

Response to Andy Howie's Statement

Our only points of agreement with Andy's response are their role in researching technology, and that we too would like to draw a line under this, and we believe that our proposal allows the game to do that. This is a point-of-principle matter, and further dialogue will not change anyone's position on the principle.

We wish to clarify the following key points:

- Fair Play has always been the responsibility of Arbiters, as per the Laws of Chess. Our proposal restores this, rather than introducing something new.
- The separate Fair Play titles were created only last year, without broad consultation or support from federations or commissions.
- It is inconsistent to claim it would take "years" to train arbiters when FPOs were certified within months, and contradicts their own plan in their joint statement with ARB about giving FPO status to a number of arbiters who signed the letter. If standards truly matter, all arbiters should be fully trained - not just a select few.
- Your own reference to cheating at lower levels supports our view: only by training all arbiters can we address cheating across all levels, rather than relying on a small, separate group.
- We are not devaluing Fair Play - we are strengthening it. Our proposal integrates rigorous Fair Play training into the arbiter system, raising standards for everyone, rather than fragmenting responsibility.
- Expertise from FPL should contribute to developing and teaching this training, not maintaining a parallel structure.