

The International Correspondence Chess Federation



2017 Congress Albena, Bulgaria

2017 ICCF Honorary Members. From left to right: Gianni Mastrojeni (ITA), Per Söderberg (SWE), Sergey Yakovlevich Grodzensky (RUS) – photo courtesy of Luz Marina Tinjaca Ramirez (ITA).

Notable Quotations

“Life is like a game of Chess, changing with each move.” - Chinese Proverb

“I haven’t failed. I’ve just found 10,000 ways that won’t work.” - Thomas Edison

**Albena, Bulgaria
Congress - 2017**

[Invitation Letter](#)

[Hotel](#)

[Program of Events](#)

[2017 Congress Agenda](#)

[Participants](#)

[Voting Members](#)

[Executive Board](#)

[Management Committee](#)

[Official's Reports](#)

[ICCF President - Opening Discourse](#)

[ICCF - 2017 Awards](#)

[Proposals](#)

[Voting Results](#)

[ICCF - Report - Tax and VAT Liability](#)

[Blitz Results](#)

Membership

[Indonesia](#) has joined ICCF.

[Tunisia](#) has been dismissed from ICCF.

Officials

[Leonardo Ljubičić](#) (CRO) was elected Marketing Director during a mid-term election.

[Uwe Staroske](#) (GER) was appointed Qualifications Commissioner.

Marco Caressa (ITA) has resigned from the position of Zonal Director (Zone 1)

Organization

Congress approved the creation of the World Zone (initially, zones 2 and 3 will be combined). The process decided:

- World Zone will establish and approve internal statutes.
- World Zone will elect a Director and any supporting staff.
- World Zone will consider applications from any existing ICCF Member Federations to join the World Zone.

Proposal Summary

[2017-001 Approve the 2016 Congress Minutes](#)

For: 37

Against: 0

[2017-002 New Member Federation Application- Indonesia](#)

For: 38

Against: 0

[2017-003 Allow Congress to Fix Known Problems](#)

For: 39

Against: 1 (NED)

[2017-004 When an Active Player Fails to File an Adjudication Claim](#)

For: 38

Against: 1 (CZE)

[2017-005 Simplifying Adjudication/Cancellation Procedures](#)

For: 38

Against: 0

[2017-006 One Team per Team Captain](#)

For: 33

Against: 5 (AUS, ENG, INA, NED, TUR)

[2017-007 Delete Unnecessary Sentence from TR 5.1](#)

For: 38

Against: 0

[2017-008 Clarifying Player Eligibility](#)

For: 28

Against: 10 (AUT, CUB, ECU, ENG, GER, ITA, LUX, NED, PAN, PER)

[2017-009 Credit Card Module or Alternative Payment System](#)

For: 37

Against: 0

2017-010 2018 Congress - Bengaluru (Bangalore) India
[Proposal Withdrawn by Proposer]

[2017-011 Approve Services Committee Budget for 2018](#)

For: 37

Against: 0

[2017-012 Games in National Events to Count Towards the IA Title](#)

For: 19 (BLR, BUL, CAN, CRO, CZE, DEN, ESP, GUA, INA, LAT, LTU, LUX, NZL, ROU, RSA, SLO, UKR, USA, WLS)

Against: 20 (Proposal Defeated) (AUS, AUT, BRA, CUB, ECU, ENG, FIN, FRA, GER, IRL, ITA, NED, PAN, PER, POL, POR, SCO, SUI, SVK, SWE)

[2017-013 Regulating Zonal Membership Changes](#)

For: 31

Against: 2 (AUS, POL)

[2017-014 Establishment of ICCF World Zone](#)

For: 31

Against: 7 (AUS, CZE, LUX, NZL, POL, ROU, RSA)

[2017-015 Eliminate 50-Move Rule when a 7-Piece Ending is Present](#)

For: 25

Against: 13 (AUT, FRA, GER, INA, IRL, ITA, LUX, NED, SCO, SUI, SWE, TUR, USA)

[2017-016 Clarifying the Status of Isolated Players](#)

For: 35

Against: 3 (ENG, ESP, LUX)

[2017-017 Proposal Regarding Live Transmission of Moves](#)

For: 19

Against: 15 (AUT, BLR, CRO, FRA, GER, ITA, RSA, RUS, SLO, SUI, SVK, SWE, UKR, USA, WLS)

[2017-018 Use of the Online Voting System Should Not be Compulsory](#)

For: 20

Against: 16 (AUT, BUL, CAN, CZE, DEN, ECU, ESP, GER, INA, IRL, PAN, PER, POL, SCO, USA, WLS)

As outlined in the proposal, the writer of this proposal was required to accomplish the following if the proposal passed:

