

Rules & regulations for the Candidates Tournament of the FIDE World Championship cycle 2016-2018

1. Organisation

- 1.1 The Candidates Tournament to determine the challenger for the 2018 World Chess Championship Match shall be organised in the first quarter of 2018 and represents an integral part of the World Chess Championship regulations for the cycle 2016-2018. Eight (8) players will participate in the Candidates Tournament and the winner qualifies for the World Chess Championship Match in the last quarter of 2018.
- 1.2 Governing Body: the World Chess Federation (FIDE). For the purpose of creating the regulations, communicating with the players and negotiating with the organisers, the FIDE President has nominated a committee, hereby called the FIDE Commission for World Championships and Olympiads (hereinafter referred to as WCOC)
- 1.3 FIDE, or its appointed commercial agency, retains all commercial and media rights of the Candidates Tournament, including internet rights. These rights can be transferred to the organiser upon agreement.
- 1.4 Upon recommendation by the WCOC, the body responsible for any changes to these Regulations is the FIDE Presidential Board.
- 1.5 At any time in the course of the application of these Regulations, any circumstances that are not covered or any unforeseen event shall be referred to the President of FIDE for final decision.

2. Qualification for the 2018 Candidates Tournament

The players who qualify for the Candidates Tournament (excluding the World Champion who qualifies directly to the World Championship Match) are determined according to the following criteria, in order of priority:

- 2.1 **World Championship Match 2016** - The player who lost the 2016 World Championship Match qualifies.
- 2.2 **World Cup 2017** - The two (2) top winners of the World Cup 2017 qualify. In case any of the two top winners of the World Cup qualifies from 2.1 above or is the World Champion, then the qualification spot goes to 3rd place of the World Cup.
- 2.3 **FIDE Grand-Prix 2016/2017** - The two (2) top players from the FIDE Grand-Prix 2016/2017 qualify to participate. In case any of the two top winners of the FIDE Grand-Prix qualify from 2.1 or 2.2 above or is the World Champion, then the qualification spot(s) are given to the next player(s) in the final standings of the Grand-Prix.
- 2.4 **Average FIDE Rating List of the 12 monthly lists starting from 1st January 2017 to 1st December 2017** - Two (2) players qualify to participate by rating (excluding the players who qualify from articles 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 above). A player can qualify by rating only if he/she participates in the World Cup 2017 or the FIDE Grand Prix 2016-2017. For the purpose of deciding the 2 rated player qualifiers, the average from the following twelve FIDE rating lists will be used: the sum of all 12 monthly lists starting from 1st January 2017 to 1st December 2017 divided by 12. A minimum of thirty (30) rated games in total is required for each player in the 12 monthly rating periods. In case of equality, two decimals will be taken into consideration. If the numbers are still equal then the total number of games in all 12 rating periods shall be decisive. That means the player with the greater number of games shall qualify.
- 2.5 **One nominated player by the Organiser** - A player, nominated by the organiser, with a rating of at least 2725 in any FIDE standard rating list of 2017.
- 2.6 **Replacements** - If any replacement is needed due to withdrawal or refusal of participation, the first reserve player from the final standings of the FIDE Grand-Prix 2016/2017 will be invited. Any further replacement needed will be fulfilled from the average rating list described in article 2.4 above.

3. Candidates Tournament Regulations

3.1 Tournament Format & System

The 8 players shall play a double round robin tournament (14 rounds). The players who are from the same federation will play each other in rounds 1 and 8 (if only two) and if up to four players are from the same federation in rounds 1, 2, 3 and 8, 9, 10. If a player withdraws after completing 50% or more of the games, the rest of his games are lost by default. In case a player completes less than 50%, all his results are annulled.

3.2 Schedule of the Candidates Tournament

Arrivals:	1 day
Opening Ceremony & Players Meeting:	1 day
Round 1:	1 day
Round 2:	1 day
Round 3:	1 day
Free day:	1 day
Round 4:	1 day
Round 5:	1 day
Round 6:	1 day
Free day:	1 day
Round 7:	1 day
Round 8:	1 day
Round 9:	1 day
Free day:	1 day
Round 10:	1 day
Round 11:	1 day
Round 12:	1 day
Free day:	1 day
Round 13:	1 day
Round 14:	1 day
Tiebreaks / Closing ceremony:	1 day
Departures:	1 day
TOTAL:	22 days

The playing schedule can be changed only upon the approval of the FIDE President.

