



Warszawa, 18/10/2023 r.

## Official statement of the Polish Chess Federation.

On behalf of the Polish Chess Federation, players, coaches and parents, we are submitting an official protest against the organization of the World Cadet Chess Championships in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

The Polish Chess Federation expects immediate action to be taken to meet the organizational requirements set by FIDE when organizing championship-level competitions.

Meanwhile, we were informed by the players and the delegation leader about many problems and organizational shortcomings, such as:

1. Failure to pick up participants from the airport on time. Participants were forced to wait up to 2 hours for a hotel transfer.
2. Complete chaos at the accommodation, especially in the Concord hotel indicated to our team. The participants were forced to wait many hours and stressfully for rooms, and were additionally accommodated in another hotel of a much lower standard, which is confirmed by thousands of objective opinions on industry portals. Providing the right number of hotel rooms and efficient accommodation is an elementary and one of the most important issues during the Championships. The lists of participants are known a month before the championship, and the federations should receive not only the name of the hotel, but also the numbers of the assigned rooms before the departure of the participants.
3. The Ejsymont family of three (2 players and a father) was accommodated in a de facto single room (one large bed), which is an absolutely unacceptable situation.
4. It is a scandal that the start of the competition is delayed by one day, thus canceling the day off. Polish representatives spent considerable financial resources on participating in the Championships and did not go to Egypt for tourist purposes, but to fight for World Championship medals.





5. We also call for improvements in other organizational matters, such as:

- improvement of transport to the playing hall before the round
- improvement of anti-doping controls (more equipment),
- ensuring an appropriate level of cleanliness and hygiene, including such a basic issue as the availability of toilet paper in the bathrooms in the game hall.

We will inform you about many minor issues that are successively reported in subsequent letters.

6. The cost of accommodation, meals and organizational fees of the Polish representation paid to the organizer is €25,000. The glaring disproportion between the quality of service and the standard of accommodation in relation to the costs of participation means that we expect financial compensation in an amount not less than €5,000 (20% of the costs incurred). If the situation continues to fail to improve, this level may be extended.

Professionalism should be expected from the organizers of an event of the rank of the World Championships. There is no excuse for the systemic transport and hotel mess, all notifications and arrival dates were provided to you well in advance and you could prepare for it. However, the problems in Egypt do not result from chance, but are of a systemic nature, caused by the lack of basic imagination, proper coordination of activities, and control of the state of preparations.

PS. We know exactly how to organize such an event properly. In December 2021, our Federation was able to organize the R&B World Championships for 300 of the world's top competitors in 12 days.

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