

## **Dress Code for participants and officials in the ECU competitions**

### **Introduction**

At the extraordinary General Assembly of the ECU (European Chess Union) in Aix-les-Bains, France on March 29<sup>th</sup> 2011 a proposal was made by the ECU Board to introduce a Dress Code for participants and officials in ECU competitions.

The proposal said:

“All participants as well as the arbiters must comply with the Tournament Dress Code agreed between European Chess Union and Organizer. Participants will present themselves in a neat and clean appearance.

Tournament Officials will have the right to give official warning to any player not properly attired. Spectators not properly attired will have to leave the playing area.”

In the meeting the decision on the issue of the Dress Code was discussed. Written in the minutes of the extraordinary General Assembly in Aix-les-Bains is:

“Having in mind the present situation which is not good for the image of the world of chess, the Board (of the ECU) proposed introducing a dress code at competitions. After a long discussion, the delegates agreed that the dress code should be introduced, with details to be prepared until the next GA. The delegates should work together on that issue and with FIDE as well.”

“The delegates at the GA voted in favor of achieving all three goals (Sofia Rules, Dress Code and copyright on chess games). They agreed that the Board should establish Committees and inform all the delegates upon doing so. It is also agreed to conclude one member of the ACP in the Committees for the dress code and the Sofia Rules. Details will be presented at the next GA. Having agreed on the details, the delegates will pass the new rules which will apply at the competitions starting from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2012.”

April 11<sup>th</sup> ECU President Silvio Danailov appointed the following persons to become the members of each commission. All the appointed persons accepted the invitation.

The Dress Code Commission was composed as follows:

1. Herman Hamers (NED) – Chairman
2. Peter Rajcsanyi (HUN)
3. Olena Boytsun (UKR) – ACP

The commission will send the results of its work to the ECU office before June 1<sup>st</sup> 2011.

April 30<sup>th</sup> the Circular Letter no. 3/2011 was published. In this publication all federations were kindly asked to support the work of the committees by sending their proposals to the ECU office.

Up to May 31<sup>st</sup> the commission did not receive any suggestions from federations.

### **Recent experiences**

The issue of a Dress Code in chess is not entirely new. In art. 8.1 of the FIDE Handbook there is a recommendation C01:” The Commission on Chess Publication, Information and Statistics (CHIPS) stresses the need for all chess players to take more care in their personal appearance. The image of the chess player should be a dignified one, and dressing properly would not only show respect for the game, but also to sponsors, potential or otherwise, to make it worth their while to spend their money. For example, some federations have barred slippers, sleeveless T-shirts and vests in their tournaments. Those with unkempt and greasy hair should be admonished, as well as those wearing old or torn jeans and battered attire generally.”

Some private tournaments have introduced a Dress Code, for example the Amber Tournament in Monaco. The Dress Code was worded as follows:

“The dress code during the games is elegant casual: i.e. long trousers, shirt, and jacket, with or without tie (no t-shirts, no jeans, no sports shoes or sneakers).  
The dress code during the opening and closing ceremonies is informal: i.e. (dark) suit with tie. “

Another mind sport, similar to chess in global participation, is bridge. In this sport the WBF (World Bridge Federation) has a Dress Code, which says:

“NBO’s (National Bridge Organizations) are asked to take note of the recognition of Bridge as a Sport by the IOC and requests that players should, at all times, be dressed appropriately; this is particularly the case at the Opening Ceremony or Victory Banquet when it is expected that teams should at least be uniformly dressed even if a team uniform is not available.

Participants in pairs and individual events are expected to be smartly dressed, with a jacket and tie for male players and the equivalent style of dress for the women players

During play appropriate dress would, for example, be an open-necked shirt, or a smart polo or sweatshirt worn with trousers or skirt as appropriate.”

Officially the WBF has sanctions when breaching the Code in distracting points from the score of the games, but these sanctions were never executed.

### **Proposal**

It is obvious what is meant by a Dress Code. Players and officials should show respect for the game, the organizers, the sponsors and the public. A chess championship must have the appearance of a professional event, like this is the case in top level events of other big sports.

In a Dress Code one can formulate what to wear or what not to wear. In many sports there is special clothing for participants in a game or a match. For chess this is not the case. For this reason the ECU gives guidelines in which a combination of do’s and don’ts is given. In this the don’ts are not limitative.

The Dress Code is meant for the European Championships. The Dress Code does not apply to the following events:

- Youth championships of U8-U14 shall not be regulated by any dress code but recommendations shall be published together with the regulations of the event which can serve as a guideline for the players and their parents, team captains, etc., Arbiters of these events will follow the guidelines of the ECU Dress Code.
- For the U-16 and U-18 championships specific rules shall be established, taken into consideration the general customs of those generations. The rules should call their attention to the proper attire and behavior during chess events and thereby to guide them for proper future attendance. Arbiters of these events will follow the guidelines of the ECU Dress Code.
- The Mitropa Cup is a special case as the number of the participating teams is limited and in many ways the atmosphere of the competition is more friendly and less combative than in the official championships, the age of the players can vary from the age of 10 to age 35 or even more depending on the decision of the national federations and thus it is rather difficult to establish unified dress code for each participant.
- For the European Amateur Championship the overall ruling which is valid for the European championships will be valid.
- In respect to ECC (European Club Cup), we should not forget that many teams have already introduced a kind of team dress which also wears the logos of the sponsors, etc. Thus, a more detailed discussion using the previous experience may be needed for the event dress code.

