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Appeals Committee – 2024 FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Championship

December 27, 2024

Subject: Written Verdict of the Appeals Committee in reference to the Appeal filed by IM Anna M. Sargsyan (FIDE ID 13308130)

In accordance with the Fair Play Regulations for the FIDE World Rapid and Blitz, IM Anna M. Sargsyan was subjected to post-game checks after her game with GM Zhao Xue. IM Sargsyan was found to have earbuds in her possession. This clearly violates both the regulations for the tournament and the spirit of fair play called for of all players by FIDE. Although she won her game at the board, her game was declared a loss by the Chief Arbiter after the earbuds were discovered. IM Sargsyan appealed the decision of the Chief Arbiter. The Appeals committee met and considered the written statement submitted by IM Sargsyan.

The following quote is from the Fair Play regulations for the tournament:

It is forbidden to bring the following items into the playing area:

1. Mobile phones, laptops, tablets (and any other electronic devices or parts thereof, unless explicitly allowed by the Chief Arbiter or the Chief Fair Play Officer)
2. Watches (of any kind)
3. Headphones, earphones, earplugs (and any other similar devices)
4. Pens
5. Sunglasses
6. E-cigarettes (vapes)
7. Backpacks and other complex bags.

The appeals committee finds that IM Sargsyan violated the rules and shall lose her Round 6 game with a score of 1-0. This ruling does not otherwise affect her status in the tournament.

Signed:

VISWANATHAN ANAND
International Grand Master
Chairman of the Appeals Committee