

FIDE Charter

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of contents.....	1
Definitions	2
Part I – General provisions and principles.....	2
Art. 1 FIDE – Name, legal status and seat	2
Art. 2 Mission and role of FIDE.....	3
Art. 3 Rights over Chess Olympiads, World championships, chess events and ratings	4
Art. 4 FIDE principles	4
Art. 5 FIDE motto, seal, flag, emblems and anthem	5
Art. 6 Official languages	5
Art. 7 FIDE rules and regulations.....	5
Art. 8 Interpretation of FIDE rules and regulations.....	7
Part II – Membership.....	7
Art. 9 Member Federations.....	7
Art. 10 Rights of Member Federations.....	8
Art. 11 Obligations of Member Federations	8
Art. 12 Admission of Member Federations.....	9
Art. 13 Suspension and Expulsion of Member Federations	9
Art. 14 Affiliated Organisations	10
Art. 15 Honourable Dignitaries	10
Part III – The Organisation of FIDE	11
Art. 16 FIDE organs and officials	11
Art. 17 The General Assembly.....	12
Art. 18 The President	15
Art. 19 The Deputy President.....	16
Art. 20 The Council.....	16
Art. 21 The Treasurer	17
Art. 22 The General Secretary, the Vice Presidents and the representatives of FIDE Continents.....	17
Art. 23 The Management Board.....	18
Art. 24 The Secretariat	18
Art. 25 The Auditor and the Verification Commission	19
Art. 26 The Justice Commission and the Investigatory Chambers.....	19
Art. 27 The Constitutional Commission	21

Art. 28 The Electoral Commission	22
Art. 29 Non-Elected Commissions.....	23
Art. 30 FIDE Congress	23
Part IV – FIDE Continents and Zones.....	23
Art. 31 FIDE Continents and FIDE Zones	23
Art. 32 FIDE Continents	24
Art. 33 Zonal Presidents	24
Art. 34 Zonal Council	25
Part V – Settlement of disputes and final provisions	25
Art. 35 Appeals against FIDE decisions.....	25
Art. 36 Other disputes	26
Art. 37 Fair Play, Doping and Drug Use	26
Art. 38 Final Matters	27
Part VI – Interim temporary provisions.....	27
Art. I Composition of the Council until 2022.....	27
Art. II Composition of the Zonal Council until 2022	27
Art. III Extraordinary Elections	27
Art. IV Entry into Force.....	27

DEFINITIONS

[To be added, after the approval of the draft. See art. 8. Here all definitions of technical words will be listed, including, for example, FIDE events, Chess Olympiads, chess variations (Fischer random chess, blind-folded chess, etc.), FIDE organ, FIDE official, Internal Rules of FIDE organs, principal authority over chess activities (see art. 9 together with art. 11), Council, Secretariat, Zonal Council and so on]

PART I – GENERAL PROVISIONS AND PRINCIPLES

Art. 1 FIDE – Name, legal status and seat

- 1.1 The *Fédération Internationale des Echecs* (hereafter FIDE), or International Chess Federation or World Chess Federation, is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation.
- 1.2 FIDE is an association of unlimited duration, with the status of a legal person, founded on 20th July 1924 in Paris, France, then recognised in Switzerland and registered in the Commercial Register, in accordance with the Swiss Civil Code.
- 1.3 The seat and the headquarters of FIDE are in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- 1.4 FIDE operational offices can be opened in other countries and cities, if so decided

by the FIDE Council.

- 1.5 FIDE has exclusive rights to its name, both in the French and in the English version, as well as to the translations in other languages.

Art. 2 Mission and role of FIDE

- 2.1 FIDE promotes chess activities, in all their forms.
- 2.2 Chess is one of the most ancient intellectual and cultural games, a combination of sport, scientific thinking and elements of art, and it also serves as a useful tool for improving cognitive skills and creating capabilities for people of any age.
- 2.3 The practice of the game of chess is fully recognised as a sport by the International Olympic Committee, which recognised FIDE as an International Sport Federation since 1999.
- 2.4 FIDE is recognised by its members and by the International Olympic Committee as the international federation in the domain of chess, the supreme body responsible for the governance of the sport of chess, its championships and events.
- 2.5 The mission of FIDE is the diffusion and development of chess among all nations of the world, as well as the raising of the level of chess culture and knowledge on a sporting, scientific, creative, educational and cultural basis.
- 2.6 FIDE supports a close international cooperation of chess devotees in all fields of chess activities, thereby also aiming to improve friendly harmony and to promote peace among all peoples of the world.
- 2.7 FIDE takes actions to strengthen unity of national and regional chess federations throughout the world and oversees all international competitions.
- 2.8 FIDE issues the rules of chess and the provisions pertaining to the organisation of chess competitions.
- 2.9 FIDE determines the conditions for and awards international chess titles and ratings.
- 2.10 FIDE can directly organise international competitions and events.
- 2.11 FIDE especially encourages and supports:
 - the education of youth through chess sport and culture;
 - the promotion of women in all chess activities and events;
 - the promotion of ethics and any effort aimed to ensuring that, in chess, the spirit of fair play prevails versus unsportsmanlike behaviour and violence is banned;
 - any effort aimed to improving the inclusion in chess events of disabled or differently abled persons;
 - any effort aimed to improving the inclusion in chess events of refugees and migrants;
 - any efforts of private organisations and public authorities aimed to providing for the social and professional future of chess players;
 - any effort aimed to improve good governance in all chess organisations.

Art. 3 Rights over Chess Olympiads, World championships, chess events and ratings

- 3.1 FIDE has the sole rights to organise Chess Olympiads and the World Chess Championships, in all their forms, including competitions on the internet and regarding variations of the traditional game of chess (as Fischer random - chess960, blind-folded chess, etc.).
- 3.2 FIDE is the only sports organisation authorized to specify conditions for (including registration and appointment regulations) and arrange Chess Olympiads, World Chess Championships as well as other international chess competitions and events.
- 3.3 FIDE reserves its exclusive rights to determine official chess ratings and use official ranking systems for players and shall not accept any ratings (including online) for any official FIDE activities, other than those approved of or specified by FIDE.

Art. 4 FIDE principles

- 4.1 FIDE is a democratically established and fully independent organisation, based on the principle of equal rights of its members.
- 4.2 FIDE preserves the autonomy of chess and sport.
- 4.3 FIDE is committed to respecting all internationally recognised human rights and shall strive to promote the protection of these rights.
- 4.4 FIDE rejects any kind of discrimination against a country, private person or group of people on account of race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, citizenship, birth, status, wealth, disability, language, religion, gender, sexual orientation, political or other opinions, or any other reason.
- 4.5 FIDE shall undertake all measures necessary to guarantee equal access to the game of chess and tournaments to all genders and to assure gender balance inside FIDE organs and management.
- 4.6 FIDE shall undertake all measures necessary to guarantee equal access to the game of chess and tournaments to all countries, zones and continents and to ensure fair representation of countries, zones and continents inside FIDE organs and management.
- 4.7 FIDE events may be hosted only by nations where free access is ensured to representatives of all FIDE members. Exceptions can be admissible only for reasons of state of war or severe violence and conflicts between countries and have to be decided on a three-quarter majority of valid votes, by the FIDE General Assembly or Council.
- 4.8 FIDE shall promote friendly relations between and among member associations, clubs, officials and players.
- 4.9 FIDE observes strict neutrality in the internal affairs of its members but has the right and duty to evaluate their compliance with FIDE principles and their obligations towards FIDE.
- 4.10 FIDE may grant patronage, upon such terms and conditions as it may consider

appropriate, to chess competitions and events on condition that they take place in compliance with FIDE rules and principles.

