



International Braille Chess Association

Congress

Hotel "Rzeszow" (**) J. Pilsudskiego 44, Rzeszow, Poland**

August 23, 2025, 10:00

MODIFIED STATUTES

Introduction

In what follows I put forward proposals for modifications of statute. The modification mainly regards membership and level of vision. I first quote the current statute and below write the suggested modification.

02 – IBCA Membership

A – Member Federations

2.1. Members of IBCA are National Braille Chess Federations which means organizations dedicatedly established by or for the promotion of braille chess for blind and visually impaired which have principal authority over braille chess activities in their own countries and which have been admitted to IBCA as member-federations, if they acknowledge the IBCA Statutes and develop activities not contrary to those statutes. Only one federation of each country can be affiliated to IBCA. A sub-committee or organization not working dedicatedly for disability cannot become IBCA member as 'National Federation for Braille Chess'.

2.1. Members of IBCA are organizations which promote braille chess for blind and visually impaired in their own countries and which have been admitted to IBCA as member-organizations, if they acknowledge the IBCA Statutes and develop activities not contrary to those statutes. Generally, only one organization of each country can be affiliated to IBCA, but under special circumstances IBCA executive board can grant provisional membership to more than one organization per country. Such decision has to be approved by the IBCA congress.

2.2. In addition, IBCA can grant the status of provisional member to organizations that promote chess for blind and visually impaired. For new members, the country of the federation (with the same boundaries) must be a country or territory that is a member of the FIDE or International Olympic Committee.

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2.3. The admission of a national chess federation as a member is effected through an application. This application is to be submitted to the IBCA Secretariat. The provisional admittance is decided upon by the Executive board. Final admittance as a member is pronounced by the IBCA Congress after examination of the preconditions for admittance by the Executive Board. The application for admission must include all data, which will make evident that the statutory purpose and the previous activities of the applicant are in conformity with the IBCA Statutes. The application for admission shall be accompanied by the official questionnaire of IBCA approved by the IBCA Congress, completely filled out, together with a copy of the Statutes of the Federation, approved or recognized by the authorities of the country, if the country's law so requires. Decisions on the final admission of new federations shall be made before any other order of business, except elections. A new member can fully participate in all meetings of IBCA, including the right to vote, from the moment it is accepted for membership.

2.3. The admission of an organization as member is effected through an application. This application is to be submitted to the IBCA Secretariat. The provisional admission is decided upon by the Executive board. Final admission as a member is pronounced by the IBCA Congress after examination of the preconditions for admission by the Executive Board. The application for admission must include all data, which will make evident that the statutory purpose and the previous activities of the applicant are in conformity with the IBCA Statutes. The application for admission shall be accompanied by the official questionnaire of IBCA approved by the IBCA Congress, completely filled out, together with a copy of the Statute of the organization. Decisions on the final admission of new organizations shall be made before any other order of business, except elections. A new member can fully participate in all meetings of IBCA, including the right to vote, from the moment it is accepted for membership.

2.4. Each member federation has one vote in the IBCA Congress; they are entitled to make use of the right to vote; they are authorized to submit proposals to IBCA; they are entitled to participate in all IBCA events, according to the regulations; they are also authorized to scrutinize the financial management of IBCA.

2.4. Each member country has equal number of votes in the IBCA Congress; the votes are evenly distributed on the member organizations of respective country; the members are entitled to make use of the right to vote; they are authorized to submit proposals to IBCA; they are entitled to participate in all IBCA events, according to the regulations; they are also authorized to scrutinize the financial management of IBCA.

2.5. The members must acknowledge and observe the statutes, regulations, resolutions and

decisions of IBCA. They are also obliged to pay the membership fees and the other IBCA contributions fixed by the IBCA congress at the designated time. Moreover, they are obliged to support IBCA actively in all chess activities. Each member Federation is required to send to the Secretariat any changes in its address or officers within one month of such change. Each member is required to send to the Secretariat at the latest by April 1st of each year a report containing the following information:

1. The name, address and email address of the Federation;
- b. The name and email address of the President (who, regardless of his title within the Federation, shall be referred to as such within these Statutes and any other IBCA regulations);
- c. The name and email address of the General Secretary;
- d. The name and email address of the officer who is the intermediary between the member and IBCA (the Delegate);
- e. The names of the National Champions;
- f. The title and address of the official bulletin, if any;
- g. The numbers of players belonging directly or indirectly to the federation on January 1st of the year in question, or, if this is not possible, at the end of the previous fiscal year; When a Federation does not supply the data mentioned in sub (g), the Secretariat shall determine the number of members, after consultation with the President of the Zone. The same procedure shall be applied when the data given by the Federation contains obvious mistakes.

