



## International Correspondence Chess Federation

# TOURNAMENT RULES

Valid from 01/04/2017

## Contents

0. Overview .....	2
1. Championship Tournaments.....	3
1.1. Preliminaries of the World Correspondence Chess Championship.....	4
1.2. Semi-Finals of the World Correspondence Chess Championship.....	5
1.3. Candidates' Tournament.....	6
1.4. Final of the World Correspondence Chess Championship .....	7
1.5. Semi - Finals of the Ladies World Correspondence Chess World Championship.....	8
1.6. Final of the Ladies World Correspondence Chess World Championship .....	8
1.7. Correspondence Chess Olympiad (World Championship For National Teams) .....	9
1.8. Ladies' Correspondence Chess Olympiad (World Championship For Ladies' National Teams).....	9
2. Promotion Tournaments.....	10
3. World Cup Tournaments.....	11
4. Norm Tournaments.....	12
5. Champions League .....	13
6. Special Tournaments.....	14
6.1. The ICCF Memorial <2300 Team Tournament.....	14
7. Tie Breaking.....	14
8. Withdrawal & Substitutions.....	15
9. Rating Numbers .....	18
10. Titles.....	19
11. Rules for International Team Tournaments Including Friendly Matches .....	25

12. Rules for Invitational Tournaments .....	26
13. Players' Eligibility.....	27
14. Live Display of Games .....	28
15. Appeals.....	28
Appendix 1. ....	29
The Working Rules of the Ratings System .....	29
Appendix 2. ....	31
International Correspondence Chess Title Regulations* .....	31

## 0. Overview

0.1 The correspondence chess tournaments of the ICCF are divided into:

- (a) Championship Tournaments,
- (b) Promotion Tournaments,
- (c) Cup Tournaments,
- (d) Norm Tournaments,
- (e) Champions League,
- (f) 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.

0.4 For multi-round and promotion tournaments, a positive score is required for a first place finish to be awarded. If no player in these type of tournaments achieves a positive score, then no player is awarded qualification to the next round or to the next higher class.

0.5 The statements in this document are to be interpreted as rules, not just as guidelines.

## 1. Championship Tournaments

1.0.1 The ICCF Championship Tournaments comprise:

- (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)

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

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

1.0.4 The scheduling of World Championship Finals is the responsibility of the ICCF Title Tournament Commissioner, in consultation with Executive Board / Congress. Announcements of the Finals will be published at the latest 4 months before they start.

1.0.5 The Preliminaries, Semi-Finals, and Candidates' Tournaments are each started annually on a fixed date. Entries must be sent to the ICCF Title Tournament Commissioner at the latest at the date shown in the announcement of the tournament. In cases of emergency, the ICCF Title Tournament Commissioner is entitled to extend the deadline for entries or to shift forward the start of the tournament. The division into groups in the Preliminaries, Semi-Finals, and Candidates' tournaments will be done by the ICCF Title Tournament Commissioner with the aim of producing groups of equal strength. All necessary information with regard to title norms, and promotional provisions will be given prior to the start of the tournament.

1.0.6 For information purposes only, the ICCF Title Tournament Commissioner will publish on the ICCF website a 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) can be used only once, except for the special qualification provisions based on the World Champion titles, ICCF titles, or rating points achieved: these 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. Qualifications based

on results in tournaments are valid for 3 years from the end of the tournament in which the qualification was obtained. Each additional qualification achieved by a player at the same level will be valid for one additional year (for example, a second qualification will be valid for 4 years from the end of the tournament in which the qualification was obtained). 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 any of those rating lists published in the preceding 12-months.

1.0.9 Ties are broken when considering qualifications for the WCCC Preliminaries, Semi-Finals, Candidates' Tournaments, and Finals.

1.0.10 In each calendar year, each member Federation will be allowed to nominate two players for the WCCC Preliminaries or Semi-Finals. Additionally, for Federations declaring 200+ members or associated players (according to the membership fee statistics) for the previous year, 1 extra Member Federation Nomination (MFN) will be allowed, for Federations declaring 500+ members or associated players, 2 extra MFN will be allowed, for 1000+ members or associated players, 3 extra MFN, for 2000+ members or associated players, 4 extra MFN, and for 5000+ members or associated players, 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.

1.0.11 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 WCCC Candidates' Tournaments who have scored at least 40% of the possible points if they have not earned a higher qualification.

(b) the participants in one of the previous or running WCCC Semi-Finals who scored at least 50% of the possible points, if they have not earned a higher qualification.

(c) participants in one of the previous or running WCCC Preliminary sections who finished in place 3 or 4 or scored at least 60% of possible points but did not qualify for a WCCC Semi-Final.

(d) winners of ICCF World Tournaments – Master class.

(e) the participants in one of the previous or running ICCF World Cup Finals who scored at least 50% of the possible points. (This does not include the ICCF Veterans World Cup Tournament.)

(f) the participants in one of the previous or running acknowledged Zonal Championships of tournament average rating at 2451 or higher who scored at least 50% of the possible points.

(g) participants in acknowledged Zonal Championships of tournament average rating at 2450 or below who finished in place 3 or 4 or scored at least 60% of possible points.

(h) those players, who are entered through their own national organisation and at the time of nomination have ratings less than 2400 (fixed or unfixed).

(i) The holders of the International Master Title with a rating above 2300.

(j) the holders of the Senior International Master Title with a rating above 2250.

(k) the holders of the Grandmaster Title.

(l) Any player with a rating of 2500 and above. .

1.1.2 The following will reach a half qualification to enter a WCCC Preliminary section:

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

1.1.3 Normally, a WCCC Preliminary section will consist of 13 participants. The Title Tournament Commissioner shall have the power to increase the number of players to 15 or 17. Normally a maximum of 30 Preliminary sections will be started each year.

## 1.2. Semi-Finals of the World Correspondence Chess Championship

1.2.1 The following will be entitled to enter a WCCC Semi-Final:

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

(b) the participants in one of the previous or running WCCC Candidates' Tournaments who have scored at least 50% of the possible points if they have not earned a higher qualification.

(c) the participants in one of the previous or running WCCC Semi-Finals who finished in place 3 or 4 or scored at least 60% of the possible points but did not qualify for the Candidates' Tournament.

(d) the first and second placed players from a WCCC Preliminary section.

(e) the participants in a Final of the ICCF World Cup Tournament who finished in place 3 or 4 or scored at least 60% of the possible points. (This does not include the ICCF Veterans World Cup Tournament.)