- 4.11 FIDE dedicates its efforts, in close collaboration with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), to fight any form of doping, and takes measures to prevent endangering the health of competitors, accepting the WADA World Anti-Doping Code and its international standards.
- 4.12 FIDE principles must always be applied, except if otherwise provided in the present FIDE Charter.

Art. 5 FIDE motto, seal, flag, emblems and anthem

- 5.1 The FIDE motto is *Gens Una Sumus* (We are one family).
- 5.2 The FIDE seal is a white knight intersected by five white latitudinal lines on a black globe, with the word "FIDE" in black at the base of the knight, and the FIDE motto in black below the globe.
- 5.3 The FIDE flag is the FIDE seal at the centre of a sky-blue background, on both sides of the flag, measuring 100 x 150 cm or in proportion thereto.
- 5.4 Other FIDE emblems, which can also be finalised to specific events or activities, can be introduced by additional regulations.
- 5.5 The FIDE anthem is the musical work entitled *Inno della FIDE*, composed by Gian Carlo Dal Verme in 1951¹. Other anthems can be adopted for specific categories of events, such as the anthem of Chess Olympiads.

Art. 6 Official languages

- 6.1 English is the official language of FIDE.
- 6.2 A translation of this charter into French will be provided on occasion of its registration with the Swiss authorities. In the case of divergence between the English and the French texts, the English text shall prevail.
- 6.3 In the FIDE General Assembly delegates and participants can speak in English, French, Spanish, Russian or Arabic. Qualified interpreters shall translate into these languages. Delegates of a different mother tongue may speak in their language if they ensure qualified interpretation into one of the above-mentioned languages.
- 6.4 Member associations are responsible for the translation into their official languages of the FIDE Charter, rules and regulations.

Art. 7 FIDE rules and regulations

- 7.1 The system of FIDE rules and regulations is hierarchically organised as follows:
 - FIDE Charter;
 - By-laws, Laws of Chess, Ethics and Disciplinary Code, Electoral Rules, Financial Rules, Zonal Council Rules, Rules on Non-elected Commissions;

¹ Words of Marcel Berman. The anthem can also be played without words. Different words can be adopted, following a decision of the Council.

- Regulations;
 - Procedural Rules of the Justice Commission, of the Fair Play Commission and of the Arbiters' Disciplinary Committee;
 - Decisions by the Judicial Commission and the Electoral Commission;
 - Decisions by the President and the Management Board;
 - Internal rules of FIDE organs;
 - Recommendations and Guidelines.
- 7.2 There will be no other rules or regulations in FIDE.
- 7.3 The FIDE Charter contains the primary rules and the main principles of the organisation and cannot be derogated by any other FIDE rule, regulation or decision. The FIDE Charter is approved and can be modified only by the General Assembly, with a majority of two thirds of valid votes. The FIDE Charter is registered in the Swiss Commercial register. An official version of the FIDE Charter, on paper, signed by the President, is deposited at the FIDE offices; a scan copy of this document is made available on the FIDE website.
- 7.4 By-laws can add clarifications or official interpretations to the rules and principles included in the FIDE Charter, when necessary or useful, and are approved by the General Assembly, by a simple majority vote.
- 7.5 Laws of Chess, FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code, Electoral Rules, Financial Rules, Zonal Council Rules and Rules on Non-elected Commissions are approved and modified by the General Assembly, by simple majority, and cannot be derogated by rules of an inferior level.
- 7.6 Regulations are approved and modified by the Council, by a simple majority vote.
- 7.7 Procedural Rules of the Justice Commission, of the Fair Play Commission and of the Arbiters' Disciplinary Committee are approved by the Council, by a simple majority vote: they must be complied with by all parties involved in the proceedings in front of these organs.
- 7.8 Decisions concerning disciplinary or sport justice matters are issued by the Justice Commission, the Electoral Commission and, just for some specific arbiters' behaviours that violate the Laws of Chess and other rules concerning chess competitions, by the Arbiters' Disciplinary Committee. Decisions of the Justice Commission and of the Electoral Commission are final, as better specified in Parts III and V of this Charter. The Arbiters' Disciplinary Committee's decisions can be appealed in front of the Council.
- 7.9 Decisions concerning specific administrative or executive matters are issued by the President or the Management Board and can be appealed in front of the General Assembly.
- 7.10 Each FIDE organ can approve internal rules, concerning its functioning, by majority of its components.
- 7.11 All FIDE members, organs and officials must observe FIDE rules and regulations.
- 7.12 All FIDE members must include, in their statutes, the obligation for their

members to observe FIDE rules and regulations.

- 7.13 All FIDE rules and regulations have to be made available on the FIDE website, in a digitalised version, mentioning clearly the date of their approval and of any changes of them. If not differently provided in this Charter or by the competent organs that approved them, new rules and regulations become applicable 15 days after their publication on the FIDE website.
- 7.14 All FIDE rules and regulations are collected in the FIDE Handbook, whose index, structure and updating must be approved by the Constitutional Commission that, in accordance with its internal rules, will instruct the FIDE Secretariat about the publication.

Art. 8 Interpretation of FIDE rules and regulations

- 8.1 The interpretation of FIDE rules and regulations must be in conformity with the Olympic Charter, the World Anti-Doping Code and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions.
- 8.2 When textual, systematic and finalistic interpretation are not sufficient to give a solution to a specific case or issue, general principles of law can be applied.
- 8.3 The definitions inserted above, before Article 1, are part of this Charter, they have an interpretative value of the meaning in which those words are used in the Charter, if not otherwise evident from the text.

PART II – MEMBERSHIP

Art. 9 Member Federations

- 9.1 Member Federations are national chess associations or corresponding organisations which have principal authority over chess activities in their own countries or territories and which have been admitted to FIDE with member status.
- 9.2 Only one Federation for each country can be affiliated to FIDE as a Member. This rule shall not apply to Federations that were accepted as FIDE Members before the date of this Charter entering into force.
- 9.3 The request of admission by a different federation, as a representative of a given country, can be considered only if the previously recognised Member Federation has been expelled by the General Assembly or has withdrawn from FIDE or is disbanded according to the procedure set out in its statutes and regulations. If a disbanded Member Federation was not in good financial standing with FIDE at the time of its disbandment, the new Member Federation shall take over all financial obligations of the former one, unless General Assembly decides otherwise.
- 9.4 For new members, the country of the federation must be a country recognised by the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- 9.5 The expression “country” shall mean any country, state, territory or a part of territory recognized by the international community, in conformity with the

Olympic Charter and the IOC regulations.

