

CHESS FEDERATION OF CANADA GOVERNORS' LETTER EIGHT 2002-2003



**Responses may be mailed, faxed or E-mailed to the Chess Federation of Canada, E-1 2212
Gladwin Crescent, Ottawa, ON, K1B 5N1, fax: 613-733-5209, E-Mail: info@chess.ca**

**ATTENTION ALL GOVERNORS: Anyone with an E-Mail address can have their
Governors' Letter sent to them via E-Mail and save the CFC paper and postage costs.
Please E-Mail info@chess.ca if interested.**

Deadline for submissions to GL #9: June 15th, 2003

Introduction:

Keeping Governors Informed

President' Message for GL #8

1, A warm welcome

Please join me in welcoming Ms. Cheryl Heney to our Office. Cheryl will help Gerry to further improve the service to our members.

2, Accusations by Kevin Spraggett

As you know Governor Kevin Spraggett accused your President of having acted unethically and having committed improprieties as well as calling the President a "fraud" without providing any evidence whatsoever, despite numerous requests.

I offered to the Executive to step aside while the Executive would investigate. The Executive rejected this idea because there is nothing to investigate.

After having consulted with a number of you I concur with those opinions offered to me that classify Governor Spraggett's behavior as nothing more than "National Enquirer" journalism that is best ignored.

3, Canadian Zonal/World Championship

Einstein announced that they have been unable to find money for the Kramnik vs. Leko match. At the same time it is becoming clear that the Ponomariov vs. Kasparov match has also been delayed and no dates have been set.

This suggests that the entire reunification process is on hold with no dates on the horizon. Therefore it is reasonable to assume that the next World Championship Knock Out Tournament is at least 18 months away. (Pascal Charbonneau is already qualified for this one.) We also do not have a date for the next Americas Championship, to which Kevin Spraggett and Alexander LeSiege are qualified.

Given all these delays it appears unlikely that we will need the next Canadian Zonal before the end of 2004.

4, Financial

Our Income Statement for the Year ending April 30, 2003 shows a Net Profit of over \$25,000, subject to some year-end adjustments by our auditors. This result compares favourably to the loss of \$33,000 in the previous year. Our heartfelt THANK YOU goes to both Gerry Litchfield and Les Bunning who have been the key players in managing this turnaround.

5, WYCC Bid for 2008

Larry Bevand, the Executive Director of the CMA has informed me that the above bid information will be submitted to us following the next Board of Directors Meeting of the CMA on June 9th, 2003. The delay has been caused by the unexpected resignation of staff members at the FQE.

Peter Stockhausen

Special notice to the Governors:

Due to the nature of the motions currently under discussion, in order to allow for more discussion of the issues I intend to have one more Governors Letter before this year end. Governors' Letter 9 will contain the Proxy forms for the 2003 Annual General Meeting of the Chess Federation of Canada.

In motion 2003-07 Messrs. Spraggett and Smith have requested two changes: (a) that the motion be recorded as (Spraggett / Smith) instead of (Smith / Spraggett) and (b) that a one sentence change be made in Article 5 concerning "Selection of the Players". Please see below for details.

Lyle Craver

Results of Votes: None

New Motions:

Motion 2003-08: Motion (Frarey / Van Dusen) to amend motion 2003-07 as follows:

Neil Frarey, and myself, Eric Van Dusen want to submit the following amendments to Motion 2003-07 (Olympic Team):

Amendments: Van Dusen/Frarey.

Amendment 01

In reference to Article 2, "National team structure", Paragraph 2, "Head of Delegation", Bullet 1 be amended to read: "The Head of Delegation shall represent the interest of the Chess Federation of Canada at the Olympiad and is answerable to the Executive of the CFC."

Amendment 02

In reference to Article 3, "Selection Procedures", Paragraph 2, "Selection of the Head of Delegation" be amended to read: "The Head of Delegation shall be appointed by the Executive of the CFC."

Amendment 03

Revisions shall be made to Section 12 to reflect that the phrase 'National Team' refers to both: a) the Men's team, and b) the Women's team.

As the motion presently reads, any and all uses of the term 'National Team' be amended to 'Men's Team'; with the exception when BOTH the Men's Team and Women's Team are referenced, then the term, 'National Team' shall be used.