(f) the participants in one of the previous or running acknowledged Zonal Championships of tournament average rating at 2451 or higher who finished in place 3 or 4 or scored at least 60% of the possible points.

(g) the two top finishers from the acknowledged Zonal Championships of the tournament average rating at 2450 or below.

(h) those players, who, at the time of nomination have ratings of 2400 and higher, are entered through their own national organisation.

(i) the holders of the Correspondence Chess International Master title with fixed ratings above 2500.

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

(k) the holders of the Grandmaster Title with ratings above 2400.

(l) those players who have a fixed rating above 2550.

1.2.2 Normally, a Semi-Final section will consist of 13 participants. The Title Tournament Commissioner shall have the power to increase the number of players to 15 or 17. Normally a maximum of 18 Semi-Final sections will be started each year.

### 1.3. Candidates' Tournament

1.3.1 The following will be entitled to enter the WCCC Candidates' Tournament:

(a) the participants of one of the previous or running WCCC Finals who scored at least 50% of the possible points.

(b) the participants in one of the previous or running WCCC Candidates' Tournaments who finished in place 2 (in the exceptional event of only one qualifying place for the Final being available), 3 or 4 or scored at least 60% of the possible points but did not qualify for the Final.

(c) the first and second placed players in every WCCC Semi-Final group.

(d) the first and second placed players in a Final of the ICCF World Cup Tournament. (This does not include the ICCF Veterans World Cup Tournament.)

(e) the first and second placed players from the acknowledged Zonal Championships of tournament average rating at 2451 or higher.

(f) all previous World Correspondence Chess Champions.

(g) the holders of the Grandmaster Title with at least 5 Grandmaster norms.

(h) those players who have a fixed rating of 2600 and above.

1.3.2 Normally, the Candidates' Tournament sections will consist of 13 participants. The Title Tournament Commissioner shall have the power to increase the number of players to 15 or 17. Normally a maximum of 4 Candidates' Tournament sections will be started each year.

#### 1.4. Final of the World Correspondence Chess Championship

1.4.1 The following will be entitled to enter the WCCC Final:

(a) the first, second and third placed players from one of the previous or running WCCC Finals.

(b) the first and second placed players from the WCCC Candidates' Tournaments. The Title Tournament Commissioner shall have the power to vary this rule if, exceptionally, more than 4 Candidates Tournament sections are started in a year. Any such variation shall be included in the tournament announcement.

1.4.2 The Final should normally consist of 17 participants.

1.4.3 The Final qualifications can be deferred only once, except for the former World Champions, who are 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, namely those who failed to qualify on the basis of a tie-break. The Executive Board also has the right to grant up to two free places on the basis of extraordinary international performance.

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

### 1.5. Semi - Finals of the Ladies World Correspondence Chess World Championship

1.5.1 The following will be entitled to enter a Semi-Final:

(a) the participants of one of the two previous or running Finals who have scored at least 30% of the possible points.

(b) the participants of one of the two previous or running Semi-Finals who finished in place 3 or 4 or scored at least 60% of the possible points.

(c) holders of the title International CC Ladies' Master, ladies who hold the title of Correspondence Chess Expert - CCE, and lady players who are entered through the individual national CC federations according to a quota set by the ICCF Title Tournament 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 Tournament Commissioner and approved by the ICCF Executive Board.

1.5.2 The assignment to the sections will be decided by the ICCF Title Tournament Commissioner.

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.

1.6.2 The following will be entitled to enter the Final:

(a) the top three finishers from the previous Final,

(b) the winners and runners-up in each Semi-Final section



1.6.3 If several players with the right to take part decline the opportunity to play, the ICCF Title Tournament 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.

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

### 1.7. Correspondence Chess Olympiad (World Championship For National Teams)

1.7.1 The Correspondence Chess Olympiads will be played as team tournaments and may only be played by webserver.

Olympic cycles will start in each calendar year which is divisible by 4 (2020, 2024, ...). Following the example of the World Championship Finals for individuals, the start date could be in June.

If at the beginning of the year when a new cycle should start, some teams participants of the next final are not known, all the decisive games will be adjudicated by a group of strong and highly skilled players who do not belong to countries that are directly or indirectly involved in determination of final participants.

1.7.2 The number of players in a team will be identified in the tournament announcement.

1.7.3 The tournaments will consist of a preliminary round and a final round.

1.7.4 Normally, the final round will consist of no more than 13 teams.

1.7.5 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.

1.7.6 The first three teams of a final will qualify for the next final round.

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

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

1.8.1 The Ladies' Correspondence Chess Olympiads shall be played as team tournaments by webserver. Olympic cycles will start in each calendar year which is divisible by 4 (2020, 2024, ...). Following the example of the World Championship Finals for individuals, the start date could be in June. If at the beginning of the year when a new cycle should start, some teams participants of the next final are not known, all the decisive games will be adjudicated by a group of strong and highly skilled players who do not belong to countries that are directly or indirectly involved in determination of final participants.

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

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

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

1.8.5 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.

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

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

## 2. Promotion Tournaments

2.1 The promotion tournaments will be played in 3 classes:

- (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 unless they are under suspension from ICCF play. 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 cycle.

2.3 Tie-breaking will be used to determine the winners of promotion tournaments.

2.4 The following players have the right to participate in Open class tournaments:

- (a) a player new to ICCF or without an ICCF rating.
  - (b) a player rated below 1900 at the time of application.
- 2.5 The following players have the right to participate in a Higher-class tournament:
- (a) a player rated 1900 to 2099 at the time of application.
  - (b) a player who has won an Open class tournament is entitled to one start in the Higher class, regardless of rating.
  - (c) a player without an ICCF rating who is nominated by the National Federation and accompanied by a statement of qualification.
- 2.6 The following players have the right to participate in a Master class tournament:
- (a) a player rated 2100 or above at the time of application.
  - (b) a player who has won a Higher-class tournament is entitled to one start in the Master class, regardless of rating.
  - (c) a player without an ICCF rating who is nominated by the National Federation and accompanied by a statement of qualification.
- Note: A FIDE rating will be considered as an unfixed ICCF rating, where applicable.

### 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 semi-final round and 9-15 in the final round. Each player plays one game with every player of his/her 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 qualifications to participate in World Correspondence Chess Championship Semifinals and/or Candidate sections.

## 4. Norm Tournaments

4.1 ICCF norm tournaments comprise Master Norm tournaments and Grandmaster Norm tournaments. Organisation of these tournaments is the responsibility of the Title Tournament Commissioner. Tournaments may be played by webserver or by post.

