

ISC 2025 REPORTS

1. Results Presented by the Central Controller

(and explanation for excluding four Azerbaijani scores)

1. Contest overview

The 21st ISC was held on **19 January 2025** in **28 countries** (46 local tournaments) with **745 solvers** (Cat-1 184 – incl. 4 unofficial • Cat-2 254 • Cat-3 307 – incl. 15 unofficial).

Turn-out rose from 669 (2024) to 745 — **+76 solvers (~11 %)**.

Preliminary results (SC version) were published on **18 February**

2. List of winners

Category	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Cat-1	KacperPiorun (POL)	KlemenŠivić (SLO)	IlijaSerafimović (SRB)
Cat-2	DejanOmorjan (SRB)	RenārsMūzis (LAT)	Dietmar Jahn (GER)
Cat-3	Nikolai Shevyakov (FID)	Ivan Vasiliev (FID)	GlebSukhinin (FID)

In the Category 1 contest there were also sections for juniors, women and seniors with the following top results:

juniors: 1. IlijaSerafimovic (SRB), 2. TarasRudenko (UKR), 3. TenguundalaiGanbold (MGL)

women: 1. TeodoraTraistaru (ROU), 2. AudreyKueh (GBR), 3. RafaellaNevistic (CRO)

seniors: 1. LevGlanzspiegel (ISR), 2. JormaPaavilainen (FIN), 3. Roland Baier (SUI)

In the Category 2 contest there were also sections for juniors, women and seniors with the following top results:

juniors: 1. DejanOmorjan (SRB), 2. RenarsMuzis (LAT), 3. ChristianGlockler (GER)

women: 1. NikaRiabenko (UKR), 2. SwatiMohota (IND), 3. DimitraAmoiridou (GRE)

seniors: 1. Dietmar Jahn (GER), 2. ZivanSusulic (SRB), 3. HannuHarkola (FIN)

3. Four Azerbaijan results were not accepted

Why the CC excluded the Azerbaijan results:

Point	Facts & observations	Breached rule / rationale
1 No on-site supervision / phones on desks	• Solvers sat alone in one room; no local controller or arbiter present.	ISC § 3 – requires a <i>reliable local controller</i> .
	• Phones placed screen-up next to the boards. Controller must ensure fair conditions; visible phones give direct access to engines / databases https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LaIDKaUCeGw	WCSC/ECSC Rules § 7.2 (applied via ISC § 8): Director must “ <i>prevent any irregularities</i> ”; use of technological aids is forbidden. Without a controller, these duties were impossible and phones violated the ban.
2 Extreme performance jumps	• All four players recorded $\Delta > 400$ Elo ; two reached $\Delta \approx 870$ – the largest ever seen in ISC.	$\Delta > 400$ is already “very rare”; four cases from one unsupervised room are statistically implausible.
	• Z score anomalies ≥ 3.5	
	• Such jumps are thousands-to-one against live-event data.	

3 Round-2 dominance (threemovers)	In Round 2 all four Azeri solvers finished inside the global top-6 (out of 184) with performance ratings:	Four GM-level performances in one round, from a single unsupervised site, is practically impossible by chance.
	– A. Alammammadov 3587	
	– Piriverdiyev 2913	
	– S. Alammammadov 2813	
4 Task-specific anomalies	– Masimov 2774	Unique success on the hardest tasks at a single site points to advance access or external help
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem 10 (S#5): only 5 correct scores out of 180 Cat-1 solvers ($\approx 2.8\%$), yet 3 of those 4 came from Azerbaijan (75 % of their own quartet). 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem 11 (H#3): only 2 full solution worldwide – both Azerbaijani. • Same quartet tops Problems 10–12. 	
5 Suspicious solution sheets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #10 sheet shows <i>5.Kd8!!</i> (table-base “only move”). 	“Computer-perfect” lines and missing human details match copied answers, not genuine solving.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s#5 sheet omits the threat, typical of copying. 	
6 Withdrawal from live verification opportunity	In his protest letter the Azerbaijani local controller stated that Azerbaijan will not travel to the 2025 ECSC/WCSC “as a protest” against the doubts raised about their ISC results.	By deciding not to appear in a natural supervised test, the players removed the simplest way to confirm that their January performance was genuine. This reinforces suspicion rather than dispelling it.
7 Historical performance rating mismatch	Araz’s best OTB performance in last nine years: 2411. Suddenly 3261 here – totally off the live-tournament scale. Similar jumps for the other three players.	Such jumps far exceed normal variance and cross the fair-play alarm lines used in the FIDE Anti-Cheating Regulations § 6.5

