

ICCF Tournament Rules 2006

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0. Overview

The correspondence chess tournaments of the ICCF are divided into:

- 0.1. a) Title Tournaments
- b) Promotion Tournaments,
- c) Cup Tournaments,
- d) Special Tournaments.

0.2 Normally the entry fee for each tournament will be decided by Congress. Entry to a tournament will be accepted only if it is accompanied by payment of the entry fee to the collection agency designated by the ICCF.

0.3 Unless explicitly stated otherwise each player plays one game simultaneously against each of the other players in the tournament or section; the colour will be decided by lot.

1. Title Tournaments

The ICCF Title Tournaments comprise:

- 1.0.1 a) World Correspondence Chess Championships (Individual)
- b) Ladies World Correspondence Chess Championships (Individual)
- c) Correspondence Chess Olympiads (World Championships for National Teams)
- d) Ladies Correspondence Chess Olympiads (World Championships for Ladies National Teams)

All entries for the Title Tournaments must be processed via the Member Federations. Direct entries are allowed only in exceptional cases and the Title Tournaments Commissioner will individually consider these.

1.0.2 The World Championships organised by the ICCF comprise Preliminaries, Semi-Finals, Candidates' Tournament and Final.

1.0.3 The Preliminaries, Semi-Finals and Candidates' Tournaments comprise separate sections played normally by post, by Email and by webserver. The qualifications reached in postal tournaments can be used in Email and webserver tournaments and vice versa.

1.0.4 The Preliminaries, Semi-Finals and Candidates' Tournaments are progressive tournaments. New sections of the World Championship Preliminaries, Semi-Finals and Candidates' Tournaments will be started throughout the year, as soon as there is a sufficient number of qualifiers wishing to begin play in the section, using their preferred method of transmission of moves (i.e. post, Email or webserver transmission). All kind of information with regard to the category of the tournament, title norms and promotional provisions will be given in the start documents.

1.0.5 The scheduling of World Championship Finals is the responsibility of the ICCF Title Tournaments Commissioner, in consultation with Executive Board / Congress. Announcements of the Finals will be published at the latest 4 months before they start. Entries must be sent to the ICCF Title Tournaments Commissioner at the latest at the date shown in the announcement of the Tournament. In cases of emergency, the ICCF Title Tournaments Commissioner is entitled to extend the deadline for entries or to shift forward the start of the Tournament.

1.0.6 The division into groups in the Preliminaries, Semi-Finals and Candidates' Tournaments will be done by the ICCF Title Tournaments Commissioner. For information purposes only, the ICCF Title Tournaments Commissioner will publish on the ICCF website an regularly updated overview of all players who have achieved the various qualifications ("Table of Qualifiers").

1.0.7 The qualifications for the Preliminaries, Semi-Finals and Candidates' Tournaments reached in accordance with this part of Tournament Rules (paragraphs 1.1 to 1.3) are not limited by time and can be used only once, except for the special qualification provisions based on the World Champion titles, ICCF titles or rating points achieved that can be used only once each calendar year and only at the appropriate level or stage. From one Preliminary, Semi-Final or Candidates' Tournament, it is only possible to reach one qualification for a further World Championship stage. The Ladies Grandmaster and Ladies International Master titles do not entitle their holders to participate in the World Championship Semi-Finals or Candidates' Tournament.

1.0.8 ELO ratings used in these Rules refer to the valid ELOQUERY list at the time of submitting the entry to the TTC.

1.0.9 Unless otherwise specified in the start documents, ties are broken when considering qualifications for the Preliminaries, Semi-Finals, Candidates' Tournaments and Finals.

1.0.10 On special and exceptional occasions, the ICCF Executive Board is entitled to announce special tournaments which provide qualifications for the Preliminaries, Semi-Finals, Candidates' Tournaments or Finals. The exact conditions of promotions must be fixed in the announcement of the particular Tournament. Furthermore, the ICCF Executive Board will decide on any application not covered by this regulation.

