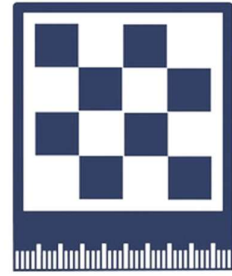




Technical
Commission



2024 Annual Report

FIDE Congress 2024

Author: Technical Commission

Document type	Report
Subject of Report	2024 Annual Report
Document version	1.0
Date	September 20th, 2024

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. INTERNAL ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES.....	3
3. MEETINGS & COMMUNICATIONS	4
4. BUDGET	5
5. GENERAL ACTIVITIES IN PROGRESS.....	5
6. COMPLETED ACTIVITIES.....	7
7. COMPLETED ENDORSEMENTS	7
8. "PARKED" ENDORSEMENTS.....	8
9. ENDORSEMENTS IN PROGRESS.....	8
10. PROJECTS COMPLETED.....	9
11. PROJECTS IN PROGRESS.....	11
12. PROJECTS "PARKED"	14
13. COMPLETED ENQUIRIES & PROPOSALS	15
14. SUMMARY	18

1. Introduction

This report comprehensively outlines the activities and achievements of the **FIDE Technical Commission (TEC)** for the period from **December 7, 2023, to September 20, 2024**. During this time, the commission has successfully managed a variety of tasks, including **endorsements**, the **successful completion of numerous projects**, and the **publishing of a Team Swiss Pairing system**. These accomplishments have significantly contributed to advancing the technical aspects of chess tournaments globally.

The TEC has been deeply engaged in ensuring the highest standards for chess equipment, tournament management, and digital tools. This year's focus included critical endorsements of new technologies such as the **Leap Clock KK9909**, as well as the ongoing development of projects like the **Tournament Entry Portal** and enhancements to the **Swiss System algorithm**. Additionally, the publication of a **Team Swiss Pairing system** marks a significant milestone in improving tournament pairing systems.

The commission met regularly over the reporting period, holding **17 meetings**, each approximately two hours in duration, demonstrating the dedication of its members. These meetings addressed ongoing project management, endorsement processes, and proposals, all of which aimed to maintain FIDE's position at the forefront of chess technology and standards.

The following sections will provide detailed insights into our projects, endorsements, challenges, and the solutions implemented by the commission. This report not only serves as a record of our work but also outlines the future direction for continuing the development of chess technology and ensuring high standards for global events.

In closing, we extend my heartfelt gratitude to our team of dedicated volunteers. Their relentless pursuit of excellence and unwavering commitment to our cause is not just commendable but also inspirational. It is indeed a privilege to collaborate with such a passionate and skilled group of individuals.

2. Internal Organization and Responsibilities

The **FIDE Technical Commission (TEC)** operates with a clear organizational structure, designed to ensure that each area of responsibility is managed by qualified individuals. The commission consists of 22 members, including the chairman, honorary chairman, secretary, councillors, and general members. The key internal organization is structured as follows:

- **Chairman:** Tiberiu Georgescu (Romania)
- **Honorary Chair:** Andrzej Filipowicz (Poland)
- **Secretary:** Hendrik du Toit (South Africa)

- **Councillors:** Roberto Ricca, Agnieszka Brustman, Mehrdad Pahlevanzadeh, Sultan Ali Al Taher
- **Members:** The TEC includes representatives from several federations around the world, each responsible for different facets of chess equipment and technical processes.

The commission is further divided into workgroups responsible for specific areas such as pairing regulations, board and piece standards, and digital transformation efforts. Each workgroup is headed by a department leader and tasked with executing projects and initiatives related to their area of focus:

Department Heads:

- SPP: Roberto Ricca (Italy)
- Critical TEC: Marion Held (Italy)
- Support TEC: Mushaniga Fungirayiini (Zimbabwe)
- Development TEC: Arasu B. (India)
- Marketing & Communication: Tania Karali (Greece)

In addition, the TEC implemented internal management procedures to ensure smooth operations, including frequent meetings and updates. The **Management Board**, comprising the chairman, honorary chair, and secretary, oversees the strategic direction of the commission and ensures that its projects align with FIDE’s overall objectives. Furthermore, the **Management Board** meets biweekly, while department and workgroup meetings occur as needed to manage ongoing projects and endorsements.

This internal organization allows the TEC to efficiently handle multiple projects simultaneously while maintaining accountability and transparency in its decision-making processes.

