



POSTAL
TOURNAMENT
OFFICE

THE INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE CHESS FEDERATION

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ICCF CONGRESS 2021

REPORT OF THE POSTAL TOURNAMENT OFFICE

Year 2020

Unfortunately, the number of entries for postal promotional tournaments further declined in 2020.

In 2020 I started 9 sections (1 WT/M, 2 WT/H and 6 WT/O) with a total of 38 players, while in 2019 there were 51 players in 11 sections.

Year 2021

In the first 6 months of 2021 I started 5 sections (1 WT/M, 1 WT/H and 3 WT/O) with a total of 22 players.

Countries and Zones

The players of the 2020 Promotional Postal Tournaments came from 12 different countries, while in 2019 they came from 15 countries.

As usual, most of the players were from Europe (63.16%); 36.84% came from the World Zone and no one player from Zone 4.

Most players came from Germany (13) and the USA (12).

Perspectives for the future

The above data demonstrate that there is still an interest, albeit limited, for the postal play; please note that some players are members of National Federations that no longer organize internal postal tournaments.

However, we cannot refuse to see that the number of postal tournaments starting continues to decrease and that, consequently, the waiting times for players become longer and longer, discouraging them from signing up. This is particularly the case for class M and H tournaments, while class O tournaments continue to have a decent following, especially from novice players.

ICCF started its history with postal tournaments and I believe postal play should be continued by the ICCF until 4 players (the minimum to organize a tournament!) will ask to play by post. We cannot take postal tournaments out of the range of tournaments organized by the ICCF, so depriving some of our older "customers" (those without an Internet connection) of the opportunity to play.

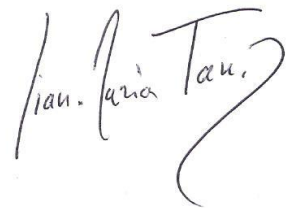
It is necessary to intervene as soon as possible to prevent postal tournaments from dying "a natural death" and it is for this reason that I submitted a proposal (2021-026) to the 2021 Congress to unify the postal tournaments of class M and H into a single tournament class (A) for players rated 1900 or more, continuing the tournaments of class O (players rated < 1900). I am aware that what I have proposed risks being a temporary solution and that, in a few years, it will be necessary to review the structure of postal tournaments (maybe just one class?) or to devise new postal tournaments that can attract the interest of the players (maybe an open championship structured on several phases?).

At the moment, however, in the absence of other proposals, I believe that mine is the only one that can allow the postal game to continue for a few years and, therefore, I warmly invite the Delegates to approve it.

Acknowledgments

As usual, I'd like to send a huge "thank you!" to "my" T.D., Rubens Battistini (ITA), Joop Jansen (NED), and Josep Guevara i Pijoan (ESP), for their precious and dedicated work.

Torino, -8/07/2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gian. Pao. Tau." with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.