



FISMTM

Fédération Internationale des Sociétés Magiques
International Federation of Magic Societies

FISM Newsletter

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**To all Presidents of the FISM member-societies
and Delegates in the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the FISM**

Dear Delegate, Dear Friend in Magic,

JURY QUALIFICATION & SOFTWARE SYSTEM

For future competitions the BoD is considering the use of an online scoring system that was proposed and developed by Xavier Tapias. It's clear that we won't venture onto thin ice and will see to it that the system is fully operational and thoroughly tried out before it will be used and, in the event that it offers the advantages we expect, be put at the disposal of interested member societies.

Xavier gives us the following answers to some essential questions:

WHY?

The new online scoring system for judges of FISM competitions, will allow having an absolute control, instantly and without errors, of the long and complicated process that any contest entails.

The reliability of the data, the exact calculation of averages and the ease and speed of use will be some of its clear advantages.

Each judge will have a tablet-PC connected by a closed WIFI network (not connected to the internet) to a central computer that will generate, compile and assist the entire judging process (before, during and after the judging).

The President and the Jury Support Officer will have all information at their fingertips during the whole judging process and the Contest Rules will be rigorously followed

HOW DOES IT WORK?

This system is based on one of the most powerful tools created by Microsoft: the Microsoft Access (available in the Office pack).

The software is entirely developed by me and the maintenance will be done by me with the help of Andrea Baioni. This means that NO ONE outside of FISM will have access to the information.

All the information generated before, during and after the contest, will be controlled 100% by the FISM Board. Only one computer will have the whole program and all the results of the data base. The tablet-computers used by the judges, will not store any information. They'll just see to it that the averages of each competitor are sent to the main computer in time.

The WIFI will never be connected to the internet. This means that the system is 100% secured against hackers and that only the tablets, protected by a safe password, will be connected.

COST

The software is my property, but I won't charge FISM any fee. So, the cost calculated for this project will be very reasonable. FISM only needs to provide:

- *one MAIN PC portable computer with WINDOWS SYSTEM and OFFICE (with Access program);*
- *a number of Tablet-PC's with WINDOWS SYSTEM and OFFICE (with Access);*
- *one router for WIFI.*

DEVELOPMENT STEPS

After the first software trials are run, I'll implement all necessary modifications following the advice of the FISM BoD with Andrea Baioni supervising the whole development process.

Baioni recommends that, after it turns out that the trials are satisfactory, we test the system in a real competition that could be eligible as a FISM Compliance Competition where the Jury panel is composed by FISM Official Judges. (E.g. the "Trofeo Balli" – Masters of magic convention in Italy could be the right occasion for this.) I suggest that part of the judging panel then uses the conventional scoring method so that after the contest we can check and evaluate the results without risk of treating the competitors unfairly.

The Board is of the opinion that the development and adoption of the jury software system will offer an excellent opportunity to remedy some of the flaws in our current scoring system. Several experienced and knowledgeable members of international jury panels will be asked to help us tackle the problem. The results of this endeavour should lead to the necessary improvements which, if being accepted by the General Assembly, will hopefully make it easier to come to a generalized FISM scoring system.

It is no longer defensible that FISM, being a global organization, cannot propose a system of grading contest performances that can be endorsed by all clubs worldwide.

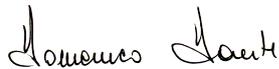
Not only do we have to reconsider the criteria and rename some of them, using the exact terms and thus making it clear for everyone what is meant, we also have to come to an agreement on how to weigh them. (A system where each judge is free to follow his/her own preferences can easily lead to aberrations.) We also have to decide if a same weighing for each category is sufficient, or – as was the case in the former rules – it's advisable to differentiate and, in that case, how ?

A couple of other appropriate measures are essential too and could be propagated at the same time, but these will have to be the subject of further scrutiny first.

It's clear that these new measures will also be of use in the further development of the JQS (Jury Qualification System), the aim of which is to establish a pool of qualified judges from which the BoD can have its choice, not only to compose the judging panels of future FISM championships, but also to give support and legitimacy to major magic competitions all over the world.

Anyway, I'm well aware that quite some work remains to be done, but I'm convinced that these new initiatives will result in a more practical and at the same time more refined way to evaluate the achievements of our competitors.

Kind Regards,



Domenico Dante
International President