9.6 Member Federations are full ordinary members of FIDE.

Art. 10 Rights of Member Federations

10.1 Member Federations have the following rights:

- a) to take part and to vote in the General Assembly, with one vote each;
- b) to make proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly and of the Congress;
- c) to nominate candidates for the President, other members of the Council, Zone President of their Zone, chairmen and members of the Commissions;
- d) to take part in FIDE competitions and to benefit from FIDE's assistance, development and educational programmes, according to the existing regulations;
- e) to scrutinise, through the Verification Commission, the financial management of FIDE;
- f) to exercise all other rights arising from FIDE rules and regulations;
- g) to withdraw from FIDE. The Secretariat must be informed in writing of the withdrawal at the latest three months in advance. Payment of membership fees and all other contributions remains obligatory until the date of withdrawal becomes effective. Membership fees or other contributions will not be refunded if a member withdraws or is excluded.

10.2 The exercise of these rights is subject to the provisions in this Charter and other FIDE rules and regulations.

Art. 11 Obligations of Member Federations

Member Federations must:

- a) observe all rules, regulations and decisions of FIDE and ensure that their members and various bodies, including leagues and clubs, also comply with them;
- b) ensure that their statutes and rules fully comply with FIDE rules and regulations;
- c) comply with their own statutes, rules and regulations, refraining from taking discriminatory decisions or actions;
- d) maintain full control and governance of chess in their country, including, without limitations, control over their national competitions, excluded unofficial and unrated events;
- e) develop chess activities, chess culture and chess education in their country or territory;
- f) remain in good standing, including in good financial standing;
- g) pay membership fees and other FIDE contributions;
- h) recognize FIDE's authority and position;
- i) effectively support FIDE in all chess activities;
- j) correctly exhibit FIDE logo and name, in accordance with FIDE

Regulations;

- k) act independently from any government, public or private institution, except for what provided as mandatory by their national legal order;
- l) promote amicable and courteous relations with other Member Federations and their members, officials and players;
- m) communicate a copy of their current statutes to FIDE Secretariat, adding a translation into English, if written in a different language;
- n) communicate any change of their statutes, not later than two months after their entry into force. In the event of doubt or conflict, only timely communicated changes will be considered as valid in front of FIDE organs;
- o) inform FIDE about their chess activities and their institutional and financial situation, answering an annual questionnaire distributed by FIDE Secretariat, and also sending, if requested, copies of their official documents (minutes of assemblies, budget, etc.);
- p) regularly organise general assemblies and elections, in accordance with their statutes and national legal order;
- q) communicate and update, within one month of any change, the following data:
 - address and contacts;
 - registered email address, to be used for all official communications to and from FIDE, that allows to legally track and prove the delivery of their emails and documents, signed electronically;
 - name and contacts of their President and FIDE Delegate.

Art. 12 Admission of Member Federations

- 12.1 The General Assembly is competent to decide, by a simple majority vote, on the admission of new Member Federations, after Council's examination of the preconditions for admission.
- 12.2 Decisions on the admission of new federations shall be made before any other order of business, except elections. A new member can fully participate in all FIDE meetings, including the right to vote, from the moment it is accepted for membership by the General Assembly.
- 12.3 The requests of admission have to be submitted to the Secretariat, providing all information requested, filling in the form specifically approved by the Council, including information regarding national rules about the legal nature of the applicant and the necessity or not of an approval or recognition by national authorities.

Art. 13 Suspension and Expulsion of Member Federations

- 13.1 Member Federations not fulfilling their duties may be suspended from FIDE membership by a decision of the Council, to be immediately effective but subject to confirmation by the General Assembly, and may be permanently expelled from FIDE by a decision of the General Assembly.

- 13.2 Decisions by the General Assembly on the suspension or expulsion of a Member Federation shall be made before any other order of business. Decisions on suspension requires a simple majority of valid votes. Decisions on expulsion requires a two third majority of valid votes.
- 13.3 A Member Federation in arrears in the fulfilment of its financial obligations for a period of two consecutive years or more will be suspended, except if found excusable by the Council, following an advisory opinion by the Verification Commission. The suspension for this reason shall be annulled by the Council if the suspended Federation Member has fulfilled its financial obligations.
- 13.4 In other matters the confirmation of the suspension or the expulsion of a Member Federation can be ruled by the General Assembly only for important reasons related to severe violations of its duties, following an advisory opinion by the Constitutional Commission.
- 13.5 If a Member Federation permanently loses the right to represent the chess community in its country, according with national law and after exhausting all national remedies, this situation shall justify its expulsion as well.
- 13.6 During the suspension period the suspended Member Federation forfeits its rights under Art. 10 and its officials and national teams may not participate in any FIDE congress, competition, event or activity. Players, arbiters and trainers can still participate in individual competitions and other events, under their national flag or under FIDE flag, if not otherwise decided by the Council or the General Assembly.

Art. 14 Affiliated Organisations

- 14.1 The General Assembly, following an advisory opinion of the Council, can admit by majority vote as Affiliated Organisations:
- a) organisations grouping Member Federations and seeking to advance their common interests;
 - b) associations or organisations which represent the common interests of some international regions or transnational territories;
 - c) associations or other organisations representing people with a common ground or with same interests on some specific chess activities.
- 14.2 Affiliated Organisations have the right to take part in FIDE Congresses and in the General Assembly, without a right of voting.
- 14.3 Affiliated Organisations can organise and participate in some specific FIDE competitions or events, according with FIDE rules and regulations.
- 14.4 Affiliated Organisations can be authorised to organise events under the auspices of FIDE.
- 14.5 Affiliated Organisations can be temporary suspended or permanently expelled by the General Assembly by simple majority vote, for good cause.

Art. 15 Honourable Dignitaries

- 15.1 Honourable Dignitaries are:

- a) Honorary Presidents;
 - b) FIDE Ambassadors;
 - c) Honorary Members;
 - d) Friends of FIDE.
- 15.2 The title and status of Honourable Dignitary are awarded by the General Assembly, by simple majority vote, following a proposal of the President or of the Council, recognising their special contribution to the world of chess. Friends of FIDE can directly be nominated by the Council, following a proposal of the President.
- 15.3 Only former FIDE Presidents can be nominated as Honorary Presidents.
- 15.4 Honourable Dignitaries have the right to take part in FIDE General Assembly, without voting rights.

