



**Protocol, R.I.F. General Assembly, Estonia,
August 7, 2019**

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1. Opening of the General Assembly

The President of R.I.F., Anders Henningsson, declared the General Assembly (GA) opened.

2. Election of the Chairman of the General Assembly

Anders Henningsson was elected Chairman of the GA.

3. Election of the Secretary for the General Assembly

Dmitry Epifanov was elected secretary of the meeting.

4. Election of three persons who should check the protocol

Ants Soosorv, Peter Jonsson and Hiroshi Okabe were elected to check the protocol.

5. New members, roll call and The Statutes of the Renju International Federation, Version 2.0 Released 2017-10-25

A) Adoption of P.R.C. (PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA) as a permanent member.

The GA approved that P.R.C. (PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA) represented by CHINESE WEIQI ASSOCIATION, which CHINESE RENJU, is associated with, was granted a provisional membership in R.I.F. by the R.I.F. Central Committee on 2018-06-20. The provisional membership is as of today a permanent membership.

Voted YES: Russia, Japan, Poland, Czech, Estonia, Sweden, Republic of Korea, Ukraine, Macau

Voted NO: -

B) Federation Representatives with right to vote:

Japan – Mr. Hiroshi Okabe
Russia - Mr. Dmitry Epifanov
Sweden – Mr. Peter Jonsson
P.R.C. (China) Ms. Liu Yan Yan
Macao, China – Mr. Sun In
Republic of Korea – Mr. Jang Won-Cheol
Estonia - Mr. Aivo Oll
Czech Republic – Mr. Štěpán Tesařík
Poland - Mr. Piotr Małowiejski
Ukraine – Mr. Oleg Bulatowsky

C) The GA approved the decision of the 2017-10-24 extraordinary R.I.F. General Assembly to adopt “The Statutes of the Renju International Federation, Version 2.0 Released 2017-10-25”

The changes are originally proposed in order for the statues mainly to comply with “RESOLUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE BOARD Nagoya, 25th October 1979”.

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Voted YES: Russia, Sweden, Japan, Ukraine, Estonia, Korea, Macau, Czech, Poland
Voted NO: -

6. Reports from the President, the Treasurer and the Auditor

The President reported that he stills sees a great need to reform the R.I.F. organization, partly in line with the commission suggestion presented in 2017.

On behalf of the treasurer and the auditor the President reported that R.I.F. financial situation is in order and that the auditor has approved the P&L and the Balance Sheet as of 2019-06-30 on 2019-07-14.

7. Approval of the work of the Central Committee for the last two years

The GA approved the work of the Central Committee for the last 2 years.

Voted YES: Russia, Sweden, Japan, Estonia, Korea, Macau, Czech, Poland
Voted NO: -
Refrained from voting: Ukraine

8. Election of the Central Committee

Proposal:

President:	Anders Henningsson
Vice-Presidents:	Norihiko Kawamura, Dmitry Epifanov, Ilya Katsev
Treasurer	Stefan Karlsson
General Secretary	Ants Soosorv

Voted YES: Russia, Sweden, Japan, Estonia, Korea, Macau, Czech, Poland, P.R.C., Ukraine
Voted NO: -

9. The places for future RIF official championships.

A) Team World Championship in Renju

2020 - Turkey suggests to have next World Team (renju and gomoku both?) Championship in Kapadokia.
2020 – Hungaria is thinking about organizing TWC (gomoku or both).

B) European Championship in Renju and Gomoku

No suggestions yet.

C) Youth World Championship in Renju and Gomoku

Ants Soosorv reported that in Karepa we already had gomoku Youth European Championship with long time control, not rapid - it was request from Gomoku Committee. So we will continue to have more serious gomoku youth competitions in future.

No suggestions yet.

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D) World Championship in Renju and Gomoku

The President suggests China, preferably in Beijing as the preliminary plan which can be adjusted after China has investigated.

The Deadline for suggestions and decision on TWC, EC and YWC is 01 Oct 2019.
The Deadline for suggestions on WC is 01 May 2020.

10. Reports from the Commissions

The Correspondence Commission

Report from the Correspondence Commission (by Aivo Oll)

Everything has been running well, the Correspondence World Championship has had more than 40 players each year I have been the Commissioner. It is good to see that more strong players from Asia and Europe are taking part. The only minor issue is that the money for the medals is coming from my own pocket so the players have to wait a bit before receiving them. Last year I was able to deliver them to 2 Chinese players via Cao Dong in April but this year I have to wait until August before I can send the medal to the first place. Also, some stronger Chinese players have said that the current rule is not perhaps the best for Correspondence renju since most of the interesting and playable variants have been already thoroughly analyzed.

I would also like to thank Andrey Serdyuk and Dmitry Epifanov for helping me organize the tournament, without them I would not be able to do it.

The Sports Commission

Report from the Sports Commission (by Aivo Oll)

Repairing all the mistakes in the current document turned out to be a lot larger work than I anticipated. Good news is that I almost done with it. Bad news is that recently I just cannot find much time to do it. As it currently stands, the whole European Championship part needs to be rewritten.