3. Meetings & Communications

The FIDE Technical Commission management board has been diligently meeting every two weeks to ensure the continuous progress of its tasks and projects. Throughout the reporting period, the board has convened 17 times, with each meeting lasting approximately two hours and typically held in the evening. These regular sessions reflect the commitment of the board members, many of whom have made personal sacrifices by dedicating their private time to FIDE’s technical activities.

The commission acknowledges the hard work and dedication of its members, expressing gratitude for their continued contributions to the organization’s objectives.

4. Budget

The **2024 Budget Proposal and Request** submitted by the FIDE Technical Commission outlines the necessary funding for various software tools that are essential for managing and improving FIDE's technical projects, including endorsement processes, tie-break systems, and other tournament management functionalities.

4.1 Funding Request Overview

The TEC is requesting funding to cover annual licenses for several tools that are crucial for maintaining and improving the infrastructure supporting FIDE's technical projects. These tools include:

- - **GitHub Team:** For version control and collaboration
- - **Confluence:** For process documentation and project management
- - **Jira:** For project tracking and issue management
- - **Cognito:** For security and user authentication
- - **Make:** For automating workflows and integrating various services

4.2 Justification for the Tools

The requested tools are essential for ensuring that the Technical Commission can efficiently manage projects, collaborate with developers, and maintain secure, reliable systems. These systems will enhance the organization of tournaments, manage endorsements, and support ongoing development projects.

5. General Activities In Progress

5.1 RTE-00007 - Creating Manual

The Technical Commission (TEC) has been developing a comprehensive manual designed to guide various aspects of its operations and standardization processes. The manual, still in progress, is expected to contain critical guidelines and documentation, covering several areas of compliance, approval, and endorsement policies. These include the processes to follow, application forms (both online and hard copy), and standards requirements for various devices used in official FIDE events.

5.1.1 Key contents of the manual include:

1. Compliance, Approval, and Endorsement Policy
2. Standards Requirements for Various Devices
 - a. Clocks

- b. Electronic Notation
 - c. Digital Boards
 - d. Pairing Software
 - e. Chess boards and pieces
3. Annexures
 - a. FIDE-endorsed equipment

5.1.2 Outstanding Issues

- There are several unresolved matters that need further deliberation before the manual is completed:
- Establishing an endorsement lifecycle based on device functionality.
- Developing protocols for managing new versions of devices or software that have not yet been endorsed.
- Addressing challenges related to mobile software and web-based releases, where only the latest version can be published.
- Ensuring the Technical Commission holds a permanent license to test endorsed equipment.
- Consulting FIDE's legal department about changes to the endorsement process and form completion requirements.

5.2 FIDE-00079 | FIDE Congress

The Technical Commission extends its appreciation to FIDE for facilitating the participation of the commission's hard-working members in the FIDE Congress. The commission will meet several times between **16th and 21st September 2024** to address various outstanding issues through face-to-face discussions.

Critical matters to be discussed at the congress include:

- Open-Source systems
- TRF (Tournament Registration Files)
- Valuation of Tie-breaks and Pairing Systems
- Re-endorsement of Tournament Handling (Pairing) Software

These discussions will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of tournament management and the continued improvement of endorsed systems.

5.3 Training

In light of significant changes to the rules, the Technical Commission is exploring the development of training courses for key areas. These changes have prompted a review of

existing pairing systems and other aspects of tournament organization.

Two specific areas under review for training courses are:

1. 1. New Dutch System
2. 2. Team Swiss Pairing

The commission seeks input from the FIDE community to determine the level of demand and need for these training programs. If the interest is sufficient, courses may be made available to officials and other stakeholders.

6. Completed Activities

6.1 Creation of a Master Endorsement Register

One of the challenges faced by the Technical Commission has been the transfer of institutional knowledge during the turnover of commission members. Previously, records and knowledge tended to disappear when new members were appointed.

To address this, the commission successfully created a **Master Endorsement Register**, which ensures proper record-keeping of all endorsements. The records are now fully digitized, online, and accessible, making them easily transferable to future members. This accomplishment has significantly improved the commission's record management processes and institutional knowledge retention.