3.3 Confirmation of Participation / Conduct of Players

3.3.1 The list of qualified players and the reserves will be published on the FIDE website together with the player's contract. All qualified players should sign their respective contract and send it to the FIDE Secretariat within two weeks after they receive their copy from FIDE. It is each player's responsibility to download a copy and send it signed to the FIDE Secretariat by fax and registered mail. A player who does not submit his contract within the deadline will be replaced according to article 2.6. FIDE may accept late contracts received after the deadline, within a period of 10 days and only for serious reasons. Players not previously qualified but who qualify as replacements shall be notified through the FIDE website and will have one further week to send their signed contracts.

3.3.2 A player who returns his signed contract but withdraws at least one month before the event's 1st round shall be replaced by a player as described in article 2.6.

3.3.3 Any player who withdraws at a date when less than one month is left for the event's 1st round, shall not be replaced.

3.3.4 Players that fail to provide a satisfactory reason for withdrawal, after they have signed the player's contract, will be excluded from the next World Championship cycle.

3.3.5 For security and administrative reasons, all participants are expected to stay in the officially designated hotel(s).

3.3.6 Each player will receive at least two free single rooms for their hotel accommodation, including full board, for the whole duration of the event.

3.3.7 No postponement of any game shall be allowed.

3.3.8 Separate contracts between the organiser(s) and the players may also be signed.

3.4 Pairings and draw of colours

3.4.1 The draw for pairings and colours will be conducted in the FIDE office in Athens, one (1) month before the start of the event.

3.4.2 For tie-break games, there shall be a separate drawing of lots conducted by the Chief Arbiter.

3.5 Time control.

3.5.1 The time control for each game shall be: 100 minutes for the first 40 moves, 50 minutes for the next 20 moves and then 15 minutes for the rest of the game plus an additional 30 seconds per move starting from move 1.

3.5.2 The games shall be played using the electronic clocks and boards approved by FIDE.

3.6 Conditions of victory

3.6.1 The player with the most points (1 point for each win, half a point for each draw, 0 for each loss) will be the winner of the tournament and qualifies for the World Championship Match 2018. A tie shall be broken according to article 3.7 below.

3.7 Tie-breaks

If the top two or more players score the same points, the tie will be decided by the following criteria, in order of priority:

a) The results of the games between the players involved in the tie.

If they are still tied:

b) The total number of wins in the tournament of every player involved in the tie.

If they are still tied:

c) Sonneborn - Berger System.

3.7.1.a If there is no clear winner with the above 3 criteria, there will be a special competition between the players who still remain tied after using the 3rd criteria (Sonneborn - Berger): after a new drawing of colors, each tied player will play two (2) tie-break games with the other tied opponent(s). The games shall be played using the electronic clock starting with 25 minutes for each player with an increment of 10 seconds after each move.

3.7.1.b All tie-break games shall be played according to the following:

1. Play is governed by the World Championship Technical Regulations (annex 1), which apply with the exceptions mentioned below in (2), (3) and (4).

2. The players do not need to record the moves. An arbiter shall record the moves.

3. The player who has the move may stop the clocks and consult the Arbiter's score sheet and if his next move will produce a threefold repetition of position (according to Article 9.2a of the Technical Regulations), or the 50 moves rule (according to Article 9.3a of the Technical Regulations), he himself must write the intended move on the score sheet and claim the draw if he wants. A player can also claim a draw according to Articles 9.2b and 9.3b of the Technical Regulations. If the claim is found to be correct, the game is immediately ended as a draw. If the claim is found to be incorrect, the Arbiter shall add three (3) minutes to the opponent's remaining time and the game continues with the intended move in accordance with Article 4 of the Technical Regulations. A maximum of two (2) incorrect claims for a draw can be made by each player. If a player makes a third (3rd) incorrect claim, the arbiter shall declare the game lost for this player.

4. If a game has ended by resignation, checkmate, time loss, stalemate, triple repetition or any other of the ways described in Article 5 of the Technical Regulations, no claim for irregularities shall be accepted (irregularities include clock settings and all other described in Article 7 of the Technical Regulations).

3.7.2 If after the games in Article 3.7.1a there are still players tied for 1st place then, after a new drawing of colours, these players will play blitz games. Each tied player will play two games with the other opponent(s). Each player will receive 5 minutes on his clock + 3 seconds for each move starting from move 1. If there is a tie again, this process will be repeated for the tied players, for a maximum of two (2) more times.

