



ICCF Rules Audit 2027

Executive Summary

Review draft — 9 October 2026

Prepared for Eric and Dennis

Purpose

The aim of the ICCF Rules Audit 2027 is to make the Rules clearer, more consistent, easier to use and easier to maintain. It is **not simply a formatting exercise**. The review examines how provisions work together, who has authority to act, and whether procedures and cross-references are clear. Changes to existing policy are avoided unless they are needed and handled through the proper ICCF approval process.

The ICCF Rules developed from several documents that were later brought together. Subsequent amendments have sometimes left repeated provisions, differences in wording or operational instructions mixed with regulatory requirements. The audit addresses these problems without discarding the work on which the current Rules are based.

Scope of the review

The review covers all **seven chapters** of the consolidated ICCF Rules and the three principal technical appendices:

- **Appendix 1:** rating system and calculations;
- **Appendix 2:** international title requirements and norm calculations;
- **Appendix 3:** Triple Block time control.

A separate, transitional *ICCF Tournament Operations Guide* collects practical instructions, particularly for webserver procedures. It is supporting material, not a fourth set of substantive Rules. Related ICCF documents were also consulted, including the Statutes, Laws of Correspondence Chess, Outline of Duties and committee regulations.

How the work was carried out

The existing 2026 Rules were used as the main comparison text. Each chapter and appendix was reviewed for clear wording, consistency, duplication, authority, appeals and references. Accepted working changes are recorded in **ten Audit Logs** — one for each chapter and each of Appendices 1–3.

The *ICCF Editorial Guide* sets common rules for terminology, spelling, numbering, formula presentation and LaTeX references. This means that later editions can be updated more reliably and that reviewers can trace the reasons for the changes.

Main results

1. Clearer rules and responsibilities. The audit distinguishes the responsibilities of tournament directors, tournament organisers, team captains, the World Tournament Director, the Tournament Director Committee and other ICCF officials. Chapter 1 also sets out a clearer framework for disciplinary decisions, appeals and extraordinary procedural review. Detailed procedures remain in their appropriate Rules or committee regulations.

2. Less duplication. Similar provisions in different chapters have been brought together or replaced by accurate references. In particular, Chapters 3–7 now focus more clearly on the duties and authority of the people concerned. This reduces the risk that later amendments will change one provision but leave a conflicting copy elsewhere.

3. Better separation of rules and instructions. General rating and title provisions remain in Chapter 1; detailed calculations are in Appendices 1 and 2. Practical instructions for operating the ICCF server have been separated from the Rules where appropriate and gathered in the transitional Tournament Operations Guide. The Rules should not need an amendment each time a server menu changes.

4. More reliable mathematical presentation. The rating and title formulae in Appendices 1 and 2 have been re-typeset and checked. Mariusz Wojnar and Austin Lockwood confirmed the mathematical review; the Ratings Commissioner and Qualifications Commissioner raised no objections. This concerns the written formulae and their presentation: it does **not** claim to be a separate software implementation audit. The postal-result registration deadline has also been clarified consistently with the existing rating periods.

5. Consistent language and references. Current names for ICCF offices and bodies are used consistently. The LaTeX source includes semantic labels for cross-references and a common editing style. The review also checked links between chapters and relevant regulations. This should make future maintenance easier and reduce broken references after changes in numbering.

A record of the work

The Audit Logs show which provisions were kept, clarified, changed, added or removed, and why. They also record relevant cross-document checks and matters referred for confirmation. Their purpose is to make the review transparent and help ICCF officials find the detail behind a change without reading a full comparison of every page.

The source archive includes compiled working PDFs of the Rules and Audit Log. A later whole-package release check is still needed after final decisions and updates. The mathematical checks and the Appendix 1–3 audits are **closed**; they are not being reopened as part of this summary.

Status and what still needs attention

The revised text is a **consolidated working draft**. Completion of the editorial audit does not mean that ICCF has formally approved every change. The appropriate ICCF officials and bodies must still confirm any interpretation or amendment that falls within their authority.

A separate, two-page *Open Issues and Approval Register* makes this manageable. It identifies **six matters for decision or confirmation**, not six established errors. They concern rating-list activity, wording for national rated events, approval of international events, player and federation status, TDC membership, and the proper approval route for certain procedural provisions. It also distinguishes routine publication checks from longer-term work.

The main tasks before issuing the 2027 edition are to incorporate the adopted 2026 Congress decisions, verify current lists and effective dates, confirm the required approval route, and complete the final compilation and visual check. The transitional Operations Guide should be checked against current server practice before distribution as up-to-date instructions.

What we ask Eric and Dennis to review

1. **Review the overall approach** and the consolidated 2027 working text.
2. **Consider the short Approval Register**, confirm settled matters and identify any wording or policy choices still needing a decision.
3. **Confirm the appropriate approval process** for the final text, including any provisions requiring Executive Board or Congress action under the existing ICCF procedures.
4. **Agree on the final publication steps** once Congress decisions and necessary confirmations have been incorporated.

Where more information is needed, the corresponding Audit Log points to the relevant Rules and explains the change. This allows review to focus on decisions rather than editing detail.

Documents in the review package

The planned package contains the consolidated *ICCF Rules 2027* (PDF and LaTeX source), ten Audit Logs, the *ICCF Editorial Guide*, this Executive Summary, the *Open Issues and Approval Register*, and a short five-slide presentation with speaker notes. These documents serve different purposes but together provide both a quick overview and a detailed audit trail.

In summary: the main editorial and structural work is complete. The next task is not another general rewrite, but a focused review of the remaining confirmations, the approval route and the final publication requirements.

Sources: ICCF Rules 2027 working project dated 9 October 2026; ten chapter/appendix Audit Logs; ICCF Editorial Guide; Open Issues and Approval Register dated 9 October 2026. This summary is explanatory and has no independent regulatory force.