



To: FMJD President Mr. Jacek Pawlicky,
FMJD Executive Council,
Mr. Alexander Rudnitsky,
ICAONA President Mr. Rudi Azimullah

FMJD Ethics Committee

Decision

Introduction

The FMJD Ethics Committee has reviewed the complaint submitted by Mr. Alexander Rudnitsky (FMJD ID 15826), together with the documents and correspondence of the parties, including letters from ICAONA, materials of the FMJD Executive Board, the position of the FMJD General Secretary, as well as the circumstances surrounding the organization of the “*Miami Open 2025*”.

Established Facts

1. ICAONA, as the recognized FMJD member association from the United States, suspended Mr. Rudnitsky’s membership for two years, alleging that he had *“undermined the authority of ICAONA.”*
2. Mr. Rudnitsky maintains that he has never denied the status of ICAONA as the sole FMJD member from the United States. This is confirmed by the FMJD Executive Board minutes of March 3, 2025. ICAONA has not refuted this claim and has presented no evidence to the contrary.
3. Despite a direct request from the Chair of the Ethics Committee, ICAONA refused to provide its By-Laws, citing *“U.S. copyright protection.”*
 - o According to *“Chapter II. MEMBERSHIP. Article 7.1.7 of the FMJD Statutes”*, every national association is required to provide its By-Laws to FMJD. Therefore, ICAONA’s refusal is in contradiction with its obligations as an FMJD member.
 - o Reference to *“intellectual property”* is not applicable in this case, as By-Laws are official founding documents of any FMJD member association and must be available for review.
4. Instead of addressing the substance of the matter, ICAONA relied on procedural arguments (Articles 4.3 and 4.4 of the FMJD Code of Ethics), attempting to block the complaint formally. However, no factual evidence supporting the accusations against Mr. Rudnitsky was ever presented — a fact acknowledged in FMJD documents.

5. The FMJD Executive Board (03.03.2025) confirmed ICAONA as the sole FMJD member from the USA, but also recognized that NDF does not claim this status and that no violations by Mr. Rudnitsky were established.

Analysis of ICAONA's Allegations

- **“Creation of NDF”:** the organization was established collectively, not personally by Mr. Rudnitsky. FMJD has confirmed that NDF does not seek the status of a national association.
- **“Name ‘National Draughts Federation’”:** was approved at a general assembly, officially registered, and FMJD raised no objections to the use of the word “*National*.”
- **“NDF Website”:** contains no material directed against ICAONA. On the contrary, it contains calls for cooperation and the promotion of youth draughts.
- **“ICAONA Website”:** does not itself clearly state that ICAONA is the “*sole*” official FMJD member from the USA. This undermines ICAONA’s claims against Mr. Rudnitsky.

Additional Facts

The suspension of Mr. Rudnitsky was motivated not by any “*undermining of authority*,” but rather by his active role in the work of NDF of the USA, including organizing tournaments and promoting youth draughts.

The “Miami Open 2025,” organized by NDF and included in the FMJD calendar, was conducted under the patronage of the FMJD President and received high praise from participants. This confirms Mr. Rudnitsky’s contribution to the development of draughts and shows that NDF’s activities in no way harm ICAONA.

The existence of NDF does not contradict the FMJD Statutes, provided that ICAONA’s role as the sole official FMJD member from the USA is recognized.

Jurisdiction of the Committee

Ordinarily, internal disciplinary measures of a national association fall within its exclusive competence and are not subject to review by the FMJD Ethics Committee.

However, in this case ICAONA’s sanction directly affected the international rights of the player, because:

- ICAONA is the sole structure authorized to register players from the USA for World Championships;

- the suspension prevented Mr. Rudnitsky from participating in FMJD international competitions and damaged his reputation at the international level.

Therefore, this matter falls within the jurisdiction of the FMJD Ethics Committee.

Committee Findings

- All allegations by ICAONA against Mr. Rudnitsky are unfounded.
- Mr. Rudnitsky's complaint is admissible and well-founded.
- ICAONA's suspension of Mr. Rudnitsky is based on unsubstantiated accusations and violates the principles of fairness and non-discrimination.
- ICAONA's actions have harmed the reputation of FMJD and demonstrated abuse of its status as a national FMJD member association.

Decision

1. Declare all allegations by ICAONA against Mr. Rudnitsky to be unfounded.
2. Declare ICAONA's decision to suspend Mr. Rudnitsky null and void with regard to his participation in FMJD international competitions, including U.S. Championships that serve as FMJD qualifying events.
3. Restore Mr. Rudnitsky's rights as an FMJD player in all tournaments and official events.
4. Instruct ICAONA to immediately annul its decision on suspension.
5. Recommend ICAONA to refrain from any discriminatory or unjustified restrictions against Mr. Rudnitsky in the future.
6. Recommend ICAONA to issue an official apology to Mr. Rudnitsky.
7. For the sake of transparency and to avoid misunderstandings, recommend ICAONA to place on its official website a clear statement that ICAONA is and remains the sole official FMJD member association from the USA.

FMJD Ethics Committee

Chairman

Vaidas Stasytis



2025-10-01