STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE CHESS FEDERATION

Section 1: Status, Principles and Purpose of the Association

Article 1

The *International Correspondence Chess Federation* (ICCF) is the worldwide organisation for correspondence chess. It is independent and has an unlimited duration. Its merger with any other organisation and its dissolution requires the unanimous approval of members present or represented at the general assembly, called the Congress.

Article 2

The *International Correspondence Chess Federation* (ICCF) is a non-profit federation which organises a purely recreational sports activity. From its inception, ICCF has been an affiliated international member of FIDE (the World Chess Federation), which itself is a member of ARISF *(Association of IOC Recognised International Sports Federations),* which gathers international sports federations recognised by the International Olympic Committee.

All ICCF officials work on an honorary basis.

Article 3

Correspondence chess is defined as any game of chess in which the players do not sit opposite each other at a chessboard to make their moves. The moves are transmitted remotely by various means and the time is normally counted in days per move, but can be counted in hours, minutes, and seconds.

Article 4

1) The seat of ICCF is based in Switzerland, at the headquarters of the member association *Die Schweizer Fernschachvereinigung* (SFSV) - Association Suisse des Echecs par Correspondance (ASEC)
- *Associazione Svizzera Scacchi per Corrispondenza* (ASSC), by virtue of a special agreement attached as an appendix to these Statutes.

2) The Congress is authorised to establish offices anywhere in the world, according to ICCF interests. The offices are opened in accordance with the national laws governing associations in the country in which they are located.

3) The Congress authorizes the Executive Board to create an office with legal capacity on the French Republic territory, in accordance with the article 4, 1°) of the ICCF Statutes, having its seat at the place of residence of the ICCF President.

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Article 5

ICCF's financial year begins January 1st and ends December 31st of each year. Accounts are presented in Euros, as well as all other financial information, except when it appears more favourable to provide it other currencies.

Article 6

1) Members of ICCF contribute to the material life of the organization by paying a membership fee which is set annually by the Congress. This membership fee is comprised of a fixed part based on the number of players belonging to the member federation and a second part corresponding to the number and nature of the chess games played by the players belonging to each member federation.

2) The first part of the membership fee is calculated per 100 players belonging to the national federation, giving rise, for each portion thereof, to a contribution in an amount set by the Congress.

3) The second part of the membership fee is a contribution levied against a rate for each tournament organized by ICCF multiplied by the number of players from the member federations who participated in each of these tournaments.

4) ICCF does not require that this rate effectively match the amount of the playing fees that the federations may require from their members to participate in ICCF tournaments and as such does not interfere in the economic and financial management of member federations.

5) In an emergency, particularly the creation of tournaments before the meeting of the Congress, the Executive Board is expressly delegated with the ability to set one or more new rates, as defined in paragraph 3) of this article. These rates are subject to ratification at the next Congress which takes place.

6) The second part of the membership fee is confirmed by the Congress each year, or modified for the same tournaments played in previous years.

Article 7

ICCF resources are comprised of:

a) Annual membership fees,
b) Government grants, if any,
c) Donations and private assistance that the association may receive,
d) Other resources not prohibited by laws and regulations; belonging to this category, game fees paid directly to ICCF by players, which may include citizens of countries with no national correspondence chess association, and especially any type of online payment system on the Internet; member federations of the ICCF may refuse to allow their players to use this direct payment system, in accordance with the rules established by the internal bylaws.

Article 8

ICCF's purpose is to promote and develop the study and practice of correspondence chess throughout the world. It encourages and develops relationships and cooperation between international chess players, enthusiasts and the World Chess Federation (FIDE) with the objective of improving contact and harmony among all peoples of the world.

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Article 9

1) ICCF enacts the rules for correspondence chess at the international level as defined in article 3, including those relating to the individual and team World Championships. ICCF's purpose is also to promote and to be able to authorize other tournaments by correspondence at the international level.

2) In accordance with its internal bylaws and its various playing rules, ICCF provides individual rankings and confers titles on correspondence players and on international arbiters.

Article 10

ICCF is a democratic association and does not discriminate based on race, skin colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, social origin, property, birth origin or any other status. ICCF observes strict neutrality with respect to the internal affairs of member federations and affiliated organizations.

All ICCF Services, including the services of all official ICCF commissions and tournament offices are available to all member federations without exception.

Article 11

The ICCF has its own logo, its own motto "AMICI SUMUS" (we are friends) and its own anthem. These materials may only be reproduced with ICCF's prior authorization.

Article 12

Amendments to the statutes require a vote of the general assembly, called the Congress, and a majority of two thirds of the members present or represented. To make changes to the statutes, the announcement must be published at least four weeks before the Congress is held.

Section 2: Acquisition and Loss of Membership

Article 13

ICCF members are national correspondence chess organizations who are the authorities on national correspondence chess activities in their own countries. Only one federation per country is allowed.

Article 14

A national federation wishing to join ICCF must submit a written request to the ICCF General Secretary, which must include the numbers for its player members, a copy of its statutes, constitution and rules and any other information requested by ICCF. Admission as an ICCF member is decided by the Congress.

Article 15

Deleted

Article 16

ICCF Members have the right to participate and vote at the Congress, according to the procedures set out by the ICCF Voting Regulations and Electoral Procedures, and to submit proposals to the Executive Board and to the ICCF Congress. Each

member has the duty to appoint an official delegate and to inform the General Secretary of this, for all ICCF business and especially for representation at the Congress. Member federations have the right to participate in team tournaments organized by ICCF and to name individual players for tournaments according to the rules and quotas set by ICCF in its internal bylaws and the various rules of play.