For example:

Article 2. National team structure, amended to,
Article 2. Men's team structure.

Therefore in Article 2. Head of Delegation, Paragraph 2,3, and 5, the term National Team would be acceptably used with reference to our amendment. In Article 3. Selection Procedures., point 5. Selection of the players., ii) The Canadian National Team shall include 6 players, should be amended to read, "ii) The Men's Team ..."

Therefore in Article 9. The Women's Team, paragraph 3, should be amended to "...similar to the captain of the Men's Team." ...etc...

Kevin Spraggett: "Comments by Kevin Spraggett regarding numerous amendments of Mr. Frarey and Mr. Van Dusen"

A) Probably Mr. Frarey and Mr. Van Dusen are not aware that the definition of the National Team as being open to both male and female players and the Women's Team as ONLY being open to female

players has already been decided a number of years ago by the Governors.

If I remember correctly, the definition was designed to eliminate any misunderstanding of what had up to then being generally referred to as "men's team" and "women's team".

As such, I think nothing is gained by trying to go backwards in time. The CFC has as priority the National Team, and not the women's team. That is made perfectly clear in the current regulations (the women's team is something that happens only if the state of the CFC's finances allow for such a luxury.)

It may be true that FIDE does not have such a rigorous definition of what constitutes a National Team and what constitutes a Women's Team. Perhaps it is time for Fide to consider eliminating any confusion over this item.

B) Traditionally the executive has decided the Captain (please refer to my comments in the previous GL for a more precise clarification). In this revision I see no reason to change. I think that the Executive as a group should be responsible for deciding the best candidate for Captain.

The Head of Delegation is being introduced in this revision as being an integral part of the National Team, and effectively the team leader and representative of the federation at the Olympiad.

Who should choose this person?

After much thought I came to the conclusion that the most effective way to decide who will represent the interests of the federation at the Olympiad is to let the President himself decide. There are good reasons for this:

1. Ideally, the President himself is the best person to actually be the Head of Delegation. Many federations follow this policy, infact. The Head of Delegation is mostly a political role. By allowing the President of the federation the sole responsibility for deciding this, we leave this option open to him to personally attend the Olympiad. (Who better than the president represents the federation?)

2. The choice of both the Head of delegation and the Captain are very critical choices. The ultimate success of the National Team actually depends on them: they are the problem solvers and solution makers of the National Team.

However, the role and responsibilities of the Head of Delegation allows him certain discretionary authority, and for this reason it is more efficient for him to be able to make just one quick phone call (to the President) to be able to resolve an issue than it is for the entire Executive to be consulted on the problem.

3) I think that a better balance of power is achieved on the National Team by not having the Executive decide both the Captain and the Head of delegation."

Discussion of Motions:

Motion 2003-06: Moved (Frarey / Palsson)

Be it so resolved that Handbook paragraph 711 be amended to read, " To be rated under the CFC Blitz (Speed) rating system the maximum game time must be at least 10 minutes but less 50 minutes."

Rating fee of 50 cents per player with a \$5.00 minimum.

Only electronic format submissions will be accepted. Which in turn will increase participation in the Chess Federation of Canada.

Discussion on Motion 2003-06:

Mark Dutton: This is usually handled locally at the club or league level, however I support this Blitz Chess initiative.

Gordon Taylor: As my old Grandma used to say: "Just because you can does not mean you should." I don't see any particular value to rating speed games. Much of the attraction of speed chess is that it isn't rated - that it is casual and mostly for fun. This third rating system would require an upgrade to our rating programs and that would be expensive as we don't currently have anyone on staff with this expertise. Also, there are many long term costs. A ratings database does not begin and end with data entry and ratings output - it needs to be constantly maintained, diagnostic programs are required, and office time is needed to resolve errors submitted by organizers. Then there are the questions of what to use for initial ratings, how to resolve regional disparities, etc. I just see too many negatives and not enough positives.

