

On June 12, Georg Walker, former president of the Swiss Correspondence Chess Federation, passed away shortly after his 90th birthday. He was born on May 28, 1934, and began playing correspondence chess actively in 1974. In 1986, he qualified for the Master Class. He finished second at the 11th Swiss Correspondence Chess Championship, and in 2004, he took sixth place at the 18th edition. In 1996, the International Correspondence Chess Federation (ICCF) named him an International Master, and in 1999, he was named a Meritorious International Correspondence Chess Master (SIM). The Swiss Correspondence Chess Federation (SFSV) was founded by Georg Walker and Martin Christoffel in October 1985. The ICCF Congress took place in Baden the very following year. Other highlights under his aegis included the 1999 ICCF Congress in Thun, where 100 ICCF delegates spent an unforgettable day on the Schilthorn. During this congress, Georg Walker became the first correspondence chess player to receive the SIM title and diploma. At the 17th ICCF Olympiad, Switzerland, with Walker as playing captain, achieved 5th place, missing the bronze medal by just one point. In the 27th World Championship Final, GM Rolf Scherer achieved an excellent 5th place with a score of +1. Georg Walker was president from the beginning until his retirement in 2009. For more than 20 years, he was the "heart and strength" of Swiss correspondence chess. Georg Walker has been honorary president of the SFSV since 2009. His last correspondence chess game was in June 2015, when he drew in a match against the USA with SIM Thomas Biedermann. At the end, he had a rating of 2452 ELO points. His last rated rapid chess games date back to 2014, where he scored 3.5 points from 4 games in the 2nd and 4th leagues of the Swiss Team Championship (SMM).