

SINGAPORE CHESS FEDERATION SELECTION & TRAINING GUIDELINES

with effect from 1st April 2022

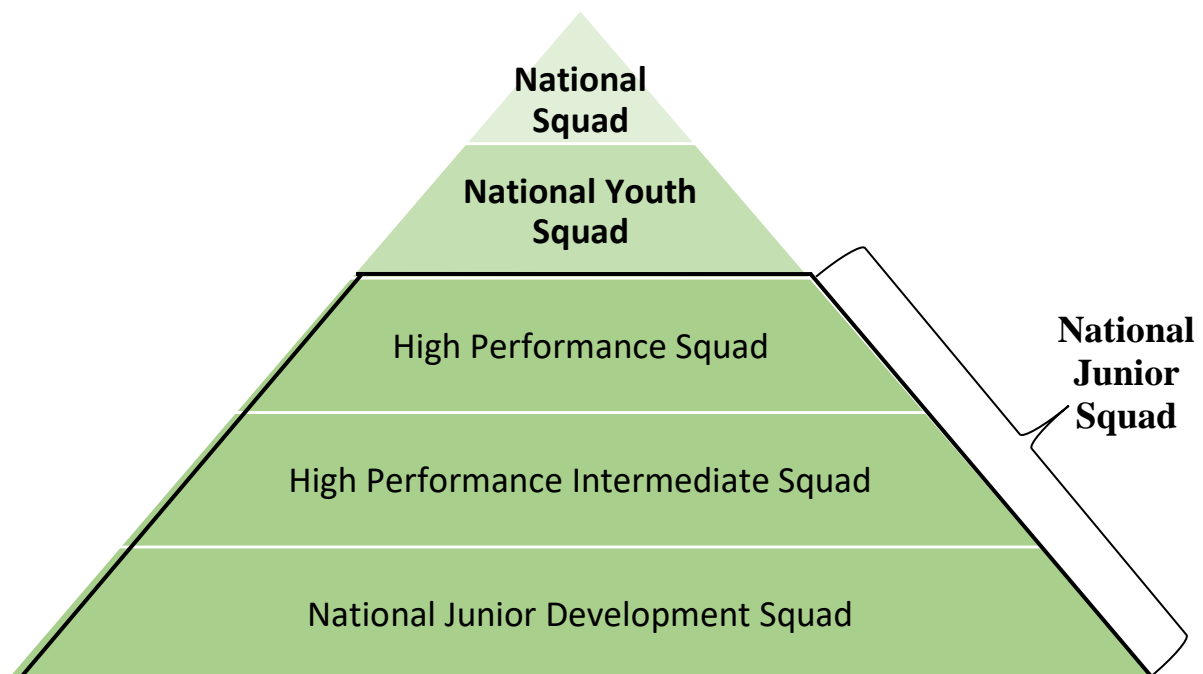
1. Introduction

- 1.1. The High Performance (HPE) Selection Committee (hereon referred to as “Selection Committee”) of the Singapore Chess Federation (SCF) oversees the implementation of SCF’s Selection & Training guidelines. Any enquiries for the committee regarding the Selection Guidelines can be sent to hpe@singaporechess.org.sg.
- 1.2. This document formally outlines the SCF’s Selection & Training guidelines which pertain to the National Training Squads and participation as official representatives of Singapore in international events. The SCF EXCO reserves the right to modify these guidelines when appropriate.

2. Scope of SCF Selection & Training Guidelines

- 2.1. Qualification criteria for National Training Squads in the National Training Structure including:
 - a. National Junior Squad
 - b. National Youth Squad
 - c. National Squad
- 2.2. Selection criteria to represent Singapore in SCF-sanctioned international competitions.

3. National Training Squads



3.1. National Junior Squad (NJS)

Overview

- a. The NJS is intended to:
 - i. Provide trainees with a good foundational understanding of chess
 - ii. Develop potential talents for the National Youth and National Squad
- b. The NJS comprises:
 - i. National Junior Development Squad (NJDS)
 - ii. High Performance Intermediate Squad (HPI)
 - iii. High Performance Squad (HP)

Qualification

- c. All players are to be aged 20 or below as at 1st January of the calendar year
- d. Players qualify for the NJS based on their performance in designated NJS qualification tournaments as listed:
 - i. National Schools Individual Championships (NSI)
 - ii. National Age Group Championships (NAG)
 - iii. National Championships
- e. The qualification criteria for each squad are outlined in Table 1 below.

