



**Why?**

Fair Play Titles Are Necessary

A stack of several old, thick books with worn leather spines. A silver pocket watch with a white face and black hands is hanging from a chain around the middle of the stack. The background is dark and out of focus.

## 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.

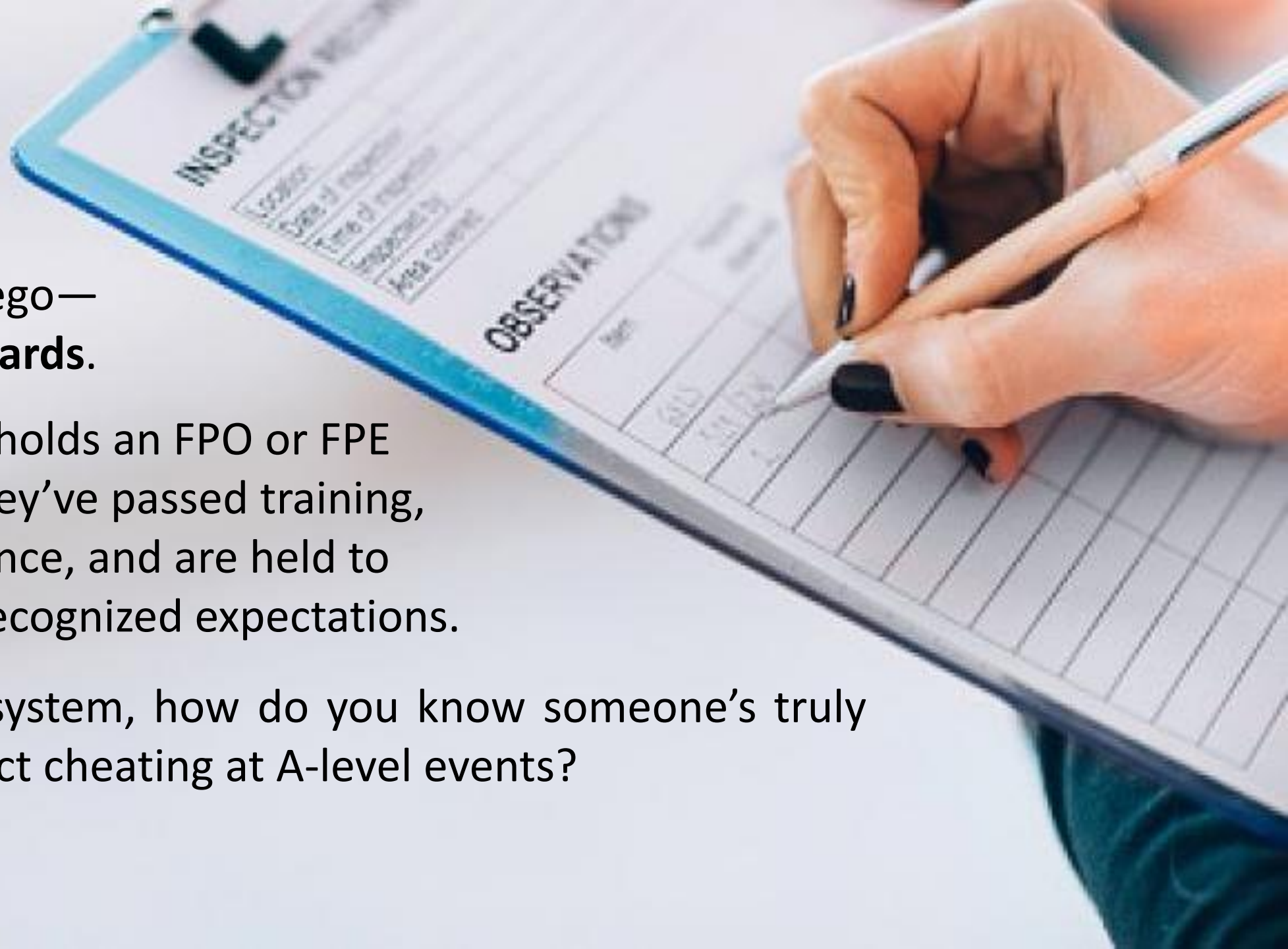
It's about **behavior analysis**, **remote monitoring**, **devices' understanding**, **statistical red flags**, and **multi-layered protocols**.