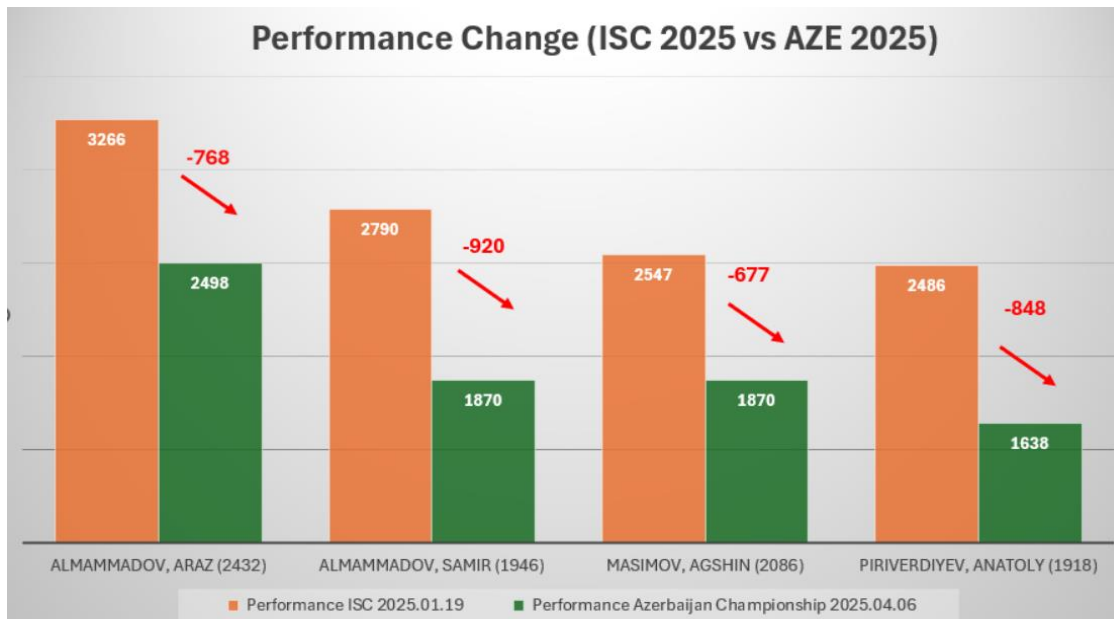
Reality Check: Performance Collapse of Azerbaijani ISC 2025 Players in Their First Live Tournament

When the four Azerbaijani solvers who dominated the 2025 International Solving Contest (ISC) finally appeared in an over-the-board tournament—the Azerbaijan Championship in Sumgait on 6 April 2025—their results told a very different story.

A fall of 700-900 Elo in such a short span is off the scale of normal variance and strongly suggests the ISC results did not reflect genuine solving strength.

Performance Comparison

Name	Rating	Performance ISC 2025.01.19	Performance Azerbaijan Championship 2025.04.06	Performance Difference Azerbaidzan-ISC
Alammammadov, Araz	2432	3266	2498	-768
Alammammadov, Samir	1946	2790	1870	-920
Masimov, Agshin	2086	2547	1870	-677
Piriverdiyev, Anatoly	1918	2486	1638	-848



(Source: <https://solving.wfcc.ch/wsc/2024-2025/2025-04-06-AZE-Sumgait-Champ-Results.pdf>, Azerbaijan Championship 2025)

4. Timeline of protests

Date	Event
30 Jan	CC publishes preliminary list without Azerbaijan.
31 Jan	Azerbaijan local controller files protest.
4 Feb	Three-member Solving Committee(Selivanov,Stephenson,Steinbrink) panel votes 2 – 1 to reinstate the four scores (before analysing full CC data).
18 Feb	The results were published (SC version)
18 - 23 Feb	Six federations (POL, SRB, GRE SLO, NED, BEL) submit protests supporting the CC decision.
24 Jun	All protests forwarded to WFCC President for WCCC agenda.

The Commission's decision was rushed: the Solving Committee voted before it had received the Central Controller's full analysis and the additional data that later became available.



Azerbaijan's Results
ISC 2025.docx

5. Request to delegates

- **Option A – ratify CC results**(*without* the four Azerbaijani scores): keeps historical standards, protects ratings, avoids rewarding an unsupervised venue.
- **Option B – ratify SC results**(*with* the four Azerbaijani scores):Contest is recorded as **unrated/unofficial** because the key procedural breaches remain unresolved

Central Controller's conclusion

The combination of unsupervised play, phones on desks, unprecedented Difference jumps and Z-score anomalies, unique success on the hardest problems, suspicious solution sheets, and a massive performance collapse in the first supervised event provides overwhelming evidence that the four Azerbaijani results are not legitimate.

They must be excluded to maintain the integrity of the ISC and protect honest competitors.

Removing dishonest results would not only correct the damage already done but also protect solving sports from further ranking and result distortions

Accepting Azerbaijan's results would severely damage ISC's reputation, encourage further dishonesty, and create long-term instability in the competitive solving community.

Arvydas Mockus, Central Controller of ISC 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arvydas', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.