

Appeal of Serbia against the ISC 2025 results

To the ISC Central Controller and members of the Solving Committee

Dear all,

1. The ISC 2025 Central Controller has done a huge work of selecting and marking entries for all three categories. The only issue was how to treat the four results for Sumgait, Category 1.
2. For the dispute between Central Controller and a Local Controller no Appealing Committee was appointed in advance. An a posteriori selection of the Appealing Committee, made by the Solving Committee, and the final interpretation of the Rules were very unlucky, not matching the serious approach of the Central Controller. When Axel Steinbrink, as the most experienced ISC Central Controller, presented radically different opinion to the other two members of the Appealing Committee, it suggested something was wrong with the automatic use of 2:1 majority instead of a deeper discussion and analyze of all arguments of the Central Controller.
3. The ISC has no centralized control of fair play. In OTB chess such conditions are accepted in unofficial online tournaments only, where organizers have right to ban a participant based on matching his moves with the first software options. The probability for all four solvers in Sumgait to increase their performances as they did was estimated by Mr. Steinbrink to be 0,0001 % ...
4. The photos of mobile phones in Sumgait only confirmed the arguments of the Central Controller.
5. Since long ago the ISC has been facing serious issues, and one of them is to engage a motivated Central Controller. Once the members of Solving Committee put their trust in Arvydas Mockus, his decisions deserve a higher appreciation, and the current dispute should be solved in the next WFCC Congress, in July. This should be the right beginning in solving the inherent ISC problems.

Best wishes

Serbian problemists
Borislav Gadjanski,
Ilija Serafimović,
Marjan Kovačević (delegate of Serbia and WFCC President)

24th February 2025

The protest separately written by Ilija Serafimović:

Hello Mister Mockus,

Thank you for your contribution to organising this tournament and its fairness. Azerbaijan results were suspicious from the start, and especially after the reasoning you provided. I agree it is really bad for ISC: people will lose their wish to participate in this tournament, even though it is very nicely designed. Also most people have a chance to solve for the first time exactly at this tournament.

We also had strange results last year and now this. It's just too bad for ISC. I want to lodge a protest, at least because it is very dangerous to allow such things without discussion. But I'm not sure how much there is to do.

Best regards!

Ilija