Motion 2003-07: Moved (Spraggett / Smith)

[Please note Mr. Spraggett and Mr. Smith have asked that the first sentence of Article 3, paragraph.5, section 1(a) concerning Selection of the Players – Eligibility be replaced as given in this GL. I have placed this section in italics for clarity. If there is no

objection to this “friendly amendment” we should discuss it as is. If there is objection we can discuss this as well]

Replace the entire Section 12 of the CFC Handbook, Canadian Participation in the Chess Olympics with the following revision:

THE OLYMPIAD REGULATIONS

Article 1. Objectives

The CFC has as major objectives in participating at the Chess Olympiad:

- i. To finish as high as possible in the Olympiad
- ii. To project a dignified and honourable image of Canada within FIDE and amongst the chess players of other countries.
- iii. To provide a goal as an incentive for all categories of Canadian chess players, especially the younger players.
- iv. To arouse the interest of the Canadian media as well as the general public.

Article 2. National team structure

1. The Canadian National Team shall be defined as having the following general structure:

- i. Head of Delegation
- ii. Captain
- iii. Technical Assistant(s)
- iv. Players

2. Head of Delegation

- The Head of Delegation shall represent the interests of the Canadian Chess Federation at the Olympiad and is answerable directly to the President of the CFC.
- He/she shall act as a liaison between the Canadian National Team and the Olympiad organizers, and he/she is to especially concern him/her self with the day to day necessities of the team and other practical issues affecting its normal functioning.

- He/she is responsible for maintaining a cohesive atmosphere on the team and should work very closely with the Captain to promote and safe guard team spirit. He/she is to ensure that each individual team member, in the course of exercising his/her responsibilities and duties, represents Canada with dignity and honour. He/she is charged with the task of resolving any personal dispute or misunderstanding that might arise on the National Team during the Olympiad.
- To these ends he/she has wide discretionary authority and his/her decision in all matters is final.
- He/she is charged with writing the official report on the representation of the National Team at the Olympiad.

3. Captain

- The Captain's principal responsibility is to carry out the CFC's objective of finishing as high as is reasonably possible in the final classification of the Olympiad.
- The Captain is responsible for overseeing every aspect of the chess players' performance during the course of the Olympiad: daily team meetings, technical preparation, choosing the daily team line up, and team strategy.
- He/she is responsible for providing the leadership necessary to motivate the players to perform to their very best potential.
- The Captain is entirely responsible for deciding how many games each player will play. He/she is trusted to use his/her best judgement, and it is assumed that he/she will be impartial and fair, putting the interests of the CFC's principal objective before everything else. For example, any player who is clearly out of form should be benched for an indefinite number of rounds.
- The Captain should be able to spot potential trouble among the players, solve problems and try to smooth differences between the players of the team if they arise. He/she is to work very closely with the Head of Delegation to ensure a cohesive team atmosphere and excellent team spirit.

- The Captain is answerable directly to the Head of Delegation

4. Technical Assistant(s)

- He/she is to assist the Captain in carrying out his technical duties, such as helping prepare the players, analyze games, data base management, the collection of daily bulletins, etc.
- He/she is answerable directly to the Captain

5. Players

- Each player is a member of the Canadian National Team regardless of how many games he/she may be asked by the Captain to play.
- The players are to behave in a dignified and honourable fashion at all times, be it at the board or elsewhere.
- The players are required to eat their meals together, attend team meetings and attend preparation/training sessions.
- The players are to show respect for each other and for every other member of the National Team. A unified and cohesive team is in everybody's interest.
- Any dispute or misunderstanding that arises is to be brought immediately to the Captain's attention.
- The players are answerable to the Captain and the Head of Delegation.

Article 3. Selection Procedures

1. Basic principles

- While it is recognized that no selection process can be absolutely objective or can satisfy every critic, the selection procedures should in every instance try to be as transparent as is reasonably possible and in every instance serve the best interests of the CFC's objectives put forward in Article 1.
- It is recognized that the 'best' team can never be chosen by hard and fast rules only, and that the inclusion of some subjectivity/independent judgement at certain pre-determined stages of the selection

process is to be seen as a strengthening of the said process, and not a weakening.

- Participation on the Canadian National Team is an honour and a privilege, carrying with it concrete responsibilities and duties. Inclusion on the Canadian National Team is to be understood as acceptance by each individual of his/her responsibilities and duties, and will require that each individual sign a contract with the CFC recognizing the said responsibilities and duties.

2. Selection of the Head of Delegation

- The Head of Delegation shall be appointed by the President of the CFC.

