



2023 FITB bylaws changes

Position of Swiss Tchoukball

Context

The FITB Executive committee has made a proposal to change the FITB bylaws, submitted for the 2023 FITB General Assembly.

Numerous changes are proposed, among which, the ones on article 23.3, which prevent a General Assembly to be held by electronic means by default.

Position of Swiss Tchoukball

Swiss Tchoukball finds that most of the proposed changes are good, and agrees with them, except for the change on article 23.3.

We would have rather expected the opposite and clarify that it should be held online. Indeed, with NFs all around the world and the new normalisation of video meeting tools, not doing the GA online is plainly closing the door to many NFs having a right to vote, and thus preventing them from exercising their right.

Of course, doing the GA during an FITB world event helps with having many NFs being represented, but not all can come. And with the limited number of teams being allowed to participate in the WTC, many NFs won't make the trip just for the GA. Depending on where the GA is held, the location of the NFs and their living-standard, the barrier to come to the GA is simply too high.

We believe the FITB should do whatever is doable to have as many NFs represented at the GA, to have decisions that represent best what its members want.

It is certainly a bit more complicated to properly organise an online GA, but the benefits this brings outweigh its downside.

One can argue about the benefit of seeing each other face-to-face, and there is no doubt that interactions are better when people are in the same room. But they can surely be good enough when being held online, again for the sake of having a better representation of the FITB members.

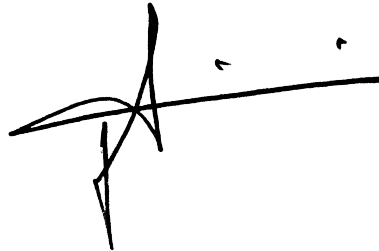
Another advantage of an online GA is that it doesn't need to happen during a WTC event, and thus, having to find a timeslot for it in an already packed schedule. Or, if there is time, then it can still be used for a gathering of NFs to discuss pre-defined topics or strategy, but without any decision, as those would be left for the GA, where more NFs would be participating.

Therefore, Swiss Tchoukball is against the proposed changes for article 23.3.

And as we are in favour of the rest of the proposed changes, we request the FITB executive committee to submit the changes for article 23.3 in a separate ballot than the rest of the FITB bylaws changes.

We are aware that staying with the current version of article 23.3 does not enforce an online GA, and therefore, that it can still rather be organised in person. But at least, it doesn't make online GAs an exception, and doesn't go in a direction where an FITB GA would have less NFs represented than it could.

On behalf of Swiss Tchoukball Executive committee
Pierre-Alain Girardin
President of Swiss Tchoukball

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