



Why? Fair Play Titles Are Necessary



Times Have Changed—So Must the Tools

Yes, arbiters have done fair play duties for years.

But the **complexity** and **stakes** of modern cheating are at an all-time high. It's no longer just checking pockets or watching for suspicious glances.

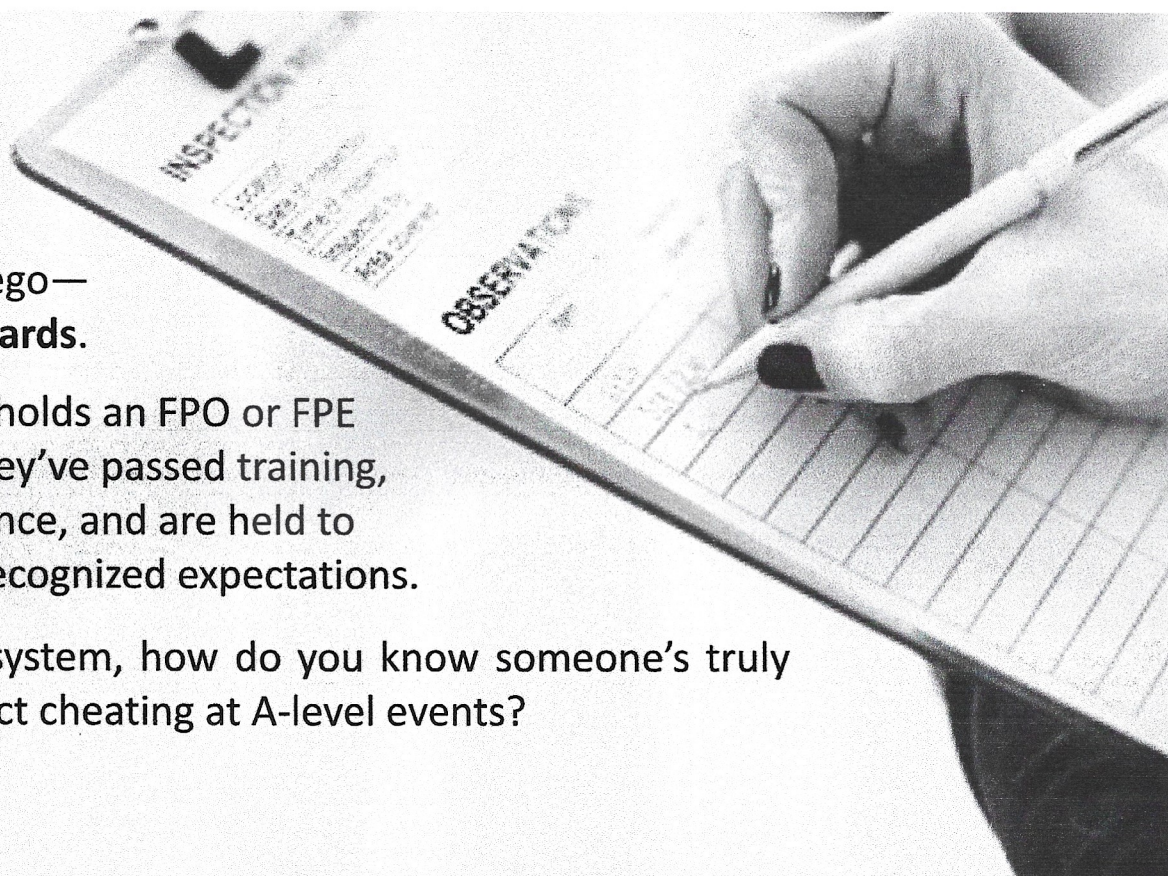
It's about **behavior analysis**, **remote monitoring**, **devices' understanding**, **statistical red flags**, and **multi-layered protocols**.

That requires **specialized knowledge and continuous education**, just like we have in other chess roles (e.g., Trainers, Organizers).

Titles aren't for ego—
they're for **standards**.

