

ICCF Services Director's Report to Congress; 2026

Austin Lockwood, ICCF Services Director, September 2026

Dear friends,

This will be my 14th annual report to Congress. It has been my pleasure to work on some very interesting projects for ICCF over that time.

Delegates will be aware that 2027 will be an election year for the Executive Board; if there is anyone who might be interested in standing as a candidate for Services Director, I would be very happy to pass on my experience and work with that person or people over the next twelve months.

Austin Lockwood

Major Projects

Website Redesign

I strongly encourage delegates to support proposals 2026-041 and 2026-042. The website is our showcase to the world, it is our reputation, and it is starting to look rather dated when compared to competing websites. If there is to be a focus on attracting new players to our form of correspondence chess, then modernisation of the website is essential, to neglect this responsibility would be damaging to the very future of ICCF.

Website Hosting

Our website is currently hosted on a virtual server in the United Kingdom. A more modern, more resilient, and more cost effective, approach would be to host the site on a cloud service such as Microsoft Azure. I am currently looking at the implications of making this change when the contract with our current provider expires.

2025 Congress Proposals: Implementation Review

2025-030 Organization of a New Chess 960 Event

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal.

2025-031 Reimplementation of the Pan American Team Championship

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal.

2025-032 Creation of a Biennial Highest Rated Tournament

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal.

2025-038 Change the Number of Open Tournaments a National Federation may Run up a Year

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal.

2025-039 Include Qualification Routes for European and ROW Finals into the Individual World Championship Cycle

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal.

2025-042 Updating the Regulations of the ICCF Disciplinary Committee

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal.

2025-043 Enlargement of the Number of Members of the Disciplinary Committee

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal.

2025-044 Candidate for the Disciplinary Committee - First Nomination

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal.

2025-045 Candidate for the Disciplinary Committee - Second Nomination

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal.

2025-050 Multiple Accounts by an Individual

Logging and tracking have been improved to assist in monitoring possible duplicate accounts.

2025-051 Counting ICCF Thematic Tournaments Towards the IA title

Tracking of games contributing to the IA title has been updated to include games in thematic tournaments.

2025-052 Balancing the TMC with Opportunities for Level 1 and 2 TDs to become IAs

Restrictions preventing the TMC from directing tournaments normally requiring an IA were removed.

2025-053 Correcting the Rule Related to the Resetting of Clocks

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal.

2025-054 Making Rated International Team Events and Rated National Team Events Consistent

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal.

2025-055 Deleting Reference in ICCF Rules to Retroactive Leave

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal.

2025-056 The Option to Vote "Not in Favor" of an Unopposed Candidate (Requires 2/3 Votes)

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal.

2025-057 Approval of MF-Sponsored Opens and Invitationals

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal; however possible future work might involve a more formal workflow for approval implemented on the website.

2025-058 "Rated" Means Allowing Computer Use

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal.

2025-059 A New Solution for the Games of the Deceased

The procedures defined by this proposal have been fully implemented on the website.

2025-060 Similar Rules for World CC Championship and European/RoW Championship

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal.

2025-063 Introduction of New ICCF Award - ICCF Presidential Citation

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal, however future work might include adding this award to the player achievements list displayed on the website.

2025-072 Offer to Host the 2026 ICCF Congress in Germany - [Conflict with 2025-070]

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal.

2025-080 Review and Approve the Financial Reports and Plan

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal.

2025-081 Allocate Free Entries to Isolated Players

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal.

2025-082 ICCF - Financial Proposals - Action 1 - Elimination of Prize Money

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal.

2025-083 ICCF - Financial Proposals - Action 2 - Elimination of Award of CCE/CCM Medals

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal.

2025-084a ICCF - Financial Proposals - Action 3 - Congress Scope Changes

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal.

2025-084c Replace the Closing Banquette at Congress with a More Casual "Finger Lunch".

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal.