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- e. The names of the National Champions;
- f. The title and address of the official bulletin, if any;
- g. The numbers of players belonging directly or indirectly to the organization on January 1st of the year in question, or, if this is not possible, at the end of the previous fiscal year.

2.6. Members not fulfilling the duties mentioned in art. 2.4 may be temporarily excluded from IBCA by a decision of the IBCA Congress/Executive Board/Presidential Board and permanently excluded from IBCA by a decision of the IBCA Congress. A member in arrears in the fulfilment of its financial obligations towards IBCA may be temporarily excluded by the Presidential Board, Executive Board or IBCA Congress. This temporary exclusion shall be annulled if the temporarily excluded member has fulfilled its financial obligations 60 days before the IBCA Congress following

the temporary exclusion. No participation in any IBCA event or meeting will be permitted during the exclusion period. Payments made after the 60 days but before the IBCA Congress will not allow participation without a majority approval of the IBCA Congress.

The Treasurer shall include information in his report on those Federations that should be temporarily or permanently excluded.

A temporary exclusion made by the Presidential Board or Executive Board shall be submitted to the next IBCA Congress, which will decide on the permanent exclusion of the negligent Federation. This must be an agenda item prior to any election. In other matters a permanent exclusion can be ruled by the IBCA Congress only if the member is guilty of a severe offence against the statutes, regulations, resolutions or decisions, or acts against the principles of IBCA, taking into account the opinion of the Executive board or Ethics Commission. This must be an agenda item prior to any election.

2.6. Members not fulfilling the duties mentioned in art. 2.5 may be temporarily excluded from IBCA by a decision of the IBCA Congress/Executive Board/Presidential Board and permanently excluded from IBCA by a decision of the IBCA Congress. A member in arrears in the fulfilment of its financial obligations towards IBCA may be temporarily excluded by the Presidential Board, Executive Board or IBCA Congress. This temporary exclusion shall be annulled if the temporarily excluded member has fulfilled its financial obligations 60 days before the IBCA Congress following the temporary exclusion. No participation in any IBCA event or meeting will be permitted during the exclusion period. Payments made after the 60 days but before the IBCA Congress will not allow participation without a majority approval of the IBCA Congress.

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2.7. The members have the right to withdraw from IBCA. The Secretariat must be informed in writing of the withdrawal at the latest three months in advance. Payment of membership fees and all other contributions remains obligatory until the date of withdrawal becomes effective. Membership fees or other contributions will not be refunded if a member withdraws or is excluded.

(No modification needed.)

2.8 A provisional member is a federation that has been accepted as a member by the executive board but has not been approved yet as a member by Congress. A provisional member has all the rights and obligations of a full member except that a provisional member does not have the right to vote in the IBCA Congress nor are its representatives eligible to stand for IBCA offices. The rules for withdrawal or exclusion are the same as for full members. If a provisional member has not achieved full membership status within five years, then the provisional membership may be reconfirmed for another five year period by the IBCA Congress, failing in this will cease the provisional membership automatically.

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B – Associate members – Organizations and Individuals

2.9 Organizations are:

a. Organizations which support or help IBCA achieving its aims and objectives. For example but not limited to equipment manufacturers, software developers, coaching institutes, publishers, research institutes etc.

1. Associate membership of such organizations are decided by the IBCA Congress. They have a right to attend the Congress as observers but with no voting rights.

(No change needed.)

2.10. Individual members are:

a. Honorary members and Honorary Presidents of IBCA who are nominated as such because of their special contribution to world-wide chess.

b. Life members and Friends of IBCA are persons who have made a financial or severe contribution to IBCA, as decided by the IBCA Congress. The IBCA congress decides on individual members. Individual members have a right to attend the Annual Congress as observers but with no voting rights. Only a former President of IBCA can be nominated as Honorary President. When a new Honorary President is named by the IBCA Congress, he will replace previous holder. There can be just one Honorary President at a time.

