



# Arbiters & Organisers Commission



1 October 2014

Dear fellow arbiter

During the World Youth Chess Championships held recently in Durban, the AOC used the opportunity to sit with all the South African arbiters at the event for close on two hours to discuss the future of arbiters in South Africa and the role of the AOC going forward.

To start off it might be a good idea to mention who the members of the AOC are:

- Gunther van den Bergh
- Rudolph Willemse
- Ronald King
- Johan Veldsman
- Mark Lewis
- Connie van der Walt
- Justice Tlamama
- Wesley Masoga

As the committee has just been established we still need to appoint our office bearers. The AOC would like to thank Gunther and Johan who to date has done a tremendous job to enhance the position of arbiters this year.

The meeting was not to make decisions as all arbiters could not be there, but rather to identify the most important matters that we need to address on behalf of arbiters and to receive input on these matters for later consideration and implementation. The most important matter to come out of this meeting was of course the rating and selection of arbiters for tournaments.



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## RATING & SELECTION

The current Arbiters Grand Prix (AGPX), although flawed, gave us our first basis to work off. What is important to realise from the get go is that any selection process will have to consist of a quantitative as well as qualitative selection process. The quantitative screen must be totally objective, while the qualitative screen will by its nature include a level of subjectiveness.

It is recommended that the AGPX with changes based on your suggestions, be used as the quantitative screen. This will create the published ranking of arbiters. It also means that in order to be selected for an event, you need to pass the AGPX screen to be considered. Passing the screen means to be within the top rated arbiters, but even being number one on the list does not guarantee selection as this is where the qualitative screen comes in.

In order to ensure the effectiveness of the AGPX, your input on the factors and the weightings to be used in future is required. Any criticism on the existing AGPX must be accompanied by recommendations on how to rectify it.

For the qualitative screen a selection committee will be nominated for each tournament. It will be their task to put forth the names of the Chief Arbiter, Deputy Chief Arbiters and the Deputy Arbiters to be selected for an event. The selection committee will consist of the AOC members who are not applying for that tournament and will include members of the LOC.

It was recommended that the Chief Arbiter be selected from a panel of arbiters that is deemed to be capable of running national events. A similar panel for Deputy Chief Arbiters need to be established. These panels will have to be published. Where possible the existing rule regarding the origin of the Chief and Deputy Chief Arbiters will be complied with.

It was recommended that the Chief Arbiter and Deputy Chief Arbiters be appointed on a rotational basis in order to increase the knowledge pool amongst arbiters. It was also recommended that the Chief Arbiter for the following year's tournament be appointed as Deputy Chief Arbiter for the present year to ensure the necessary experience.



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Please note that the AOC through the selection committee will be responsible for the appointment of arbiters for all Chessa sanctioned tournaments. The list of Chessa tournaments are:

- SA Junior Chess Team & Individual Championships
- SA Junior Closed
- SA Open
- SA Closed
- SA Women's Open

The arbiters for regional and private tournaments will be appointed by the LOC of the specific tournament provided they adhere to the requirements in the ratings regulations for such an event. In addition it was recommended that a tournament could not be rated if there wasn't at least one arbiter per 100 players. Any other recommendations on the selection process will be welcomed.

## CLASSIFICATION OF ARBITERS

Given the current FIDE arbiter and International Arbiters qualification by FIDE, it was asked whether the local arbiters' qualifications added any additional value or should be discontinued. It was recommended that one local level of arbiter (maybe called a National Arbiter to fall in with FIDE naming) be retained for those arbiters who cannot attend FIDE arbiter training seminars. Where FIDE arbiters need to be older than 21, it was recommended that the qualifying age for NA would be 18 years. A person could write the exam and work towards acquiring the norms, but would be a candidate NA until the age of 18. If this is approved, all existing Provincial Arbiters under the age of 18 will become Candidate NA's.

Tournament and School Supervisors would in future write the same exam as NA's but will require a lower mark and only be required to pass certain sections of the paper. As with all the other matters any additional comments or input on this matter would be welcomed.



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## FORMS & NORMS

There was a request that it be made possible to complete all forms on the website through an electronic login. The quality of reporting also came under the spotlight and arbiters are requested to complete more detailed reports. Incidents on these reports will be made available to all arbiters as a learning experience and to avoid duplication of mistakes. Three such incidents at the World Youth will be distributed later.

All tournaments whose forms are not received and completed correctly within 14 days of the date of the tournament will not be taken into consideration for the APX. IT was also recommended that such tournaments should not be rated.

## STANDARDS & REGULATIONS

The AOC is responsible for the standards & regulations for arbiters as well as the running of tournaments in South Africa. It was suggested that a recommended fee to be paid to arbiters be published as a guideline to organisers. As mentioned it was recommended that for a tournament to be rated a minimum of 1 arbiter per 100 should be appointed for the tournament.

It was agreed that a formal dress code should be adopted. At National Events a blazer and shirt would be required and it was recommended that the AOC develop a blazer and shirt for all arbiters together with a name tag. For all other tournaments it is required that arbiters would conform to a dress code which lends itself to a position of authority and refrain from wearing shorts and sandals.

As you can see it is quite a mouthful of suggestions already, but if you have anything to add or have any other matter you wish to discuss, do not hesitate to email me at:

[Ronald.king@psg.co.za](mailto:Ronald.king@psg.co.za). It is our intention to publish any new ratings regulations or similar matters in January of a year with implementation from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July that year.

Regards

**Ronald N King**