



# **FIDE Regulations on Transgender Chess Players' Registration on FIDE Directory**

## ***Background***

*FIDE and its member federations more often receive recognition requests from individual members who identify themselves as transgender. FIDE in their Directory will recognize an individual's gender identity that is consistent with the identity they maintain in their non chess life AND that has been confirmed by national authorities based on a due legal and formal process of change. FIDE recognizes that this is an evolving issue for chess and that besides technical regulations on transgender regulations further policy may need to be evolved in the future in line with research evidence.*

## **REGULATIONS**

### **I. Definition**

**Trans or transgender** – people whose sense of gender does not match with the gender assigned to them at birth and whose change of gender has been approved according to the national legal rules or upon FIDE decision in exceptional cases. Intersex people, androgyne and polygender people, cross-dressing and transvestite people are not included under these terms.

### **II. Personal details and FIDE ID**

2.1. A player registered to FIDE acquires a FIDE ID number (FIN). As a rule, change of the gender is not the reason for a person to get a new FIN, unless there is a special, strictly exceptional reason for the person not to reveal publicly their previous identity. Such decision on applying a new FIN is taken by FIDE QC. In the event of granting a new FIN, the old one is kept for the record not allowing the player to remove their chess history. The decision of FIDE QC can be appealed to the FIDE Council.

2.2. Changes of the database can be provided by the player's National Rating's Officer. If the player approaches FIDE directly, the request will be forwarded to the National Federation for processing. If the player plays under the FIDE flag, FIDE processes the issue itself and takes the decision based on the gender change evidence of the player's official country of residence/citizenship.



2.3. Change of gender is a change that has a significant impact on a player's status and future eligibility to tournaments, therefore it can only be made if there is a relevant proof of the change provided. Upon change of the gender in FIDE system, the National Rating Officer should require from the player sufficient proof of a gender change that complies with their national laws and regulations. It could be any (but not limited to) of the following: Birth certificate, Passport, national or international ID, a refugee certificate, final court decision and other relevant documents that prove the transfer/change of the gender according to the national legislation or evidence of the existence of the requirements of a gender change requested and to be approved in accordance with a given national legal system but not or not yet approved in some exceptional reasons (e.g. refugees, stateless, etc.). These documents must be provided to FIDE with the application from player's National Rating Officer. Additionally, the player must confirm in writing that the player is familiar with the restrictions established by these regulations and undertakes to comply with them.

2.4. If the National Rating Officer rejects to approve the gender change, the player may appeal to FIDE QC. FIDE QC can also cancel the decision of the National Rating Officer to change the gender of the player if there is no sufficient evidence of such change. The decision of FIDE QC can be appealed to the FIDE Council. Prohibition of the players to participate in the respective country's chess events in case the player's request was rejected by a Member Federation and then accepted by FIDE is to be considered and sanctioned as a discriminatory behavior.

2.5. The National Ratings Officer is responsible for entering justified gender change in FIN to ensure the player's gender at the national level matches the FIN gender. If the player has applied for the national ID gender change, the National Rating Officer shall encourage the player to apply for the change of the gender attached to the FIN. In case of the discrepancy between the national ID gender and FIN gender, FIDE follows its entry to define the eligibility of the player in FIDE events.

2.6. If the person applies for a repeated gender change, the process and eligibility remains the same as for the first time gender change.

### **III. Temporary restrictions after change of the gender**

These regulations apply to all competitions under the aegis of the Global Strategy Commission, Events Commission, and events providing qualification spots to the World Cup and World Team Championships.



The following restrictions shall be applied to a player after the change of the gender in FIDE ID:

In the event that the gender was changed from a male to a female the player has no right to participate in official FIDE events for women until further FIDE's decision is made. Such decision should be based on further analysis and shall be taken by the FIDE Council at the earliest possible time, but not longer than within 2 (two) years period. There are no restrictions to play in the open section for a person who has changed the gender.

#### **IV. Transfer of rights and liabilities**

4.1. Titles. If a player holds any of the women titles, but the gender has been changed to a man, the women titles are to be abolished. Those can be renewed if the person changes the gender back to a woman and can prove the ownership of the respective FIDE ID that holds the title. The abolished women title may be transferred into a general title of the same or lower level (e.g., WGM may be transferred into FM, WIM into CM, etc.).

If a player has changed the gender from a man into a woman, all the previous titles remain eligible. The player may use only the published rating at the time the registration was changed, and all subsequent ratings when applying for women titles. No peak ratings or results that have been reached before the official gender change may be used to qualify for women titles after the legal gender change.

4.2. Rating. Regardless of the gender change, the previous rating remains attributed to the player without change.

4.3. Liabilities. Changing gender, regardless if the previous FIN is retained or a new one obtained, the player is not exempt from the penalty of punishments and restrictions previously applied to this player.

#### **V. Non-disclosure/Privacy matters**

FIDE does not publicly discuss the player's gender change. However, FIDE has the right to inform the organizers and other relevant parties on the gender change (and the relevant name and/or FIN change) in order to be able to track the record of the player as far as it is necessary for efficient operations of FIDE (e.g. applying titles, recognizing the set temporary restrictions etc.).



Also FIDE has the right to make an appropriate mark in the Players' database and/or use other measures to inform organizers on a player being a transgender, so that to prevent them from possible illegitimate enrollments in tournaments.