4.2 All sections of this tournament type offer title norms, which are specifically stated in the start list of the respective tournament section. Each section consists of 13 players (12 games for each player, 6 white and 6 black).

4.3 Only those players who meet one of the following qualifications have the right to participate in a Master Norm tournament:

---Fixed (based on more than 29 games) rating of at least 2300 on the latest ICCF rating list, or

---Unfixed (based on 12-29 games) rating of at least 2350 on the latest ICCF rating list, or

---FIDE rating of at least 2350 on the latest FIDE rating list, or

---Players who achieved places 1-3 in a National CC championship.

4.4 Only those players who meet one of the following qualifications have the right to participate in a Grandmaster Norm tournament:

----Fixed (based on more than 29 games) rating of at least 2400 on the latest ICCF rating list, or

----Unfixed (based on 12-29 games) rating of at least 2500 on the latest ICCF rating list, or

----FIDE rating of at least 2500 on the latest FIDE rating list.

4.5 Holders of the ICCF Grandmaster title or players with a fixed rating of 2600 or above on the latest ICCF rating list may participate in Grandmaster Norm Tournaments free of charge. Such entries coming from a player whose country is a member of ICCF shall be confirmed by the Member Federation Delegate. If the player comes from a country which is not a member of ICCF, he/she must prove his identity to the satisfaction of the Title Tournament Commissioner.

4.6 Players without the qualifications listed in rules 4.3 and 4.4 will not be allowed to participate in the listed norm tournaments.

4.7 A player may only start one webserver norm tournament in each 3-month cycle (January to March, April to June, July to September, and October to December). A player may only start one postal norm tournament in each calendar year.

## 5. Champions League

5.1 The Champions League is a tournament for teams of four players. Players within a team may be of any nationality or mixture of nationalities. Mixed teams of men and women are allowed. Each team must have a designated Team Captain and a name, preferably related to correspondence chess or chess in general.

5.2 Organisation of the Champions League is the responsibility of the Non-Title Tournament Commissioner. All sections of the Champions League are played by webserver. The playing rules in effect are the ICCF Playing Rules for Webserver Team Tournaments except where modified by these Rules.

5.3 The League is played in seasons lasting approximately 2 years, with promotion and relegation at the end of each season. There are three divisions: Division A, Division B, and Division C. Division A is comprised of one group, while divisions B and C have multiple groups (entitled Group 1, Group 2, etc.). All three tiers of the Champions League should start simultaneously and have a 2-year playing time. With time allowed for new entries to be taken and any adjudications to be finalized, new seasons are expected to start every 2 years 3 months to 2 years 6 months apart.

5.4 Groups will normally comprise 11 or 13 teams but these numbers may be varied as necessary to accommodate all entered teams. The composition of each division and the numbers of teams to be promoted and relegated will be determined for each season based on the number of entered teams and will be announced as soon as possible after the closing date for entries.

5.5 No player may play for more than one team in a season. Players may transfer from one team to another only at the beginning of each new season.

5.6 New teams may enter the Champions League at the beginning of any new season. Changes of team name between seasons are allowed.

5.7 A team is allowed to replace players during and between the seasons. The number of replaced players is limited only to the following rule: If all the four players in a team are changed within two seasons, then the team will normally be relegated to a lower division. Exceptions of this rule are possible at the discretion of the Non-Title Tournament Commissioner.

## 6. Special Tournaments

### 6.1. The ICCF Memorial <2300 Team Tournament

The ICCF Memorial <2300 Team tournament is an ICCF tournament, open to all ICCF federations, this tournament which follows the same outline as the Olympiad except with a maximum rating limit of 2300 and that the schedule for this tournament is flexible and will be determined by the Non-Title Tournament Commissioner (NTTC). Title norms, such as IM, CCM, and CCE, can be earned in this event.

6.2 Special tournaments e.g. Invitational or Memorial tournaments, Thematic tournaments, etc., will be announced separately by the ICCF Executive Board.

6.3 Organisation of international correspondence chess tournaments by national correspondence chess organisations require the approval of the ICCF World Tournament Director before their announcement. Invitations to individual players for such authorised tournaments should be made with the permission of the national federation of which the player in question is a member or associated player.

## 7. Tie Breaking

7.1 Tie-breaking is used in all tournaments organised by ICCF, unless the tournament announcement specifically states that ties will not be broken. The following will apply for two or more players, or two or more teams, with the same number of points:

7.2 Individual tournaments:

- (a) number of wins by each tied player in the tournament (the Baumbach tie-breaking system)
- (b) points evaluation by the Sonneborn-Berger-System,
- (c) results of the tied players against each other.

7.3 Team Tournaments:

- (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 board1 (following board 2, 3, etc.)

7.4 If necessary, the organiser of the tournament (TO) is entitled to set up further tie-breaking procedures. These procedures must be indicated no later than the TO's posting of the start list of the tournament.

7.5 If players or teams are still tied after all relevant tie-breaking procedures have been used, the players or teams will be considered equal.

## 8. Withdrawal & Substitutions

8.1 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 after receiving the start list and before the start date will:

- (a) forfeit any entry fee paid, and
- (b) forfeit qualification rights, if applicable.

However, in team events, such changes do count against the number of changes per team which are allowed in 8d of the playing rules concerning teams.

8.2 The Tournament Director will accept the following reasons for the withdrawal as adequate:

- (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/her 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/her 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.

8.3 Approved applications result in the withdrawal of that player from all ICCF-approved events\* in which they are participating (both the event in which the application was approved and all other ICCF-approved events). 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; the Ratings Commissioner must also be informed. 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).

\* An "ICCF-approved event" is any event that (a) is offered on the ICCF home page (such as Aspirer Tournaments, Thematic Tournaments) except the free unrated 2-game matches and/or (b) is described in an Executive Board approved ICCF document (including team tournaments such as the ICCF League and the Olympiads) and/or (c) obtains approval from the WTD to be placed on the ICCF schedule of events, and/or (d) is a friendly match, defined as a team match involving only two teams where both of the teams are affiliated with a Member Federation and the two Member Federations differ. This definition of "ICCF-approved event" applies anywhere that phrase is found in an ICCF document.

8.4 If the reason for the withdrawal is considered inadequate and not accepted by the Tournament Director, or a second withdrawal according to paragraph 8.3 occurs within a short time, the case will be forwarded to the respective Tournament Office (Title Tournament Commissioner or Non-Title Tournament Commissioner) 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/she is participating (both the event in which the application was originally made and all other ICCF-approved events) 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.

