



**International Braille Chess Association
Presidential Board meeting - Minutes
Sunday, February 1, 2026 at 10:00 UTC
Zoom**

Present:

Jörgen Magnusson, president
Piotr Dukaczewski, 1st vice-president
Nikos Kalesis, 2nd vice-president
Olivier Deville, secretary
Thorsten Mueller, treasurer

Proposed agenda:

- §1 Opening of meeting
- §2 List of participants and establishment of quorum
- §3 Establishment of agenda
- §4 Reports.
- §5 Upcoming tournaments.
- §6 Dispute regarding what organization that is formal IBCA member for Pakistan.
- §7 Relationship between IBCA and IBCA America
- §8 Eventual other questions.
- §9 Closing of the meeting.

§1 Opening of meeting

Jörgen Magnusson, president, opens the meeting and welcomes the participants.

§2 List of participants and establishment of quorum

5 members out of 5 are present. The quorum is established.

§3 Establishment of agenda

The proposed agenda is approved by the board.

§4 Reports.

Coaching courses with Aegean University: Jörgen reports that there have been administrative problems, but a final list of around 25 participants from Kenya, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Philippines and Jörgen himself should be sent today. A final proposal about chess in schools for blind children, applying for financial help, will be sent to FIDE.

Noctie IA coaching software: The company is working on making this very powerful tool accessible to the blind.

Jörgen has initiated a talk with an engineer from Ericsson, who is ready to develop for free a software that would allow blind people to search in game databases.

Ukraine is asking whether or not Russia will take part in the Team World championship that is going to take place in Petrovac, Montenegro, and is requesting a financial help from IBCA for this event. The war in Ukraine is still going on, so Russia is still out of IBCA tournaments. By unanimous decision, the board decides that IBCA cannot pay anything more for Ukraine.

Serbia has paid the 1.000 euro fine for not organizing the excursion during the 2025 Olympiads. They still have to compensate India for lost flight tickets. Serbia is permanently excluded at the moment, and will have to submit a new membership application in order to get the status of provisional member. In any case, the IBCA board confirms by unanimous decision that Serbia will not be allowed to take part in the Team World championship.

Olivier reports that getting a VAT number from the French administration is very difficult. Since this VAT number is not really needed at the moment, the board decides to let it go for the time being.

§5 Upcoming tournaments.

Team World championship in Petrovac, Montenegro: the board suggests that the deadline for registrations be extended till February 15.

Junior and women championship, classical and rapid European championship in Crete, Greece: Invitation documents have been corrected and will be sent out to member countries.

Individual Asian championship in Pakistan in October 2026: The situation is unclear, see Paragraph 6.

European Team championship 2027: During its meeting that was held on December 14: 2025, the Executive board decided to grant the organization of this event to Benidorm, Spain. The event will take place in May 2027.

World championship 2027: The bidding procedure should be open before the Team World championship.

§7 Relationship between IBCA and IBCA America

§8 Eventual other questions.

Jörgen thinks that we should work on a budget for IBCA. Now that IBCA doesn't have to send a team to FIDE Olympiads, we have much more resources than before. IBCA should now be considered as a growing organization, which aim is to develop chess for the blind in parts of the world where IBCA is not well established yet. Thorsten says that IBCA has around 40.000 euro on the bank account. We get around 2.000 euros income per year from annual fees, Registration fees are partly spent on medical tests. IBCA has enough resources to finance projects that still have to be defined.

IBCA needs to be more visible in web broadcasts like Youtube, to promote its actions, chess in schools for instance.

§9 Closing of the meeting.

No one asking to speak, the president closes the meeting.

Olivier Deville
Secretary IBCA