1.1 *Preliminaries of the World Correspondence Chess Championship*

1.1.1 The following will reach a full qualification to enter a Preliminary section:

(a) the participants in one of the previous or running Candidates' Tournaments (3/4-Finals) who have scored at least 40% of the possible points if they have not earned a higher qualification

(b) the participants in the previous or running Semi-Finals who scored at least 50% of the possible points

(c) those players, who, at the time of nomination have ratings less than 2400 (fixed or unfixed), are entered through their own national organisation. In each calendar year, each member Federation will be allowed to nominate 2 (two) players (quota) for the WCCC Preliminaries (or Semi-Finals). Additionally, for Federations declaring 200+ members (according to the membership fee statistics) for the previous year, 1 extra Member Federation Nomination (MFN) will be allowed, for Federations declaring 500+ members 2 extra MFN will be allowed, for 1000+ members 3 extra MFN, for 2000+ members 4 extra MFN and for 5000+ members 5 extra MFN. MFN's shall be allocated to either Preliminaries or Semi-Finals according to their ratings – those with ratings (fixed or unfixed) less than 2400 shall be allocated to Preliminaries whilst those with ratings of 2400 and above shall be allocated to Semi-Finals (Rule 1.2.2 (j)),

1.1.1

(d) Winners of ICCF World Tournaments – Master class,

(e) Any player with a rating of 2500 and above,

(f) The holders of the International Master Title with a rating above 2300,

(g) The holders of the Senior International Master Title with a rating above 2250,

(h) The holders of the Grandmaster Title,

(i) The two top finishers from the acknowledged Zonal Championships of the tournament Category below IV with 13 or less players (with 14 or more players: top three); the third and fourth placed players from the acknowledged Zonal Championships of tournament Category IV to VI with 13 or less players (with 14 or more players: places fourth and fifth).

The following will reach a half qualification to enter a Preliminary section.

(a) those players who achieve 2nd place in a Master Class group,

1.1.2

(b) those players who achieved 1st place in a 7 player Master Class group, or 2nd place in a 15-player Master Class group (old Master Class tournaments).

1.1.3 Normally a Preliminary section will consist of 13 participants.

1.1.4 Normally, a Semi-Final section will consist of 13 participants.

1.2 *Semi-Finals of the World Correspondence Chess Championship*

1.2.1 To enter a Semi-Final, a player must achieve at least one full qualification or two half qualifications.

The following will reach a full qualification to enter a Semi-Final:

(a) the participants in one of the previous or running Finals if they have not earned a higher qualification,

(b) the participants in one of the previous or running Candidates' Tournaments (3/4-Finals) who have scored at least 50% of the possible points if they have not earned a higher qualification,

(c) the participants in the previous or running Semi-Finals who scored at least 60% of the possible points but did not qualify for the Candidates' Tournament,

(d) the the top two finishers from a Preliminary section,

1.2.2 (e) the participants in a Final of the World Cup Tournament who achieved at least 60% of the possible points (regardless of the category); and/or the top two finishers in a Final of the World Cup Tournament when its Category is 6 or below;

(f) the two top finishers from the acknowledged Zonal Championships of the tournament Category IV to VI with 13 or less players (with 14 or more players: top three); the third and fourth placed players from the acknowledged Zonal Championships of tournament Category VII to IX with 13 or less players (with 14 or more players: places fourth and fifth),

(g) the holders of the Correspondence Chess International Master title with fixed ratings above 2500,

(h) the holders of the Correspondence Chess Senior International Master title with fixed ratings above 2450,

