



FIDE ETHICS COMMISSION

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

Chairman: Mr Francois Strydom
Members: Ms Yolander Persaud
Mr Ravindra Dongre
Mr Rajesh Hari Joshi

during the meeting held in Lausanne, Switzerland on 23rd - 24th of November 2019, made the following-

DECISION

Case n. 8/2019: Allegations of cheating at 2019 Strasbourg tournament and various other tournaments, 2015 - 2019 against GM Igor Rausis.

1. The ETH **confirms** that a quorum is established by the presence and participation of all four (4) of its voting members.
2. The ETH **confirms** that the case is receivable against **Mr Igor Rausis**, for an alleged violation of par. 2.2.5 of the FIDE Code of Ethics.
3. The ETH **notes** that, at the request of the Investigatory Chamber (IC) of the FIDE Fair Play Commission, the respondent was provisionally suspended as a player, FIDE trainer and arbiter pending further

investigation for a period of 75 days commencing on 31 July 2019, and thereafter extended for a further period of 45 days in terms of article 3.9 of the FIDE Code of Ethics.

4. The ETH **notes** the contents of the report received from the IC on 22 October 2019, and the IC's recommendations. The IC was composed of IA Klaus Deventer (GER) - (Chair), IA Kristjan Eliasson (ISL) and IA Michail Prevenios (GRE).
5. The ETH **notes** the written representations received from the respondent on 29 October 2019.
6. The ETH **notes** the written report with statistical analysis received from Prof. Kenneth Regan on 9 November (part 1) and 15 November 2019 (part 2). Prof. Regan's findings indicate high z-scores for both a sample of 24 tournaments and a further sample of 60 tournaments (which included the first-mentioned 24 events) taken of games played by Mr Rausis during the period October 2014 until April 2019. Taken at face value, these scores represent an astronomical likelihood of cheating overall, albeit not in every event and certainly not in every game.
7. The ETH **notes** that an oral hearing was held in Lausanne on 23 November 2019 at which were present, apart from the ETH members, the respondent, Mr. Yuri Garrett of the FIDE Fair Play Commission and Prof. Regan.
8. The ETH **notes** that:
 - 8.1 In documents included in the written report of the IC as well as the respondent's written representations, the respondent admitted that he had made himself guilty of cheating during 3rd round at 10th Strasbourg Summer Festival on 11 July 2019 by using chess engine software installed on his mobile phone for analysis of his game in progress.
 - 8.2 At the hearing the respondent confessed that he had made himself guilty of cheating in one game at the 2015 Czech Championships (Havlickuv Brod) and in one game at the 2017 Teplice Open by similar use of his mobile phone. In addition, respondent confessed that he arranged with his opponent

beforehand the outcome of a game at the 2017 Teplice Open in the respondent's favour.

8.3 Apart from the above, Mr Rausis disavowed cheating on any other occasion during the 2015 - 2019 period.

9. Taking into account Mr Rausis' acknowledgment of his guilt, co-operation at the hearing and remorse displayed, as well as his personal circumstances, but keeping in mind the precedent established by the ETH's decision in case no. 7/2015, the ETH unanimously **decides** that:

9.1 In the light of the respondent's confessions and admission of guilt, as set out hereinabove, it was unnecessary for the ETH to perform an evaluation of the statistical evidence presented by Prof. Regan or to base its verdict on the sufficiency and weight of such evidence.

9.2 In the circumstances, based on his own testimony and admission of cheating on several occasions, Mr Igor Rausis is found guilty of multiple violations of article 2.2.5 of the FIDE Code of Ethics.

9.3 Mr Igor Rausis is sanctioned with a worldwide ban of 6 (six) years to take effect from 31 July 2019 and to end on 30 July 2025. During this period Mr Rausis is prohibited from participating as a player in any FIDE rated over-the-board chess competition (whether classical, rapid, blitz or Fischer random chess), and from any chess-related activity as an arbiter, organiser or representative of a chess federation.

9.4 In addition, Mr Rausis' grandmaster title is revoked effective from the date of publishing this decision.

9.5 For the sake of clarity, the sanction does not seek to prevent Mr Rausis' participation in FIDE correspondence or online chess games, or to restrain Mr Rausis from earning income during the period of the ban as a private chess trainer, teacher or coach, provided that he shall not act as captain or assist any player or team during any official FIDE event or Continental championship at the physical site of the tournament. Remote coaching is

permitted. The ETH decision does not affect Mr Rausis' rating or any other titles he holds, such as FIDE International Master, FIDE Trainer and National Arbiter.

10. The ETH **requests** the FIDE Secretariat to communicate the decision to Mr Igor Rausis, the European Chess Union, the Czech and Latvian Chess Federations, the FIDE Fair Play Commission and the Investigatory Chamber (per IA Klaus Deventer), and to publish the decision on the FIDE website in due course.

DATED ON THIS THE 5th DAY OF DECEMBER 2019

F P Strydom

CHAIRMAN

FIDE ETHICS COMMISSION