

LATVIJAS DAMBRETES SAVIENĪBA
LATVIAN DRAUGHTS UNION

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To the FMJD General
Assembly in Izmir October
11, 2015 for consideration

General request of top-20 active players for abolition of actual Swiss on
rating and for elaborate work on a new Swiss system.

On behalf of Latvian Draughts Union and 15 active players from A top list -20 I am
authorized to present the following message to be delivered to the FMJD General
Assembly in Izmir.

In many varieties of sport higher world rating means prestige, larger starting money,
because to gain one's high position the sportsman has to prove over several seasons
that he is stable and competitive. In draughts world the system has been created,
where the higher one's rating the tougher he has to fight, even more than that – one
has to give handicap to the amateur players of a reasonable level. The system is
called Swiss system on rating as it exists now. This system is often used for World
Cup tournaments, for European Championships, which are from time to time the
only qualifiers for World Championships. Everybody can effortlessly check how
many from top-20 players who took part in last European Championship didn't
promote for World Championship. The system is generated in such a way that when
there is a large group of tying players, say 40, then first world rating plays against
21st, 2nd against 22nd, etc. It is not too difficult to understand that 21st player is quite
tough, while 40th can be quite weak. Besides the one who is on the top in case of odd
tied players takes the strongest rating in a lower group. Thus for the strongest player
it is no rest: he is often jammed. There is no consideration: how many times
somebody jumps over the group. The system is unchanging throughout the
tournament. The most surprising is the fact that when some tough player whose
world rating is by 100 points lower than that of a stronger player reaches a draw in
the last round he ties the place with his opponent, steals the difference in their
rating, and not seldom have a higher place in the final score list, although before the

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last round it was the other way round. And what if this is the last promotion place for WCh? You are punished for your good game, which is used by the others...

The leading draughts players put forward the following suggestions:

- 1) The FMJD General Assembly acknowledges that the Swiss on pairings as it exists now is discriminating to a certain group of strong players.*
- 2) The FMJD General Assembly concedes that at any rate elaborate efforts should be made in creation of a new fair Swiss system.*
- 3) The FMJD General Assembly agrees that the leading role in creation of a new system should be granted to the 2 existing renowned World Champions (Men and Women) who can nominate a selected group of acknowledged grandmasters for advice and cooperation.*
- 4) The old Swiss system can't be abolished until the new one is completely accomplished.*

Chairman of Latvian Draughts Union,

International grandmaster Guntis Valneris

Chengdu, The People's Republic Of China

September 1, 2015

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Signed by:

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