- (i) the holders of the Grandmaster Title with ratings above 2400,
 - (j) those players, who, at the time of nomination have ratings of 2400 and higher, are entered through their own national organisation (see 1.1.1c).
 - (k) those players who have a fixed rating above 2550. in the most recent rating list prior to the start date of the Semi-Final.
- 1.2.3 Normally, a Semi-Final section will consist of 13 participants.
- 1.3** *Candidates' Tournament*
- The following will be entitled to enter the Candidates' Tournament:
- The following will be entitled to enter the Candidates' Tournament:
- (a) the participants of one of the previous or running Finals who scored at least 50% of the possible points,
 - (b) the participants in the previous or running Candidates' Tournaments (3/4-Finals) who scored at least 60% of the possible points but did not qualify for the Final,
 - (c) the top two players in every Semi-Final group.
 - (d) the two top finishers from the acknowledged Zonal Championships of the tournament Category VII to IX with 13 or less players (with 14 or more players: top three); the third and fourth placed players from the acknowledged Zonal Championships of tournament Category X and above with 13 or less players (with 14 or more players: places fourth and fifth),
 - (e) the first and second placed players in a Final of the World Cup Tournament, when said Final is of Category 7 or above.
 - (f) all previous World Correspondence Chess Champions,
 - (g) the holders of the Senior International Master Title with ratings above 2525,
 - (h) the holders of the Grandmaster Title with ratings above 2475,
 - (i) those players who have a fixed rating of 2600 and above in the most recent rating list prior to the start date of the particular section of the Candidates' Tournament.
- 1.3.2 Normally, the Candidates' Tournament sections will consist of 13 participants.
- 1.4** *Final of the World Correspondence Chess Championship*
- The following will be entitled to enter the Final:
- a) Any World Champion and runner-up in a WCCC Final have the right to participate in one subsequent Final. In the case of runner-ups, ties are not broken.
 - b) the two top players from the Candidates' Tournaments (3/4-Finals).
 - c) the top two finishers from the acknowledged Zonal Championships of the tournament Category X or above with 13 or less players (with 14 or more: top three).
- 1.4.2 The Final should normally consist of 15 participants. Should the number of entered qualifiers exceed these levels, the Title Tournaments Commissioner will determine the number of participants, after a consultation with the ICCF Executive Board.
- 1.4.3 The Final qualifications could be deferred only five times, except for the former World Champions who would be entitled to enter once in any of the following Finals if they express their interest to participate and request their inclusion one month before the deadline at the latest.
- 1.4.4 Where vacancies exist for a Final, after all qualifiers wishing to play have been included, then the Executive Board may admit the next qualified players from the previous Final or Candidates. The Executive Board also has the right to grant up to two free places on the basis of extraordinary international performance.
- 1.5** *Semi - Finals of the Ladies World Correspondence Chess World Championship*
- The following will be entitled to enter a Semi-Final:
- a) the participants of one of the two previous Finals who have scored at least 30% of the possible points,
 - b) the participants of one of the two previous Semi-Finals who have scored at least 60% of the possible

points,

c) holders of the title International CC Ladies' Master and lady players who are entered through the individual national CC federations according to a quota set by the ICCF Title Tournaments Commissioner and approved by the ICCF Executive Board,

d) those lady players whose most recent published rating prior to the tournament start date, corresponds to a minimum established by the ICCF Title Tournaments Commissioner and approved by the ICCF Executive Board.

1.5.2 The assignment to the sections will be decided by the ICCF Title Tournaments Commissioner and approved by the Executive Board.

1.5.3 Normally, Semi-Final sections will comprise at least 9 players.

1.6 *Final of the Ladies World Correspondence Chess World Championship*

1.6.1 The Final will have at least 11 players.

The following will be entitled to enter the Final:

- 1.6.2 a) the top three finishers from the previous Final,
b) the winners and runners-up in each Semi-Final section

1.6.3 No ties are broken when considering qualifications for the Final.

If several players with the right to take part drop out, the ICCF Title Tournaments Commissioner may admit the next qualified players from the previous Final or Semi-Final. The Executive Board also has the right to grant up to two free places on the basis of extraordinary international performance.

1.7 *Correspondence Chess Olympiad (World Championship For National Teams)*

The Correspondence Chess Olympiads will be played separately as team tournaments and may be played by post, by Email or by webserver. Normally, the Correspondence Chess Olympiads played by post will be played in a three-year cycle. Normally, the Correspondence Chess Olympiads played by Email or webserver will be played in a two-year cycle.

1.7.1

1.7.2 The number of players in a team will be set out in the announcement.

The tournaments will consist of a preliminary round and a final round. In the tournaments played normally by post, the preliminary round shall not continue longer than three years. In the tournaments played by Email and by webserver, the preliminary round will not continue longer than two years.

