

ICCF Services Director's Report to Congress; Vilnius, Lithuania, 2019

Austin Lockwood, ICCF Services Director, July 2019

Dear friends,

Unfortunately, personal circumstances forced me to resign from the Executive Board in January; however, when it became clear that there were no candidates to replace me at the subsequent mid-term election, I was asked by the EB to cover the duties of the Services Director until Congress and willingly did so.

I am ready to continue these duties and to re-join the Executive Board in 2020, if this is the wish of the ICCF member federations.

I look forward to seeing you in Vilnius in August.

Austin

2018 Congress Proposals: Implementation Review

[2018-001 ETL Procedures in Team Events](#)

Proposal 2018-001 has been implemented on the webserver.

[2018-002 Restriction on who may be Team Captain](#)

Proposal 2018-002 has been implemented on the webserver.

[2018-003 Recording Leave for a Player by the TD](#)

No server update was required for proposal 2018-003 as this functionality was already present on the webserver.

[2018-008A Refinements to 3-Person Panel Review Procedures - Part A/B](#)

Proposal 2018-008 (Parts A and B) has been implemented on the webserver.

[2018-010 Setting a Limit to ETL Frequency by a Player](#)

Proposal 2018-10 has been implemented on the webserver.

[2018-015 Approve Services Committee Budget for 2019](#)

The Finance Director will report on Services Committee spending.

[2018-016 Insight into the List of ICCF Adjudicators for the National Delegates](#)

Proposal 2018-016 has been implemented on the webserver.

[2018-021 Option to Choose all ICCF Rules for National Events](#)

Proposal 2018-021 has been implemented on the webserver; there appears to be a trend towards member federations using ICCF rules for their national tournaments.

[2018-024 Updated ICCF Privacy Notice to Meet GDPR Requirements](#)

The Privacy Notice has been updated to reflect the current server implementation and will continue to be updated; players are now required to read and acknowledge the Privacy Notice. Work is ongoing to meet the full requirements of the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

[2018-026 Allow Team Mates to see all ongoing games in a team](#)

No server update was required for proposal 2018-026 as this functionality was already the default setting on the webserver.

[2018-036 ICCF Norm Optimized Tournaments](#)

The proposed tournaments have been started on the webserver and appear to be popular and successful.

[2018-037C Improve Delegate Engagement](#)

Proposal 2018-037C has been implemented on the webserver; delegates to the 2019 Congress should start to see reminder emails in their inboxes once online voting opens.

[2018-047 Improve Functions for Tournament Organizers \(Server\)](#)

Proposal 2018-047 has been implemented on the webserver.

[Work Completed Since 2018 Congress](#)

In addition to the actions mandated by Congress and described above, the following work items have been completed since the last ICCF Congress in Llandudno:

[Backlog Items Completed](#)

- Show registration status of a tournament to players
- Multi group events: Option for rolling/parallel events
- Improvements to rating diagram
- Online voting comment tracking
- ITTs: Require IA for every ITT where a GM norm is possible
- Triple block time control: Guaranteed time
- Create/edit event: Improve texts in rule drop down lists
- Consider removing respond.js
- Show list of registrations for a particular tournament
- Clean up administration menu
- Better 404 error message
- Show player names on adjudications screen
- Protection against distributed brute force attacks
- Remove the "Language" filter from mailings
- When recalculating norms and ITT requirements now fail, write an entry to tournament log
- GDPR consent screens for players and officials
- GDPR Admin can remove player data
- GDPR Admin can remove chat from game
- GDPR Limit access to personal data
- GDPR Delete player
- Show only players with fixed ratings in chess 960 top list