8.5 If a player withdraws "silently" from any ICCF-approved event, i.e. without informing either his/her opponents or the Tournament Director, the player will not earn any title norm or qualification, will be withdrawn from all ICCF-approved events in which he/she is participating (both the event in which the withdrawal was determined and all other ICCF-approved events) and he/she may be penalised by being suspended from tournament entry for two years. When the player is readmitted to the tournaments, the player will pay a bond according to paragraph 8.4. A second silent withdrawal will result in a minimum five year suspension.

8.6 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/her tournaments are completed normally.

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

For Postal:



(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),

For Server:

(a) Exceeding the time limit is valid only if it is confirmed by the ICCF Server.

For both Postal and Server, unless specified otherwise:

(b) In team tournaments if a player stops play, or if the Tournament Director has awarded the first exceeding of time in postal events 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/her games will be adjudicated or whether the Team Captain shall name a substitute player (See either of the Tournament Director's Manuals, Section 6, for details about which option should occur under what circumstance),

(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/her 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) 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, Title Norms shall be revised if necessary. If any revised Title Norm is higher than what it was at the start of the event then the Title Norm 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 Title Norms. 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 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/she 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.

## 9. Rating Numbers

9.1 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 statistical algorithm, calculated from tournament results over a period of many years.

9.2 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,
- (c) national tournaments, subject to an agreement with the Ratings Commissioner. At least the final of a national championship, team championship, or cup final,
- (d) other individual and team tournaments including "Scheveningen" type events and Chess 960\* events, authorized by the ICCF-Congress or Executive Board,
- (e) friendly matches between countries.

\* Chess 960 events are rated in their own rating system, and are not combined for rating purposes into the "normal" chess rating system.

Rated tournaments must have a minimum reflection time of 20 days for 10 moves in postal and 150 days for 50 moves in electronic transmission. Tournaments with postal transmission will be evaluated only if they are administered on the ICCF Webserver. Responsible for this task are the tournament directors and the delegates of the national federations, respectively.

9.3 Each player who has completed games in the tournaments referred to in § 9.2 receives 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.

9.4 At the beginning of a tournament, start ratings are assigned 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. For start ratings, ICCF considers only those FIDE lists which are valid starting at the same time as ICCF rating lists do, which means 1.1, 1.4, 1.7 and 1.10 of every year. In case of an incorrect or obviously inappropriate value, the Ratings Commissioner may adjust such a start rating to a more realistic value, even if the tournament is already ongoing. When a game is finished, the rating calculation procedure will use a player’s rating from the newest rating list for those players with a published rating; otherwise, the start rating is used. However, if a player’s current rating is lower than his/her start rating; the new ratings for his/her opponents are calculated using the player’s start rating.

9.5 A new rating list will be released four times each year. The ratings are valid from January - March, April - June, July - September and October - December, respectively and are based on the results which were reported at least one month before. The lists will be available on the ICCF webserver two weeks before their validity date.

9.6 The rating list shall contain:

- (a) the effective date
- (b) the name and federation of each player with at least 12 rated games,
- (c) the ICCF title held by each player listed,
- (d) the current rating and the number of rated games for each player listed,

9.7 Players who do not qualify for a new rating because they have not finished a game during the evaluation period, remain on the active list because

- (a) they have finished a ratable game during the recent two calendar years, or
- (b) they are participating in at least one running tournament (rated or unrated).

Other players retain their most recent published rating, but are no longer shown in the published list. However, the webserver shows all players with their valid rating.

## 10. Titles

**[See cautionary note at the top of Appendix 2 concerning when the procedures described below apply for earning title norms. For events started prior to 1 April, 2017, an older procedure compared to that described below will still be used.]**

10.0.1 In all ICCF Title tournaments (including Chess 960 tournaments), title norms are established by determining whether a player's total score in a tournament is better than would be expected by a player with a minimum rating for that title. This involves calculating the winning expectancy against each opponent first, summing these winning expectancies (see Appendix 2, item 2.4), and then comparing the player's total score to this sum. Title norms may also be available in "Scheveningen" type events. Title norms gained in normal tournaments and Chess 960 tournaments are equivalent, therefore title can be awarded upon fulfillment of mixture of norms. Previous event categories (minor and major) can be still used for marketing purposes (see Appendix 2, item 2.12.).

10.0.2 In all ICCF Title tournaments, each player plays one game simultaneously against each of the other players in the tournament or section. Subject to approval by the ICCF Congress or the WTD, players may be allowed to play two games simultaneously against each of the other players in special promotional events.

10.0.3 The principle of "overscore" (used in the following subsections of Rule 10) represents that fact that the player has achieved a higher score than the minimum required for that particular Title Norm and the number of players, in that particular tournament. If a player's total score in a tournament exceeded the score required to earn the norm by 0.5 points or more, the extra points or "overscore" would then apply to the total game count for being awarded the title. The rationale is that the player could have played extra games, lost them, and would still qualify for a Title based on a higher number of players. For details see Appendix 2, International Correspondence Chess Title Regulations, item 2.4.c).

10.1 The ICCF awards the following titles:

- (a) Correspondence Chess Grandmaster (GM),
- (b) Correspondence Chess Senior International Master (SIM),
- (c) Correspondence Chess International Master (IM),
- (d) Correspondence Chess Master (CCM) (or Correspondence Chess Ladies Grandmaster) (LGM)),
- (e) Correspondence Chess Expert (CCE) (or Correspondence Chess Ladies' International Master) (LIM),
- (f) International Arbiter of the ICCF (IA).

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

- (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 norms in international title tournaments with a total of at least 24 games. This number of games may be reduced if the player overscores sufficiently to achieve the standard Norm requirements over 24 games. At least five of the 24 games must be against players who already hold the Correspondence Chess Grandmaster title prior to the end of the initial rating period or who have fixed ratings of at least 2600. However, of this five game quota, a maximum of two may be replaced by two games each against players who hold the SIM title prior to the end of the initial rating period.

(d) those players for whom the national federation makes an appropriately qualified application. For this, a two-third's majority vote of Congress must be obtained.

Titles earned under 10.2(a), (b), or (c), will be granted and awarded without any prior application from the player's Member Federation.

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

(a) those players who achieve at least two senior master norms in international title tournaments with a total of at least 24 games. This number of games may be reduced if the player overscores sufficiently to achieve the standard Norm requirements over 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 Congress must be obtained.

Titles earned under 10.3(a) or (b) will be granted and awarded without any prior application from the player's Member Federation.

