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FIDE Elections 2018

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An: OESB office <office@chess.at>

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Dear friends,

Thanks a lot for the important questions you raise. Most of them were briefly covered in my program <https://fide2018.com/program/> - but I should not waste an opportunity to answer in detail.

1) How should FIDE be financed in the future?

I find it to be one of the most important issues. I think we should change the model completely. Today FIDE gets most of its funding from the federations and players. We shall mostly rely on the corporate sponsorship. Chess has a huge commercial potential - it has its unique history, extremely positive image worldwide, educational advantages and perfect compatibility with the modern technologies. Unfortunately, FIDE has been mismanaged for many years, and it failed bringing lasting commercial sponsorship. I already have written commitments from several companies (please check my program) - and the list is going to expand. And of course, the financial burden on federations and players should be significantly reduced.

2) What measures are taken to make chess Olympic?

As you surely know, this issue has been discussed for over 20 years now - and there is no real progress. In fact, the International Olympic Committee has already declared chess as Recognized International Sports. So, formally, chess IS a sport in the eyes of the Olympics committee. However, IOC have since then said that chess lacks the element of physical competition that is necessary for inclusion into the Olympic games, and mind sports, by their very nature, cannot be included in the Olympic games. In my opinion the most important task for the nearest future would be to establish chess as a Recognized sport among all FIDE members and then seek closer relationships with the IOC and other International sport authorities with the aim to establish mutually beneficial cooperation between chess and other major sport activities. By the way I've had some productive meetings with FIFA President Mr. Infantino on this matter during the World Cup in Russia.

3) How do you see the future of rapid and blitz chess and how will you promote them?

Rapid and blitz will gradually become more and more popular - and that is natural. At the same time, I firmly believe we should stick with the classical time control in all the top official events (except for World Rapid&Blitz Championships of course). I believe that part of the positive image our game has shall be attributed to its long-standing traditions. Besides, if we switch to a faster time controls it will badly impact the newer generations and club players. Some top grandmasters may be able to play great chess anyways, but it would harm the game on so many lower levels - and would undermine its status and respectability.

4) Are you planning a kind of unique rating for standard, rapid and blitz?

That is a matter for discussion. From time to time such a suggestions pop up and even implemented, but any changes of the kind should be conducted very carefully. I will look into this matter closely, conduct some polls among the players and let the respective commissions to work on the possible improvements.

5) Will you change FIDE's licensing system and connect it with the citizenship like the IOC does?

I do not like licensing for a sake of money - and that is a present approach of FIDE. Some licensing is needed indeed, but that should not be used as a method of filling FIDE's coffin. It should serve to establish a real level of an arbiter, trainer, organizer etc. As for linking it to the citizenship - that is a separate question that needs to be properly investigated - I just can promise there will no be any hasty decisions in this regards,

6) How will the members of the commissions be nominated and will they need the support of their federation?

The commissions shall consist of the professional people. That is the most important issue. We will not require a nomination from the respective federation.

We will certainly invite some of the people who contributed throughout the years in various FIDE commissions, but at the same time, we will invite many new people - some of the were not involved in the work entirely for their political views and personal disapproval from the present FIDE leaders. That shall not happen and will not happen if I'm elected. We will also stage consultations and work closely with relevant chess bodies, in particular, ACP - on all the aspects related to the professional chess: World Championship Cycle, time controls, anti-cheating, ratings etc...

7) Will you align women's World Cup cycle with those of men?

As mentioned in my program, Women's chess will be one of the priorities. Today the situation is very bad. The strongest player in the World refuses to take part in the cycle, as FIDE didn't agree with her proposal to align the Cycles - and I agree with her, and I do think we should have the same system in Men and Women World Championship Cycle. We will also restore Women Grand Prix, which has not been organized since 2016, and raise the prize fund in Women's official events.

Dear friends, if you feel that I haven't answered any of your questions or you got a new ones, please don't hesitate to send in more inquiries - I really appreciate such an opportunity to share my vision on the most important issues of contemporary chess.

Best regards,

Arkady Dvorkovich

BT, 7 авг. 2018 г. в 10:01, OESB office <office@chess.at>:

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