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.**





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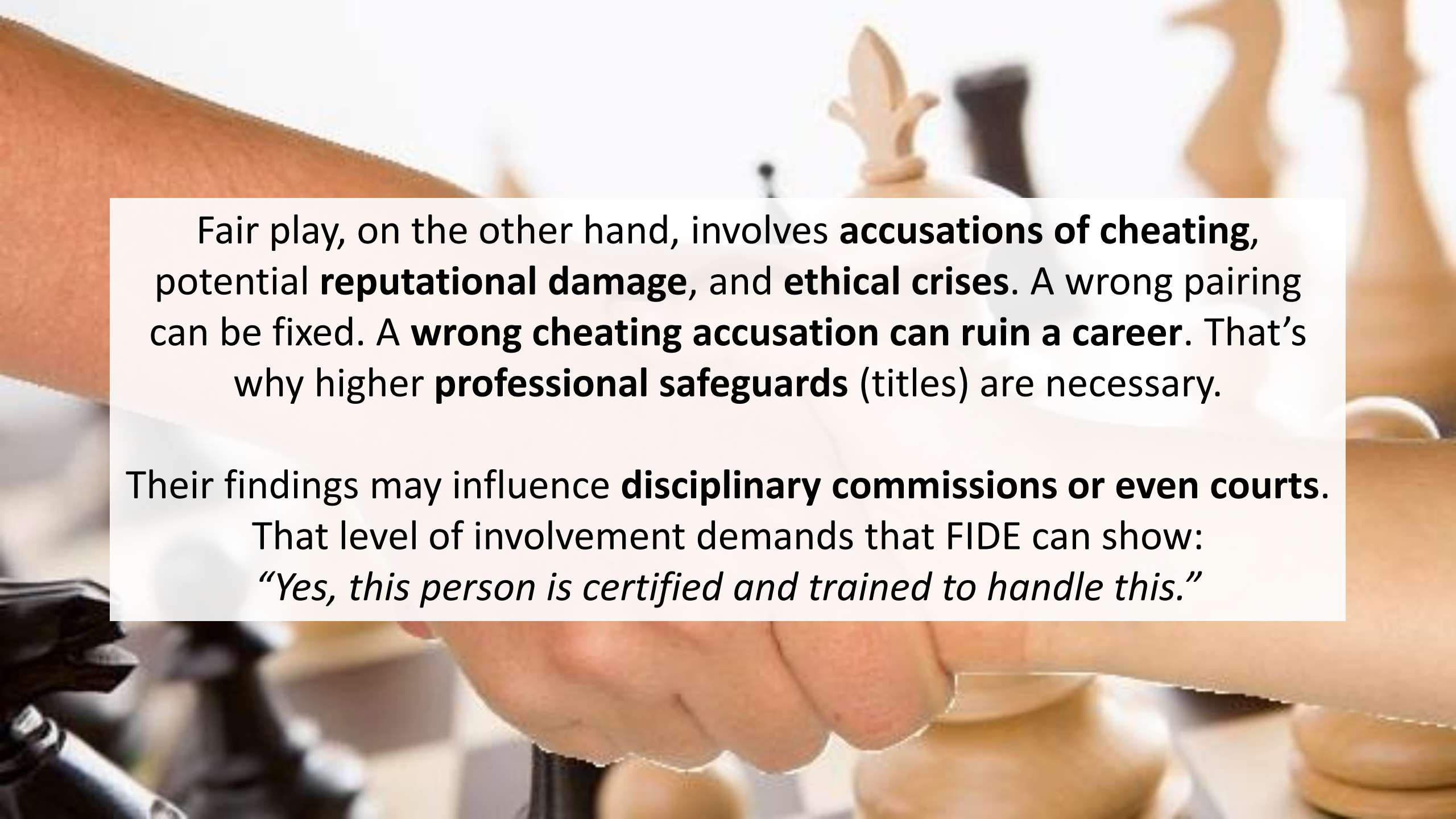
Fair Play Needs Titles but Pairings Officers Don't

A close-up photograph of a chess game in progress. A hand is moving a light-colored king piece. The chessboard has alternating light and dark squares. In the background, a digital display is visible, and other chess pieces are scattered on the board.