1.7.3

1.7.4 Normally, the final round will not consist of more than 13 teams.

Those ICCF member countries which have met their financial commitments are entitled to take part with one team each. At the discretion of the ICCF Executive Board, combined teams consisting of players from those countries with low levels of correspondence chess activity may be entered.

1.7.5

The first three teams of a final will qualify for the next final round. The qualifications from tournaments played normally by post and from Email tournaments and from webserver tournaments are not interchangeable.

1.7.6

The right to be promoted from the preliminaries as well as other details shall be determined by the ICCF Title Tournaments Commissioner and approved by the Executive Board at the start of the tournament.

1.7.7

1.8 *Ladies' Correspondence Chess Olympiad (World Championship For Ladies' National Teams)*

The Ladies' Correspondence Chess Olympiads shall be played as team tournaments normally played by post, by Email or by webserver. The way of transmission of moves will be decided in the announcement.

1.8.1

1.8.2 The number of players in a team will be set out in the announcement.

1.8.2

1.8.3 The tournaments will consist of a preliminary round and a final round

1.8.3

1.8.4 Normally, the final round will consist of not more than 11 teams.

1.8.4

Those ICCF member countries which have met their financial commitments are entitled to take part with one team each. At the discretion of the ICCF Executive Board, combined teams consisting of players from those countries with low levels of correspondence chess activity may be entered.

1.8.5

1.8.6 The first four teams of the each final will qualify for the next final round.

1.8.6

The right to be promoted from the preliminaries as well as other details will be determined by the ICCF Title Tournaments Commissioner and approved by the Executive Board at the start of the tournament.

1.8.7

2. Promotion Tournaments

The promotion tournaments will be played in 3 classes:

- 2.1 a) Open class,
b) Higher class,
c) Master class.

2.2 Master class tournaments will consist of 11 player sections. Higher and Open class shall have 7 players per section. All correspondence chess players are eligible to participate. Correspondence chess players from non-ICCF member countries will have to enter via the Direct Entry programme and they are eligible to take

part in the World Championship.

- 2.3 Simultaneous participation in promotion tournaments of different classes is not allowed; however simultaneous participation in several promotion tournaments of the same class is allowed.
- 2.4 Every section winner in promotion tournaments has the right to participate in the next higher class.
- 2.5 Any player may begin in Open Class as they wish. Entry into the Higher class or into the Master class, if desired, must be accompanied by a statement of qualification made by the appropriate national correspondence chess organisation

3. World Cup Tournaments

- 3.1 A World Cup tournament will normally be started every second year.
- 3.2 Each round will be completed in two years.
- 3.3 Each group will consist of 7-11 players in the preliminary round; 9-13 in the intermediate and 9-15 in the final round. Each player plays one game with every player of his group simultaneously.
- 3.4 All groups of the preliminary and of the intermediate rounds start on the same day.
- 3.5 Only the group winner (ties to be decided by points evaluation) will be promoted to the next round. The group winners of the preliminary round and of the intermediate round win a prize. Prizes will be awarded to half the participants in the final round.
- 3.6 The winner of the final round has the right to take part in the final round of the next correspondence chess World Cup tournament without paying any entry fee. Participants in the final round have the right to take part in the intermediate round of the next correspondence chess World Cup tournament.
- 3.7 Additionally, participants in a World Cup Final can achieve rights to participate in World Correspondence Chess Championship Semifinals and/or Candidate sections [see 1.2.2(e) and 1.3.1(e)].

4. Special Tournaments

- 4.1 Special tournaments e.g. Master Norm Tournaments, Memorial tournaments, Thematic tournaments, etc., will be announced separately by the ICCF Executive Board.
- 4.2 International correspondence chess tournaments by national correspondence chess organisations require the approval of the ICCF Executive Board before their announcement. Invitations to individual players for such authorised tournaments should be made with the permission of the national correspondence chess organisation of which the player in question is a member.

