

FIDE ETHICS & DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

REPORT TO FIDE COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 2025

Dear Mr President and members of the FIDE Council

This report covers the activities of the Ethics & Disciplinary Commission (EDC) for the 14-month period since September 2024, the date of the previous Congress held in Budapest.

1. Membership of the EDC

1.1 The EDC has 7 members:

- **EDC Chairwoman, Yolander Sammy** (GUY), elected October 2018 (Batumi), re-elected September 2024 (Budapest).
- **EDC Deputy Chairman, Khaled Arfa** (TUN), elected February 2020 (Abu Dhabi), re-elected September 2024 (Budapest).
- **EDC Vice-Chairman David Hater** (USA), elected February 2020 (Abu Dhabi), re-elected September 2024 (Budapest).
- **Ravindra Dongre (IND)**, elected October 2018 (Batumi), re-elected September 2024 (Budapest).
- **Olga Baskakova (KAZ)**, elected September 2024 (Budapest).
- **Alan Borda (BOL)**, elected September 2024 (Budapest).
- **Ali Nihat Yazici (TUR)**, elected September 2024 (Budapest).

1.2 Pursuant to the FIDE Charter the term of the current EDC members endures until the General Assembly to be held in 2028.

2 Meetings

- 2.1 In the period **23 – 25 April 2025** the EDC had an in-person meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland which was attended by Yolander Sammy, David Hater, Khaled Arfa, Olga Baskakova, Ravindra Dongre and Ali Yazici. joined online. Alan Borda was absent. The meeting focussed on training new EDC members on the EDC Code, Procedural Rules, Internal Rules, typical cases brought before the EDC in the past few years; the Election of the Deputy Chair and Vice Chair, nomination of Francois Strydom to the Roll of Honour as an Esteemed Supporter of the EDC.
- 2.2 On **25 November 2025** as part of the Congress, the EDC held an online open (public) meeting. Present were all EDC members (save for Alan Borda who faced Visa issues). The EDC Chairwoman delivered a summary of her annual report. Each member of the commission delivered a presentation on a crucial topic, designed to be clear and comprehensive for the public. Notably, the presentation on admissibility marked a significant milestone: for the first time, it was assisted by AI, signaling the EDC's entry into the Artificial Intelligence era. General discussion and a Questions & Answer session followed before the open meeting was closed after 2 hours of meeting. The EDC members met for another 1 hour in a private meeting discussing aspects of their work.

3 Cases decided

- 3.1 In appeal case **10/2023(A)** the EDC Appeal Chamber (O Baskakova as chair; A Yazici and A Borda) upheld the guilty verdict of Mr. He. At the First Instance level HE was sanctioned to a worldwide ban of 5 years from serving as an International Organizer for manipulating pairings in a chess tournament by attempting to influence players. The Appeal Chamber varied the sanction by revoking He's International Organizer title and reducing the ban to 4 years.
- 3.2 In appeal case **3/2024(A)** the EDC Appeal Chamber (R Dongre as chair; O Baskakova and A Borda) varied the sanction of the First Instance Chamber

against Mr. Rimestad by removing the suspended portion of the First Instance decision; his worldwide ban is 2 years as an International Arbiter. Rimestad was found guilty of a violation of the ethical value of human dignity, and socially unacceptable behaviour.

- 3.3 In appeal case **5/2024(A)** the EDC Appeal Chamber (Y Persaud as chair; O Baskakova and A Yazici) considered an appeal made by Andrejs Strebkovs and cross-appeal made by the FIDE President. Mr. Strebkovs' appeal against conviction failed and the guilt was confirmed and maintained for postal harassment against numerous female players. The cross-appeal by the FIDE President succeeded in part and Strebkovs was found guilty of further offenses. In light of that, the sanction was increased to a worldwide ban of 12 years from participating in any FIDE related event, or to be physically present at any such event. Additionally, Strebkovs' International Master Title was revoked as a supplementary sanction.
- 3.4 In case **6/2024** the EDC First Instance Chamber (D Hater as chair; O. Baskakova and A Borda) considered a complaint from the Fairplay Commission (FPL) against *then* GM Kirill Shevchenko. The Complaint alleged that Shevchenko cheated at the Spanish Team Championship using a cellular phone. Shevchenko was found guilty of a breach of Art 11.7(2)-cheating and was sanctioned to a worldwide ban for 3 years with 1 year of the sanction suspended. The GM title was not stripped at the First Instance level.
- 3.5 In appeal case **6/2024(A)** the EDC Appeal Chamber (Y Persaud as chair; K Arfa and R Dongre) dismissed the appeal of Mr. Kirill Shevchenko and the cross-appeal of the FIDE FPL succeeded in part. The Appeal Chamber applied supplemental sanctions based on its interpretation of the Code and placed emphasis on the confession made by Shevchenko to the EDC and FPL. The Appeal Chamber maintained the term of the ban (3 years ban with 1 year suspended), but revoked Shevchenko's GM title.
- 3.6 In case **7/2024** the EDC First Instance Chamber (D Hater as chair; R Dongre and A Borda) considered a complaint from Pavel Eljanov, Isabek Tanikin, the Israeli Chess Federation and Ashdod Chess Club (collectively represented by Alon Shulman) against M. Amin Tabatabael and Aghiad Mero. The

complaint alleged that the respondents boycotted their games in round 8 of the FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Team Championship. Tabatabael was found not guilty, whereas Mero was found guilty of violating Art 11.5 (c) and was sanctioned to a warning.