	Qualification Criteria
NJDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finished among top 50% of their category in NSI or NAG
HPI	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finished among top 25% of their category in NSI or NAG; and• Must have spent at least one term in NJS in the previous year (w.e.f. April 2023)
HP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Either finished among top 10% of the category in NSI or NAG, or qualified for finals of National Championships; and• FIDE Standard Rating \geq 1200; and• Must have spent at least one term in NJS in the previous year (w.e.f. April 2023)

Table 1: Qualification Criteria for National Junior Squad

- f. Players who meet the HP qualification ranking in a designated NJS qualification tournament, but do not meet the minimum rating criteria will be eligible for HPI instead.
 - i. The Selection Committee reserves the right to review the minimum rating and adjust it as necessary.
- g. Players who meet the HP/HPI qualification ranking in a designated NJS qualification tournament, but had not spent at least one term in NJS in the previous year will be eligible for NJDS instead.

- i. For example, a player qualifying for HPE/HPI in Term 1 Year 2022 needs to have spent at least one term in NJS from Term 1 Year 2021 to Term 4 Year 2021, both terms inclusive, to be eligible for selection into HP/HPI respectively.
- h. Prior to commencement of a designated NJS qualification tournament, SCF will announce the minimum ranking required for qualification into various squads based on the starting-rank list.
 - i. Round-up procedure will be applied if the qualification ranking is not a whole number, as illustrated in Table 2.

If an NSI U16 category has 115 players in the starting rank list. The qualification rankings for U16 players into the various squads are:

- **HP:** 12th position and above (top 10% = 11.5; round up to 12)
- **HPI:** 13th to 29th position (top 25% = 28.75, round up to 29)
- **NJDS:** 30th to 58th position (top 50% = 57.5, round up to 58)

Table 2: Example of round-up procedure

- i. The result from any designated NJS qualification tournament is only valid for qualification into NJS for the next 4 terms.
 - i. For example, a player qualifies via a tournament which is held during/after Term 1 Year 2021, and before Term 2 Year 2021 has commenced. The result is applicable for qualification into NJS from Term 2 Year 2021 to Term 1 Year 2022, both terms inclusive.
- j. The Selection Committee reserves the right to designate additional NJS qualification tournaments.
 - i. If a tournament is designated as an additional NJS qualification tournament, the selection criteria will be announced prior to the commencement of the tournament.
- k. Periodic promotion windows are available for players within the NJS who demonstrate exceptionally good performance. These promotion windows are outlined in Table 3.

Frequency of Review	From	To
Quarterly	HPI	HP
Quarterly	NJDS	HP
Quarterly	NJDS	HPI

Table 3: Promotion windows for exceptionally good performance

- l. The Selection Committee reserves the right to exercise final discretion in the selection of players for the NJS.

3.2. National Youth Squad

Overview

- a. The National Youth Squad is intended to:
 - i. Develop the best youth talents to represent Singapore in international competitions
 - ii. Create a pipeline feeding into the National Squad
- b. The National Youth Squad includes but is not limited to:
 - i. U-21 squad for the top junior players
 - ii. U-21 Girls squad for the top female junior players

Qualification

- c. Selection into the National Youth Squad recurs on an annual basis. Players selected will be members of the squad for 1 training year (April to March).
- d. Both squads will consist of 6 to 10 players. The Selection Committee reserves the right to adjust the squad size in exceptional situations.
- e. To be eligible for selection, players must meet the following requirements:
 - i. Players are to be aged 20 or below as at 1st January of the calendar year
 - ii. Players must be Singapore Citizens or Permanent Residents, and playing under the Fide Singapore flag.
 - iii. Male players must have a minimum Fide Standard rating of 1500. Female players must have a minimum Fide standard rating of 1200. The Selection Committee reserves the right to review the minimum rating requirement for each new selection cycle.
 - iv. All Players will have to be a member of the HP squad for minimally 1 term or a member of the National Youth/National Squad in the past training year (April to March) w.e.f April 2023.
- f. Players are selected for the National Youth Squad based on the criteria in Table 4.