PART III – THE ORGANISATION OF FIDE

Art. 16 FIDE organs and officials

- 16.1 FIDE organs are:
- a) the General Assembly;
 - b) the President;
 - c) the Council;
 - d) the Management Board;
 - e) the Zonal Council;
 - f) the Verification Commission;
 - g) the Constitutional Commission;
 - h) the Justice Commission;
 - i) the Electoral Commission;
 - j) the Secretariat.
- 16.2 The number, the composition and the competences of the FIDE organs are established exclusively by the FIDE Charter. No new organ can be created without modifying the FIDE Charter.
- 16.3 FIDE officials are all persons who occupy a FIDE office and/or who represents FIDE in occasion of events or competitions, even if temporary. Among others, the President, the Deputy President, the Treasurer, the General Secretary, the Vice-Presidents, the Continental Presidents, the Zonal Presidents, the Auditor and the other Chairmen of Commissions, the Directors and also the principals of FIDE Olympiads and other FIDE events are FIDE officials.
- 16.3 There shall be presidential and general elections every four years, save for elections of the Chairmen and the members of the Verification Commission, the Justice Commission and the Constitutional Commission, which shall take place two years after the other elections. All members of FIDE organs are elected or nominated for a period of four years, if not otherwise previewed in this Charter. Where an interim election or a new nomination is necessitated, the person elected

- or nominated shall serve for the remainder of the normal election period.
- 16.4 Representation or voting by proxy is never allowed, for any FIDE organ.
 - 16.5 Internal Rules regulate the organisation and the functioning of each organ for all aspects not expressly provided for by this Charter.
 - 16.6 Electoral Rules regulate the organisation of elections for all aspects not expressly provided for by this Charter.
 - 16.7 Persons elected or nominated as components of FIDE organs shall sit on those organs in their individual capacity and must act exclusively in the best interest of FIDE, without undue influence from third parties, their Member Federation and FIDE Continent included.
 - 16.8 Whenever any FIDE official has a financial or personal interest in any matter coming before any FIDE body on which has a deliberative voice or vote, the affected person shall fully disclose the nature of the interest to the relevant body and withdraw from discussion, lobbying, and voting on the matter.
 - 16.9 All income received by FIDE officials as a player, an arbiter or an appeals committee member regarding FIDE events, including Continental events, shall be disclosed.
 - 16.10 FIDE officials may not simultaneously hold another position within the organisation that creates a conflict of interest.
 - 16.11 With the exception of the President, when an elected FIDE office becomes vacant for any reason during the course of a term, new elections are organised in the next General Assembly or FIDE Continent Assembly. Until that moment the Council appoints, only if absolutely necessary, a temporary substitute, if possible among the other members of that FIDE organ.
 - 16.12 When a nominated FIDE office becomes vacant for any reason during the course of a term, the President makes a new nomination, to be confirmed by the competent FIDE organ, if previewed, at the first following meeting.
 - 16.13 Elected FIDE officials can be removed from their position only following a sanction by the Justice Commission or, when previewed by this Charter, following the approval of a vote of no confidence, with due notice and after having afforded a right to speak to the official concerned.
 - 16.14 Appointed FIDE officials can be removed from their position only for cause, following a motivated decision by the President.
 - 16.15 Directors appointed as members of the Management Board or as heads of a local office can be removed from their position by the President, at his own discretion.

Art. 17 The General Assembly

- 17.1. The General Assembly is the highest authority of FIDE and exercises the powers listed below.
- 17.2 The General Assembly:
 - a) approves and modifies the FIDE Charter, with a majority of two third of valid votes of those Members Federations present, without considering

abstentions;

- b) approves and modifies By-laws, Laws of Chess, Ethics and Disciplinary Code, Electoral Rules, Financial Rules, Zonal Council Rules and Rules on Non-elected Commissions, by simple majority;
- c) decides on the admission of new Member Federations and Affiliated Organisations and on their temporary suspension, by simple majority, and permanent expulsion, by two thirds majority;
- d) elects the President and the Deputy President, on a joint ticket;
- e) elects 3 Vice Presidents, the Auditor and the members of the Verification Commission, the Chairman and the members of the Constitutional Commission, the Chairman and the members of the Justice Commission;
- f) confirms the nominations of the Treasurer, the Secretary General and 3 Vice Presidents;
- g) decides on motions of no confidence raised against the President, another member of the Council or the entire Council, with a majority of two thirds of valid votes, without considering abstentions. Motions of no confidence can be debated following a proposal supported by a minimum of 40 Member Federations or 7 members of the Council;
- h) expresses general guidelines on FIDE activities;
- i) approves the FIDE budget;
- j) approves the reports of the Verification Commission and of the Constitutional Commission;
- k) awards hosting of Chess Olympiads;
- l) is the internal appellate organ for all decisions taken by the Council and the President.

17.3. The General Assembly is composed of:

- a) the representatives of the Member Federations (who can each be assisted by one counsellor. The counsellors have no right to speak);
- b) the representatives of the Affiliated Organisations;
- c) the Honourable Dignitaries;
- d) the members of the Zonal Council;
- e) the Chairmen of the Commissions;
- f) the current FIDE World Champion and Women`s World Champion.

17.4 Each Member Federation represented in the General Assembly has one vote. The other participants in the General Assembly have a consultative voice only.

17.5 Each Member Federation shall be represented at the General Assembly by its president or delegate, in accordance with Electoral Rules and General Assembly internal rules. Each Affiliated Organisation can be represented by its president or delegate.

17.6 Presidents and delegates must belong to the Member Federation that they represent and must be elected or appointed by the appropriate body of that Member Federation.

- 17.7 An Ordinary meeting of the General Assembly shall be held every year. It is convened by the President.
- 17.8 An Extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly may be convened by the Council at any time.
- 17.9 An Extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly shall be convened by the Council if a minimum of 65 Member Federations makes such a request in writing. The request shall specify the items for the agenda. In this case the Extraordinary General Assembly shall be held within four months of receipt of the request.
- 17.10 Invitations for the meetings of the General Assembly shall be notified, in writing, to registered email addresses, at the latest three months prior to the opening date for an Ordinary meeting of the General Assembly or two months prior to the opening date for an Extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly. The Secretariat shall send the participants the complete agenda and the relevant documents, at the latest one month before the meeting of the General Assembly. The agenda may not be altered after this deadline. No other item, not included in the agenda, may be discussed by the General Assembly, except in an emergency situation, which must be established by evidence, with the approval by a two thirds majority vote of those present. Motions of no confidence shall not be discussed nor voted by the General Assembly if not included in the agenda, regardless of any emergency situation.
- 17.11 Proposals from Member Federations or Affiliated Organisations, about items to be included in the agenda of the Ordinary General Assembly, should reach the Secretariat not later than two months before the opening date of the General Assembly, together with the reasons for them. Proposals submitted within this time limit must be included in the agenda.
- 17.12 The sessions of the General Assembly are public, unless it is decided otherwise by simple majority vote.
- 17.13 FIDE President chairs the General Assembly, except in case of elections.
- 17.14 In meetings of the General Assembly, the quorum shall be 50% of the voting participants. This shall be established by a roll call at the beginning of the meeting and no further roll calls are needed to confirm the quorum at the same meeting until its conclusion, whether on the same or a following day, unless requested by a motion supported by at least 5 Member Federations.
- 17.15 Votes on elections for the President and the members of the Council must be made by secret ballot. The elections for Zonal Presidents and for elected Commissions shall be made by secret ballot, except when there are no more candidates than the number of positions to be filled. A secret ballot is held for the award for hosting the Olympiad and for decisions on motions of no confidence. All other decisions will be taken by open vote: in this case, in the event of a tie in voting, the FIDE President -who usually has no right to vote- decides. A proposal or a decision which raises no objection or call for a vote is accepted as a unanimous decision of the General Assembly. General applause is also regarded as acceptance of a

decision. If there is an objection, then a decision is made by vote. Electronic roll calls and voting are possible, if available, in accordance with Electoral Regulations.