5. Tie Breaking

- 5.1 If tie-breaking is to be used, the following will apply for two or more players, or two or more teams with the same number of points in tournaments organised by the ICCF:
Individual tournaments:
 - 5.2 a) points evaluation by the Sonneborn-Berger-System,
b) results of the tied players against each other.Team Tournaments:
 - 5.3 a) tie breaking on the basis of team results (2 additional points for a won match, 1 additional point for a drawn match),
b) the results of the tied teams against each other.
c) better individual result on bd.1 (following bd.2, 3 etc.)
- 5.4 If necessary, the organiser of the tournament is entitled to set up further tie-breaking procedures. These procedures must be indicated in the start list at the latest.
- 5.5 If players or teams are still tied after all relevant tie-breaking procedures have been used, the players or teams will be considered equal.

6. Withdrawal & Substitutions

- 6.1 Players who need to withdraw must forward an application to the Tournament Director giving adequate reasons for the withdrawal. All opponents must be informed of the withdrawal and that the Tournament Director has been notified. A player who withdraws before the start of the tournament and before starting any game will incur no penalties.
Tournament Director will accept the following reasons for the withdrawal as adequate:
 - 6.2 a) Death
b) Serious and debilitating illness which make it impossible for the player to continue play for a period of at least 3 months.
c) Circumstances outside the control of the player which make it impossible for him to continue play for a period of at least 3 months (Wars, civil unrest, natural disasters and other similar circumstances)
d) Personal circumstances of the player which make it impossible for him to continue play for a period of at

least 3 months. These circumstances may be varied but must be detailed in full at the time of application.

Approved applications result in the withdrawal of that player from all ICCF-approved events in which they are participating. TD's/TO's will advise the ICCF World Tournament Director, who will maintain a record of all such applications and notify the player's federation and the Ratings Commissioner must also be informed.

- 6.3 Players who are subsequently found to have abused the privileges afforded by this Rule will automatically receive a suspension from all ICCF events for a period of 5 years. Players who are granted an "Accepted Withdrawal" may not enter any ICCF event for at least 6 months afterwards. When submitting applications under paragraph. d) players must provide full details of their games to that point. Whenever possible, such details should also be provided for applications under paragraphs. a) - c).

- 6.4 If the reason for the withdrawal is considered inadequate and not accepted by the Tournament Director, or a second withdrawal according to paragraph 6.3 occurs within a short time, the case will be forwarded to the respective Tournament Office for review, and consultation with the appropriate national federation. If the withdrawal application is confirmed to be inadequate and not accepted, the player will be given the option to continue the games. A player who nevertheless withdraws is considered as a "Not Accepted Withdrawal" in all ICCF-approved events in which he is participating and may not enter any ICCF events for at least 12 months. Additionally, a bond will be paid on entry to the next tournament to be held by the federation initially collecting the entry. This will be at least double the entry fee and will be refunded if the conduct has been regular at the conclusion of the tournament; otherwise, it will be forfeited and the ICCF will receive an amount equal to its portion of the entry fee. The federation will inform the Tournament Office that the player is playing under a performance bond.

- 6.5 If a player withdraws "silently", i.e. without informing either his opponents or the Tournament Director, he may be penalised by being suspended from tournament entry for two years. When he is re-admitted to the tournaments, he will pay a bond according to paragraph 6.4. A second silent withdrawal will result in a minimum five year suspension.

- 6.6 A player who pays the bond and concludes a tournament in accordance with the rules, will be exempt from paying further bonds as long as his tournaments are completed normally.

The games will be conducted according to the Tournament and Playing Rules of the ICCF plus the following additional rules:

