

REPORT

IDF President Vladimir Langin for the period from August 30, 2018 to August 23, 2021

On August 30, the regular IDF General Assembly was held in Bulgaria, at which a new board was elected, a number of important documents were approved and the necessary changes to the Charter were made.

The next regular reporting Assembly was supposed to take place in 2020, but due to the pandemic, we had to cancel all face-to-face events.

Therefore, the IDF General Assembly was postponed to 2021.

IDF, being the only organization specially created for the promotion and development of draughts-64 in the world, is still stable and successfully develops its sport in the international arena. Despite the split in draughts-64, created by the FMJD, as well as the pandemic, we are making good headway.

I will be accountable for the work of the entire Board, as many board members for various reasons were unable to attend the assembly today. Throughout this period, we worked together and all members of the board contributed to our common cause.

Let us recall all the most important things that have been done over the past period.

In 2018 and 2019, in accordance with our calendar, all planned activities were held.

Continental championships

Pan America

2018 was the year of the continental championships, qualifying for the 2019 World Championship.

In February 2018, for the first time in the history of draught-64, **the first Pan American Draughts-64 Championship** was held. This historic event, held in Jamaica, was attended by representatives of **6 countries**. The winner of the classic program **Reid Wayne** (Jamaica) received the title of "International Grandmaster."

Africa

In Africa, in Malawi, **the 2nd African Draughts-64 Championship** was held in July at a high level. The championship was attended by representatives of **8 countries**, the winner of the classic program **Lukanga Mwambwe** from Zambia became the second international grandmaster in Africa for draughts-64. The championship was held under the patronage of the Ministry of Sports of Malawi with the active participation of the newly established African Draughts Confederation-64. The debut of the African Draughts Confederation-64 was a success.

During the championship, a General Assembly of the confederation was held, a leadership was elected, which began to actively develop draughts-64 on the African continent.

Both continental championships were held in three programs (classic, blitz and rapid) in three types of draughts - international/Russian, Brazilian and pool checkers. Players who have international experience won in both championships - they have already participated in the World Draughts-64 Championships.

Europe

European Draughts-64 Championship among men and women was held in September 2018 in Bulgaria. The championship was attended by representatives of **15 countries** (14 countries for men and 10 countries for women). The winners of the classic program were international grandmaster **Ihar Mikhalchenka** in men and **Vera Khvashchinskaya** in women (both from Belarus). Winner of women championship Vera Khvashchinskaya apart from official awards was awarded the title "International Grandmaster". **The prize fund** of the European Championship was **20 000 euros**.

The next European Championship among men and women was scheduled for September 2020, but due to the pandemic, it was postponed to 2021 and will be held from 10 to 19 September in Jõgeva (Estonia). Despite the ongoing pandemic and travel restrictions between countries, representatives from at least **16 countries** are expected to attend. **The prize fund** of the European Championship will be **US \$ 25,000**.

Asia

In 2019, in Tashkent, under the patronage of IDF, the Asian Championship (7 countries) among men, women and youth in ten age groups (5 for boys and 5 for girls) was held at a high level.

World Championships

In September 2019, the **World Draughts-64 Championship** among men and women was held for the first time in Saint Vlas, Bulgaria (Classic and Blitz programs - International/Russian version of draughts-64; Rapid - Brazilian version). **95** players from **34 countries** took part in the championship. The winners of the classic program were the international grandmaster **Ihar Mikhalchenka** among men and the international master **Yana Yakubovich** among women (both from Belarus). The prize fund of the championship amounted to **30,000 US dollars**.

In 2021, due to the pandemic, the next world championship did not take place. Due to the fact that it was not possible to hold the qualifying continental competitions in 2020 and 2021, it was decided to postpone the World Draughts-64 Championship to the second half of 2022.

Traditionally in Bulgaria, together with the youth championship, the World Team Championship and the World Veterans Championship were held.

In 2018, the men's and women's teams from **14 countries** took part in the World Team Championship.

In the World Veterans Championship players from **12 countries** participated, players from **7 countries** won medals in various nominations.

World Cup

In 2018, 6 stages of the World Cup were held on three continents - Europe, Asia and America: in Jamaica, Uzbekistan, Italy, Estonia, Portugal and final stage in Georgia. About **300 players** from **27 countries** of the world took part in all programs of the 2018 World Cup. Competitions were held in various versions of draughts-64: international/Russian, Brazilian, Portuguese and pool checkers. The total prize fund of the World Cup was more than **15,000 Euros**.

In 2019, 5 stages of the World Cup were held in Tbilisi (Georgia), Rimini (Italy), Jõgeva (Estonia), Kranevo (Bulgaria) and the final stage in Portimao (Portugal). Within the framework of the World Cup, competitions were held in various versions of draughts-64: international/Russian, Brazilian and Portuguese.

Dmitrii Melnikov (Russia) won the 2019 World Cup in all categories. The winners of the World Cup stages in various categories were Dmitrii Melnikov (Russia), Aleksey Domchev (Lithuania), Andrei Valiuk (Belarus), Anton van Berkel (Netherlands), Andrey Gnelitskiy (Russia) and Luis Sa (Portugal). More than **300 participants** from **26 countries** of the world took part in all stages of the 2019 World Cup. The total prize fund of the World Cup was about **10,000 Euros**.

In 2021, the 1st World Cup stage was held in Turkey, and now the 2nd World Cup stage is being held in Bulgaria. 37 players from 9 countries took part in the 1st stage of the World Cup. Robert Misans (Latvia) is in the lead in the overall standings.

This year the World Cup stage in France will not take place due to the fact that the country is still inaccessible for free visits. So far, the tournament has been postponed to next year.

The same situation is with the tournament in Israel. We hope that the World Cup stage in Portugal will take place on schedule.

Children's sports

The IDF traditionally paid much attention to children's sports.

In 2018, in Bulgaria, at a good level and with a large representation of countries youth competitions were held:

European Youth Championship (**10 countries**)

World Youth Championship (**15 countries**)

In 2019, next competitions were held at a high level in Bulgaria:

European Youth Championship - **12 countries**, representatives of **6 countries** won medals;

World Youth Championship - **15 countries**, representatives of **10 countries** won medals.

In all championships, the winners of classic program in each age category received prizes from the organizers in addition to official awards.

In 2019, for the first time, the World Team Youth Championship among boy's and girl's teams (**11 countries**) was held during the personal World Youth Championship. Championship was highly appreciated by all the leaders and representatives. In the age groups among juniors (boys and girls) up to 27 and 20 years old, the classification of the world championship among students was established.

In 2021, in a pandemic, European Youth Championship was held in Turkey, in a 5-star hotel. 9 countries participated, representatives of 7 countries won medals.

Now Bulgaria hosts the World Youth Championship (**11 countries**), today the world team championship among boys and girls teams (**9 countries**) is held, and all other planned competitions are held.

Other activities

Various international tournaments were held under the auspices of IDF.

In all tournaments under the auspices of the IDF, norms for international titles were established and tournaments were included in the calculation of ratings.

In 2018, for the first time, IDF participated in the organization and conducting of draughts-64 tournaments at the World Festival of Checkers and Draughts in **Barbados**. I am sure that Draughts-64 tournaments within the framework of the festival will become traditional.

For the first time International Draughts-64 Tournament was successfully held in the capital of Armenia, **Yerevan**.

In 2019, under the auspices of the IDF, the first international tournaments were successfully held in **Helsinki** (Finland) and **Tokyo** (Japan). Competitions gave a great impetus to the development of draughts-64 in these countries.

For the second time, IDF took part in organizing and conducting draughts-64 tournaments at the World Festival of Checkers and Draughts in **Barbados**. Agreements on future cooperation were concluded.

In 2020, due to the pandemic, the entire world sport was paralyzed almost all international competitions were canceled or postponed.

The difficult year 2020 has given rise to new forms of communication and competition.

IDF tested online platforms and held a number of tournaments at various platforms (PlayOk, gambler). Pool checkers have been added to the gambler platform at our request and online competitions will begin in the near future.

The following major online competitions were held:

- 9 and 10 May 2020: Online Victory Cup in draughts-64 dedicated to the 75th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War among men, women, boys, girls, in which **540 participants** from **24 countries** took part!

- 9 and 16 August 2020: Online draughts-64 tournaments in the London Mind Sports Olympiad (MSO), which has been held since 1997. More than **550 players** from **34 countries** took part in the competition!

Participation of draughts-64 in such a significant and famous Olympiad of intellectual games is very prestigious and will become another step in the promotion of draughts-64 in the world.

- November 28 and 29, 2020 – Draughts Men and Women Championships in the 1st African Universities Mind Sports Championship (pool checkers) with the definition of team standings among universities.

- The online African championship and the African open championship dedicated to the fight against covid-19 were held with the support of IDF.

We thank the countries for supporting our initiatives and our competitions!

The Fund for Assistance to the Development of Draughts Sports "Russian Draughts" provided great support for the largest official competitions.

In recent years, the Pergament Foundation has also helped. The fund has big plans. We hope that with the support of these two structures draughts-64 will reach another level.

All these years, the technical commission has been working efficiently. Regulatory documents were developed and modernized. Many players have received well-deserved international titles.

I would especially like to thank the head of the players' commission Dmitry Tsinman, who, together with experienced referees O. Kholin and A. Aleshin, did a lot of work on the new rules of the game. With his direct participation, the regulations for the individual and team world championships, as well as the European championship were developed.

Systematic work was carried out to popularize draughts on various Internet resources, on television, in newspapers and magazines.

Awards (medals, diplomas), memorable attributes were produced, the material and technical base was improved.

Information about our activities was promptly published on our official website and in social networks.

Our plans

In 2019, the IDF leadership participated in the TAFISA congress in Japan. TAFISA plans to host not only the TAFISA World Games, but also the continental TAFISA Games in Europe, Asia, Africa and America. This will give us a good opportunity to promote draughts on the continents and hold the continental championships in Asia, Africa and America at a high level in the framework of the continental TAFISA Games.

Much attention will be paid to the development of draughts on the American continent. The head of the Foundation Ed Pergament, the vice-president of the Foundation and the vice-president of IDF Alexander Katz plan to provide financial support to the holding of the Pan American Championship and the World Cup on the American continent.

IDF President Vladimir Langin