

WYCS 2024 & WCSC 2024 REPORT

For the year 2024, one of the most important projects of WFCC was to organize the 1st edition of the World Solving Championship for the young players up to 18 years, splitted in two competitions:

World Youth Solving Championship (U14, U16, U18): Florianopolis (Brazil), 4th of November 2024;

World Cadet Solving Championship (U8, U10, U12): Montesilvano (Italy), 21st of November 2024.

The initiative of this premiere belongs to the President of WFCC, Marjan Kovacević, who managed to implement it after negotiations held with Akaki Iashvili (Chair of FIDE Events Commission) and, then, with the organizers of the two championship: Kaiser Luis Mafrá (Brazil), Roberto Mogranzini & Nadia Ottavi (Italy). I was nominated as selector of the problems for both competitions and as tournament director for World Cadet Solving Championship, meanwhile Marcos Roland & Ricardo de Mattos Vieira were nominated as co-directors for World Youth Solving Championship.

In both cases, the World Solving Championship was scheduled in the free day of the World Championship at otb chess (in the middle of the competition) and well promoted on FIDE and WFCC sites. A popularization action for solving, made at the venue, from the beginning of the otb competition, has shown efficiency in Italy. The examples given in the set of official rules were very helpful, too. It is also to be mentioned that the level of the participation fee (20 euro) was considered as a decent one.

Each category of age had an unique set of problems, same for open and for girls; the girls had the possibility to chose for participating at open, but none of them used this possibility. The structure of the problems was:

U8, U10: 60 min. (4x2#, 1x3#, 1 eg);

U12: 60 min, (3x2#, 1x3#, 1x4#, 1 eg);

U14, U16, U18: 90 min. (3x2#, 3x3#, 1x4#, 2 eg).

The registration of the solvers was facilitated by using (for the first time) of the soft Swiss Manager, which allows to make public, in real time on chess-results, the lists of registered participants. In Brazil (63 participants), as well as in Italy (228 participants), all the solvers were scheduled in one series, thing that in the second case represents, probably a record; for this, I needed four assistants (selected by me from the otb arbiters) in the excellent hall Dean Martin, in Montesilvano.

The marking of the points was made in Brazil by Marcos Roland & Ricardo de Mattos Vieira and in Italy by me, assisted by Mohammad Alhallak (who took part in several preliminary activities on the technical side). Due to a continuous effort, in both competitions the results were announced in evening of competition's day, at the venue and on chess-results.com.

The young world champions at solving are:

U8: Jan Szumiec (POL) and Sofia Baghramyan (ARM)

U10: Tsogtbileg Anand (MGL), with 100% of points and Mariya Mukhorina (FID)

U12: Shilon Rahav Eliran (ISR) and Nika Venskaya (FID)

U14: Ganbat Tenguundalai (MGL) and Kesaria Mgeladze (GEO)

U16: Nikita Kalinin (FID) and Afruza Khamdamova (UZB)

U18: Kevin Haack (GER) and Marina Putintseva (GBR)

The WFCC Vice-President Abdulla Ali Aal Barket came to the closing ceremony in Montesilvano, in order to mark this inaugural event with a special WFCC plaque presented to the main organizers Roberto Mognanzini and Nadia Ottavi. In the final gala of Italy, the solving chess had a special place at this high level competition, thing that allows us to consider that our target for the first edition of World Youth&Cadet Solving Championship was, in great part, accomplished.

Dinu-Ioan Nicula

3rd WFCC Vice-President