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Федерація шахів України



Dear FIDE Council Members,

The Ukrainian Chess Federation understands that the FIDE Council will meet on 23 August 2026, and it is being reported that the Council may consider permitting the participation of a Russian national team in the 46th Chess Olympiad in Samarkand, Uzbekistan (15–28 September 2026).

The Ukrainian Chess Federation reiterates that the CFR is “automatically suspended” from FIDE membership under the CAS Award of 11 March 2026 following the CFR’s failure to cease chess activities in the city of Sevastopol and the regions of Crimea, Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk, and Zaporozhye in accordance with the Award. The CAS Award is final and immediately binding on all FIDE organs under the FIDE Charter, the CAS Code, and Swiss law.

As the UCF explained in its letter No. 157 of 16 June 2026 and in correspondence from its counsel to FIDE’s Legal Director of 30 June 2026, the participation of a Russian national team – whether under the Russian flag, a neutral flag, or any other collective designation – would circumvent the Award’s sanction and directly violate Article 13.6 of the FIDE Charter. Article 13.6 explicitly states that “[d]uring the suspension period . . . national teams may not participate in any FIDE congress, competition, event or activity.” The Council's discretion under this provision is limited to individual players only and does not extend to any form of team representation, neutral or otherwise.

The UCF also understands that, at this meeting, the FIDE Council may further consider the UCF’s objection to its resolution of 10 June 2026 to submit the “issue of confirmation of the sanction” under the CAS Award to the General Assembly for a vote. The UCF again strongly urges the FIDE Council to reconsider its position, which is an impermissible attempt to subject a final and binding arbitral award to a political review. As the UCF explained in its letter of 16 June and its counsel’s letter of 30 June, this breaches the principle of res judicata, among other violations of Swiss law, and would therefore be void. The UCF also restates its objection to the retroactive application to its case of

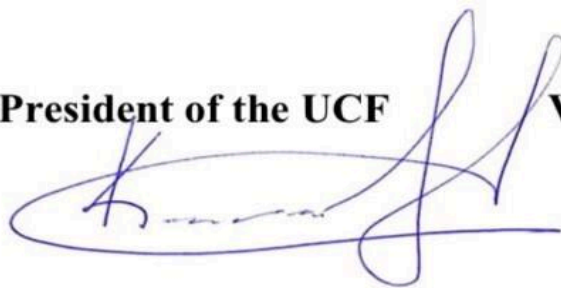
amendments purportedly introduced to the FIDE Charter in September 2024, which are null and void under Swiss law to the extent they apply to a final and binding CAS Award, affect the CAS jurisdiction in any way, and fundamentally alter FIDE's decision-making framework.

The UCF respectfully urges the FIDE Council to immediately and finally recognize the CFR's automatic suspension from FIDE Membership and fully respect both the letter and spirit of the Award and the FIDE Charter.

The UCF continues to reserve all rights, including, but not limited to, its right to challenge any final decision by the FIDE Council directly before the CAS and the right to apply for enforcement of the Award in the Swiss courts.

Sincerely,

First Vice-President of the UCF



Volodymyr KOVALCHUK

