



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

Proposal from IBCA América

Colombia, America, Friday, June 30th, 2023

Messrs. IBCA Worldwide

Dear board members:

FERNANDO DAZA SAMBONÍ, acting as a representative of American countries enrolled in IBCA, on behalf of sportsmen belonging to chess sport discipline, I sincerely write to you with all the respect that you deserve in order to let you know American Continent would like to request that the below items be added to the agenda for the IBCA congress that will take place in Rhodes in October 2023.

FIRST: On behalf of the American countries we request to separate the sportsmen in accordance to visual classification in 2 groups: TOTALLY BLIND (B1) and LOW VISION (B2 and B3). The blind players must cover their eyes along the games as it is required in all the other blind sports competitions.

SECOND: To create the active modality for individual and by team tournaments in both categories with a playing rhythm increase of 25 minutes plus 15 seconds for blind sportsmen (B1) and a playing rhythm increase of 15 minutes plus 15 seconds for sportsmen with low vision (B2 and B3).

THIRD: Considering that within the regulations the FIDE has established that the game is as lost within two (2) illegal moves, to clarify that for blind people specially the number of illegal moves may be extended to four (4), as the mentioned regulation has been created for people who do not suffer any visual impediments, do not have to announce their moves and therefore do not make mistakes frequently and the concept between Illegal and impossible move is not clear.

FOURTH: To rotate the performing of the individual and by team worldwide tournaments, in the different continents, referring to one in Europe,

another in America, another in Africa and another in Asia.

We raise the above mentioned requests based on the following arguments:

1.- Although it is true that chess is an inclusive sport, we must consider that all visually impaired or totally blind people will always find themselves at a disadvantageous position when playing against sighted players, in the recording moves system, locating and moving the pieces, and specially when they get to the last minutes, as they have to announce the move and use the touch of their hands to move around the board, they lose important seconds that define a game.

2.- In the last world Olympic games, less than one percent (1%) of the total participation have been blind people or none of them have played at all, for which we can show that blind people will always be at a disadvantageous position in classification time when playing against a low vision player, who takes advantage of obtaining the victory in the last minutes of the game.

3.- The IBCA and IBSA statutes have considered the B1, B2 and B3 visual classification, which is not applied in the chess discipline with the argument that the mentioned sport is inclusive. If this would be so, athletics, Judo and other sport disciplines would also compete with sighted people since nothing prevents them physically, but it's proved that anyone who still has a visual remaining will always have an advantage over the blind person.

4.- The IBCA is actually in delay to create the active tournament modality. As an example we can expose Colombia, where two (2) tournaments are being played at a national level (classic and active). The active game is played under the 25 minutes plus 15 seconds rhythm, for which we have increased the number of players in each event; additionally, some american countries have already successfully implemented the two (2) visual classifications: blind (B1) and low vision (B2) having a more fair competition..

Summary requests:

1.- In the name of all American countries we request to create the legal separation of the visual classifications: blind (B1) and low vision (B2 and B3) categories in order to play separately, The blind players must cover their eyes along the games as it is required in all the other blind sports competitions and in this way to have a true equality. We enlarge this request in order to practice this in worldwide tournaments.

2.- Additionally, we request to create the active tournament modality, individual and by teams with their respective play time, in blind (B1) 25 + 15 and for low vision (B2 and B3) 15 +15 into both visual classification. The fact of having the two (2) modalities: classic and active, individual and by team categories as well as visual classifications of blind (B1) and low vision (B2 and B3) will improve participation and will increase the number of players and medals to be awarded in each event.

3. To increase the number of illegal moves to four (4).

4. Finally we request that the worldwide tournaments must rotate to be played in all around the world.

We thank you for your attention and co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

FERNANDO DAZA SAMBONÍ

Committee IBCA America President

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