

STATUTES

representing the

“International Chess Committee of the Deaf”

ARTICLE I – Introduction

1. The “International Committee of Silent Deaf” (**I.C.S.C. as an acronym**), which was founded in Copenhagen on August 14, 1949, is an international body uniting the national federations of deaf chess players as the highest authority in matters of deaf chess. **The 31st I.C.S.C. Congress held on October 1st 2012 in Almaty, Kazakhstan, has approved the new name change, “International Chess Committee of the Deaf” (I.C.C.D. as an acronym).**
2. The **I.C.C.D.** is based on democratic principles: its purpose is the promotion of chess among the deaf of all nations, general improvement of their cultural level and chess knowledge and achievement of close international cooperation among chess players in their activities regarding the science of chess and their other and cultural activities.
3. The **I.C.C.D.** controls international chess events and supervises observance of the rules. It regulates the award of international titles in the field of deaf chess.
4. The **I.C.C.D.** strives for cooperation with other international organisations specialising in chess affairs.
5. The **I.C.C.D.** is a voluntary organisation.
6. The **I.C.C.D.** is an affiliated member of the Federation Internationale des Echecs (**F.I.D.E. as an acronym**).

ARTICLE II – Members

1. National chess organisations of the deaf or chess sections which are affiliated to national associations of the deaf and act as the highest chess authority in their countries may become country-members of the **I.C.C.D.**, on condition that they undertake to respect the Statutes.
2. Only one organisation may be admitted to the **I.C.C.D.** to represent a country as a member. This must be an organisation which is officially or generally recognised in the respective country as the responsible national chess organisation of that country. Unless a member neglects its duties **vis-à-vis** the **I.C.C.D.** and, furthermore, fails to comply with the conditions laid down in the Article II.1., no other chess organisation of the same country may be admitted as a country-member.

This national chess organisation of the deaf is admitted as an official **I.C.C.D.** country-member with its delegate present at the Congress by a simple majority.

3. The **I.C.C.D.** observes the principle of equality of its country-members.
4. The **I.C.C.D.** observes strict neutrality with regard to the national affairs of its country-members.
5. Any request for admission as a country-member is to be directed to the Executive Board of the **I.C.C.D.**, which shall take a provisional decision pending approval by the Congress.

The provisional country-member must support its application to the Congress by its delegates when the application is to be presented.

6. A National Association may be an adherent member if it has no desire to participate in the **I.C.C.D.** events.
7. Every country-member has the duty to meet its financial obligations vis-a-vis the **I.C.C.D.** The admission fee is due on admission to the organisation, and the annual subscription fee by December 31 of each year on simple request by the Treasurer. Any country-member failing to pay its subscription fee three months later by 1st April shall pay a fine (to be fixed by the Congress), **failing again by 1st July a double fine and yet failing once again by 1st August a quadruple fine unless a reason for non-payment is to be submitted and found acceptable by the I.C.C.D. Board.**
8. Members shall comply with a request by the Executive Board every year to state:
 - a. the name and address of their permanent delegate to the **I.C.C.D.**;
 - b. the composition of its national federation;
 - c. the names of its national champions;
 - d. their official organ;
 - e. their forthcoming international chess events.

9. Membership shall be terminated in the following cases:

- a. resignation from the **I.C.C.D.** in writing;
- b. temporarily for failure to pay subscription fee for two years;
- c. serious violation of the Statutes and Regulations of the **I.C.C.D.**;
- d. cessation of a real standing of deaf chess in its own country.

The Executive Board of the **I.C.C.D.** is to be informed of any resignation. Membership will then be considered terminated three months after submission of the declaration of resignation, provided that payment of the subscription fee for the current year has been settled up to that date.

Any decision on the expulsion of a country-member for failure to pay the subscription fee or for a serious violation of the Statutes must be taken by the Board of the **I.C.C.D.** The decision of the Board of the **I.C.C.D.** shall be final upon approval by the Congress of the **I.C.C.D.** The expelled country-member is not entitled to take part in international chess competitions as long as there is no decision on the part of the Congress.

Pending the final decision by the Congress of the **I.C.C.D.** the Board of the **I.C.C.D.** is entitled to suspend an undisciplined country-member from participation in international deaf chess competitions.

10. If the official national chess organisation of the deaf is in the process of dissolving, the office of **I.C.C.D.** is to be informed of such a case by a letter of the resignation in writing. The dissolved organisation may be replaced by a new organisation having the same objectives provided that it comes from the same country.