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

(a) those players who qualify for the World Championship Final or gain a master norm in a 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. This number of games may be reduced if the player overscores sufficiently to achieve the standard Norm requirements over 24 games.

(e) those players for whom their national federation makes an appropriately qualified application. For this, a two-thirds majority vote of Congress must be obtained.

Titles earned under 10.4(a), (b), (c) or (d) will be granted and awarded without any prior application from the player's Member Federation.

10.5 The non-gender specific title of "Correspondence Chess Master (or the Ladies' title of Correspondence Chess Ladies Grandmaster)" is not limited in time and is awarded to:

- (a) those players who gain places 1-3 in the World Ladies' Championship final,
- (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 or more of the same performance requirements as what used to be considered Ladies' Grandmaster Results in international title tournaments with a total of at least 24 games. This number of games may be reduced if the player overscores sufficiently to achieve the standard Norm requirements over 24 games.
- (d) those players for whom their national federation makes an appropriately qualified application. For this, a two-thirds majority vote of Congress must be obtained.

Any female player earning the CCM title may opt to have the equivalent LGM shown on her certificate and medal until 1 January 2021. The LGM title cannot be earned after 1 January 2021.

Any LGM norms earned in events starting before 1 January 2016 will count towards the CCM title.

Titles earned under 10.5(a), (b), or (c) will be granted and awarded without any prior application from the player's Member Federation.

10.6 The non-gender specific title "Correspondence Chess Expert" (or the Ladies' title of Correspondence Chess Ladies International Master)" in not limited in time and is awarded to:

- (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 of the same performance requirements as what used to be considered ladies' master results in international title tournaments with a total of at least 24 games. This number of games may be reduced if the player overscores sufficiently to achieve the standard Norm requirements over 24 games.

(d) those players for whom their national federation makes an appropriately qualified application. For this, a two-thirds' majority vote of Congress must be obtained.

Any female player earning the CCE title may opt to have the equivalent LIM shown on her certificate and medal until 1 January 2021. The LIM title cannot be earned after 1 January 2021.

Any LIM norms earned in events starting before 1 January 2016 will count towards the CCE title.

Titles earned under 10.6(a), (b), or (c) will be granted and awarded without any prior application from the player's Member Federation.

10.7 The title "International Arbiter of the ICCF" is not limited in time and will be awarded based on a combination of quantitative and qualitative criteria. All applications must be submitted by the Member Federation to the Tournament Director Committee (TDC) together with details of all qualifying tournaments and the name and email address of the TD Mentor before the formal submission to the Qualifications Commissioner (QC). The TDC will check:-

a) Fulfillment of the **quantitative** requirements:

- in server tournaments, the TD must have directed over 2000 completed server games all from ICCF qualifying tournaments\* and involving a minimum period of time directing events of 2 years all while being mentored, or

- in postal tournaments, the TD must have directed over 1000 completed postal games all from ICCF qualifying tournaments\* and involving a minimum period of time directing events of 4 years all while being mentored, and

b) Fulfillment of the **qualitative** requirements, as determined by the quality of the TD's work pertaining to behaviours such as: the TD's response to problems or queries from players, games' archiving, delivery of information for marketing purposes, and anything else related to performance as a TD. The TD applying for an IA title should expect that the Arbiter Committee will be asking for this assessment by the mentor TD, as well as from other ICCF officers if necessary.

The TDC then will report recommendations to the Member Federation and the QC. IA titles become effective immediately upon acceptance by the QC, but are awarded at the ICCF Congress.

\*ICCF qualifying tournaments include all Zonal Promotional, Championship, and Invitational tournaments (as long as the event was open to an

international set of players in this or earlier sections of the event), ICCF Promotion tournaments, Championship & Norm tournaments International title tournaments, Thematic tournaments, Aspirer tournaments, World Cups, ICCF Memorial <2300 Team tournament, Webserver Opens, friendly matches\*\*, Champions League and Direct Entry Anniversary Open; all including Chess 960 events of these types. (National tournaments and unrated events not listed above shall NOT count towards the IA Title.) All games from this list of ICCF qualifying tournaments will be counted towards the IA title experience requirement no matter when the games were played compared to when this specification went into effect.

\*\* A friendly match is defined as a team match involving only two teams where both of the teams are associated with either a Member Federation or a specific zone, and the two jurisdictions (Member Federations, zones) differ; or one of the teams is associated with a specific Member Federation or zone and the other team is categorized as "rest of the world"

#### 10.8 The award of titles and application procedures.

- (a) Every titleholder receives a certificate, which is awarded by Congress.
- (b) An international title is officially valid from the date of automatic confirmation by the ICCF server, or if not handled automatically, the date of confirmation and registration by the Qualifications Commissioner.
- (c) Use of an ICCF title or rating to subvert the title or rating system may subject a person to revocation of his title upon recommendation by the QC, the Disciplinary Committee, and final approval by Congress.
- (d) The title can be used for results of opponents only in tournaments starting after the confirmation.
- (e) Direct titles may be awarded for specific results in specific Championship events as identified in these regulations (see 10.2.a, b; 10.4.a, b, c; 10.5.a, b; 10.6.a, b). Such titles are confirmed by the QC on recommendation from the Executive Board. The Member Federations concerned are informed by the QC.
- (f) The title of International Arbiter (IA) is the only title requiring the filing of an application (beyond those under special, atypical circumstances - see "h" below). The IA title is awarded by the QC if the candidate meets the requirements. (If the QC is not clear that the IA requirements are met, the QC should refer the decision to the Congress.) The application must be sent to the Arbiter Committee Chair (who will forward it with a recommendation to the QC) by the player's Member Federation. If the player's Federation refuses to apply, the player can appeal to the Appeals Committee (Other Rules)



and if approved by the Appeals Committee, apply for the title himself/herself. Likewise, if the player resides in a location with no Member Federation, the player is allowed to file the application himself/herself.

(g) Member Federations are allowed to submit applications for player titles under special, atypical circumstances, such as for a player posthumously. These applications should be filed to the QC. The QC will award such titles in clear cases, but if in doubt can instead forward the application for Congress to decide, with or without a recommendation to the Congress. The QC is allowed some discretion from the exact requirements in awarding titles posthumously.

(h) All international titles confirmed and registered by the QC shall appear in the QC report so that Congress is informed of these titles.