- a) Exceeding the time limit is valid only if it is confirmed by the Tournament Director (if a player agrees that he has exceeded the first time limit, this takes effect only after confirmation by the Tournament Director),
- b) If a player stops play, or if the Tournament Director has awarded the first exceeding of time and considers that an orderly continuation of play is threatened (e.g. sickness, special leave beyond the prescribed norm, etc.) the Tournament Director can call upon the Team Captain to replace this player within a prescribed time (at most two months),
- c) If a player dies, the Tournament Director will decide whether his games will be adjudicated or whether the Team Captain shall name a substitute player,
- d) A month after the start, the Team Captain will ensure that all players have begun play. If a player of a team has not begun play against all opponents within two months after the starting date despite written reminders by his opponents, and his Team Captain has not informed the Tournament Director within this time that a substitute player was placed on the board, then the team will lose the game on that board.
- 6.7 e) In instances where a player is substituted, the replacement player may, if none of the games have been completed and also if the average number of moves played in all the games is less than 10, request to be granted "Replacement" status. This may be granted only with the agreement of the Tournament Director and the consent of the Qualifications Commissioner and will entitle the replacement player to have all his/her results rated and also to become eligible to achieve Title norms. In instances where "Replacement" status is granted, the Tournament Category shall be recalculated and Title Norms shall be revised if necessary. If the recalculated Tournament Category is less than that at the start of the event then the Tournament Category (and Title Norms) shall remain unchanged. However, with regard to qualification for the GM Norm, the number of GM's/SIM's listed at the start of the event shall remain unchanged regardless of any change to the Tournament Category. In instances where a player is substituted and the replacement player chooses not to seek "Replacement" status and also where it is no longer possible for the replacement player to achieve "Replacement" status, the Tournament Category and Title Norms shall remain unchanged and it shall not be possible for the replacement player to achieve any Title Norms. However, in such instances, the replacement player shall be rated only in those games which end in results favourable to his/her rating. Those results which are unfavourable to the replacement player's rating shall be credited to the original player who was replaced.
- f) The Team Captain may demand all documents from a substituted player. If this is not possible, he has the right to request them (inter alia, the progress of the game) from the opponent team captains. When making such a request, the reason for it must be given.
- g) In team tournaments where several teams play over several boards, the allocation of colours will be so arranged that the team which has drawn 1 on board 1 will have white against those teams which have drawn an even number and a change of colour will always alternate in the direction of board and player.

7. Rating Numbers

7.1 It is the sincere wish of the ICCF to award equivalent titles for equivalent achievement. Under the ICCF rating system each player obtains a rating based upon a method of statistical probability, calculated from tournament results over a period of many years. The qualification norms for awarding titles in a tournament are based upon an average of the individual ratings of the participants.

The tournaments which are taken into the rating system are:

- a) All ICCF tournaments except thematic tournaments,
- b) principal zonal tournaments, team championships, Master Class, Higher Class and Open class promotion tournaments,
- 7.2 c) all such national tournaments which require a qualification from master class, as well as the final of a national championship, team championship or cup final. Based on an application from the national federation, preliminaries for a national championship may also be included,
- d) individual and team tournaments authorised by the ICCF-Congress or Executive Board
- e) friendly matches between countries.

7.3 Each player who has completed games in the tournaments referred to in 7.2 obtains a rating. This rating will be published only if the player has completed at least 12 games. A rating based on at least 30 completed games is a "fixed" rating.

7.4 The rating calculation procedure would use players' ratings as at the start of a tournament for those players with a published rating in the applicable ratings list. For newer players, FIDE ratings may be used if available, failing which a player would be regarded as having a rating equal to the tournament level.

7.5 A new rating list will be released twice each year, in which the results of games reported during the previous rating period have been calculated. The rating periods are January-June and July-December, respectively. These lists will be released on October 1st and April 1st, respectively, and will be made available on the ICCF website.

The rating list will contain:

- a) the effective date (April-September and October-March, respectively),
- 7.6 b) a list of rated events,
- c) the name and federation of each player with at least 12 rated games,
- d) the ICCF title held by each player listed,
- e) the current rating of each player listed,
- f) distinguish marks for inactive players.

7.7 Players who appeared on previous lists but who do not qualify for a rating because they have been inactive are nevertheless considered currently at their most recently published rating. Players will be considered inactive if they do not finish a rateable game in a rating period. Inactive players will continue to be shown for five years after being considered inactive.

8. Titles

The ICCF awards the following titles:

- a) Correspondence Chess World Champion,
- b) Correspondence Chess Ladies' World Champion,
- c) Correspondence Chess Grandmaster,
- d) Senior International Correspondence Chess Master,
- 8.1 e) International Correspondence Chess Master,
- f) Correspondence Chess Ladies Grandmaster,
- g) International Correspondence Chess Ladies' Master,
- h) International Arbiter of the ICCF

In addition there are classifications according to paragraph 2.1. In team tournaments (e.g. Correspondence Chess Olympiads) substitute players may only acquire title qualifications when not more than 10 moves have been played in the games taken over.

