried into Session 2

- Technical Acceptance Process: objectives, requested changes, corrections
- Gacrux: verification at scale and use by vendors
- Any item deferred from AOB

Update live if any decision point is amended, split or not carried.

Break 10:30 – 11:00. Session 2 starts at 11:00 in the same room and closes at 13:00.

Break

10:30 – 11:00

Session 2: detailed discussions by topic, 11:00 – 13:00

SESSION 2 · 11:00 – 13:00

Detailed discussions by topic

Technical Acceptance Process · Gacrux · Open discussion

All members

Each topic: presentation of the detail, then open discussion, then recorded outcomes



Technical
Commission



Session 2 agenda

Two topics, one wrap-up



Seq	Topic	Detail covered	Lead	Time
7a.	Technical Acceptance Process	Administrative objectives, process objectives, requested changes and corrections, discussion	IA Hendrik du Toit	11:00 – 11:40
7b.	Gacrux	Verification at scale, value for TEC, vendors and arbiters, discussion	IA Otto Milvang	11:40 – 12:10
7c.	Open discussion and wrap-up	Remaining questions; outcomes, owners and dates; closing of the meeting	GM Tiberiu Georgescu	12:10 – 13:00

The internal time split is a proposal and can be adjusted on the day; the session closes at 13:00.

SESSION 2 · TOPIC 7a

Technical Acceptance Process

Objectives, requested changes and corrections in detail

IA Hendrik du Toit

11:00 – 11:40



Technical
Commission



Administrative objectives

What the restructuring is meant to deliver



01

Implement online processes

Standardise processes, eliminate paper processes, decommission the paper archives and become agile in responding to applicants.

02

Define compliance and endorsement

Set out compliance, acceptance and endorsement explicitly, with their purpose, their restrictions and the relationship between them.

03

Introduce the TEC Manual

A companion to the Handbook holding the operational detail: workflows, definitions, checklists and testing requirements.

04

Balance precision and readability

Keep the technical precision the regulations require while making the text usable by arbiters, organisers and vendors.

The consistent aim across all four objectives: a process that a manufacturer or developer can read once and follow without needing to ask TEC what happens next.



Objectives of the Technical Acceptance Process



Why the process was redesigned

- 1 Streamline and clarify**
Clearly define compliance, acceptance and endorsement, their purpose and their restrictions, and remove the ambiguity that made the previous process hard to follow.
- 2 Move the process online**
Remove the checklists from the Handbook and run registration, self-declaration and application through online forms.
- 3 Transparency and time frames**
Publish what is required, who is responsible for each step, and how long each step should take.
- 4 One standard for everyone**
Testers and manufacturers work from the same standards, and the specifications are known and available to manufacturers before they build.
- 5 Unlock the financial potential**
A credible, well-run acceptance programme is also a sustainable one, funded through initiation and testing fees.



Requested changes and known corrections



Items to be confirmed before publication

Requested changes

- Technical Certification of Product Compliance becomes Technical Acceptance of Product Compliance (C.02.01.2.15)
- Ensure “FIDE Endorsed” compliance: C.02.01.2.9 and C.02.01.7.8–7.10
- C.02.01 Annexure A – Acceptance Letter, with “Acceptance” not to be used in promotional campaigns
- Updated online links throughout the section
- Publish the TEC Manual

Corrections reported by users

- C.02.01 Article 5.11.1.4 ends mid-sentence; the intended wording is “permanent cancellation of the TAPC” (FIDE-00219)
- The SDPC form link in C.02.01 does not resolve to the TEC online forms (FIDE-00220)
- The C.02.04 register does not show the endorsement marks for LEAP KK9909 and ChessNoteR, although both were endorsed by decision (FIDE-00174)
- ChessNoteR 2.3.2 is listed with a TAPC but not with current endorsement, which requires a commercial agreement with FIDE (FIDE-00214)



Discussion: Technical Acceptance Process



Points to settle before publication

- 1** **Wording of the Acceptance Letter and the promotional restriction**
Confirm that “Acceptance” may not be used in marketing and that only “FIDE Endorsed” carries commercial meaning.
- 2** **Time frames per stage**
Agree the target durations for SDPC review, TAPC testing and register update, so that they can be published in the Manual.
- 3** **Fee levels**
Confirm the initiation fee and the classification and testing fees, including the higher tier for electronic equipment and THPs.
- 4** **Handling of expired endorsements**
Confirm the transition arrangement for products whose previous endorsement has lapsed.

Outcome of each point is recorded in the minutes with an owner and a date.

SESSION 2 · TOPIC 7b

Gacrux

Verification at scale and use by vendors

IA Otto Milvang

11:40 – 12:10



Technical
Commission



Verification at scale

Why synthetic tournaments matter



120,000+

generated tournaments used
to test Gacrux during
development

2

independent implementations
compared: the reference
and the program under test

MIT

open-source licence,
published on GitHub for
inspection and reuse

What large-scale testing finds that a handful of test files does not

- Rare situations that almost never occur in a single event but are certain to occur somewhere across a season
- Differences in rule interpretation between developers, which surface as pairing differences rather than as disagreements about the text
- Edge cases involving forfeits, byes, unplayed games and virtual opponents, where the regulations are most often read differently
- Regressions: once a case is generated, it can be re-run against every later version of a program



What Gacrux gives us



Value for the Commission, for vendors and for arbiters

FOR TEC

Objective verification

An independent way to check whether a program does what its Self-Declaration of Product Compliance claims, which is precisely what the TAPC stage requires.

FOR VENDORS

A common reference

Developers can compare their implementation against a published reference before applying, instead of discovering a disagreement during testing.

FOR ARBITERS

Explainable results

Detailed tie-break calculations make it possible to explain to a player exactly why a ranking came out the way it did.

Acknowledgement

The Technical Commission records its appreciation of Otto Milvang's significant contribution to FIDE and to the wider chess software community through the continued development of Gacrux.



Discussion: Gacrux



How TEC and vendors should use the reference

- 1** **Role in the TAPC stage**
Should a Gacrux comparison be a required part of THP verification, a recommended tool, or left to the tester's discretion?
- 2** **Publication of test sets**
Which generated tournaments should be published so that vendors can run the same tests before applying?
- 3** **Handling of disagreements**
Who decides when a program and the reference differ, and how is the ruling fed back into the regulations or into Gacrux?
- 4** **Maintenance**
How is Gacrux kept in step with each new version of the pairing and tie-break regulations?

Outcome of each point is recorded in the minutes with an owner and a date.

SESSION 2 · TOPIC 7c

Open discussion, wrap-up and closing

Outcomes, owners and dates

GM Tiberiu Georgescu

12:10 – 13:00



Technical
Commission



Wrap-up



What leaves this room with an owner and a date

Outcome	Owner	Target
Final TEC Manual text incorporating Session 2 outcomes	IA Hendrik du Toit	to be set
Corrections to C.02.01 Art. 5.11.1.4, SDPC link, C.02.04 register	Secretariat	to be set
Policy on the use of Gacrux in THP verification	IA Otto Milvang, IA Roberto Ricca	to be set
Report of the meeting to the FIDE Management Board	GM Tiberiu Georgescu	to be set

The Commission thanks its members, its subject specialists and the vendor community for four years of work, and for the time given in the evenings to get it done.



Thank You

Any Questions
