

Dear Mr President, Dear Members of the FIDE Council and Management Board,

We received the below message from an arbiter of the World Senior Teams Championship in Prague. It is their personal opinion with the names of people at the tournament removed to avoid any trouble for them. The arbiter was not aware of our original letter. We translated the text into English, and checked that it is correct because of the language in it. The arbiter confirmed they are happy to share this version of it with you.

The message shows that FP managed to annoy the arbiters, organisers and teams. It seems that only the Commission support this system, and the people who are paid from it. It confirms that what organisers, arbiters and the teams want is the opposite of what FP wants. It is sad to read Mr. Garrett upset one of his team as their supervisor, and that his orders ruined the tournament experience even when he is not there.

We did not receive a reply to our letter yet. We hope it is being taken seriously, and this extra information helps you to reach the correct decision. It is clear that a solution and urgent action is needed to bring this to a close.

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It looks like the whole world – except for a few fools in FIDE's leadership – understands that the Senior World Championship isn't a top-tier event like the World Championship title matches or the Olympiad. It's primarily a social gathering where old players meet up with long-lost friends. Banning hearing aids – without which many are completely deaf – kicking them out of the playing hall as soon as they finish their games, or suspecting them of assembling a computer in the toilet (which is the official explanation from the FP commission for why you can't have a SIM card hidden in your wallet so as not to lose it) immediately turns them against the organisers.

We tried to be somewhat accommodating, but some FP arbiters reported us to Mr. Garrett, who then ordered them to tighten the checks even more. That led to long queues forming at the entrance, which the seniors certainly didn't appreciate. Moreover, they found pocket searches and wallet inspections undignified and humiliating. And that's how the letter from the England captain came about.

One of the FP team said that while the experience helped him get to the Olympiad, he never wants to do this job again. They don't have thick enough skin to voluntarily spend ten days as a "useful idiot" hated by all sides – players, organisers, actual arbiters, and even their own supervisor in the end. Everyone agrees the entire FP commission should be abolished immediately, its members should apologise to the chess community for ruining their beloved pastime (no wonder no one wants to host FIDE events anymore), and its leadership should be publicly punished – exclusion from the chess community and a subsequent public execution would be the bare minimum. The only debate is whether the highest official should bear personal responsibility as well.

There were the specific incidents—some Czech "freedom fighters" refused to comply with the checks, shouted about harassment in the middle of the hall, and so on.

This is not based on just one experience. The same conclusions concerning the huge gap between the original purpose and their actual action came to my mind already at the previous WSTC last year in Krakow. Now in Prague I just made sure that it either didn't change or got worse. They believe they're protecting the game but in fact they are destroying it and making many players, arbiters and organisers disgusted. FIDE should be preventing this, not supporting it.