3.7.3.a After the games in paragraph 3.7.2, and if we have only two players still tied, sudden death games will be played. The player who wins the drawing of lots, may choose the colour. White shall receive 5 minutes on the clock and Black shall receive 4 minutes whereupon, after the 60th move, both players shall receive an increment of 3 seconds starting from move 61. In case of a draw the player with the black pieces is declared the winner.

3.7.3.b After the games in paragraph 3.7.2, and if we have three players still tied, sudden death games will be played too. The three players will be initially ranked according to their average FIDE rating described in article 2.4 above. The players initially ranked No.2 and No.3 will play first and the winner will face the player initially ranked No.1. The sudden death games will be played as described in article 3.7.3.a above. The winner of this procedure is No.1 in the final standings and the loser of the final match is No.2 in the final standings.

3.7.3.c After the games in paragraph 3.7.2, and if we have four players still tied, sudden death games will be played too. The four players will be initially ranked according to their average FIDE rating described in article 2.4 above. Then No.1 plays No.4 and No.2 plays No.3 and the two winners play the final match. All the sudden death games will be played as described in article 3.7.3.a above. The winner of this procedure is No.1 in the final standings and the loser of the final match is No.2 in the final standings.

3.7.3.d After the games in paragraph 3.7.2, and if we have five players still tied, sudden death games will be played too. The five players will be initially ranked according to their average FIDE rating described in article 2.4 above. The players initially ranked No.4 and No.5 will play first and the winner will face the three remaining players as in 3.7.3.c above. All the sudden death games will be played as described in article 3.7.3.a above. The winner of this procedure is No.1 in the final standings and the loser of the final match is No.2 in the final standings.

3.7.3.e After the games in paragraph 3.7.2, and if we have 6 players or more still tied, sudden death games will also be played in accordance with the spirit of articles 3.7.3.b, 3.7.3.c, 3.7.3.d and 3.7.3.e above. Further details will be announced by the Chief Arbiter.

3.7.4 If tie-breaks are needed to determine any other possible qualification spots for the next World Championship cycle, then the procedure described in article 3.7 will be applied as well, including 3.7.1.a, 3.7.1.b, 3.7.2, 3.7.3.a, 3.7.3.b, 3.7.3.c, 3.7.3.d and 3.7.3.e. There shall be a pause of 10 minutes between all tie-break games, unless the Chief Arbiter decides otherwise.

3.8 Prizes for the Candidates Tournament

3.8.1 The total minimum prize fund of the Candidates Tournament amounts to 420,000 euros. The amount is net and cleared of any local taxes. The money prizes shall be allocated as follows (minimum in euros):

1 st place:	95,000
2 nd place:	88,000
3 rd place:	75,000
4 th place:	55,000
5 th place:	40,000
6 th place:	28,000
7 th place:	22,000
8 th place:	17,000

All prize money will be divided equally where players have the same score in the tournament (after 14 rounds).

3.8.2 If a player withdraws after he has signed his contract or after the start of the tournament, he shall receive no prize money and this money will be retained by FIDE.

3.9 Playing Conditions.

3.9.1 Only the players, principals and steward (-ess)s shall be allowed in the actual playing area except with the permission of the Chief Arbiter. A player may communicate with an arbiter or a steward.

3.9.2 During the playing session the following additional regulations shall be in force:

- The players are not permitted to bring into the playing area telephone, technical and other equipment extraneous to play, which may in any way disturb or upset the opponent. The Chief Arbiter shall decide what constitutes extraneous equipment liable to offend the opponent.
- The players cannot draw a game by agreement before black's 30th move. A claim for a draw before black's 30th move is permitted only through the Chief Arbiter (or his Deputy) in the cases of perpetual check or threefold repetition.
- During the playing session, a player may leave the playing area only with the permission of the Chief Arbiter and only if he is accompanied by one of the arbiters.

3.10 Score sheets.

3.10.1 The Organisers shall provide score sheets according to the specifications provided by FIDE.

- At the end of each game the players' original score sheets shall be given to the Chief Arbiter, who shall hand them to FIDE .
- Refusal of either player to sign the score sheets shall be penalised according to Article 13.4 of the Laws of Chess. After the players have signed the score sheets, the Arbiter shall countersign to confirm the results.
- In tie-break games, the players and the Arbiter shall sign a result sheet.