7. Completed Endorsements

7.1 FIDE-00022 - Clono

The Clono electronic scoresheet was endorsed by the previous Technical Commission on 16th February 2022, but no detailed documentation exists beyond the announcement on the FIDE website. The Clono system, an Android-based application for recording moves in chess games, has now been officially added to the list of FIDE-endorsed devices.

The testing report, completed in September 2021, revealed generally positive feedback from testers but also highlighted several key issues:

- Players, especially older ones, may find it time-consuming to register moves under time pressure due to the two-point press system.
- Organizers must ensure the tablets used are checked to avoid potential cheating, as Android devices are relatively easy to replicate.
- The Clono system can be a valuable tool for tournament organizers when electronic boards are

not in use.

7.2 FIDE-00064 - Leap Clock

The Leap Clock model KK9909 has successfully passed all testing protocols and was officially endorsed by the Technical Commission. The testing, conducted between March and July 2024, involved evaluating the clock under various tournament conditions.

Key findings from the evaluation include:

- The clock performed reliably in both rapid and classical tournaments, adhering to FIDE standards for equipment.
- Several recommendations were made to improve the clock's usability, including the addition of a move counter, connectivity for broadcasting technologies, and adjustable sound settings.

7.3 FIDE-00074 - Chess Online Pairings Program

The Chess Online Pairings Program was approved by the FIDE Management Board on 13th April 2024. This endorsement ensures that the software will be used in official FIDE tournaments, streamlining pairing processes in online chess competitions.

8. “Parked” Endorsements

8.1 FIDE-00039 - SCF Chess Clock Development

This endorsement process is currently on hold, pending the arrival of prototypes for testing. The Technical Commission has no further updates at this time.

8.2 FIDE-00042 - A&A Chess Sets

The endorsement of A&A Chess Sets is also in a parked state, awaiting the publication of the new Compliance, Approval, and Endorsement Policy. This updated policy is expected to streamline the approval process for new equipment.

9. Endorsements in Progress

9.1 FIDE-00076 - idChess 5.0.4

The idChess software, version 5.0.4, is under review, with the primary focus on lifting the 2200 rating criteria set by a previous endorsement in 2023. Further testing and policy reviews are necessary to finalize the endorsement.

9.2 FIDE-00078 - JUNSD Chess Clock

The endorsement of the Junsd Chess Clock is currently awaiting the publication of the new Compliance, Approval, and Endorsement Policy, which is expected to be presented at the 45th FIDE Congress in September 2024. In the meantime, initial contact has been made with the manufacturer, and further testing will be conducted once the policy is in place 【10†source】 .

10. Projects Completed

10.1 2024 Arbiter Manual

The FIDE Arbiters Commission (ARB) embarked on a project to create an updated version of the Arbiters Manual in 2024. This project was undertaken in collaboration with the Technical Commission (TEC), with **IA Roberto Ricca** and **IA Mario Held** leading the effort on behalf of TEC. The new manual is designed to provide arbiters with updated guidelines and resources to manage tournaments more effectively, incorporating feedback from previous manuals and reflecting the latest changes in FIDE regulations.

10.2 FIDE-00017 - Update Website

The TEC successfully completed the development and launch of a new website for the Technical Commission, accessible at **tec.fide.com**. This new platform consolidates essential information and resources, incorporating data from the older domain **spp.fide.com**, thus providing a more streamlined and updated resource for FIDE officials and stakeholders.

10.3 FIDE-00043 - Handbook Updates

The TEC assisted in the revision and restructuring of the FIDE Handbook. The updates involved agreeing on a new structure for the Handbook, with clear topics and headings specifically assigned to the Technical Commission. These changes ensure the Handbook remains relevant and accessible to all chess professionals, providing clear guidelines for technical and operational standards.

10.4 FIDE-00051 - 2023 Tie-break Update

The Tie-break Update project was successfully completed. The updated regulations provide clearer guidelines for resolving ties in tournaments, ensuring consistency across all FIDE-rated events. Key modifications include the restructuring of tie-break methods and introducing new provisions that align with modern tournament practices. Detailed changes are outlined in the attached documents.

10.5 FIDE-00056 - Swiss Team Pairing System

The development of a new Swiss Team Pairing System was completed and approved by the FIDE Council on 27th July 2024. The Swiss Pairing System Rules, as outlined in the Basic Rules for Swiss Systems (C.04.1) and the General Handling Rules for Swiss Tournaments (C.04.2.A, C.04.2.C, C.04.2.D), are primarily designed for individual competitions but can be adapted for team events with one notable exception: articles 6 and 7 from the Basic Rules do not apply to teams.

