

ICCF ARBITRATION COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS- VILNIUS 2019

1. This is my final report as I will be retiring from the Committee following the Vilnius Congress. I have been both member and Chairman since the inception of the Committee 15 years ago.
2. I have enjoyed my time on the Committee. I accept that some of the decisions made have found disfavour in certain quarters but as a parting shot could I please emphasise a number of important matters:
 - A) The committee is just that- a group of five people who, in good faith, make the relevant decision, by majority if necessary. The decision is not just that of the Chairman. Indeed very occasionally I have been in the minority and outvoted.
 - B) The Committee is a “creature of statute” that is to say that its terms of reference are restricted to those contained in ICCF’s rules and regulations. On occasion I have had to reject referrals from persons with grievances (however valid) on the grounds that there is no jurisdiction for the Committee to become involved.
 - C) There is no right of further appeal following a decision of the Committee save to Congress itself.
3. Alan Borwell, ICCF Honorary President, has also given notice of retirement from the Committee following Congress. I would like to put on record my immense gratitude to Alan for his contribution to the Committee. In particular his knowledge of ICCF history, as to why certain rules were brought into force, has been invaluable.
4. I also report that in December 2018 Brian Jones (AUS) unfortunately had to resign from the Committee on health grounds. My thanks go to him also for his contribution to the Committee whilst a member. His place was taken by Ambar Chatterjee (IND).
5. It follows that there will be two vacancies on the Committee following Vilnius. New ordinary members are appointed by the Executive Board. The new Chairman is appointed by Congress. I believe protocol allows me to make nominations and that is what I have done, with the consent of the relevant three individuals.
6. To deal with the Committee’s work during the last 12 months it has consisted virtually completely of dealing with appeals against sanctions imposed for breach of rules relating to multiple losses for exceeding time limits. The rules contain guidance as to appropriate sanctions, typically suspension from tournament play for a period of time, but with a right of appeal to the Arbitration Committee.

Can I emphasise that the Committee takes a very serious view of exceeding time limits, in particular because of the proliferation of draws in the modern game. The “gift” of a point gives the winner a huge advantage in the relevant tournament. It can ruin the tournament for other players who have expended large amounts of time and energy and not had the benefit of such a gift.

The Committee considers multiple losses on time to be a serious behavioural issue within the wording and spirit of the rules and will only interfere in the most exceptional circumstances.

7. I give to ICCF my very best wishes for the future.

R V M HALL

Chairman

28th. July 2019.