ARTICLE III – Congress

1. The Congress is the supreme and legislative body of the **I.C.C.D.** The Congress is convened every two years during the **International Chess Championships**.
2. At the official request of at least half the country-members, or following a decision of the Board, an Extraordinary Congress may be convened. The Executive Board shall invite country-members to the Extraordinary Congress not later than three months before it begins.
3. The Congress shall consist of delegates of all country-members plus the members of the Board of the **I.C.C.D.** Delegates who must be deaf must present letters of credence from the member organisation, a national deaf chess organisation, showing that they are the rightful delegates of their organisation.

Every country-member shall have two votes, and every member of the Board of the **I.C.C.D.** one vote.

Members of the Board of the **I.C.C.D.** cannot be delegates at the same time at the I.C.C.D. Congress.

Adherent members shall have no voting powers at the **I.C.C.D.** Congress.

4. All country- members of the **I.C.C.D.** shall submit their motions for the **I.C.C.D.** Congress to the Executive Board of the **I.C.C.D.** not later than **six months** in advance.

The Executive Board of the **I.C.C.D.** shall be responsible for informing all country-members of the **I.C.C.D.** about the agenda of the Congress and about the motions submitted not later than three months before the Congress begins.

5. The Congress has the following tasks:
 - a. approval of the report on the activities and the financial report of the Board of the **I.C.C.D.**;
 - b. decisions on amendments of the Statutes and Regulations of the **I.C.C.D.**;
 - c. decision on the amount of the annual subscription and other fees;
 - d. decisions on the motions proposed;
 - e. decision on the admission and expulsion of country- members;
 - f. discharge and election of the President and the members of the Board of the **I.C.C.D.** for a term of four years to take place during the **I.C.C.D.** Chess Olympiad;
 - g. decision on the place and date of the next World Deaf Chess Championship and on definite venues up to four years and provisional venues thereafter;
 - h. decision on the official language of the **I.C.C.D.**

6. The decisions of the Congress are taken with a simple majority. In case of a draw the President shall give the casting vote.

The vote may be either secret or open, according to the decision of the Congress itself.

All communications of absent members relating to the Congress must be read out prior to a vote.

The minutes of the proceedings at the Congress shall be taken by a minute-taker who must not be a member of the Board.

The minutes must be submitted to all country-members of the **I.C.C.D.** and to the members of the Board not later than three months after the end of the Congress.

7. A quorum is established if at least one third of the affiliated members are present at the Congress.

The Congress is presided over by the President or, in case he is unable to do so, by the Vice-President.

ARTICLE IV - The I.C.C.D. Board

1. **In between** Congresses the Board shall be responsible for the management of the **I.C.C.D.**
2. The Board is composed of
 - a. a President;
 - b. a Vice-President;
 - c. a Secretary-General / Treasurer;
 - d. Two members.
3. At the Congress during the **I.C.C.D.** Chess Olympiad, the Congress elects every four years:
 - a. President;
 - b. Four representatives.

If a member of the Board retires before expiration of his term, a by-election is to be held at the next Congress. The term of members of the Board so elected shall be terminated together with that of the whole Board.

4. The names of candidates for the Board of the **I.C.C.D.** may be submitted by any country-member and must reach the General-Secretary of the **I.C.C.D.** three months before the opening date of the Congress. A retiring member of the Board shall be eligible for reelection provided the country-member, to which he/she belongs, supports his/her candidacy in writing.

For each country-member submitting a nomination for a candidate from its own country, the representing country-member must declare that its nominated candidate shall have the following criteria:

- Several years of chess playing experience;
 - At least five years of chess administration activity;
 - Be fluent in the International Sign Language;
 - Basic knowledge of English language;
 - Total understanding and respect of all the rules of the **I.C.C.D.** Statutes;
 - Possession of an email address.
5. The Board elects the Vice-President and the Secretary-General / Treasurer from among its members. These two and the President constitute the Executive Board of the **I.C.C.D.**
 6. Deputies in case of absence:
 - a. the Vice-President for the President;
 - b. the President for the Secretary-General **Treasurer.**

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 - a. The Board shall hold a series of meetings during the **I.C.C.D.** World event. The **I.C.C.D.** shall pay the **travelling** costs for the members of the Board whilst the organising country-member for the said World event shall pay the accommodation provided for the members of the Board.
 - b. The Executive Board shall hold a series of meetings during the **I.C.C.D.** Intercontinental Cup event. The **I.C.C.D.** shall pay the **travelling** costs for the members of the Board whilst the organising country-member for the said Intercontinental event shall pay for the accommodation provided for the members of the Executive Board.
 - c. Work sessions of the Executive Board shall be held once a year when necessary for important preparations. Costs of travelling and accommodation shall be borne by the **I.C.C.D.** for members of the Executive Board during the work sessions.
8. At its session, the Board shall examine the general situation of the **I.C.C.D.**, the activities of its committees, the Executive Board and the other organs; and the annual reports of the Executive Board and the Treasurer. It shall take decisions in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes and the Regulations and prepare all materials to be submitted to the Congress.