This adaptation is possible because team compositions can be adjusted between rounds and teams usually have an even number of players, ensuring a balanced distribution of White and Black pieces. Consequently, the importance of colours in team tournaments is reduced compared to individual competitions, and the rules reflect more flexible colour preferences to accommodate different team formats. Some tournaments may completely disregard colour importance, while others may find it less crucial but still of some significance. Article 2 of the General Handling Rules, concerning the initial order of teams, is intentionally excluded due to the complexity of determining team strength based on various factors. Thus, the initial team order is typically defined by the specific rules of each competition.

10.6 FIDE-00065 - C.04.1 and C.04.03 FIDE (Dutch) System

The document outlines proposed amendments to the Basic Rules for Swiss Systems (C.04.1) and the FIDE (Dutch) System (C.04.3) These amendments, to be defined at the 2023 Congress and approved by the FIDE Management Board, aim to simplify and enhance the end-of-round pairing process and introduce several types of Pairing Allocated Byes (PABs).

The revisions focus on streamlining the pairing process, excluding players with fewer games from PAB candidacy, and exploring different solutions for PAB in the early rounds, including half-point, virtual, and zero-point PABs, along with other variable PAB solutions and considerations for full-point byes.

The document reflects on the experience gained from drafting the current FIDE (Dutch) System and the new Dubov System, suggesting that while some current rules could be simplified for clarity, a more thorough review might lead to significant changes warranting a new pairing system.

10.7 FIDE-00071 - C.07 Play-Off and Tie-Break Regulations Update

The changes were requested by the ARB. These revisions aim to simplify the language, clarify the regulations, and ensure that the rules are uniformly applied across all relevant situations in chess tournaments.

11. Projects in Progress

11.1 FIDE-00032 - Tournament Entry Portal

The **Tournament Entry Portal** project remains in progress, with significant milestones already achieved:

11.1.1 Technical Specification – Completed

The **Technical Specification** for the Tournament Entry Portal was finalized, providing detailed requirements and expectations for the system's development. This specification outlines the objectives, features, and challenges of creating an online system to streamline tournament registration and management. The document emphasizes the automation of manual processes, integration with FIDE systems, and the need to maintain FIDE's professional image and operational efficiency [38†source] .

11.1.2 Minimum Viable Product (MVP) Proposal – Delivered

A **Minimum Viable Product (MVP)** proposal has been developed and delivered. The MVP focuses on core functionalities that provide immediate value to FIDE members and stakeholders. Key features include:

- - **Player Registration** for both individual and team tournaments
- - **Tournament Management** tools for organizers
- - **Integration** with existing FIDE systems for ratings and participant information
- - **Security and Compliance** measures, including GDPR-compliance and secure authentication.

This MVP establishes the foundational framework for future development, ensuring scalability and alignment with FIDE's strategic vision. The MVP will be refined based on user feedback and real-world testing during its initial deployment phase.

11.1.3 Awaiting Next Steps from Mahindra Tech

The project is currently awaiting further guidance from **Mahindra Tech**, the selected development partner, regarding the next steps. This involves finalizing implementation details and ensuring that the project aligns with the agreed-upon timelines and strategic objectives.

11.2 FIDE-00040 - TRF Revision

The **TRF (Tournament Report File) Revision** project is an ongoing initiative aimed at updating the data-exchange format for tournament results submitted to FIDE. The current revision focuses on introducing extensions to support acceleration, tie-breaks, and team pairing formats. The project has reached a critical phase, with a draft document published for public comments on the **tec.fide.com** website.

11.2.1 Ongoing Discussion

The project is still under discussion, with multiple stakeholders involved in reviewing the proposed changes. The main objective is to streamline data submission processes and improve the accuracy and efficiency of tournament reporting systems.

11.2.2 Unresolved Issues

Several key issues remain unresolved, particularly regarding the handling of team pairing and tie-break systems. These points are currently being debated within the commission and among stakeholders, who are providing feedback via the public comment process.

11.2.3 Document Published for Comments

The draft TRF revision has been made publicly available on the **tec.fide.com** website, allowing members of the chess community to review and comment on the proposed changes. This feedback will be essential in resolving outstanding issues and finalizing the new TRF format.

