

Efstratios Grivas - Curriculum Vitae

Efstratios Grivas was born in Greece (Egio, Achaia), on March 30th 1966. He grew up in Athens, in the neighbourhood of Kallithea, as his family moved to the Greek capital in 1970. His registration at the Kallithea Chess Club in 1979 was his first contact with chess.

His chess evolution was immediate and rapid, as only two years later he won the Greek Cadet Championship, under the coaching guidance of FM Panagiotis Drepaniotis (1979-1981). It immediately became clear that he was a very talented young chess-player, capable of great achievements in his chosen sport.

The course of Efstratios Grivas' chess career fulfilled expectations as, under the guidance of his trainers IM Dr. Nikolai Minev (1981-1982), FM Michalis Kaloskambis (1984-1986), GM Efim Geller (1987-1988) and IM Nikolai Andrianov (1990-1996), he conquered all (Greek and International) titles awarded by the Greek Chess Federation and the International Chess Federation (FIDE). A significant role in his development was played by the training he received in Moscow in 1984 by outstanding members of the chess world.

Up to this day Efstratios Grivas has played in Greece for the following clubs: Kallithea Chess Club (1979-1994 & 2011-), OAA 'Iraklion' (1995-1998), Kavala Chess Club (1999), AO 'Kydon' Khandia (2000-2005), A.E.K. (2006-2009) and Skakistiki Academia Thessalonikis 'Galaxias' (2010). He has also participated in the German Teams' Championship (Hungen Lich, 2001-2002) and in the Turkish Teams' Championship (Pamukkale Universitesi Spor Kulubu, 2008-2009).

One has to mention his rich contribution to the Greek National Teams, as from 1982 until 1999 (when he retired) he represented the country 186 times (12 in the National Junior Team and 174 in the National Men's Team), having participated in eight Olympiads (1984, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998), three European Team Championships (1989, 1992, 1997), twelve Balkaniads (1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994) and various other events.

During his competitive activity Efstratios Grivas emerged victorious at least once in each of the categories of the Greek Championships in which he participated, and also won several individual and team medals in Balkaniads, Acropolis international tournaments etc.

His greatest success was winning the Silver Individual Medal (on the 3rd board) in the 33rd Chess Olympiad in 1998; this remains the only Olympic medal Greece has ever won to this day. Other important successes were the Gold Individual Medal (on the 3rd board) in the European Team Championship in 1989, 4th place in the World Junior Championship in 1985, 1st place in the 1987 Munich international tournament (320 participants), 11th individual place (on the 4th board) in the 32nd Chess Olympiad in 1996, qualification of his club (OAA 'Iraklion') to Europe's best 16 clubs in 1997 (European Club Cup) and several good placements in international tournaments: 3rd in Paris 1982, 1st in Cap d'Agde 1983, 2nd in Karditsa 1984, 3rd in Bucharest 1984, 2nd in Strasbourg 1985, 2nd in Munich 1986, 3rd in Xanthi 1991, 2nd in Gausdal 1993, 3rd in Reykjavik 1994, 2nd in Limassol 1997, 1st in Hellexp-Sportexpo 2001, 1st in the inaugural Greek Internet Championship in 2002 (chess.gr) and others. In 1996 he was voted chessplayer of the year in the first Greek Chess Media poll.

Alongside his competitive chess career, Efstratios Grivas has also pursued a multitude of other activities:

1. Author: From 1982 on he successfully worked as a journalist in newspapers and magazines (in Greek and in English). Between January 1992 and September 1999 he was editor-in-chief and main contributor of the monthly magazine of the Greek Chess Federation, Greek Chess.

Moreover, from 1984 to this day he has written 95 chess books, essays, studies and DVDs in Greek, Arabic, English, Spanish, Italian and Turkish languages, that are used as the basis for the chess improvement of hundreds of young chessplayers.

He was awarded the worldwide highly important FIDE TRG Awards - Boleslavsky

Medal (best author) for 2009 & 2015, he was awarded the highly important FIDE TRG Awards - Euwe Medal (best junior trainer) for 2011 & 2012 and he was awarded the highly important FIDE TRG Awards - Razuvaev Medal (Trainers' education) for 2014.

Finally an opening variation has been added to his credit; it is called the 'Grivas Sicilian', characterised by the moves 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Qb6.

2. Administrator - Organiser: He was a founding member of the Association of Top Greek Chessplayers (1995) and has since been a member of its Policy Board (Executive Secretary 1996-1997 and Vice-President since 1998).

From 1996 until 1999 he held the position of Greek Chess Federation Technical Advisor, his main duties including the Competition Calendar (scheduling - application), the organisation of chess events of any kind and the promotion of chess all over Greece in general.

During the period 2014-2016, he served in the position of the Technical Director of the United Arab Emirates Chess Federation.