3.11 Players' Meeting.

3. 11. 1 Players are required to attend the Players' Meeting on the day of the Opening Ceremony at a time to be decided by the Chief Arbiter and the Organisers. If necessary, the Chief Arbiter may call other Players' Meetings.

3. 11. 2 If a player fails to appear at the Players' Meeting, the Opening or Closing Ceremony or any approved function of the Championship such as official receptions, press conferences or interviews, or conducts himself in a manner contrary to the spirit of sportsmanship or the FIDE Code of Ethics, then he shall suffer the following penalty: 5% of his prize money shall be forfeited to the Organisers and a further 5% to FIDE for each breach. In cases of serious misconduct the player may be disqualified from the event and the World Chess Championship cycle.

3. 12 Interviews, functions and mode of dressing.

3. 12. 1 The players are expected to co-operate reasonably with the media. General interviews with them have to be arranged through the FIDE Press Officer, the same day or the next day after the end of the event.

3. 12. 2 All players are required to make themselves available for post-game press conferences, of not more than 20 minutes duration, immediately after the game. All winners and medalists are obliged to attend the final press conference after the event has ended and to provide an exclusive interview for the FIDE website, if requested by the FIDE Press Officer. Players violating these rules will be subjected to the penalties mentioned in the event regulations.

3. 12. 3 Players are required to be present at all official functions approved by the FIDE President or his Deputy during the event including official receptions, the opening ceremony and the closing ceremony.

3. 12. 4 Players are requested to note the requirements of FIDE Regulations C.01 (Article 8.1) in respect of their dignified appearance at all times during the event.

3. 13 Payment of Prize Money

3. 13. 1 The prize fund shall be paid by direct banker's order drawn in euros.

3. 13. 2 Upon completion of the event, FIDE shall pay these sums collectible in the player's home country where requested by him within 10 days.

3. 14 Local Tax

3. 14. 1 Although FIDE will endeavour to sign an agreement with the organiser stating that the prize funds are net and free of all local taxes, FIDE will not be responsible for any national local tax deducted from the prize money. FIDE will give all necessary assistance to the players if the organiser acts to the contrary.

3. 15 Principals

3. 15. 1 The Principals are:

- a) President and Deputy President;
- b) Members of the Appeals Committee;
- c) Arbiters;
- d) Press Officer;
- e) Representative of FIDE Medical Commission;
- f) 2 WCOC members;

3. 16. Arbiters

3. 16. 1 The arbiters of the Candidates Tournament will be nominated by FIDE. No arbiter may belong to the same federation as any of the players.

3. 16. 2 During play either the Chief Arbiter or his Deputy must be present in the playing area.

3. 16. 3 Immediately after the end of the event, the Chief Arbiter shall write a report and send it without delay to the FIDE office.

3. 16. 4 The report shall be written in one of the official FIDE languages.

3. 16. 5 The report shall contain the result of each individual game as well as the final standings. In addition, the report shall contain a general description of the course of the event. If there were any difficulties, conflicts or incidents, they shall be described together with the measures taken to deal with them.

3. 16. 6 The report shall be supplemented by adding two copies of the bulletins and the score sheets of the games.

3. 16. 7 The Chief Arbiter may, in consultation with the WCOC, and with the approval of the FIDE President, issue additional written regulations to inform the exact playing hours and take care of other details not covered by these regulations.

3. 17 Appeals Committee.

3. 17. 1 The FIDE President shall nominate, from within the FIDE Presidential Board on priority, the Chairman and the other 2 members of the Appeals Committee, all from different Federations. None of the 3 members of the Appeals Committee shall sit in judgement in a dispute involving a player or party from his Federation except where the dispute is between two players or two parties from his Federation.

All protests must be submitted in writing to the Appeals Committee not more than two (2) hours after the relevant playing session, or the particular infringement complained against.

The Committee may decide on the following matters:

- a) an appeal against a decision by an arbiter,
- b) a protest against a player's behaviour,
- c) a complaint alleging false interpretation of the regulations,
- d) a request for the interpretation of specific regulations,
- e) a protest or complaint against any participant, or
- f) all other matters which the Committee considers important.