## **Pairings ≠ 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.”*

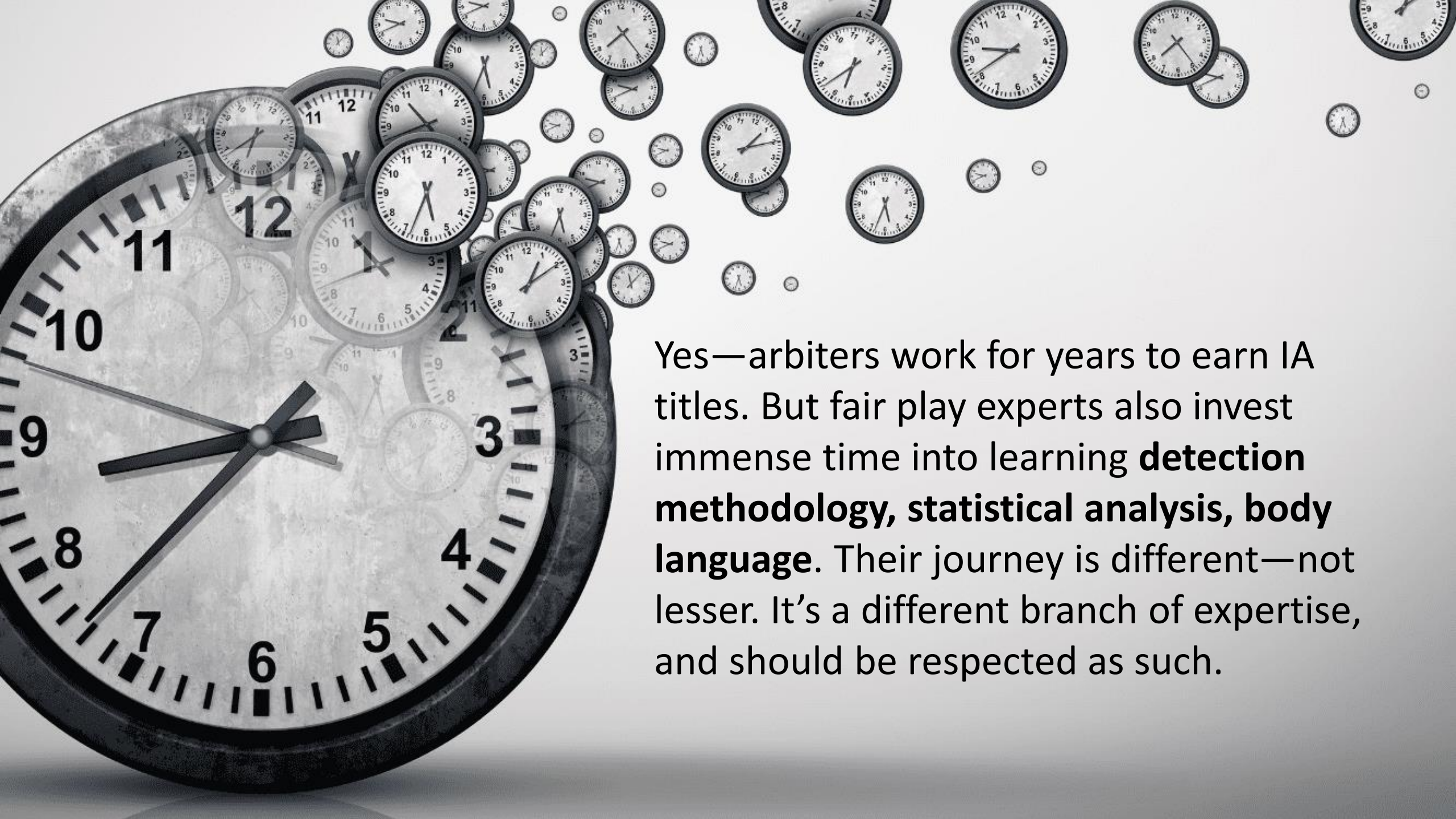


Pairings today are done by software like Swiss Manager.  
The human role is supervisory.

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. 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.



A close-up, top-down view of several hands stacked together in a circle, symbolizing teamwork and support. The hands are of various skin tones and are wearing different colored sleeves: white, yellow with black stripes, grey, and red. One hand in the center is wearing a yellow and black striped wristband and a black and yellow beaded bracelet. The background is a dark, out-of-focus grey.

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.