

The December 2013 ICCF webserver update: some notes for Tournament Organisers and Tournament Directors

Dear chess friends,

A major update was applied to the ICCF server in the last few days of 2013, some of the updates were related to changes in ICCF rules agreed at ICCF Congress in Krakow, and others were general improvements to the server. Full details of the update are on the web site, this document is intended to guide tournament organisers and directors through the new features; please also see the accompanying notes for players.

Tournament Organisers

A number of new features for setting up events were introduced because of rule changes introduced in Krakow. You will notice that when you start an event, you are asked to choose between National or ICCF event, and select the header under which the event will appear in "Tables and Results".

The reason for this is that certain options are now required for ICCF events, but not for national events. Please ensure that you select the correct option and header before proceeding with setting up any new events.

Special Leave

Special leave is no longer allowed for ICCF events starting in 2014 or later, you will not be able to select this option. The Office of Special Leave will remain open for tournaments starting before 2014. You will be able to select Standard special leave (i.e. granted by the TD) for national tournaments only.

Leave per year

The default annual leave for ICCF events is now 45 days.

Tablebase rule

Wins and draws can now be claimed based on six piece tablebase evaluation; this is mandatory for ICCF events, however you can disallow these claims in national events by selecting 'None' in this dropdown.

Multi group events

Please note that this is now the preferred way to set up tournament which have multiple groups, rather than by using a 'template' event. Please let me know if you need any further information about this server feature.

New time control options

It is now possible to specify a time control, for which the initial time available is not the same as the time added at each increment. For example, you can now have a time control for which each player start with 100 days and has an additional 10 days for each ten moves. *(Please note that for an event to be rated, there must be 150 days available for the first 50 moves.)*

Chess960 ratings

You can now mark a Chess960 event as being rated.

Tournament Directors

The most significant update for tournament directors is the new claim form.

- Players must now use this form to file any claim to the tournament director
- When you receive a claim, you cannot set the result of a game directly, you must respond using the claim form (you should see a link to this under the chess board).
- *If the game is part of a team event, you cannot resolve a claim until the claim has been verified by the player's team captain; if you do not see an "accept" button on the claim form, this is probably the reason.*
- The server will give you some basic information about the number of moves since the last capture or pawn move, the number of repetitions, etc. Please note that **this has not yet been fully tested and you should check this information carefully before accepting or rejecting a claim.** Please report any inaccuracies to the Services Director.
- Currently the player's clock continues to run when a claim is filed, this will change after the next software update. In the meantime, it is still possible for the claimant's opponent to enter a move following a claim; this currently makes the claim unresolvable – we are working on a fix to this problem, if this happens in an event which you are directing, please contact the Services Director.
- After the next software update, when comprehensive testing has been carried out, some claims may be resolved automatically.

Tablebase Claims

Currently only claims for positions with six or fewer pieces can be awarded.

The official ICCF tablebase provider is Convekta. If a claim is filed for a tablebase win or draw, there is a button which allows you to check this claim against the Convekta tablebase server.

If you have any questions, or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me by email.

Amici Sumus,

Austin Lockwood, ICCF Services Director

Email: sd@iccf.com