If possible, the Committee shall reach a decision not more than two (2) hours after the submission of a protest. The appeals process shall include written representations and a written decision. The Committee shall endeavour to find binding solutions that are within the true spirit of the FIDE motto, Gens Una Sumus. Each protest must be accompanied by a deposit fee of EUR 500 (five hundred euros) or the equivalent in local currency. If the protest is accepted, the fee shall be returned. If the protest is rejected, the fee may be forfeited to FIDE.

3. 17. 2 The written decision of the Appeals Committee arising from any dispute in respect of these regulations shall be final.

3. 17. 3 Immediately after the end of the event, the Chairman of the Appeals Committee shall write a report in one of the official FIDE languages and send it without delay to the FIDE office.

4. Commercial and Financial issues

4. 1 The WCOC shall ensure the playing hall and its environs meet at least the requirements of the FIDE Regulations for the Organisation of Top Level Tournaments (FIDE Handbook C.01).

4. 2 The playing venue shall be decorated with the FIDE flag, IOC flag, the flags of the host nation and the participating countries.

4. 3 After the World Chess Championship Committee agrees with the Organisers on the arrangements in respect of the tournament hall, facilities, accommodation and meals, transportation, telecommunication, ceremonies, etc., no objections from the participants shall be acceptable.

4. 4 Organisers shall provide, free of charge, coffee, tea and soft drinks for the players and principals. It is advisable that the same offer shall apply for press members.

4.5 Photography and Television

4. 5. 1 Only photographers and camera crew expressly authorised by the Press Officer may work in the playing venue.

- a) Flash may be used only during the first five (5) minutes.
- b) In tie-break games, flash may only be used in the first three (3) minutes. In case of 5 minutes + sudden death games, flash is not permitted, the use of cameras without flash may be permitted if the Arbiter in charge deems their use to be unobtrusive.
- c) Television cameras must be unobtrusive and may only be used if the Arbiter in charge deems their use to be unobtrusive.
- d) An official photographer, designated by the Organisers with the approval of the Chief Arbiter shall be allowed to take photos at any time during the round without flash.

4. 6 Ceremonies.

4. 6. 1 The Opening Ceremony shall take place the day prior to the first round and all participants are required to take part. Exception can be made by a written permission of the FIDE President.

4. 6. 2 The program of the Opening Ceremony shall be approved by FIDE. Cultural program and speeches totalling up to 60 minutes are usually welcome. FIDE Anthem and the Anthem of the hosting country shall be played.

4. 6. 3 The Closing Ceremony shall take place not later than one day after the end of the event. The Organisers shall provide a trophy for the winner and medals (gold, silver, bronze) for the top three winners. The FIDE Anthem, the Anthem of the winner's country and the Anthem of the hosting country shall be played.

4. 7 FIDE Rights and Obligations of the Organisers

4. 7. 1 Finance

4. 7. 1. 1 Before the end of the event, FIDE shall be reimbursed for its direct expenses incurred in the organization of the Candidates Tournament. This shall be a fixed sum agreed in the contract between the Organiser(s) and the World Chess Championship Committee (WCOC). This sum shall include stipends, pre-expenses (inspections) and tournament expenses (travelling and boarding) for the principals. The WCOC shall advise and help the Organiser(s) on protocol, budget, infrastructure, media, commentary, bulletin and other technical problems.

4. 7. 1. 2 FIDE has the exclusive commercial rights of the Candidates Tournament and is free to exploit them commercially, including entering into advertisement agreements either with the Organiser(s) or Sponsors of the event requiring players to wear clothes with the branding of sponsors. Players shall not wear, use or display any apparel, footwear, accessory or other item, including but not limited to any piece of attire or any article that is of an accessory nature (*e.g.* bag, eyewear, arm bands, gloves, socks, charms, beverage bottles etc.), bearing an identification of or advertising or otherwise promoting the players' sponsors, without prior written permission by FIDE or FIDE's commercial agency.

4. 7. 1. 3 The income provided by the Candidates Tournament through admission charges shall go to the Organiser(s). The radio and television rights, including photo, video and film rights, shall belong to FIDE or its appointed agency. The right as described here and in the previous paragraph can be granted by FIDE to the organizer(s).

4. 7. 1. 4 FIDE or its appointed agency shall have the exclusive rights for live games transmission on Internet and shall provide the necessary equipment such as electronic boards and clocks to cover the event. FIDE shall provide to the Organiser(s) the signal for online game display in the different function rooms as agreed between the parties. These rights as described here can be granted by FIDE to the organizer(s).

