



FIDE ETHICS AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

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

Chairperson : Ms Yolander Persaud

following an exchange of correspondence and a Public Open Hearing during FIDE Congress in Samarkand, Uzbekistan on 23rd September 2026, made the following –

DECISION

CASE NO. 05/2026 “Alleged bribery and corruption of Federation and Delegate.”

Parties:

- **Mr. Timur Turlov**– Complainant
- **Mr. Wadim Rosenstein** and **Deutscher Schachbund E.V.** (the German Chess Federation- DSB), represented by its President Mr. Paul Meyer Dunker -Respondents

1. The EDC notes its establishment on the 17th September 2026. Considering the urgency of this matter, and in accordance with the powers permitted to under Rule 15 of the EDC Procedural Rules, the EDC Chairwoman Ms Yolander Persaud sits as the single judge in this matter, which was not contested by the Parties.
2. The EDC Chair notes that on the 10th September 2026 the EDC received a complaint by Mr. Timur Turlov through his lawyers. The complaint alleges serious electoral misconduct, improper financial influence and violations of FIDE regulations resulting from a 2-year sponsorship agreement entered between Mr. Rosenstein’s entity, WR events, and the DSB (German Chess Federation) and announced by the DSB on 19th August 2026, with possible violation of Articles 6.10, 6.12, 11.7 (c) and 11.7(d).
3. The EDC Chamber notes that the Respondents have been given the opportunity to respond to the allegations in the complaint and have submitted a defensive statement on the 21st September 2026.



4. The EDC Chamber notes the contents of the following documents and e-mails received as part of the case file: the Complaint with annexes, the Respondent's defensive statement dated 21 Sept 2026 along with its annexes, Directions to the Oral Hearing issued by the Chair on the 21st September 2026, e-mail by Anja Vogt (Attorney for the Complaint) dated 22nd September 2026, e-mail by Feodor Vyacheslavov (Attorney for the Complaint) dated 22nd September 2026, Sponsorship Agreement submitted to the Chair under privilege and during the hearing (dated 22nd June 2026), e-mail bundle submitted by the DSB during the hearing.
5. The EDC Chair, having considered the Parties' written submissions and supporting documents, and having heard the Parties and the witnesses during the oral hearing held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on 23 September 2026, renders the following decision.
6. The EDC Chair notes the following factual details of the case :
 - 6.1 Both Mr. Turlov and Mr. Rosenstein are Presidential Candidates in the upcoming FIDE Elections to be held on the 26th September 2026 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
 - 6.2 On the 12th May 2026 the DSB elected a new President Mr. Paul Meyer- Dunker.
 - 6.3 On the 22nd May 2026 the DSB appointed Mr. Wadim Rosenstein as the FIDE Delegate to represent the DSB in the upcoming FIDE Congress and elections.
 - 6.4 In June 2026 the DSB nominated the Rosenstein-Tang ticket for FIDE President.
 - 6.5 On 19 August 2026 the DSB publicly announced a new two-year sponsorship with WR entities which would take effect from 1st October 2026.
 - 6.6 The August 19 publication presented the sponsorship together with his delegate status and presidential campaign in a single announcement, which the Complainant says creates a problematic linkage.
7. The EDC Chamber notes the subject-matter of the Complaint:
 - 7.1 The Complaint is premised on the DSB's public announcement of a substantial sponsorship agreement with Mr Rosenstein and his organization while he was both its FIDE Delegate and its nominated presidential candidate.
 - 7.2 Mr Rosenstein was appointed as FIDE Delegate in May 2026 and nominated in June 2026, while the sponsorship was announced on 19th August 2026. The Complaint



submits that the scale of the benefit, its presentation alongside the candidacy and the recipient's electoral role support an inference of prohibited financial influence.

7.3 The Complainant requested the following reliefs: to declare the complaint admissible, to order the Respondents to produce the requested documents and information required, to sanction Mr Rosenstein to a ban and supplementary sanction of ineligibility to run for FIDE office, or alternatively to exclusion from office, impose an appropriate sanction to the DSB.

8. The EDC notes the subject matter of the Respondents' position:

8.1 The Respondents raise several preliminary points in their Response, including the EDC's lack of jurisdiction to hear the matter, complaint being filed out of time, serious prejudice caused to the Respondent by the filing of the complaint at such proximity to the elections, unpardonable delay, abuse of process, and procedural errors raised at the hearing regarding the power of attorney submitted by 5Gambit on behalf of Mr. Turlov.