3. Selection of the Captain

- The Captain shall be appointed by the Executive of the CFC.

4. Selection of the Technical Assistant(s)

- The Technical Assistant(s) shall be appointed by the Executive of the CFC.

5. Selection of the players

i) Eligibility

Players are eligible to be considered for the team who fulfill all the following conditions:

a) {i} a Canadian citizen or {ii} a landed immigrant and be a resident of Canada for the twelve month period immediately preceding the Olympics.

Exceptions may be made for persons who are temporarily resident abroad or for persons who are not citizens or landed immigrants but who have been a resident of Canada for the twelve month period immediately preceding the Olympics. Such exceptions will be at the discretion of the CFC Executive. They will only be made after the person involved has provided the CFC Business Office with a written and signed declaration that Canada is his or her primary national affiliation and that he or she will not play, or attempt to play, in the Closed Championship or on the Olympic team of any other country. [ref: Motion 84-23; GL, September 1983, p. 2-4]

b) Be a member in good standing of the CFC and the affiliated provincial association in the province of residence (if one exists) at the time of mailing the declaration of intention to participate and for the previous 6 months.

ii) The players

a) The Canadian National Team shall include 6 players

- The winner of the most recent Canadian Closed and Zonal
- Two players decided upon by the Selection Committee
- The three highest rated players on the Selection Rating list

If any of the above declines the invitation to join the Canadian National Team then the replacement player will be chosen from the selection rating list outlined below

iii) Confirmation of participation

- All those players eligible for participating on the Canadian National Team must notify the CFC business office, in writing, not less than 90 days before the beginning of the Olympiad of their intention to participate if chosen
- The CFC shall notify successful applicants for the team as soon as possible by registered mail, probably 75 days before the start of the Olympiad, and present each with a contract to sign and then immediately return to the CFC office by registered mail
- Once all signed contracts will have been received by the CFC office, the official listing of the Canadian National Team will be put on the CFC web site.

Article 4. Selection Rating System

- Eligible Ratings: Only Established CFC Ratings will be considered in determining the Initial Ratings and the Selection Ratings.
- Rating Lists: The Initial Rating List is the last published rating list on the CFC Internet site 16 calendar months before the announced date by FIDE for the start of the Olympics. The Final Rating List is the last published rating list on the CFC Internet site 4 calendar months before the announced date by FIDE for the start of the Olympics.
- Initial Rating: The initial rating is the "new" rating from the most recent regular tournament cross-table rated before and including the initial rating list, provided that

12 CFC rated games have been played in regular tournaments during the 12 calendar month period before and including the initial rating list. If the required 12 games above have not been played then the initial rating is the "new" rating from the earliest regular tournament cross-table, in which the required 12th game was played, provided this regular tournament is rated after the initial rating list but before and including the final rating list.

- Selection Rating: The Selection Rating is the highest of the Initial Rating and all the "new" ratings from the regular tournament cross-tables rated after the regular tournament cross-table that determines the initial rating for the player but before and including the final rating list.
- The Selection Rating List: The interim selection rating list shall be published on the CFC Internet Site after each rating update during the period between the initial rating list and the final rating list, provided the dates of the Olympiad are known. The final selection rating list shall be published on CFC Internet Site and in the Magazine.

Article 5. The Selection Committee

- This committee of two well known and respected individuals shall be chosen by the Executive of the CFC of the year of the Olympiad in question
- It is assumed that both individuals will be of at least master strength and have adequate knowledge of the Canadian chess community
- To avoid any conflict of interest, neither member of this committee can become part of the Canadian National Team for the Olympiad in question
- This Committee is charged with selecting, using its best judgement, two candidates—approximately between the ages of 15 and 35-- who do not qualify by rating for the National Team in question.
- It is assumed that both candidates selected are master strength players and that not only will each be able to make a concrete contribution to the National Team but that the experience each will gain this time

around will be beneficial for the development of future Canadian teams.

Article 6. Board Order

- The official board order shall be decided upon by the Captain.
- While there should be no hard and fast rules for choosing the board order, the official board order should embody the spirit of the principal objectives of the CFC outlined in article 1.