10.9 Submissions for the posthumous award of ICCF Titles may only be made within 2 years following a nominee's death.

## 11. Rules for International Team Tournaments Including Friendly Matches

11.1 International team tournaments must be conducted by a Tournament Director.

11.2 Each team must have a team captain.

11.3 With the exception described in 11.6, the tournament notices should contain:

- (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.

11.4 The Tournament Director will maintain contact with the Team Captains. Direct contact with each player in a postal event is not desirable except when it is unavoidably necessary. In server events, however, direct contact between the players and the TD is expected.

11.5 In the case of disputes, the Team Captains should make every effort to come to agreement with each other in addressing minor issues and only if this fails, or the issue is major, to refer the matter to the Tournament Director. (The difference between a minor and major issue is described in the TD Manuals, section 3.3.) However the Tournament Director remains responsible for the conduct and progress of the tournament and may intervene directly if necessary.

11.6 A Friendly Match (defined as a team match involving only two teams where both of the teams are associated with either a Member Federation or a specific zone, and the two jurisdictions (Member Federations, zones) differ; or one of the teams is associated with a specific Member Federation or zone and the other team is categorized as "rest of the world") are to follow rules standard to all other ICCF-approved events (defined in section 8.3 above), though the announcement requirements from 11.3 above can be relaxed due to the fact only two teams are involved.

## 12. Rules for Invitational Tournaments

12.1 Arrangements for all ICCF approved international invitation and open tournaments organised by ICCF member federations or ICCF Zonal Directors should be in accordance with the principles and aims defined in the ICCF Statutes.

12.2 Applications for ICCF recognition of international tournaments must be submitted to the World Tournament Director (WTD) who has delegated authority to approve such tournaments, or provide recommendations to Congress. The WTD should report to the next Congress on all approved applications for formal ratification and inclusion in the Minutes. Where, in the opinion of the WTD, there could be a potential problem (for example, involving a breach of these guidelines or issues related to another ICCF member federation) the WTD shall have the right to refer the application to the next Congress for debate and consideration . Approvals of applications for multiple tournaments/groups from any federation may be subject to a referral to the Congress if the WTD considers it appropriate.

12.3 Applications for invitation tournaments must be submitted at least 3 months before the intended start date of the tournament and all approvals granted will lapse if a tournament has not been started within 6 months of the approved start date. In such a situation, a renewed approval application is required and invitations must not be issued until renewed approval has been granted.

12.4 Applications for open tournaments must be submitted to the ICCF World Tournament Director (WTD) at least 3 months before it is due to start. It must not be advertised until ICCF approval has been formally confirmed. The WTD will consider

the number of similar events which are planned concurrently and any ICCF open tournaments that are due to start, before giving formal ICCF approval.

12.5 Invitations to international invitation tournaments must be made via the member federations from whom players are being invited. No invitations should be made until after formal approval of the tournament has been received. **No invitations shall be sent directly to the players.**

12.6 All approved tournaments will be played under ICCF Playing Rules, and the ICCF Appeals Commission will act as the appeal authority. The Tournament Director shall be selected according to the Tournament Director's Manual regulations. (See either TDM Section 3.1 for these details.)

12.7 Bearing in mind that ICCF approved tournaments enjoy an official international status, with title norms (where eligible), ratings and other services provided, a scale of registration and rating fees will apply. These are payable to ICCF, for the year in which tournaments start. The fees are defined in the "ICCF Financial Regulations" document.

12.8 All approval requests must include details of the prizes offered, and the source of the prize fund. Where a federation has previously met problems paying prizes promptly, it will be a condition of approval that the entire prize fund be deposited with ICCF prior to the start date. In these circumstances, the deposited monies will be invested securely, any interest accrued will be credited to the national federation, and the ICCF Financial Director will be responsible for the prompt payment of all prizes. All other financial details (appearance fees,...) must be included in the request sent to the WTD.

12.9 Title norms in international invitation and open tournaments need to be formally described and potentially ratified by the Qualifications Commissioner's report to Congress.

## 13. Players' Eligibility

13.1 A player's Member Federation is normally the federation of his/her country of citizenship or residence.

13.2 When players move their country of permanent residence and wish to change federations, they may do so with the mutual consent of the respective federations.

13.3 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.

13.4 A player may appeal to the Arbitration Commission (whose decision would be final) if there is an objection to the transfer.

## 14. 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:

- 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.

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/she shall investigate.

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.

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/her time of reflection in all games of the respective tournament.

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.

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.

## 15. Appeals

The jurisdiction to deal with appeals concerning violations of these rules is designated to the Appeals Commission (Other Rules).

## Appendix 1.

### The Working Rules of the Ratings System

#### General Principles

1. The ICCF Rating system is a numerical system in which percentage scores are convertible to rating differences and conversely, rating differences are convertible to winning expectancies.

2. The basis of the system is the logistic probability function of statistical probability theory. The calculation uses the continuous formulae indicated in item 3 and item 4 as an approximation for the logistic probability function.

3. Conversion from difference in rating  $D$  into a winning expectancy, or expected result of the game  $p(D)$ :

$$\cdot \quad p(D) = 1 / ( 1 + 10^{-(D/640)} ) \quad \text{for } -560 \leq D \leq 560.$$

4. Conversions from percentage  $p$  into rating difference  $D(p)$ :

$$\cdot \quad D(p) = 640 * \log_{10}( p / (1-p) ) \quad \text{for } 0.1 \leq p \leq 0.9.$$

#### The Working Formulae

5 For the calculation of a rating of a player who has not yet played 30 games:

$$R_p = R_c + D(p) * F$$

$R_p$  the new rating of the player

$R_c$  the average rating of all his opponents, limited to a maximum difference of 560, rounded to 4 decimals

$p$  is the average score of a player's games counting wins as 1, draws as  $\frac{1}{2}$ , and losses as 0 (= player's total score divided by number of played games), rounded decimals. If  $p$  is less than 0.1 it is increased to this value, if  $p$  is greater than 0.9 it is decreased to this value.

$D(p)$  the difference in rating based on the percentage score  $p$ , obtained from item 4.

$F$  the correction factor depending on the percentage score  $p$  in the following way:  
 $F = - 2 * p^2 + 2 * p + 0.5$

6 The new rating of a player with a fixed rating from the previous period is calculated by:

$$R_n = R_o + \Sigma \Delta R$$

$R_n$  the new rating of the player

$R_o$  the old rating of the player

$\Sigma \Delta R$  the summation of the rating changes in all his games during the rating period

7 Calculation of a change in rating after a game is made by:

$$\Delta R = k * W = k * ( W - W_o )$$

$\Delta R$  the change of the rating for a finished game, rounded to 4 decimals

$W$  the actual game result (1,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 0)

$W_o$  the expected result of the game from item 3

$k$  the rating point value for a game point (or: the development coefficient)

- 8 The expected game result  $W_e$  is the percentage expectancy, obtained from item 3, based on the difference between the player's rating and the opponent's rating as defined in Tournament Rule 9.4.

