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18.02.2021, Tallinn, the Republic of Estonia

**Chairman of the Executive
Board of the Latvia
Draughts Federation**

Mr. Vladislavs Vesperis

Subject: reply on the letter №12/02/2021 from 12.02.2021

Dear Mr. Vesperis,

In response to your letter №12/02/2021 from 12.02.2021 addressed to the President of FMJD Mr. Janek Maggi and FMJD General Secretary Mr. Yuriy Chertok we inform you of the following (the answers are provided in accordance with the numeration of the questions).

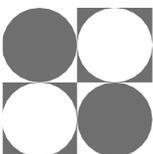
1. Indeed, the FMJD website currently contains a document “FMJD Annexes”, the 17 Annex of which contains the omission of Article 11. This omission occurred due to a mechanical error when combining all FMJD Annexes into a single document in 2017. Due to the fact that there were no proposals to cancel this rule at the General Assemblies of 2017 and 2019, which is confirmed by the minutes, according to the rules, the statement indicated in the point “11” has not been canceled and still works. After the revision of the FMJD Annexes in the nearest future the needed corrections will be made.

1.2. The negotiations were conducted with Mr. Alexander Georgiev and Mr. Pan Yiming. The reason why Mr. Guntis Valneris was not among them was as follows. Mr. Georgiev's refusal to participate in the match in the stated dates (until March this year) was due to the current restrictions in the Netherlands, he refused to play in these terms because of the pandemic. But he gave the “green light” to FMJD to go further on with the next player.

Later (25 January 2021) FMJD received official answer of Chinese Draughts Association about the impossibility of their player's participation. It turned out that Pan could not participate in the match due to the same restrictions imposed by the authorities. But both players wanted to participate in the match, they just couldn't do that in the stated dates.

On 28th of January FMJD received a letter from KNDB with the request to postpone the match until the autumn referring to the mass vaccination of the Dutch population in the summer and the expectation of mass immunity by the autumn of this year.

It became clear that this is indeed an extraordinary situation, giving the FMJD the right to refer to point 13 of Annex 17. (“All exceptional cases must be dealt with by the Executive Board”). The possibility of postponing the match created new circumstances for the resumption of negotiations with the World Champion.



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1.3 The rate of increase in new infections may have been declining recently, but the rate of spread of the Covid-19 in the Netherlands is still high, as restrictions are still in place. We should also not forget about the emergence of a new and more contagious British strain of Covid-19, which has already captured the whole of Europe. The situation may become even worse.

2. Please refer to the 1 point.

3. The reason for the postponement of the match to the fall of 2021 was the pandemic, and the impossibility of holding the match before the 2021 World Championship in connection with it.

Regarding the right of the winner of the match for 2020 for the match of 2022: the rule you are citing (...«When a world title match cannot be played, the World Champion keeps his title but does not have the right for a title match two years later. Then this right for a title match goes to the numbers 1 and 2 of the World Championship tournament») refers to cases where the match did not take place at all. In our case, the match is postponed because of force major, but will take place. Therefore, it is inappropriate to deprive the winner of the 2020 match of the rights to the 2022 rematch.

Regarding the requirements you put forward, we inform you of the following.

1) The Board of the FMJD does not consider it appropriate to review the decision regarding the match for 2020; however, the FMJD Board is willing to establish a special commission to address the issues arisen. We suggest that the commission should consist of 3 persons – a representative of the FMJD Board, a representative of the FMJD Technical Commission and a representative of the FMJD Ethics Committee. We hope that the Latvian Draughts Federation is ready to comply with any decision that this special commission will make.

2) Please refer to the point 3;

3) Considering options for hosting the match before the World Championship in another country might have been an option, but unfortunately it is unlikely that there is an organizer who is ready to offer similar or better conditions than were proposed by KNDB and at that point neither Georgiev nor Boomstra want to play.

Due to the situation occurred with omission of Article 11 in FMJD Annexes, the FMJD Technical commission will be requested to make needed concretization of the points of Annex 17 and make the appropriate proposals at the 2021 General Assembly.

Best regards,
Janek Mäggi,
FMJD President;

Yuriy Chertok
FMJD Secretary General