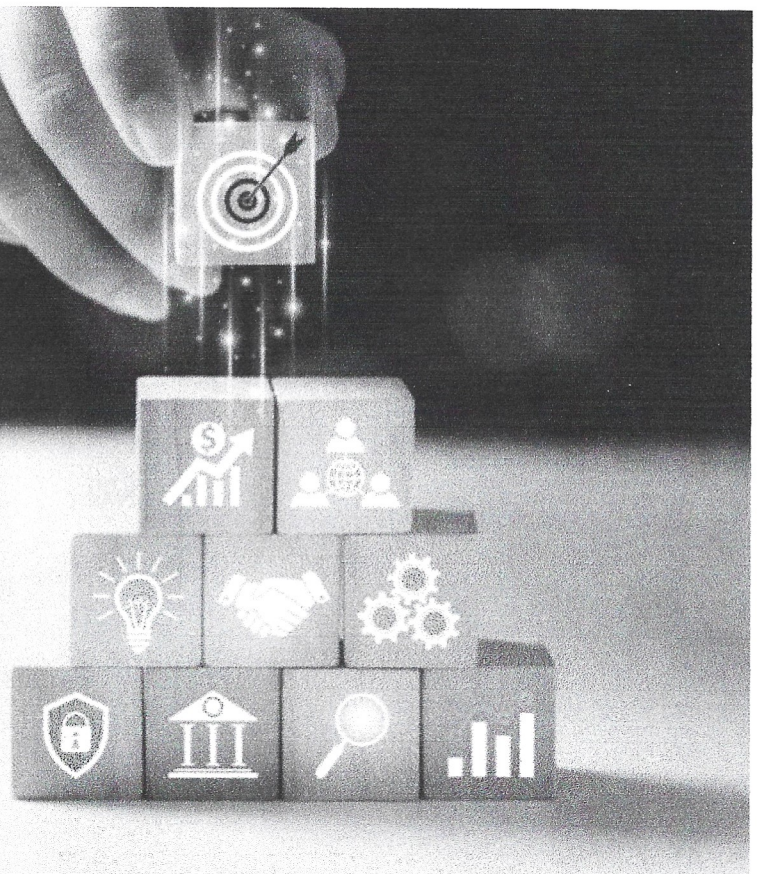
When someone holds an FPO or FPE
title, it means they've passed training,
proven competence, and are held to
internationally recognized expectations.

Without a title system, how do you know someone's truly
qualified to detect cheating at A-level events?



If the argument is “we never needed titles before,” then by that logic, arbiters wouldn’t need FA, IA, or NA either.

But we do—because they’re **crucial** to structure. Just as IA titles formalize and recognize arbiter **excellence**, FPE/FPO titles do the same for fair play professionals.

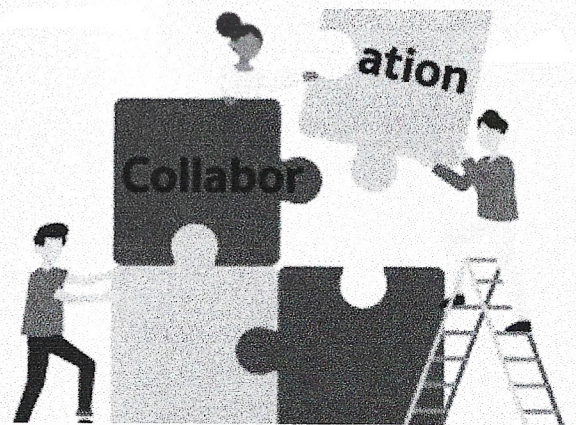


Collaboration Is the Goal, Not Competition

This isn't about "same level" in hierarchy—it's about **team structure**. The goal is not to devalue arbiters, but to make **the entire tournament system stronger**.

Just like a tournament has arbiters, pairings officers, appeals committees, and organizers — Fair Play is another pillar.

Not a rival.

