SINGAPORE CHESS FEDERATION SELECTION GUIDELINES (effective 1 Jan 2020)

1 Scope
1.1 To define the selection policy to represent Singapore in SCF-sanctioned international competitions.
1.2 To segregate the roles and functions of the National Squad and the National Junior Squad.
1.3 This guideline takes effect from 10 January 2020.

2 Objectives
2.1 To define the selection process that would enable players to understand the requirements for selection.
2.2 To define the criteria for entry into the National Squad and the National Junior Squad.
2.2.1 The National Squad focuses on preparing the squad for major international competitions.
2.2.2 The National Junior Squad focuses on giving a good foundational understanding of the game to the trainees.
2.3 To define the various categories of competitions and their objectives for participation.

3 Process
3.1 General
3.1.1 The High Performance (HP) Selection Committee is appointed to oversee the execution of these guidelines.
3.1.2 Any changes to this guideline shall be approved by the SCF Exco, made available in the SCF web-site and communicated to the relevant interested parties.

3.2 International competitions
3.2.1 SCF-sanctioned international competitions are divided into three separate categories:
   - FIDE Key competitions where the main objective is to bring glory and honour to Singapore. SCF may also send players with high potential with the objective to gain experience.
   - FIDE Age Group competitions where the main objective is to prepare our players to participate in key competitions.
   - Other FIDE competitions where the main objective is to provide exposure and experience to our players or competitions with a specific set of participants in mind, e.g. veterans or the disabled.
3.2.2 The list of competitions for each category is indicated in Annex A. This list would be subject to changes when necessary.

3.2.3 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this document, all selection shall also be subjected to the requirements spelt out by the following organisations where applicable:

- Singapore National Olympic Committee
- SportSG
- organizers of the event

3.3 There are two distinct categories, namely the National Squad and the National Junior Squad (NJS). All players in the National Squad should be above age of 20 as at 1 Jan of the year. All players in the National Junior Squad should be at the age of 20 or below as at 1 Jan of the year.

3.4 National Squad
3.4.1 There shall comprise a National Squad from which players will be selected to represent the Singapore in SCF-sanctioned international competitions.

3.4.2 All players in the National Squad should have a minimum standard rating of 2300 (men) or 2100 (women).

3.4.3 The National Squad shall comprise players from the following:

- Participants in the last two Singapore National Championships and
- Players who have played at least 27 FIDE rated standard games in the preceding 12 months prior to the date of application. These games should be sanctioned by FIDE

3.4.4 A player may be excluded from selection into the National Squad for deficiencies in any of the following:

- Attitude during training
- Discipline
- Attendance record of less than 80%

3.4.5 All players selected into the National Squad shall enter into the Singapore Chess Federation Player’s Agreement.

3.4.6 Exiting from the National Squad:

- Player may choose to exit from the National Squad by giving written notice to the SCF.
- SCF may drop players from the National Squad if they no longer meet the selection criteria in clause 3.4.3 above, or has shortcomings as specified in clause 3.4.4.
- Exiting the National Squad shall also terminate the Player Agreement.

3.5 National Junior Squad (NJS)
3.5.1 The NJS is planned and executed under the supervision of the HP Selection Committee.

3.5.2 All players selected into the National Junior Squad shall enter into the Singapore Chess Federation Player’s Agreement and committed to be in the squad for a year.

3.5.3 The NJS shall be conducted by SCF Approved Trainers under the supervision of the SCF National Coach(es)/Technical Director.
3.5.4 The National Junior Squad comprises the following:
- High Performance Squad – sub-divided into the following 2 categories:
  - players with FIDE rating 1501 (standard chess) and above
    - FIDE rating 1601 (standard chess) and above from year 2021
  - players with FIDE rating 1200-1499 (standard chess)
    - FIDE rating 1300-1599 (standard chess) and above from year 2021
- High Performance Intermediate Squad
- National Junior Development Squad

3.5.5 Players will qualify for the NJS based on any of their performance in National Age Group Championships (NAG), National Schools Individual Championships (NSI) or Singapore Amateurs, according to the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>National Schools Individual</th>
<th>National Age Group</th>
<th>Singapore Amateurs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Junior</td>
<td>5 points out of 9 rounds</td>
<td>4 points out of 8</td>
<td>4 points out of 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development Squad</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.5 points out of 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Performance</td>
<td>Add 1 point to above score</td>
<td>Add 1 point to</td>
<td>Add 1 point to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Intermediate) Squad</td>
<td></td>
<td>above score</td>
<td>above score</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The actual criteria for High Performance Squad shall be announced before the commencement for the first round for these tournaments. The National Schools Individual (NSI) results of the current year shall only be applicable for qualifying into the NJS Term for the same year.
National Training Program (NTP) for Under-20
Pathway to Team Singapore selection
NTP Qualification Guidelines Flowchart
(Revised on 30th November 2015)

QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS & POINTS FOR UNDER-20*

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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Qualifying scores are based on the highest number of points obtained in a tournament.
3.5.6 The HP Selection Committee reserves the right to exercise final discretion in the selection of players for the NJS.