- Do not award norms to substitutes
- Option for a "strict" rating filter for registrations
- Add validations to "Edit result" page
- Globalization of "Request Substitution" screen
- GDPR Remove email address from system messages
- GDPR Remove IP address columns from user table
- GDPR Remove PayPal email address column from EventRegistrations table
- GDPR Remove unnecessary columns from Special Leave table
- GDPR Player suspensions should be visible to the player
- Link to Twitter should be https
- If a player is registered for a mutli-group event, but his section is not started yet, change the message on My Events to "Waiting to start"
- If a tournament with registrations is a MGE and is cancelled, the registrations should be restored to "waiting for event" status,
- Include Backup TD in startlists
- GDPR: Remove unused Fax column
- GDPR Script for anonymizing a copy of the database
- DE commissioner should be able to generate vouchers
- Criteria for automatic suspensions
- GDPR: Update NF accounts export
- Validation for excessive capitalization
- Update column headers for tie breaks in Silli events
- "Copy to Self" option on player message screen
- More slots for federation officials
- Globalize email template for messages sent via player details
- Update texts on help screen when not logged in
- Simplify create/edit event registrations tab, remove "DE exclusive" option

Bugs fixed

- Rounding in rating rule 5
- Possible issue with "Update order" in large multi group events
- Possible issue with starting the first groups of large multi group events
- Menu items are shown even if in draft mode
- My events: Users in QC role or ACO chair role who are not in TD role nor in TO role cannot see their own events
- Bug on claims page
- When changing header from Tables and Result page, the header of the children of MGEs is not changed
- Cannot allocate players in Hutton events
- Strange display of categories on multi group parent page
- Problem with the "Latest Tournaments" page
- Unhandled error when viewing some multi-group events
- Sponsors marked as "inactive" still appear on the list of available sponsors for TOs to select.
- ICCF congresses: Delegates button is publicly visible, but delegates screen isn't
- Incorrect email to DE admin when NF rejects event registration
- Game of withdrawn player set to ongoing when a second player is replaced

- Unhandled error on PlayerData screen
- On the screen for federations officials to add registrations, the rating restrictions are enforced
- Warning about Baumbach tiebreaks shown for Silli tournaments
- Relative links in email
- TD Validation Error
- Email menu on cross table hidden in non-server events
- Notification to player when account confirmed
- Exception in Investigation.Clear()
- Rating forecast for player with unfixed rating does not work if there are two rating periods forecasted, and the player has no games in the first forecast, and at least one game in the second forecast

Overall webserver spending 2018

Description	Budget	Actual	Under-(Overspend)
Maintenance	7,200	8,640	(1,440)
Testing	4,800	5,386	(596)
Amortization	21,130	21,036	94
Hosting	6,500	6,718	(218)
Contribution zone 1	(5,000)	(5,000)	
Total	34,630	36,780	2,150

2019 Congress Proposals

Please note that the implementation costs here are estimated, and some overhead has been added for systematic testing.

2019-001 Approve 2018 Congress Minutes

No work required on the server.

2019-002 Approve Financial Reports and 5-year Financial Plan

No work required on the server.

2019-003 Approve Services Committee Budget for 2020

All 2020 development tasks and implementation of Congress proposals will depend on approval of the Services Committee budget.

2019-004 Defining When to Apply the at Least 50% ETL Rule

An automated email will be generated and sent to the TD and player's ND when 50% ETLs have been reached in a tournament where the player has at least six games.

Estimated implementation cost: €200 Euros.

2019-005 ICCF Medal and Certificate Awards

No work required on the server.

2019-006 Additional Analysis Submission for the 3-person Panel Review

1. Email to the player to submit additional analysis.

2. New screen where player can submit additional analysis, or decline.
3. Reminder / automatic ""no additional analysis"" after deadline.
4. Send email to panellists that the panel has started.
5. Show additional analysis on panel review screen.
6. This additional analysis can be PGN files.

Estimated implementation cost: €1,000 Euros.

2019-007 Defining "Repeated Misbehaviour"

No work required on the server.

2019-008A Clarifying ICCF Rules by Eliminating the Word "Should" – A

No work required on the server.

2019-008B Clarifying ICCF Rules by Eliminating the Word "Should" – B

No work required on the server.

2019-009 ICCF Retention Policy for Sensitive Personal Information

I strongly recommend that Congress accepts this proposal, because we have a legal requirement under GDPR to remove sensitive personal information when it is no longer useful.

1. Delete investigation after 6 months inactivity.
2. Delete manual entries from game and event logs 6 months after event finished.

Estimated implementation cost: €500 Euros.

