2nd WORLD MIND SPORTS GAMES

Lille 2012
The second World Mind Sports Games

Will be organized in

**Lille (France)**

At **Lille Grand Palais**

August 9 / 23, 2012

by

**IMSA (The International Mind Sports Association)**

[www.imsaworld.com](http://www.imsaworld.com)
The Event

The 2nd World Mind Sports Games will be organized in August 9/23, 2012.

in Lille – France at Lille Grand Palais

The Games will be organized by IMSA (International Mind Sports Association)

- Key figures:
  - 5 Mind Sports: bridge, chess, draughts, Go, Xiang Qi (Chinese Chess)
  - 15 days of competition
  - About 2 000 players from more than 120 countries
  - About 500 staff people (officials, trainers, referees…)
I. Introduction to IMSA and Mind Sports
On the 19th of April 2005, four federations met together under the aegis of SportAccord and decided to constitute the International Mind Sport Association (IMSA)

- The International Mind Sports Association:
  - 4 games: Bridge, Chess, Draughts, and Go.
  - 400 National federations
  - 500 million players
IMSA executive & organizing committee

José Damiani - President (France)

George Makropoulos - Deputy President (Greece - Fide Deputy President)

Thomas Y. Hsiang - General Secretary – Vice President IGF (USA)

Chen Zelan – WXF
China

David Jarrett – Treasurer (England)

Jean Claude Schupp - Honorary Secretary (France)

Harry Otten – President FMJD (The Netherlands)

Gianarrigo Rona – President WBF (Italy)
Mind Sports are real Sports

- A well-structured global organisation
  - A World Federation
    - Zonal Federations
    - National Federations
      - Clubs
      - Players

- Sports with universal values
  - Mind Sports
    - Concentration
    - Fighting spirit
    - Quick reflexes
    - Physical fitness
    - Fair play
    - Discipline
    - Stamina
    - Competitive attitude
    - Training
It is, firstly, a support tool for schools especially for those students with learning difficulties.

Mind sports intervene in the areas of:
- Behaviour (cf. civic education)
- Structuring the mind, reasoning
- Techniques (mental arithmetic, probabilities….)
- Memory
- Concentration

These four mind sports games are taught in schools in many countries all over the world.

Mind sports are also part of a diploma in various top universities.
If physical activity is a fundamental necessity for human beings, the same can be said for mental activity which is an indispensable complement.

Mind Sports are an excellent gymnastic of the mind for men and women of all ages.

Mind sport enhances the immune system, according to a preliminary study by researchers at UC Berkeley.

Playing chess, bridge or another mind sport significantly lowers the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia, according to the most comprehensive study to examine the benefits of challenging intellectual activity among the elderly.

The report bolsters a growing body of evidence that exercising the mind through board games, social activities and education offers powerful protection against mental deterioration and disease.
II. Five Mind Sports
BRIDGE, CHESS, DRAUGHTS, GO, Xiang Qi,
**Bridge**

- **Principle**
  
  Bridge is a game of communication between a pair of players, playing in partnership, and their opposing pair. A contract is decided during the first phase, called the auction. Then the second phase involves the play of the cards, and is based on information gained, together with the probabilities of card distribution.

  Duplicate bridge gives a comparison of results obtained by different pairs holding the same cards, and thus no luck is involved. It is, in reality, a game of skill and judgement. A true sport

- **Key figures**

  - 100 million players
  - 130 countries / 5 continents
  - 1 million affiliated members

- **The World Bridge Federation** has celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2008.

  It is recognized by, or affiliated to:

  - IOC (International Olympic Committee) as an International Sports Federation since 1999
  - ARISF (Association of the IOC Recognized International Sports Federations)
  - SportAccord (Association of International Sports Federations)
  - IMSA (International Mind Sports Association)
Specific information

Through its World Educational Foundation, the WBF has developed a teaching programme especially in schools supported by UNESCO. This programme is actively used in many countries (US, France, Italy, Germany, Netherland, Poland, China, Indonesia…).

- Bridge provides excellent mental training and exercise, involving the calculation of probabilities, analysis of data and the use of memory.
- In Bridge, the understanding created between partners is of great importance and consequently communication, harmony, and solidarity come first.

