**REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE ARBITER COMMITTEE**

Dennis Doren, submitted on 9 July 2015

This report summarizes the activities of the Arbiter Committee since the October 2014 Congress.

**The Committee Membership**

This was the first year I served as the Chair of the ICCF Arbiter Committee. During this year, I had the great privilege of working with a fine group of people from across the ICCF membership and leadership. The members of the Committee were (in alphabetical order):

(1) SIM Thomas Biedermann;

(2) International Arbiter IM Valer-Eugen Demian;

(3) International Arbiter IM Frank Geider, World Tournament Director;

(4) International Arbiter Markus Hömske, Non-Title Tournament Commissioner;

(5) Peter Maylott;

(6) International Arbiter GM Zdeněk Nývlt;

(7) International Arbiter SIM Ian Pheby, Direct Entry Commissioner;

(8) International Arbiter IM George Pyrich, Finance Director;

(9) International Arbiter IM Ragnar Wikman, Chair of Appeals Committee (Playing Rules); and

(10) International Arbiter Mariusz Wojnar, Qualifications Commissioner

**Tasks: Accomplished**

 **Tasks Accomplished**

The main task for the Arbiter Committee this year was to update and revise the existing Arbiter Manual. This work started in November 2014 and essentially ended in April 2015. This work was done in stages.

 **Foundation for revising the Arbiter Manual**

The Committee first determined the philosophy for the revision. Three components were delineated for that philosophy:

(a) that "everything" pertaining to the work of Tournament Directors (TDs) would be brought together in "one place" instead of having these rules/procedures scattered across various ICCF documents,

(b) that the rules for server-based games would be put into a separate manual from those pertaining to postal games (reflecting the growing difference in procedures in TD work between the two types of games, as well as to facilitate ease for TDs in finding what they need), though both manuals would use exactly the same numbering system to avoid potential confusion by users, and

(c) that we would reflect the increased automation for server-based games while not making substantive changes in this regard for postal games.

As we did our work, we also developed and followed governing principles in revising the Arbiter Manual:

(a) increasing the amount of detail written to ensure greater clarity in the rules and procedures;

(b) emphasizing incapacitation from improper actions by players, Team Captains, and Tournament Directors instead of relying on penalties to deter such actions;

(c) including statements of philosophy in numerous sections (since rules can never be fully comprehensive in covering all situations, so people applying the rules would have guidance from the intended philosophy for more atypical circumstances);

(d) increasing the likelihood that TDs would be aware of, and therefore would follow the Manual's rules and procedures;

(e) increasing the degree to which novice TDs would receive mentoring during their initial TD experiences (in keeping with the ACO role of ensuring training for TDs); and

(f) adding references for each manual entry concerning where the information came from, and hence where information written on the same topic can be found in other ICCF documents.

 **Process of the work**

The Committee worked together on revising the Manual in segments. We first developed a comprehensive list of topic headings. I then brought together in one document all of the existing rules and procedures from across the various ICCF documents (both the existing Arbiter Manual and all other ICCF documents) under each relevant proposed topic headings. Wherever there was a conflict or lack of clarity across the rules, or where the existing rule was outdated, a new section was written. Proposed changes were also added for the Committee's consideration. Decisions were made about content by gathering input from all of the 11 members of the ACO who had interest in commenting about each section. I then re-wrote each section to incorporate the ACO input/decision. Finally, the ACO had the opportunity to read and suggest changes to the revision. After the final draft was completed, the whole Committee was again given the opportunity to suggest wording changes. A few areas where also updated based on new information learned after the revision had appeared completed.

 **Final product**

The existing Arbiter Manual consists of 19 pages in large font. The revision resulted in two manuals (with a name change from Arbiter Manual to Tournament Directors' Manual, or TDM): the Tournament Directors' Manual - Server (TDM-S) and the Tournament Directors' Manual - Postal (TDM-P). The TDM-S is 44 single-spaced pages while the TDM-P is 58 single-spaced pages (with overlapping material from the TDM-S). Obviously, a great deal more information is contained in the revised set of manuals. As stated above, the main reason is to make the Manuals far more comprehensive and therefore useful for TDs.

 **Congress proposal**

The final step was to summarize all of the changes in a single proposal for the consideration and vote of Congress. That proposal was submitted, and became number 2015-016.

 **Second Task of the Committee**

The other task for the ACO this year was the initial stage of processing applications for the title of International Arbiter. There were only two applications filed with me between the end of last year's Congress and the date of this report. Information was gathered concerning both applications, which resulted in the recommendation against the title in both cases. Criteria for the title were seen as not being met in either case.

**Tasks Anticipated**

If proposal 2015-016 (concerning the revised Manuals) is approved by the Congress, there are various things that will need to occur for the full implementation of the revised Manuals. These include the full development and server implementation of the "manual review tests" and working with the Service Committee on developing and implementing the automated TD selection process and mentor assignment process, among many other more minor server-based updates. Some work has already been done on these and related areas. Presuming that the Congress accepts proposal 2015-016, I will work closely with the Service Committee towards the implementation of the full set of revisions in the new manuals.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to do the above work for the ICCF. I have felt especially privileged to be trusted with the major project of updating the Arbiter Manual. My hope is that you find the work of the ACO to be to your liking and satisfaction.

 Dennis Doren, Chair, ICCF Arbiter Committee