Criteria	Examples
Performance in tournaments over the past year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. National Schools Individuals / National Age-Group Individualsb. National Championshipsc. Other local standard eventsd. International standard events
General Conduct and Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. No misdemeanours in the past yearb. 80% training attendance in the HPE squadc. Positive attitude during trainings and gamesd. Displayed Sportsmanship at all times

Contributions to the chess community over the past year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Mentored a younger chess player b. Took on leadership role in Chess CCA/within the SCF c. Volunteered at/Organized chess events
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Table 4: Selection Criteria for National Youth Squad

- g. Beyond the annual selection exercise for members of the National Youth Squad, periodic promotion windows are available for players who demonstrate exceptionally good performance. These promotion windows are outlined in Table 5.

Frequency of Review	From	To
Quarterly	HP	National Youth Squad
Half-Yearly	Non-NJS	National Youth Squad

Table 5: Promotion windows for exceptionally good performance

- h. The Selection Committee reserves the right to exercise final discretion in the selection of players for the National Youth Squad.

3.3. National Squad

Overview

- a. The National Squad is intended to:
 - i. Develop outstanding players to represent Singapore in international competitions
 - ii. Groom local and global representatives of Singapore chess
- b. The National Squad comprises:
 - i. National Squad for top players
 - ii. National Women Squad for top female players

Qualification

- c. Selection into the National Squad recurs on an annual basis. Players selected will be members of the squad for 1 training year (April to March)
- d. Both squads will consist of 6 to 10 players. The Selection Committee reserves the right to adjust the squad size in exceptional situations.
- e. To be eligible for selection, players must meet the following requirements:
 - i. Players must be Singapore Citizens or Permanent Residents, and playing under the Fide Singapore flag

- ii. Male players must have a minimum Fide Standard rating of 1800. Female players must have a minimum Fide standard rating of 1500. The Selection Committee reserves the right to review the minimum rating requirement for each new selection cycle.
- f. Players are selected for the National Squad based on the criteria in Table 6.

Criteria	Examples
Performance in tournaments over the past year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. International standard events b. National Championships c. Other local standard events
General Conduct and Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. No misdemeanours in the past year b. Positive attitude during trainings and games c. Displayed Sportsmanship at all times
Contributions to the chess community over the past year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Mentored a younger chess player b. Took on leadership role in public chess clubs/within the SCF c. Volunteered at/Organized chess events

Table 6: Selection Criteria for National Squad

- g. Beyond the annual selection exercise for members of the National Squad, periodic promotion windows are available for players who demonstrate exceptionally good performance. These promotion windows are outlined in Table 7.

Frequency of Review	From	To
Half-Yearly	National Youth Squad	National Squad
Half-Yearly	Non-National Training Squad	National Squad

Table 7: Promotion windows for exceptionally good performance

- h. The Selection Committee reserves the right to exercise the final discretion in the selection of players for the National Squad.

4. Representing Singapore in Competitions

- 4.1. Section 4 covers the Selection Criteria for selecting official representatives of Singapore at international events. These events are classified into 4 categories as follows:
 - a. International Open events
 - b. Official International Youth events
 - c. Official International events
 - d. Multi-Sports Games

4.2. Examples of events classified within each category are shown in Table 7. For events not indicated in Table 8, the Selection Committee reserves the right to determine the classification of the event as appropriate.

International Open events	Official International Youth events	Official International events	Multi-Sport Games
World Senior 50+, 65+, 75+ Championships	World Juniors	Olympiad	SEA Games
Asian Seniors 50+, 65+, 75+ Championships	World Youth	World Cities Team Championships	Asian Games
World Amateur Under-2000 Championships	World Schools	World Cup	Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games
Asian Amateur Under-2000 Championships	World Cadets	Asian Individuals	Olympics
World Chess Games for the Disabled	Asian Juniors	Asian Nations Cup Team Championships	Paralympics
Any other Open Competitions	Asian Youth	Asian Cities Team Championship	
	Asian Schools	Asian Zonal 3.3	
	World Youth U16 Olympiad		

Table 8: Classification of international events

4.3. The Selection Criteria used to select players for various international events is outlined in Table 9. Note that the various criteria are considered in totality.

Selection Criteria	Examples
Performance in competitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. National Inter-Schools Individuals/National Age-Group Individuals b. National Championships c. Other local standard events d. International standard events

General Conduct & Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. No Misdemeanours in the past year b. 80% training attendance in the respective squad c. Positive attitude during trainings and games d. Displayed Sportsmanship at all times
Involvement within the Chess Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Mentored a younger chess player b. Took on leadership role in chess CCA/chess club/within the SCF c. Volunteered at/Organized chess events
Training Squad	Whether player is in the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. National Squad b. National Youth Squad c. HPE Squad d. Others/Not in a Squad
Feedback on the player	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Trainer assessment b. Squad Peer feedback
Selection Tournament	A tournament may be organized for the purpose of aiding in selection for a specific event
FIDE Rating	Minimum FIDE Rating requirements for a competition

Table 9: Selection Criteria for international events

4.4. The Selection Criteria for international events will apply to various categories of international events as outlined in Table 10.

