



**International Braille Chess Association
Congress
Rodos Palace Hotel, Island of Rhodes, Greece
15 October 2023, 10:00**

Proposal from Germany

Dear IBCA officials,
Dear IBCA Member Countries,
Germany will make three applications for the tournaments starting from 2024 onwards.
Please see the three applications below.

For general clarification:

1. Move counters are not allowed at all.

A electronic counter in chess-clocks only count how many times you had pushed the button but not how many moves you had made.

2. Sound on the clocks should be on. The former not electronic clocks made also noise when the flag fell down.

Application 1.: Request for completion of appendix D of FIDE regulations

The German Association of Blind and Visually Impaired Chess Players (DBSB e. V.) hereby puts the following request for completion of appendix D of FIDE regulations: According to appendix D in case of playing with two chessboards for players there is no obligation for game notation during the last 5 minutes before time control.

Argumentation:

(NOTE. Paragraph 8.4 specifies that in case of games without increment there is no obligation for notation for thinking times without increment.)

In case of games with increment (for example short and long Fischer mode) for blind and visually impaired players there shall be no notation obligation during the last 5 minutes before all time controls. Due to the use of a pinboard those players need more time for their moves than those players using a regular chessboard. Usually the notation of the moves takes more time as well, because visually impaired players have to write bigger letters and need more time for orientation on the notation sheet. Players using Braille or a dictation device need additional time for finding the right position for continuing their notation. Furthermore, blind and visually impaired players need much more time for checking their own time as well as opponent's time than players without visual handicap, which simply have to look at their chess clock.

Especially while there is shortage of time, notation means an unreasonable difficulty for blind and visually impaired players, making impossible the equalness of both opponents.

Application 2: DBSB request for the congress in Rhodes:

The German Association of Blind and Visually Impaired Chess Players (DBSB e. V.) hereby requests to invalidate paragraph 3.2.5, sentence 1, of the FIDE handbook for all IBCA tournaments.
Argumentation:

The FIDE handbook says:

<https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/CaptainsHeadsDelegation>):

„3.2 The following rules apply to the Captain during play: ...

3.2.5 The Captain is not entitled to advise the players of his team to make or accept an offer of a draw. The Captain must not discuss any position on any board during play...”)

Blind and visually impaired players do not have the possibility to check positions and thinking times of the other team members on their own. Therefore, they are not capable to act in the best interest of their team, for example in case of offering or accepting draw. So this regulation means a discrimination in relation to teams of players with better eyesight.

Annex: If this request should be accepted by the congress, we recommend/request the IBCA to put a similar request to the FIDE.

<https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/CaptainsHeadsDelegation>

Application 3: DBSB request for the congress in Rhodes:

The German Association of Blind and Visually Impaired Chess Players (DBSB e. V.) hereby puts the request to specify the thinking time in a tournament regulation.

This thinking time should be either 90 minutes for the first 40 moves, followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game + 30 seconds increment per move starting from the first move (long Fischer mode), or 120 minutes + 30 minutes (without increment).

Argumentation:

The short Fischer mode or 2 hours for the whole game played at the last tournaments means a discrimination especially for top players and teams as well as for blind and visually impaired persons. The last tournaments as well as the Olympics made clear that more games are decided by time. Under the aspect of a fair chess game, especially during competitions of blind and visually impaired players, this should be avoided. Here it has to be considered that a lot of the additional time per move is needed for notation, which means that not every game can be finished.

Furthermore, during those tournaments until now players had to play only one game per day, so that a longer thinking time should be possible without any problems.

The IBCA should not use a thinking time shorter than the time used at similar FIDE tournaments.

Examples for such tournaments are:

FIDE European Championship in Slovenia 2021

Thinking time: 90 minutes for the first 40 moves, 30 minutes for the rest, 30 seconds increment starting with the first move

FIDE Olympic Games 2022 in Chennai

Thinking time: 90 minutes for the first 40 moves, 30 minutes for the rest, 30 seconds increment starting with the first move

FIDE World Championship 2021

Thinking time: 120 minutes for 40 moves, 60 minutes for 20 moves, 15 minutes for the rest, as well as 30 seconds increment starting with the 60th move

FIDE Candidates Tournament 2022

Thinking time: 100 minutes for 40 moves, 50 minutes for 20 moves, 15 minutes for the rest, as well as 30 seconds increment starting with the first move

CHESS OLYMPIAD 2023 for people with disabilities (January/February 2023)

Thinking time: 90 minutes for the first 40 moves, 30 minutes for the rest, 30 seconds increment starting with the first move

Many Thanks in advance.

Best regards

Thorsten Mueller
President DBSB e.V. (Germany)