4. 7. 1. 5 The Organiser(s) shall draw up a budget as detailed as possible, including provision for the anti-doping procedure costs and contingencies. This shall be subject to the approval of WCOC and the FIDE President.

4. 7. 2 Stipends

4. 7. 2. 1 The stipends to be paid to the Principals of the WCC Candidates Tournament are (in EUR):

Chairman of Appeals Committee:	7,000
Two members of Appeals Committee:	10,000
Chief Arbiter:	6,000
Deputy Chief Arbiter:	4,500
Arbiter:	3,000
Press Officer:	3,500
Representative of FIDE Medical Commission	2,000

4. 7. 3 Travelling and Accommodation

4. 7. 3. 1 Travel. The FIDE President has the right to first class travel by air, sea or rail, at the Organisers` expense. The FIDE Deputy President has the right to business class travel by air, sea or rail, at the Organisers expense. All other Principals shall be provided with transport by air, sea or rail or, if they prefer, any other mode of transport that is not more costly to the Organisers than economy air travel or business class if travelling from another continent. Any Principal making his own travel arrangements without the agreement of the Organisers does so entirely at his own risk.

4. 7. 3. 2 Board and Lodging. For the FIDE President a suite in a first class hotel should be provided and for the Deputy President one junior suite in the same first class hotel. For each Principal or WCOC member - a double room in the same first class hotel. Extra expenses will be covered by the Organisers only for the FIDE President.

4. 7. 3. 3 Food and drinks. Provision for food and drinks shall be provided for all the Principals. This shall be provided by a specified allowance in local currency per day or by the provision of all meals in the restaurant of the hotel. The nature and amount shall be agreed between the Organisers and WCOC.

4. 7. 3. 4 Local transportation. Transfer from and to the airport will be provided by the organisers, if necessary. For FIDE President, a chauffeur-driven car. For the other Principals, a number of cars shall be made available; their use will depend on the position of the hotels, playing hall and media centre, and on the leisure activities of the Principals. Alternatively, a daily allowance in local currency may be provided, the amount to be agreed between the Organisers and WCOC. Local transport shall also be provided for players to official functions if necessary.

4. 7. 3. 5 Personnel – The Organisers should provide sufficient personnel to assist in the playing hall, press room, VIP room, and at ceremonies according to the agreement made with the WCOC.

4. 7. 3. 6 Procedures concerning commercial aspects

4. 7. 3. 6. 1 FIDE, or its appointed commercial agency, retains all commercial and media rights of the Candidates Tournament 2018, including internet. These rights can be transferred to the organizer upon agreement.

4. 7. 3. 6. 2 No proposed sponsor shall be in conflict with the regulations of the International Olympic Committee.

4. 7. 3. 6. 3 The FIDE logo and the head of the corporate logo are displayed below:

4. 7. 3. 6. 3. 1



The FIDE logo is represented above and will be displayed in a dark blue colour on a white background. The text describing any event must not be larger than twice the size of the word FIDE reproduced in the logo.

4. 7. 3. 6. 3. 2



WORLD CANDIDATES TOURNAMENT 2018

The event title of the tournament is represented above. The corporate logo should include the above on top and the text in any kind of printed or electronic media must not be larger than twice the size of the word FIDE reproduced in the logo.

4.7.3.6.4 FIDE Press Officer

4.7.3.6.4.1 The organizer will be responsible for managing, updating and reviewing the official web domain which will be used for the event: xxxx2018.fide.com where xxxx refers to the city where the event is being held. All content will be reviewed and approved by the FIDE Press Officer. All live images, live broadcasting (Internet TV) pictures and all the other content for the full event details will be carried on the official domain. The organizer shall not develop any other website.

4.7.3.6.4.2 All activities of both FIDE and the organizer shall identify FIDE being the Governing Body of the World Chess Championship and the organizer being the organizer of the event in close co-operation with FIDE. The organizer shall warrant that the official domain for the event will be managed in a professional way and furthermore that it will be capable of handling the traffic and publicity that is required for such events. Statistics of traffic and full reports on web performance will be provided to both FIDE and the organizer.

4.7.3.6.4.3 The Organizer shall co-operate with the Press Officer concerning the accreditation and hospitality of foreign journalists and the media and the facilities available at the Press Centre. The Press Officer shall be a member of the panel at Press Conferences conducted during the event. In cases of conflicting information and press statements, the views expressed by the Press Officer shall be the authentic version.

