

## **Ratings and Titles Working Group: Report to ICCF Congress 2017**

### **Group Members**

- Austin Lockwood, ICCF Services Director and Working Group Chair
- Gerhard Binder, ICCF Ratings Commissioner
- Uwe Staroske, ICCF Qualifications Commissioner
- Mariusz Wojnar, Former ICCF Qualifications Commissioner
- Eric Ruch, ICCF President, ex officio
- Michael Millstone, ICCF General Secretary, ex officio

### **Implementation of Congress proposals 2016-15, 16 and 17**

Unfortunately there were some unavoidable delays in the implementation of the modified ratings and title norm procedures; however these are both now operational.

The modified rating procedure was used for the 2017/2 rating list; the new procedure for calculating norm requirements now applies to all title tournaments starting from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 and later.

Further evaluation of these changes will be included in the RC and QC reports to Congress.

### **Evaluation of the Glicko Rating System**

- Software was developed to calculate Glicko ratings based on real results in the ICCF database.
- Several passes of the database were made, using different configurations, to produce various Glicko rating lists.
- It was found that an untuned Glicko system could produce rather volatile and unstable ratings when applied to correspondence chess results, however it was possible to adjust various parameters (notably “c”, which determines the rate at which Rating Deviation changes over time) which resulted in ratings with stability and volatility comparable to the current system.
- The true value of any rating system lies in its ability to predict results based on differences in ratings between two players; we have not yet completed this evaluation.

### **Expenditure**

The evaluation of the Glicko Rating System to date has been internal to the working group, so no expenditure has been necessary. It is envisaged that further consultation with Professor Glickman may be necessary as the work continues, however the credit held by Professor Glickman and the budget already agreed in Bremen should suffice to cover future work if carried over.

### **Proposal for 2017**

The aim of the working group was to evaluate whether or not it was appropriate to propose the implementation of the Glicko Rating System from 2018, in this respect the group has failed, as we have not yet completed the work necessary to make an objective comparison between the current ICCF rating system and the Glicko system.

We are not yet in a position to determine whether or not the Glicko Rating System would be an improvement over the current system.

Moreover, the group do not believe that it would be appropriate to make further changes to the rating system until the changes introduced in 2017 have been fully evaluated over several rating lists.

*The Titles and Ratings Working Group therefore offer no new proposals for the 2017 ICCF Congress in Albena.*

We will, however continue our work and will continue to report back to future Congresses.

*Austin Lockwood  
ICCF Working Group Chair  
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