2019-010 [CONFLICT] Eliminate Age and Gender Specific Events

There is a negative cost to this proposal. As part of our ongoing GDPR compliance project, we will be removing the Gender and Date of Birth fields from the database. In order to facilitate entry to age and/or gender specific tournaments without storing this information in the database, we intend to add a confirmation dialogue to age and gender specific tournaments (for example, *"This tournament is limited to players aged sixty years or older, please confirm that you meet this criteria"*). If this proposal is accepted by Congress, then we will be able to cancel this work item.

Estimated implementation cost: €500 Euros saved.

2019-011 ICCF Congress in 2020

No work required on the server.

2019-012 Rules for Multiple Member Federation Participation Events

1. In a national tournament if the TO adds a player to the tournament, make a check of the federation and country of residence, and require "ICCF rules" or only players from the federation.
2. Repeat check on tournament start.
3. When replacing or substituting, only allow players from the NF in national tournaments without "use all ICCF rules".

Estimated implementation cost: €500 Euros.

2019-013 ICCF Disciplinary Review Process

No work required on the server.

2019-014 Provisional Rating Procedure

The new rule would apply from a particular rating list, we would need to keep old rule to enable the rating correction procedure.

Estimated implementation cost: €200 Euros.

2019-015 Clarifying the "Regulations" of the ICCF Appeal Committee

No work required on the server.

2019-016A Limiting When Recorded Game Results can be Overturned – A

No work required on the server.

2019-016b Limiting When Recorded Game Results Can Be Overturned – B

No work required on the server.

2019-017 Applying Appeal Committee Regulations to the Arbitration Committee

No work required on the server.

2019-018 Recommendation to Congress - Hong Kong to be Dismissed from ICCF

No work required on the server.

2019-019 [CONFLICT] Allowing Claims Based on the 7-Piece Endgame Tablebase

1. Implement new 7-piece-tablebase rule.
2. Make this rule required for ICCF rules events after a certain date.

Estimated implementation cost: €200 Euros.

2019-020 No Charge for National Postal Games

No work required on the server.

2019-021 Clarification of Request for Accepted Withdrawal

No work required on the server.

2019-022 [CONFLICT] Eliminate Gender Specific Events

Please see the evaluation of 2019-010; the cost of implementing this proposal is negative.

Estimated implementation cost: €200 Euros saved.

2019-023 [CONFLICT] Change the 50 Moves Rule to 100 moves and Accept Claims up to 100 Moves

Unfortunately, this proposal is not implementable. There is only one source of data for evaluating tablebase claims involving seven pieces which gives the distance to mate (ignoring the 50-move rule) in any position; this is the Lomonosov tablebase hosted by ChessOK/Convekta. To implement this proposal as it is written would make ICCF *entirely* dependent on this service. The Services Committee considers this risk to be unacceptable.

2019-024 Clarifying a Requirement for an Adjudicated Win

Show some additional text on the adjudication screen; this would need to be globalised (i.e. shown in the player's own language).

Estimated implementation cost: €100 Euros.

2019-025 Promotion of School Events

No immediate work is required on the server, however eventually some way of marking tournaments as free will be required to facilitate reporting for accounting and billing.

2019-026 Precedence of Conflicting Proposals

No work required on the server.

2019-027 Consultation in Team Play

No work required on the server.

2019-028 [CONFLICT] Eliminate the ICCF Ladies Olympiad and Ladies World Championship

No work required on the server.

2019-029 Congress Expenses for Officials

No work required on the server.

2019-030 Clarifying the Difference Between Invitational and Open Events

No work required on the server.

2019-031 Improve ICCF Congress Minutes

No work required on the server.

2019-032 "Reserve Players" in WCCC Stages

No work required on the server.

2019-033 2019 Tournament Fee Structure

Although some future work is planned to enable reports for accounting and billing, and implementing this proposal will eventually facilitate this work, no immediate work is planned.

2019-034 Calculation for Fixed Ratings

We would need to apply the new rule starting with a certain rating list and keep the old rule to enable rating correction procedure.

Estimated implementation cost: €200 Euros.