Selection Criteria	International Open events	Official International Youth events	Official International events	Multi-Sport Games
Performance in competitions	Not Required	Assessed over the past year	Assessed over the past year	Assessed over the past year or previous Multi – Sports event
General Conduct		Assessed over the past year	Assessed over the past year	Assessed over the past year
Involvement within the Chess Community		Assessed over the past year	Assessed over the past year	Assessed over the past year
Training Squad		Priority given to: 1) National Squad	Priority given to: 1) National Squad	Must be in National Squad

		2) National Youth Squad 3) HPE No order of priority between 1 & 2	2) National Youth Squad In order of ranking above	
Feedback on the player		From Trainers & Peers	From Trainers & Peers	From Trainers & Peers
Selection Tournament		Only if required to conduct	Only if required to conduct	Only if required to conduct
FIDE Rating		Only if tournament has a rating requirement	Only if tournament has a rating requirement	Male: 2250++ Female: 2050++

Table 10: Applicability of Selection Criteria to different categories of international

4.5. The Selection Committee reserves the right to exercise final discretion in the selection of players as official representatives of Singapore in Official International Youth/International/Multi-Sports events. This extends to all matters pertaining to the amount of training subsidies, bonuses and incentives awarded.

5. Discipline

5.1. Players in the National Junior Squad, National Youth Squad and National Squad are expected to comply with all the conditions set forth in the present Selection Guidelines.

5.2. As coaches invest a large amount of time to prepare training materials, trainees are expected to commit to attending classes with regularity and conduct themselves in a professional and disciplined manner.

5.3. Players are required to maintain at least 75% attendance to remain in their respective squads.

5.4. Players absent from any training session due to sickness or any other reason must provide valid documentation. Players who wish to be excused from any training session must submit their requests to the SCF in writing at least one week in advance, unless there are extenuating circumstances, such as a medical emergency or urgent family matters. The SCF reserves the right to exercise final discretion in dealing with such requests.

- 5.5. Players are expected to maintain a high level of discipline and professionalism, both during training and while playing in tournaments. Examples of unacceptable behaviour include but are not limited to the following:
- a. Engaging in hate speech associated with racism, sexism, religion, cultural differences, political differences or sexual orientation;
 - b. Engaging in abusive behaviour, such as shouting or posing malicious threats to trainers, fellow trainees, SCF employers or Executive Council;
 - c. Being late for tournament games or training repeatedly despite multiple warning;
 - d. Excessive use of mobile devices during training;
 - e. Accounts on chess servers such as lichess.org and chess.com being shut down due to violation of terms of services
 - f. Not conforming to COVID-19 regulations and SMMs, such as inappropriate wearing of facial masks and not keeping to safe distancing when told to do so by trainers.
- 5.6. Players who do not comply with clause 5.1 to 5.5 shall be subject to any of the following disciplinary measures.
- a. Verbal warning
 - b. Formal warning letter
 - c. Expulsion from the respective squad
- 5.7. The SCF EXCO reserves the right to exercise final discretion in dealing with any cases related to discipline.

6. Appeals

- 6.1. The HPE Appeals Committee is appointed to handle any appeals related to selection matters.
- 6.2. All appeals shall be submitted to the HPE Appeals Committee (hpe.appeals@singaporechess.org.sg) in writing. Grounds of the appeal shall be set out in writing, and the HPE Appeals Committee reserves all rights to request for further explanation or documentary evidence to be submitted within a prescribed time period, and if such a request is not satisfactorily complied with, the appeal may be rejected.
- 6.3. The HPE Appeals Committee may in its absolute discretion require a deposit of \$100 to be paid by the appellant before the appeal is heard. The amount shall be refunded to the appellant in the event of a successful appeal.
- 6.4. The HPE Appeals Committee shall use the present Selection Guidelines as the primary basis for making its decision, but is not required to furnish written grounds of its decision, and if the appellant requires the written grounds of decisions to be furnished, a further administrative fee may be levied. The decision of the HPE Appeals Committee is final.