4.8 Selection of the Organisers.

AGON Ltd is the marketing agency entrusted by FIDE to organize the Candidates Tournament 2018. If for any reason the agreement with AGON Ltd is cancelled or not valid, the following procedure will be applied to select the Organiser:

4.8.1 Any federation that is a member of FIDE or any sponsor may bid for the right to organize the Candidates Tournament. FIDE shall consult the federation where the sponsor proposes to hold the event. In case the federation refuses or is unable to co-operate, FIDE may still accept a proposal from a potential sponsor.

No proposed sponsor for the Candidates Tournament shall be in conflict with the regulations of the International Olympic Committee.

4.8.2 If needed, FIDE shall open a bidding procedure for the Candidates Tournament preferably before 31 March 2017.

4.8.3 Each applicant shall pay a non-refundable fee of 1,000 euros to obtain the obligatory bidding form and the necessary information from the FIDE Secretariat.

At any time, where the bidding procedure fails, the Presidential Board shall decide, where, when and how the Candidates Tournament will be organised.

4.8.4 In the event that FIDE receives a satisfactory open offer that covers all the necessary financial requirements, then FIDE may immediately terminate the bidding procedure.

4.8.5 Each proposal shall contain the following particulars:

- a) Proposed exact dates of the event.
- b) Proposed tournament venue.
- c) Proposed prize fund for the players (minimum 420,000 euros & should be offered net of any applicable local taxes).
- d) The contribution to FIDE (net of any applicable local taxes and not less than 20% of the prize money).
- e) Commitment to cover all financial obligations to FIDE.
- f) Commitment to cover all organizational costs, in accordance with the regulations of the event.
- g) Category of official hotel (minimum 4 stars), and name if possible, with special room rates including meals.
- h) A statement that the applicant accepts the regulations of the event without any reservations.
- i) An invitation for at least two members of the WCOC to inspect the proposed venue and examine the other conditions, with all travel/hotel expenses paid by the bidder.
- j) Any bank guarantees as described in the bidding procedure.
- k) The applicant's name, signatures and authentication.

4.8.6 FIDE may exercise the right to reject any bid application if the conditions as stated in 4.8.8 below are not met.

4.8.7 FIDE may exercise the right to reject any bid application if the financial standing of the bid is unsatisfactory.

4.8.8 The FIDE Presidential Board shall decide which applicant shall be chosen. The decision reached shall be based on the following criteria, which are to be viewed as a whole:

- a) prize fund
- b) covering of organisational costs
- c) playing conditions
- d) providing visas to all players, trainers and officials
- e) security assistance for all players and officials
- f) chess activity both actual and potential in the country hosting the event

- g) media possibilities
- h) potential development of chess worldwide
- i) climate conditions during the period of the tournament
- j) taxation conditions in the hosting country in respect of the prize fund.

If a Presidential Board meeting cannot be held, the FIDE President takes the decision in consultations with the WCOC.

4.8.9 After the Presidential Board (or the FIDE President) has decided who shall be selected to organize the event, a contract will be signed between FIDE and the organizer regarding all financial and commercial aspects of the event. Unless the contract states otherwise, the organizer shall deposit, not later than nine months before the start of the event, in escrow, net and free of all taxes, with the FIDE bankers the full sums of money covering the prize fund and all costs related to FIDE as stipends, travel, full board and lodge and other administrative costs for communications etc in accordance with a budget agreed between FIDE and the Organizers.

4.8.10 In case of a failure to deposit the money sums under 4.8.9, the guarantees specified in 4.8.5(j) are forfeited in favour of FIDE.

4.8.11. At any time, after the sums specified under 4.8.9, have been deposited in escrow, if the Organizer fails to organize the event or is in breach of the contract with FIDE, then FIDE may withdraw the right to organize the event and at the same time the Organizers shall forfeit all of the sums of money under 4.8.5(j) and 4.8.9.

4.8.12. The Organizers shall invite a member of the WCOC to inspect and give consultation on the preparations. The WCOC shall decide on the need for further inspections. Travelling and accommodation costs are to be borne by the Organizers.

ANNEX 1

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TECHNICAL REGULATIONS (FIDE Laws of Chess)

The FIDE Laws of Chess are Annex 1, as valid since 1 July 2017 and published on the FIDE website:

<http://www.fide.com/fide/handbook.html?id=207&view=article>