

## CORRESPONDENCE

### ICCA TOURNAMENT RULES REVISITED

*E A Heinz*<sup>1</sup>

In *ICCA Journal*, Vol 20, No 1, p 65-66 accidentally an outdated version of Mr Ernst A Heinz's correspondence on the ICCA tournament rules has been published. His more recent proposal dates back to March 2, 1997, and refines the original in such a way that it now distinguishes between three different groups of applicants

- those without any commercial interest in computer chess,
- those with semi-commercial interest in computer chess, and
- those with full commercial interest in computer chess

Thereby, it gains flexibility as for granting financial support to, e.g., authors of shareware programs while remaining as clear-cut as before. The revised text which replaces the old text after the definition of commercial interest up to the next section reads as follows

"This definition of commercial interest clearly subsumes the authors and distributors of all commercial and shareware programs as well as people like the DEEP BLUE team hired for doing computer chess to benefit their employers' commercial activities. Furthermore, it subsumes those people whose commercial interest in computer chess according to the definition starts in the near future, e.g., shortly after winning an ICCA tournament (How long "shortly" actually means is open to debate. I suggest 1/2 to 1 year.)

As for the question of financial support, I like to identify all applicants with semi-commercial interests in computer chess. All members of this group have commercial interests in computer chess but their earnings therefrom amount to less than the typical ICCA grant to be awarded (trustworthy certification required)

As available funds permit, the ICCA may grant financial support in decreasing order of estimated playing strength only to those applicants without any commercial interests or just semi-commercial interests in computer chess. For applicants with semi-commercial interests the grant may be reduced by their reported earnings without further justification. Of course, everybody and especially university affiliates are encouraged to apply for other sources of financial support in order to save the ICCA as many expenses as possible.

In case of participants starting their full commercial interests in computer chess (as opposed to no or only semi-commercial interests before) "shortly" after an event for which they received financial support from the ICCA, the according grants must be completely repaid.

Last but not least, participants with full commercial interests should be made to pay a fee to the ICCA if their advertisements and/or products refer to their participation and/or titles in ICCA events."

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<sup>1</sup> School of Computer Science (IPD), University of Karlsruhe, P O Box 6980, D-76128 Karlsruhe, Germany  
Email: heinze@ira.uka.de