11.2.4 Scheduled Meeting at 2024 FIDE Congress

A dedicated meeting has been scheduled during the **2024 FIDE Congress** to address these unresolved issues. The goal of the meeting is to achieve consensus on the proposed revisions and finalize the TRF update by incorporating all relevant feedback.

11.3 FIDE-00044 - DGT Issues

The **DGT Issues** project involves addressing and resolving a series of issues and requested enhancements with DGT, a manufacturer of digital chess clocks and boards. The project is ongoing, and several important updates are as follows:

11.3.1 Compiled List of Issues and Enhancements

The Technical Commission has compiled a comprehensive list of issues and enhancement requests that need to be addressed by DGT. These issues include both software and hardware-related matters that have impacted the performance and functionality of DGT

products in official FIDE events.

11.3.2 Resolution via LiveChess v3.0

Most of these issues are expected to be resolved with the release of **LiveChess v3.0**, the latest version of DGT's software platform. This update is anticipated to improve the performance of digital boards and clocks during live tournaments.

11.3.3 Delayed Readiness for Olympiad

Unfortunately, **LiveChess v3.0** will not be ready in time for the **2024 Chess Olympiad**, which may cause operational challenges during the event. As a result, the current version of the software will be used for the Olympiad.

11.3.4 Scheduled Meeting at Olympiad

A meeting has been scheduled during the **2024 FIDE Congress** to further discuss the unresolved issues with DGT and to plan the next steps for future software updates and enhancements.

11.4 FIDE-00053 - Valuation of Tie-breaks and Pairing Systems

The **Valuation of Tie-breaks and Pairing Systems** project is focused on developing tools that will allow FIDE to evaluate and compare the effectiveness of different pairing systems and tie-break methods used in chess tournaments.

11.4.1 Project Brief

This project is particularly challenging due to its technical nature. The goal is to create tools or frameworks that can systematically compare various pairing systems and tie-break mechanisms, which are integral to determining tournament rankings. Initial discussions were held with a university researcher in Rome, but progress has stalled. The Technical Commission has expressed a desire to explore alternative routes, such as hiring external experts or finding a contractor to develop the tools. This approach is viewed as potentially more productive than relying on internal commission members who have not contributed significantly.

11.4.2 Framework for FIDE Approval

A framework to request FIDE's approval for this project has been completed. The next step involves presenting this framework for consideration and formal approval from the FIDE Management Board.

11.4.3 Meeting at 2024 FIDE Congress

A meeting has been scheduled during the **2024 FIDE Congress** to discuss and plan the execution of this framework, which will outline the technical and financial requirements for the project.

11.5 ### 3.12 FIDE-00059 - Video Assisted Refereeing (VAR)

The **Video Assisted Refereeing (VAR) in Chess** project is an initiative aimed at integrating VAR technology into chess tournaments to enhance fairness and decision-making accuracy. The project is progressing with several significant developments:

11.5.1 Testing Conducted in March 2024

A meeting was held in **March 2024** in **Belgrade, Serbia**, where the concept of VAR in chess was tested. This test served as an initial step towards understanding the practicality and effectiveness of using VAR technology in chess tournaments, especially for resolving disputes and ensuring accurate game outcomes.

11.5.2 Report Produced

A report documenting the necessary information regarding the testing and implementation of VAR was produced. This report outlines the operational setup, ethical considerations, and protocols for using VAR in chess. It also highlights the potential challenges and benefits of adopting VAR technology to support arbiters in their decision-making.

11.5.3 Rules Approved by FIDE Council

On **29th July 2024**, the rules governing the use of VAR in chess were approved by the FIDE Council. These rules will be included in the **FIDE Handbook**, marking a significant step towards the formal integration of VAR into official chess regulations **【50†source】** .

12. Projects “Parked”

12.1 FIDE-00037 - Double Swiss System

The **Double Swiss System** project remains parked due to resource constraints and time limitations. The project will resume when more time and availability allow for further development.

The project is paused and will be revisited when the Technical Commission has the capacity to allocate the necessary resources.

12.2 FIDE-00067 - Hilton Pairing System

The **Hilton Pairing System**, proposed by **Alex Holowczak**, aims to streamline pairing in tournaments with multiple teams, particularly in situations where teams and players must play against different opponents in each round. This system, widely used in various UK tournaments, is currently in a conceptual phase and awaiting further development and endorsement.