- 17.16 Decisions made by the General Assembly (save for the decision to admit a new member or to suspend or expel an existing member, which will take immediate effect) will come into effect on the last day of the General Assembly, upon closure of the General Assembly meeting.

Art. 18 The President

- 18.1 The President is the official representative of FIDE in all external relations, whether in the sporting, commercial or political spheres.
- 18.2 The President shall aim to foster a positive image of FIDE and to ensure that FIDE's mission, strategic direction, policies and values, as defined by the General Assembly and by the Council, are protected and advanced.
- 18.3 The President shall seek to maintain and develop good relations between and among FIDE, Member Federations, Affiliated Members, Olympic Committee, other International Sports Federations, political bodies and international organisations.
- 18.4 The President is the only one who can sign documents and contracts and assume obligations for FIDE. However, he can delegate the responsibility to other members of the Council or of the Management Board to sign on his behalf, especially regarding everyday minor contracts and obligations. The President can also delegate other specific tasks to the Deputy President or to other members of the Council or of the Management Board.
- 18.5 The President chairs the meetings of the General Assembly -except in case of elections- and of the Zonal Council, without voting rights.
- 18.6 The President presents an annual report to the General Assembly.
- 18.7 The President presides over meetings of the Council, he shall have one vote in the Council. In the event of a tie in voting, the President decides.
- 18.8 The President presides over meetings of the Management Board, which takes decisions by *consensus*. If there is no *consensus*, the President's vote shall be deciding.
- 18.9 In accordance with the Internal rules of the Council, the contracts signed by the President and the decisions taken by the President or by the Management Board shall be subject, in some cases, to prior approval or subsequent ratification by the Council or just communicated to the Council. When approval or ratification is requested, it may not be denied by the Council without due reasons and evidence confirming either lack of good faith or FIDE benefit.
- 18.10 The President hires and dismisses FIDE employees, appoints Directors and terminates their powers, and appoints other officials in the manner prescribed by the Charter.
- 18.11 President's decisions may be appealed to the General Assembly.

18.12 A person cannot serve as FIDE President for more than two mandates.

Art. 19 The Deputy President

- 19.1 The Deputy President is the principal assistant of the President and shall perform any function the President may assign to him or her.
- 19.2 If the President is temporarily prevented from performing official functions, the Deputy President shall assume the powers and responsibilities of the President.
- 19.3 If the President is permanently incapacitated or has been temporarily substituted for a period longer than 6 months, the Council must convene new elections at the meeting of the General Assembly that has to be organised in the year of the next Chess Olympiad, and the mandate of all other members of the Council is concluded at the same time.

Art. 20 The Council

- 20.1 The Council is the strategic and oversight body and exercises the powers listed below.
- 20.2 The Council:
 - a) approves and modifies, by a two third majority of votes, Procedural Rules of the Justice Commission, of the Fair Play Commission and of the Arbiters' Disciplinary Committee, based on drafts prepared and submitted by the competent Commissions;
 - b) approves and modifies, by a two third majority of votes, Regulations concerning general rules about tournaments, titles and ratings, based on drafts usually prepared and submitted by the competent Commissions;
 - c) approves and modifies other Regulations and Recommendations, based on drafts usually prepared and submitted by the competent Commissions;
 - d) defines FIDE's mission, strategic direction and policies, in particular with regard to the organisation and development of chess at worldwide level and all related matters;
 - e) approves the draft of the FIDE budget;
 - f) in accordance with its Internal rules, in some specific cases approves, ratifies or is just informed about the decisions taken by the President and the Management Board;
 - g) supervises the activities of non-elected Commissions, which must submit to the Council their reports, twice per year.
- 20.3. The Council is composed of:
 - a) the President;
 - b) the Deputy President;
 - c) the Treasurer;
 - d) the General Secretary;
 - e) the six Vice Presidents;
 - f) the four representatives of FIDE Continents, one for each of them, being the Continental President or another elected person.

- 20.4 The Council shall invite the current FIDE World Champion and Women`s World Champion to its meetings with the right to an advisory vote, in accordance with its Internal rules.
- 20.5 During their term of office, members of the Council may not represent their Member Federation in the General Assembly.
- 20.6 No more than one representative from the same Member Federation may serve on the Council simultaneously.
- 20.7 The Council, if not otherwise provided, takes its decisions by simple majority. The *quorum* shall be 50 % of the voting members.
- 20.8 The Council should meet at least once every four months. In addition, the President may at any time convene the Council for consultation in person or tele or online conference.
- 20.9 The agenda of the meetings, as well as the relevant documents, shall reach members at least one week before the meeting. Any other item may be excluded from discussion. Commissions` reports must be received two weeks before the meetings, twice per year. The final minutes shall be distributed to members of the Council no later than one month after a meeting is closed. FIDE will publish the agenda and decisions on the FIDE web site, together with Commissions` reports.
- 20.10 The Auditor and the Chairman of the Constitutional Commission shall be invited to the Council meetings to assist the Council, in their respective competences, giving advisory opinions. They will also have the duty to report to their Commissions on alleged violations of the existing regulations, if any.

Art. 21 The Treasurer

- 21.1 The Treasurer is responsible for the financial resources of FIDE, for the good financial standing of FIDE and for safeguarding FIDE`s finances.
- 21.2 FIDE financial resources accrue from membership fees, entry fees for participation in FIDE`s competitions or tournaments, contributions for services rendered or rights granted by FIDE to members or to third parties, sponsorships and other contributions.
- 21.3 In strict co-operation with the Management Board and with designated staff competent on financial matters, the Treasurer ensures that appropriate financial systems and controls are in place, that record-keeping and accounts meet the conditions of Financial Rules and relevant national and international legislation, oversees budgets, accounts and financial statements.
- 21.4 The Treasurer reports to the General Assembly on the status of FIDE's finances and on the budget, acts as a reference point for the President and for the Council, clarifying financial implications of proposals, to ensure checks and balances.

Art. 22 The General Secretary, the Vice Presidents and the representatives of FIDE Continents

- 22.1 The General Secretary aids the President in the accomplishment of his tasks.

- 22.2 The General Secretary is responsible for contacts with FIDE members, for the maintenance of FIDE Calendar, for the organisation of the meetings of the General Assembly and of the Council, including the recording of minutes.
- 22.3 Vice Presidents, following a proposal of the President, confirmed by the Council, are in charge of specific tasks, mainly related to the supervision of Non-Elected Commissions, regularly liaising with their Chairmen, analysing and presenting their reports and proposals to the Council.
- 22.4 The representatives of FIDE Continents are especially in charge to liaise with Continents and Zones, updating the Council about their activities and initiatives.