Also, I wanted to ask the Central Committee members opinion about a few things or changes that have bothered me for a while. Firstly, as it is currently written in the document, the organizing country gets a place in the WC AT in case they do not have one. This much is clear but how it should be decided and to who it should be given is not clear at all. There have been 2 different cases for this during the history of World Championships:

In 1999 in Beijing the organizing country decided to give the place to their best player (Zhang Jinyu) without the need to play QT. In all the other cases the place has been given to the organizing country's best QT player (in 2009, 2011). I am a bit torned between these two systems. Also, since currently Estonia is having a similar situation and the decision was made to give the best Estonian QT player the AT place. Going forward, I think it would be best if the organizing country can choose from either of the 2 variants. Currently, the number of players securing personal places for QT if they have played 10 games during a certain time is 20. Some people would like this number to be raised. I am not 100% sure it is necessary since only a few players usually use this place to play in QT. I am not against it but there should be a very good reason to raise it. So, I let the Central Committee decide if we should raise this from 20 to 25 (or 30).

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This change has been circling around for many years. The change is that all the previous female world champions should have a personal place for WT (something like a wildcard). I am not a strong supporter of this idea but I can understand why it might be a necessary change. Again, I would like to get the Central Committee opinion on this change, whether to add it or not.

Another similar change is that all the previous AT champions should always have a personal place in QT. There are some pros and cons for this but it can be a good change overall. It would give a previous champion a good chance for a comeback even if they have been inactive for many years.

A lot of work still needs to be done with improving the title competition rules and document. I was full of energy and had many ideas few years ago but right now I find it is a bit difficult for me to concentrate on this matter 100%. I am not saying I would like to resign but if there is a person who has more time than me to do it, a new commissioner should be chosen.

The Referee Commission

There is no report

The Youth Commission

There is no report

The Rules Commission

Report from the Rules Commission (by Aivo Oll)

In the past two years, I have had many discussions with the best players in the world about the current opening rule situation. In this report, I will try to explain about these discussions.

Firstly, the current rule of Soosõrv-8 is not good for beginners, it is too difficult because memorizing all the alternative 4th and 5th moves take a lot of time and effort. Even the top players struggle with it. It is not only my opinion. I have discussed the matter with current and previous world champions such as Nakamura, Taimla, Cao Dong and Sushkov. It is quite clear that Taraguchi-10 opening rule is a much better alternative as the next opening rule than any variant of the Soosõrv rule.

The main reason is that with Taraguchi-10 opening rule players do not need to memorize all the best 5th moves but can memorize the most interesting and balanced ones. Also, beginners can just put stones alternatively and in the first games, they do not need to worry about when and where to swap. Over time, after they have become more accustomed to the opening rule, they already know in which cases to swap and develop a better strategy for the opening phase. As it currently stands, with Soosõrv-8 rule, there is no easy learning phase. Players have to know a lot of theory from the start in order to achieve good results and to get out of the opening phase without losing quickly.

Not only is Taraguchi-10 opening rule much better for beginners, but it also offers a more balanced and interesting opening stage for the best players in the world. For example, the current Correspondence World Champion Hao Tianyi said that with T-10 he does not need to analyze all the 5th moves and he can offer the most balanced one. A small but important aspect comparing the current main rule and T-10 rule is that the latter offers more playable variants as well. It might seem insignificant at first glance but one has to take into consideration that the opening



theory is developing at a very fast pace. More and more variants are becoming unplayable by the day. I could bring a lot of variants as an example here but the point is that a larger variety of playable variants is also needed.

I think it is necessary to have open discussion about it and then decide what to do next. Currently the opening rule situation is leaning towards a dead end as it is not good enough for the long run nor it is good enough to attract new players. Also, a very important point is that a lot of old players are afraid to come back to the big stage since they know they would not stand a chance because of the current opening rule.

Overall, the current opening situation is quite messy, to say the least. In China, a lot of high level tournaments are still played with Yamaguchi rule which is even worse than Soosõrv-8 since it does not offer enough balanced and interesting variants to play. I think RIF needs to take the matter into their hands and start to think about the future of renju. Taraguchi-10 rule does not have any shortcomings and it is a perfect rule for every player. I understand it might take some time to change the rule again but the sooner we do it the better it is for the overall health of renju.

As it currently stands, renju has become a memorizing game and it is not really enjoyable for anyone with the current opening rule. For players to achieve success they need to remember thousands and thousands of different variants. Changing from Soosõrv-8 rule to Taraguchi-10 rule changes this aspect quite a bit since in 99% of the cases only one 5th move is offered.

Decided: Commission is going to provide the development plan for the next extra GA (may 2020).

The Qualification Commission

There is no report

The Translation Commission

There is no report

The Internet Commission

There is no report

The Gomoku Commission

There is no report

The PR Group

There is no report

11. Election of Commissioners

The PR Group (Sander Sulane, Madli Mirme) was removed. New Media Commission Chairman is Mr. Tunnet Taimla. Members: Mr. Nobuhiro Fukui, Mr. Sun In.

The Standarts Commission is to be created. Main 3 topics:

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1. Trainer's License.
 2. Referee's License.
 3. Unified ranking system.

Chairman: Epifanov Dmitry.

Elected new Chairman of Gomoku Commission: Ilya Katsev.

12. Others

There is a suggestion from our Honorable President Mr. Na Wei for R.I.F. to officially dedicate May 5 as the International Renju and Gomoku Day

Voted YES: Russia, Sweden, Japan, Estonia, Korea, Macau, Czech, Poland, P.R.C., Ukraine

Voted NO: -

13. Closing of the General Assembly.

The President of R.I.F., Anders Henningsson, declared the General Assembly (GA) closed.

Tallinn, Estonia, August 7, 2019

Anders Henningsson (韩宁森)

President (总裁)

Renju International Federation (国际连珠联盟)

Dmitry Epifanov

Ants Soosorv

Hiroshi Okabe

Peter Jonsson

