

# **EGF Professional Go System Constitution**

## **1. Preamble**

After years of development, there has been a solid foundation for Go in Europe. There are many players whose strength is almost the same as professionals.

Still, there are apparently limits in reaching Go strength given by the fact that players cannot involve themselves just in studying and playing Go, as they have to earn money for their living besides Go.

Therefore, EGF has decided to establish European Professional System (EPS later), starting in 2014 . Basic aims of EPS are:

1.1. To support strong players becoming even stronger by enabling them to concentrate themselves mainly on Go. That especially includes

- helping strong players with participation in high quality studying programs,
- working on arrangements for top quality tournaments based on professional standards.

1.2. To establish a professional background for EPS which includes not only direct management of EPS, but also Go promotional, educational and marketing activities around Europe.

The establishment of EPS has been possible due to the support of CEGO company, for which EGF thanks CEGO.

## **2. EGF Professional Committee**

EGF Professional Committee is established on purpose to maintain technical details of EPS. EGF Professional Committee consists both of representatives of EGF and representatives of European professional players. The exact way how EGF Professional Committee is established, its rights and duties, are a subject of a special document.

## **3. European Professional System Operational Rules (EPS Operational Rules)**

EPS Operational Rules describe all technical details of EPS. A detailed description of EPS Operational Rules is a subject of a special document.

#### 4. Promotional procedure of amateur players

All promotions of new European professional players will always be resulting from the European Professional Promoting Tournament (EP Promoting Tournament) organised under the lead of the EGF. An exact number of players and possible candidates' selection criteria are a subject of EPS Operational Rules.

#### 5. General requirements on an eligibility of a candidate

The candidate must hold a passport of an EGF-member country, and must be a citizen of an EGF-member country for at least ten years.

Professional players from other professional organizations must quit their previous system before attending the EP Promoting Tournament.

The final eligibility to attend the EP Promoting Tournament should be verified and approved by EGF Professional Committee.

The candidate is required to sign a contract with EGF, and agree to follow the management rules.

#### 6. Management rules

European professional players will turn in some percentage of their game fees and/or prize money earned on European professional tournaments/matches organised in cooperation with the EGF, or earned on international tournaments/matches, to the EGF as a management fee.

Management fee is paid to EGF on purpose to maintain Pro-agenda, to organise tournaments, to organise contracts for professional players, to promote EPS.

Criteria how the management fee is calculated are defined within EPS Operational Rules.

#### 7. Rights

(1) European professional players qualify automatically for the Grand Slam Tournaments. European professional players will also have precedence for seeding at the Grand Slam Tournaments and any other European Top Pro tournaments.

- (2) European professional players are given precedence in selection processes for attending international tournaments.
- (3) European professional players are given precedence to participate in training programs for top players.
- (4) European professional players are given precedence for paid work opportunities.

#### 8. Obligation

- (1) European professional players have obligation to attend tournaments and matches required by EGF, especially international events, on behalf of Europe.
- (2) European professional players have obligation to attend activities arranged by EGF, such as interviews, public service advertising, etc.

#### 9. Rank promotion procedure of European professional players

Professional rank is a honor for achievements. Professional player has two ways to promote his/her rank.

- (1) The first is to get rank points in tournaments. The champion (or the top places) of some EGF certificated tournaments and matches will get rank points. When the points adds up to reach the number for the next rank, the player can promote his/her rank up to 9 dan pro.
- (2) The second way is to attend some special tournaments for a direct promotion. These tournaments and promotions are decided by EGF on recommendation of EGF Professional Committee.

An exact procedure how European professional players can be promoted to higher ranks is described in EPS Operational Rules.

#### 10. Termination of a professional player status

A professional player can propose to quit his/her professional status under the EGF. If a player ever quits, at least six years must elapse before he/she can apply to be a professional again, and the player is required to pass through the promoting process again.

## 11. Punishment

EGF reserves the right of punishment for behaviour that failed to follow the management rules or cause harm to Europe Go development. EGF has the right to take back the professional rank as punishment for serious cases.

## 12. Relationship with other Professional Go organizations

EGF recognizes ranks awarded by other well established Professional Go organizations, officially recognized by IGF, as honorary ranks awarded for players best performances in their professional careers. Professional players promoted outside EGF can participate in European tournaments if it is allowed for that particular tournaments. Exact seeds of those players for affected tournaments is resolved case by case by EGF Professional Committee.