Article 17

The members acknowledge and accept these Statutes, as well as the bylaws, the various rules of play and ICCF decisions. They must pay their membership fees without delay during the time period set out for this by the Finance Director, member of the Executive Board. The violation of these duties can lead to suspension or loss of membership by the Congress, as proposed by the Executive Board.

The Executive Board is empowered by Congress to propose suspension or dismissal of member federations for non-financial reasons.

Article 18

1) People who have served with distinction as President may be elected Honorary President by a two-thirds majority of the Congress.

2) People who have served for more than 35 years (or earlier if Congress considers the recipient to be deserving the Lifetime Achievement award) with outstanding service and distinction to the ICCF for the benefit and development of correspondence chess at the international level may be awarded the Lifetime Achievement by a two-thirds majority vote of the Congress.

3) People who have served for more than 25 years (or earlier if Congress considers the recipient to be deserving of Honorary Membership) with outstanding service and distinction to the ICCF for the benefit and development of correspondence chess at the international level may be elected Honorary Members by a two-thirds majority of the Congress.

4) Honorary Presidents and Members have the right to take part in all Congresses as observers without voting rights. In addition, they should be provided the same information and invitations as member federation delegates.

Article 19

The internal bylaws define the conditions under which international correspondence chess clubs can become affiliated members of ICCF and define the rights and duties attaching to that status.

Section 3: Executive Board

Article 20

The Executive Board includes:

a. The President
b. The General Secretary
c. The Finance Director
d. The World Tournament Director
e. The Marketing Director
f. The Services Director

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g. The Rules Director

Article 21

The president alone has the ability to represent ICCF with respect to third parties in all activities of civil life of the association, with the power to delegate, to one or more members of the Executive Board. The General Secretary of the association replaces the president if the president is unable to continue.

Article 22

1) The members of the Executive Board and the Financial Auditor are elected by the Congress every four years. The elected members take office from the January 1st following the date of the Congress. However, when intermediary elections are required, they can be organized by email and the members elected under these conditions take office immediately.

2) The internal bylaws set out the rules of voting and the electoral process in detail.

Article 23

Deleted.

Article 24

The term of office for all members of the Board ends on December 31st at the end of the 4 year period.

Section 4 : The Congress

Article 25

The Congress is the highest authority of ICCF which exercises legislative power. It approves the ICCF budget, elects the Executive Board and Auditor and determines the structure of ICCF. It supervises activities delegated to the Executive Board and ICCF Officials.

Article 26

Voting Members of the Congress are the official delegates of Member organizations.

Article 27

No quorum is necessary for meetings of the Congress.

Article 28

When a Member federation cannot be represented by its delegate at a Congress, that federation shall be entitled to exercise its voting rights according to the procedures set out by the ICCF Voting Regulations and Electoral Procedures.

Article 29

The Congress shall meet at least every other year either in person or online. The arrangements of a Congress shall be decided by the preceding Congress or, in the absence of such a decision, by the President.

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Article 30

Invitations, agenda and formal notices for a Congress shall be sent by the ICCF Executive Board, together with the invitation and information from the host federation, at least four months in advance of the Congress. 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.
The President of ICCF is empowered to cancel or rearrange a meeting of Congress, should exceptional circumstances arise.

Article 31

An extraordinary meeting of Congress will be convened by the Executive Board upon the request of a majority of the members of ICCF or two-thirds of the members of the Executive Board. It will be convened within 3 months of date of receipt of such a request.

Article 32

The request for an extraordinary meeting of Congress shall specify the location, the purpose and the agenda for the meeting. The EB will make the arrangements accordingly and will provide the details of the arrangements to all Member organizations at least one month in advance of the date of the meeting.

Section 5: The Financial Auditor

Article 33

The Auditor is responsible to the Congress for the auditing of the accounts and the financial reports provided to him or her, according to ICCF rules and best practices in accounting. He or she must provide a report to the Congress.

Section 6: The Appeals Committees

Article 34

There are two Appeals Committees established within ICCF:
- Appeals Committee Rules
- Arbitration Committee

Article 35

Deleted

Article 36

The ICCF Appeals committee has authority:

- (a) in cases related to the ICCF playing rules,
- -(b) any other regulations relating to correspondence chess in ICCF.

Member federations may use the ICCF appeals process if
- (a) their tournaments follow ICCF rules and
- (b) appeals are submitted in one of the 5 official languages

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Article 37

The Arbitration Committee has jurisdiction over disputes of a broader nature, such as disputes related to the behaviour of leaders and officials, tournament officials, member federations or individual players.

Article 38

The ICCF Appeal Committees are complementary and cannot be considered as hierarchical levels for successive appeals.

Article 39

The Chairpersons of the Appeals Committee are nominated by the Executive Board. These nominations must be approved by the Congress, by a simple majority vote.

Article 40

The work of the ICCF Appeals Committees is subject to operational procedures. Players, team captains, member federation delegates and officials must submit their appeal to the chairperson of the Appeals Committee.

Article 41

Decisions of the ICCF Appeals Committee are without recourse.

Section 7: Internal Bylaws

Article 42

The Congress adopts bylaws whose purpose it is to clarify and supplement the ICCF internal operating rules. They may also include the ICCF playing and tournament rules.

Section 8: Final Provisions

Article 43

The present statutes have been passed by a majority of two-thirds of the members present or represented at the 2024 Congress (Llandudno) and repeal the former statutes in their version modified for the last time at the 2023 Congress (Amsterdam)

If there are any discrepancies in the interpretation of these Statutes, the French version will prevail, due to the Swiss nationality of the International Correspondence Chess Federation (ICCF).

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