



**International Braille Chess Association
Executive Board meeting - Minutes
Saturday, September 13, 2025 at 14:00 UTC
Zoom**

Present:

Jörgen Magnusson, president
Piotr Dukaczewski, 1st vice-president
Nikos Kalesis, 2nd vice-president
Olivier Deville, secretary
Thorsten Mueller, treasurer
Johannes Grib, continental representative of Africa
James Infiesto, continental representative of Asia
Mahendra Galani, continental representative of Europe
Kishan Gangolli, board member
Marilyn Bland, board member
Harrison Nyaga, board member
José Maria Saponara, secretary IBCA America, without voting rights

Absent:

Fernando Daza, continental representative of America

Proposed agenda:

§1 Opening of meeting
§2 List of participants and establishment of quorum
§3 Establishment of agenda
§4 Upcoming tournaments
Panamericans.
The Team World Championship.
The Asian individual Championship.
Juniors' and Women's championships 2026.
European Individual Championships 2026.
European Team Championships 2027.
The individual World Championships 2027.

The Olympiads 2029.

Eventual other tournaments.

§5 Sum up and evaluation of the World Championships and congress.

§6 Applications and meeting with the FIDE president.

§7 Online archive.

§8 Reports.

We share things that already have not been dealt with.

§9 Eventual other questions.

§10 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

11 members out of 12 are present. The quorum is established.

§3 Establishment of agenda

Piotr points out that we should discuss membership applications from two new organizations: Polish Chess Federation (Poland) and Manos que miran (Mexico). This point becomes paragraph 4 of the agenda.

§4 Membership applications from two new organizations

According to the new statutes, in exceptional cases more than one organization per country can be accepted. Polish Chess Federation (Poland) and Manos que miran (Mexico) are unanimously approved as temporary members of IBCA.

§5 Upcoming tournaments

Panamericans: José Maria comments that all countries have to confirm the participation of their players by September 30, so we will have a complete list of participants on October 1st. Everything is going fine up to now. The decision of temporary membership approval will be sent out to the Manos que miran organization immediately, so that they can register in time.

The Team World Championship: Nikos is in touch with Jovan Milovic, the organizer from Montenegro. At the moment, the dates are 17 to 28 April, 2026. A formal invitation will be available soon.

The Asian individual Championship: A bid has been received from Pakistan. The board agrees to give Pakistan the right to organize this event, but some changes are needed in the invitation. IBCA will get in touch with the organizers.

Juniors' and Women's championships 2026 and European Individual Championships 2026: Greece is ready to organize both events in October or November 2026. An European individual rapid championship could be organized as well.

European Team Championships 2027: A bid has been received from North Macedonia. The board needs more details. The tournament director will be in touch with the bidders.

Individual World Championships 2027: The bidding procedure will be started as soon as we have provisional dates for the European Team Championships 2027 in North Macedonia. The new statutes stipulate that one world crown will be awarded to the overall winner of the tournament and another one to the first B1 player. A committee consisting of Jörgen, James, Harrison, and Marilyn is formed and will submit proposals to the next Executive board.

Olympiad 2029: The bidding will be open by mid 2026.

§6 Sum up and evaluation of the World Championships and congress.

Jörgen believes that basically, the organization of the World championship was very good. The food was rather repetitive and it is unfortunate that the main arbiter did not speak English. Piotr explains that another person was appointed, but had to resign at the last moment for personal reasons. Thorsten adds that the rapid tournament was quite good for a first try. Rapid play is more difficult for totally blind players though.

According to Jörgen, the Congress went smoothly. It is a very good thing that the new statutes will allow IBCA to grant a crown to blind players. Mahendra thinks that a group could be formed to revise the statutes again, in order to improve some points.

§7 Applications and meeting with the FIDE president.

Jörgen has been in touch with Arkadi Dvorkovitch, the FIDE President, who is ready to have a meeting with Piotr in Astana during the Olympiads for Disabled in October. IBCA is planning to submit to FIDE applications on coaching in schools for the blind in India and Africa, and software development. Piotr thinks that IBCA needs to evaluate its needs, and then start with two or three projects and ask FIDE President what are the possibilities to cooperate. IBCA is seeking financial and expert support from FIDE.

§8 Online archive.

IBCA should open an account on Dropbox or some other platform in order to keep some documents that board members have on their computers. Thorsten comments that a Microsoft package may be available for free for non-profit organizations.

§9 Reports

Twenty boards now reached South Africa. Another thirty boards have been ordered for South Africa, and fifty for Kenya.

Marilyn is having contact with people from Guyana, a possible new member.

Harrison comments that coaching will be started soon in two schools for the blind in Nairobi.

Mahendra has created a Whatsapp group for Europe, and is currently adding people.

§10 Eventual other questions.

No questions.

§11 Closing of the meeting.

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

Olivier Deville
Secretary IBCA