- 3.7 In case **3/2025** the EDC First Instance Chamber (K Arfa as chair; R. Dongre and O Baskakova) considered a complaint from GM Efstratios Grivas against the United Arab Chess Federation and the Sharjah Cultural & Chess Club for alleged failure to pay stipend and other financial obligations. The Chamber ruled this case inadmissible before the EDC as its financial nature was more of a private matter between the two parties.
- 3.8 In appeal **case 5/2025 (A)** the EDC Appeal Chamber (Y Persaud as chair; K Arfa and A Borda) considered a request by the United States Chess Federation to extend national sanctions worldwide against GM Yoo. GM Yoo was found guilty at the national level for physically assaulting a victim, unprovoked. The Appeal Chamber extended GM Yoo's ban worldwide until 14th November 2025 to coincide with his national sanction, from participating in any FIDE-rated event as a player.
- 3.9 In case **6/2025** the EDC First Instance Chamber (A Yazici as chair; K. Arfa and O Baskakova) considered a complaint from Ms. X against GM Yoo. The complaint contained allegations of harassment by GM Yoo against Ms. X over the course of 2 tournaments. The complainant requested to remain anonymous, along with the identity of the Witnesses for the purposes of the written decision. The Respondent was found guilty of a breach of multiple Ethics and Disciplinary Code breaches and was sanctioned to a worldwide ban from participating as a player in any FIDE-rated tournament for 18 months, with 12 months of the sanction suspended.
- 3.10 In appeal **case 7/2025 (A)** the EDC Appeal Chamber (Y Persaud as chair; K Arfa and R Dongre) considered a request by the United States Chess Federation to extend national sanctions worldwide against Player X (a minor), who was found guilty at the national level for cheating by using a mobile phone. The sanction was extended worldwide until 1st September

2025, banning the player from participating in any FIDE-rated event as a player.

3.11 In case **8/2025** the EDC First Instance Chamber (A Yazici as chair; A Borda and D Hater) considered a complaint from the FPL against Joeri Harreman. This complaint contained allegations of cheating and a failure to cooperate. During inspection, a mobile phone was found by the Chief Arbiter inside the Respondent's sock, which he refused to turn on. The First Instance Chamber found the Respondent guilty on both charges brought against him, and he was sanctioned to a worldwide ban as a player in any FIDE-rated tournament for 36 months, with 12 months suspended as a probation period.

3.12 In case **9/2025** the EDC First Instance Chamber (A Yazici as chair; K. Arfa and R Dongre) considered a complaint from the FPL against Mr. Li Haoyu on allegations of sandbagging. Mr. Haoyu was found guilty by majority of the Chamber, and was sanctioned to a worldwide ban of 6 months from participating as a player in any FIDE-rated competition.

3.13 All the above decisions are published on the EDC website at <https://ethics.fide.com/decisions/>

4 Pending Cases for decision by members of the EDC

First Instance

- 4.1 Case 1/2025 Arab Chess Federatopm
- 4.2 Case 2/2025 Taha Uyar.
- 4.3 Case 4/2025 Israel, Iran
- 4.4 Case 11/2025 G Mirza
- 4.5 Case 12/2025 GM Kramnik (*held in abeyance until 17th December 2025*)
- 4.6 Case 13/2025 Mitropa Chess Association
- 4.7 Case 14/2025 Mr. X -v- Scottish Chess Fed

Appeals Case 7/2023(A) Montenegro

Withdrawn Case 4/2024 (a) Casto Abundo

5 Statistics of distribution of cases

- 5.1 It is the responsibility of the EDC chair to nominate a First Instance Chamber of three members for each case. In the past term it was the practice to rotate the chairmanship of the First Instance Chambers between the EDC members.
- 5.2 In the event of an appeal against the decision of the First Instance Chamber, the EDC chair and two other members will sit as the Appeal Chamber. In terms of the Charter, the EDC chair always act as chair of the Appeal Chamber.
- 5.3 During the period under review (September 2024 - November 2025), the EDC registered 16 new first-instance cases, as well as 9 new internal appeals.
- 5.4 The statistics relating to all first-instance, appeal and review cases received by the EDC, showing the participation of each EDC member, are as follows:

Yolander Persaud -5 Appeal cases, as chair.

Khaled Arfa - 12 cases (incl. chair in 5 cases)

David Hater - 8 cases (incl. chair in 5 cases)

Olga Baskakova - 13 cases (incl. chair in 2 cases)

Ali N Yazici - 8 cases (incl. chair in 4 cases)

Ravindra Dongre -9 cases (incl. chair in 1 case)

Alan Borda -11 cases

*Georgetown, Guyana
25 November 2025*

Yolander Persaud

Chairwoman of the Ethics & Disciplinary Commission

Yolander Persaud