1. Provide recommended modifications to the present ICCF Voting Regulations and Electoral Procedures and any suggested changes to the ICCF statutes.
2. Creation, approval, and distribution of a communications plan to explain and educate delegates on (whatever) the new voting process becomes. Please include in the communication plan options for testing to ensure all delegates understand the new process, and additional personnel (specify any additional costs) to review, remind, and correct any delegates that are not following whatever the new process might be. Please specify additional requirements as well that Congress will need to develop to "encourage" delegates and other voting members to adhere to any new processes and procedures approved by Congress. Please include in the communications plan the impact to ICCF when: proposals may be submitted at any time, including at Congress, no analysis is completed in advance of Congress, proposals are considered and voted on by well-to-do or subsidized delegates attending Congress, deliberations are limited and restricted by the time in Congress, votes are called immediately, and a rough count of hands suffices for recording Congress intent.
3. Consider in the communications plan a change of Congress conduct to allow extra time to patiently explain to all voting members that arrive unprepared and uninformed all the nuisances of each proposal prior to discussion and voting, to include the intent, purpose, benefit, rationale, assessment, effort involved, cost estimates, considerations, and documentation affected. This might mean extending Congress again an extra day

or two to accommodate those who arrived unprepared or uninformed (i.e., holiday) and/or extending Congress to start earlier in the morning and/or end later in the evening. Please review and suggest adjustments to the Financial Plan and Congress documents to account for unexpected delays to accommodate unprepared delegates or appointed voting members. For any additional costs incurred by Congress, please include recommendations for raising revenues to offset the increased expenses, such as, raising tournament entry fees, for example.

4. Develop webserver process, requirements, specifications, and testing schemes to be reviewed and costed by our webserver developer contractor. Coordinate and monitor implementation testing on the Test server and report results.
5. Pending completion, recommendations, testing, and implementation of Working Group tasks 1 through 4 as outlined above and as voted on in Proposal 2017-018, ICCF will immediately discontinue use and maintenance of the online voting module and revert to ICCF statutes for guidance on voting, i.e., "Proposals relating to the agenda of the Congress must be received by the General Secretary, or the appropriate ICCF official, at least one month prior to the commencement of the Congress." Additionally, voting at Congress in 2018 (if there is a Congress) will follow the statute guidance, "ICCF Members have the right to participate and vote at the Congress, or to appoint a proxy in writing to vote on their behalf, ... "The single deadline(s) for a 2018 Congress (if any) are will be as articulated in the ICCF Statutes, "Proposals must be submitted no later than one month before Congress."

When asked when the proposer intended to compete these items, the proposer deferred any or all actions to the EB. The EB will offer several proposals in 2018 to address these discrepancies.

[2017-019 Awarding Medals for CCE/CCM Titles](#)

For: 30

Against: 6 (BLR, CZE, ENG, LUX, POL, SUI)

(Note: Financial regulations will need to be modified to account for this increased expense)

[2017-021 Move All Playing Rules Only Described in the TD Manuals to the Playing Rules](#)

Proposal withdrawn after 2017-022 passed.

[2017-022 Combining 8 ICCF Rule Documents into 1](#)

For: 22

Against: 11 (AUT, DEN, ESP, FRA, GER, ITA, NED, POL, TUR, USA, WLS)

[2017-023 Allow Member Federations to have 210 Games Each Year -- Free of Charge](#)

For: 25

Against: 13 (AUT, CRO, DEN, FRA, GER, IRL, ITA, RSA, RUS, SCO, SUI, USA, WLS)

[2017-024 Count ICCF Free Matches to TD`s Qualification for IA Title](#)

For: 25

Against: 8 (DEN, ECU, FRA, ITA, PAN, PER, POL, POR)

[2017-025 Award SIM Title to ICCF World Cup Winner](#)

For: 13

Against: 6 (ECU, ESP, LUX, PAN, PER, WLS)

[2017-026 Increase ICCF Governance of Member Organisations](#)

For: 19

Against: 15 (Proposal defeated - statute change requires a 2/3 vote in favor). (AUT, BLR, ENG, FIN, GER, IRL, LUX, NED, NZL, POR, RSA, RUS, SCO, SUI, SWE)

[2017-027 Claims in Cases of Withdrawal](#)

For: 33

Against: 3 (ECU, PER, USA)

[2017-028 Title System for Chess 960 to be Integrated into Regular Chess Events](#)

For: 8 (AUS, BLR, BUL, POL, POR, RUS, SLO, UKR)

Against: 28 (Proposal defeated)

[2017-029 Alleviating the Draw Offer Rule](#)

For: 27

Against: 8 (BLR, ECU, LUX, NED, PAN, PER, RUS, SWE)

[2017-030 To Extend Usage of Nalimov TB up to 7-man](#)

For: 14 (BLR, BRA, CAN, CUB, ECU, ENG, LAT, LTU, PAN, PER, POL, POR, RUS, SLO)

Against: 18 (Proposal defeated)

[2017-031 Improve the Player Experience for Tournament Registration and Entry](#)

For: 32

Against: 4 (ENG, ESP, LUX, NZL)

[2017-032 Title Norms - 70th Final of European Individual Championships - Postal](#)