8.2 The Respondents reject allegations of electoral misconduct, undue financial influence, bribery, conflict of interest, corruption and any other negative assertions made against them in the Complaint, claiming that it is devoid of merit.

8.3 The Respondents claim that there are a long-standing partnership and historical support by Mr. Rosenstein and the DSB, and that the agreement was finalized in early June 2026. It further states that Mr. Rosenstein is a part of the DSB.

8.4 The Respondents further claim that the sponsorship agreement between WR events and the Federation are independent of the electoral process, nor related to the nomination of Mr. Rosenstein as delegate and therefore no infringement of Art 9.2 of the Electoral Rules.

8.5 The Respondents claim Mr. Rosenstein was requested by the DSB to sponsor the Federation, sometime after the appointment of FIDE Delegate.

8.6 The minutes of the DSB dated 10th June 2026, note the Rosenstein negotiations regarding sponsorship, and confirmation of Rosenstein's FIDE Delegate appointment on 22nd May 2026.

8.7 The Respondents argue of the non-applicability of the precedent cited Case 5/2018, stating that the relevance is misplaced as the factual matrix of the precedent is fundamentally distinguishable from the present matter.



- 8.8 The Respondents' final point is to note that the Complainant is Kazakhstan's delegate and is equally culpable for the same charges as he is a large sponsor of his Federation and FIDE, is delegate of Kazakhstan and its Federation President.
- 8.9 The Respondent requests that the complaint be dismissed, for the EDC to confirm Mr. Rosenstein's eligibility as a candidate for FIDE office, confirm that the Respondents fully complied with the Articles of the Electoral Rules and the EDC Code, reject all procedural requests for disclosure, order administrative and legal costs.
9. Upon due consideration, the EDC **finds regarding the admissibility of the complaint** that:
- 9.1 Both parties are members of the FIDE Family- 4.2 (a) and (h) which specifies member federations and electoral candidates respectively.
- 9.2 The Complainant has the necessary standing and interest.
- 9.3 The alleged misconduct occurred during a course of no more than three years immediately preceding the date on which the complaint is received by FIDE (see article 5.1 e).
- 9.4 The alleged misconduct occurred during the electoral campaign of a candidate for FIDE President which has an international impact.
- 9.5 The Respondent's alleged conduct prima facie has the potential to constitute a violation of conduct prohibited in Articles 6.10, 6.12, 11.7 (c) and 11.7(d) of the FIDE Code of Ethics.
- 9.7 Considering the satisfaction of all elements of Article 5.1 of the EDC Code, the EDC finds the complaint admissible.

10. Preliminary points

- 10.1 The EDC finds that the Preliminary points raised by both Parties are irrelevant for the following reasons:
- (a) The alleged irregularity of Power of Attorney submitted by the Complainant- The EDC is satisfied that the first Power of Attorney was duly signed and authorized by the Complainant, despite the incorrect subject matter of the power of attorney. A second power of attorney was also provided on the 22nd September 2026 which further authorized V Lawyers to act on the Complainant's behalf.



- (b) Jurisdiction- The alleged misconduct concerned breaches of the EDC Code and was referred to the EDC Commission by the Electoral Commission.
- (c) Out of time and delay- Regarding the EDC's limitation provisions for filing a complaint, the complaint was filed within the stipulated timeframe. The timelines cited by the Respondent apply to the Electoral Commission and are not applicable to the EDC.
- (d) Abuse of Process- Considering the Electoral Commission's referral, the EDC is not comfortably satisfied that the bringing of the Complaint before it is an abuse of process.

Findings

Conflict of Interest

- 11. During the hearing the Complainant raised the objection about the Respondent's representative Mr. Ian Wilkinson regarding a possible conflict of interest as he is a member of the Constitutional Commission and consequently to disregard all statements of defense he submitted.
- 12. The EDC notes that art. 16.10 of the Charter provides "Whenever any FIDE official has a financial or personal interest in any matter coming before any FIDE body on which has a deliberative voice or vote, the affected person shall fully disclose the nature of the interest to the relevant body and withdraw from discussion, lobbying, and voting on the matter. Situations of conflict of interest can find a specific regulation in the Ethics and Disciplinary Code and in the Internal Rules of the different organs." Mr. Wilkinson has no deliberative voice or vote in front of the EDC and consequently the conditions of art. 16.10 of the Charter are not fulfilled.
- 13. The EDC draws attention to Art. 8.22 of the Ethics & Disciplinary Code dealing with any potential conflict of interest. Mr Wilkinson, as a member of the Constitutional Commission, has no access, vote or influence on the EDC Commission.
- 14. For the above-mentioned reasons, the EDC finds no merit in the Complainant's objection about conflict of interest.