A player without a published ICCF or appropriate FIDE rating will be regarded as having a rating equal to the tournament level (see item 11).

If the difference is  $> 560$  or  $< -560$ , it is treated as this value for the evaluation.

$$W_e = 1 / ( 1 + 10^{-(D/640)} ) \text{ for } -560 \leq D \leq 560.$$

$W_e$  is rounded to 4 decimals, upwards if the 5th is 5 or higher and down otherwise.

- 9 The development coefficient  $k$  is used as a stabilising factor in the system:

$$k = r * g$$

$r = 10$	if $R_o \geq 2400$	$g = 1$	for $g_n \geq 80$
$r = 70 - R_o / 40$	if $2000 < R_o < 2400$	$g = 1.4 - g_n / 200$	for $30 < g_n < 80$
$r = 20$	if $R_o \leq 2000$	$g = 1.25$	for $g_n \leq 30$

$R_o$  the old (that is: the most recently calculated) rating of the player

$g_n$  the total number of rated games played by this player

$k$  is rounded to 4 decimals, upwards if the 5th is 5 or higher and down otherwise

- 10 From 2009 onwards the former used significance factor  $F$  is no longer valid.

- 11 Assumed rating for a player without a published rating at the beginning of a tournament:

1800 Open class, cup preliminary rounds, international open preliminary rounds

1900 Ladies' WC semifinals, Ladies' Olympiads

2000 Higher class, cup semifinals, international open semifinals

2100 Ladies' WC finals

2200 Master class, cup finals, zonal championship preliminary rounds, Invitation (team) tournaments, international open finals

2300 Master norm tournaments

2400 WC semifinals, zonal championship semifinals, Olympiad preliminaries

2450 Grandmaster norm tournaments

2500 WC candidates, zonal championship finals, Olympiad finals

For national tournaments the average of the already rated participants is assumed, maximum 2400.

For friendly matches, normally a value of 1800 applies. In special cases Team Captains are allowed to propose other values than 1800 where appropriate. These values must be confirmed and may be changed by the Ratings Commissioner before a tournament starts.

For new kinds of tournaments (such as the ICCF Memorial <2300 Team Tournament) a value shall be fixed with the announcement of the tournament.

## Calculation procedure

- 12 At the beginning of each quarter, a new rating list is published. All results which were reported at least one month before will be eligible for inclusion on the next list.

- 13 Valid results from postal must be registered by the tournament directors on the ICCF-Webserver no later than two weeks before the list has to be published.
- 14 Players without a rating from previous periods receive their first rating based on the games finished during the current period, using the formula in item 5.
- 15 Each player who has a rating based on less than 30 games at the beginning of the rating period, receives a new rating based on all his/her games. This is done with the formula of item 5.
- 16 For each player whose rating was based on at least 30 games at the beginning of the period the new rating is calculated using the formula in item 6, except for those players who finished more than 50 games in the current period. For those players a new rating is calculated, based on the formula 5 only for their games in that period. If the result of item 6 is obviously inappropriate, the Ratings Commissioner may replace it with the value of item 5. Such an exception has to be justified to the concerned player and his/her national delegate.
- 17 The new rating for the next ICCF rating list is rounded to the nearest integer. The fraction 0.5 is rounded upward.
- 18 Rules for the rating of games in team tournaments in which a substitute player takes part:
  - a) A game of a substitute player is only counted for his/her new rating if W is positive for him/her. Otherwise the game is counted for the player who has been substituted.
  - b) For the opponent the game is counted as being played against the player (the original or the substitute) with the higher rating.
- 19 These rules are valid from 1/1/2017 onwards and will be effective starting with rating list 2017/2 based on results from 1/12/2016 till 28/02/2017 and valid on an continual basis from 01/04/2017.

## Appendix 2.

### International Correspondence Chess Title Regulations\*

**\* The following section concerning title norm requirements is in effect for any new event starting 1 April 2017 or beyond. For any event started prior to 1 April 2017, the “old” rules for title norm requirements apply. Those old rules can be found in Appendix II of the Tournament Rules dated 1/1/2017, these in turn reflecting the rules from 1/1/2016.**

1. An international tournament must have the following requirements:
  - a) it must involve the participation of at least 9 players. However, the Title Tournament Commissioner has authority to arrange double-round robin tournaments with fewer than 9 players (providing each player has a minimum of 8 games),

b) at least 75% of the participating players shall be rated [see column D in the table below = the minimum number of rated players],

c) at least 60% of the participating players shall have a fixed rating [see column E in the table below = the minimum number of players having a fixed rating],

d) at least three ICCF affiliated federations shall be represented,

e) not more than two thirds of the participating players shall be members of one and the same ICCF affiliated federation [see column C in the table below = the maximum number of players being members of one and the same federation],

f) the minimum score is 35% of the possible points for all player's titles [see column F in the table below = the minimum number of points needed based on the requirement for scoring at least 35% of possible points]

g) play shall conform to ICCF Playing Rules and should, if possible, be conducted by an International Arbiter. Tournaments at Category 7 or higher must be directed by an International Arbiter. No arbiter may play in a title tournament in which he/she directs even just as a filler.

h) Promotion tournaments, thematic tournaments, and cup preliminaries shall not be deemed title tournaments.

Summary of requirements depending on the number of games

A	B	C	D	E	F
9	8	6	7	6	3
10	9	6	8	6	3½
11	10	7	9	7	3½
12	11	8	9	8	4
13	12	8	10	8	4½
14	13	9	11	9	5
15	14	10	12	9	5
16	15	10	12	10	5½
17	16	11	13	11	6
18	17	12	14	11	6
19	18	12	15	12	6½
20	19	13	15	12	7



- A = the number of participants,
- B = the number of games per participant,
- C = the maximum number of players being members of one and the same federation,
- D = the minimum number of rated players,
- E = the minimum number of players having a fixed rating.
- F = the minimum number of points needed based on the requirement for scoring at least 35% of possible points

## 2. Title norm calculations

2.1 The following title norms are based on the ICCF rating system, which is governed by the following general principles:

(a) The ICCF Rating system is a numerical system in which percentage scores are converted to rating differences and conversely, rating differences are convertible to scoring probabilities.

