



FIDE ETHICS & DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

The First Instance Chamber of the Ethics & Disciplinary Commission (hereafter called “the EDC Chamber”), sitting in the following composition -

Chairperson: Mr. Ravindra Dongre

Members: Mr. Johan Sigeman
Mr. David Hater

During an exchange of correspondence and online meetings during the period 8th February to 9th September 2024, made the following decision -

DECISION

Case no.01/2024: “Alleged failure to pay prize monies at the King Mohammed VI International Chess Tournament held in Morocco in August 2023

1. The EDC Chamber notes its establishment by the EDC Chairman on 8th February 2024.
2. The EDC Chamber notes the complaints dated 11th January 2024 received from Grandmaster Mr. Shakhriyar Mamedyarov from Azerbaijan and Grandmaster Mr. Pavel Ponkratov from Russia (“the Complainants”). Both were Prize winners of King Mohammed VI International Chess Tournament. The Respondents are Mr. Mustapha Amazzal (FIDE ID 9002103, “Second Respondent”) and The Royal Moroccan Federation of Chess (“First Respondent”).
3. The case was registered by the EDC as an alleged violation (of Art 11.5 (b) of the Code of Ethics (Organizers, tournament directors, arbiters and other officials who fail to perform their functions in an impartial and responsible manner) and 11.6 (b) (Any action which is held by the EDC who have adversely affected the reputation or interests of FIDE, it’s Continents or National Federations, either internally amongst its National Federations and Continents or externally amongst the general public, or which has harmed the image of chess generally).
4. The EDC Chamber notes the contents of the following reports documents and mails received as part of the case file: complaint received from Grandmaster Mr. Pavel Ponkratov and Grandmaster Mr. Shakhriyar Mamedyarov on 11th January 2024. The EDC notification to the Respondents and further two reminders 19th April 2024 and 2nd May 2024 to the provisional committee of the First Respondent and the Second respondent, organizer and President of The Royal Moroccan Federation of Chess and replies from the second Respondent on 23rd March and one reply from Ms. Kadiri Bouchra on 26th March 2024 that the First Respondent is now headed by a provisional committee with President Ms. Kadiri Bouchra.

5. The EDC Chamber notes that there is no commitment of any payments of prize money from any of the Respondents.
6. Regarding the issue of Admissibility of the complaint the EDC chamber holds as follows:
 - 6.1 The Complainants are FIDE-registered players and are competent to lodge a complaint before the EDC in relation to the non-payment of prize money as the directly affected parties.
 - 6.2 The Second respondent is an organizer registered with FIDE and was the tournament director of the King Mohammed VI International Chess Tournament with multi-national participation.
 - 6.3 The First respondent is a member federation of FIDE and in terms of article 3.6 of the Code of Ethics all member federations are subject to the Code and the jurisdiction of the EDC.
 - 6.4 The conduct complained of occurred at the King Mohammed VI International Chess Tournament a FIDE registered and rated tournament a FIDE event code 334206.
 - 6.5 The allegations made by the Complainants discloses a prima facie case of misconduct and the violation of article 11.5 (b) and 11.6 (b) of the Code of Ethics by the Second respondent (as the primary perpetrator) and the First Respondent (as the secondary perpetrators or aiding and abetting)
 - 6.6 Accordingly, the complaint is declared admissible as against both Respondents.
7. Upon due consideration, the EDC Chamber, by unanimity of its members, **finds** regarding the responsibility:
 - 7.1 The alleged violation of the Code of Ethics took place in connection with a FIDE-rated Tournament with international participants. The Tournament was organized by the First Respondent.
 - 7.2 The Complainants are players who participated in the tournament and at the date of filing of his complaint, the Complainant's prize money/remuneration had not been paid.
 - 7.3 In the present case the Second respondent, as organizer and president of First Respondent, has not ensured the payment of the prize money/remuneration without any just cause, which was assured in the tournament regulations to the Complainant.
 - 7.4 The EDC also notes that the Second respondent admitted that the prize money is not paid and has cited several internal issues of the First Respondent.
 - 7.5 The EDC Chamber finds that the guilt of both Respondent is established beyond doubt. Non-payment of prize money/remuneration to the winners, thereby breaching the firm commitment in the invitation to the event is a very serious offence. The non-fulfillment of contractual obligations towards the participants and other parties involved in the FIDE rated event is typically something that will damage the reputation of both FIDE and the game of chess.

8. The EDC Chamber notes the fact that the First respondent has not even bothered to reply to the EDC Chamber in spite of reminders.
9. Accordingly, each of the first and second respondents are found guilty of a breach of article 11.5 (b) and 11.6 (b) of the Code of Ethics.
10. Upon due consideration, the EDC Chamber, by unanimity of its members, **finds** regarding the matter of an appropriate sanction that:
11. Both Respondents are taken as first offenders.
 - 11.1 The Second Respondent Mr. Mustapha Amazzal is sanctioned to 2-year ban as Organizer of any international or FIDE-rated tournaments.
 - 11.2 The First respondent, the Royal Moroccan Federation of Chess is sanctioned to a two year ban as organizer of any International or FIDE rated tournament. In Recognition of the fact that the leadership of the Royal Moroccan Federation of Chess has changed, if the Royal Moroccan Federation of Chess pays all the debts from the event that were incurred for this event (either by directly making payments themselves or by arranging for any other party to make the payments) then the sanction will be modified to the period that they took to make payments. This includes paying all prize winners, arbiters, and staff the amounts that are due to them. If the Royal Moroccan Chess Federation believes they meet this condition, they must submit through the FIDE Secretariat to the EDC a complete list of all parties owed and evidence that those parties have all been paid.
12. The respondents are referred to Rules 42.3 and 43 of the EDC Procedural Rules and advised that this decision may be appealed to the Appeal Chamber of the EDC by giving written notice of such appeal to the FIDE Secretariat within 21 calendar days from the date upon which this decision is received. The notice of appeal must clearly state all the grounds for the appeal and an appeal lodgment fee of 150 Euros is payable to the FIDE Financial Department. Failing the due exercise of this right of appeal, the EDC Chamber's decision will become final.
13. The EDC Chamber requests the FIDE Secretariat to communicate forthwith the decision to the Complainants, 1) Mr. Shakhriyar Mamedyarov 2) Mr. Pavel Ponkratov, the respondents 1) Mr. Mustapha Amazzal 2) The Royal Moroccan Federation of Chess, and to publish in due course the decision on the FIDE website.

DATED ON THIS 09TH SEPTEMBER 2024



Ravindra Dongre

CHAMBER CHAIRMAN

FIDE ETHICS & DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION