FMJD proudly announces Sport Accord World Mind Games

FMJD's membership of IMSA (International Mind Sports Association) and SportAccord have resulted in the participation of FMJD in the first SportAccord World Mind Games to be held in Beijing from the 8th until the 17th of December 2011. These first SportAccord World Mind Games are to be an elite event with a very limited amount of players in chess, GO, bridge, draughts and Xiangqi. For draughts on the 100 squares 12 men and 8 women can participate. All participants will be fully reimbursed for their travel to and from Beijing and for hospitality. They will be hosted in double rooms.

Moreover, the prize fund will be very attractive: a total sum of at least $90,000 (ninety thousand US dollars) will be available for prices divided 2/3 for men and 1/3 for women.

The organization has asked FMJD to come with a set up that is interesting for spectators and for viewers on the Internet. And of course the organization does not find a deaf ear there. Men will be divided in two groups of six playing a round robin. After this round robin the numbers one in the two groups will play the numbers two in the other group in semi finals after which the final will determine the first winner. All games will be played according to the following scheme:

- First a game is played with 1.20 and 1'per move. The winner gets 12 points and the loser 0
- When the above game ends in a draw, a game will be played with 20' on the clock and 10" per move. The winner gets 9 points and the loser 3
- When the above rapid game is a draw, a blitz game is played with 5'on the clock and 2" per move. The winner gets 8 points and the loser 4
- When the above blitz game ends in a draw, a Lehmann-Georgiev tie break is player with 5' on the clock and 2"per move. The winner gets 7 points and the loser 5

The above scheme will not only make draughts very interesting for the media but will also have a much greater potential to discriminate results and it makes winning the 'official' game very important.

Players will have to qualify for all future SportAccord World Mind Games and also for the World Mind Sport Games through World Cup Tournaments. For the SportAccord World Mind Games there will be one FMJD and one organizer place. No more than 3 players can come from the same country and each continent in the tournament for men is entitle to at least one place. (America's, Asia, Europe and Africa).

The World Cup tournaments are open tournaments played with a Swiss system. Players will gain points according to a predefined scheme and the accumulated points of the last 4 tournaments will determine qualification. As there will not be 4 tournaments yet in 2011, the last 3 World Cup tournaments or with less than 3 tournaments a mix of results of the World Cup tournaments and ratings will be used. One World Cup tournament will be held in Ufa in July. FMJD is working hard to get one or two more tournaments organized in 2011.

The World Cup tournaments on themselves will be very interesting for the players. There will be a substantial prize fund and the first 20 men and the first 10 women in the tournament will be reimbursed for travel and hospitality up to a **maximum** of €1,000 per person. All costs need to be proven to the satisfaction of FMJD.

Each player participating in a World Cup tournament will pay a fee of €50 to FMJD when his federation is a full paying member in FMJD and €100 when this is not the case. A participant coming from a country that is not a paying member of FMJD will have to pay an additional fee of €185 but that is only once per year.

From the above you can see that FMJD since the board elections in Berlin in December 2009 is in full swing to rejuvenate and make draughts more interesting for players worldwide. The FMJD membership of China is a great step forwards for FMJD and we expect more positive news in the months to come.

Harry Otten
President FMJD
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