Art. 23 The Management Board

- 23.1 The Management Board is the executive, operational and administrative body that assists the President in the day-to-day management of FIDE activities and implements specific mandates given by the President and the Council.
- 23.2 The Management Board is composed of:
 - a) the President;
 - b) the Executive Director;
 - c) other FIDE officials or employees, as decided by the President.
- 23.3 The Executive Director, other Directors and members of the Management Board are appointed by the President. The Council confirms their appointment.
- 23.4 The Management Board:
 - a) manages ordinary activities and resources;
 - b) coordinates current activities of officials, Commissions, offices and employees;
 - c) implements decisions and reaches objectives set by the President and the Council;
 - d) monitors and supervises the implementation of decisions and progresses towards objectives set by the President and the Council;
 - e) provides drafts budget for the Council and recommendations on budget amendments if required;
 - f) supervises implementation of the budget, determines reasons for overspending and for any other deviation from approved estimates;
 - g) resolves labour conflicts and/or assigns *ad hoc* commissions to resolve such issues;
 - h) approves contracts according with Internal Rules.
- 23.5 The President and the Management Board can appoint experts and advisors to advise and assist them in fulfilling their duties.
- 23.6 Management Board's decisions may be appealed to the General Assembly.

Art. 24 The Secretariat

- 24.1 The Secretariat is composed of the General Secretary, the Executive Director, the other Directors -following a decision of the President- and the employees.
- 24.2 The Secretariat deals with the administration of the organisation, including the

organisation of FIDE meetings.

- 24.3 The Secretariat receives and sends all communications from and to FIDE members, receives all bids for events and all complaints and reports.

Art. 25 The Auditor and the Verification Commission

- 25.1 The Verification Commission is composed of the Auditor, who acts as chairman, and two members.
- 25.2 The Auditor and the other members of the Verification Commissions are elected by the General Assembly among candidates having sufficient background and expertise on finances and accounting or in FIDE administration (at least 3 years -5 years for the Auditor- of experience as auditor in public or private institutions, including sport associations, or as accountant or scholar or professor on financial subject matters, or at least 7 years -10 years for the Auditor- of experience as FIDE office bearer). They may not belong to the same Member Federation.
- 25.3 The Verification Commission is authorized to examine the FIDE ledgers and to demand information pertaining to the financial management and shall have access to all documents related to expenses and incomes.
- 25.4 The Verification Commission verifies the annual accounts and the financial statements prepared by the Treasurer and the Management Board, reviews the external independent audit reports and makes recommendations to the Council and the General Assembly.
- 25.5 The Verification Commission shall submit an annual report to the General Assembly.

Art. 26 The Justice Commission and the Investigatory Chambers

- 26.1 The Justice Commission is composed of the Chairman and seven other members.
- 26.2 The Chairman is elected by the General Assembly among candidates having sufficient practical background and expertise in law and justice (at least 8 years of experience as judge or lawyer or notary or scholar or professor on legal subject matters). A minimum of three of the other members are elected by the General Assembly among candidates having sufficient practical background and expertise in law and justice (at least 4 years of experience as judge or lawyer or notary or scholar or professor on legal subject matters), and the remaining members are elected among candidates having the mentioned background and expertise in law and justice, or having background and expertise in FIDE administration (at least 8 years of experience as FIDE office bearer). The Chairman and other members of the Justice Commission may not belong to the same Member Federation and shall not be re-elected for more than two consecutive terms.
- 26.3 The functioning and organisation of the Justice Commission shall be laid down in the Justice Commission Procedural Rules.
- 26.4 To consider cases brought before it, the Justice Commission shall sit either in a single-member formation, in First Instance Chambers of three members or in an Appeal Chamber of three or five members, in accordance with the Justice

Commission Procedural Rules. The Appeal Chamber shall always include the Chairman of the Justice Commission.

- 26.5 The Chairman, or another single member nominated by the Chairman, may declare inadmissible or strike out of the Commission's list of cases a received complaint or report, in accordance with the Justice Commission Procedural Rules. If the single member does not declare the received complaint or report inadmissible or strike it out, the Chairman shall forward it to a First Instance Chamber or to another single member formation, for further examination, in accordance with the Justice Commission Procedural Rules. In the case of an appeal to the Appeal Chamber against a first instance decision, the Chairman shall nominate the members of the Appeal Chamber for purposes of that appeal. No members who rendered the first instance judgment shall sit in the Appeal Chamber.
- 26.6 The Justice Commission shall consider and decide on any alleged breach of FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code and impose a sanction or grant other measures as specified in the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code, acting in accordance with the Justice Commission Procedural Rules.
- 26.7 The Justice Commission shall have jurisdiction over the conduct of FIDE officials, FIDE Honourable dignitaries, electoral candidates and FIDE employees.
- 26.8 The Justice Commission shall also have jurisdiction, as specified in the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code, over the conduct of officials, players, players' agents, match agents, arbiters, trainers, organisers, representatives of chess associations, leagues and clubs, who are associated to FIDE Member Federations or Affiliated Organisations or FIDE Continents, or who participate in or organise FIDE events, tournaments and congresses.
- 26.9 The Justice Commission shall have jurisdiction over cases within a national sphere, if the case on which the alleged violation is based has international implications or affects various national Member Federations of FIDE and is not judged at national level.
- 26.10 The Justice Commission shall also have jurisdiction over national cases if the competent organs of the national chess federations fail to prosecute infringements which would constitute a breach of FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code or fail to prosecute them in compliance with the fundamental principles of law. Member Federations attribute to the Appeal Chamber of the Justice Commission an appeal competence over decisions of corresponding national organs when cases have international implications. When requested by a Member Federation, the Justice Commission will attribute general validity in FIDE to national decisions on violations of FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code, if adequately motivated and decided in compliance with the fundamental principles of law and fair trial.
- 26.11 The Justice Commission may give an advisory opinion on the interpretation of the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code and connected issues, at the request of

any FIDE organ, and shall be consulted on any proposed change of the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code.

- 26.12 There shall be a permanent, independent Investigatory Chamber of the Justice Commission, composed of three members, who shall not belong to the same Member Federation nor to the same Federation of the Justice Commission members, appointed by the Council taking into account the recommendations of the Chairman of the Justice Commission.
- 26.13 There shall be a specialised standing Fair Play Investigatory Chamber, established within the ranks of the Fair Play Commission, which will be competent for investigations and fact-finding concerning complaints of cheating and doping, in accordance with the Justice Commission and Fair Play Commission Procedural Rules.
- 26.14 The Justice Commission may refer matters on specific cases to the Investigatory Chamber or to the Fair Play Investigatory Chamber, when deemed necessary, for investigations or fact-finding.