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4.1. The IBCA Congress, being the highest authority of IBCA, exercises the legislative and – unless otherwise defined below – also the executive power. It supervises the activities of the Executive Board, the Presidential Board, the IBCA President and also the other IBCA officials and organs. It approves the IBCA budget, elects the president and Presidential Board, Ethics Commission and Constitutional Commission and determines the schedule of IBCA activities. Unless otherwise provided by the Statutes or Regulations (e.g. in the case of the Ethics Commission and the Electoral Commission), the IBCA Congress will be the internal appellate organ for all decisions of IBCA organs and officials. When the IBCA Congress is not in session its powers are transferred to the Executive Board. However, the Executive Board cannot take decisions on the following:

- Election of officials
- Final admittance and permanent exclusion of member federations
- Changes in Statutes
- Changes in the Electoral Regulations

All decisions taken by the Executive Board may be reviewed by the following IBCA Congress.

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- Election of officials
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- Changes in Statutes
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All decisions taken by the Executive Board may be reviewed by the following IBCA Congress

4.2. The IBCA Congress is composed of:

- The representatives of the member-federations,
- The members of the Executive Board,
- The Associate members or the representative of the affiliated organizations,
- The Honorary Members, Honorary Presidents, Life Members and Friends of IBCA,
- The Chairmen of the permanent commissions
- The current World Champion and the current Women's World Champion

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- The honorary members, honorary presidents, life members and friends of IBCA,
- The chairmen of the permanent commissions
- The current World Champion and the current Women's World Champion

4.3. A member federation shall be represented at the IBCA Congress by its delegate (who may surrender his voting power to the President of the federation in accordance with the Electoral Regulations) or the holder of the irrevocable proxy of the federation that has been validly and timely granted in accordance with Electoral Regulations.

The following priority shall apply:

- (1) holder of a valid and timely proxy;
- (2) the delegate.

A proxy can be assigned and re-assigned only to the delegate of another federation. Each delegate is permitted to represent, besides their own, only one additional federation. A delegate may be aided by only one guide for personal aid and translations. Only delegates and members of the Presidential Board, the Chairmen of the Commissions and invited speakers can address Congress for their defined topics.

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4.4. Each member-federation represented in the IBCA Congress has one vote. The other participants in the IBCA Congress have a consultative voice only. Motions of order (closing of the discussion, adjournment of the agenda point, removing the point from the agenda, etc.) may be made at any time on a point under discussion by the delegate of any member federation. The Chairman of the meeting must have these motions considered and decided upon at once by the IBCA Congress in so far as they do not entail an interruption of the session.

The same applies to objections because of violation of the statutes. Proposals regarding amendments or supplementary proposals will be treated only if they are seconded by another voting member.

4.4. Each member-country of IBCA represented in the IBCA congress has equal number of votes, evenly distributed on the member-organizations of each country. The other participants in the IBCA Congress have a consultative voice only. Motions of order (closing of the discussion, adjournment

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(4.5 to 4.17: no modification needed.)

13 – Blindness Classifier

13.1. IBCA, in close collaboration with the National Chess Federations for blind dedicates its efforts to ensuring that in chess the spirit of ‘Fair Play’ prevails, leads the fight against unfairness in sport and takes measures in order to prevent participation of non-visually disabled (blind and visually impaired) persons. IBCA has accepted the global blindnessclassifier followed in sports by International Para Olympic committee,

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13.2 Eligibility Criteria

Vision impairment arises for a variety of reasons – genetics, prenatal developmental issues, or from illness or trauma.

Vision impairment occurs when there is damage to one or more of the components of the vision system, which can include:

- impairment of the eye structure/receptors
- impairment of the optic nerve/optic pathways
- impairment of the visual cortex

Chess players are required to submit a fully completed ‘Medical form’

Definition of Visual Classes

The determination of visual class will be based upon the eye with better visual acuity, whilst wearing best optical correction using spectacles or contact lenses, and/or visual fields which include central and peripheral zones.

The definition of Blind player –

Visual acuity ranging from LogMAR 1.4 to 1.0 (inclusive) and/or visual field constricted to a diameter of less than 40 degrees.

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The definition of Blind player –

Visual acuity ranging from LogMAR 1.4 to 1.0 (inclusive) and/or visual field constricted to a diameter of less than 40 degrees. But the IBCA Congress or the executive board have the right to include players with better vision as long as it is based on discussions of the IBCA Congress.

13.3 Process:

Player has to Submit/ upload medical form filled by doctor clearly stating his classification and that he falls under IBCA blindness definition. National federation has to approve his status of blindness and be held accountable for it. During tournament, a complaint can be made following the same process as 'Appeal committee' with paying 50 euros. The amount is adjustable on decision of the executive board.

The organizers should arrange medical check-up and if found guilty, action should be taken on player as well as on national federation. Action to be decided at IBCA congress.

(No modification needed.)