12.2.1 Initial Proposal Overview

In an email from **Alex Holowczak** on 13th April 2024, the **Hilton Pairing System** was explained in detail, particularly its utility in multi-team competitions where it is difficult to determine a winner within a short time frame. The system uses pre-determined pairings that vary across rounds, ensuring fair play even when the number of teams or players is uneven. The proposal is based on real-world applications in tournaments like the Birmingham League Playoffs and 4NCL Triangular Matches.

This project remains parked, pending further review and resources to develop automated tools for running such pairings efficiently.

13. Completed Enquiries & Proposals

13.1 FIDE-00050 Scoring Method (0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 1)

The **Scoring Method Proposal** introduced a new fractional scoring system aimed at improving fairness and addressing issues encountered by players in timed games. The proposed method includes scores of **0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, and 1** point based on different game scenarios, such as time defeats and referee judgments. The intention was to provide a more nuanced scoring system to account for various game dynamics, especially where players are disadvantaged by time constraints despite superior play [【62†source】](#) .

13.1.1 Proposal Overview

The proposal suggests that the current scoring system does not fully account for situations where players may lose due to time shortages but had superior board positions. The fractional scoring method aims to reduce the impact of time defeats by assigning fractional points (e.g., **0.75 points** instead of 1 for certain types of losses). This, in turn, is expected to enhance player satisfaction, improve fairness, and maintain mental well-being in highly competitive games [【62†source】](#) .

13.1.2 Response from the Technical Commission

In response to the proposal, the **FIDE Technical Commission** acknowledged the

innovative nature of the suggested scoring system but outlined the following key points:

- - **Current Flexibility in Scoring:** While tournament organizers already have the option to use different scoring systems (e.g., the 3-1-0 system), the proposed fractional system introduces complexity that could disrupt the simplicity and fairness of chess tournaments.
- - **Historical Precedent:** A similar proposal was made in 2009 but was not adopted due to concerns about maintaining uniformity and fairness across tournaments. The introduction of fractional points for wins, based on variable factors, could lead to inconsistent application and complicate tournament management.
- - **Advice on Moving Forward:** While the Commission appreciates the effort behind the proposal, they believe the current focus on maintaining a simpler scoring system is preferable. The proposer is encouraged to present the idea to the **FIDE General Assembly** if they wish to pursue it further, though the likelihood of adoption may be limited based on previous discussions.

13.2 FIDE-00055 - Direct Elimination Tournaments

The **Direct Elimination Tournaments** project is currently parked due to a lack of resources and time. This project aims to explore new structures for tournaments where participants are eliminated after a loss, moving towards a more straightforward and decisive competition format.

The project remains on hold, and no further developments have been made since its initiation.

13.3 FIDE-00075 Improving Rules and Algorithm for Swiss System

The proposal to improve the rules and algorithm of the Swiss System, submitted by **Eduard Dreyer**, aims to address certain inefficiencies and fairness issues in the current Swiss pairing system used in chess tournaments. The project is ongoing, with a focus on refining the rules to ensure fairer outcomes and reduce predictable pairings in the early rounds of tournaments 【74†source】 .

13.3.1 Ongoing Debate

Discussions are still underway within the Technical Commission, focusing on the merits and challenges of Dreyer's proposed changes. The debate centres around the impact of the suggested algorithm modifications on tournament dynamics and the overall player experience.

13.3.2 Proposal Overview

Dreyer's proposal suggests the following key improvements to the Swiss System:

- **Proposal 1:** Awarding **0.5 points** for unpaired players, instead of the current **1 point**, to avoid unfair advantages and anomalies in tournaments with an odd number of participants.
- **Proposal 2:** Introducing an additional draw option for the first and second rounds to reduce large disparities in player ratings. This adjustment aims to ensure fairer matchups by pairing players more evenly in the early stages of a tournament.

13.3.3 Waiting for Feedback from Dreyer

The commission is currently awaiting further feedback from **Eduard Dreyer** regarding the specifics of his proposal. Once Dreyer's input is received, the next steps will involve refining the proposal based on this feedback and the ongoing internal discussions.

13.4 FIDE-00077 - Swiss and Accelerated Systems Update - Tomasz Jankowiak

The enquiry led by **Tomasz Jankowiak** focuses on potential updates to the Swiss and Accelerated Systems, particularly addressing the **Pairing-Allocated Bye (PAB)** and its impact on tournament fairness. The project is still under review, with active discussions on improving the Swiss system to make it more equitable for all participants.

