**Lichess Article Questions**

- *Before the tournament went ahead, multiple participating players requested a postponement, including Radjabov and Wang Hao. Another player had to undergo mandatory 14-day quarantine, undoubtedly impacting them psychologically. Did the ACP consider the strong statements by the players and their clear dissatisfaction and objection when the ACP agreed with FIDE in their open letter that the event should continue?*

Yes, the ACP did consider these reactions by the players and they were a strong factor influencing our [statement](https://www.chessprofessionals.org/content/acp-candidates-open-letter). Contrary to what you suggest in your question, ACP did NOT agree with FIDE that the event should continue. Our wording was quite exact : “While we *understand* that at this stage it may not be possible to cancel the event” (emphasis is ours) meant that ACP *recognised* that FIDE, in their own words cannot postpone or cancel the event, “legally or practically” (this was quoted by Radjabov in his posts, for example see [here](https://chess24.com/en/read/news/mvl-to-play-the-candidates-instead-of-radjabov)).

In a situation where it was clear that the tournament would start no matter what we deemed it best to demand guarantees for the health and safety of everybody involved, which was to “urg[e] FIDE to publicly state that in case any member of the organization, the press, the players’ teams, the arbiters team, the volunteers or any other person which may be perceived as having contact with the tournament, be affected by CoViD-19, FIDE officials will immediately call the tournament off and make all efforts to ensure that the players are escorted safely back home.” On 16 of March Arkady Dvorkovich gave [an interview](https://news.sportbox.ru/Vidy_sporta/shahmati/world/spbnews_NI1171683_Arkadij_Dvorkovich_Jesli_kto_to_iz_uchastnikov_turnira_pretendentov_zabolejet_koronavirusom_jest_reglament_priostanovki) where he confirmed that FIDE would stop the tournament in such a case. This statement was clearly in agreement with our stance.

*- How does the ACP reconcile their charter in light of the objections players made before the event?*

The ACP Statute does not have anything running against the objections the players made before the event.

- *Many of the ACP board members are also senior within FIDE, sit on their commissions, or are senior within their national federations. How does the ACP manage these conflicts of interest?*

We don’t think there is conflict of interest. ACP is an independent organisation and the opinions we reach are always a result of constructive discussions within our Board. Both the ACP as an organisation and its Board Members work for the benefit and improvement of the chess world, irrelevant whether they do it independently or as part of another organisation like FIDE.

*- Are conflicts of interest publicly declared somewhere, such as in a register of interests?*

ACP does not have a register of interests.

*- Did conflicts of interest impact the open letter the ACP wrote directed at FIDE?*

As explained above, we did not see any conflict of interest. The open letter was written because ACP felt it needed to make a stand in an extraordinary situation where it seemed that the direction was lost. This was also emphasised in our [address to all national federations and organisers](https://www.chessprofessionals.org/content/all-organisers-and-national-federations), issued shortly after the open letter. We would call this nothing less than a strong position by the ACP.

*- Did the ACP consult any healthcare professionals or experts in regards to the tournament being held, and if so, what advice did they give?*

In our [address](https://www.chessprofessionals.org/content/all-organisers-and-national-federations) to national federations and organisers we provided a link to the recommendations of the WHO, in particular the WHO statement from 11 March that “COVID-19 can be characterised as a pandemic.” We were closely following the development of the situation and the advice provided by the WHO on their website.

*- Does the ACP have an approach it would like to see from FIDE regarding the Radjabov situation?*

At the moment of writing the Board still needs to confer and discuss this issue.

*- With retrospect, should the ACP have had a stronger position on the Candidates going ahead?*

No. It was clear from the beginning the Candidates would be going on. We expressed great concern and we obtained assurance from the FIDE President that they would halt it immediately upon a minor threat hitting the tournament, whether that be directly or indirectly. This is what happened and we feel ACP played an important role in these proceedings.