For: 35

Against: 1 (WLS)

[2017-033 Member Federation - Dismissal - Tunisia](#)

For: 33

Against: 1 (NED)

[2017-034 Two Clarifications for the Playing Rules - Server](#)

For: 30

Against: 6 (ECU, ESP, NED, NZL, PAN, PER)

Official's Reports- Errata

Zones

Elections for Zonal Director need to be held for Zone 1 and the World Zone. There was some discussion and interesting suggestions about the name of this new zone, mostly focused around the applicability of the word "World" to a zone. However, several general definitions of a zone challenge the very use of the word zone to define a group of Federations with (seemingly) nothing in common:

(a) any continuous area that differs in some respect, or is distinguished for some purpose, from adjoining areas, or within which certain distinctive circumstances exist or are established.

(b) *Geography* - any of five great divisions of the earth's surface, bounded by lines parallel to the equator and named according to the prevailing temperature.

Perhaps the only definition that might be applicable would be the verb *zone*, "to divide into zones, tracts, areas, etc., as according to existing characteristics or as distinguished for some purpose."; however, the *purpose* seems to be elusive. The future ZD of the new zone will tackle this conundrum of nomenclature and perhaps, arguably, raises the question of the need for zones as the interest in postal play continues to diminish and the prevalence of the webserver eliminates any geographic considerations.

Ratings

All professional and academic names have been removed from the database. Ongoing discussions and analysis regarding the Glickman rating system will continue.

Finances

Congress participants voted unanimously to approve the financial report and various statements and plans. Two questions were raised regarding the presentation of the financial plan. Cell C39 (Cash Prize Estimate for 2017) - why did the figure go down from previous years? The response was that figure is heavily weighted to the DE Webserver tournament, which is held every 5-years. Another question was why cell J16 (Web Chess Open Revenue estimate for 2019) was so low?

Proposal 023 was linked to the Financial Report, Appendix D. The Finance Director reported approval of the proposal would cost ICCF approximately 2.000 Euros per year (negative cash flow). A discussion ensued about our cash position and various explanations of what affected cash and what did not (e.g., depreciation). Congress requested that the Finance Director consider creating a Statement of Cash Flow to accompany the other financial statements prepared.

Auditor - concerns about VAT that surfaced in the 2016 Congress are still present. ICCF President responded with a prepared [PowerPoint presentation](#) addressing the issues.

Tournaments

NTTC - a concern rose (and has been raised in previous years) that the title “Non-Title Tournament Commissioner” is seen as both (a) negative and (b) not truly reflective of the position as many tournaments under the authority of the NTTC do grant titles. Open for consideration is another (better) name for this commissioner. Delegates are requested to forward nominations to the EB (via the GS) and/or submit proposals for the next Congress.

A reminder that the Non-Title Tournament Commissioner (NTTC) is responsible for non-title tournaments to include the World Cup, Veterans, World Cup, and Champions League, to name a few. All requests to serve as Central Tournament Organizer for future tournaments should go through and be approved by the NTTC.

Promotional Tournaments - Jörg Kracht (GER) has assumed responsibility for these tournaments from Olli Ylönen (FIN).

ICCF World Cup 22 - the NTTC has announced that The Netherlands has been selected as the Central Tournament Organiser for this tournament.

Tournament Events Calendar - [latest version](#) (October 6) has been uploaded to the webserver. Please report any corrections/updates to the World Tournament Director.

2018 Congress

As of the 2017 Congress, there were no bids for host the 2018 Congress. According to the statutes, the ICCF President will decide. His choices include: (a) reopening the bidding period, (b) hosting a presidium or modified EB meeting, or (c) nothing.

The President has decided to reopen the bidding to host the 2018. Federations wishing to host the 2018 Congress must submit full proposals to the President and General Secretary no later than December 31, 2017. A decision will be made shortly thereafter. (Note: If a 2018 Congress host is selected, Zone 1 has pledged 2.000 Euros towards support of the Congress).

Because Congress voted to reverse the provisions of Proposal 2016-012 (<https://www.iccf.com/Proposal.aspx?id=36> Delegates Not Able to Attend Congress) with approval of Proposal 2017-018 (Use of the Online Voting System Should Not be Compulsory), The EB and especially the Services Directors committee are awaiting detailed requirements and specifications for a replacement voting schema.

2019 Congress

A reminder that this will be an election year (EB + Auditor). Notices of intent to host are being accepted by the EB and voting will take place for all valid proposals at the 2018 Congress (if there is one). Thus far, expressions of interest to host Congress for: (a) 2018 - Wales, England, and South Africa; (b) 2019 - none; (and (c) 2020 - USA.

The Swine Flew



WHOEVER MADE THIS

Is either a genius or an idiot



LUKE

I am your car.



STUDENT LOANS

Proud sponsor of future alcoholics.



WHY

Is there a penguin on the helipad?

VERY DEMOTIVATIONAL .com