Finally, he served as a board member of FIDE's Players' Council (1998-2002), a board member of FIDE's Trainers' Committee (2005-2008) and Secretary of FIDE's Trainers' Commission (2009-).

He holds the titles of FIDE International Organiser - was a co-organiser of the 1999 European Youth Championships in Litchoro Pierias with more than 1000 participants, the FIDE Congress 2015 & the Asian Nations Cup 2015, FIDE International Arbiter and FIDE Senior Trainer, titles that are awarded according to specific requirements and are not honorary.

3. Trainer: His work in this field includes more than 12.000 hours of training in many clubs, especially with younger players. From 1986 to 1991 he was the Federal Trainer of the National Juniors Team, while he has developed or greatly assisted several Greek chessplayers that today are members of the Greek National Teams, with the titles of GM and IM (and Greek Champions in their respective categories), such as Hristos Banikas, Alexander Ipatov, Antoaneta Stefanova, Anna-Maria Botsari, Spyridon Kapnisis,

Konstantinos Moutousis, Anastasios Michailidis, Ioulia & Evanthia Makka, Andreas Tzermiadianos and others. During the period 1989-1990 he was the Trainer of the DEI Macedonia-Thrace Chess Academy, while during 1996-1998 and 2002-2004 he held the same position in Pnevmatiki Stegi Peristeriou Chess Club and finally during 2002-2005 he worked with Koropi Sports & Chess Club as well.

In 2001-2002 he worked as a professor at the Institute of Professional Education in Peristeri and as External Contributor with O.E.E.K. (Sports Department - Chess Trainer Faculty) while from 2001-2004 he also offered his chess services to the Military Officers' Academy.

Since 2003 he cooperates with the Greek Chess Federation as a Federal Trainer in multiple training programs and in 2006-2012 he also cooperated with the Turkish Chess Federation as a Federal Trainer (and worked with champions and titled players as Kivanc Haznedaroglu, Emre Can, Mert Erdogdu, Baris Esen, Mustafa Yilmaz, Umut Atakisi, Alexander Ipatov (World Junior Champion U.20), Dragan Solak and many others) and many other top-players (Antoaneta Stefanova, Christian Chirila, e.t.c.).

He participated in the 1st World Mind Sports Games Festival (Beijing 2008) and then in many TRG events he was the main lecturer at the official FIDE Trainers' Seminars. Finally, he served as the official commentator of the FIDE World Championship 2010, for CNC and for the FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Championships 2012.

In 2012 he founded the 'Grivas Chess International Academy' (approved by FIDE & ESO) helping the chess development in the Greek schools. Director of the UAE Chess Federation FIDE Academy (2015-2016).

In 2013 he hold the position of the head coach of the Greek National Men Team. In 2014 he hold the position of the head coach of the Sri Lanka National Men Team and in 2016 the position of the head coach of the United Arab Emirates National Men Team.

In 2017 he led the World's Team U.17 as Captain & Coach in the match USA vs. The World (U.17 & U.14), which won heavily by the World.

Finally, he has made various workshops with the National Teams of Austria (Women), Germany (Women), Jordan (Women), Mauritius (Men) and Sri Lanka (Men - Gold Medal - Group D in the 41st Chess Olympiad & Women).

4. Business activities: At a very young age

(Thessaloniki, 1988-1990) he practiced business development and management. During 1999-2002 he was active in financial services, as he is trained and certified in subjects related to Mutual Funds, Stock Market Options and Futures and Company Internal Auditing.

CHESS TITLES		
NN	DESCRIPTION	YEAR
01	C' Category (Greek)	1980
02	B' Category (Greek)	1980
03	A' Category (Greek)	1981
04	Candidate Master	1981
05	Master	1982
06	National Master	1983
07	FIDE Master	1983
08	International Master	1984
09	International Grandmaster	1993
10	International FIDE Organiser	1998
11	International FIDE Arbiter	1998
12	Senior FIDE Trainer	2005

TABLE OF GREEK CHAMPIONSHIPS - ACROPOLIS INT		
NN	DESCRIPTION	YEAR
01	Team Championship	1982-1983-1985-1988-1995-1996 1997-1999 2000-2001-2002-2003-2004
02	Team Cup	1984-1995-1999-2000 2001-2002-2003
03	Individual Men's Championship	1983-1996
04	Individual Open Championship	1992-2003
05	Individual Rapid Championship	1996
06	Individual U20 Championship	1982-1985
07	Individual U16 Championship	1981
08	Acropolis Int. Tournament	1983-1986-1991

TABLE OF MEDALS		
NN	DESCRIPTION	YEAR
01	Individual European Gold	1989
02	Individual Olympic Silver	1998
03	Individual Balkan Gold	1988-1992-1993
04	Individual Balkan Bronze	1986
05	Team Balkan Gold	1982-1992
06	Team Balkan Silver	1993
07	Team Balkan Bronze	1994