(b) The basis of the system is the logistic probability function of statistical probability theory.

### 2.2 Average Rating of opponents (Ra)

This is the total of the opponents' ratings divided by the number of opponents. For the purpose of computing norm thresholds, see special consideration 2.10.

### 2.3 Average Rating of event

This is the total of all players' ratings divided by the number of players and rounded to 4 decimals, upwards if the 5th is 5 or higher and down otherwise.

2.4 **Title performance** (for example, GM performance) is a result that is established by assuming the player has the minimum rating level associated with the title, finding the winning expectancy (= scoring probability) against each opponent, and then summing the winning expectancies.

(a) Formula used to calculate winning expectancy ( $W_{ei}$ )

$$W_{ei} = 1/(1 + 10^{-(Rp-Ri)/640}) \text{ for } -560 \leq (Rp-Ri) \leq 560.$$

$W_{ei}$  is rounded to 4 decimals, upwards if the 5th is 5 or higher, and down otherwise.

$W_{ei}$  = winning expectancy (= the expected result of the game, scoring probability) for a specific title against opponent  $i$  having rating  $R_i$   
 $R_p$  = minimum level of rating performance for a title ( $R_{pGM}=2600$ ,  $R_{pSIM}=2525$ ,  $R_{pIM}=2450$ ,  $R_{pCCM}=2300$ ,  $R_{pCCE}=2150$ ); see item 2.7  
 $R_i$  = rating of opponent  $i$

(b) Norm result (P) for a player in tournament

$$P = \sum_i W_{ei}$$

$P$  = norm result

$\sum_i W_{ei}$  = the summation of the winning expectancies against all opponents in tournament.

Norm result is rounded up to the nearest half point.

(c) Number of overscored games ( $n_g$ )

$$n_g = n * (W - \sum_i W_{ei}) / (\sum_i W_{ei})$$

$n_g$  = number of overscored games

$n$  = the total number of games played by the player

$W$  = player total score in tournament

$\sum_i W_{ei}$  = the summation of the winning expectancies against all opponents in tournament

Number of overscored games  $n_g$  is then rounded down to the nearest whole number, or to 0 if  $n_g$  is negative.

If the player meets the requirements for the title norm based on the tournament performance, the total game count applied towards the 24 game requirement is the sum of the number of actual games played and the overscore  $n_g$ .

**2.5 Title norm** is a title performance fulfilling additional requirements concerning the mix of titled players and nationalities as specified in section 10 and Appendix 2.

2.6 **Direct title** is a title gained by achieving a certain place or result in a (Championship) tournament (see Tournament Rules, section 10 -> GM title 10.2.a, 10.2.b; SIM title 10.3.a., 10.3.b.; IM title 10.4.a, 10.4.b, 10.4.c.; CCM title 10.5a, 10.5.b; CCE title 10.6.a, 10.6.b.).

### 2.7 **Performance Rating (Rp)**

To achieve a norm, a player must perform at a level of that shown below (Rp) against the average rating of the opponents (Ra).

The average rating of a player's opponents (Ra) must be equal to or higher than the required performance rating minus 200 points.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Rp minimum level</b>	<b>Ra minimum level</b>
GM	2600	2400
SIM	2525	2325
IM	2450	2250
CCM	2300	2100
CCE	2150	1950

2.8 A norm is not possible if the average rating of the opponents (Ra) is below the required level.

2.9 A player can earn norms regardless of being unrated, provisionally rated, or established. However, to earn the title, the player must have an established rating.

2.10 If a player has no ICCF rating, his or her current recognized FIDE rating (following TR section 9.4) may be used, if available. A player's FIDE rating shall be considered equivalent to an unfixed ICCF rating. If a player has no ICCF or FIDE rating, then his/her rating should be taken as the average of the ratings of the other players with an ICCF or FIDE rating for this calculation.

2.11 Inactive players are considered to have their latest published rating. A player is considered inactive if the player has no active rated, unrated, or Chess960 game; and has had no completed game during at least the most recent two calendar years, such as the years 2014 and 2015 in determining inactive status for 2016.

2.12 Previous event categories for marketing and ongoing Tournament Director eligibility purposes

<b>Minor Categories</b>		<b>Major Categories</b>	
<b>Category</b>	<b>Average rating of event</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Average rating of event</b>
A	1951 - 1975	1	2251 - 2275
B	1976 - 2000	2	2276 - 2300
C	2001 - 2025	3	2301 - 2325
D	2026 - 2050	4	2326 - 2350
E	2051 - 2075	5	2351 - 2375
F	2076 - 2100	6	2376 - 2400
G	2101 - 2125	7	2401 - 2425
H	2126 - 2150	8	2426 - 2450
I	2151 - 2175	9	2451 - 2475
J	2176 - 2200	10	2476 - 2500
K	2201 - 2225	11	2501 - 2525
L	2226 - 2250	12	2526 - 2550
		13	2551 - 2575
		14	2576 - 2600
		15	2601 - 2625
		16	2626 - 2650
		17	2651 - 2675
		18	2676 - 2700

3. In addition, the following provisions shall apply to the computation of title results:

a) The Qualifications Commissioner shall prepare a statement of norms at the start of a tournament. In this statement norms are fixed. Norms shall be recalculated if a player withdraws and his games are cancelled. However, a title result always remains valid for the number of games and titled players fixed at the start of the tournament. Withdrawn player cannot earn title norm disregarding the reason of withdrawal (accepted or not), unless player achieved a title result before accepted withdrawal.

b) Where a tournament fails to comply with the requirements set out under Appendix 2, items 1 b) or 1 c), it shall be classified as all players having assumed rating as follows:

Assumed rating	Event
2326	Candidates' Tournament
	Correspondence Chess Olympiad Final, boards 1-3
2301	Correspondence Chess Olympiad Final, boards 4-6
	Final of a zonal team championship, first half of the boards
2276	World Championship Semi-final
	Zonal Championship
	Preliminary group of the Correspondence Chess Olympiad, boards 1-3
	Final of a zonal team championship, second half of the boards
	Preliminary group of a zonal team championship, first half of the boards
2251	Preliminary groups of the Correspondence Chess Olympiad
	Zonal team championships, second half of the boards

c) Where one norm is sufficient for more than one title, the norm can be counted towards each title.

4. In exceptional cases the Executive Board shall decide on the basis of a proposal from the Qualifications Commissioner.

[These rules were updated by the ICCF Congress, Bremen, Germany, 2016, and are in effect from 1.4.2017.]