**REPORT OF THE RULES COMMISSIONER**

IM Dennis Doren, submitted on 26 July 2021, corrected 5 August 2021

 Time Period Covered: June 2020 - June 2021

**The Commission Membership**

The following are the people who were selected and served this year as members of the Rules Commission, besides myself:

(1) IA SIM Thomas Biedermann, Entry Commissioner & Deputy Rules Commissioner;

(2) SIM Gerhard Binder, Honorary Member;

(3) IA IM Juan Alberto Martello, ARG National Delegate & Silver Bertl von Massow Medal ;

(4) GM Josef Mrkvicka, CZE National Delegate & Gold Bertl von Massow Medal;

(5) IA SIM Ivan Panitevsky;

(6)IA SIM Nikolay Poleshchuk, Gold Bertl von Massow Medal;

(7) IA SIM Uwe Staroske, Qualifications Commissioner, Ratings Commissioner & Manager of ICCF adjudication system;

(8) IA SIM Olli **Ylönen.**

**All of these people also served on the Rules Commission the previous year.**

**Status of Regular Rules Commissioner Duties**

During this past year, the Rules Commission collectively or I alone addressed the following regular duties:

A. Updated all rules within the ICCF Rules based on Congress decisions or Executive Board rule clarifications. This update was submitted to and approved by the Executive Board.

B. Kept tournament directors (TDs) and tournament organizers (TOs) informed of rule and procedural developments. This was typically initially accomplished through mass mailings though often times with subsequent individual communications

C. Responded to inquiries about rules and procedures from TDs, TOs, adjudicators, ICCF officials, and players. This was the most frequent of my duties.

D. Participated in offering input/answers to inquiries concerning server updates.

E. Reviewed all new proposals for Congress 2020, both to ensure that any existing rule that would be affected by a proposal is mentioned in the proposal and to indicate if there appeared to be an error in how an existing rule was cited or interpreted.

F. Made requests to the Executive Board (EB) for rule clarifications. There were 3 such requests made this year:

(1) From November 2020: There was an 11-player tie with an even score for second place in a WCCC Candidates section. The application of ICCF Rules 1.3.1 was not clear: whether the requirement for a positive score to promote to the WCCC Finals was required for a second place finish. The Executive Board clarified that the requirement for a score >50% did apply to this situation.

(2) Also from November 2020: The question was whether a phrase in ICCF Rules Appendix 2, section 1a, gave the Title Tournament Commissioner (TTC) the authority to approve events with fewer than 9 players as title tournaments if those tournaments were organized by a member federation. The Board’s answer was no. The specified authority only pertains to ICCF events organized by the TTC.

(3) From March 2021: The Direct Entry 15 tournament preliminary sections were started as title norm eligible events. This seemed contrary to ICCF Rules Appendix 2, section 1i where it says “Promotion tournaments, thematic tournaments, and cup preliminaries shall not be deemed title tournaments. The Board determined the DE15 was a “cup” event and hence the preliminary sections were not supposed to be title tournaments.

**New Projects**

1. Gathered ideas suggested by others during the year for consideration by the Rules Commission for potential Congress proposals; presented those idea to the Commission; wrote and submitted Congress proposals for the ideas garnering at least majority support (while rejecting the others). This work resulted in 13 Congress proposals this year, with about 6 rejected ideas. Overall, the submitted Congress proposals addressed two main issues: (1) putting into writing things that were generally accepted already but really were only “unwritten rules”, and (2) expansions to the definition of an ICCF friendly match.
2. I formed and worked with an ad hoc committee consisting of interested players to explore structural ways to diminish the frequency of the “Dead Man’s Defense” (DMD) and something we called the “prolonged draw”(PD). (That was our name for a strategy similar to the DMD, where the drawn outcome is quite obvious but the player refuses to agree to the draw and continues to play it out for a lengthy time and without clear purpose). As has been the experience of such work in the past, this work did not result in substantial recommendations, only in suggestions for minor changes to time control systems to lessen the amount of reflection time players could accumulate. All proposals thought likely to result in a major change in the frequency of DMDs and PDs involved the creation of a brand new time control system where accumulating a lot of reflection time would be impossible. Given that the triple block system is still relatively new and yet to be fully accepted, I did not have the group work on developing a brand new time control system.

**Final Comments**

Just as in my report the past five years, I wish to thank the Executive Board and Congress for giving me the honor and privilege of serving the ICCF in this role. I am grateful to be in a position where my efforts serve the international correspondence chess community and this great organization. Thank you.

 Dennis Doren, Rules Commissioner