Article 7. Financial matters

- The CFC should actively seek sponsorship for the Canadian National Team
- In the absence of any corporate sponsorship the CFC will pay the travel expenses of at least five players of the National Team. The sixth player is optional depending upon the state of the CFC's finances.
- When possible the CFC should give pocket money to each player (Currently the CFC allows for \$200 per member of the National Team)
- The terms of sponsorship that directly involve the players as well as the awarding of any other money that the players are to receive while participating on the Canadian National Team must be written into each player's individual contract.
- When finances do not permit sending a Head of Delegation, then his responsibilities and duties will be assumed by the Captain.
- When finances do not permit sending a non-playing Captain, then one of the players will be chosen by the Executive of the CFC to assume these responsibilities and duties.

Article 8. Miscellaneous

- Once all the contracts have been signed with the members of the National Team and the CFC website will have published the official line up, then it will be considered that the Selection Procedures in Article 3 have been properly followed and that the selection process has formally come to an end.
- Should any withdrawal(s) from the Canadian National Team take place after that date, then the Executive of the CFC will have discretionary powers to choose the replacement(s).

Article 9: THE WOMEN'S TEAM

- When finances permit, the CFC will send a women's team
- The Women's Team shall be comprised of 3 or 4 female players. One shall be the winner of the most recent Canadian Women's Zonal, one female player shall be chosen by the Selection Committee with the remaining player(s) to be the highest rated female players from the selection rating list as outlined above. If a player declines after selection, the replacement female player shall be filled from the selection rating list.
- The CFC will appoint someone to be captain of the Women's Team and his/her duties and responsibilities will be similar to the captain of the National Team.
- It is recommended that each member of the Women's Team also sign a contract with the CFC
- Each member of the Women's Team will receive \$100 from the CFC

Motion 2003-07 (Olympic Team):

Mark Dutton: I support the comprehensive hard work of this Olympic Team proposal and motion.

Hugh Brodie: It's about time for a revision of the Olympiad rules. A few comments:

1) There are a few references to "Olympic" and/or "Olympics" (which are trademarks of the IOC); they should be changed to "Olympiad(s)".

2) Who will pay for the Head of Delegation, the Captain, and the Technical Assistants - or will they pay their own way? Nothing is mentioned in the document about this. Suppose funds are short one year- do we cut the players, or the above positions?

3) Eligibility - does FIDE have to recognize a player on the Canadian team as being registered (by FIDE) as "Canadian"? (I believe there is a 2-year delay if someone wants to change federations).

Gordon Taylor: I think we can push this boat into the water and see if it floats, though I do expect we'll need to tinker with it down the road to improve performance.

However, improved regulations will never replace the need for careful planning, good communications and simple courtesy (from all sides). The Motion before us is to replace Section 12 of the Handbook in its entirety.

References are made to contracts that will be entered into between the CFC and the players who will make up the team(s). A sample contract is provided but we aren't voting on that. Accordingly, one area that is not well addressed in these new regulations attaches to the problem of (late) withdrawals. Kevin speaks to the problem in the discussion, and the sample contract is specific as to sanctions, but the only mention made in the Motion is at Article 8, where no sanctions are mentioned. As regards the sample contract presented, taken from the Bowls Canada website, well one is never enough. I would really like to see several contracts from a variety of sporting organizations, and in particular I'd like to know how well they have stood up against litigation. Contracts cut both ways. A lot depends on the wording. "The devil is in the details" is how the saying goes. Exactly who has the authority to determine the wording?

This is not an idle question. What one side views as a necessary condition might be viewed as prejudicial by another and end up in litigation (where usually only the lawyers come out happy). If one is flexible, an informal agreement is often better than a binding contract.

General Comments from Governors:

Hugh Brodie: The subject of "xxxx" ratings.

I brought this point up with the Business Office a couple of months ago after the following occurred:

1) A tournament took place in Montreal between September and December 2002.

2) It was submitted to the CFC for rating in mid-December.

3) All participants were CFC members until at least Dec. 31.

4) It was rated in Jan. 2003, and in the April issue of *En Passant*.

5) All participants whose membership expired in Dec. 2002 received a rating of "xxxx".

6) Apparently, to create a rating list for the magazine, a date is entered (in this case I believe it was March 1), and anyone who was not a member on that date (and whose name appears on the list) gets a rating of

"xxxx" – even though they were members for the duration of the event.

