

Warsaw, 22.02.2025

Dear WFCC,

I am writing to officially protest the acceptance of the results of four solvers from Sumgait in Category 1. My concerns are outlined below:

While I acknowledge that there is no definitive proof of cheating, the situation raises serious questions. A single solver significantly outperforming their previous best rating may be unusual but still plausible. However, when four solvers from the same location—without the presence of any other competitors—achieve similarly extraordinary results, it indicates a clear anomaly. I am not directly accusing them of cheating; rather, I argue that the irregularity is sufficient reason to deem their results unofficial.

Another reason for removing Sumgait solvers' results is the visible use of electronic equipment on desks next to the chess boards. This demonstrates that the tournament was not conducted in accordance with WFCC regulation (see Annex II, Part II, Point 6 of the *Handbook of Chess Composition*). Such lapses are unacceptable for top-level chess solving competitors and contradict the standards upheld by premier chess events organized by FIDE, to which we try to establish bonds (e.g., junior world solving championships).

I would also like to highlight the excellent report prepared by the ISC main controller, Arvidas Mockus. Unfortunately, the solving committee was not familiar with the report and reached the decision prematurely.

For clarity, my protest does not extend to the results of Sumgait's Category 3 solvers, who competed at a different venue.

This decision is of great importance. I am concerned that failing to address such obvious anomalies could jeopardize the future of the ISC.

I propose convening an online meeting of WFCC delegates to discuss the matter and conduct a formal vote. However, if the decision must rest with the solving committee, I recommend appointing a different panel—one whose members are familiar with basic statistical principles and the latest regulations regarding online chess activities. This is particularly crucial for online tournaments, where we should be familiar with experiences from online OTB events. In such tournaments, excessively high move accuracy - especially during critical moments - is grounds for disqualification.

Yours faithfully,
Piotr Górski
Delegate of Poland