

# Fairness Committee 2015 Selection Entrance Exam

- The Exam contains **4 subjects**.
- Maximum points that a participant can earn: **20**.
- Estimated time to solve the exam: **30 minutes**.

1. Why do you want to be part of the EM Fairness Committee? (4.5 points)

I want to be part of the EM Fairness Committee, because I want to help in EM organization with my time, experience and ideas. It's the only contest I take part, I'm here for more than 3 years and I know I can help, "repay" for all those memories I got for more than 40 editions I'm in. The main thing, I think I can help, is songs verification. Every player expects to fair treated and that his song will be checked correctly. Of course, he should do his best to send value entry, but the job of the FC is to verify it for 100% with the rules. Being in EM so long time I recognize many songs, those from editions under EM20 too. I was the bad guy who discovered couple of mistakes in verification after revealing the songs, which caused DSQ of country/player. I would really like to help avoid those situations, improve EM in verification process and just make it faster, checking the songs onboard, so the draw could be made much earlier. That's the main thing I see myself in FC.

Also I like statistics, rankings and similar things, so I could help with updating medal table, hall of fame or create new interesting things to the players. I loved the idea of introducing show and I'm big supporter of this. With some technical help I could take it up, presenting songs for the first time to the people during the show. Also I could help with updating the website. So, in my opinion there is many things I can offer to improve work of the FC and the whole EM.

2. Describe the "People's Choice" Selection. How can it be improved? Give examples. (4 points)

First of all, I want to say, that I'm a big fan of the current last qualifier choosing method. I find it exciting and way more fair than previous ways for making it. Why? I remember the time of secret jury and poll voting, then only poll voting. In my opinion it wasn't fair, because everyone could vote in the poll. Many players didn't vote and that caused strange results at the end. The idea was nice – to take 2 best non-qualifiers from both semis and put them into a second chance. Thumb up, guys! Only realization failed. If only EM players would vote and everybody would do it, then it could make sense.

The most unfair was experimental "thing" in EM 44 called Judges choice. I remember controversies and unclear rules of it. But I'm glad that FC saw that and they made quick decision to change it.

Now the current method – 11<sup>th</sup> qualifier with the most number of voters, no matter of number of points for me it's a happy medium. I talked with some players about it after EM editions ended. I heard voices that more fair would be just put top11 from each SF. That would be easy for sure, but if more interesting or fair? I don't think so. I thought about alternative methods like 2 countries with best score, no matter of SF (so 2 Q countries could be from one SF), or taking average of points, because sometimes we have semi finals with non equal number of voters. Current People's choice is awesome for me. Now every single point counts! Dilemma between giving 0 or 1 point can save one country and give it ticket to the final. Also, in a case of the same number of voters I like the idea of cutting 1p, then 2 etc. not looking at 12's. This way we appreciate whole thing, not that 1 single person only loved one song.

So, as for now I don't see a need to improve this selection. It's exciting, fair and teaches respect for every single point in the voting process. I'm very glad because of having this way of selection in EM!

3. Rule no. 5.7 states the fact that: “The FC will propose, vote and apply new rules”.<sup>1</sup> What are your thoughts about this rule? Give relevant examples to support your argument/s. (5 points)

Rule no. 5.7 regards rules changing, removing those which are not useful anymore and adding more responsive ones to the current EM conditions. As we all know, everything changes. Rules that developed EM at the beginning, with time became outdated.

FC is the place to check the value of the rules currency and propose new EM “law”. I don’t think it should be used too often, because rules are like contest’s constitution. People should used to the rules and know them well. That’s good that any new rule must be voted by the FC and it’s only accepted if 4/5 members support it, not only 3/5. In my opinion, every change should be precede by consulting it with other EM members (as we create a community) in a poll, open comments etc.

Let’s say, once an EM season, maybe during the last or second last edition, there could be open thread/special form to fill, where every member could propose new/changed rule and after particular time FC members would collect all the ideas (with their personal, of course, as they are EM members as well) and consider them in discussion and voting to make it real for the upcoming new season. I think it would be better to put it at once instead of changing 1-2 rules time to time (but everything depends on circumstances, sometimes it’s important to react fast). If there will be no need to change anything, it’s not a must, that’s clear. But I think it’s good to know players’ opinion, how they would like to change EM to improve it, so everybody would have fun from it. I find consulting with other members very important, not only to propose and vote new rules in FC ring. People should know what is prepared, personally I would avoid the situation of doing everything by FC and then inform others about all decisions.

I realize that FC is chosen decisive group from all the members, but anyway, consulting would be with benefit for everyone, for EM’s good. However, as we should be open to new ideas, we shouldn’t change basic rules, which create essence of Eurovision Memories Song Contest.

4. PROBLEM: Belarus submitted a song which was used by Russia 17 editions ago. It qualified in the Final. The F.C failed to detect the issue and now almost half of the EM Participants voted in the Grand Final. What can the F.C do now? Give examples to support your arguments.

If the song wasn’t verified correctly and it was missed, now, in theory, there is some ways to solve the problem:

1. Do nothing, as it wasn’t detected during whole SF voting and half of the final voting, so let the things be as they are for now (not recommended! – highly unfair and unacceptable to let the same song finish and be counted in EM; it’s contradiction to the fairness of the game and there can’t be any exceptions)
2. Disqualify Belarus (sadly), but for the current edition only, as it wasn’t purposeful action and:
  - a) Ask the people who voted for Belarus to correct their votes (possible, but messy!)
  - b) Restart whole final voting with (or without) replacing Belarus by the next country from SF (messy x2! And quite unworkable, but the most FAIR)
  - c) Just put the Belarus to the last place only with points it got so far (after detecting people can’t still vote for Belarus)

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<sup>1</sup> Eurovision Memories Song Contest Rules - 2014

The main thing is to face up the problem, react, for sure not hide it! We all make mistakes, so there should be made an official statement with admitting to the issue and clear resolving it, so everyone knows what, how and why. It's very important to show to the EM Family, that we do fair, no matter of mistakes we make. Then we should take a lesson and do our best to avoid situations like this in the future. If there would be one single person responsible for the mistake, he should get a warning. We can't turn back time, but we can improve our actions in the future and be more careful in verifying entries.

About the case, for me it's clear that Belarus can't finish the final. FC must vote what to do now. The easiest thing seems to be 2c, but I would support 2a. Time for voting can be 1-2 days longer then, if necessary. I think it's too late for restarting the whole voting, but it's up to FC and organizers.

Good luck!