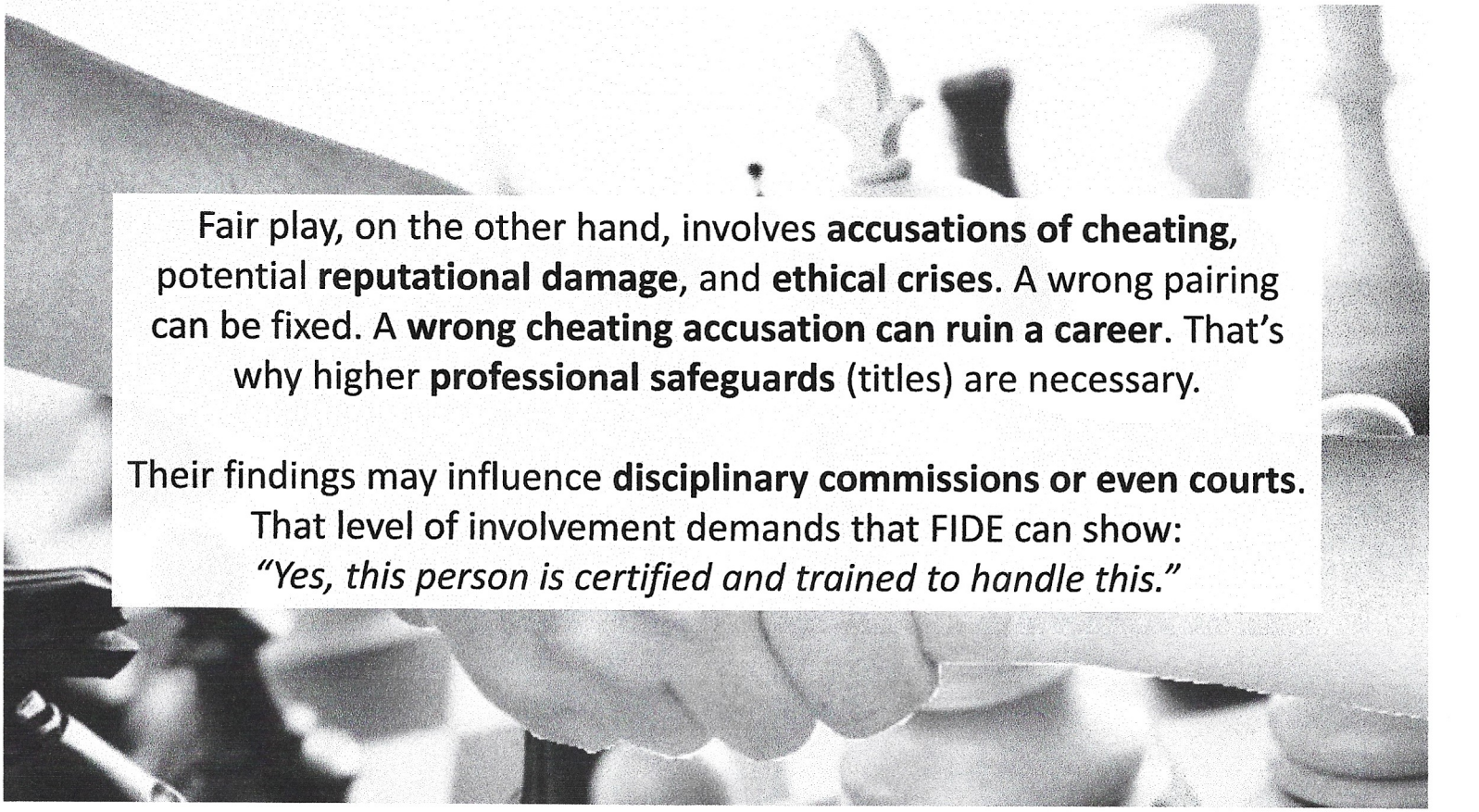




Fair Play Needs Titles but Pairings Officers Don't

Pairings $\neq$ Fair Play: Different Levels of Risk and Responsibility

Pairings officers manage — Swiss Manager (or other pairing software), tiebreaks. It's important, yes, but **errors in pairings are visible and correctable.**



Fair play, on the other hand, involves **accusations of cheating**, potential **reputational damage**, and **ethical crises**. A wrong pairing can be fixed. A **wrong cheating accusation can ruin a career**. That's why higher **professional safeguards** (titles) are necessary.