The ECU Dress Code does not specifically regulate the placing of the sponsors’ logos on the clothes of a player, team member, official or arbiter.

The Dress Code does not apply to other people present in chess events like security guards, TV crews, etc. Their appearance is not a task for the ECU but for the organizer.

In 2009 the ACP conducted a poll among top players asking their opinion on a dress code during World Championships and top tournaments. The majority of the respondents (62%) agreed that “decent dress” should be made obligatory during the WC and top tournaments. 24% pointed out that suit and tie should be obligatory. 14% didn’t see a necessity for a dress code, but would accept it. None was against a dress code.

The practice of Dress Codes in chess events so far shows that players don’t have many problems with these regulations. Sanctions are possible when breaching the code to prevent that it becomes a noncommittal rule.

Since all ECU events are indoors, the dress code applies to an indoor situation.

The Dress Code as recommended should be tested in several events. Dependant on the experiences in these events the Dress Code can be adapted as we do with other rules.

The Dress Code Commission proposes the following code:

***Dress Code for the participants and the officials in the ECU competitions (excluding Youth Championships)***

*All participants as well as the officials (arbiters, captains and others being in the playing area) must comply with the Dress Code of the ECU.*

*Participants and officials will present themselves in a neat and clean appearance.*

***Dress rules for the players during the games***

*In general, players are required to follow the code of **casual** dressing which means:*

- *for men dress trousers or jeans, a long-sleeve or shirt-sleeve dress shirt, alternatively T-shirt or polo, loafers or dressy slip-ons, socks, shoes or sneakers (no beach-wear slippers, etc.) and, if appropriate, a sport coat or blazer. The trousers, the jeans as well as the shirts and polo’s worn should be crisp and show no excessive wear, no holes and shall be free of body odor.*
- *for women blouses, turtleneck, T-shirts or polo’s, trousers, jeans or slacks, skirts, dresses, and appropriate footwear (boots, flats, mid-heel or high-heel shoes, sneakers with sock) or any other appropriate clothing modification.*
- *a jacket, vest or sweater, a scarf, as well as jewelry (earrings, necklace, etc.) coordinated to the outfit may be worn.*
- *the pieces of the clothing should be crisp, show no excessive wear, no holes and shall be free of body odor.*
- *in respect to shirts, the second from the top button may also be opened in addition to the very top button.*
- *sunglasses, glasses, neck ties can be worn during the games, no caps or hats, except for religious reasons*
- *in general, this category of appearance demands a pulled-together, harmonious, complete look with colors, fabrics, shoes, and accessories, for both men and women.*
- *national costumes which fit into the generally accepted dress code and are not offensive or indecent to others can be worn*

***Dress rules for the winning players or the winning teams during prize-giving ceremonies***

- *the rules set for these events are valid for a player or any member of a team, including the captain and the delegation chief who is rewarded by a prize in the chess event and thus he/she appears and receives the award in front of the other players and the audience*
- *such a person shall follow the dress code of **business casual** (or by another name elegant casual) which means long trousers, shirt, jacket, with or without tie (no t-shirts, no polo, no*

- jeans, no sports shoes or sneakers or slippers, no hats or caps -except for religious reasons-) and the equivalent style of dress for the women players.*
- *national costumes which are not offensive or indecent to others may be worn.*
- *it is recommended that teams should be uniformly dressed even if a team uniform is not available.*
- *a special set of rules is established for the European Individual Championship award ceremonies where the dress code is **informal** which means a suit with tie, appropriate shoes and the equivalent style of dress for the women player. National costume may be worn in the event.*

**Dress code for the arbiters and officials of ECU events**

- *whenever the arbiters and officials of an ECU chess event appear on the scene in their official capacity, they are tied to follow the dress code of **business casual***
- *if they visit the official venue, especially the game halls of the event, they are allowed to follow the **casual** dress code.*
- *if any person of the above-mentioned pool is committed to participate in the award-giving ceremony in his/her official capacity, he/she shall follow the **informal** dress code.*

*Tournament Officials will have the right to give official warning to any player not properly attired. The first warning will be a verbal one. When a player is a member of a team, his/her captain will also be informed. The second time a player will be in breach with the Dress Code he/she will receive a second warning. This warning will be confirmed to the player in writing the same day. When a player is a member of a team, his/her captain will receive a copy of this warning the same day. The player received the written warning will present him/herself to the tournament officials, if it is a team player accompanied by the captain, one hour before the start of the next round. If a player is then still in breach of the Dress Code he/she can be send back to dress appropriately. If he/she does not cooperate, he/she will be denied access to the playing area.*

*A player not dressed according to the Code can be refused to attend the opening or closing ceremony. Tournament Officials can likewise act towards arbiters, captains or others being present in the playing area.*

*Spectators not properly attired will have to leave the playing area.*

ECU Dress Code Commission

May 31<sup>st</sup> 2011

Herman Hamers (NED) – Chairman

Peter Rajcsanyi (HUN)

Olena Boytsun (UKR) - ACP