

**An Official's View**  
**By Dr. Azmy**  
***Geographical Separation***

One of the basic regulations we are trying to deal with is the issue of geographical separation. It is extremely frustrating to come to a tournament after spending all your money for travel and lodging, only to find yourself playing a fellow club partner in one of your first matches. We in the U.S. play under different conditions than many other places in the world. The cities and states are not so close together. In Europe, it may take an hour to travel from one country to another. The cost of public transportation is reasonable. Several techniques have been tried but most of them do not achieve their goal.

The issue has been discussed several times at the Rules/Officials Committee. Finally, we have a new proposal, which has been approved by the Officials Committee, which will be printed in the new Tournament Handbook. Here is the new regulation:

**“Entry forms will include an item for the player’s club affiliation and club address.”**

This will help those conducting the draws to clearly see if players are from the same club, city or state. We can even ask the players to include the name of the club in brackets beside their name: John Do (SJSUTTC, San Jose, CA.)

We know, of course, that all entry forms include the address of the player. Therefore, it is easy to see if players are conforming to the new regulation. Logically, we do not expect a player from California to belong to a club in New York.

To make this successful, we need the help of the players, coaches, club and tournament directors, umpires, and referees.