



# The International Correspondence Chess Federation

**Ratings Commissioner  
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## Report for the Congress at Albena 2017

Dear friends,

since last year's Congress four ratinglists were published on time including special ratings for Chess960. Next I will work on the list 2017/4 which will be published after the Congress around September, 15 and will be valid from 1<sup>st</sup> of October, business as usual.

At the Congress of Bremen a significant change of the rating system was decided, especially to use a continuous formula for expected scores and to consider unrealistic high expectancies in our high level tournaments. The new formulae look as follows:

$$p(D) = 1 / ( 1 + 10^{(-D/640)} ) \text{ and vice versa } D(p) = \log( p / (1-p) ) * 640$$

This change required some adjustments in the Tournament Rules and of course in the server software. In this context also clear regulations for all rounding issues were included. Thanks to the help of Dennis and Martin the necessary actions were completed at the beginning of 2017. Unfortunately the adapted software was not yet ready in December 2016, therefore the ratinglist 2017/1 had to be calculated using the former rules. The list 2017/2 used the new rules and procedures and showed convincing results as expected.

Small problems arrived afterwards with unfixed ratings. Those ratings are calculated as the performance over all results of a player, old results and new results are considered together. This means that the new expectancy formula also applies for the old results. Players with a high total score ( > 80% ) profit significantly from the change (and will enjoy it) and players with a low total score ( < 20% ) suffer from the change (mostly withdrawn players). I think we can live with this weakness for the near future. I got only one query in this matter from a high pleased player.

Another point for critics is our current procedure for players with more than 50 games within one period. Too much new games lead to unrealistic changes in fixed ratings. Therefore the new ratings for those players are calculated as the performance of the new results only, the history is ignored. Though it mostly affects withdrawing players it is worth to be considered if we decide to keep the current system.

Both problems were already part of the discussions with Prof. Glickman and he made some provisional proposals to solve them. Nevertheless I want to avoid new proposals concerning the rating calculation in 2017/2018 as long as we consider to replace our whole procedures by the Glicko-System.

For more details about the work concerning the Glicko-System see the report of the Ratings and Titles Workgroup. Developed and adjusted over more than 30 years we have currently a reliable and well accepted system. The risk to replace it by something totally new is rather high. I am still reluctant and hope we will find convincing facts for or against the Glicko-System during next year.

Looking forward to seeing you in Albena !

**Amici sumus**

Gerhard Binder  
ICCF Ratings Commissioner