

SINGAPORE CHESS FEDERATION SELECTION & TRAINING GUIDELINES

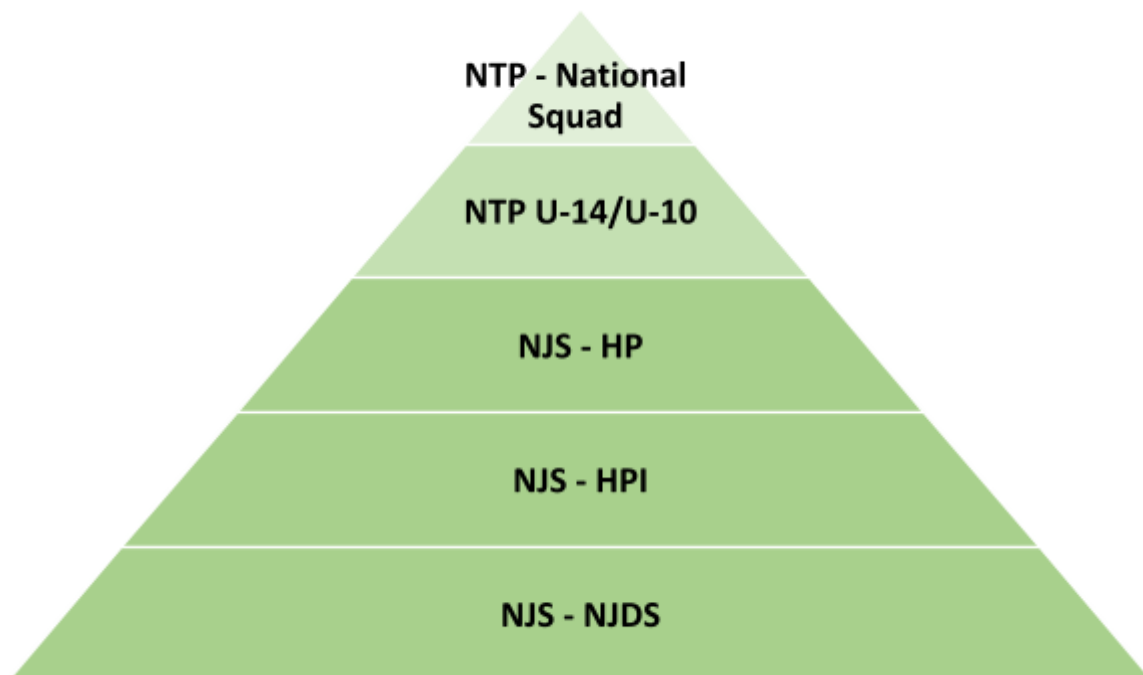
with effect from 1st April 2023

1. Introduction and Scope

- 1.1. The Singapore Chess Federation's (SCF's) qualification criteria for our National Training Squads as well as selection criteria for official representatives of Singapore in international events are outlined in this document.
- 1.2. The High Performance (HPE) Selection Committee (hereafter referred to as "Selection Committee") of the Singapore Chess Federation (SCF) oversees the selection process. Any enquiries for the committee regarding the Selection Guidelines or the selection process and outcomes can be sent to hpe@singaporechess.org.sg.
- 1.3. The SCF Board reserves the right to modify these guidelines whenever appropriate.

2. National Training Squads

- 2.1. The hierarchy of our National Training Squads is depicted in the figure below.



2.2. National Junior Squads (NJS)

Overview

- a. The aims of the NJS are:
 - i. Provide young chess athletes with a good foundational understanding of chess
 - ii. Develop potential talents for the NTP

- b. The NJS are only open to athletes age 20 years or below as of 1st January of the calendar year, and include:
 - i. National Junior Development Squad (NJDS)
 - ii. High Performance Intermediate Squad (HPI)
 - iii. High Performance Squad (HP)

Qualification Criteria

- c. Athletes can automatically qualify for the NJS based on their performance in designated NJS qualification tournaments. These include:
 - i. National Schools Individual Championships (NSI)
 - ii. National Age Group Championships (NAG)
 - iii. National Championships
 - iv. SG Chess Festival Classical Open
- d. The qualification criteria for each squad are outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Qualification Criteria for the NJS

	Qualification Criteria
NJDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finishing in the top 50% of the athlete’s category in the NSI or NAG
HPI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finishing in the top 25% of the athlete’s category in the NSI or NAG
HP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finishing in the top 10% of the athlete’s category in the NSI or NAG, OR • Qualifying for the finals of the National Championships; • AND having a FIDE rating of ≥ 1200.

- e. If the qualification criteria is not a whole number, we will round down to the next placing, as illustrated in Table 2.

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

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

Table 2: Example of round-down procedure

- f. In the event of a tie that exceeds the qualification criteria, i.e. 5 athletes tie from 10th to 14th position in the example from Table 2, only athletes that finish within the qualification criteria after tiebreaks will qualify for the higher ranking squad (i.e. 10th to 12th position in the example above).
- g. Other local tournaments may be designated NJS qualification tournaments by the Selection Committee, with specific qualification criteria that will be publicized at least two months in advance.

