

Dear EGF board,

Recent changes to the annual fee collection system have led to lengthy discussions in the Czech Go community. In this official request we would like to present our conclusions and ask EGF to reexamine the newly introduced system.

Unfortunately in Czechia our association is not connected to the state or external sponsors, so our budget is limited. If the player fee would increase from 3€ to 5€ at the next AGM our EGF fees would be roughly equal to 800€, which is 40% of our 2022 yearly budget (about 4 times more than in 2020).

Our current budget is very reliant on the annual collection of player membership fees, these make up about 70% of our budget. We believe that the fee structure we have is set up correctly for our country and that making changes will not generate a vastly greater amount.

The current EGF fee is paid by players of 10 kyu and above active in the last 3 years that played under a paying country flag.

We see two issues with this rule.

1) active in the last 3 years

We understand that the EGD database makes it easy for the EGF to collect information about the player population of a country. It is a handy tool, but the three year window makes the whole system twisted. A casual player may enter a tournament once every three years or may simply stop playing. We do not see a reason for the national organization to be paying for the years the player is not playing.

If we want to take it a step further, a national association would still have to pay for a deceased player. Not talking about morality, this hopefully hints at the strangeness of the three year time window.

2) played under a country flag

There is a big difference between a player just playing for a country and playing for a country **and paying a fee to the national association**. Taking every player from EGD includes all of the non-paying members. Basically, each non-paying player generates a debt of 3*X€ for his national association. While we could change our system drastically, so that 10kyus and above must be paying to play in tournaments (a change that we believe would not generate more money, just unhappy people), it wouldn't solve the problem anyway as we have no control over internet and foreign tournaments.

Proposed changes:

We believe that each national organization has its own database of paying members, which is updated yearly. National organizations can share this data with the EGF and the yearly fee can be calculated by the number of paying players above 10 kyu that have played in the previous year.

We understand that it may not be as convenient as using the EGD database, but convenience shouldn't be a more important factor than correctness..

Were these rules not changed, we might be forced to adopt some of these measures:

- 1) Change our fee collection system in a way that accounts for the three year all-player window. It will probably lead to diminishing our player base, as casual players would need to pay a lot to play a tournament.
- 2) Our national internet leagues, Go camp tournaments etc, where a lot of casual players gather, will no longer be sent to EGD.
- 3) Casual players that enter a tournament without paying to the national association would have their nationality in EGD changed to XX.

These steps go against our beliefs, will reduce the spreading of Go and we would like to avoid them, but they are the steps that are currently being discussed as a solution.

We understand that many associations weren't affected by the new system, as their fee remained approximately the same or became even lower, but we believe our arguments are sound and could be accepted by all associations.

Thank you for considering our proposal,
Czech Go association