2019-035 Direct Norms for the GM – Title

Some further details are required before an estimate can be provided, for example who would receive the norm in the case of places being tied.

2019-036 Implement the Silli system in Large ICCF Tournaments

1. Support number of games 12 and 14
2. Multiple entries feature (further details required)
3. Multi group event support
4. additional tie breaking (specification required)
5. Replacement rules (specification required)
6. ITT support (specification required)

Further clarification is required before an estimate of cost can be made.

2019-037 Merger of Zone 4 into World Zone

Minimal maintenance work required on the server.

2019-038 Adjustment of GM Norm Requirements

Implement new threshold, keep old threshold for tournaments starting before a certain start date

2019-039 Add Two Weeks of Discussion Time on Last Minute Proposals

This work item is already in the backlog.

2019-040 Eliminate the ICCF Zonal System

1. Remove zonal page.
2. Remove zonal administration.
3. Remove zone from country details.
4. Remove zone from country admin.

There are several emails which are sent to zonal directors, and server permissions which are currently assigned to zonal directors (in particular pertaining to isolated players), further clarification of how these features will be replaced is required before an estimate of cost can be made.

2019-041 Players Should be Free to Decide if They Want to Use Linear Conditional Moves

Further details have been requested.

2019-042 2/3 Majority Required for Changes to Voting Regulations

No work required on the server.

Miscellaneous Priority One Tasks Not Linked to 2019 Congress Proposals

The Services Committee have identified the following work items to prioritise for development in 2020:

Backlog Items

- Historically correct rating lists with regard to deaths of players
- Additional player name with native characters
- Additional historic events (pre Eloquery)
- Prevent players playing in multiple teams in a team event
- Display team captains to public
- Inactive new accounts
- Events checked by QC
- Historically correct certificates
- Automation of games archive
- Accessibility improvements for game page
- Reports for QC (Excel or CSV downloadable)
- Multiple withdrawals: Check for unregistered ETLs
- Automated withdrawals: Stopping games in other tournaments
- Automated withdrawals: Check for claims in other tournaments
- Improve event log for automated withdrawals
- Additional filter on DEC and NF registrations list
- More secure Xfcc authentication with application passwords

- Players able to download their PGN files sent for adjudication
- Allow replacement of withdrawn players up to four months after the start date for all withdrawals where the withdrawn player has no finished games
- Duplicate email feedback
- Rewrite tables and results screen
- Consider caching of PGN files and/or limiting downloads
- Add the ability to make a replacement or substitution from registrations
- GDPR Remove date of birth field
- GDPR Remove gender field (was 2018-034A)
- Option to not break ties in events
- 2019-009 Retention Policy for Game and Event Log, and investigation
- Team captains should be able to send email to other team captains in the same event
- Only one substitution allowed per participant

Bugs

- Robo-TD comment is not globalized, message sometimes duplicated
- No email notification when a table base lookup is scheduled

Overall webserver spending 2019 half year

Description	Budget	HY Actual	To be spendable HY2
Maintenance	7,500	2,925	4,575
Testing	5,000	1,643	3,357
Amortization	21,334	10,156	11,178
Hosting	6,000	2,589	3,411
Contribution zone 1	(5,000)	(2,500)	(2,500)
Total	34,834	14,813	20,021

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to our professional team, Martin Bennedik and Felix Kleinschmidt for their high-quality work.

I would also like to sincerely thank the players, delegates, officials, and particularly members of the ICCF Services Committee, who have offered me their unwavering support over what has been a particularly difficult year for me personally.

Rydym yn Ffrindiau – Amici Sumus

Austin Lockwood, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau ICCF

Manceinion Lloegr, Gorffennaf 2019

Appendix A: Services Committee Nominations for 2020

- ICCF Services Director (to be elected) (Chair)
- Deputy Services Director (to be appointed)
- Frank Geider (FRA)
- Russell Sherwood (WLS)
- Uwe Staroske (GER) (plus members of the Ratings and Qualification Commissions)
- Dennis Doren (USA)
- Tom Biedermann (USA)
- Mariusz Wojnar (POL)
- Hermann Rösch (PAN)

The ICCF President and General Secretary (to be elected) are ex-officio members)