3.5.7 National Junior Squad – High Performance Squad
- The High Performance Squad focuses on the players who already have a strong foundational understanding of the game and who has shown potential to move further ahead in the game
- Upon qualification to the High Performance group, the player is allocated into the various groups depending on his age and rating. For those who possess a FIDE standard rating, they will be assigned the groups in their rating band, to be specified by SCF
- Training is held twice a week at specified SCF premises, with focus on theory as well as practical
- All players selected into the High Performance Squad shall enter into the Singapore Chess Federation Player’s Agreement
- Only the top 3 performers in the latest relevant National Age Group competition shall be eligible to apply as official player to play in the following World & Continental tournaments (which may be updated from time to time):
  - World Youth U14, 16, 18 Chess Championships
  - World Cadet U8, 10, 12 Chess Championships
  - World Schools Chess Championships
  - Asian Youth U8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 Championships
  - Asian Schools Chess Championships

3.5.8 National Junior Squad – High Performance – Intermediate
- Players who qualify for High Performance Squad and under age of 10 are placed in this group together with players who fall just short of the qualifying for High Performance Squad
- Training for the HP-I squad is held once a week at specified SCF premises and players assigned into classes by strength. Each training session shall last 3 hours and may include theory as well as FIDE rated training league.

3.5.9 National Junior Squad – Development Squad
- Training for the Development Squad is held once a week at specified SCF premises and players assigned into classes by age. Each training session shall last 3 hours and may include theory as well as practical. The topics shall be announced at the start of each term and subject to changes where appropriate.

3.5.10 The National Coach(es) shall determine the syllabus and prepare worksheets for each member of the squad.

3.5.11 Based on the performance and ratings, players can be promoted or relegated at the end of the training term.
3.6 Competing in international events

3.6.1 Selection for the World Chess Olympiad shall be taken from the following:
- Top two ranked players in the each of the last two National Championships
- Remaining positions shall be decided by SCF on grounds of form, consistency and potential

3.6.2 Performance in the previous National Championship shall play a major criteria in the selection for the remaining FIDE Key Competitions (ref Annex A).

3.6.3 For key international competitions, SCF may allocate subsidies/incentives subject to availability and priority.

3.6.4 All players applying to participate in SCF sanctioned international events will be responsible for all related expenses. Additionally, they are required to submit by email all their games (in single pgn or cbv format), played using standard time controls, and preferably annotated, to the National Coach, not later than ten days after the end of the last round.

3.6.5 To be eligible for selection, all players are required to be in the National Squad or National Junior Squad for the whole year, with an attendance of not less than 80% and have signed the Player’s agreement. For players below the age of 16 as at 1st January, their parents or legal guardians shall also be required to co-sign the Player’s agreement.

3.6.6 Valid reasons of absence include medical leave, illness, injuries, and other reasons to be evaluated on a case by case basis. Relevant documents have to be submitted within 14 days of absence. SCF’s decision on whether to accept the reason as valid shall be final.

3.7 Discipline

3.7.1 Members of the National Junior Squad and players selected for international competitions shall maintain a high level of discipline and professionalism, both during training and participation in any competition, failing which disciplinary action will be taken against them.

3.7.2 Players selected for SCF key international competitions are bound by the Anti-Doping Rules of FIDE/SSC.

3.8 Dress Code

3.8.1 All players under the NJS shall wear the NJS apparel during training and competition.

3.8.2 Black pants and shoes are to be worn over the NJS T-Shirt or Jacket when attending SCF events.

3.9 Appeals

3.9.1 The SCF appoints the HP Appeals Committee to deal with appeals on selection matters. The HP Appeals Committee shall comprise an odd number of members. Decisions of the HP Appeals Committee are final.

3.9.2 All appeals shall be submitted to the HP Appeals Committee in writing within 3 days after publication of selection on the SCF website. Each appellant shall put a deposit of SGD100 for each appeal, which shall be forfeited in the event
that the appeal was not successful. Grounds of the appeal shall be set out in writing, and the HP Appeals Committee reserves all rights to request further explanation or documentary evidence for submission within a prescribed time period, and if such a request is not satisfactorily complied with, the appeal shall be rejected.
Annex A

A. FIDE KEY COMPETITIONS:

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS:

1. Asian Individual Championships (Men & Women)
2. Asian Zonal 3.3 (Men & Women)
3. All Multi Sports Games Individual & Team (Men & Women)

TEAM EVENTS:

1. World Chess Olympiad (Open & Women)
2. Asian Nations Cup Team Championships (Open & Women)
3. World Cities Team Championships
4. Asian Cities Team Championship

B. FIDE AGE GROUP COMPETITIONS:

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS:

1. World Junior & Girls U-20 Championship
2. Asian Junior & Girls U-20 Championships
3. World Youth U14, 16 & 18 Chess Championships
4. World Cadet U8, 10 & 12 Chess Championships
5. Asian Youth U8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 Championships
6. Eastern Asia Youth Championships (Open & Girls)
7. World Schools Chess Championships
8. Asian Schools Chess Championships
9. Eastern Asian Junior & Girls Championships (Open & Girls)

TEAM EVENTS:

1. World Youth U16 Chess Olympiad
2. Asian Nations Cup U-14 Chess Championships

C. OTHER FIDE COMPETITIONS:

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS:

1. Commonwealth Chess Championships
2. World Senior 50+, 65+, 75+ Championships (Open & Women)
3. Asian Seniors 50+, 65+, 75+ Championships (Open & Women)
5. Asian Amateur Under-2000 Championships (Open & Women)
6. World Chess Games for the Disabled