

Milano, May 30th 2025

FROM: Marco Guida - Italy National Delegate
guidam129@gmail.com

TO: Kjell Widlert - CODEX Committee Spokesman
Marjan Kovacevic - WFCC President

PROPOSAL FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE CODEX

Dear Kjell and Marjan,

I heard complaints by fellow composers about excessive delays in awarding Formal composing tournaments (and I have personally experienced time-to-award exceeding 2 years!).

In some cases the announcement do not specify the planned timeframe of the judging process; in other cases the announced timeline is not met and sometimes Directors do not even reply to emails asking for visibility.

For Informal tournaments, the CODEX (Annex II - Guidelines for the Organization of Tournaments; Part I - Composition Tournaments; Point 6 – Miscellaneous; Comma e) states:

“An author who, within a period of 18 months from sending a chess composition to the director of an informal tournament, has neither received evidence of publication nor any other information concerning his composition may assume free disposal of his composition and may send it to another composing tournament).”

In the case of Informal tournaments, many magazines take 2 years or more years to publish the Award (often a mix of delays by judges and editorial constraints). But at least the problem is published, and can be used for, e.g., WCCI, FIDE Album, etc.

In Formal tournaments problems are generally NOT published (only awarded entries are published) and, if not awarded, they are back to the authors that may publish them elsewhere as originals. Since a rule as defined for Informal tournaments do not exist today, I kindly propose to the CODEX Committee to consider adding under Point 6 – Miscellaneous (or where it is deemed more appropriate) some text to state the following principles:

- In the announcement of a Formal tournament there must be a clear indication of: deadline for the publication of the Award; how it will be made available to participants.
- In case the Award is not issued within such deadline, the Director must inform in writing all participants of the delay and of a new deadline.
- Failing the Director to do so, or should the delay for the publication of the Award exceed a reasonable time (maybe 6 months after the original deadline?) then the problem(s) return to the composer and he may send it to another tournament.

Thank you in advance for your kind attention and my best regards.

Marco Guida