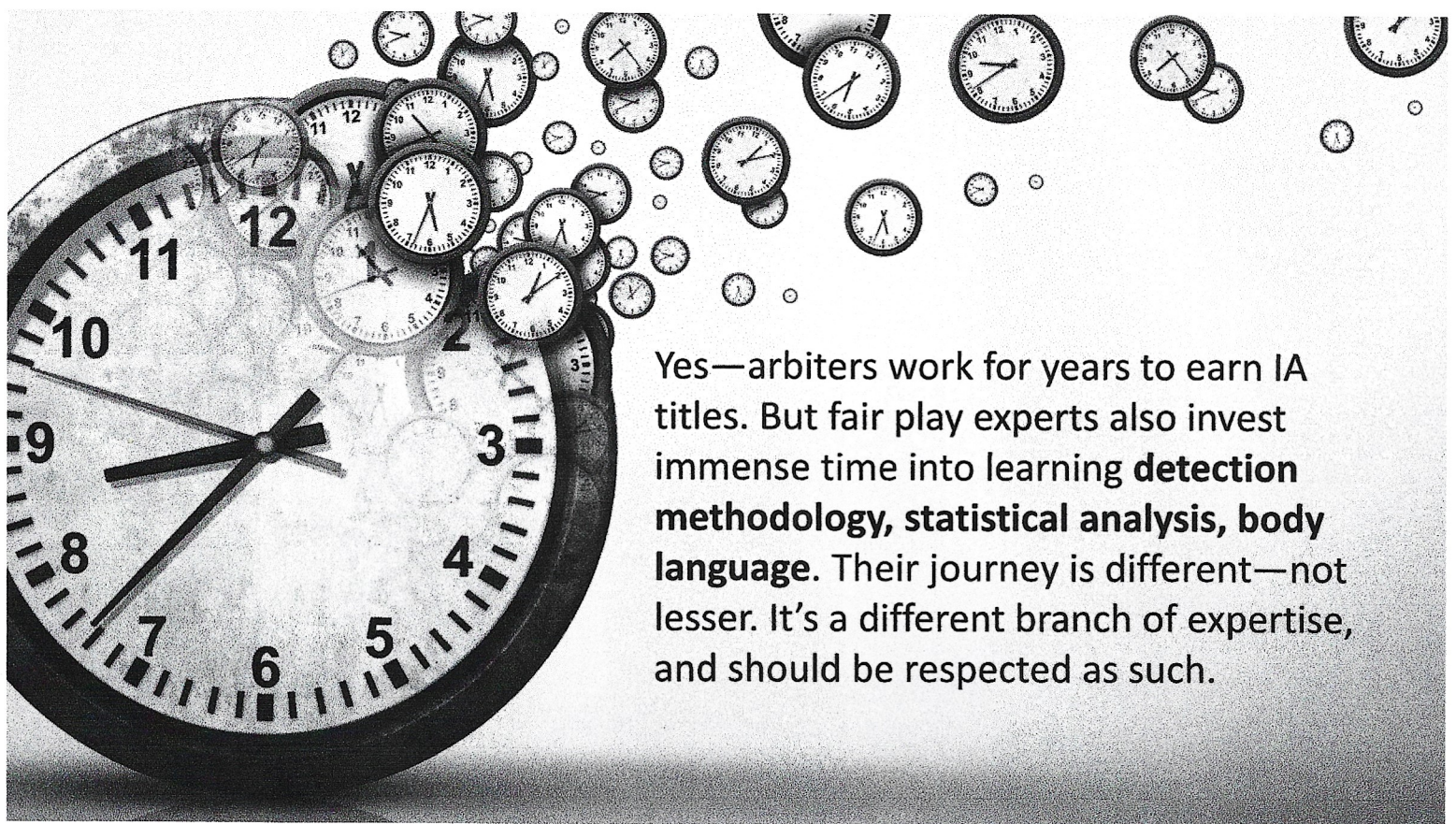
Their findings may influence **disciplinary commissions or even courts**. That level of involvement demands that FIDE can show:
"Yes, this person is certified and trained to handle this."

Pairing Arbiters play a vital role, applying deep knowledge of regulations to ensure accurate pairings, tie-breaks, and proper use of software. Their technical expertise and judgment are essential for smooth events.

Fair play, however, requires **in-the-moment human judgment**, pattern recognition, and decision-making under ambiguity.

That kind of role **can't rely on just being "an experienced arbiter"**. It requires dedicated, verified training.

Pairings and Fair Play are both critical—but only one of them directly handles accusations that could derail a player's career and have a deep psychological effects. That's why higher formal recognition and oversight is appropriate.



Yes—arbiters work for years to earn IA titles. But fair play experts also invest immense time into learning **detection methodology, statistical analysis, body language**. Their journey is different—not lesser. It's a different branch of expertise, and should be respected as such.

FPOs and FPEs are not placed *above* arbiters. They operate *alongside* them, focusing on a **very specific and technical part** of the tournament: anti-cheating monitoring and evaluation.

Fair Play teams are there to support, not supersede.

