

As announced by the Japan Shogi Association (JSA), I, Hiroyuki Miura, was suspended from playing shogi on October 12, 2016 and I am not permitted to play in the 29th Ryuo title match.

The reason given for this is that I am suspected of having used shogi software during my games, since I "often left the board" during games and there was a "high possibility" that the moves I played corresponded with those of computer software. However, I have in fact never made use of shogi software in any game I have played. The submission requested by the JSA of a notification that I was unable to play in the Ryuo title match was due to this suspicion that I used shogi software, which is a false accusation, so it can hardly be said that my suspension was based on appropriate procedures.

Although I was informed by the JSA of these suspicions on October 11 and October 12, 2016, and no demands were made of me by the JSA on those occasions, I have submitted of my own volition my two laptop computers, two desktop computers, and images of all the applications on my smartphone. I have no doubt that, if all these materials were examined, they would clearly prove my innocence of all the allegations. However, the JSA has decided unilaterally to suspend me from playing shogi without investigating these materials. This is a great shame.

I have requested the JSA to provide written evidence that I was away from the board for a long period of time and that my moves have a high correspondence with those of shogi software. If such materials are analyzed, I think they will show that there is no relationship between my leaving the board and the moves I played. However, the JSA has not publicly disclosed these materials. I therefore have no way of knowing which of my moves are supposed to correspond to what moves of computer software.

While I was away from the board, I was lying down in the resting room "Katsura no ma" in the Shogi Kaikan building and thinking about my next move, or I went to the washroom in the building. Regarding meals during

shogi games, I almost always order food to be delivered from outside. In the games under suspicion, I did not leave the Shogi Kaikan.

It is common knowledge that many shogi professionals now make use of shogi software as part of their research before games. I also use shogi software in my pre-game research. Since the position on the board can to a certain extent be predicted in the opening and middlegame, I think it is only natural that there should be a high correspondence with the moves of shogi software. Regarding the endgame, if the best move were played, it would not be surprising if this corresponded with the software. Accordingly, even if my moves have a high correspondence with those of computer software, there is nothing strange about this. I think that the correspondence between the moves of other shogi professionals and those of a computer would also be particularly high in positions where there is only one main variation of play.

I intend to cooperate in every way I can with the JSA's investigation. In doing so, I am convinced that all the suspicions about me will be cleared.

In such circumstances as these it might be usual to hold a press conference, but I believe that this is a situation where I can express my opinions more clearly in writing.

Hiroyuki Miura

October 18, 2016