The session of the Board is valid if at least three members are present.

Decisions shall be taken by a majority of votes.

Appeals can be made against decisions of the Board at the Congress.

9. The Executive Board

- a. The Executive Board is in charge of current affairs. It prepares the agenda of the sessions and submits a bi-annual report to the Congress. The Executive Board announces the Congress six months before its beginning at the latest.
- b. The Executive Board may be consulted in all matters of international protests or disputes and is authorised to settle them in accordance with the Statutes and the Regulations. The decisions of Executive Board shall be taken by a majority of votes.
- c. An Appeal against decision of the Executive Board can be lodged with the Board.

10. Inspection Visits.

In the event of a country-member staging a forthcoming **I.C.C.D.** World tournament, an inspection visit by **I.C.C.D.** shall be carried out at least 14 months before the start of the tournament.

A member of the Board of **I.C.C.D.** shall be appointed in terms of close proximity and economy to carry out the inspection visit.

The travelling expenses of the inspector shall be borne by the **I.C.C.D.** The accommodation costs of up to a maximum of two days should be paid by the Organising Committee of the host country.

1. The amounts of the annual subscription fee and the admission fee are fixed by the Congress.
2. The Treasurer accepts all ordinary and extraordinary payments and guarantees all expenditures.
3. The financial sources of the **I.C.C.D.** are: membership subscriptions, fee, and donations.
4. The Treasurer shall submit the balance to the Congress every two years. This balance shall be audited by three country-members to be selected in advance by the Congress. After hearing the reports of the auditors, the Congress shall decide on the approval of the balance.
5. The financial period of the **I.C.C.D.** shall be from 1st January to 31st December of each year.
Balances shall be established on **the** 31st December of **each** year.
6. The duties of the Treasurer of the **I.C.C.D.** shall be:
 - a. The financial management of the **I.C.C.D.**;
 - b. The collection of the subscriptions and fees from country-members;
 - c. The preparation of the budget of the I.C.C.D. for the next 4 years;
 - d. Presentation of the bi-annual Financial Report during the I.C.C.D. Congress.
7. The Treasurer of the **I.C.C.D.** shall be chosen by the Secretary-General of the I.C.C.D. and be approved by the Board of the **I.C.C.D.**
8. The basic currency of **I.C.C.D.** shall be in EUROS. ~~as from 1st January 2002 onwards.~~

ARTICLE VI - Concluding Clauses

1. The seat of the **I.C.C.D.** is at the place of residence of **either** the Secretary-General / Treasurer.**or the Secretary-General.**
2. The business year of the **I.C.C.D.** is from January 1st to December 31st.
3. a. The official Report, the minutes of the meetings, bulletins and all circulars shall be printed in English.

b. **The** International Sign Language is the official language for communication at the **I.C.C.D.** Congress, **Executive and Board meetings as well as other meetings with I.C.C.D. member-countries.**
4. The present Statutes and Regulations may be amended at the request of the Board or a country-member, such a motion having to be announced in the agenda of the Congress. Any such amendment requires a majority of two thirds of the votes cast by the delegates present.
5. All country-members shall be informed in the Information Bulletin about disqualifications imposed by the Board of the **I.C.C.D.** Also, the country-members must inform their clubs about them.
6. The **I.C.C.D.** has a flag showing the **I.C.C.D.** emblem **on a blue background.**

The **I.C.C.D.** emblem consists of the world globe which is partly overlapped by a tilted chessboard and which bears across them the initials of the **I.C.C.D.**

It is forbidden to copy the symbols and initials of the **I.C.C.D.** without permission by the Board.

Posters, medals, diploma, etc., which bear the emblem of the **I.C.C.D.** must be approved by the Board before they are produced.

7. No discrimination is permitted toward a country-member or a person on account of race, religion, politics or sex.
8. All cases not provided for by the present Statutes shall be decided upon, and settled, by the Board in the spirit of international chess etiquette.
9. The **I.C.C.D.** Statutes and Regulations shall be downloaded in .pdf (Web) format to the **I.C.C.D.** website. Printed copies can be provided **by request** to country-members who do not either have access to the Internet or the I.C.C.D. website.

~~10. These Statutes will be entered into force by adoption by the XXX (30th) Congress of the I.C.C.D. held on June 10th, 2010. (Remove)~~