

TD CORNER

By Tim Just

The “Move Your Piece First” TD TIP

Here is my TD TIP for the revised wording of rule 15A that the Delegates want to take effect on January 1, 2007:

15A. Manner of keeping score. The player must first make the move, and then record it on the scoresheet.

TD TIP: *While this rule brings the USCF in alignment with FIDE procedures and soothes many of the fears surrounding electronic scoresheets (see new rule 43) it is a huge change for many players. TDs are advised to first (and possibly second and third) issue warnings to players that do not comply with this revised rule before enforcing any time penalties (1C2a. prescribes adding two minutes to the opponent’s unused time). TDs are also encouraged to announce this rule change at the start of the tournament.*

Some TDs may take the middle road in enforcing this rule by announcing that it applies to electronic scoresheets only. TDs of local and club tournaments that are attended by players without electronic scoresheets, or that rarely attend any other outside tournaments, can announce that they are going to enforce old rule 15A (page 55 in the 5th edition of the rules), allowing the move to be written on the scoresheet first; however, TDs need to be aware that both of these announced variations do little to prepare players for participation in events that enforce the “make your move first” rule.

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