

19 may 2010, Jana Hricova

European Championship System

There are two basic proposals for a new European Championship System below. Both of them are based on a detailed analysis described already in the document 'European_Championship_System_Background.pdf', which was already published earlier. Both of these two proposals forks off in two further subproposals, according to the way how top players, who will play the Championship, are selected. Following premisses were used for both system:

- A separate 'Top group' of top N European players will be formed to play for the European Title. The number of players in this group will be less or even to 24 ($N \leq 24$), which is a number of European players playing in a Top MacMahon group in the Open Tournament at the European Congresses nowadays.
- Players playing in the 'Top group' will not play the Open Tournament.
- A final result list of the European Championship will be produced and officially published by the EGF after the tournaments (the 'Top group' tournament and the 'Open tournament') are finished. The final result list will be processed as follows:
 - Top N places in the final standing will be occupied with N players who played in the 'Top group'.
 - N+1, N+2, ... places in the final standing of the European Championship will be occupied by players with EGF member countries passport, who played the Open tournament, in order in which they will finish in the Open. It means, the best European in the Open tournament will be N+1 in the Final standing of the European Championship, etc.

Proposals 1A, 1B

Proposal 1

- Top group of N = 12 players will be selected to play for the European Championship Title.
- Round robin system will be used. 12 is the highest number of players for which round robin system can be used to keep current custom of playing only one game daily, with quite a long thinking time, within the period for which the Congress is used to last.
- Thinking time: 150 minutes (as today), 3 x 1 minute byoyomi, rules - Japanese, Ing's or WMSG.
- Selection of the players playing in the Top group for the first year will be done by the same way like players for Top MacMahon group are selected nowadays. It means, according to the current rating of the players who will come for the Championship.

Proposal 1A: Players selection system for the following years after the first one

- Selection of the players playing in the Top group in following years will be done by the same way like for the first year. It means, according to the current rating of the players who will come for the Championship.

Proposal 1B: Players selection system for the following years after the first one

- i. 3 best placed players from the previous year's Championship will be automatically seated to the Top group.
- ii. 4 best placed players from the previous year's Open tournament, with an EGF member country passport, gain the right to play in a Top group.
- iii. 2 wild cards can be awarded by the EGF to the players, whose ratings are at least 2500 and who are not qualified according to the points i. and ii. above. Every National Organisation (NO) can apply for a wild card for its player to the EGF board by 30 April. A decision about possible granted wild cards

will be announced by 31 May.

- iv. Group of players appointed by the points i.-iii. above will be completed up to 12 according to the current rating by the players coming for the Congress. If anybody from the players selected at the points i.-iii. above will not come to the Congress, he/she will be replaced by a player selected also according to the current rating.

Proposals 2A, 2B

Proposal 2

- Top group of $N = 16$ players will be selected to play for the European Championship Title. 16 is less than 24, who play in fact for the Title today, but still it should be enough to play a well representative Championship tournament. To pick up 16 players from the Open tournament will harm the Open less as if 24 players would be withdrawn from it.
- 10 rounds Swiss system tournament will be used to play for the Title. Round robin system for 16 players is impossible within a period reserved for the Congress if only one game has to be played daily.
- Thinking time: 150 minutes (as today), 3 x 1 minute byoyomi, rules - Japanese, Ing's or WMSG.
- Selection of the players playing in the Top group for the first year will be done by the same way like players for Top MacMahon group are selected nowadays. It means, according to the current rating of the players who will come for the Championship.

Proposal 2A: Players selection system for the following years after the first one

- Selection of the players playing in the Top group in following years will be the same like for the first year. It means, according to the current rating of the players who will come for the Championship.

Proposal 2B: Players selection system for the following years after the first one

- i. 4 best placed players from the previous year's Championship will be automatically seated to the Top group.
- ii. 4 best placed players from the previous year's Open tournament with an EGF member country passport gain the right to play in a Top group.
- iii. 2 wild cards can be awarded by the EGF to the players, whose ratings are at least 2500 and who are not qualified according to the points i. and ii. above. Every NO can apply for a wild card for its player to the EGF board by 30 April. A decision about possible granted wild cards will be announced by 31 May.
- iv. Group of players appointed by the points i.-iii. above will be completed up to 16 according to the current rating by the players coming for the Congress. If anybody from the players selected at the points i.-iii. above will not come to the Congress, he/she will be replaced by a player selected also according to the current rating.