- i. As an example, we may designate the SG Chess Festival Classical Open (June 2023) as a NJS qualification tournament, with cut offs of top 60%, 35% and 25% for NJDS, HPI and HP respectively.
- h. Players who meet the HP qualification criteria 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.
- i. The result from any designated NJS qualification tournament is only valid for qualification into NJS for the next 4 terms.
 - i. For example, an athlete qualifies via a tournament held during 2023 Term 2 and before 2023 Term 3 has commenced. This result is applicable for qualification into the NJS from 2023 Term 2 until 2024 Term 1, both terms inclusive.
- j. The Selection Committee reserves the right to exercise final discretion in the selection of players for the NJS.

Promotion within the NJS

- k. Quarterly promotion reviews will be conducted for athletes in the NJS at the end of each term. Athletes who demonstrate exceptional improvements, such as outstanding tournament performances, will be promoted to the next higher squad. Exceptional athletes in the HP squad may be invited to join the NTP.

2.3. National Training Program “NTP” (New from 1 April 2023)

Overview

- a. The NTP is a long-term programme with the vision of developing the future chess champions of Singapore, including young men and women who will become International Masters and Grandmasters within a 5-10 year timeframe.
- b. The NTP also includes the existing National Open and Women squad members.
- c. All official training sessions will be fully provided and funded by the SCF. The SCF Training Director has developed the structure and curriculum of the lessons.
- d. The SCF may on occasion organise training tournaments for the NTP squads.
- e. The NTP athletes may also be funded for selected high-quality tournaments overseas.
- f. This is a serious training programme that SCF is investing considerable resources in, and all prospective NTP athletes are expected to commit to regular training at a minimum of 3 times a week and to participate in tournaments regularly.

- g. Players who want to be part of this program are to submit their interest via the [NTP Application Form](#). Please refer to the Application Form for more detailed information on application process, timeline, and requirements.

NTP U10/U14 Squads

- h. The NTP U10/U14 are two new NTP squads that will replace the current National Youth squad, which will no longer take in new athletes.
- i. A key aim of the NTP U10/U14 is to inculcate important training habits for our young (U-14) and super young (U-10) talents. These habits include:
 - i. Developing positive and winning mindsets
 - ii. Independent self-learning
 - iii. Learning and working together as a team
- j. NTP U10/U14 athletes will also train with our current NTP - National Squad players for important regional and global tournaments.
- k. Players which are accepted into the U-14 and U-10 squads are to sign up for HP, with the HP qualification criteria to be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- l. All the abovementioned items (2.3a-f) will also apply for these new squads.
- m. Please do not apply unless you or your child are fully committed to fulfil training and tournament participation commitments. Do consider whether the NJS courses would better suit your needs and commitment level.

3. Representing Singapore at International Events

3.1. The SCF classifies international chess events into the following 4 categories:

- a. Multi-Sport events
- b. International events requiring National Federation nomination
- c. International youth events requiring National Federation nomination
- d. Other International events

3.2. Examples of events classified within each category are shown in Table 3. For types of events that are not listed in the table, the Selection Committee reserves the right to classify them as it deems fit.

Other International events	International youth events requiring National Federation nomination	International events requiring National Federation nomination	Multi-Sport Events
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 3: Classification of international events

3.3. The selection criteria used to select players for the abovementioned international events is outlined in Table 4, and are considered in totality.

Selection Criteria	Examples
Performance in competitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. National Championships b. SG Chess Festival Classical Event c. National Age-Group Individuals d. National Schools Individuals Championships e. Other local standard events f. International standard events
General Conduct & Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. No misdemeanours in the past year b. 95% 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. NTP b. NJS

	c. Others/Not in a Squad
Feedback on the player	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 4: Selection Criteria for international events

3.4. The Selection Criteria for international events will apply to various categories of international events as outlined in Table 5.

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) NTP National Squad 2) NTP U14/U10 3) HP No order of priority between 1 & 2	Priority given to: 1) NTP National Squad 2) NTP U14/U10 In order of ranking above	Must be in National Squad
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 5: Applicability of Selection Criteria to different categories of international events

3.5. 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. For Multi-Sports Events, the final decision shall be made by the Singapore National Olympic Committee “SNOC”. This extends to all matters pertaining to the amount of training subsidies, bonuses and incentives awarded.

4. Discipline

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

4.2. 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 disciplined manner.

4.3. Players are required to maintain at least 95% attendance to remain in their respective squads, not including the reasons for absences stated under 4.4 below.

4.4. Players can be exempted from training due to the following reasons:

i) Medical illness or emergency. Supporting documentation must be provided at the earliest convenience.

ii) Tournament participation. Players are to inform their respective coaches officially via email one week in advance. Please copy hpe@singaporechess.org.sg in your email.

iii) Examination leave. Players are allowed to take leave on the day of examination and the day prior to the examination. Players are to inform their respective coaches officially via email one week in advance. Please copy hpe@singaporechess.org.sg in your email.

iv) Other extenuating circumstances such as urgent family matters. Please email hpe@singaporechess.org.sg at the earliest convenience.

The SCF reserves the right to exercise final discretion in dealing such requests.

4.5. 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 warnings;
 - 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
- 4.6. 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
- 4.7. The SCF EXCO reserves the right to exercise final discretion in dealing with any cases related to discipline.

5. Appeals

- 5.1. The HPE Appeals Committee is appointed to handle any appeals related to selection matters.
- 5.2. 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.
- 5.3. 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.
- 5.4. 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.