WBF Championships

- Regular WBF Championships are held annually in the early autumn, in accordance with a four year cycle.
  - The World Bridge Team Championships in the odd years (Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, and World Transnational Open Teams).
  - The World Bridge Games in the Summer Olympic year.
  - The World Bridge Series in the other even year.
  - The World Bridge Youth Championship every year.
Chess

- **Principle**
  
  The Royal Game of Chess. Originally the game of kings, chess today is a sport for all. Sixteen white pieces battle against 16 black pieces on a board of 64 squares.

- **Key figures**
  
  - 300 million players
  - 156 countries / 5 continents
  - 800,000 affiliated members

- **The World Chess Federation (FIDE – Fédération Internationale des Echecs)** was founded in 1924 in Paris, France.

  It is recognized by or affiliated to:
  
  - ARISF (Association of the IOC Recognized International Sports Federations)
  - SportAccord (Association of International Sports Federations)
  - IMSA (International Mind Sports Association)
Specific information

- The purpose and aim of FIDE is the diffusion and development of Chess among nations of the world, as well as the raising of chess culture and knowledge on a sporting, scientific, creative and cultural basis level.
- Chess is played at schools throughout the world. Some of the scholastic events in places like Russia and USA involve very large numbers.

FIDE regular Championships

- World Championship every two years
- International Team Championships every 2 years
- World Team Championship every 4 years
- World Junior and Youth every year
- World Seniors every year
- World Schools Team and Individual Championships every year
Principle

Draughts is an elimination game where one player tries to capture all the pieces belonging to his or her opponent on a board with 100 squares.

Key figures

- 40 million players
- 57 countries / 5 continents

The World Draughts Federation (FMJD – Fédération Mondiale du Jeu de Dames) was founded in 1947 by four Federations (France, the Netherlands, Belgium and Switzerland).

It is affiliated to:

- SportAccord (Association of International Sports Federations)
- IMSA (International Mind Sports Association)
Draughts

- **Specific information**
  - A game *played all over the world* with strong roots in Europe and Asia

- **FMJD regular Championships**
  - Championships for women were introduced in 1973, for juniors in 1971, cadets in 1988 and girls in 1989.
  - Team championships started in 1967 for the senior players and in 1987 for the juniors.
  - Individual European championships, for seniors and youth
  - International club competitions.
Principle
Go is the oldest board game - fascinates for three thousand years. Go is a territorial game, where each player tries to surround the largest part of the board. The sport originated in East-Asia and is now played around the world.

Key figures
- 60 million players
- 68 countries / 5 continents

The IGF was created in 1982
It is affiliated to:
- SportAccord (Association of International Sports Federations)
- IMSA (International Mind Sports Association)
Specific information

- Go originated in South-East Asia, and the majority of Go players and fans will be found in that area. Private initiative characterises the organisation of Go which explains the strong ties with the media and business.

- **GO is well recognized by Asian people & institutions**
  - In China, the government *strongly* supports the organisation and promotion of Go.
  - In Japan Go is recognised as an instrument contributing to key elements of human life, such as young people’s education, leisure activities, mental care for the aged, promotion of culture.
  - In Korea the demand for Go is rising rapidly. A number of Korean youngsters are the top players in the world. They are role models for the Korean youth. In many schools Go is part of the *curriculum*.

- Many Go teachers and promoters have travelled around the world and popularised the game of Go.

Nowadays, Go is heavily broadcast in Asia:

- 15 Chinese television networks. Go broke record of TV viewers on CCTV.
- 3 Korean TV channels are dedicated solely to GO.
- Japan’s National Station (NHK) organises a tournament running throughout the year which is broadcast for two hours every Sunday, attracting a very large audience.
Xiang Qi

- **Principle**

  Xiang Qi is a two-players Chinese board game. It has a long history and is one of the most popular board games in the world. It consists of 32 pieces, playing on a board with 9 vertical lines and 9 horizontal lines. There are rules of the game which make Xiang Qi quite different from Chess, for example: the generals cannot face each other directly; the river and palace are special board features, and the movement of some pieces are restricted.

- **Key figures**
  - 200 million players
  - 20 countries / 4 continents

- **The World Xiang Qi Federation (WXF)**

  WXF was founded in April 6, 1993 during the 3rd World Xiang Qi Championships in Beijing, China.

  The Founder is the late Mr. Henry Fok, former Vice Chairman of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference. The current Chairman is Mr. Timothy Fok.