8.2 The title "Correspondence Chess World Champion" is awarded to the winner of the World Championship Final (Individual). Each World Champion should be numbered according to the cycle being played and he/she retains with this title forever.

8.3 The title "Correspondence Chess Ladies' World Champion" is awarded to the winner of the World Correspondence Chess Ladies' Championship Final (Individual). Each Ladies' World Champion should be numbered according to the cycle being played and she retains with this title forever.

The title "Correspondence Chess Grandmaster" is not limited in time and is awarded to:

- 8.4 a) those players who gain places 1-3 in the WC final,
- b) the player who has the best result on board 1 in the final of the CC Olympiad,

- c) those players who gain at least two grandmaster results in international title tournaments with a total of at least 24 games,
- d) those players for whom the national federation makes an appropriately qualified application. For this a two-third's majority vote of a Congress must be obtained.

A Grandmaster title based upon results under c) will not be awarded unless at least five of the players in the tournament(s) have been grandmasters or players with a fixed rating of at least 2600. However, of this five-player quota a maximum of two may be substituted by two SIM players each.

The title "Senior International Correspondence Chess Master" is not limited in time and is awarded to:

- 8.5 a) those players who gain at least two senior master results in international title tournaments with a total of at least 24 games; however one or more international master result over a total maximum of 14 games in an event or events which started or were approved prior to the Daytona 2000 Congress, will count towards a Senior International Master title.
- b) those players for whom the national federation makes an appropriately qualified application. For this, a two-third's majority vote of a Congress must be obtained.

The title "International Correspondence Chess Master" is not limited in time and is awarded to:

- 8.6 a) those players who qualify for the World Championship Final or gain a master result in a ¾-Final (Candidates' tournament),
- b) the player who takes first place in the World Correspondence Chess Ladies' Championship,
- c) the player who takes first place in the ICCF World Cup Tournament Final,
- d) those players who gain two or more master results in international title tournaments with a total of at least 24 games,
- e) those players for whom their national federation makes an appropriately qualified application. For this a two-third' majority vote of the Congress must be obtained.

The title of "Correspondence Chess Ladies Grandmaster" is not limited in time and is awarded to:

- 8.7 a) those players who gain places 1-3 in the World Ladies' Championship,
- b) the player who has the best result on board 1 in the Final of the Correspondence Chess Ladies' Olympiad,
- c) those players who achieve two ore more Ladies' Grandmaster Results in international title tournaments with a total of at least 24 games
- d) those players for who their national federation makes an appropriately qualified application. For this a two-thirds majority vote of Congress must be obtained.

The title "Correspondence Chess Ladies Master" in not limited and is awarded to:

- 8.8 a) those players in the World Correspondence Chess Ladies' Championship Final who score at least 60% of the possible points,
- b) those players in the World Correspondence Chess Ladies' Olympiad Final who score at least 60% of the possible points on board 1,
- c) those players who achieve two or more ladies' master results in international title tournaments with a total of at least 24 games,
- d) those lady players for whom their national federation makes an appropriately qualified application. For this a two-thirds' majority vote of the Congress must be obtained.

The title "International Arbiter of the ICCF" is not limited in time and will be awarded:

- 8.9 a) for four year's successful work as Tournament Director of the ICCF promotion and/or title tournaments without a break supervising a minimum of 1,000 games.
- b) for six year's successful work as Tournament Director of the ICCF promotion and/or title tournaments with a break, supervising a minimum of 1,000 games.

The Arbiter's Committee (ACO) will support the award of titles based on substantiated qualifications prior to the 1,000 game requirement.

- 8.10 Every title holder receives a certificate which is awarded by Congress.
- 8.11 8.11 Submissions for the posthumous award of ICCF Titles may only be made not more than 2 years following a nominee's death.

