

# REGULATIONS FOR THE NATO CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

(As approved by the International Military Chess Committee in Leopoldsburg, Belgium, on October 26, 2001, last version in Koege, October 21, 2010)

## 1. Organisation

- 1.1. The NATO Chess Championship, henceforth referred to as the Championship, is the principal tournament governed by the International Military Chess Committee.
- 1.2. The Championship is held in the second half of each calendar year.
- 1.3. The Championship is organised each year by a Nation that is a member of NATO and has taken part in previous Championships on a regular basis.
- 1.4. In order to be able to organise a Championship, a Nation must present itself as a candidate to the International Military Chess Committee. In principle, a Nation can not be appointed to organise a Championship after the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of the year that Championship is supposed to be held.
- 1.5. After the appointment, the organising Nation shall form an organising committee. One member of this committee shall act as its contact or spokesperson for the International Military Chess Committee and for Nations willing to participate in that Championship.
- 1.6. Not later than 6 months before the start of the Championship, the organising committee must give the International Military Chess Committee information about:
  - a. the venue;
  - b. the dates of the start and finish of the Championship and a rough outline of the intended program;
  - c. arrangements for participating teams and (playing and non-playing) officials.
- 1.7. Not later than 5 months before the start of the Championship, the organizing committee shall send invitations to all Nations mentioned in Paragraph 2.1., as well as known team captains and/or officials who were in any way involved in previous Championships.
- 1.8. Not later than 1 month before the start of the Championship every Nation, or appointed team captain for that Nation, must inform the organising committee of its acceptance of the invitation.
- 1.9. At the same time, if possible, the team captains of the Nations that have entered, must notify the following details to the organising committee:
  - a. number of players and (playing and non playing) officials;
  - b. name, initials and (if possible) rank/function of each person;
  - c. FIDE and/or national rating of each player (according to the most recent FIDE and/or national rating list);
  - d. estimated time of arrival at the venue.

## **2. Participants**

- 2.1. The following Nations are allowed to enter in the Championship:
  - a. NATO member States;
  - b. States that are in the process of becoming NATO member States;
  - c. States with which NATO has formed a special relationship (to be approved by both the International Military Chess Committee and the organising committee).
- 2.2. The following persons are allowed to participate in the Championship:
  - a. members of the armed forces of the participating Nations;
  - b. persons who are not members of the armed forces but are employed, on a permanent basis, by the Ministries of Defence of the participating Nations.
- 2.3. A person who has resigned from the armed forces, or is not employed any more by the Ministry of Defence, of a participating Nation, who took part in the National Defence Chess Championship of the same calendar year and whose date of resignation lies no more than 1 year before the date of the first round of the Championship in question, is also allowed to participate, as a team member, in that Championship.
- 2.4. A participating team consists of no more than 6 players.
- 2.5. Other persons from participating Nations may, at their request and after approval by the International Military Chess Committee, participate in the Championship both individually and as members of a „NATO team“. In giving this approval, the International Military Chess Committee is not bound by the rules stated in Paragraphs 2.2. and 2.3. These persons are not eligible for winning any prize stated in Paragraph 4.4.

## **3. The NATO Chess Championship**

- 3.1. The NATO Chess Championship has a duration of no more than 5 workdays.
- 3.2. The Championship consists of 7 rounds. No more than 2 rounds are to be played on the same day.
- 3.3. The Championship consists of an Opening Ceremony, a Closing Ceremony and a photo session. During these events, participating players and/or officials who are members of armed forces are obliged to wear their daily uniforms. Other participating players and/or officials are obliged to wear corresponding attire. The organising committee may ask participating military and civilian players and/or officials to wear uniforms or corresponding attire on other occasions.
- 3.4. Before the start of a Championship a meeting will take place between the International Military Chess Committee, the organising committee and the team captains. During this meeting, decisions will be taken on at least the following issues:
  - a. the forming of an appeals committee for the championship, which committee (in principle) will consist of one player per each participating nation;
  - b. approval of the Championship program and domestic regulations.

#### 4. Tournament regulations

- 4.1. The Championship is being played in accordance with the FIDE Laws of Chess approved by the last General Assembly to date.
- 4.2. The Championship is an individual, Swiss competition. The winner of the Championship will be named NATO Chess Champion.
- 4.3. The Championship is a team competition as well. The four best individual scores of a participating Nation will count for the team score. The nation of the winning team will be named NATO Chess Team Champion.
- 4.4. There will be prizes for the three best individual players and for the three best teams.
- 4.5. There may be other prizes, given by the organising committee, such as for the most spectacular game per round, a beauty prize or a prize for the unluckiest player of the tournament.
- 4.6. The tournament pairings are done by a universally recognized computer pairing program, if possible endorsed by FIDE. The pairings will take place well before the start of each round in order to give the players time to prepare.
- 4.7. No player will meet a player of his own nationality. The players forming the „NATO team” will not play against each other, or against players of the same nationality.
- 4.8. To derogate from FIDE Article 6.6 the regulations of the NATO Chess Championship allow an absence time of 30 (thirty) minutes from the beginning of the round before the game will be declared lost for the absent player(s).
- 4.9. The time limit for each player per game is 40 moves in 2 hours, after that 30 minutes for finishing the game. There are, in principle, no adjournments.
- 4.10. Each player is required to record the whole game (his own moves and those of his opponent), move after move, as clearly and legibly as possible and in the algebraic notation. After the first time control (40 moves) both players are obliged to complete their score sheets. As soon as one of the players has only 5 minutes left to the last time control, the FIDE rules for Rapid Chess shall apply to him (and only to him), with no requirement for recording the moves.
- 4.11. Immediately after finishing the game, each player has to confirm its correctness by putting his signature on both original score sheets. The originals of both score sheets are to be handed over to the controllers as soon as possible.
- 4.12. In case of equal results in the final ranking, the following rules come into effect:
  - a. Individual ranking:
    - Buchholz;
    - refined Buchholz;
    - direct comparison;
    - number of wins;
    - number of wins with Black;
    - decision by casting.

- b. Team ranking:
  - Buchholz;
  - refined Buchholz;
  - the results of the fifth or (after that) sixth player are considered (only if present in all the teams involved);
  - decision by casting.

## **5. Responsibilities of the organising committee during the Championship**

- 5.1. The organising committee of a NATO Chess Championship is responsible for the course of that Championship.
- 5.2. The organising committee will take care of proper and sufficient food, lodging and other facilities in connection with the physical well being of the players and officials.
- 5.3. For each player and official, the organising committee will provide:
  - a. at the beginning of the Championship, a booklet with all the necessary information about the Championship;
  - b. after each round, a tournament bulletin with, at least, all the games of that round and the various standings;
  - c. at the end of the Championship, a tournament book with, at least, all games played and the final standings.
- 5.4. The organising committee shall do its utmost to promote the Championship, e.g.:
  - a. provide press coverage;
  - b. follow FIDE regulations in order to make the results of the players count with their FIDE and/or national ratings;
  - c. (if possible) publish the games of the Championship on the Internet.

## **6. Miscellaneous**

- 6.1. In case of events not covered by these regulations, the International Military Chess Committee is authorized to give a ruling.