Art. 27 The Constitutional Commission

- 27.1 The Constitutional Commission is composed of the Chairman and four members.
- 27.2 The Chairman is elected by the General Assembly among candidates having sufficient practical background and expertise in law and justice (at least 8 years of experience as judge or lawyer or notary or scholar or professor on legal subject matters). A minimum of two of the other members are elected by the General Assembly among candidates having sufficient practical background and expertise in law and justice (at least 4 years of experience as judge or lawyer or notary or scholar or professor on legal subject matters), and the remaining members are elected among candidates having the mentioned background and expertise in law and justice, or having background and expertise in FIDE administration (at least 8 years of experience as FIDE office bearer). The Chairman and other members of the Constitutional Commission may not belong to the same Member Federation.
- 27.3 The Constitutional Commission is competent:
- a) to review any proposed change of the FIDE Charter, By-laws, Electoral Rules, Ethics and Disciplinary Code, Financial Rules and Rules on Non-elected Commissions;
 - b) to ensure that proposed changes of FIDE Charter, Electoral Rules, Ethics and Disciplinary Code, Financial Rules and Rules on Non-elected Commissions occur in conformity with the correct established procedural rules;
 - c) to establish the correct index and structure of the FIDE Handbook, in accordance with the FIDE Charter, checking the regularity of its updating;
 - d) to report to the Council and to the General Assembly on all violations of FIDE Charter, checking all new or updated FIDE rules and regulations, in

- accordance with Constitutional Commission Internal Rules;
 - e) to deliver mandatory advisory opinions on any dispute concerning membership, when the dispute does not concern FIDE elections.
 - f) to deliver advisory opinions on any other interpretative question about the FIDE Charter, By-laws, Electoral Rules, Financial Rules and Rules on Non-elected Commissions submitted by a FIDE organ.
- 27.4 The Constitutional Commission shall meet at least once a year. If there is a need, for urgent reasons, an extraordinary meeting may be called by the Chairman of the Commission.
- 27.5 The Constitutional Commission shall submit an annual report to the General Assembly.

Art. 28 The Electoral Commission

- 28.1 The Electoral Commission is composed of three members: the Auditor, the Chairman of the Justice Commission and the Chairman of the Constitutional Commission.
- 28.2 Each FIDE Continent can nominate an observer who may attend the Electoral Commission meetings, except when the Electoral Commission has to decide on cases of alleged violations of the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code. The observers will have no right to vote, nor to participate in the discussion, but they can submit written notes, before the beginning of the first meeting concerning a given election, regarding situations of competence of their Continent, and can be consulted by the Chairman of the Electoral Commission, when deemed useful.
- 28.2 All complaints arising from FIDE's elections, except elections of the Chairmen and the members of the Verification Commission, of the Justice Commission and of the Constitutional Commission, including but not limited to the eligibility of candidates and the conduct of elections, must be brought before the Electoral Commission.
- 28.3 Any such complaint must be addressed to the Electoral Commission in writing within two weeks following the event which gives rise to the complaint. Any complaint regarding the eligibility of any candidate for the position of President or Deputy President must be addressed to the Electoral Commission in writing within two weeks following the official announcement of the candidatures by the Secretariat on the FIDE web site.
- 28.4 The Electoral Commission is also competent to decide on all complaints or reports concerning alleged breaches of FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code by candidates to elective positions, if submitted in the two months period before elections.
- 28.5 The Electoral Commission has also the competences assigned by the Electoral Rules.
- 28.6 The Chairman of the Electoral Commission shall be the Chairman of the Constitutional Commission, except when the Electoral Commission decides on

cases of alleged violations of the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code, when the Chairman of the Justice Commission shall preside.

- 28.7 The Electoral Commission decides by majority vote. In the event of a tie, the vote of the Chairman shall be decisive. The Electoral Commission must issue a reasoned decision in English in writing to the complainant, preferably within 10 days of its receipt of the complaint.
- 28.8 All decisions of the Electoral Commission are final and cannot be appealed to the General Assembly or another FIDE organ. Any decision of the Electoral Commission taken before the election can be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) only as of the day after the close of the General Assembly (which day shall also be the start date of the 21-day deadline provided for in the CAS Code or any other deadline for such appeals subsequently enacted by the CAS).
- 28.9 The Electoral Commission shall verify who is entitled to vote at FIDE's elections, in accordance with the Electoral Rules.
- 28.10 Three scrutineers, elected by the General Assembly in accordance with the Electoral Rules, will act as the Electoral Commission for the election of the Chairmen and the members of the Verification Commission, of the Justice Commission and of the Constitutional Commission.

Art. 29 Non-Elected Commissions

- 29.1 The number, the composition and the competences of Non-Elected Commissions are specified in the Rules on Non-Elected Commissions.
- 29.2 Non-Elected Commissions are supervised by the Council and coordinated by the Management Board and can only have delegated or advisory competences.
- 29.3 Non-Elected Commissions shall address to the Council regular periodical reports and proposals.
- 29.4 The composition and the competences of the Fair Play Commission are specified in the Procedural Rules of the Fair Play Commission.

Art. 30 FIDE Congress

- 30.1 The annual Congress includes the meetings of the General Assembly, the Council, the Commissions and the Zonal Council.
- 30.2 The annual Congress may also host meetings of FIDE Continents, Zones and Affiliated Organisations.

PART IV – FIDE CONTINENTS AND ZONES

Art. 31 FIDE Continents and FIDE Zones

- 31.1 There shall be four FIDE Continents, namely: the African Chess Confederation (for Africa), the Asian Chess Federation (for Asia and Oceania), the Confederation of Chess for Americas (for North, Central and South America) and the European Chess Union (for Europe).
- 31.2 The number and composition of FIDE Zones are established by a separate

regulation, taking into account geographical proximity, common historical, linguistic and cultural traits, level of chess activities, events and traditions, number of Member Federations, number of chess players, as well as number of titled and rated chess players.

- 31.3 FIDE Continents and FIDE Zones are established to develop chess activities in the regions and territories of their competence, strengthen ties between Member Federations and promote mutual goals and representation.

Art. 32 FIDE Continents

- 32.1 FIDE Continents are autonomous entities that can freely decide about their organs and functioning, however they must:
- a) accept as their members all FIDE Member Federations of the countries included in their respective Continent;
 - b) observe all rules, regulations and decisions of FIDE and ensure that their members and various bodies also comply with them;
 - c) ensure that their statutes and rules fully comply with FIDE rules and regulations;
 - d) communicate a copy of their current statutes and of any change of them to FIDE Secretariat, adding a translation into English, if written in a different language;
 - e) organise every year a continental general assembly;
 - f) remain in good standing, including in good financial standing;
 - g) actively support FIDE in all chess activities.
- 32.2 FIDE Continents are responsible for the organisation of Continental championships under the auspices of FIDE.
- 32.3 Each FIDE Continent has the right to elect a member of the FIDE Council, who can be the Continental President or another person.
- 32.4 Presidents of FIDE Continents are FIDE officials, they can participate in the General Assembly, without voting rights.
- 32.5 Appeals against decisions of Continental Presidents or other bodies of FIDE Continents shall be made to FIDE President or to another competent FIDE organ.