9. Rules for International Team Tournaments

- 9.1 International team tournaments must be conducted by a Tournament Director.
- 9.2 Each team must have a team captain.
The tournament notices should contain:
- 9.3 a) the name of the organisation which is promoting the tournament,
- b) the teams entitled to take part in the tournament and the condition of selection,
- c) the conditions for conducting the tournament: the maximum number of teams in the preliminary round groups, the semi-finals and finals, regulations for admission to the next higher round,

- d) the number of boards in each team,
- e) the number of games to be played at each board,
- f) the rules for the substitution of players,
- g) the starting date and the intended concluding date of the tournament,
- h) the name of the Tournament Director.

9.4 The Tournament Director will maintain contact with the Team Captains. Direct contact with each player is not desirable except when it is unavoidably necessary.

9.5 In the case of disputes the Team Captains should make every effort to come to agreement with each other and only if this fails, to refer the matter to the Tournament Director. However the Tournament Director remains responsible for the conduct and progress of the tournament and may intervene directly if necessary.

The games will be conducted according to the Tournament and Playing Rules of the ICCF plus the following additional rules:

- a) Exceeding the time limit is valid only if it is confirmed by the Tournament Director (if a player agrees that he has exceeded the first time limit, this takes effect only after confirmation by the Tournament Director),
- b) If a player stops play, or if the Tournament Director has awarded the first exceeding of time and considers that an orderly continuation of play is threatened (e.g. sickness, special leave beyond the prescribed norm, etc.) the Tournament Director can call upon the Team Captain to replace this player within a prescribed time (at most two months),
- 9.6 c) If a player dies, the Tournament Director will decide whether his games will be adjudicated or whether the Team Captain shall name a substitute player,
- d) A month after the start, the Team Captain will ensure that all players have begun play. If a player of a team has not begun play against all opponents within two months after the starting date despite written reminders by his opponents, and his Team Captain has not informed the Tournament Director within this time that a substitute player was placed on the board, then the team will lose the game on that board.
- e) The Team Captain may demand all documents from a substituted player. If this is not possible, he has the right to request them (inter alia, the progress of the game) from the opponent team captains. When making such a request, the reason for it must be given.
- f) In team tournaments where several teams play over several boards, the allocation of colours will be so arranged that the team which has drawn 1 on board 1 will have white against those teams which have drawn an even number and a change of colour will always alternate in the direction of board and player

10. Players' Eligibility

- 10.1 A player's Member Federation is normally the federation of his / her country of citizenship or residence.
- 10.2 When players move country of permanent residence and wish to change federation, they may do this with the mutual consent of the respective federations.
- 10.3 When the transfer is approved, the new Member Federation shall notify the ICCF Ratings Commissioner. The player's ICCF Identification Number and ratings history stay with the player regardless of the change in Member Federation.
- 10.4 A player may appeal to the Arbitration Commission (whose decision would be final) if there is an objection to the transfer.

11. Live display of games

Provided that it is not stated otherwise in the tournament announcement and/or in the start documents, any player is allowed to publish or submit for publishing on the internet or elsewhere any unfinished games or positions played by him/her under the conditions that:

- 11.1 all his/her games in the tournament are already different from each other,
the game (position) is demonstrated with a delay of at least 3 moves,
the URL of the subject website is given,
the date of the last update is mentioned,
his/her opponents involved, officially agree with the live-publishing of their game and declare this to the Tournament Director.
- 11.2 The Tournament Director is not expected to check player's private websites regularly. However, if his/her attention is drawn to a violation of this rule by another person, he shall investigate.
- 11.3 When a player violates this guideline for the first time, then the TD shall not apply any sanctions, but simply order the change of the status of the published game according to this rule.
- 11.4 When a player violates this rule for a second time in the same tournament, the player shall be penalised by 10 extra days added to his time of reflection in all games of the respective tournament.
- 11.5 When a player violates this rule for a third time in the same tournament, the player shall be disqualified from this tournament and all his/her remaining unfinished games shall be scored as losses.

- 11.6 When a player violates this rule repeatedly in various tournaments, the World Tournament Director is authorised to ban this player from ICCF play for 2 years.
- 11.7 The jurisdiction to deal with appeals concerning violations of this rule is designated to the Appeals Commission (Other ICCF Rules).

These Rules were adopted by the ICCF Congress Villa La Angostura 2005 and take effect from 1.1.2006