

Appeal of Greece against the 2025 ISC results

23.02.2025

Addressed to the ISC Central Controller, WFCC President, and members of the Solving Committee

Dear Mr Mockus,

With great amount of surprise, we were informed about the unexpected change of the 2025 ISC results. The results of the Azerbaijani solvers at Sumgait, which were previously not included in the overall table, were eventually added on the list and two of them took two out of the first three places. We noticed that the results of the four Azerbaijani solvers were extremely surprising and all of them had astronomical performances (in relation to their ratings).

You have publicly expressed the opinion that these results must not be included and that's why you did not score them officially in the first place. The explanation is quite clear and more than sufficient to us. The Azerbaijani solvers did not have the proper supervision in the room, their performance is inexplicable and there is strong suspicion of external help (mobile phones on the tables). You obviously have at your disposal much more evidence - and the necessary integrity - so we trust your objections.

When you informed the Solving Committee about these anomalies, a Jury was formed to investigate your findings; the Jury eventually made an incomprehensive decision with 2:1 accepting the Sumgait tournament results. This is really unpleasant as the danger for our beloved sport, from similar disrespectful actions in the near future, is very serious. We are expecting that in the next WFCC Congress of July, the Presidium and the delegates will investigate properly the issue and will reverse this decision of the ISC Jury. Not only were the highest scorers affected, but all solvers including all the Greek solvers as well.

With this letter, we protest against the Jury's decision to have the Sumgait results included in the ISC and we kindly ask to remove them. We believe accepting our protest is fair play and also a sign that we can decisively face similar cases in the future.

This is not the first time we are witnessing outrageously abnormal results in the ISC. There were similar cases in 2016, 2018, 2022 (to mention only the most blatant) with solvers from a particular country. Of course, these exceptional performances in the ISC did not repeat when the same solvers had participated in strong competitions like WCSC or ECSC (if they participated at all). We are of the opinion that now is the right time to correct this irregularity forever. It is our duty if we want to save the honour and respect that our chess community deserves.

With best regards, the Greek problemists

Panagiotis Konidaris, Nikos Sidiropoulos, Nikos Mendrinos, Dimitris Skyrianoglou,
Alexandros Dimitriadis, Georgia Grapsa, Kostas Prentos, Theodoros Giakatis, Evangelos Petridis,
Harry Fougiaxis (delegate of Greece and WFCC Honorary President)