2025-085 ICCF - Financial Proposals - Action 4 - Add a Major ICCF Open Every Year

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal.

2025-087 ICCF - Financial Proposals - Action 6 - Member Federation (MF) Open Changes

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal.

2025-089 ICCF - Financial Proposals - Action 8 - Member Federation (MF) Free Games on the Server

No website development work was necessary to implement this proposal.

2025-091 Generating Revenue by Sponsoring

Implementation of 2025-091 has been postponed due to time and budget constraints.

2025-092 Generating Revenue by Donations

Implementation of 2025-092 has been postponed due to time and budget constraints.

Other Work Completed Since the 2025 Congress

- #945 Transactional emails
- #2148 Changing password should log off all devices
- #2263 Financial Reporting: Additional columns for ICCF team events
- #2369 Log Xfcc access by IP address and user
- #2485 Update Close Account Feature

- #2504 Audit log for changing rating data
- #2505 Add more validations to rating list calculation screen
- #2510 Merge account feature should be accessible by admin only
- #2515 Add instructions to create mailing page
- #2527 Change text under Silli crosstable
- #2528 Change in rating calculation
- #2589 Remove adjudication review panel functionality

Various bug fixes not detailed here.

Evaluation and Costing of the 2026 Congress Proposals

Please note that these are traditional estimates, the future use of AI might reduce the actual effort, but can currently not be estimated, as we are at the beginning of a technological singularity. All estimates have considered overhead and testing.

2026-040 Review and Approve the Financial Reports and Plan

No website development work will be necessary to implement this proposal.

2026-041 Assign a New Budget for Modernising the Website

Budget as proposal.

2026-042 Develop a New Chess Board for the ICCF Website

Budget as proposal.

2026-043 Transformative Financial Stewardship Initiative

No website development work will be necessary to implement this proposal.

2026-050 Developing and Using a Tournament Organization Committee

No website development work has been proposed; however, the process may be further consolidated by future website updates.

2026-051 Delete "typically" from ICCF Rules section 3.17.5

No website development work will be necessary to implement this proposal.

2026-052 Duration of Registration Periods for Tournaments Using Direct Entry

No website development work has been proposed; however, the process may be further consolidated by future website updates.

2026-053 Remove Inconsistency in Ratings Procedure

The estimated cost of modifying the current rating procedure is approximately €2,000.

2026-054 Committee to Investigate/Report on Viability for Running Engine Detection Software

No website development work will be necessary to implement this proposal.

2026-055 New Commissioner Position [Conflicts with 2026-058]

No website development work will be necessary to implement this proposal.

2026-056 Counting ETL Wins as Half-Points Specifically When It Comes to Earning Title Norms

The estimated cost of modifying the current procedure to calculate norms is approximately €2,000.

2026-057 Create Open Events That Are Unrated and Bar the Use of Chess Engines

No website development work will be necessary to implement this proposal.

2026-058 ICCF Assistance to Federations Deficient in Serving Their Own Players [Statute Change - 2/3] [Conflicts with 2026-055]

No website development work will be necessary to implement this proposal.

2026-059 Minimum Number of Tournaments Directed for the ICCF-IA Title

No website development work has been proposed; however, the process may be further consolidated by future website updates.

2026-060 Replacement of National Federation Voting Delegates in Exceptional Personal Circumstances

No website development work will be necessary to implement this proposal.

2026-061 New Type of Player Membership

No website development work will be necessary to implement this proposal.

2026-062 Shorten Standards for Time Controls

No website development work will be necessary to implement this proposal.

2026-065 Introduction of Blitz Tournaments

The estimated cost of implementing a new rating system specifically for blitz tournaments is approximately €5,000.

2026-066 Format of Blitz Tournaments (Only Considered if 2026-065 is Approved)

The estimated cost of implementing changes in the Triple Block time control as proposed is approximately €1,000, however if both 2026-066 and 2026-075 are approved by Congress, there will be some overlap.

