

## TD Corner

By Tim Just

### ***Rulebook Changes***

Since the publication of the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the rulebook some changes have been made in USCF policy or in the wording of the rules. Below is a collection of what I found regarding those changes. Any additions or corrections can be sent to [uscfrulebook@yahoo.com](mailto:uscfrulebook@yahoo.com).

#### **First:**

Be reminded that the official ratings of players now come from the ratings supplement that is published for download once a month instead of the discontinued every-other month paper ratings supplement.

#### **Second:**

Below is the exact wording of the new “make your move first” rule that became effective on January 1, 2007. When rule 15A got changed so did rule 43 regarding scoresheets: <http://www.uschess.org/ratings/ruleschangeRule15A.pdf>. You can also view the new related USCF policy regarding what is an official electronic scoresheet device at: <http://www.uschess.org/ratings/electroniccoresheet.pdf>

#### **15A. Manner of keeping score.**

In the course of play each player is required to record the game (both the player’s and the opponent’s moves), move after move, as clearly and legibly as possible, on the scoresheet prescribed for the competition. Algebraic notation is standard, but descriptive or computer notation is permitted. The player must first make the move, and then record it on the scoresheet. **See also** Chapter 3, Chess Notation; 13C3, Filling in moves with flag down; 13I, Refusal to obey rules and 35F6, Scorekeeping options; 43, Scoresheets.

**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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Third:**

New rule 21E now emphasizes the importance of TDs not playing in events they are directing and prohibits TDs from being playing directors at USCF National Events.

#### **21E. The playing director.**

A tournament director must not only be absolutely objective, but must also be able to devote full attention to directing duties; for this reason, a director, on principle, should not direct and play in the same tournament. In USCF National Events, the director cannot be a playing director.

However, in club events and others that do not involve substantial prizes, it is common practice for the director to play. A director may also serve as a house player (28M1). Those who choose this double role should be especially careful to maintain objectivity. If possible, a playing director should appoint another director to make rulings involving his or her own games.

A player director who must devote time to a dispute in another game may stop his or her own clock during this period. While the clock is stopped, the director should not look at the position of his or her own game, but the director's opponent is permitted to do so.

### **Fourth:**

The new wording of 32C and 32D indicates that the based-on prizes for tournaments of any size must pay out prizes in proportion to the target based-on number, even events with \$500 or less in prize funds. Tournaments over \$500 still have to pay at least 50% of the based on prize numbers. There were some wording changes that address the abuse of consistently over estimating the based-on numbers.

**32C4. Based-on prizes.** In tournaments in which prizes are based on entries, if the actual turnout is smaller than the based on turnout, the following rules apply:

**32C4a. Proportional payout.** Each prize must be paid at least in proportion to the turnout.

**32C4b. 50% minimum.** If the total advertised prize fund is greater than \$500 (all sections combined), at least 50% of each advertised prize must be paid.

**32C4c. Multiple-section tournaments.** If separate based-on goals are announced for different sections, then the proportion paid in each section (32C4a) is treated separately. If a common based-on goal is announced for multiple sections, then the proportion paid in these sections is considered together. In either case, 32C4b also applies.

**32D.** Minimum penalty for violation of 32C4 shall be disqualification from advertising in Chess Life for one year. Additional penalties may be imposed at the discretion of the Executive Director. If a tournament is affected with extreme adverse events, then the organizer may appeal to the USCF. See also 21L, Appeal to USCF.

Organizers are expected to base their prize funds on estimates of player attendance that can be reasonably achieved. An organizer who repeatedly overestimates tournament attendance may be subject to penalties, at the discretion of the USCF.

**Fifth:**

The TD Certification rules have undergone several changes since the rulebook publication. Club TDs can now renew Club TD certification. There are some hoops to jump through to get FIDE certified as an FA and IA. Sections of multiple sectioned tournaments now only count as 1 TD credit per event. The exact wording of this long document can be found at: <http://www.uschess.org/tds/new06tdcertificationrules.pdf>.