13.4.1 Documents Overview

The enquiry includes two primary documents that examine different aspects of the Swiss and Accelerated Systems:

1. Man from the Street Model (VPAB):

This document explores the use of a virtual player (referred to as the "Man from the Street") as a method to handle byes in tournaments with an odd number of players. The concept involves assigning a virtual player who loses all their games to maintain an even number of participants. However, the analysis suggests that this model has several flaws, particularly in tournaments with varying player ratings, as it unfairly benefits stronger players who receive a bye early in the tournament.

2. Pairing-Allocated Bye (PAB) Model:

This document focuses on the current FIDE regulations regarding Pairing-Allocated Byes, where players are awarded a full point for an unplayed round when there is an odd number of participants. The analysis recommends switching to a half-point allocation to avoid artificially inflating the scores of players who did not compete in a given round. Simulations and tests suggest that a half-point PAB is fairer, particularly in tournaments with a wide range of player ratings.

13.5 Question Regarding Board and Pieces Size

13.5.1 Question

A question was raised by a member regarding the size of the boards and pieces used in an **Open Tournament** in **Sitges, Spain** in July 2024. It was noted that the boards were much too small for the pieces, leading to concerns about whether the equipment met FIDE's regulations, especially considering that the tournament was rated for ELO.

13.5.2 Answer

The Technical Commission responded that, according to FIDE's current regulations, it is **not allowed** to use equipment that does not comply with the size standards outlined in the FIDE Handbook. The appropriate standards can be found in the **Standards of Chess Equipment 2022** section of the FIDE Handbook.

The response also advised the member to submit a formal complaint to the **Qualifications Commission**, providing as much detail as possible regarding the tournament, including the name, dates, and section.

13.6 ChessNoteR

The discussion between **Joey Troy**, owner and CEO of Black Mirror Studio, and the **FIDE Technical Commission (TEC)**, primarily discusses the **ChessNoteR**, an Electronic Notation Device certified by **US Chess** and endorsed by **FIDE TEC**. Joey Troy seeks clarification on how ChessNoteR should be treated in FIDE-rated tournaments, particularly whether it can be considered equivalent to a personal notation book and used independently by players, as it is in **US Chess-rated** events.

The **FIDE Rules Commission** responds, stating that under the current **Laws of Chess**, only devices provided by the **organizer** are allowed for notation purposes, meaning players cannot bring their own ChessNoteR devices. The Rules Commission clarifies that any changes to the Laws of Chess regarding electronic notation devices can only be considered after the **2025 General Assembly**, as the **2024 agenda** has already closed. Joey Troy appreciates the response but emphasizes the importance of the ChessNoteR to many players, especially those with **accessibility needs**, and asks for reconsideration.

14. Summary

The **FIDE Technical Commission (TEC)** made significant strides in 2024 across multiple areas, including endorsements, project management, and technical enquiries. Key accomplishments include the successful completion of critical projects like the **Arbiter Manual**, **Tie-break**

updates, and the endorsement of new chess clocks such as the **Leap Clock KK9909**. Several endorsement activities, such as those for the **Clono electronic scoresheet** and the **idChess software**, were also finalized, enhancing the range of technology endorsed for official FIDE events.

Several important projects remain in progress, including the development of the **Tournament Entry Portal**, **Swiss System algorithm improvements**, and continued refinements to the **DGT LiveChess software**. The TEC has been instrumental in ensuring that technological advancements in chess are rigorously tested and appropriately endorsed for official use.

A notable area of focus has been the ongoing development of regulations and processes, including updates to the **Swiss Pairing System** and a proposal to introduce a new fractional **scoring method**. These initiatives reflect the commission's commitment to ensuring that the rules and systems used in chess tournaments are fair, consistent, and adaptable to the needs of modern chess competitions.

In addition to project work, the TEC managed various enquiries, including questions about equipment standards and board sizes, ensuring that FIDE's regulations are upheld in all official events. Looking ahead, the commission remains committed to fostering innovation and ensuring the highest standards for chess technology, equipment, and tournament management.

Overall, the TEC's efforts this year have laid the groundwork for continued success in improving the technical aspects of chess tournaments and ensuring that FIDE remains at the forefront of chess technology and standards.