2026-067 Creation of a New Position: Chess 960 Officer

No website development work will be necessary to implement this proposal.

2026-068 Creation of a New Position: Blitz Officer (Only Considered if 2026-065 is Approved)

No website development work will be necessary to implement this proposal.

2026-069 Trial Period for the Rutar Tiebreak System

No website development work has been proposed; however, the system may be more fully implemented by future website updates if the trial is successful.

2026-070 Team Silli System

The estimated cost of implementing the Team Silli System on the website is approximately €5,000.

2026-071 Tournament Results and Team Standings

The estimated cost of implementing this proposal on the website is approximately €2,000.

2026-072 Optional Use of the PCS system in all Types of ICCF Tournaments

The estimated cost of enabling the PCS system for all tournament types is approximately €1,000.

2026-073 Adding 'Overall Points' to the Prediction Criterion System

The estimated cost of enabling “Overall Points” for the PCS system is approximately €1,000.

2026-074 Allow a Limited Trial of Rated and Title Unbalanced Opening Tournaments

No website development work has been proposed; however, the system may be more fully implemented by future website updates if the trial is successful.

2026-075 Shorter Triple Block Time Controls

The estimated cost of making the proposed changes to the Triple Block System is approximately €1,000, however there is some overlap with 2026-066.

2026-077 Lifting the Suspension of the Russian Federation as a Member of ICCF

No website development work will be necessary to implement this proposal.

2026-078 Lifting the Suspension of the Belarus Federation as a Member of ICCF

No website development work will be necessary to implement this proposal.

2026-080 Amendments to the Triple Block Time Control System (TBS)

The estimated cost of making the proposed changes to the Triple Block System is approximately €5,000.

2026-081 Suspension of ICCF Players Representing Russia

No website development work will be necessary to implement this proposal.

2026-082 Suspension of ICCF Players Representing Belarus

No website development work will be necessary to implement this proposal.

2026-090 Offer to Host the 2027 ICCF Congress in Manila, Philippines [conflicts with 2026-091]

No website development work will be necessary to implement this proposal.

2026-091 Offer to Host the 2027 ICCF Congress in Plzeň, Czech Republic [Conflicts with 2026-090]

No website development work will be necessary to implement this proposal.

Acknowledgements

Once again, I would like to thank all members of the Services Committee, the Helpdesk Team, the Qualifications and Ratings Teams, and the Webmaster Team for their support. I also thank our professional consultants, Martin Bennedik and his son Max for yet again providing ICCF with an exceptional level of professional service.

Rydym yn Ffrindiau – Amici Sumus

Appendix I: Services Committee Membership 2026/27

Ex Officio Members

- **Austin Lockwood (WLS), ICCF Services Director (Chair)**
- Mats Larsson (SWE), Deputy Services Director and Helpdesk Manager
- Eric Ruch (FRA), ICCF President
- Michael Millstone (USA), ICCF General Secretary
- Uwe Staroske (GER), ICCF World Tournament Director
- Tom Biedermann (USA), ICCF Entry Commissioner
- Dennis Doren (USA), ICCF Rules Director
- Jason Bokar (USA), ICCF Marketing Director
- ICCF Finance Director (vacant)

Ratings Commission

- **Phill Beckett (ENG), Ratings Commissioner**
- Austin Lockwood (WLS)

Qualifications Commission

- **Manfred Frerichs (GER), Qualifications Commissioner**
- Austin Lockwood (WLS)
- Matjaž Pirš (BUL)

Helpdesk Team

- **Mats Larsson (SWE), Helpdesk Manager**
- Austin Lockwood (WLS)
- Michael Millstone (USA)
- Phill Beckett (ENG)

Webmaster Team

NB: The Webmaster team is responsible to the ICCF Marketing Director for website content but associated with the Services Committee for technical support.

- **Mariusz Wojnar (POL)**

Independent Professional Consultation

- Martin Bennedik
- Max Bennedik