The Sponsorship Agreement

- 15. The Complainant requested that some documents and information be produced by the Respondents and mainly the Sponsorship Agreement between WR events and the DSB.



16. The Respondents were reticent about providing the Sponsorship Agreement to the Complainants because of confidentiality protections. However, finally, during the hearing the DSB disclosed both the German copy and a translated copy of the Agreement to the EDC Chair for her review only.
17. The EDC Chairwoman confirmed to the Parties at the hearing- the parties to the contract and the date signed- 22nd June 2026.
18. The Chairwoman reviewed the sponsorship agreement and was comfortably satisfied that there is no connection or exchange of financial consideration for the sponsorship to the appointment of DSB's Delegate position to Mr. Rosenstein and consequently there is no nexus to the Serbian Case 5/2018.
19. There is no rule prohibiting someone from sponsoring their own Federation. The EDC is comfortably satisfied that WR Events has been sponsoring the DSB and German chess as evidenced by the Exhibit 6 of the Claimant, *"Rosenstein began early on to finance events and bring international attention to Germany. With WR Chess, one of the strongest teams in the world was created in 2023, as well as the WR Chess Masters in Dusseldorf- a tournament that brought numerous world-class players to Germany and received great international attention. At the same time, Rosenstein financed the organization of the FIDE Rapid and Blitz World Championship in Dusseldorf and sponsored the German national team to participate in the World Rapid and Blitz Championships in London."*
20. Therefore, the EDC is not comfortably satisfied of any evidence or culpability by the Respondents of undue influence, bribery or corruption with the existence and execution of the Sponsorship Agreement.

The Nomination of Delegates

21. The EDC affirms that the decision of a Federation to nominate/select/appoint a Delegate is a purely internal decision upon which the EDC has no jurisdiction, even though the Delegate is called to act in the international sphere.
22. Further, there is no restriction for the nomination of Delegates, except by the Electoral Rules.
23. A Federation is free to appoint anyone for such position, in accordance with its statutes.
24. A Delegate is not prohibited from being at the same time a Candidate.



25. Further, the EDC finds it common for a Federation to endorse and support its own members for an election and therefore there is no wrongdoing by the DSB to support Mr. Rosenstein's presidential ticket.
26. The EDC also finds that there is no prohibition for a Federation member or persons sharing the same nationality to sponsor their own federation.
27. During the Hearing the Complainant was granted leave by the Chair to call a witness, former President of the DSB, Ms. Ingrid Lauterbach. The EDC does not find the testimony relevant to the core issues of the case.
28. The EDC notes that the Complainant is himself President and of the Kazakhstan Federation, major sponsor of both his Federation of FIDE and Candidate for the FIDE Presidential Elections.
29. The EDC notes that the eligibility of Mr. Wadim Rosenstein was already confirmed by the Electoral Commission in its Report dated 27th July 2026 and therefore falls outside the jurisdiction of the EDC.

Decision

30. Accordingly, and considering all the above, the EDC Chairwoman decides as follows:
- 30.1 The allegations against Mr. Wadim Rosenstein have not been established to the comfortable satisfaction. Therefore, Mr. Rosenstein is found **not guilty** of Articles 6.10, 6.12, 11.7 (c) and 11.7(d) of the EDC Code.
- 30.2 The allegations against the DSB have not been established to the comfortable satisfaction. Therefore, the DSB is found **not guilty** of Articles 6.10, 6.12, 11.7 (c) and 11.7 (d) of the EDC Code.
- 30.3 The Complaint of Mr. Turlov is **dismissed**.
31. The parties are referred to Chapter 7 of the EDC Procedural Rules and advised that this decision may be appealed to the EDC Appeal Chamber by giving written notice of such appeal to the EDC Chairman (at edc.chair@fide.com, with a copy to the FIDE Offices at office@fide.com) within 21 days from the date upon which this decision is received. The notice of appeal must clearly state all the grounds for the appeal. An appeal lodgment fee of 500 EUROS must at the same time be paid to the FIDE Financial Department. Failing the due exercise of this right of appeal, the EDC Chamber's decision will become final.



32. The EDC Chair requests the FIDE Secretariat to communicate forthwith the decision to the Complainant and the Respondent and to publish in due course the decision on the FIDE website.

DATED : 24th September 2026, SAMARKAND, UZBEKISTAN,

Yolander Persaud

YOLANDER PERSAUD

EDC CHAIRWOMAN

FIDE ETHICS & DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION