



## FIDE ETHICS COMMISSION

The Ethics Commission (hereafter called the ETH), sitting in the following composition -

Chairman: Mr Francois Strydom  
Members: Mr Willy Iclicki  
Mr Ion Serban Dobronauteanu  
Mr Rajesh Hari Joshi  
Secretary: Ms Elli Sperdokli (non-voting)

during exchanges of correspondence in May, June and July 2017, made the following -

## FINAL DECISION

**Case no. 3/2015: Discrimination against player by fellow participants in the European Individual Women's Chess Championship, Chakvi, Georgia, 2015 ("the Tournament")**

1. The ETH **notes** the non-participation of its member, Mr Pedro Dominguez Brito, following from his absence of the ETH meeting in Madrid, Spain in April 2017 during which the ETH arrived at its provisional findings in this matter, but **confirms** that the remaining four voting members constitute a quorum.

2. The ETH **notes** the complaint of WGM Mihaela Sandu (the Complainant) of 23 June 2015 against the following 15 Respondents: Ms Natalia Zhukova (Resp. no. 1), Ms Alissa Galliamova (Resp. no. 2), Ms Ianita Stetsko (Resp. no. 3), Ms Anastasia Bodnaruk (Resp. no. 4), Ms Dina Belenkaya (Resp. no. 5), Ms Jovana Vojinova (Resp. no. 6), Ms Svetlana Matveeva (Resp. no. 7), Ms Marina Guseva (Resp. no. 8), Ms Anna Tskhadadze (Resp. no. 9), Ms Tatiana Ivanova (Resp. no. 10), Ms Natassia Ziaziulkina (Resp. no. 11), Ms Anastasia Savina (Resp. no. 12), Ms Evgenija Ovod (Resp. no. 13), Ms Melia Salome (Resp. no. 14) and Ms Ekaterina Kovalevskaya (Resp. no. 15), concerning an alleged violation of the FIDE Code of Ethics, articles 2.2.4, 2.2.9 and 2.2.11, by signing a petition expressing concern about WGM Sandu's performance in the Tournament and requesting certain precautionary measures to be taken.
3. The ETH **notes** the report (the IC Report) by an Investigatory Chamber of the Ethics Commission consisting of three members appointed from the ranks of the Anti-Cheating Commission, dated 15 August 2016 and the ETH **acknowledges** the conclusions of the IC Report.
4. The ETH **notes** its provisional findings and proposed sanctions, decided upon its meeting in Madrid, Spain on 7 April 2017 and communicated to the Complainant and Respondents by ETH's letter dated 24 April 2017 affording the parties a further opportunity of making representations before the ETH arrives at its final decision.
5. The ETH **notes** that it received further statements from the Complainant and the 1<sup>st</sup> Respondent, but no representations from the 2<sup>nd</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> Respondents.
6. Having duly considered the IC Report, statements obtained from the officials and players in the IC investigation and all statements filed in

the proceedings before the ETH, by unanimity of its participating members, the ETH **rules** that:

6.1 The Respondents are **not guilty** of any violation of art. 2.2.4 and 2.2.9 of the FIDE Code of Ethics.

6.2 Respondents 1 - 15 are **all guilty** of a breach of art. 2.2.11 of the FIDE Code of Ethics for making unjustified accusations of cheating against the chess player Mihaela Sandu, WGM, thereby injuring and discrediting her reputation as an honest chess player.

7. The ETH, by unanimity of its participating members, **decides** to impose the following sanctions on the respondents:

Respondent no. 1: - A **three (3) month ban** from playing chess in any tournament. The sanction is wholly suspended for a period of one (1) year, on the condition that she is not found guilty of making reckless or unjustified accusations of cheating against any other chess player during the period of suspension.

Respondents no. 2 - 10: - A **reprimand** (severe expression of disapproval and warning of consequences if conduct is repeated).

Respondents no. 11 - 15: A **warning** (caution to avoid a repeat of the same conduct).

8. The ETH **records** that its final decision herein serves to confirm, and do not differ from, the provisional findings and proposed sanctions announced earlier.

9. The ETH's **Motivation** for its decision is released simultaneously herewith.

10. The ETH **requests** the FIDE Secretariat to communicate this decision to Mmes Mihaela Sandu, Natalia Zhukova, Alissa Galliamova, Ianita Stetsko, Anastasia Bodnaruk, Dina Belenkaya, Jovana Vojinova, Svetlana Matveeva, Marina Guseva, Anna Tskhadadze, Tatiana Ivanova, Natassia Ziaziulkina, Anastasia Savina, Evgenija Ovod, Melia Salome and Ekaterina Kovalevskaya, as well as the Association of Chess Professionals (ACP), and to publish the decision on the FIDE website.

DATED ON THIS 31st DAY OF JULY 2017

*F P Strydom*

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CHAIRMAN

FIDE ETHICS COMMISSION