Art. 33 Zonal Presidents

- 33.1 The management of each Zone is assigned to a Zonal President, who has the responsibility to co-ordinate the activities of the Member Federations in the Zone.
- 33.2 Zonal Presidents are elected by Member Federations falling within the Zone.
- 33.3 The Zonal President represents the interests of FIDE within this Zone and those of the Zone within FIDE and the relevant FIDE Continent.
- 33.4 The Zonal President strictly liaises both with the Council and with the relevant FIDE Continent.
- 33.5 Appeals against a decision of a Zonal President shall be made to the Zonal Council or to the General Assembly.

Art. 34 Zonal Council

- 34.1 The Zonal Council is composed of:
 - a) the Presidents of FIDE Continents;
 - b) the Zonal Presidents.
- 34.2 The Zonal Council is chaired by the FIDE President, without voting rights.
- 34.3 The main functions of the Zonal Council are specified in the Zonal Council Rules, they include:
 - a) to deliver advisory opinions on FIDE financial support to FIDE Continents and Zones;
 - b) to coordinate the organisation of Continental and Zonal tournaments and events;
 - c) to coordinate the organisation of initiatives of common interest of different Zones;
 - d) to deliver advisory opinions on FIDE calendar;
 - e) to cooperate in the development and promotion of chess activities in Member Federations that are in need of technical, financial and chess skills assistance.

PART V – SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Art. 35 Appeals against FIDE decisions

- 35.1 Except if otherwise provided in this Charter, any final decision taken by a FIDE organ may be challenged exclusively by way of appeal before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, which will resolve the dispute in a final and binding manner in accordance with the Code of Sports-related Arbitration.
- 35.2 The decisions of the General Assembly and of the Electoral Commission, relating to matters falling within their respective competencies, and the decisions that conclude the proceedings in front of the Justice Commission are final. The decisions of other FIDE organs may be challenged by an internal appeal to the General Assembly.
- 35.3 An appeal before the CAS may only be brought after FIDE's internal procedures and remedies have been exhausted.
- 35.4 Only parties directly aggrieved by a decision may appeal to the CAS.
- 35.5 The time limit for appeal is twenty-one days from receipt by the appellant of the decision appealed against or, in the case of a decision by FIDE General Assembly, twenty-one days from the close of the General Assembly. The time-limit for appeal against decisions of the Electoral Commission is twenty-one days from the close of the elective General Assembly.
- 35.6 An appeal does not suspend the execution of the decision, unless the CAS so decides upon request of the appellant.
- 35.7 The CAS shall not take into account facts or evidence which the appellant could

have submitted to an internal FIDE body by acting with reasonable diligence required under the circumstances, but failed or chose not to do so.

- 35.8 The CAS shall decide the dispute according to the FIDE Charter, regulations and rules as well as according to Swiss law. The seat of the arbitration shall be Lausanne. The language of the arbitration shall be English. The decision of the CAS shall be final and binding on the parties, subject to any challenge to the Swiss Federal Court which may be permissible in terms of Swiss law.
- 35.9 Neither CAS nor any ordinary courts shall have jurisdiction to deal with matters related to the application of a purely sporting rule, such as the Laws of Chess, or the technical rules of a competition (e.g. FIDE Swiss Regulations, FIDE Competition Regulations).

Art. 36 Other disputes

- 36.1 The ordinary courts in Lausanne, Switzerland, shall have exclusive jurisdiction to resolve any dispute between FIDE and third parties, including but not limited to Member Federations or any of their officials, players, organisers, arbiters, FIDE officials, candidates to any function as FIDE officials, or Affiliated Organisations, in respect of a matter arising out of or in connection with the FIDE Charter, Regulations and rules, or agreements between FIDE and these persons and/or entities.
- 36.2 The ordinary courts in Lausanne shall apply the FIDE Charter, Regulations and rules as well as the substantive law specifically chosen by the parties to govern the merits of the dispute or, in the absence of such a choice, Swiss substantive law, excluding the conflict-of-laws rules.

Art. 37 Fair Play, Doping and Drug Use

- 37.1 FIDE dedicates its efforts, in close collaboration with Member Federations, the International Olympic Committee and the National Olympic Committees, to ensuring that in chess the spirit of 'Fair Play' prevails, leads the fight against cheating and doping in sport and takes measures in order to prevent endangering the health of competitors.
- 37.2 FIDE has accepted the World Anti-Doping Code and its international standards. Within FIDE the body responsible for this policy is the Medical Commission. The Medical Commission will agree, with the International bodies, on the list of prohibited substances and methods of doping that are applicable to chess players. The Medical Commission will be responsible for drafting Anti-Doping Regulations, to be approved by the Council, and their execution.
- 37.3 The Fair Play Commission is responsible for drafting Anti-Cheating Regulations, to be approved by the Council, and their execution, especially on fighting and prevention of cheating. The Fair Play Investigatory Chamber of the Justice Commission is competent on investigations or fact-finding concerning both cheating and doping.

Art. 38 Final Matters

- 38.1 FIDE will dissolve as soon as the number of Member Federations has been reduced to two. Moreover, FIDE can be dissolved by a decision of the General Assembly, if at least two-thirds of all Member Federations express themselves in favour of dissolution.
- 38.2 In case of dissolution, the General Assembly shall decide how to dispose of the FIDE assets, which are to be used for chess or for any other purpose contributing to the general good.

PART VI – INTERIM TEMPORARY PROVISIONS

Art. I Composition of the Council until 2022

- I.1 Unless otherwise provided by the General Assembly, upon adoption of this Charter and for the remainder of their mandate, until elections in 2022, the current members of the Presidential Board (including all Vice Presidents and Honorary Vice Presidents) will be deemed to be members of the Council, instead of the membership as provided for in article 20 of this Charter.

Art. II Composition of the Zonal Council until 2022

- II.1 Unless otherwise provided by the General Assembly, upon adoption of this Charter and for the remainder of their mandate, until elections in 2022, the current elected members of the Executive Board (four per Continent) will be deemed to be members of the Zonal Council, in addition to the membership as provided for in article 34 of this Charter.

Art. III Extraordinary Elections

- III.1 In consideration of the enlarged composition of the newly established Justice Commission (former Ethics Commission), immediately after the adoption of this Charter extraordinary elections will be held to fill the vacant or additional positions having regard to the required number of members stipulated in this Charter. In application of the principle of gender balance, that will be better specified in upcoming revised Electoral Rules, at least two of the eight members of the Justice Commission must be women.
- III.2 Unless otherwise provided by the General Assembly, the mandate of all members of current elected Commissions, viz. the Verification Commission, the Justice Commission (former Ethics Commission) and the Constitutional Commission, will be extended until 2 years after next Presidential and general election.

Art. IV Entry into Force

- IV.1 Unless otherwise provided by the General Assembly, all provisions of this Charter are in force starting from the date of adoption by the General Assembly, after the General Assembly is closed.