Can this policy be changed somehow - it's now obvious that probably most of the "xxxx" ratings should not be "xxxx".

David Cohen: CFC President

If someone wants to nominate me for CFC President, I'll accept. However, I'm not actively seeking the job. In fact, I'd rather be paid to work for chess in Canada. In either case, this is what I'd try to accomplish:

HISTORY > PUBLICITY > FUNDRAISING

1. HISTORY

The CFC's web site should have a list of past champions. Chess has been played in Canada since the 1700s, and the organization was founded in 1872. Sponsors need to know that chess is not something new in Canada - and that we have a history of organizing successful events.

For my own contributions, see my Canadian chess web page:

<http://www.ncf.carleton.ca/~bw998/canchess.html>

and the most complete list of Canadian chess champions ever compiled:

<http://www.ncf.carleton.ca/~bw998/Champions.html>

2. PUBLICITY

Sponsors need to know that people play chess; and that the sponsors will receive positive publicity in the media.

We need to show the extent of Canadians' chess playing. One possibility is to redo the 20 year old Gallup poll, which showed chess second only to swimming in terms of actual participation in a sport or recreational activity. We also need to gather some basic data, such as the number of kids playing chess across Canada. Finally, membership numbers need to be boosted. If an adult or child anywhere in Canada plays any kind of organized chess, we need to count them as a member, even if it means a free membership with no benefit other than to be counted.

We need to send out press releases every time we

hold one of our Championships. We can't expect the press to magically show up at our 30th Championship, if we haven't been telling them about the previous 29. The media needs to get to know us, and this takes time. We have to start now - and continue the effort, not give up just because they don't show up.

For my own contribution, I succeeded in placing chess in the media five times as a result of my work for CMA's 2003 Canadian Chess Challenge, Ontario Championship. Grade 3 Champion Michael Kleinman was on CityTV's Breakfast TV show; Grade 5 Champion Shiyam Thavandiran was on OMNI.2's "Badhai Ho!" TV program; Grade 2 Champion Simon Gladstone was on the front cover and in a feature story in the Thornhill Liberal newspaper (followed in a later issue by a story on the kindergarden champion, Christopher Knox); and Lawrence Day devoted half his chess column in the Toronto Star to the event, based on the info I supplied in my press release.

I was also happy to see my bid for the 2002 Canadian Women's Championship turn into the 1st Ontario Women's Championship; as result of this opportunity, OCA President David Gebhardt placed 2 of the players, Bojana Mitrovic and Alina Sviridovitch, on the Breakfast TV show. Another exciting media report was the Toronto Star write-up of Yan Teplitsky and Mark Bluvshstein as the Canadian Olympiad Team made its run in the last few rounds of the tournament. The CFC made an initial press release, and I followed up, specifically mentioning their accomplishments.

3. FUNDRAISING

It's not by accident that I mention the names of these players. We need stars in the chess world, players whom the public will recognize and whom kids will look up to. This will lead to more kids playing chess - because kids who learn to play won't be turned off from a game with a nerdy image. They'll stay with chess at school, because it's a fun sport to play, and because it will be seen this way by their classmates. In turn, this will lead to sponsorship. When chess is seen as normal, and not the domain of crazy people like Fischer, then - and only then - will we get sponsors.

The task for the years ahead is the hard work of finding corporate, non-profit and government sources of funding.

Finally, the chess community must consider what it wants to do with the funds raised. The current need is to have training tournaments for our top juniors, like the CMA Futurities. For my own accomplishments, I include the Toronto FIDE Round Robins that I designed, which for the past couple of years have matched aspiring juniors with local Masters and Candidate Masters. We need these to be held more often, and they need to be stronger events. This takes co-ordinated effort, and money.

Longer term plans for the CFC will, I hope, include bringing the Olympiad and World Youth Championships to Canada.

David Cohen
CFC Governor

Motions for Final Vote:

None

Motions for First Discussion

Motion 2003-08 (Amendments to 2003-07)

Motions for Second Discussion

Motion 2003-06 (Blitz Chess):

Motion 2003-07 (Olympic Team)

**Deadline for submissions to GL #9:
June 15th, 2003**